# PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

**SIXTH SERIES—VOLUME 436 (Part 2)**

# HOUSE OF COMMONS

OFFICIAL REPORT

FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FOURTH PARLIAMENT
OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN
AND NORTHERN IRELAND
FIFTY-FOURTH YEAR OF THE REIGN OF
HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II

**SESSION 2005–06**

COMPRISING PERIOD
4 July—5 October 2005

Com IRef
C10(06)

# HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT

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*4 July 2005*

# Written Ministerial Statements

*Monday 4 July 2005*

## TREASURY

### Public Expenditure

**The Chief Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Des Browne):** The Treasury will publish the 2004-05 "Public Expenditure Provisional Outturn" White Paper on Wednesday 20 July.

The White Paper is an annual report to Parliament on the provisional outturn for public expenditure. It focuses on spending within departmental expenditure limits (DEL) and annually managed expenditure (AME), including information on individual supply estimates and administration costs limits.

The outturn figures are described as provisional because they may be revised when Department's final accounts are published.

A copy of the White Paper will be available in the Libraries of both Houses and will be accessible on the Treasury website.

## TRADE AND INDUSTRY

### BP Decarbonised Fuel Project (Scotland)

**The Minister for Energy (Malcolm Wicks):** The cleaner use of fossil fuels, including $CO_2$ capture and storage and hydrogen, offer important options for the future UK and international sustainable energy mix. The project announced by BP and its partners on 30 June is one of a number of potential innovative project opportunities that offer the prospect of demonstrating cleaner fossil fuel technologies, driving forward the next generation of plant.

The Government recognise the importance of incentives in encouraging the development of cleaner fossil fuel energy technologies. In this regard, the Government recently published their carbon abatement technologies strategy and its response to the UK hydrogen strategic framework, which involves a combined package of £40 million for funding demonstrations of emerging low-carbon technologies including carbon abatement technologies and hydrogen and fuel cells. Further, the Government are also examining how they might support the development of carbon capture and storage in the climate change programme review, including the potential for new economic incentives. The Government will in parallel continue work to resolve the regulatory and legal issues related to $CO_2$ capture and storage.

# Written Ministerial Statements

*Tuesday 5 July 2005*

## TREASURY

### HM Revenue and Customs (Enforcement Activity)

**The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (John Healey):** In light of the judgments by Mr. Justice Crane in the case of Operation Venison on 24 June and by the Court of Appeal in the cases of Operation Hellvellyn and others on 4 July, I am announcing today that HMRC has agreed with the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) that they will oversee an investigation into the criticism in Mr. Justice Crane's judgment of actions of individual officers in Operation Venison.

I can also announce that HM inspectorate of constabulary (HMIC) will begin in September a full programme of inspection to examine informant handling, controlled deliveries and disclosure, including the issues raised in the judgments of Operation Venison and Operation Hellvellyn and others.

At the same time, the director of the independent Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office (RCPO) is examining whether or not other cases may be affected by the court judgments.

The Government take the criticisms of HMRC and HMRC officers contained in the Venison and Hellvelyn judgments very seriously. We are committed to ensuring that the issues raised in such cases are fully investigated.

For this reason, and to ensure that HMRC systems and practice match the best standards of law enforcement elsewhere, I can confirm that since I informed the House on 29 September 2004 of our intention to establish independent scrutiny arrangements for HMRC following the report of Mr. Justice Butterfield, the Government have legislated to:

- establish an independent Revenue and Customs Prosecution Office, accountable directly to the Attorney General;
- extend the remit of the Independent Police Complaints Commission to allow investigation of serious complaints and allegations against HMRC staff; and
- extend the remit of HM Inspectorate of Constabulary to investigate HMRC's lawenforcement procedures and practice.

The IPCC-led investigation and the HMIC inspection that I am announcing today are the first use of this comprehensive independent scrutiny framework.

These newly legislated arrangements with the IPCC, HMIC and RCPO mean HMRC is now served by a fully independent prosecutions office and is being made subject to the same standards of independent scrutiny, inspection and complaints investigation as are already established for the police.

This framework for external scrutiny goes further than Mr. Justice Butterfield's recommendations, so that HMRC and ministers are empowered to ensure the independent, timely and expert investigation of problems arising in serious criminal cases. Where appropriate in such cases, we will make use of these arrangements in the future.

### The Economy

**The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (John Healey):** The Chancellor of the Exchequer announced in the Budget that, owing to the sustained volatility in the oil market, the annual inflation only increase in main fuel duties would be deferred until 1 September.

Following sustained pressure from G8 Finance Ministers, OPEC have committed to increasing quotas by up to 1 million barrels a day by September.

But in the short-term uncertainty, and the risk of price volatility, remains high, with oil trading last week at above $59 per barrel.

The Government will not go ahead with the planned inflation increase on 1 September—including for rebated oils, biofuels and road fuel gases—and will review the position again at the time of the pre-Budget report.

## CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

### Legal Aid

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Constitutional Affairs (Bridget Prentice):** My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Constitutional Affairs and Lord Chancellor has made the following statement in the other place today:

"I have today published a paper outlining Government proposals to reform the provision of legal aid in England and Wales.

Legal aid is one of the cornerstones of a fair and decent society. It provides the means to guarantee that all citizens can enforce their rights and are held accountable for fulfilling their responsibilities; it ensures that people accused of a crime get a proper defence; and safeguards vulnerable and disadvantaged people so they are not denied access to justice because of their inability to pay for it.

The paper "A Fairer Deal For Legal Aid", analyses the development of legal aid services, including the substantial increase in spending on legal aid in criminal cases at the expense of civil law cases. The paper sets out the Government's vision for legal aid, based on a system that:

- Provides advice and representation to defendants, in a way that is proportionate to the issues at stake;
- Supports the objectives of the criminal justice system, by helping to ensure timely and effective procedures and trials;
- Provides a more effective service for people involved in civil disputes.

The Government will take steps to address the disproportionate amount of money spent on defending high-cost criminal cases and redistribute funding so that

all criminal cases are dealt with swiftly and fairly and ensure greater flexibility to provide more civil help and advice to those who need it. This will include:

Tougher judicial management of larger, complex cases;

A new review board, with members from across the criminal justice system, to examine previous cases and identify improvements for the future;

Better management of large volumes of evidence—including better use of technology;

A comprehensive review of how fraud cases are brought to justice;

Closer cooperation between the defence and prosecution in the police station;

Letting defendants know their sentence discount, should they plead guilty;

An independent review by Lord Carter of Coles, which will produce a plan by early 2006 identifying how to improve procurement of publicly funded legal services.

Copies of the paper have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses. It is also available on the Department for Constitutional Affairs' website www.dca.gov.uk."

## DEFENCE

### Falcon Secure Trunk Communication System

**The Minister of State, Ministry of Defence (Mr. Adam Ingram):** Today I am pleased to announce that BAE Systems Insyte has been selected as the preferred bidder for the FALCON Secure Trunk Communication System (increment A). The Ministry of Defence will now enter detailed negotiations with BAE Systems Insyte to determine the basis for the main investment decision at which point cost and formal in-service date will be set.

FALCON is one of the key equipment capabilities at the heart of our drive to develop network enabled capability and will provide advanced communication capabilities suitable for our armed forces in the 21st century.

Work on FALCON will also underpin British industry's position at the forefront of communications technology worldwide.

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS

### Council of Europe's Charter for Regional or Minority Languages

**The Minister for Europe (Mr. Douglas Alexander):** I have today arranged for copies of the second report on the implementation of the Council of Europe's charter for regional or minority languages to be placed in the Library of the House.

The report details the measures taken by the Government and the devolved Administrations to fulfil the UK's obligations under the charter for Welsh, Scottish Gaelic, Irish, Scots, Ulster Scots, Cornish and Manx Gaelic.

The report is also available on the website of the Foreign & Commonwealth Office at www.fco.gov.uk/otherdocuments

## HEALTH

### Independent Mental Capacity Advocate Service

**The Minister of State, Department of Health (Ms Rosie Winterton):** I am announcing today the publication of the consultation on the "Independent Mental Capacity Advocate service".

During the passage of the Mental Capacity Bill Ministers committed to consulting with interested stakeholders on the operation and details of the Independent Mental Capacity Advocate (IMCA) service. This new service was introduced in the Mental Capacity Act 2005 to support and represent the most vulnerable people who lack capacity in serious decisions about medical treatment and accommodation.

The consultation document "Consultation on the Independent Mental Capacity Advocate service", covers operational and implementation details, the role and functions of the IMCA, definitions of serious medical treatment and options on whether to extend the service to other groups and situations. The consultation will inform implementation on the Mental Capacity Act 2005 planned for April 2007.

The consultation will run until 30 September 2005 and applies to England only. Copies of the consultation paper and the accessible version have been placed in the Library and are also available from the Department's website at: www.dh.gov.uk.

### National Health Service Foundation Trusts

**The Secretary of State for Health (Ms Patricia Hewitt):** The Healthcare Commission (the statutory name of which is the Commission for Healthcare Audit and Inspection) has today published the outcome of a review of national health service foundation trusts, copies of which are available in the Library.

The review was commissioned by the then Secretary of State for Health (Dr. Reid) on 19 November 2003, *Official Report*, column 826 and has examined the experiences, challenges and issues for those trusts that became NHS foundation trusts on 1 April 2004 and 1 July 2004. In particular, the review considered the effects that NHS foundation trusts had on access to and quality of healthcare and relationships within local health economies, and the impact of the new governance arrangements and obstacles faced by NHS foundation trusts.

The outcome of the review is encouraging. I am pleased that NHS foundation trusts have made a good start to providing better quality services to NHS patients. While it is early days NHS foundation trusts are making good progress in developing new services and improving accountability. The Healthcare Commission review found that NHS foundation trusts have:

increased the ability to plan and develop new services and improving accountability to their local populations;

used their financial freedoms to gain access to capital investment and make quicker decisions to accelerate improvements to services, for example, offering specialist services in the community;

increased local public and patient involvement by successfully recruiting members and electing members to the boards;

mostly maintained their finances well within a more rigorous framework of financial management;

maintained standards of care in terms of access to and quality of care; and

maintained positive relationships with local commissioners and other local providers.

I also welcome the fact that some of the concerns about NHS foundation trusts have not materialised, for example NHS foundation trusts:

have not destabilised local health services, for example by using unfair competition to attract staff;

have not "cherry picked" patients who are easier to treat;

have continued to invest in staff education and training;

have in the majority of cases continued to worked in partnership with other NHS services and organisations in the local health community.

There is much we can learn as we move forward with change that is centred around making NHS services more responsive to the needs of NHS patients in the twenty-first century.

I should like to thank the Healthcare Commission for conducting this thorough review and producing its report to a short timetable. The introduction of NHS foundation trusts changes greatly the way in which healthcare is managed and delivered through the NHS. Such trusts are designed to sustain, and not displace the core NHS principles of universality and equity; with access based on clinical need and free at the point of use. The Government will also consider fully the lessons from this review for the continuing development of NHS foundation trusts.

## SOLICITOR GENERAL

### Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office

**The Solicitor-General (Mr. Mike O'Brien):** My right hon. and learned Friend the Attorney-General has made the following written ministerial statement:

"I refer to the statement made today by my hon. Friend the Financial Secretary concerning Operation Venison, Operation Hellvellyn and others.

In the light of criticisms made of a prosecutor in Operation Venison, the director of the independent Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office (RCPO) has removed that person from operational duty. In addition the director is urgently considering whether any other cases may be affected by the Venison judgment".

## TRADE AND INDUSTRY

### Government Chemist Review 2004

**The Minister for Energy (Malcolm Wicks):** The eighth annual review of the Government Chemist has been received. The review will be laid before the Scottish Parliament and copies will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses plus those of the devolved Administrations in Wales and Northern Ireland.

# Written Ministerial Statements

*Wednesday 6 July 2005*

## DEFENCE

### "Future Capabilities" Command Paper

**The Secretary of State for Defence (John Reid):** The "Future Capabilities" Command Paper published in July 2004 sets out the Ministry of Defence's proposals for modernising the force structure and capabilities of the armed forces to ensure that they are able to meet the security challenges on the 21st century. I am today publishing the Government's formal response to a report by the previous Defence Select Committee on the "Future Capabilities" proposals, issued in March 2005. Copies of the response will be placed in the Library of the House.

The Ministry of Defence welcomes the report and the Committee's support for our programme of modernisation. The Ministry of Defence's response provides detailed answers to all of the report's specific conclusions and recommendations. Our emphasis as we implement the "Future Capabilities" proposals across the Department continues to be on enhancing the flexibility, resilience and capabilities of the armed forces in order that they are well-prepared to face up to the most likely operational demands of the future.

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### Zimbabwe (Immigration Removals)

**The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Charles Clarke):** On 27 June I made a statement on the return of failed asylum seekers to Zimbabwe and I would now like to update the House on returns to Zimbabwe and on the situation of those who are currently refusing food.

As I set out in my previous statement, the Home Office assesses cases on their individual merits, providing protection to those who need it and seeking to remove from the UK those who do not. Each case is considered thoroughly before removal proceeds and any new information or representations are examined accordingly.

There have also been reports in the media of alleged ill-treatment of those who have been returned to Zimbabwe. We do not routinely monitor the treatment of individuals once removed from the UK as I made clear in my earlier statement. But our assessment of the situation on the ground is constantly monitored from a wide variety of sources, including the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, media reports and UK Government contacts with NGOs on the ground.

On 5 July there were 106 Zimbabweans being detained across the removal estate, 33 of whom have refused four or more consecutive meals. Food is available to all hunger strikers and they are seen daily by a medical practitioner to check their condition. None of them has been hospitalised at this stage.

As I stated before we shall also continue our efforts, bilaterally and with our international partners, to press the Government of Zimbabwe to end human rights abuses and restore democracy and the rule of law, so that all Zimbabweans can return safely to help build a prosperous and stable country.

### Proceeds of Crime Act

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Paul Goggins):** I am pleased to announce that the third annual report of the appointed person under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 has been laid before Parliament. The appointed person is an independent person who scrutinises the use of the new search power introduced to support the law enforcement agencies to seize and forfeit criminal cash.

The report gives the appointed person's opinion as to the circumstances and manner in which the search powers conferred by the Act are being exercised. I am pleased that the appointed person, Andrew Clarke, has expressed satisfaction at the operation of the search power in its third year.

Over £36 million was seized under these powers last year. The power continues to be a welcome addition in the fight against crime and the report shows that its operation has been, and will continue to be, closely monitored.

## INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### Polio Eradication

**The Secretary of State for International Development (Hilary Benn):** I am today announcing that the UK will provide £60 million to eradicate polio by end 2005/early 2006, and to boost the effort to ensure the world stays polio free thereafter. The UK will immediately and unilaterally plug the remaining funding gap of £20 million ($36 million) so that polio can be eradicated. The UK will also give another £40 million in 2006–08 towards the cost of vaccinating over 500 million children to ensure polio can never break out again.

The money will go towards: providing vaccines and immunisation; paying health workers to carry out the immunisation programme; investing in laboratories to ensure the right vaccine is available for the different strains of the virus; and putting in place systems to identify new cases and provide help as soon as possible.

The international community's fight against polio has been one of the real success stories in the global campaign to combat poverty. In 1982, polio was eradicated in the UK, but was still a major cause of death and paralysis amongst children in developing countries. In 1988, the World Health Assembly announced the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (PEI)—a worldwide programme of action to fight the disease. Seventeen years ago, there were 350,000 cases reported. Last year there were 1,255 cases—a fall of over 99 per cent. The funding I have announced today will,

together with other contributions already made, fulfil a longstanding G8 pledge to fully fund the final effort to eradicate the disease.

But it is important that the international community does not stop at eradication. Ensuring polio never breaks out again will cost over £400 million between 2006 and 2008. That is why today I have also announced that we will contribute £40 million to this post-eradication effort. I am calling on others to do the same.

## NORTHERN IRELAND

### Royal Ulster Constabulary George Cross Foundation

**The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Mr. Peter Hain):** I have today placed before this House a copy of the third annual report of the Royal Ulster Constabulary GC Foundation which was sent to me under Article 8(2) of the Royal Ulster Constabulary GC Foundation Regulations 2002.

Copies of the report have been placed in the Library of the House.

## PRIME MINISTER

### Senior Salaries Report

**The Prime Minister (Mr. Tony Blair):** I have today laid before both Houses the report by the Review Body on Senior Salaries on Pay for Standing Committee Chairmen in the House of Commons (Cm6566). Copies are available in the Vote Office and the Library of the House. I am grateful to John Baker and the members of the Review Body for their work. The Government have noted their recommendations. Implementation of these recommendations will be a matter for decision by Parliament.

# Written Ministerial Statements

*Thursday 7 July 2005*

## DEFENCE

### Harrier Detachment Afghanistan: Update

**The Secretary of State for Defence (John Reid):** The United Kingdom is committed to helping the Afghan people rebuild their country as a stable, prosperous and democratic nation free from the twin threats of terrorism and the opium industry. We deliver a significant part of that help through the contribution made by our armed forces to both the US-led coalition and the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF). Since October 2004 that contribution has included a detachment of six Harrier GR7 aircraft based in Kandahar in southern Afghanistan. Currently drawn from No. 4 Squadron, Royal Air Force, the detachment provides a rapid and flexible reconnaissance capability, an air presence to reassure the Afghan people of their security and the capacity to strike against the Taliban and the remnants of Al Qaeda in Afghanistan. Throughout its deployment, the detachment has carried out all these tasks with distinction, has produced a disproportionately high operational effect and has deservedly won praise from both the NATO and the coalition authorities.

The detachment was due to withdraw at the end of June. However, we are currently refining, with our allies and partners, the requirements of the international military forces in Afghanistan, including that for air support. I have concluded that it would be premature to withdraw the Harrier detachment at this stage. I have therefore extended the deployment of the Harrier GR7 detachment for a further two months until the end of August 2005.

### ABRO Trading Fund Key Targets for 2005–06

**The Minister of State, Ministry of Defence (Mr. Adam Ingram):** The Chief Executive of ABRO has been set the following Key Targets for Financial Year 2005–06.

KEY TARGET 1: FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE. To achieve at least a 3.5 per cent. Return On Capital Employed (ROCE).

KEY TARGET 2: TURNOVER. To achieve a turnover figure of at least £128 million in Financial Year 2005–06.

KEY TARGET 3: SCHEDULE ADHERENCE. To meet customer agreed targets for delivery schedules on Critical Programme lines.

KEY TARGET 4: EFFICIENCY. To achieve a value added per employee target of at least £38,000.

KEY TARGET 5: WINNING WORK. To achieve a total closing order book of at least £141 million for Financial Year 2005–06

## DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

### Council Tax Capping 2005–06

**The Minister for Local Government (Mr. Phil Woolas):** On 23 March, my right hon. Friend the Member for Greenwich and Woolwich (Mr. Raynsford) made a statement to the House, announcing that the Government was "designating", under the Local Government Finance Act 1992, nine local authorities which had set excessive budgets for 2005–06, with a view to capping them in year (*Official Report*, columns 883–92).

The authorities were given 21 days in which to challenge the maximum budgets we proposed to set for them in 2005–06 and to provide us with information we had requested. All nine authorities challenged their proposed maximum budgets and Ministers have met delegations from all nine authorities to hear their cases in person.

Having carefully considered the representations made to us, both orally and in writing, and having taken into account all relevant information, I can now announce how we intend to proceed.

I am laying before the House today for its approval, a draft order setting the following maximum budgets for eight of the designated authorities in 2005–06.

| *Designated Authority* | *Maximum Budget* |
|---|---|
| Aylesbury Vale | £18,363,000 |
| Daventry | £7,779,000 |
| Hambleton | £7,397,000 |
| Huntingdonshire | £15,160,000 |
| Mid Bedfordshire | £11,193,000 |
| North Dorset | £5,912,000 |
| Runnymede | £8,193,000 |
| South Cambridgeshire | £11,350,000 |

In all but one of these cases, the maximum budget is the same as we proposed in March. The exception is South Cambridgeshire, for which we are setting a higher cap than originally proposed to provide the authority with more time in which to end its reliance on surplus balances. Our expectation is that by using a combination of savings and reserves this year and beyond, it will be able to budget prudently in future. I am satisfied that all the authorities will be able to provide a good service and deliver all of their statutory functions within the revised maximum budgets.

I am cancelling the designation of Sedgemoor District Council and nominating the authority instead with a proposed notional budget for 2005–06 of £11,974,169. This is the authority's actual budget for 2005–06 less special expenses in the Bridgwater area. We accept that the authority made a genuine mistake in thinking that special expenses did not count against its budget for capping purposes and in believing that its council tax increase was within the "less than five per cent." average which the Government had said that they were expecting nationally. This does not mean that the authority has been "let off". The setting of the proposed notional budget, which is subject to the consideration of any challenge made by the authority, would mean that the authority could not include these special expenses in the baseline against which future increases were measured for capping purposes. This does not set a precedent for our treatment of special expenses in future

capping rounds and authorities should be in no doubt that these legally form part of an authority's own budget requirement

We are writing to all nine authorities today informing them of our decisions. Subject to approval by the House of the draft order laid before it today, the eight designated authorities will need to set revised budget requirements for 2005–06 and rebill their council tax payers for a lower council tax for 2005/06. Sedgemoor District Council now has 21 days in which to challenge its notional budget.

We are keeping our promise to act on excessive council tax increases. Given that we have increased funding to local government by 33 per cent. in real terms since 1997, and that all authorities have received formula grant increase either in line with or above inflation in all of the last three years, there is no excuse for excessive council tax increases. We will not hesitate to use our capping powers in future years to deal with excessive increases if this proves necessary.

## HEALTH

### NHS Dentistry Reforms

**The Minister of State, Department of Health (Ms Rosie Winterton):** Last year Harry Cayton, the national director for patients and the public, led a working group that reviewed charges for National Health Service dental treatment. Representatives of patients and consumers and dentists were among those who made a substantial contribution to the work of the group. We have been considering the group's report against the background of the changing patterns of treatment in personal dental services (PDS) contracts that are being piloted in parts of the country.

I have accepted the working group's recommendation for a new system of patient charges based on three bands, related to the complexity of the treatment provided. The new system will be:

fairer, reducing the maximum cost of NHS dental treatment by more than half and maintaining the existing exemptions for children under 18, new mothers and those on income related benefits. (These exemptions cover 25 per cent. of all adult treatments provided by the NHS);

simpler, for both patients and dentists, moving from 400 individual charges to three price bands; and

clearer, so that patients know how much they are being charged and what treatment they will receive for their money on the NHS.

The new system will also provide good oral health for patients and reduce the burdens of administering the dental charge system for dentists. It will not increase the proportion of revenue raised from patients' charges.

Today I am launching a three-month public consultation process on the draft regulations for the new patient charges system. The new arrangements will apply throughout England.

I am placing copies of the consultation document in the Library. During October, we will analyse the responses to this consultation. Before the Christmas recess, draft regulations will be presented to both Houses for affirmative resolution. The new system will come into effect in April 2006.

Alongside the proposed changes to NHS charges, I will be publishing an outline of a new contract for NHS dentists. This will encourage the promotion of good oral health and pay dentists for the overall service they provide to patients, rather than on a "fee for service" basis. I will shortly be making available the draft regulations on these new contractual arrangements. Before laying the regulations before Parliament, we will be discussing their content with the profession, NHS management and other key stakeholders—so that effective, workable local contracts can be agreed in order to deliver our commitment to modernise the general dental services (GDS) contract by April 2006. The regulations will include important changes to the current terms of service including compliance with recent guidelines from the National Institute for Clinical Excellence on recall intervals for patients.

Both the new system of patient charges and the new contract for dentists build on the steps we have already taken to improve dental care for NHS patients, including investing £368 million in dental services in England. In the last six months:

We have recruited the equivalent of 849 dentists towards our target of recruiting the equivalent of 1,000 by October 2005. This has been achieved through domestic and international recruitment and making available additional capacity from existing dentists to NHS patients.

Alongside this, we are funding 170 extra training places for dentists in England—a 25 per cent. increase compared with 2004–05, supported by capital investment of £80 million over four years to improve facilities in dental schools.

The NHS locally has been working hard to recruit dentists and the "Keeping in Touch" scheme is supporting dentists back to practise after a career break.

We have also speeded up the process for people waiting to take the international qualifying exam (IQE), which enables dentists from non-EU countries to practise in England. One hundred and ninety-nine candidates passed the IQE in 2004 compared with 81 in 2003.

PDS pilots have expanded from 3,500 dentists in 1,300 dental practices to over 6,000 dentists in 2,200 practices. The proportion of dentists now in PDS is 30 per cent. These dentists are enjoying new ways of working that are also proving popular with patients.

Taken together, these actions will improve both the short and longer-term supply of dentists for the NHS.

Against the background of these developments, we have been reviewing the position of PDS contracts. The new ways of working in PDS have benefited patients and dentists alike and from next April will be available to all dentists under the new GDS contract. I have therefore decided that it is best for most of those dentists who have not already moved across to a new contract to do so next April through the new GDS, rather than in piecemeal fashion between now and then. In this way, we can ensure that the lessons of best practice in PDS have been fully learned and that we obtain value for money for the taxpayer under the new GDS contract.

We will be talking to key stakeholders about these developments. The Department of Health will process applications which it has already received and a number of other exceptional applications between now and next April. Significant numbers of dentists will have moved across to PDS before April 2006. However, the majority will still need to transfer to new contractual arrangements at that point. We are looking to primary

care trusts to engage with those dentists in the coming months and secure their commitment to NHS dentistry under the reformed system.

I can now confirm that the date for full implementation of these dental reforms will be 1 April 2006.

## NORTHERN IRELAND

### Fourth Report by Justice Oversight Commissioner

**The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Mr. Peter Hain):** The Government has received and welcomed the fourth report from the Justice Oversight Commissioner, the Rt. Hon. The Lord Clyde, on the progress achieved in implementing the recommendations of the Review of the Criminal Justice System in Northern Ireland. Consistent with his terms of reference, the report was submitted to the Attorney-General, Bridget Prentice, Minister for the Northern Ireland Court Service, and me in June.

Lord Clyde concludes that the overall picture in recent months is one of major advance. This included, amongst other things, the establishment of the new Public Prosecution Service, the creation of an independent Judicial Appointments Commission and the appointment of new lay magistrates. Lord Clyde commends the significant advances made during the last six months and states that this achievement is to the credit and congratulations of all the criminal justice agencies that have contributed to the progress. The Government warmly endorses these conclusions.

Copies of the Commissioner's report have been placed in the Library.

## TRADE AND INDUSTRY

### National Minimum Wage: Low Pay Commission Remit and Enforcement Initiatives

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (Mr. Gerry Sutcliffe):** I am pleased to announce that the Government has today written to the Low Pay Commission setting out the terms of reference for their 2006 Report.

The Commission is asked in particular to:

consider whether the October 2006 upratings of the adult and development rates recommended in their 2005 Report remain appropriate in the light of economic circumstances and the other factors identified as relevant in that Report, and if not make any recommendations for change;

review the level of the 16–17 year old rate, keeping in mind the position of the youth labour market and the incentives for young people to participate in education and training;

review the operation of the accommodation offset and if appropriate make recommendations for any changes needed to the regulations; and

review the treatment of benefits in kind, including where those benefits are offered as part of a salary sacrifice arrangement.

The Government will review the position on the older workers' Development Rate and the way the exemption applies to older apprentices, working closely with the Commission, in good time for these issues to be addressed—if appropriate—in the forthcoming age discrimination regulations.

The Government has asked the Commission to report to the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry by the end of February 2006. Copies of the terms of reference have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

I am also pleased to announce that the Government has appointed Heather Wakefield of Unison as a new employee member of the Commission. I would like to welcome Heather to the Commission and also take this opportunity to pass on my thanks to Baroness Margaret Prosser for her contribution in this post over the last five years.

### Review of Sustainable Construction

**The Minister for Industry and the Regions (Alun Michael):** I am today launching a review of the Government's strategy for sustainable construction. The current strategy was developed in the late 1990s and published by the then Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions in 2000. Since then there have been significant policy developments relating to construction that are not reflected in this strategy. The purpose of reviewing the strategy is to provide a framework to guide future Government policies where they are relevant to construction. It will focus on the principle of Sustainable Development to which the Government as a whole is signed up.

Sustainable Development involves balancing and integrating the economic, social and environmental considerations that are relevant to any policy or decision. The review will indicate how, under this umbrella of sustainable development, Government and industry are responding to the challenges of sustainable construction through a sustainable, innovative and productive economy that delivers high levels of employment; and a just society that promotes social inclusion, sustainable communities and personal wellbeing. It will also set out how this is being done in ways that protect and enhance the physical and natural environment, and use resources and energy as efficiently as possible.

I expect the review to be complete and published by spring 2006.

## TRANSPORT

### Crossrail—Responses to the Consultation on the Environmental Statement

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Derek Twigg):** On 23 May the Secretary of State announced that our invitation to the public of 22 February 2005 to comment on the Crossrail Environmental Statement was to be extended to 10 June.

In accordance with our commitment to present to the House and publish all comments received, we are publishing today a Command Paper Responses to the Government's Consultation on the Crossrail Bill Environmental Statement.

Copies of the report are being placed today in the Library of the House. The Paper can also be found on the Department for Transport website at www.dft.gov.uk

A Supplementary Environmental Statement (SES) was published on 26 May. The Department for Transport have invited comments on the SES, and those should be submitted by 8 July 2005. Comments on the SES should be sent to Tim Neate, Consultation Manager, Major Projects Division 3, Zone 2/08, 76 Marsham Street, London, SWIP 4DR (e-mail: crossrail@dft.gsi.gov.uk). All comments received will be presented to Parliament and published.

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Annual Report by the President of Appeal Tribunals 2004–05

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Mrs. Anne McGuire):** We are pleased to publish today the fifth report by the President of appeal tribunals on the standard of decisions made on behalf of the Secretary of State in cases which come before appeal tribunals. The major reasons given for appeal tribunals overturning or amending decisions were because new evidence was produced at the hearing or the tribunal took a different view of the same evidence. The President maintains the view that an improvement in the attendance of Presenting Officers at tribunal hearings would provide the Department with immediate feedback on the standards of decision making.

The President has acknowledged there has been an improvement in the way decision makers weigh and view the evidence available to them but the problem remains that that most decisions are overturned because additional evidence is produced at the hearing.

The President has identified three areas he thinks the agencies need to address; pre-empting the need for additional evidence, the weighing and manner in which medical evidence is used and the quality and content of medical reports. We welcome the President's report which provides an independent view of the standard of Secretary of State decision making in cases coming to the appeal tribunal.

Copies of the report have been placed in the Library

# Written Ministerial Statements

*Tuesday 12 July 2005*

## TREASURY

### ECOFIN

**The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Gordon Brown):** I will chair the first Economic and Financial Affairs Council (ECOFIN) of the UK presidency on 12 July 2005. Items on the agenda are:

The UK work programme of the ECOFIN Council, which outlines the UK Government's priorities for ECOFIN over the UK presidency, including provisional ECOFIN agendas—and as part of which Ministers will discuss the full and rapid implementation of the EU action plan against terrorism. Copies of the work programme have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses;

Financing for development, where Ministers continue to discuss how best to deliver the resources necessary to meet the millennium development goals, ahead of the September UN summit;

Economic regeneration of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, where the Council will consider options for EU support at an historic time for the Middle East Peace Process;

EC budget: roadmap to an integrated control framework, where Commissioner Kallas will present his plans on financial management of the EC budget; and

Implementation of the Stability and Growth Pact, where Council will consider an opinion on the stability programme of Portugal. ECOFIN will then discuss a Council decision under Article 104(6) and Council recommendation under Article 104(7) on the excessive deficit procedure for Italy.

I will also address the Economic and Monetary Affairs Committee of the European Parliament.

## CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

### Legal Services Ombudsman/Legal Services Complaints Commissioner

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Constitutional Affairs (Bridget Prentice):** Yesterday, the legal services ombudsman laid the fourteenth annual report and copies have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Yesterday, the legal services complaints commissioner laid the first annual report, and copies have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

## DEFENCE

### Defence Select Committee Reports (Government Responses)

**The Minister of State, Ministry of Defence (Mr. Adam Ingram):** The Government have today published by Command Paper their responses to the Defence Committee's reports on Duty of Care and the Armed Forces Bill. Copies of both responses have been placed in the Library of the House.

We take responsibilities for recruits extremely seriously and have carefully considered the Committee's recommendations, together with those of the adult learning inspectorate in their report "Safer Training" which identified a number of common themes.

Our priority is to deliver cultural change within the training organisation and create a regime that values trainees as individuals where responsibility for their welfare is accepted at all levels. We have committed ourselves to a longer term partnership with the ALI who will continue to undertake inspections of our training establishments, the results of which will assist us in ensuring a process of continuous improvement. We have also recently signed an agreement with the Equal Opportunities Commission setting out a range of measures to prevent and deal with sexual harassment in the armed forces, which will be monitored by the Commission.

A comprehensive redress procedure already exists whereby complaints can be taken higher up the chain of command, and support is available from outside the chain of command for those who need it. I accept, however, that there is a case for introducing an independent element to the complaints system. We are considering this further ahead of the introduction of the Armed Forces Bill planned for later this year and will bring forward proposals at that time.

The Committee recommended that we consider raising the recruiting age for all three services to 18. However, the services need to attract those under 18 in order to compete effectively in an increasingly competitive employment market and any move to increase the minimum recruiting age would have an acute impact on the Services' ability to meet their recruiting targets and hence operational commitments. By recruiting from this age group, the services provide valuable and constructive training and employment to many young people.

The Government welcome the Committee's report on the forthcoming Armed Forces Bill as part of an ongoing process of pre-legislative scrutiny. The Bill is due to be introduced towards the end of the year. The Government's response to the Committee's specific recommendations must be seen against the background of the requirement for a separate system of service law, which is fair, consistent and expeditious. We believe such a system is vital to the operational effectiveness of the armed forces and particularly welcome the Committee's acknowledgement of this point in its report.

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS

### British Council

**The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Mr. Jack Straw):** The British Council, although not a Government Department, receives a substantial grant-in-aid from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. The Council regularly organises or sponsors exhibitions overseas of works of art loaned from National Galleries and private collections in the United Kingdom. It provides certain assurances or guarantees in respect of loss or damage while these works are on loan.

In the six months ending on 30 March 2005, the British Council provided such assurances to eight national lenders and undertakings to 85 private lenders. The value of the contingent liabilities outstanding on 30 March 2005 in respect of private lenders was £18,830,698. No liabilities to National Galleries existed at that date.

## HEALTH

### Human Tissue Act

**The Minister of State, Department of Health (Ms Rosie Winterton):** A consultation document for regulations to be made under the Human Tissue Act 2004 has been published today. Copies of the consultation document have been placed in the Library and on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/Consultations/LiveConsultations/fs/en

## PRIME MINISTER

### Intelligence and Security Committee

**The Prime Minister (Mr. Tony Blair):** Following appropriate consultation and in accordance with section 10 of the Intelligence and Security Act 1994, I have appointed the following as members of the Intelligence and Security Committee:

The right hon. Paul Murphy MP (Chair)
Ben Chapman MP
George Howarth MP
Dari Taylor MP
The Baroness Ramsay of Cartvale
The right hon. Michael Mates MP
The right hon. James Arbuthnot MP
Mr. Richard Ottaway MP
The right hon. Alan Beith MP

## TRADE AND INDUSTRY

### Employment Tribunals Service 2004–05 (Performance Targets)

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (Mr. Gerry Sutcliffe):** The Employment Tribunals Service has published its annual report and accounts for 2004–05 today. Copies have been laid before Parliament and will be placed on the ETS website at www.ets.gov.uk.

In 2004–05, the Employment Tribunals Service met and exceeded the following targets:

*Quality*

75 per cent. of single employment tribunal cases to a first hearing within 26 weeks of receipt

Minimum to be achieved by all offices in relation to above target: 65 per cent.

85 per cent. of employment tribunal decisions issued within four weeks of the final hearing

85 per cent. of employment tribunal users satisfied with the service offered by ETS

75 per cent. of appeals to EAT to a first hearing within 26 weeks of receipt

*Efficiency*

3 per cent. real terms reduction in employment tribunal administrative unit costs

In addition to these key targets, the ETS also met the following targets:

*Finance*

Pay 100 per cent. of invoices within 30 days of receipt of goods or services or a valid invoice, whichever is the later

*Questions delegated to the chief executive*

Reply within 10 working days to all letters from Members of Parliament delegated for the chief executive's reply.

# Written Ministerial Statements

*Wednesday 13 July 2005*

## TREASURY

### Cash Ratio Deposits

**The Chief Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Des Browne):** Under the cash ratio deposit (CRD) scheme, banks and building societies place non-interest bearing deposits at the Bank of England. The Bank invests these deposits and uses the income earned to fund the costs of the Bank's sterling liquidity, monetary policy and financial stability operations, which benefit sterling deposit-takers. The Bank of England Act 1998 placed the scheme on a statutory footing with effect from 1 June 1998.

As a result of significant changes the Bank of England will make to its operations in sterling money markets from next year, in particular the introduction of remunerated voluntary deposits which banks and building societies will be able to place with the Bank, the Treasury proposes to amend the definition of eligible liabilities for CRDs.

These proposed amendments principally seek to ensure that voluntary deposits would not count as an offset within the calculation of eligible liabilities on which CRDs are based thereby avoiding an unnecessary reduction in the Bank's CRD income.

The proposal requires a change to secondary legislation under the Bank of England Act 1998 and also requires the Treasury to consult those who are likely to be materially affected by the change and other persons it sees fit. This consultation has begun as of today and will conclude at the end of September.

## CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

### Judicial Diversity

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Constitutional Affairs (Bridget Prentice):** My right hon. and noble Friend, the Secretary of State and Lord Chancellor, Lord Falconer of Thoroton, has made the following written ministerial statement in the other place today, 13 July 2005:

> "I am announcing today a number of steps I am taking, as part of my judicial diversity programme, to increase the diversity of the judiciary in England and Wales.
>
> It is critical that the judiciary is reflective of the society it serves, in order that the public can have full confidence in the justice system. Judicial diversity is a priority because it makes a real and positive difference to the administration of justice. It means harnessing the talent and ability of all those who would make good judges if they were able or willing to apply, enabling us to be sure that the best are being appointed. It will enable every person with the right qualifications and qualities to be certain that they have an equal opportunity to be appointed on merit, whatever their background. It will also assure the public that the judges have a real understanding of the problems facing people from all sectors of society with whom they come into contact.
>
> I have therefore decided to legislate as soon as parliamentary time allows to broaden the pool of those eligible for judicial appointment. The legislation will amend the eligibility requirements so that fellows of the Institute of Legal Executives and registered Patent Agents and Trade Mark Attorneys, as well as barristers and solicitors, will in future be able apply for appointment for appropriate judicial posts (i.e. those district bench and tribunal-level posts for which their skills and experience particularly fit them; or specialist intellectual property appointments in the Patents Court, Patents County Court and specialist tribunals, in the case of the intellectual property practitioners). There will also be a power for the Lord Chancellor, after consultation with the Lord Chief Justice and the Judicial Appointments Commission, to amend by secondary legislation the qualifications needed for particular judicial offices in order to widen eligibility.
>
> After considering a range of views on this subject, I have reached the conclusion that the current statutory eligibility entitlement has the disadvantages of being both too restrictive (because it is unnecessarily long) and insufficiently precise (because time elapsed since qualification is not a meaningful measure of an individual's experience or skills). Indeed, under the law as it stands, it is unnecessary ever to have exercised rights of audience in order to become eligible for judicial appointments. The current statutory requirement will be replaced with a requirement for a specified number of years' post-qualification legal experience. The specified number of years will be reduced from seven or ten (according to the judicial post concerned) to five or seven.
>
> Magistrates are vital to the operation of the justice system. The Government value the work which magistrates do, and we will be bringing forward proposals later this year on supporting magistrates more fully. In line with that approach, I want to make a particular change in terms of improving judicial diversity. In recognition of the significant court experience gained by magistrates when sitting, I am also making a limited exception to the established policy that no-one is appointed to salaried judicial office without first having served in a fee-paid post. In future, those barristers and solicitors who are also justices of the peace will be able to count their magistrates sittings in lieu of fee-paid service when they apply for a salaried judicial appointment. This change will not require legislation. We will be consulting further on its detailed implementation.
>
> The eligibility changes will enable a wider range of people, with the appropriate skills and experience, to apply for judicial appointment. These proposals are about eligibility to apply for judicial office, which is of course separate from the question of appointment. Those who do apply will face a rigorous, competitive, competence-based selection process. Appointments are made, and will continue to be made, solely on merit.
>
> I am also taking other action to encourage greater diversity in the judiciary. My Department is working to raise awareness of the possibility of judicial appointment and the range of posts available by, for example, extending the judicial work-shadowing scheme to include district judges (magistrates courts) as well as circuit judges and district judges; advertising widely in the press and on websites; sending out regular e-newsletters; organising events aimed at specific under-represented groups (the first of which, a highly successful event aimed at women, took place in Manchester on 28 and 29 June); and piloting a scheme to encourage individuals to apply for appointment.

My Department is continuing to work on the other components of the judicial diversity programme, and I expect to make a further announcement in the autumn. I believe that these are important initiatives which, together, will make a real contribution to greater diversity in the judiciary, and will set a new and more flexible framework which will help the Judicial Appointments Commission from next year in widening the range of people who apply for judicial appointments".

## CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

### Awards for All Grants

**The Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (Tessa Jowell):** Following the discovery by the Big Lottery Fund of irregularities in certain grant applications in September 2004, the investigations team of the fund, the police and the Charity Commission have conducted extensive investigations into suspected multiple application fraud. Lottery funds were safeguarded by immediately suspending payments on suspect grants.

A number of arrests have been made and both criminal and civil proceedings are likely to follow. It would not be appropriate, therefore, for me to describe in detail the nature of the alleged fraud. However, I can say that what is suspected is a systematic fraud targeting a number of charitable and public grant makers, including the Awards for All programme operated by the former community fund on behalf of six lottery distributors.

Although the scale of the suspected fraud is uncertain and will not be clear until the end of the investigation, I have now been provided with sufficient financial information to make a statement to Parliament.

The current best estimate of the amount of grants at risk awarded through the Awards for All programme on behalf of each distributor is as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| Arts Council England | £297,000 |
| Community fund | £1,005,000 |
| Heritage Lottery fund | £202,000 |
| Millennium Commission | £21,000 |
| New Opportunities fund | £584,000 |
| Sport England | £498,000 |
| Total | £2,607,000 |

The Big Lottery fund has reviewed its systems and put in place additional controls which will significantly reduce the risk of similar fraud in future. The fund will strike an appropriate balance between preventing abuse of lottery funds and running an application process which minimises delays and bureaucracy for small community organisations seeking funding.

The knowledge gained in this investigation is being shared with other funders and the Charity Commission.

## DEFENCE

### Met Office

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. Don Touhig):** The key targets have been set for the chief executive of the Met Office for the financial year 2005–06. The targets are designed to drive change to create an environment for growth, whilst delivering value for money. Further information can be found in the Met Office's annual report and accounts which will be published by September 2005.

*Key Performance Target 1. Return on Capital Employed.*

To achieve a Return on Capital Employed of at least 3.5 per cent.

*Key Performance Target 2. Forecast Accuracy.*

To demonstrate an improvement of 1 per cent. in the underpinning numerical weather prediction capability. And to achieve minimum levels of accuracy on next-day forecasts for a representative selection of UK cities as follows: maximum temperature (83 per cent.), minimum temperature (78 per cent.), and precipitation (85.5 per cent.).

*Key Performance Target 3. Support to Wider Government Goals.*

As a basis for delivering future efficiencies, to define in costed-output terms the services to be provided to key central Government Departments; and to agree formal customer-supplier agreements with each such Department. In addition, to pilot with MOD a new incentive pricing mechanism which allows the benefits of cost-reductions to be shared between both organisations.

*Key Performance Target 4. Profitability.*

To achieve a profit contribution of £2.8 million from the Met Office's work for commercial customers.

*Key Performance Target 5. Our people.*

As a baseline improving the management of people, to establish a benchmark for staff perception of the Met Office leadership, and the level of satisfaction with the implementation of the corporate plan.

### Far East Prisoners of War

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. Don Touhig):** On 12 July, the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration laid before Parliament her special report on the complaint of Professor Hayward in respect of the far east prisoner of war and civilian internee ex-gratia payment scheme. The report makes a number of criticisms of the Government's handling of the scheme, a number of which are accepted but some of which we reject.

The Commissioner's report is critical of the way the scheme was introduced and announced. This criticism is accepted. A considerable amount of work had been undertaken on scoping the scheme before its inception but, because all parties involved wished the payments to be made as quickly as possible due to the age of potential claimants, the scheme was announced before all the criteria governing eligibility had been fully developed.

The wording used in this House on 7 November 2000 in announcing which former civilian internees would be covered by the scheme was "British civilians who were interned". This was clarified in March 2001 to allow decisions to be made on claims where the applicability of the original criteria was unclear. However, no clear announcement was made at this time of the birthlink eligibility criterion for civilian internees. The words used in November 2000 led Professor Hayward to think that, as a former British civilian internee, he was covered by

the scheme. This expectation was ended when his claim was subsequently rejected as he did not meet the birthlink criterion.

We accept that the way the scheme was introduced and announced led to distress for Professor Hayward himself and for some other people in a similar position. There was no intention to cause such distress but we accept that it is real. The fact that this occurred is profoundly regretted and I would like to take this opportunity to apologise for it.

The people to whom this apology is made are those who:

were held by the Japanese during the second world war in the far east as British civilian internees; and

submitted their applications between the announcement of the Scheme on 7 November 2000 and the public announcement of the clarified criteria on 11 July 2001; and

whose claim was rejected because they (or their deceased spouse who was interned) was not born in the UK and did not have a parent or grandparent born here; and

whose claim met all the other relevant criteria.

I sincerely apologise to these people and will now be examining whether I should express this apology in a tangible form and how most quickly to identify and contact those affected.

The Parliamentary Commissioner made a number of criticisms and recommendations on other aspects of the Government's handling of the scheme, notably relating to the birthlink criterion itself, which we do not accept. This criterion, on which Professor Hayward's application was rejected, is the subject of judicial review in which judgment was handed down on 7 July. This judgment is now being considered and it would not be appropriate to make further comment until the final outcome of the case is known. However, pending this outcome, the ex-gratia payment scheme has been suspended in relation to former civilian internees and their surviving spouses: claims may continue to be submitted but none will be considered meanwhile.

### Defence Science and Technology Laboratory

**The Minister of State, Ministry of Defence (Mr. Adam Ingram):** The chief executive of the defence science and technology laboratory (Dstl) has been set the following key targets for the financial year 2005–06:

Maintain and by the end of a three-year period show an increase in score for scientific and engineering capability in the technical benchmarking exercise from 67 per cent. in 2002–03 to 72 per cent. in 2005–06—moderated by external assessors agreed with MOD's chief scientific adviser.

Identify and agree with MOD's chief scientific adviser the top 10 Dstl capability needs, their alignment with the future programme and the required MOD funding by March 2006.

By the end of a three-year period show a linear improvement of at least 1.5 per cent. on the financial year 2004-05 customer satisfaction score of 75.4 per cent. for service provision.

Implement a process for identifying and publicising Dstl's major achievements during the year.

Achieve health and safety executive approval of the category four microbiology containment facility by 31 October 2005.

Define the scope, structure and funding requirements of a new defence and security research and development centre and, subject to new funding being available from customers, prepare a specific proposal for its creation.

Achieve planned progress to meet the completion date of 2008 for the transfer of Dstl onto three core sites at Porton Down, Portsdown West and Fort Halstead. The key milestones for 2005–06 are: appointment of the preferred bidder (August 2005); negotiate with the preferred bidder a reduction in facilities management costs for Dstl of at least 15 per cent. from August 2006; sign contract (March 2006).

By December 2005, complete the detailed design and build phases of the new integrated corporate applications system (iCAS) that will deliver all Dstl's business information requirements from 2006–07.

Maintain the average charge rate for manpower for 2005–06 and beyond below that for 2001–02 uplifted by GDP deflator.

Achieve a ROCE of at least 3.5 per cent. averaged over the period 2004–05 to 2008–09 and a MOD dividend of £3 million in 2005–06.

## DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

### Local Government Pension Scheme

**The Minister for Local Government (Mr. Phil Woolas):** In light of the statutory consultation exercise conducted between 1 April and 31 May, it has been concluded that it would be appropriate to revoke the Local Government Pension Scheme (Amendment) (No.2) Regulations 2004. The Local Government Pension Scheme (Amendment) Regulations 2005 which make the revocation will have retrospective effect from 1 April 2005 and will come into force on 3 August 2005.

As required by the statutes which govern the scheme's provisions, a statutory consultation exercise has been undertaken with interested parties in England and Wales. Careful consideration has been given to the representations submitted in response to that consultation exercise. Many of those stakeholders who opposed revocation raised the question of costs and how taking such a step might impact on the scheme, and then create fresh pressures on local authorities' budgets if no suitable mitigating measures were put in place. That point is recognised and the Government fully intend to deal with it.

Representatives of the local government employers and trades unions have been invited by the Deputy Prime Minister to develop realistic and costed measures by the autumn to fully meet any costs arising from the decision to revoke the Local Government Pension Scheme (Amendment) (No.2) Regulations 2004.

To assist in that process and, as a measure to ensure the continued stability of the Scheme, an amendment is also being made by the Local Government Pension Scheme (Amendment) Regulations 2005 to provide each LGPS administering authority the vires to request an interim valuation of their pension fund, as at 31 March 2005. In the meantime, and as part of that process, LGPS pension funds, funding strategy statements will be undergoing review, as currently required by the scheme's regulations, and appropriate changes made to their deficit recovery periods can be taken into account by their actuaries.

Taking account of these costing exercises, the Deputy Prime Minister intends to ensure that his statutory responsibilities for the on-going solvency of the scheme are fully met. New regulations will identify the way forward to ensure that the local government pension scheme funds remain solvent, without additional calls

on employers' contributions, or on Government. Consultations on these necessary further regulations to address the costs of revocation will take place in time for them to take effect from 1 April 2006.

The framework now provided by the LGPS tri-partite committee will ensure effective and co-ordinated progress on the development of the scheme. It is imperative for its affordability and sustainability that the effect of revocation is managed prudently and with regard to the need to ensure on-going solvency and viability. All the stakeholders in England and Wales with an interest in the scheme will wish to work to that end.

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS

### Parliamentary Scrutiny (EU Business)

**The Minister for Europe (Mr. Douglas Alexander):** The Government have decided upon a new approach to provide better and more timely information to both Parliament and the European Scrutiny Committees about the agendas and outcomes of EU Council of Ministers meetings.

The new system should promote a greater transparency of EU business within both Houses. The principal elements of the new system, which will take immediate effect in order to capture the first Councils of our presidency, are:

Scrutiny focused material will, as before, continue to be provided to the clerks of the two Scrutiny Committees as early as possible before Council of Ministers meetings;

Written ministerial statements will be provided to Parliament no later than the day before a formal Council to provide as much information about the items on the agenda, why they are on the agenda, and what the UK as holders of the EU presidency hopes the Council will achieve. After the presidency, the statements will revert to setting out the national stance on each item. Written statements will not be produced before informal Councils. A copy of the statement will be sent to the Chairmen of both Scrutiny Committees;

Written ministerial statements will be produced within five working days of each Council. During the UK's presidency, statements on formal Councils will set out what the UK as presidency has delivered, and will replace, in the Commons and Lords respectively, the current system involving a parliamentary question and ministerial letter. Only after the presidency will the statements revert to setting out what the UK stance was in discussions. When reporting after an informal Council the statement will be of a more general nature and will not highlight member states' positions, including the UK's. A copy of each statement will be sent to the Chairmen of each Scrutiny Committee;

During parliamentary recesses, Ministers will revert to writing to the Chairmen of both Committees in place of written statements and arrange for copies of the letters to be sent to the Libraries of both Houses.

## HEALTH

### Draft Mental Health Bill

**The Minister of State, Department of Health (Ms Rosie Winterton):** The Government response [Cm 6624] to the report of the Joint Committee on the Draft Mental Health Bill [HL paper 79–1, HC 95–1] published on 23 March 2005 has been published today. Copies are available in the Library.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS

### Security Arrangements (Palace of Westminster)

**The Leader of the House of Commons (Mr. Geoffrey Hoon):** Following the advice of the security service and the Metropolitan Police given in the joint review of security at the Palace of Westminster, the concrete blockers around the perimeter will shortly be replaced with more effective steel barriers. Current vehicle access arrangements will remain unchanged. These measures were approved by the Joint Committee on Security on 4 July, and are made with the agreement of Mr. Speaker.

Further related measures will be taken during the summer recess. By the time the House returns in October, entry to Peer's car park and Black Rod's Garden will be possible only from the direction of Parliamentary square. Vehicles exiting these areas will only be able to turn left towards Lambeth bridge. Pedestrian access will remain unaffected. These measures will significantly enhance Parliament's security.

## ATTORNEY-GENERAL

### Crown Prosecution Service

**The Solicitor-General (Mr. Mike O'Brien):** The annual report of the Crown Prosecution Service has been published and was laid before Parliament yesterday. Copies have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

## TRADE AND INDUSTRY

### EU Telecom Council

**The Minister for Industry and the Regions (Alun Michael):** I represented the UK at the EU Telecoms Council, which is part of the Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council, in Luxembourg on 27 June, when the Council considered two issues of interest to the UK. These were the Commission's communication on the i2010 strategy and the world summit on the information society (WSIS).

Commissioner Reding presented her i2010 communication on future policy for information and communication technologies (ICT) in the context of the re-launched Lisbon agenda. She summarised the three main themes of the i2010 strategy as the creation of an open and competitive market for the digital economy, greater investment in ICT R and D and e-inclusion policies. She also emphasised that much of the i2010 strategy is for implementation at the national level and is covered by the integrated guidelines for the national reform plans which will be put forward in October.

In a full round table, all member states endorsed the Commission's approach on the i2010 strategy, with many emphasising that ICT was fundamental to competitiveness and job creation, and others endorsing the explicit linkage to Lisbon through the mechanism of the national reform plans. One member state expressed concerns about the scope of the i2010 which includes broadcasting. A number of member states noted the dependence of the ICT R&D budget on overall budgetary discussions. Two member states also noted the need for a high-level steering mechanism to ensure proactive follow-up to the goals of the i2010 strategy. For the UK, I emphasised the importance of implementing the existing regulatory framework in order to support open and competitive markets and the need to encourage new technologies and services in order to support the re-launched Lisbon agenda.

In discussions of the world summit on the information society (WSIS), all member states emphasised the importance of the EU speaking with one voice at the summit in Tunis in November, a view which was strongly endorsed by the Commission.

There was one outstanding point of discussion on the wording of the proposed Council conclusions. These conclusions will set out the EU's approach in the final preparatory phase of the summit. One member state, with some support from others, was keen to see a reference to an international entity which would oversee the existing public-private internet governance structures in the US. Compromise wording was agreed following constructive co-operation between the UK and this member state in the margins of the Council meeting. This wording removed references to a specific entity while reflecting shared views on the relevance of existing international organisations and the need for a bottom-up public/private partnership with scope for governmental input.

## TRANSPORT

### Passenger and Goods Vehicle (Recording Equipment) Regulations 2005

**The Minister of State, Department for Transport (Dr. Stephen Ladyman):** The Passenger and Goods Vehicle (Recording Equipment) Regulations 2005 were laid before Parliament today and will come into force on 5 August 2005. These new regulations will amend existing arrangements for the enforcement of European drivers' hours rules in order to:

> "reflect the imminent introduction of new technology for recording drivers' activities—the digital tachograph—as provided for by European Regulation 2135/98/EC, and,
>
> tighten up existing powers in the light of experience."

To accompany the new regulations, we have also published a regulatory impact assessment. Copies have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

The new regulations will affect the operators and drivers of heavy commercial vehicles. They do not introduce any new drivers' hours limits and their effect on law abiding drivers and operators will be negligible. Indeed, such drivers and operators should benefit competitively from better enforcement against law-breakers.

The Government will review the new regulations and associated guidance in 12 to 18 months' time in the light of practical experience.

# Written Ministerial Statements

*Thursday 14 July 2005*

## TREASURY

### National Statistics

**The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (John Healey):** The National Statistics annual report for 2004–05 is being published and laid before the House today. Copies are available in the Libraries of both Houses. The report can also be obtained free on the National Statistics website.

## CABINET OFFICE

### Departmental Evidence and Response to Select Committees

**The Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (Mr. John Hutton):** I have today placed in the Libraries of both Houses copies of updated guidance to officials from Government Departments and agencies on "Departmental Evidence and Response to Select Committees". The Government are grateful to the Liaison Committee for their contribution to the updated guidance.

## DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

### Planning Inspectorate

**The Minister for Housing and Planning (Yvette Cooper):** I have today laid before the House a copy of the planning inspectorate's annual report and accounts for 2004–05. Copies of the report have been made available in the Libraries of both Houses.

The report gives an overview of the performance of the inspectorate and demonstrates the importance of a credible, accessible planning tribunal service which is open, transparent and impartial. It also highlights the ways in which it is contributing to the Government's planning reform agenda.

I have also agreed with Carwyn Jones that, for 2005–06, the Inspectorate's targets for its main areas of casework should remain unchanged.

## EDUCATION AND SKILLS

### New Maintenance Grant and Student Loan Rates

**The Minister for Higher Education and Lifelong Learning (Bill Rammell):** Following the outcome of our financial modelling, I am now able to confirm household income thresholds for the new maintenance grant, which is to be introduced to help low income students enter and continue in higher education from 2006–07. Those students with household income of £17,500 or less will receive the full £2,700 maintenance grant. Students with household income between £17,501 up to £37,425 will receive a partial grant. We therefore anticipate that around 30 per cent. of new, full-time students will qualify for the full £2,700 grant, with 50–55 per cent. qualifying for a full or partial grant in 2006–07. Furthermore, the element of the new grant which is to be paid in substitution for the maintenance loan has now been set at £1,200.

I can also confirm that student loan rates in the 2006–07 academic year will be as follows:

*Full year rates:*

Students living at home: £3,415

Students living away from home, in London: £6,170

Students living away from home, outside London: £4,405

*Final year rates:*

Students living at home: £3,085

Students living away from home, in London: £5,620

Students living away from home, outside London: £4,080

This honours the commitment on loan rates made to the House by my right hon. Friend the Member for Norwich South (Mr. Clarke), in his statement of 8 January 2004.

These arrangements will be enacted in Regulations which are expected to be laid before Parliament in January.

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### Laboratory Strategy

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Mr. Ben Bradshaw):** My noble Friend, the Lord Bach, has agreed to the future direction of DEFRA's laboratory strategy, which aims to deliver a long term sustainable future for DEFRA's laboratories: the Central Science Laboratory (CSL), the Veterinary Laboratories Agency (VLA) and the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS).

DEFRA's laboratories have an international reputation for excellence. They play an important role for DEFRA by providing scientific capacity and the evidence base for policy development. DEFRA will continue to rely on the support they provide, so it is important that the strategy delivers a sustainable future for their work. A new group, the "Laboratories Strategy Group" (LSG) has been formed to develop and oversee the programme of work necessary to take the strategy forward. The LSG is chaired by Lynton Barker (non executive) and reports to DEFRA's management board.

As part of the laboratory strategy, DEFRA is working with the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) on a joint study to consider the future relationship between VLA and the Institute of Animal Health (IAH). Objectives of the study are to achieve financial sustainability, exploit synergies between the two organisations and ensure the continuation of critical research and other scientific services.

### Veterinary Medicines Directorate

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Mr. Ben Bradshaw):** The 2004–05 annual report and accounts for the Veterinary Medicines Directorate will be laid before Parliament today. Copies will be available in the Library of the House.

### Floods (Carlisle and the North)

**The Minister for Climate Change and the Environment (Mr. Elliot Morley):** I am pleased to place copies of the reports by the Environment Agency and that collated by the Government Office for the North-West in the Library of the House.

I welcome these reports on how the flooding in Carlisle and across the north of the country in January was handled. I hope that they will provide people in Carlisle in particular with a picture of how local services coped and the lessons they have taken away.

A major storm produced exceptional amounts of rain over a 36 hour period, leading to overtopping of defences and flooding of some 3,000 properties. Two lives were lost and many residents were evacuated. I had the opportunity to see for myself the floods' devastating effects.

These reports show how flooding came from both the rivers and from surface water routes. This combination can result from very heavy, localised rain falling over short periods of time—it was also a feature of recent flooding in North Yorkshire. In our new strategy for flood risk management, "Making Space for Water", we have announced our intention to undertake some integrated urban drainage pilots to investigate how these complex issues can be better managed in the future.

The conditions as experienced in January also make the provision of timely warnings extremely difficult, for example in some parts of Carlisle where flooding from surface water sources preceded overtopping of the river defences. Nevertheless, the Environment Agency is reviewing with other bodies involved what improvements can be made to warning systems.

For our part we are taking forward the recommendations in these reports on strengthening resilience to flooding events through improved cross government and agency co-ordination under a new flood emergencies capability programme, which will look at the key issues that local responders have identified as needing further attention. The reports identify a number of areas where the local emergency services and other responders can themselves build on the experiences of January this year and it is important that we should take on these lessons more widely, so building our overall capability for managing flood emergencies in the future.

It is also important that all services, utilities, business and householders who are at risk should do what they can to strengthen their resilience to flooding, especially as we are likely to see a greater frequency of such events in future years given the expected impact of climate change.

In addition, the Environment Agency has already announced plans to promote a flood defence scheme for Carlisle. The agency has revised the plans it had in mind before the flooding occurred in the light of the events of January, and start of work on the new defences is scheduled for spring 2006.

## NORTHERN IRELAND

### Life Sentence Review Commissioners and Sentence Review Commissioners

**The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Mr. Peter Hain):** I have today arranged for the annual reports of the Life Sentence Review Commissioners and the Sentence Review Commissioners to be laid in the House. Copies of the reports have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

### Police Ombudsman

**The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Mr. Peter Hain):** The police ombudsman for Northern Ireland's annual report for 2004–05 is published today. Copies will be available in the Libraries of both Houses.

### Performance Targets: Health and Social Services Estate Agency (Health Estates)

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Mr. Shaun Woodward):** The targets, which have been set for 2005–06, are based on the strategic aims and objectives of the agency as set out in section 4 of its corporate and business plan. The targets are in line with the Department's policy of seeking to improve the service provided to the agency's clients in terms of both quality and value for money and I am satisfied that they present a demanding challenge for the agency. A copy of the corporate and business plan will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

The targets are as follows:

*Quality*

1. 95 per cent. of the service provided by the agency's client support staff to external clients to be regarded as satisfactory, of which 35 per cent. of the service to be regarded as either very good or excellent.
2. 95 per cent. of the service provided by the agency's project management staff to external clients to be regarded as satisfactory, of which 35 per cent. of the service to be regarded as either very good or excellent.
3. 95 per cent. of the service provided by the agency's trust consultancy support staff to external clients to be regarded as satisfactory, of which 35 per cent. of the service to be regarded as either very good or excellent.
4. 95 per cent. of the service provided by the agency's specialist engineering staff to external clients to be regarded as satisfactory, of which 35 per cent. of the service to be regarded as either very good or excellent.

*Throughput/Service Delivery*

5. Complete testing against health service guidance and relevant British and European standards and issue test reports to the authorised person in respect of 98 sterilisers and washer disinfectors by 31 March 2006, based on 98 machines in operation at 1 April 2005 and on a testing resource of four fully qualified decontamination testing staff being available over the target period.
6. Issue all medical device/equipment alerts with an "Immediate Action" level of urgency designation initiated by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory

Agency (MHRA) within three working days on receipt of final MHRA alert (provided that no further consultation is involved).

7. Issue all medical device/equipment alerts with an "Action" level of urgency designation initiated by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) within five working days on receipt of final MHRA alert (provided that no further consultation is involved).

8. Develop and issue for consultation an environmental cleanliness strategy, cleaning specifications and an assessment tool by June 2005 and undertake an independent assessment of environmental cleanliness based on the cleaning specifications by October 2005.

*Financial Management*

9. Ensure that the agency lives within its running cost allocation for the year.

10. Demonstrate that the full costs of the agency are recouped, on a notional basis, through the service level agreement with the Department.

## SOLICITOR-GENERAL

### HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate

**The Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs (Ms Harriet Harman):** The annual report of HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate has today been published and laid before Parliament. Copies have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

## TRADE AND INDUSTRY

### Draft Employment Equality (Age) Regulations 2006

**The Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (Alan Johnson):** Today I am launching our consultation on draft regulations that will for the first time outlaw age discrimination in employment and vocational training. The *Coming of Age* consultation will end on 17 October 2005. Subject to parliamentary approval we intend that the legislation should come into force on 1 October 2006, implementing the final strand of the European Employment Directive (Council Directive 2000/78/EC).

Age discrimination prevents people of all ages from realising their full potential in the workplace. This in turn prevents employers from getting the best performance out of their business and delivering the best service to their customers. We have consulted over a number of years on our plans for legislation in this area. We have said throughout that tackling age discrimination is good for business, good for individuals and good for society.

Age discrimination legislation has far-reaching consequences. It touches on every aspect of the employment relationship either directly when there are specific age-based practices, or indirectly when length of service is involved. It ranges over recruitment, promotion, pay, employment conditions, dismissal, retirement, and occupational pensions. We believe that the policies reflected in the draft Employment Equality (Age) Regulations ensure that individuals benefit from important new rights and opportunities, whilst allowing business to operate productively but fairly.

In December 2004 we announced how we would be implementing the legislation in relation to retirement ages. For many businesses this will require a considerable adjustment. Those that set their retirement age below the default age of 65 will have to justify it or change it. We announced also that employers would have a new duty to consider requests from employees to continue working longer. We are confident that this will have the same success as the existing right that parents have to request flexible working, and that it will further change the retirement culture in this country.

Retirement should not come as an unexpected surprise. The new duty to consider procedure, therefore, will include new requirements to facilitate planned retirement. Employers will be required to notify employees—at least six months in advance and in writing—of the intended date of retirement and that they can ask to work beyond it. This will avoid uncertainty over retirement and ensure that employees can consider their options in advance, allowing them to plan properly for what is a significant change in their lives.

However, growing numbers of firms are already successfully planning their work force without fixed retirement ages, and in the longer term the Government's aim is to move to a position where business does not need to rely on a default retirement age. In 2011 we will review whether the justification for having a default age of 65 still stands. As we said when we announced the retirement age decision last year, failing to provide for a default age could have adverse effects on occupational pensions and other benefits, and many businesses need it for work force planning purposes. We made it clear that the review will be firmly grounded in evidence. It will look at, among other things, the evidence on longevity, and employment patterns of older workers. If the evidence shows that we no longer need the default retirement age we will abolish it.

We will also extend employment rights by removing the current upper age limit for unfair dismissal and redundancy rights. This means that older workers will get the same rights to claim unfair dismissal or to receive a redundancy payment as younger workers. However, retirement will not constitute unfair dismissal if it is on or after 65 (or a lower retirement age, if justified) and the employer has followed the duty to consider procedure. We will also be taking steps to gauge stakeholder opinion on changes to the method of calculation of statutory redundancy payments.

Many rules in occupational pension schemes are age-based and necessary for their proper operation. The regulations will effectively exempt most age-related rules. Scheme managers will be able to retain age-related rules for which we have not made specific provision, provided they can objectively justify them. The aim is to ensure that age discrimination legislation does not undermine the provision of occupational pensions, or interfere unduly with their normal operation, whilst at the same time ensuring that unjustified age-related practices do not continue.

Length of service is often used as a criterion for pay, and for non-pay benefits. This could amount to indirect discrimination if some age groups were more likely to have the necessary length of service than others. Such an

approach to pay and other benefits is used widely to motivate staff, reward loyalty, and recognise experience. In those circumstances, therefore, such benefits are likely to be objectively justified. Our aim is, as far as possible, to ensure their continuation, while making plainly unjustified practices open to challenge. The regulations, therefore, provide for exemptions as far as possible—with a specific exemption for length of service requirements of five years or less, and a general provision for longer periods. Length of service requirements that mirror similar requirements in statutory schemes will also be allowed—for example, a contractual redundancy scheme based on length of service but with more generous entitlement than required by law.

An age-based approach in respect of other employment practices will be lawful only if the employer can satisfy the stiff test of objective justification. Decisions about recruitment, selection and promotion, for example, should normally be based on candidates' skills and abilities, but there might be exceptional circumstances when an employer can justify age requirements. The legislation will allow for this.

The *Coming of Age* consultation document that accompanies the draft regulations explains what the regulations will cover, why we have taken the approach that we have, and what the legislation will mean in practice. This will help businesses, providers of vocational training, and individuals to prepare for their new responsibilities and rights.

I have arranged for copies of the consultation paper and other related documents to be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Employment and Social Policy Ministers Meeting (Belfast)

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (James Plaskitt):** On 7 and 8 July, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions hosted a meeting of EU employment and Social Policy Ministers in Belfast, to discuss how member states might raise employment levels and improve social inclusion. The event, which launched our six-month presidency of the Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs (ESPHCA) Council, used a mix of workshops, plenary sessions and visits to promote exchange of ideas and sharing of best practice.

My right hon. Friend stressed how Ministers, in the context of demographic change, had a shared interest in raising employment rates and improving social inclusion. This formed part of the wider debate on how to modernise the European social model. Ministers and the commissioner welcomed the opportunity to share best practice.

Ministers visited one of two sites in socially disadvantaged parts of Belfast: a jobs and benefits centre on the Shankill Road and the Springvale training centre. Ministers learnt about the practical steps the UK was taking to tackle the problems of unemployment and social exclusion. Ministers attended one of three parallel workshops looking at practical measures to raise employment levels and improve social inclusion for a particular target group: young people, older workers and the economically inactive.

In the workshop and plenary discussions there was general agreement on foundations of the European social model and with my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister's view that the social model needed to be modernised. There was also agreement about the importance of Ministers getting together to share best practice and committing to action at the European level.

As is customary, the meeting of Ministers was preceded on 7 July by a meeting between the Council Troika (Ministers from the current and next two presidencies, Austria and Finland), the social partners, the Commission and the European Parliament, which discussed the same theme. I deputised for my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State as chair at those discussions, which also voiced broad support for the Prime Minister's wish to modernise the European social model.

### Asbestos-related Diseases

**The Minister for Employment and Welfare Reform (Margaret Hodge):** The Industrial Injuries Advisory Council report (Cm 6553) has been published. After careful consideration I have accepted all the recommendations. Amending legislation will be laid before Parliament.

In brief the changes are as follows. In the case of Prescribed Disease D8 primary carcinoma of the lung the following easements are introduced:

Prescribed Disease D8 is extended to include lung cancer where no asbestosis is present but where there is evidence of substantial occupational exposure and the requirement to demonstrate pleural thickening is removed. Where the disease is diagnosed and the occupational criteria are met claims will be paid at 100 per cent. from the outset;

the diagnosis of diffuse pleural thickening for Prescribed Disease D9 is modified to make diagnosis easier.

The report has been placed in the Library, and copies are available to hon. Members from the Vote Office.

# Written Ministerial Statements

*Monday 18 July 2005*

## TREASURY

### Tax and Benefit Reference Manual

**The Paymaster General (Dawn Primarolo):** Copies of the 2005–06 edition of the Tax Benefit Reference Manual (TBRM) are today being deposited in the House of Commons Library.

HM Treasury publishes the TBRM annually. It is a technical manual detailing the tax and benefit system, describing both the current and historic regimes. There are also tables of time series covering tax and benefit rates, numbers of tax payers and benefit claimants, VAT and duty rates and the tax burden on specimen households.

## CABINET OFFICE

### Choice and Voice in the Reform of Public Services

**The Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (Mr. John Hutton):** The Government have today published their response to the Public Administration Select Committee's report on choice, voice and the public services.

The Government welcome the Public Administration Select Committee's report and see the Committee's comment and recommendations as a valuable contribution to the debate on how public services can be further improved.

I am placing copies of the Government's response in the Library.

## DEFENCE

### Review Board for Government Contracts

**The Minister of State, Ministry of Defence (Mr. Adam Ingram):** The Government have accepted the findings of the Review Board for Government Contracts as detailed in their report of the 2005 annual review of the profit formula for non-competitive Government contracts. I will place a copy of the report in both Libraries of the House.

## DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

### Planning

**The Minister for Housing and Planning (Yvette Cooper):** This statement announces three new planning policy documents which the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) is publishing today:

A policy consultation paper "Planning for Housing Provision" which sets out a proposed new approach to planning for housing provision, in response to recommendations in the "Barker review of housing supply" published in March 2004.

A consultation paper on a proposed new green belt direction, as foreshadowed in the ODPM five-year strategy "Homes for All", published in January 2005.

A new circular on planning obligations, following the consultation launched in November 2004.

ODPM is also publishing today research on the use of planning obligations to deliver affordable housing.

Alongside these documents ODPM is also publishing jointly with HM Treasury a document setting out the importance of the Government's housing agenda for achieving the UK's social and economic priorities and for delivering stability and opportunity.

Copies of these documents are being placed in the Libraries of the House.

*Planning for Housing Provision*

In April 2003 the Government commissioned Kate Barker to carry out a review of issues underlying the lack of supply and responsiveness of housing supply in the UK. Demand for housing has increased over the last 30 years, driven by demographic trends and rising incomes. Yet the supply of new housing has fallen by 30 per cent. compared to 30 years ago.

The Barker review of housing supply report, "Delivering stability: Securing our future housing needs", published in March 2004, made a number of recommendations relevant to the planning system, in particular, its ability to release appropriate land for housing in an effective and timely manner. Planning was seen as a key constraint on the delivery of housing. The revision of current policy on planning for housing, set out in planning policy guidance note 3: housing (PPG3), was regarded as a priority, in order to improve delivery of sufficient homes and to achieve housing targets more effectively.

The Government agree with the Barker review proposition that the planning system must be able to deliver sufficient land, in the right places, to meet need and be more responsive to demand. If plans fail to deliver appropriate land for housing, house prices will continue to increase, there will continue to be worsening affordability, and key workers will continue to seek in vain for homes near their jobs. Equally, if the planning system fails to address low demand, the difficulties faced by communities, in terms of abandonment and crime, will increase.

The challenge for the planning system is to find the right way to respond flexibly to housing market pressures, in order to achieve social justice, and sustainable development. The Government believe that consideration of housing market pressures must be part of the planning system, so that it can operate swiftly and effectively, in the public interest.

ODPM is therefore publishing today a consultation paper "Planning for Housing Provision" which sets out the Government's objectives for delivering a better supply of housing through the planning system. Improving housing supply and access to housing is critical to improving affordability in the long term and securing the wider benefits that housing brings to the economy and society. The consultation paper proposes

a new policy approach to ensuring that appropriate land is allocated in plans to meet the need for housing, respond more effectively to changes in demand, and promote consumer choice. It also continues the priority given to brownfield development. It provides for different approaches in areas such as the Thames Gateway which are designated for high levels of housing growth compared to other areas where the level of new housing needs to be carefully managed. It promotes longer term planning as well as much more rapid reviews of plans where demand changes. The Government will respond to the other recommendations of the Barker review by the end of the year.

This consultation will be an important input to a new planning policy statement on planning for housing (PPS3). In the autumn Government will consult on a new draft PPS3 which will set out the broad national policy framework for planning for housing. The aim will be to ensure that the planning system is used to its maximum effect to ensure that everyone has the opportunity of a decent home, which they can afford, within a community which is sustainable and in which they want to live and work.

The new draft PPS3 will also draw on the consultation paper "Planning for Mixed Communities" published by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister in January 2005, and the responses to it.

*Consultation Draft of a New Green Belt Direction*

The Government recognise the need to protect the green belt in taking forward new development. It has set a target for each region to maintain or increase the area of green belt designated in local plans. As a demonstration of the continuing importance the Government attach to the protection of the openness of the green belt, and to the prevention of urban sprawl, the ODPM is also publishing today a consultation paper on a proposed new town and country planning (green belt) direction.

This new direction would, for the first time, specifically require that planning applications for inappropriate development of certain types and scale in the green belt, which local planning authorities are minded to approve, should be referred to the First Secretary of State. While the Secretary of State would continue to use his powers of intervention selectively, the new direction would ensure that he has the opportunity to consider whether to call in for a public inquiry and his own determination, the more significant and potentially most harmful development proposals in the green belt.

*Planning obligations*

The system of planning obligations is important in delivering essential infrastructure and other matters necessary to ensure all new development is sustainable in planning terms. However, planning obligations have in the past been responsible for delays in the system. The ODPM is today publishing a new circular on planning obligations—circular 05/2005—aimed at speeding up the system, so as to support the delivery of development, including new housing.

In November 2004 the ODPM published a draft revised circular on planning obligations. This led to a very fruitful consultation period in which 279 respondents contributed their views in writing and discussions were held in regional seminars and bilateral meetings.

The overarching aims of the new circular are to increase transparency, predictability, accountability and speed in the negotiation of planning obligations, and to promote the good practice that already exists in many local authorities. It also brings planning obligations into line with the new arrangements established by the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, and provides a firmer policy basis for the provision of affordable housing through planning obligations.

The final version of the circular makes a number of changes from the draft for the sake of clarity and precision, and introduces some new procedural guidance but the policy scope of planning obligations remains the same.

The circular will be supported by the publication of good practice guidance on the use of planning obligations later this year. A standard legal document for planning agreements and unilateral undertakings will accompany this guidance.

The revision of planning obligations policy is intended to improve the existing system. In the meantime, the Government are continuing to examine Kate Barker's recommendations for a planning-gain supplement and associated changes to the system of planning obligations, made in the final report of her review of housing supply. The Government will announce their full response to the Barker report by the end of the year.

*Value for money of delivering affordable housing through section 106 agreements*

In November 2003, ODPM commissioned the university of Cambridge to undertake a study on the value for money of delivering affordable housing through the planning system i.e. through section 106 agreements. The aim was to provide evidence on how much affordable housing is being delivered through planning obligations and how it is being funded. The study also examined how far providing affordable housing in this way contributes to mixed communities.

The study confirms the importance of using planning obligations in the delivery of affordable housing. The research indicates that as developers and local authorities are becoming more familiar with using planning obligations, the system is improving. The study also found that delivering affordable housing in this way makes a valuable contribution to the Government's aim of mixed communities, in particular by providing access to land in high value areas.

However, the research also suggests that there is room for improvement. The main drawbacks of the current system are perceived to be the delays in negotiation and the resulting costs. The new circular on planning obligations aims to address some of these issues.

## EDUCATION AND SKILLS

### Youth Matters Green Paper

**The Secretary of State for Education and Skills (Ruth Kelly):** The Green Paper "Youth Matters" has today been laid before Parliament.

"Youth Matters" addresses key issues relating to the way in which we provide opportunities, challenge and support to our teenagers. The proposals in "Youth Matters" build on the ambition of "Every Child Matters" that all young people should achieve five key outcomes—being healthy, staying safe, enjoying and achieving, making a positive contribution, and achieving economic well-being.

We should not lose sight of the fact that most young people are doing well, achieving more at school and going on to further study. We need to support these young people with more and better information, advice and guidance, which takes into account how jobs are changing and our proposed 14–19 curriculum reforms, and which is delivered in a way that suits young people including through the use of modern technologies.

We also want to provide a wider choice of positive activities for young people to do when they are not in school, college or work and we want to encourage more young people to get involved in volunteering. It is a fundamental part of our proposals that young people and their parents should have a greater influence over the things that are provided for them locally. Proposals include supporting local authorities to develop a card for young people which will give them discounts on activities and could be credited with amounts that young people can spend on their choice of sports and other constructive activities. We also propose a new youth opportunity fund to be spent at young people's discretion on projects to improve things to do and places to go in their area.

We want to improve the way in which we support young people with specific needs and problems including providing them with a nominated lead professional who will be a single point of contact and making sure that support is provided in a coordinated, convenient and integrated way.

But we should also recognise that some young people have problems and some get involved in antisocial behaviour and crime. This can have a negative impact on their own life chances and affects the view the wider community has of all young people. Those who fail to behave well should be supported in improving their behaviour but should not benefit from the proposed discount card until they do so.

A copy of the Green Paper will be available in the Libraries of both Houses and will be accessible on the Department for Education and Skills website.

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### Agriculture and Fisheries Council

**The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Margaret Beckett):** I will chair the agriculture items during the first Agriculture and Fisheries Council of the UK presidency on 18 July. My hon. Friend, the Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Mr. Bradshaw), will chair the fisheries item.

I will begin by setting out the presidency work programme for the next six months. It includes amongst other things, sugar reform, the EU's rural development strategic guidelines, forest law enforcement, governance and trade (FLEGT), avian influenza, welfare of broiler chickens and a range of proposals to progress the sustainability of the fisheries industry.

The Commissioner for Health and Consumer Protection will then present to the Council his proposal for a directive laying down minimum rules for the protection of chickens kept for meat production.

The Fisheries Commissioner will follow with the only fisheries point on the agenda: emergency measures to protect anchovy in the Bay of Biscay, referred to the Council by France.

The Agriculture Commissioner will then present the EU strategic guidelines on rural development. This is simply a presentation of the proposal to the Council with no discussion at this stage.

There will be a lunch at which the Agriculture Commissioner will provide an update on WTO agricultural negotiations.

The afternoon session will be devoted to the first Council policy debate on reform of the common market organisation in sugar, following the publication of the Commission's reform proposal on 22 June. Ministers will be invited to respond to the following questions:

> Is the voluntary restructuring scheme combined with a larger price cut preferable to a smaller price cut and mandatory quota cuts as proposed in the Commission communication of July 2004?
>
> Do you support a reform that gives a long-term perspective by lasting until the 2014–15 marketing year?
>
> Are the Commission proposals for compensation fair and balanced in line with recent CAP reforms?

There is only one point under any other business at the request of the Dutch delegation on definition of fresh poultry meat and origin labelling.

## HEALTH

### NHS Complaints

**The Minister of State, Department of Health (Jane Kennedy):** The report of the committee of inquiry into how the national health service handled allegations about the conduct of William Kerr and Michael Haslem, two former psychiatrists who practised in Yorkshire [Cm 6640] is being published today. Copies have been placed in the Library. This is one of the three inquiries announced in June 2001 by the then Secretary of State for Health, the right hon. Member for Darlington (Mr. Milburn). The reports of the other two inquiries, to consider how the NHS handled allegations about the conduct of Richard Neale, a former gynaecologist; and Clifford Ayling, a former general practitioner, were published last September.

The Government would like to thank Nigel Fleming, the chairman of the inquiry, and the two members of his panel, Ros Alstead and Ruth Lesirge, for their thorough and thoughtful handling of undoubtedly sensitive issues. The Government are also grateful to those

former patients of William Kerr and Michael Haslam who came forward and provided evidence to the inquiry which must, at times, have been very difficult and painful.

We will consider the conclusions and recommendations of this report very carefully together with those of the fifth Shipman report, the Clifford Ayling report and the Richard Neale report and will provide our response to them all later this year.

### Independent Regulator of NHS Foundation Trusts

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health (Mr. Liam Byrne):** My noble Friend the Minister of State (Lord Warner) has made the following written ministerial statement today.

"The annual report and accounts for Monitor (the statutory name of which is the independent regulator of NHS foundation trusts) HC 195, was laid before Parliament today. Copies are available in the Library".

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### United Kingdom Passport Service

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Andy Burnham):** The United Kingdom Passport Service annual report and accounts 2004–05 has been published today and copies have been placed in the Library of the House.

### Zimbabwe (Immigration Removals Update)

**The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Charles Clarke):** On 27 June I made a statement on the return of failed asylum seekers to Zimbabwe and on 6 July I updated the House on that issue. I would like to provide a further update on returns to Zimbabwe.

Our policy on enforcing the return of failed asylum seekers to Zimbabwe has not changed. We remain of the view that the correct way to operate a fair but credible asylum system is to consider each asylum claim on its individual merits, to grant protection to those who need it, and to seek to remove those who do not and who have no other basis of stay in the country, and who will not leave voluntarily. This is true of all claims, whatever the nationality of the claimant.

The courts have set a hearing on 4 August to consider the evidence provided by the Refugee Legal Centre relating to the treatment of failed asylum seekers upon their return to Zimbabwe. We welcome the opportunity this will provide for all the objective information relating to their treatment to be assessed. Pending the 4 August hearing, out of respect and courtesy to the clearly expressed wishes of the court, we have agreed not to enforce the removal of Zimbabwean failed asylum seekers to Zimbabwe.

This Government continue to have grave concerns about the human rights situation in Zimbabwe, and continue to press for an end to abuses. We will continue to provide protection through the asylum system for Zimbabweans with a well founded fear of persecution.

## TRADE AND INDUSTRY

### Chemical Weapons Act 1996

**The Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (Alan Johnson):** I am pleased to announce that in accordance with the requirements of section 33 of the Chemical Weapons Act 1996, I have laid a report on its operation during 2004 in the Libraries of both Houses.

### Audit Regulation

**The Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (Alan Johnson):** I have received the annual reports for the year 2004 from the five recognised supervisory bodies for company auditors: a combined report from the Institutes of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, Scotland and Ireland, and one each from the Association of Certified Chartered Accountants and the Association of Authorised Public Accountants. Copies of the reports have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Schedule 11 of the Companies Act 1989 sets out the requirements which a body must meet to be eligible for recognised supervisory body status. These include requirements to have adequate arrangements for monitoring and enforcing compliance with its rules relating to membership and eligibility (e.g. holding an appropriate qualification, being a fit and proper person, working to technical and ethical standards, maintaining competence), discipline and investigation of complaints. In these reports, the recognised bodies inform the Government about their activities in relation to these arrangements.

In January 2003, we announced a number of changes to the regulatory regime of the accountancy and audit professions, including the establishment of a new independent inspection unit, located within the Financial Reporting Council, and a Professional Oversight Board for Accountancy (POBA), to take over, from this Department, my functions under Part II of the Companies Act 1989 in respect of the recognised supervisory bodies. I am pleased to report that these bodies are now established and in operation. The delegation of these powers is dependent on legislation being passed by Parliament, a process that has been delayed due to other pressures on parliamentary time. Legislation will be laid before Parliament before the summer recess. In the meantime my Department continues to have responsibility for oversight of the recognised supervisory bodies.

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Housing Benefit (Local Authority Investigative Powers)

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Mr. James Plaskitt):** On 10 March 2005 the Government published the consultation paper "Local Authority Investigative Powers Regulatory Reform Order". This set out our proposals to reduce burdens on local authorities by using powers in the Regulatory Reform Act 2001. The proposed changes would enable local authorities to tackle benefit fraud more effectively by giving them clear powers to investigate and prosecute offences against national social security benefits alongside local ones.

The consultation closed on 10 June 2005 a summary of responses to the consultation has been placed in the Library.

We received 48 responses to the consultation document, the overwhelming majority of which were in favour of the proposals. Our intention was to resolve this issue by use of a Regulatory Reform Order. From the responses we have received it has become clear that the powers that we could provide for local authorities by using a Regulatory Reform Order would be inadequate for their effective use. We have, therefore, decided not to proceed with the Regulatory Reform Order but to make the legislative changes that local authorities need alongside wider reforms to housing benefit announced in the Queen's speech. This should not significantly delay our plans to implement these changes, and we remain committed to seeking a swift resolution to this issue.

## Pensions National Strategy Report

**The Minister for Pensions Reform (Mr. Stephen Timms):** The national strategy report on adequate and sustainable pensions NSR) is the key instrument in the open method of coordination process for pensions and was presented to the EU Commission on 15th July 2005. The report has been placed in the Library.

The open method of coordination in pensions was launched by the Laeken European Council in December 2001. Its aim is to support member states in meeting common objectives and thus moving towards the Lisbon objectives. These objectives are designed to ensure that Europe can be the most competitive, knowledge based economy by 2010.

Within the NSR, there are 11 objectives, which are arranged in three key themes: safeguarding the capacity of systems to meet their social objectives (i.e. adequacy); maintaining their financial sustainability; and meeting changing needs of society (i.e. modernisation).

This national strategy report is an update for the EU Commission on the UKs progress since the initial report in 2002. It has been drafted with consultation across and within Government Departments and non-Government organisations. It is a re-statement of the UK Government's current policies. It does not include any information not in the public domain already, it does not signal any state pension reform and contains only pre-existing data to support the 11 objectives.

The report:

points to a very sustainable public expenditure on pensions over the next half century;

tells of a new improved, more customer focused approach to service delivery;

explains changes to the legal framework to provide flexibility and security in private pensions; and

explains that the introduction of pension credit has had a very positive effect on pensioner income.

# Written Ministerial Statements

*Tuesday 19 July 2005*

## CABINET OFFICE

### Government Car and Despatch Agency

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Cabinet Office (Mr. Jim Murphy):** I have today laid before Parliament the Government Car and Despatch Agency annual report and accounts 2004–05, copies of which are available in both Libraries of the House.

## TREASURY

### Holocaust Victims (Tax Exemptions)

**The Paymaster General (Dawn Primarolo):** The Government propose to bring forward legislation in the next available Finance Bill to exempt from tax certain payments made in relation to bank accounts of holocaust victims, as described below.

The HM Revenue and Customs extra-statutory concession, A100, introduced on 8 May 2000, provides a tax exemption for compensation payments made by UK banks under their scheme called "Restore UK". The scheme is designed to identify and compensate claimants to dormant accounts opened by holocaust victims and frozen during World War II under the Trading with the Enemy Act.

Since the introduction of the extra-statutory concession it has come to light that comparable payments may be made to holocaust victims or their heirs in respect of moneys held by the banks of other countries. For example, claims may be made by victims or targets of Nazi persecution or their heirs through the Claims Resolution Tribunal (CRT) for Dormant Accounts in Switzerland in respect of moneys deposited in Swiss banks in the period before and during the Second World War. The CRT was established as a consequence of the Holocaust Victims Assets Litigation in America.

The CRT awards made to the holocaust victims or their heirs and any comparable payments made by the banks of other countries are outside the scope of ESC A100, because it is available only for payments made under the "Restore UK" scheme run by UK banks.

Following discussions between the Association of Jewish Refugees and HMRC, the Government propose to bring forward legislation in the next available Finance Bill. The legislation will exempt from income tax and capital gains tax payments made to holocaust victims or their heirs when they are broadly comparable to the awards made under the "Restore UK" scheme run by UK banks. This will include any amount designed to cover interest and inflation by increasing the account balance to make it a fairer reflection of the amount originally deposited. The exemption will be available whenever the award or payment was made, so long as the criteria set out in the legislation are met.

The proposal is that there will be a provision in the legislation so that anyone who has included a qualifying payment in their self assessment tax return and paid tax will be able to reclaim the tax, even if the normal time limit for amending the assessment has passed.

The proposed legislation will also clarify the effect of the exemption for inheritance tax (IHT) purposes. Present-day recipients of these payments often derive their claim through intervening potential claimants who are now dead. The existing extra-statutory concession aims to ensure that the IHT affairs of these predecessors need not be re-opened because an account has been rediscovered. The Government propose that, when the accounts of holocaust victims or their heirs are rediscovered and compensation payments are made in respect of them, legislation in the Finance Bill will include an exemption from death duties for intervening potential claimants who died before the respective award scheme was opened for claims.

At the same time as bringing forward legislation to provide a tax exemption for compensation payments that are broadly comparable to the "Restore UK" scheme, the Government propose to take the opportunity to put on a statutory footing the exemption currently available under ESC A100 for payments made by UK banks. So that too will be included in the proposed legislation.

UK building societies may participate in the "Restore UK" scheme and ESC A100 applies to any compensation payments made by them to holocaust victims or their heirs. The proposed exemption will include payments by the building societies of other countries.

More information about the proposed tax exemption and guidance for anyone who thinks they may be able to claim back tax already paid on an exempt award is in the news release published by HM Revenue and Customs today at www.hmrc.gov.uk/individuals/holocaust.htm/

### Public Expenditure

**The Chief Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Des Browne):** In June 1997, the incoming Government launched a comprehensive spending review (CSR). The CSR was the most fundamental and in-depth examination of Government spending and priorities ever attempted. Moving beyond the short-termism engendered by the old annual planning cycle and building on the platform of stability provided by the new fiscal code, the CSR set long-term aims and objectives for each Department and put in place a public expenditure and performance management framework within which these long-term ambitions could be achieved.

The CSR set the Government's priorities for the long-term: sustainable growth and employment; fairness and opportunity; efficient and modern public services. To support this longer-term approach to public spending, the CSR introduced a series of key reforms to modernise the public expenditure framework including firm three-year departmental spending plans, separate current and

capital budgets, and outcome-focused public service agreements to support delivery and improve departmental accountability.

The CSR allocated significant additional resources, backed by reform, to the Government's key priority areas, with over 50 per cent. of the increase in departmental expenditure limits and local authority spending being allocated to education and health. In the ten years to 2007–08, subsequent Reviews in 2000, 2002 and 2004 have built on the objectives, reforms and priorities first established in the CSR.

The framework for managing public expenditure established by the CSR has also proved robust. Three year spending plans have been set and delivered in successive spending reviews. The separate management of current and capital spending has allowed public sector net investment to rise from 0.8 per cent. of GDP in 1996–97 to 2.2 per cent. by 2007–08.

Over the last decade the Government have shown how one can deliver a strong economy and sound public finances at the same time as sustained and substantial growth in investment in public services. Looking forward, there are new challenges Britain will need to address in order to lock in these benefits for the decade to come, including:

a rapid increase in the old age dependency ratio as the "baby boom" generation reaches retirement age;

the intensification of cross-border economic competition as the balance of international economic activity shifts toward rapidly growing emerging markets such as China and India;

an acceleration in the pace of innovation and technological diffusion and a continued increase in the knowledge-intensity of goods and services;

continued global uncertainty with ongoing threats of international terrorism and global conflict; and

increasing pressures on our natural resources and global climate from rapid economic and population growth in the developing world and sustained demand for fossil fuels in advanced economies.

These changes will have fundamental and far-reaching implications for public services and will require innovative policy responses, coordination of activity across departmental boundaries and sustained investment in key areas. While reaffirming the Government's commitment to their key objectives and building on the long-term framework the Government have put in place, it is right that the Government should periodically re-examine their public spending allocations in fundamental ways.

With the start of the next spending review period coming a decade after the first, the Government propose to launch a second comprehensive spending examining what the investments and reforms initiated to date have delivered and what further steps must be taken to ensure that Britain is fully equipped to meet the challenges of the decade ahead. This review will:

take a zero based approach to assessing the effectiveness of Departments' existing spending in delivering the outputs to which they are committed;

examine the key long-term trends and challenges that will shape the next decade and assess how public services will need to respond; and

look at how the public expenditure framework can best embed and extend ongoing efficiency improvements and support the long-term investments needed to meet these challenges.

The review will complement the work of the long-term reviews already underway into the future of transport, skills, pensions and local services.

A report will be made on these public spending challenges in 2006. The Government will report on the next three-year spending review covering 2008–09, 2009–10 and 2010–11 in 2007 and will hold departmental allocations to the agreed figure already announced for 2007–08.

## Terrorist Finance

**The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Gordon Brown):** Last week's attack on London was an affront to all democracies. Just as there should be no safe haven for those who perpetrate terrorism, so there should no hiding place for those who finance terrorism. To deliver this requires action in the UK, across Europe and globally.

*Within the UK*

Blocking terrorists' access to the financial system is a critical preventive measure; and freezing funds already in the system prevents those funds being used to perpetrate atrocities. In the UK, our financial institutions have to date frozen over £370,000 in forty five accounts. In order better to integrate efforts within the UK to disrupt terrorist finance, I can announce that the Treasury has established an inter-departmental asset freezing working group to identify and vet appropriate targets for asset freezing action under Treasury powers.

While four years ago just 30,000 reports of suspicious transactions relating to terrorist financing and money laundering were sent to the National Criminal Intelligence Service, last year 150,000 suspicious transaction reports were made. Of those relating to terrorist finance, between 20 to 30 per cent. subsequently either led to a longer-term investigation, or contributed substantially to an existing investigation. It is essential that the suspicious transactions regime be both proportionate and effective. The Home Secretary and I have asked Sir Stephen Lander to report by March 2006 on how these investigations of suspicious transactions can be best pursued under the new Serious and Organised Crime Agency.

I am today making £20 million available from the Reserve to the Home Office for the exceptional costs of support to victims and of policing and other activities arising from the attacks in London on 7 July. The help for victims will include money for compensation through the criminal injuries compensation scheme and funds to cover the donation to the London Bombings Relief Charitable Fund which the Home Secretary announced yesterday.

*European agenda*

Last week, European Finance Ministers reaffirmed that there will no hiding place for those who finance terrorism. Europe has found common cause in our shared battle against terrorism.

As EU president, we will work closely with all member states, the Commission, European Parliament and the EU counter-terrorism co-ordinator to implement the action plan against terrorism we agreed after the Madrid bombings.

Our first priority will be to deny terrorists access to financial resources—ensuring that terrorist assets are identified and isolated quickly and effectively;

We will also seek to conclude work on the money laundering and payments systems in order to safeguard the integrity of the financial system from abuse;

The European Union has made an undertaking to offer other countries who need it advice and technical assistance to build up anti-terrorist finance capacity; and

We will also work with the Commission to undertake an assessment of the EU's own performance in implementing the financial action task force's special recommendations to combat terrorist financing.

*Globally*

In order to make our fight against terrorist finance as global as the threat of terrorism itself, I have asked that international cooperation be redoubled:

Britain will support improved technical assistance to those countries that need to enhance their counter terrorist capacity, so that no country will offer a hiding place for terrorist finance;

Under the UK G8 presidency, a group of financial experts has developed a programme of reforms to ensure that we identify and isolate terrorist funds on a global basis. I will ask this group to report on its progress to Finance Ministers in September;

As EU president, the UK will host an EU-US conference of terrorist finance experts in October to identify key recommendations for future action; and

We are currently working with our security council partners to establish a new resolution to succeed UNSCR 1267 against al-Qaeda, to update and reassert the international response against the threat of international terrorism.

We will report back to the House on our efforts to safeguard the financial system from abuse by terrorists and other criminals at the time of the pre-Budget report.

### International Monetary Fund

**The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Gordon Brown):** I am today publishing the sixth annual report to Parliament on UK operations at the IMF, "A Stronger Global Economy—The UK and the IMF 2004–05". Copies are available in the Library of the House.

## CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

### Family Proceedings

**The Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs (Ms Harriet Harman):** My noble Friend the Baroness Ashton of Upholland, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, has made the following written ministerial statement in the other place today:

"With the agreement of my right hon. and learned Friend the Secretary of State for Constitutional Affairs, I am pleased to inform the House that I have today placed in the Libraries of both Houses a copy of the response to the public consultation on disclosure of information in family proceedings cases involving children. Statutory instruments have also been laid today specifying the circumstances in which information can be disclosed from family proceeding cases involving children.

Members will recall that there have been a number of difficulties about what information can be received from individuals and constituents and what members of both Houses may then do with that information to advise or assist. Accordingly I would like to make a statement about the effect of these rules; particularly, in terms of how they allow Members to fulfil their vital role in helping and advising those involved in family proceedings.

Further to my right hon. and learned Friend Harriet Harman QC, MP's statement to the House on 14 October 2004, the proposed legislative amendments have now been made by section 62 of the Children Act 2004, which came into force on 12 April 2005. This means that:

Section 97 (2) Children Act 1989 has been amended so that it is no longer a criminal offence to publish information which identifies or is likely to identify a child as being involved in family proceedings, or the address or school of such a child; so long as publication is not made to the general public or a section of it (including the media).

Section 12 (4) of the Administration of Justice Act 1960 has been amended so that disclosure of certain information is no longer a contempt of court where rules of court specify that such disclosures can be made.

A series of amendments have been made to current rule making powers to clarify that rules can be made specifying the circumstances in which disclosure may be made.

The Government consulted on the proposed content of the rules of court. The consultation period closed on 23 March 2005. The responses have helped to shape the final content of the rules. The rules will come into force on 31 October 2005. Guidance will be published ahead of that date so that the various providers and recipients of information from family proceedings involving children heard in private will know what they are entitled to do with that information.

The implications for Members of both Houses are that:

A party to family proceedings involving children heard in private will be able to communicate to a Member the text or a summary of the whole or part of a judgment given in those proceedings. Members can also receive court orders, as that had been permitted since legislative amendments came into force on 12 April 2005. Members may use the information received for the purposes stated in the rules only. For Members, this means that once the text or summary of a judgment has been received, the Member may use that information for the purposes of giving advice, investigating any complaint or raising any question of policy or procedure. Members may of course refer the information to other appropriate bodies or agencies to fulfil the purpose. If it appears that further information is required, an application to the court will need to be made."

## DEFENCE

### Gulf Veterans

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. Don Touhig):** As part of the Government's continuing commitment to investigate Gulf veterans' illnesses openly and honestly, data on the mortality of veterans of the 1990–91 Gulf conflict are regularly published. The most recent figures for the period 1 April 1991 to 30 June 2005, were published on 14 July 2005 as a National Statistic on the Defence Analytical Services Agency website.

The data for Gulf veterans are compared to that of a control group known as the "Era cohort" which is made up of armed forces personnel of a similar profile in terms of gender, service, regular/reservists status and rank, who were not deployed to the Gulf. The "Era" group has been adjusted for a small difference in the age-profile of those aged 40 years and over, to ensure appropriate comparisons.

Key points to note in the data are:

There were 720 deaths among the Gulf veterans and 735 in the age-adjusted Era comparison group.

The 720 deaths among Gulf veterans compare with approximately 1,150 deaths which would have been expected in a similar sized cohort taken from the general population of the UK with the same age and gender profile. This reflects the strong emphasis on fitness when recruiting and retaining service personnel.

These statistics continue to confirm that UK veterans of the 1990–91 Gulf conflict do not suffer an excess of overall mortality compared with service personnel that did not deploy.

I will place copies of the full Notice in the Library of the House and it can also be viewed at www.dasa.mod.uk

### Atomic Weapons Establishment

**The Secretary of State for Defence (John Reid):** The Government made clear last year on 21 July 2004, *Official Report*, column 348 their commitment to maintaining the effectiveness and safety of the nuclear deterrent including making the necessary investment in the facilities at the Atomic Weapons Establishment at Aldermaston and Burghfield. To that end agreement has been reached with AWE Management Ltd. (AWE ML) to take forward a programme of investment in sustaining key skills and facilities at the Atomic Weapons Establishment. This will include the provision of necessary extra supporting infrastructure. Local planning authorities will be consulted on this work in the normal way, under the provisions of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2005.

The purpose of this investment of some £350 million over each of the next three years is to ensure that we can maintain the existing Trident warhead stockpile throughout its intended in-service life. In the absence of the ability to undertake live nuclear testing given that the UK has signed and ratified the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, it is necessary to invest in the facilities at AWE which will provide assurance that the existing Trident warhead stockpile is reliable and safe.

## DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

### Building Regulations (Fire Safety)

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (Jim Fitzpatrick):** I am delighted to announce that today we have launched a four-month consultation on potential changes to the fire safety aspects of the building regulations (part B) which set the design standards for new and altered buildings. Research reports that underpin the consultation have also been published.

The consultation covers a wide range of issues, including the use of sprinklers and door-closing devices, changes to the guidance on domestic loft conversions and increased measures to assist firefighters dealing with fires in tall buildings.

The consultation document sets out proposed changes to both the building regulations and the supporting guidance in approved document B. The potential changes would affect future building work in England and Wales—typically the erection, extension or material alteration of a building. Separate legislation applies in Scotland and Northern Ireland.

The review has drawn upon recent experience and takes into account the findings of relevant research and the results of comprehensive stakeholder engagement. It has considered fire safety in all types of premises including dwellings, residential care homes and warehouses. It has also considered the important role that sprinklers and other types of fire protection measures may have, particularly if the provision is targeted at buildings where the occupants are most vulnerable to fire. The proposed changes would help to ensure an even higher level of fire safety for both building occupants and firefighters.

However, any changes must be fully justified and taken forward in a robust and efficient manner. To this end we are also seeking further evidence to support a number of the proposals, particularly in terms of the costs and benefits that they may have. A partial regulatory impact assessment detailing the impacts of the proposals has been published as part of the consultation package.

Copies of the consultation paper will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses and the research reports can be accessed via www.bre.co.uk/adb/.

### Local Government Finance

**The Minister for Local Government (Mr. Phil Woolas):** I am pleased to announce the broad outline of how the Government intend to implement three-year finance settlements for local government.

The move to three-year settlements will provide greater financial certainty and stability for local government, council tax payers, businesses and other local partners. Three-year settlements will provide local government with the same certainty and planning horizons that departments already benefit from through our reformed public spending system. They will be a vehicle for greater long term coordination across central government towards local government services. The benefits for local people should be improved service delivery and greater stability in future council tax.

In December, ODPM published a consultation paper, "Three-year Revenue and Capital Settlements", which sought views on the Government's proposals for the implementation of three-year settlements for local government in England. The consultation fulfilled a commitment in the 2004 building regulations to consult on these proposals with local government and other stakeholders with a view to agreeing settlements for 2006–07 and 2007–08 during 2005. The consultation ended on 11 March 2005. Some 186 responses were received and they broadly welcomed the principle of introducing three-year allocations for revenue and

capital funding. A summary of responses was published on 30 June and copies have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

The consultation paper stated the Government's intention to move to three-year settlements for local government by the end of the current Parliament. The first settlement, to be announced in autumn 2005, will cover the two remaining years of building regulations 04 (2006–07 and 2007–08). From 2008–09, three-year settlements will be fully aligned with the spending review cycle.

Following consideration of the consultation responses, implementation will proceed along the following broad principles:

A move to greater certainty in forward indications of local authority council tax levels. This will be based on further discussions with local government to ensure maximum forward looking information for council tax payers.

Specific revenue grants will generally be allocated on a three-year forward basis.

For formula and revenue grant, we will align all aspects of three-year settlements with the existing spending review round, with firm three-year allocations being announced for the first full spending review cycle after three-year settlements are introduced. To make these settlements more forward looking, stable and predictable we will use projections of changes in population and council tax base; and will not, except in entirely exceptional cases, retrospectively amend any year's settlement.

Capital funding, whether in the form of grant or supported borrowing, will generally be allocated on a three-year forward basis with exceptions for some small bid-based programmes, funding for emergencies and funding for large one-off projects.

The formulae proposed for the 2006–07 housing revenue account subsidy (HRAS) Determination will remain unchanged for the 2007–08 HRAS determination. Stock and other data about individual authorities will as usual be updated for 2007–08 by means of the base data return to be issued in 2006.

To ensure local authorities and council tax payers gain the maximum benefits of three-year settlements, Government Departments will work to ensure that their funding is either moved to a firm three-year basis or designed to offer authorities as much forward certainty as possible. The principles outlined above will be applied by government departments, in conjunction with local government, as they finalise the details of the settlement in the run up to its announcement in the autumn.

**The Minister for Local Government (Mr. Phil Woolas):** The priority goal for Government policy on local government finance is stability and certainty so that Local Authorities, their partners and the public have reasonable expectations of income and expenditure levels and trends.

To that end I am today moving that policy forward with the introduction of three year settlements for local government. It is an opportune time to review the basis on which we distribute formula grant to local authorities in England. Formula grant underpins the provision of a wide range of local services and is not hypothecated, so that decisions on local priorities can be made by local authorities. We have already introduced a degree of stability in the formulae for grant distribution; these were last changed for 2003–04, and we made clear then that we would not change the underlying methodology for a period of three years. From 2006–07, we therefore have the opportunity to change the distribution system.

We want to take this opportunity to consider four main issues. First, the formulae that we use to distribute grant are designed to reflect the relative circumstances of local authorities, as well as the policy or operational context for local authority services. There have been developments over the years which mean that some formulae are simply out of date in that, for example, they still use old data such as that from the 1991 census.

Secondly, we need to establish a firm basis for the introduction of three year settlements for local government. As part of that agenda, we need to find ways of making the finance settlements more forward looking to reflect growth in population.

Thirdly, we are examining ways of distributing grant that do not involve—or appear to involve—second-guessing councils' spending and taxation decisions, to clarify accountability and responsibility for local choices.

Finally, the system needs to reflect the change that is taking place in Government funding for schools.

Following the last review of grant distribution formulae, the Government have run a number of research projects and have been working with local government and other interested parties to consider possible changes to the formulae which could be introduced once the freeze had ended. The official level Settlement Working Group, consisting of representatives from all types of local authority in England along with interested parties from central Government, has considered some 75 technical papers together with research reports over that period. Separate technical groups have examined the formulae for the Police, Fire and Rescue services. I am grateful to all those who assisted the Government whether by contributing to these discussions or helping with the research and survey work.

Following on from that work, the Government are now launching public consultation on options for change to the formula grant system. I am today publishing the consultation document on the ODPM website at:

http://www.local.odpm.gov.uk/finance/0607/consult/index.htm.

Copies have been placed in the Vote Office and the Library of the House. We look forward to receiving views on our proposals. The consultation period will close on 10 October and the Government will then decide on the shape of the formula grant system from 2006–07 onwards.

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### Pesticides Safety Directorate

**The Minister for Climate Change and the Environment (Mr. Elliot Morley):** The 2004–05 annual report and accounts for the Pesticides Safety Directorate will be laid before Parliament today. Copies will be available in the Library of the House.

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS

### General Affairs and External Relations Council

**The Minister for Europe (Mr. Douglas Alexander):** The General Affairs and External Relations Council (GAERC) will be held on 18–19 July in Brussels. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and I will represent the UK.

The Foreign Secretary will make a short intervention at the start of the GAERC on the London bombings.

The agenda items are as follows:

*Presidency Work Programme*

The Foreign Secretary will give a brief presentation on the GAERC work programme over the next six months. This is an information point only. His presentation will include a brief comment on presidency plans for the future financing negotiation and the future of Europe dossiers. Other key dossiers are: Africa/development, enlargement, UN summit, WTO ministerial and various EU summits (with India, China, Russia, Ukraine and Canada).

*Enlargement*

The Foreign Secretary will debrief partners on the most recent meeting of the Croatia taskforce where there was further consideration of Croatian co-operation with the international criminal tribunal for the former Yugoslavia. There was no change in the assessment. The Foreign Secretary will confirm our intention to return to this dossier in September. Commissioner Rehn will present the Commission's draft negotiating mandate for Turkey to the Council. We do not expect a substantive discussion.

*UN Millennium Review Summit*

Commissioner Ferrero-Waldner will present the Commission's communication on UN reform to the Council. Conclusions reiterating the EU's strong support for a successful UN Millennium review summit outcome are expected to be agreed. These will cover the full range of EU priorities at the UN on development, security and human rights.

*Syria/Lebanon*

Syria will be discussed over lunch and will include a briefing from Terje Roed-Larsen, the UN Secretary-General's special envoy on the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1559. As presidency we will underline the importance on the full implementation of UNSCR 1559 and 1595; support the new Lebanese Government; and call on Syria to contribute to regional stability in Lebanon, Iraq and on the middle east peace process (MEPP).

*Middle East Peace Process (MEPP)*

High Representative Solana will debrief the Council on his recent (10–14 July) visit to the region. We then expect discussion to focus on disengagement (due to begin on 17 August). As presidency, our priorities remain to work to ensure that disengagement proceeds as smoothly as possible and that Gaza should be left economically viable. In this context, we will call for continued EU support to the work of Jim Wolfensohn, quartet special envoy on disengagement. As presidency, we will also highlight the importance of increased coordination between Israel and the Palestinian Authority on disengagement and continue to urge both sides to continue to implement their road map and Sharm el-Sheikh commitments.

*Iran*

The Council will hold a brief discussion of the results of the presidential election, EU/Iran relations and the E-3 process. As presidency, we will call for a continuation of the existing foreign policy towards Iran and continuation of E-3 dialogue.

*Zimbabwe*

The Council will discuss the crackdown by the authorities in Zimbabwe, which has destroyed housing and targeted informal traders. As presidency, we will be aiming for the agreement of Council conclusions, which make clear the EU's condemnation of these events and include consensus on the need to maintain EU pressure.

*Preparation of the EU-China Summit*

The EU-China summit will take place in Beijing on 5 September. The GAERC will discuss preparations for the summit. As presidency, we will update partners on the progress of negotiations with the Chinese. The GAERC will provide an opportunity for partners to feed in their thoughts and to discuss the EU China Joint statement which will record the summit conclusions and set out aspirations for deepening the EU's relationship with China.

*Uzbekistan*

There will be a brief discussion and the Council is expected to reiterate its concern over the situation in Uzbekistan and to condemn the Uzbek authorities' refusal to allow an independent international inquiry into the recent events in Andizhan. At the 13 June GAERC the Uzbek authorities were given until the end of June to allow for an international inquiry. With this deadline now passed, the EU will be considering a range of restrictive measures.

*World Trade Organisation (WTO)*

There will be a brief discussion by the Council. Peter Mandelson will report back to Foreign Ministers on the mini-ministerial in Dalian (12–13 July) and will give an assessment of how preparations are going in the run up to the end-July WTO General Council in Geneva. The main trade discussion will however take place during the informal trade ministers' dinner on 18 July.

*AOB—Estonia/Russia Border Treaty*

The Estonians have asked for the Estonia/Russia border treaty to be placed on the agenda. They will outline to partners why the ratification of this treaty has stalled and how they hope to take matters forward with the Russian Federation. We do not envisage any substantial discussion.

### Hong Kong

**The Minister for Trade (Ian Pearson):** The latest report on the implementation of the Sino-British Joint Declaration on Hong Kong was published today and copies have been placed in the Library of the House. A copy of the report is also available on the Foreign and

Commonwealth Office website at: www.fco.gov.uk. The report covers the period from 1 January to 30 June 2005 and includes a foreword by my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary. I commend the report to the House.

## HEALTH

### Health Bodies (Annual Reports/Accounts)

**The Minister of State, Department of Health (Jane Kennedy):** I have received the annual report of the Medicines Commission for 2004, which has been laid before Parliament today in accordance with the requirements of section 5(2) of the Medicines Act 1968.

Bound volumes have been placed in the Library containing the 2004 reports of the Medicines Commission, the Committee on Safety of Medicines, the Advisory Board on the Registration of Homoeopathic Products, the British Pharmacopoeia Commission, the Independent Review Panel on Advertising, the Independent Panel for the Borderline Products and the Veterinary Products Committee.

I am glad to acknowledge the valuable work done by the distinguished members of the Medicines Act advisory bodies and thank them for the time and effort dedicated in the public interest to this important work.

### Meat Hygiene Service

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health (Caroline Flint):** The 2004–05 annual report and accounts for the Meat Hygiene Service was laid before Parliament today.

Copies will be placed in the Library, but formal printing and publication will not take place for another six to nine weeks, pending preparation of a version in the Welsh language, as required by the Welsh Language Act.

**The Minister of State, Department of Health (Jane Kennedy):** For the health service bodies listed as follows, their annual accounts and any accompanying comptroller and auditor general reports have today been laid before the House of Commons pursuant to section 98(1C) of the National Health Service Act 1977. Copies have been placed in the Library.

Counter Fraud and Security Management Service

Dental Practice Board

Dental Vocational Training Authority

Family Health Services Appeal Authority

Health Development Agency

Health Protection Agency

Mental Health Act Commission

National Blood Authority

National Clinical Assessment Authority

National Institute for Clinical Excellence

National Patient Safety Agency

NHS Information Authority

NHS Logistics Authority

NHSU

Prescription Pricing Authority

UK Transplant

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### Prison Service

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Fiona Mactaggart):** The Prison Service's latest annual report and accounts, setting out the Service's performance during 2004–2005 will be laid today and copies will be placed in the Library.

### Immigration

**The Minister for Immigration, Citizenship and Nationality (Mr. Tony McNulty):** In February 2005, the Government published "Controlling our Borders: Making migration work for Britain", a five-year strategy for immigration and asylum. I would like to update the House today on progress in three key areas: the development of a points-based scheme for managed migration; the introduction of new policies on limited leave, active review, and settlement for refugees; and the commencement of citizenship tests for new UK citizens.

We are publishing today a consultation document, "Selective Admission: making migration work for Britain", which is the next step in development of a single points-based system for all routes to work, train and study in the UK. There is no doubt that skilled migrants continue to make a substantial contribution to our prosperity. Migration helps to fill gaps in the labour market, especially in public services such as health and education, and increases investment, innovation and entrepreneurship in the UK. International students contribute significantly to our education system and account for some £5 billion in exports value a year. We have to ensure that the system is focused towards those with the skills and talent this country needs, so migration works for Britain.

The existing system is complicated and has developed over many decades. It needs to be simplified so that the general public can understand clearly the basis on which migrants are admitted, and why; so that employers, educational institutions and applicants find it swift, unbureaucratic and value for money; and so that decision-makers find it straightforward to administer. The key tests for the system are that it should be operable, robust against abuse, objective, flexible to our changing economic circumstances, cost effective, transparent, useable and compatible with EU and international legislation.

In order to keep the system robust against abuse, a key principle is that all those who benefit from migration, not just the Government but also employers, educational institutions and migrants themselves, should play a part in helping to ensure that it is not abused. We are consulting on a system of sponsorship which should help to ensure that we only admit those who meet our criteria, that people stick to the terms of their leave to enter while they are here and leave when

they are supposed to. In some high risk cases we could require financial bonds from migrants against their return home.

The proposed framework for the new system is that there should be five tiers of entry to the UK to work, train or study:

Tier 1, highly skilled and investors;

Tier 2, skilled workers with job offers, and workers meeting specific overseas requirements;

Tier 3, specific low-skill schemes to meet short term shortages;

Tier 4, students; and

Tier 5, other temporary categories, visiting workers, selected development schemes to meet shortages, and youth mobility/ cultural exchange.

While ensuring that the system is robust against abuse and that our borders our strengthened, we aim to make it easier for employers to access the skills and experience they need and for educational institutions to attract genuine international students. The current two stage process for work permit employment will be replaced by a single application overseas, or in the UK, supported by a self-assessment programme on the web and in leaflets.

The consultation document has been placed in the Vote Office and the Library. The consultation period closes on 7 November 2005. During the consultation period we shall be engaging in a number of workshops and other events to encourage a widespread and constructive debate. During this period more work will be done to gather evidence and to undertake comprehensive impact assessments. We plan to publish the outcome of the consultation and firm proposals for a reformed managed migration system in spring 2006.

I am also announcing today that from 30 August onwards refugees will be granted five years limited leave in the first instance, rather than immediate settlement as at present. If there is a significant and non-temporary change in conditions in a country, we would consider whether this should, in line with the Convention's cessation clauses, trigger a case by case review of the position of all or some refugees from that country with limited leave. We would inform Parliament whenever we concluded that such a change justifying an individual review of cases had occurred.

As is currently the case, any leave granted to refugees may be subject to review if the refugee, through their own actions, brings themselves within the scope of the 1951 Geneva Refugee Convention's exclusion or cessation clauses. Refugees will continue to be entitled to use public services and to claim key mainstream benefits.

Resettled refugees are in a different position from refugees who arrive in the UK as asylum seekers. They have often been outside their country of origin for many years and have no prospect of returning there. As a result of this special position, I consider it appropriate to allow resettled refugees to retain an immediate right to settlement.

From 30 August onwards, beneficiaries of humanitarian protection will be granted five years limited leave, rather than three as a present. Similar policies on review will apply to them as to refugees with limited leave and they will also, from 30 August, benefit from immediate family reunion.

I am also now able to give further details of the introduction of tests of knowledge of life in the United Kingdom to be taken by people applying for naturalisation as British citizens. In my statement of 15 June I announced that these tests would be introduced in the autumn of this year, and would be offered by Ufi Ltd at some 90 Learn Direct centres throughout the United Kingdom. I can now confirm that the tests will be introduced on 1 November this year: every person who applies for naturalisation as a British citizen on or after that date and is not exempt by reason of age or disability will need to present a certificate showing that they have passed the life in the UK test or that they have attended an English language course which incorporates approved teaching materials on citizenship in the United Kingdom. These arrangements will supersede the provisions for testing applicants' knowledge of the English language which were introduced last year.

The fee for the test will be £40, payable direct to Ufi Ltd in addition to the fee payable for a naturalisation application. Special arrangements will be made for those seeking citizenship who are resident in the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man. Details of these, and further information on how to apply to take the life in the UK test and what it will contain, will shortly be available on the Home Office's website.

## NORTHERN IRELAND

### Racial Equality Strategy

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Angela E. Smith):** My right hon. Friend the Minister of State, Northern Ireland Office has made the following ministerial statement:

"This statement sets out how I intend to take forward a Racial Equality Strategy for Northern Ireland.

This statement is all the more timely following the appalling attacks in London of 7 July. These attacks were an attack on all of us. The bombs did not discriminate and people of all faiths and none and people of all racial groups have been victims. At this time, we should remember that communities in the United Kingdom have more that unites them than divides them.

Government are determined that the atrocities will not be allowed to create tension between our communities. The Good Relations Policy and Strategic Framework, with its vision of a shared and inclusive society, which was published on 21 March 2005 and the Racial Equality Strategy provide solid foundations for a future shared between and within the communities of Northern Ireland—both old and new. They provide a sound basis for a society where relationships are rooted in mutual recognition and tru

The Government's vision for Northern Ireland is of a society in which racial diversity is supported, understood, valued and respected: a society where racism in any of its forms is not tolerated and where we live together as a society and enjoy equality of opportunity and equal protection.

The publication of the strategy today sets a framework for Government and all sections of civil society in Northern Ireland to contribute to achieving that vision. The framework will allow us:

to tackle racial inequalities in Northern Ireland and to open up opportunity for all;

to eradicate racism and hate crime; and

together with A Shared Future—Policy and Strategic Framework for Good Relations in Northern Ireland, to initiate actions to promote good race relations.

It sets out six shared aims that will point the strategic direction for action by Departments, agencies and wider society, working individually and together, to make a significant difference to the lives of people from minority ethnic backgrounds. The aims of the strategy are: eliminating racism, equality of protection; equality of service provision; participation; dialogue and capacity building.

The strategy will be taken forward through an action plan that will be developed by the Government in collaboration with the Racial Equality Forum.

Government will lead by example. It will set the pace to promote racial equality through a strong public policy agenda. Ultimately, however, sustained and deeper progress depends on political stability. It will require leadership at political, civic and community levels.

Copies of the Racial Equality Strategy for Northern Ireland have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses and are also available on the website www.ofmdfmni.gov.uk/raceequality."

### Equality Commission

**The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Mr. Peter Hain):** I am pleased to announce today the appointment of Bob Collins as the new chief commissioner of the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland. I am also appointing four new commissioners—Bryan Johnston, James Knox, Professor Eithne McLaughlin and Elaine Waterson.

The appointments follow an open process based on merit. The new chief commissioner will take up the post from 1 August 2005, succeeding Dame Joan Harbison, whose term of office concludes on 31 July 2005. The terms of office of three other commissioners, Alan Henry, Ann Hope and Ruth Lavery also conclude on that date. The four new commissioners will also take up post from 1 August, joining the 13 existing commissioners.

The Equality Commission for Northern Ireland is a key institution of the Belfast agreement and plays a vital role in protecting and promoting equality in Northern Ireland. I am grateful for the great commitment and expertise that Dame Joan and the other departing commissioners have brought to the Commission. I am particularly grateful to Dame Joan for her work in establishing the Commission from the four equality bodies that preceded it and for seeing the Commission through its formative years so effectively.

I am confident that the new appointees will continue their good work and ensure that the Commission continues to carry out its important duties effectively.

### Prison Service

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Mr. Shaun Woodward):** I have placed copies of the Northern Ireland Prison Service's annual report and accounts for 2004–05 in the Libraries of both Houses.

The annual report details that the service met nine of its 11 key targets. It also outlines that of the comprehensive programme of 28 development objectives set for the service, 15 were achieved, five were partially achieved and substantial progress made towards meeting the remaining eight.

| *Key Business Area* | *Key Targets* | *Outturn* |
|---|---|---|
| *Security* | No escape for top and high-risk prisoners. | MET—No escapes in this category. |
| | No more than three escapes per 1,000 medium and low risk prisoners. | MET—One escape in September 2004. |
| *Safety* | The number of staff assaulted by prisoners is less than a ratio of five per 100 prisoners. | MET—Outturn for the year was 0.6 per 100 prisoners. |
| | The number of prisoners assaulted by prisoners is less than a ratio of six per 100 prisoners. | MET—Outturn for the year was 0.9 per 100 prisoners. |
| *Regimes and reducing re-offending* | An average of at least 18 hours constructive activity per week for each sentenced prisoner. | NOT MET—17.4 hours per week achieved. |
| | An average of at least nine hours constructive activity per week for each remand prisoner. | MET—9.5 hours per week achieved. |
| | To ensure 82.5 per cent. of prisoners serving six months or more are working to a resettlement plan and that 95 per cent. of lifers work to a resettlement plan, including preparation of the plan, in the first six months from sentence. | MET—Outturn of 86.7 per cent. for determinate prisoners and 96.3 per cent. for life sentence prisoners. |
| *Staff and developing the service* | Deliver at least 85 per cent. of the planned training days associated with the agreed corporate training priorities. | NOT MET—The final end of year overall percentage was 77 per cent. |
| | Reduce the rate of absenteeism to an annual average of no more than 19 days per head. | MET—Average staff sickness days per head was 16. |
| *Finance, corporate governance and improving business performance* | Ensure the average cost per prisoner place does not exceed the target to be agreed with HM Treasury. | MET—The Prison Service met its 2004–05 CPPP target of £86,800 as agreed with Treasury. The actual 2004–05 CPPP outturn was £85,935. |
| | Lay the Annual Report and Audited Accounts before Parliament prior to the summer recess. | MET—Annual Report and Audited Accounts laid before Parliament on 20 July 2004. |

## SOLICITOR GENERAL

### Serious Fraud Office

**The Solicitor-General (Mr. Mike O'Brien):** The annual report of the Serious Fraud Office has today been published and laid before Parliament. Copies have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

## TRADE AND INDUSTRY

### Coal Authority

**The Minister for Energy (Malcolm Wicks):** I have laid before the House a copy of the Coal Authority report and accounts for 2004–05.

## TRANSPORT

### Highways Agency

**The Minister of State, Department for Transport (Dr. Stephen Ladyman):** The Highways Agency annual report and accounts for 2004–05 is published today in accordance with section seven of the Government Resources and Accounts Act 2000. Copies of the report have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses. Copies are available from the Vote Office.

### Rail Freight

**The Secretary of State for Transport (Mr. Alistair Darling):** As prosperity and the demand for goods grow, efficient freight transport is increasingly vital to the UK economy. The Railways Act 2005 has placed responsibility for rail freight in England with the Department for Transport and, with the repeal of section 206 of the Transport Act 2000, the SRA's 2001 Rail Freight Strategy will cease to be in force. It is important, therefore, that the Government restate clearly their objectives for rail freight.

The Ten Year Plan for Transport, published in 2000, forecast potential growth in rail freight of up to 80 per cent. to 2010. This was interpreted by many as a target, though we had always made it clear that actual growth would depend on a number of factors—in particular, the success of rail freight operators in winning business in highly competitive markets.

In fact, although it is now recognised that the 80 per cent. forecast is unlikely to be met, growth in the rail freight market has been impressive. Rail freight is a thriving and competitive private sector industry, and since privatisation (1995), levels of freight moved have increased by 55 per cent. (measured in tonne km). Rail freight's market share also increased over the same period from 8.5 per cent. to 11.5 per cent.

The Government welcome this growth and wish to see it continue. Our clear policy aim is to see goods being moved in a sustainable way, which maximises benefits to the economy and to society. For instance, because they generally have less impact on society than road transport, rail and water freight can bring substantial benefits. In 2004–05, the rail freight industry moved the equivalent of over 7 million lorry journeys and saved 1.43 billion lorry kilometres, delivering significant reductions in pollution and congestion. We believe rail therefore has a crucial role to play in goods transport alongside other modes, and we wish to see freight travelling by rail instead of road wherever this makes most sense.

This aim can be delivered most effectively by a competitive and dynamic private sector rail freight industry, and this is borne out by the growth since privatisation, which has been driven by real on-rail competition throughout the industry, including several new entrants to the market. We will not dictate to the industry how it should run its business or become involved in operational issues. Where disputes occur with other parts of the railway, they should be resolved through established rail industry dispute procedures.

But the Government do have a role to play and a relationship with the rail freight industry. Rail freight companies run on the same tracks as the publicly specified passenger railway, so the Government have to be mindful of their needs. And the Government recognise and wishes to encourage the important environmental and economic benefits that rail freight can bring.

We will therefore ensure that our policies and regulations do not put unnecessary obstacles in the way of future growth; we will continue to provide financial support where it is affordable and offers the greatest environmental, congestion and safety benefits when assessed alongside support for other modes; and we will ensure that in specifying the passenger railways, we recognise and take into account the consequences of our decisions upon the rail freight industry.

To achieve this, we will:

*Continue to support the principle of incremental access charges for freight operators*

Rail freight's ability to compete against road and other modes is dependent upon stable and affordable charging for access to the network. The Government support this and believe it is best achieved through the principle of freight operators paying charges which reflect only the costs that they impose upon the network (in line with the charging principles set out in EU Directive 2001/14). We will therefore work with the rail industry to ensure this remains the case—for instance, providing clear guidance if and when the level of freight charges is reviewed by the ORR.

*Work with the freight industry to understand its needs when setting the strategy for the rail network, and to provide the greatest possible certainty of access*

In order for rail freight companies and their customers to invest, they need certainty about where and when they can run trains on the network. The Government will work with the industry to develop robust demand forecasting and modelling tools, and to ensure that it understands the needs of the freight industry when developing its high level output specification and other key policies. We will ensure that our appraisal methodologies treat freight and passenger interests equitably, and we have also committed through the Railways Act to ensuring that appropriate compensation will be provided should the contractual interests of freight companies or others be impaired by changes in outputs. In addition, we welcome Network Rail's decision to produce a national freight utilisation strategy, which will act as a key input to the route utilisation strategies, and also the ORR's recently published policy that UK freight operators should be eligible for access contracts of up to ten years (and longer in exceptional circumstances).

*Ensure grant funding is targeted to deliver the maximum benefits in terms of reducing congestion, pollution and accidents*

From 2007-08, the Government's funding programmes for rail freight, including the reopened freight facilities grant, will be incorporated alongside water and road freight grant programmes into a cross-modal Sustainable Distribution Fund. This will prioritise funding across all three modes to favour those grants that offer the maximum benefits for the money being spent. In the meantime, the Department will consider in consultation with the industry the most appropriate future form for Company Neutral Revenue Support and other grant programmes (which may include opening funding to flows originating from the Channel Tunnel) within the Sustainable Distribution Fund, and seek renewed state aids clearance.

*Work to ensure that regional and local planning decisions reflect Government priorities relating to the sustainable movement of goods*

We wish to see private sector investment in major rail freight facilities, such as intermodal terminals, continue. It is not appropriate for the Government to promote individual schemes—it is for the private sector to develop proposals and progress them through the necessary approvals including planning consent. But the Government do want due account to be taken of our policy goals for the sustainable movement of goods. This does not imply an active role in individual cases, but if necessary we will be ready to act to ensure decision makers are better informed particularly in the application of planning guidance. We will also be ready to consider changes to planning guidance where appropriate.

*Work with the industry and Network Rail to establish how freight growth can be accommodated on the network*

The ORR is currently carrying out work in conjunction with Network Rail to establish the baseline capability of the network. Once that has been completed, we will consider with the industry how we can support, fund and accommodate change. This could be through reallocations of capacity within the existing network which make sense for both passengers and freight, incorporating incremental freight benefits into planned renewals, or considering how freight-specific enhancements might be taken forward by either the private sector or, in the long-term, the Government (subject to strict affordability and value for money criteria).

*Work with the devolved administrations, and with the EC to ensure a consistent UK—and Europe-wide approach to rail freight*

Rail freight is a cross-border business. The Railways Act gave increased powers to support rail freight to the devolved administrations, and we will work with them (and with other partners such as TfL and the Passenger Transport Executives) to ensure that policies relating to rail freight across the UK are consistent. We will also continue to work with the EC to liberalise access to the wider European rail freight market and increase competition, including through the Channel Tunnel.

## Transport Modelling (South-East)

**The Minister of State, Department for Transport (Dr. Stephen Ladyman):** I have today placed in the Libraries of both Houses a report on modelling work commissioned by the Department for Transport to look at the impact of projected levels of development and population and economic growth on the transport networks in the wider south-east at a strategic level in 2016. The report "Wider South-East Regional Research Study" can also be obtained from the Department's website.

## M6 Capacity

**The Minister of State, Department for Transport (Dr Stephen Ladyman):** On the 6 July last year the Secretary of State announced a consultation on the issue of building a new expressway to run parallel with the M6 between Birmingham and Manchester as an alternative to the widening proposal announced to the House in December 2002.

The consultation, which sought views on whether the Highways Agency should carry out more detailed development work and a feasibility study, closed on 21 October 2004. Approximately 9,500 responses from a range of stakeholders were analysed. A breakdown of the responses has been placed in the Library of the House.

The M6 is an important transport artery linking the midlands and the north-west. An investment of £7.6 billion has been made to upgrade the west coast main line, part of which runs through this artery. However, the Government have accepted the need for more road capacity, as shown by the midlands to Manchester multi-modal study. The issue is how best that capacity can be provided taking full account of the impact of construction—through a widening scheme, or via an expressway running broadly parallel to the existing route.

Providing additional capacity to the M6 between Birmingham and Manchester, whether in the form of widening the existing motorway or a tolled expressway, will require a huge investment. It is vital that we examine the options carefully and choose the right way to provide the capacity needed.

The Secretary of State has considered the views expressed in the consultation. While it is clear that there is no consensus in favour of the expressway proposition, the option is no more than an outline at this stage. More evidence on the widening and expressway propositions is needed before a decision on a preferred option can be taken.

I have therefore asked the Highways Agency to carry out detailed development work on the expressway and a feasibility study to compare the impacts of the costs and benefits of the expressway with those of widening. Both expressway and widening options will be worked up in parallel. The next stage is a decision on which option to take to public inquiry, following further consultation on the options. I have asked the Highways Agency to provide further advice with a view to taking that decision next year. Whichever option is chosen, the financial, economic and environmental appraisal work to be carried out over the coming year will be required

before we can publish draft orders setting out our proposals. The Highways Agency will consult and work with local stakeholders and the statutory environmental agencies during the detailed development work.

The work on widening will examine the technological and physical practicalities of locking in the benefits of that additional capacity. This will involve considering a number of measures, which could be used individually or in combination, such as access management; segregated lanes for priority traffic; speed controls; and pricing on the new capacity.

The expressway would take around a year longer to bring to public inquiry than the widening proposal, because of the need to appoint a concessionaire. However, this additional time would be made up during construction, because the expressway would be built alongside the existing motorway. In contrast, widening the existing motorway would involve extensive traffic management during construction, which would lengthen the construction timescales by about a year. Our current best estimate is that work on the widening scheme could start on the ground in 2011 with the scheme opening to traffic in 2016; and that work on the expressway could start on the ground in 2012 with the scheme opening to traffic in 2016. This is in line with the estimated delivery date of the widening as reported by the midlands to Manchester multi-modal study.

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Benefit Fraud Inspections Council

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Mr. James Plaskitt):** On behalf of my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, the BFI inspection report on Cherwell district council was published today and copies have been placed in the Library.

In 2003–04 Cherwell district council administered some £22 million in housing benefits, about 36 per cent. of its gross revenue expenditure. The council takes a strong stance against benefit fraud. The benefits investigation team is committed to delivering a professional, high-quality service and is well supported by Members and senior managers.

The good practices identified in the report include:

- comprehensive guidance for investigators and administration staff, including a code of conduct for investigators;
- an electronic fraud referral form and development of an on-line fraud awareness training package;
- good relationships with the council's benefits staff and the Department for Work and Pensions' Counter-Fraud Investigation Service;
- a high success rate in the prosecution of joint investigation cases.

However, the council did not fully comply with the Department's security against fraud and error scheme nor follow the Department's guidance in some interviews under caution. The report also notes that:

- internal audit has not audited the benefits investigation team for seven years;
- no formal risk assessment of fraud referrals is undertaken;
- the council does not always follow its own policy criteria when deciding on the most appropriate sanction to offer or document the reasons for not following it;
- management checks are not carried out consistently and comprehensively, and all action taken during an investigation is not always recorded on the file in accordance with the Department's guidance.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State is considering the report and may ask the council for its proposals in response to BFI's findings.

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Mr. James Plaskitt):** On behalf of my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, the BFI inspection report on Doncaster metropolitan borough council was published today and copies have been placed in the Library.

In 2003–04 Doncaster metropolitan borough council administered some £68 million in housing benefits, about 12 per cent. of its gross revenue expenditure. The council gives a high priority to combating benefit fraud and complies with all significant aspects of the security against fraud and error scheme. The council's investigations team is well supported by members and managers. BFI found a number of good practices, including:

- an experienced and well trained investigation team;
- a comprehensive suite of process control documents;
- a comprehensive fraud management IT system with a well developed reporting facility;
- promoting good quality fraud referrals from a variety of sources, particularly the visits team,the benefits team and the Department's Counter-Fraud Investigation Service;
- setting and achieving demanding sanctions' targets.

The council is providing a high standard counter-fraud service which performs well. For example, from April to December 2004 eight cases were successfully prosecuted and 30 formal cautions and 48 administrative penalties were raised. BFI is concerned, however, that the council do more to gather sufficient evidence in every case leading to an interview under caution. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State is considering the report and may ask the council for its proposals in response to BFI's findings.

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Mr. James Plaskitt):** On behalf of my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, the BFI inspection report on Wrexham county borough council was published today and copies have been placed in the Library.

In 2004–05 Wrexham county borough council administered some £27 million in housing benefits, about 11 per cent. of its gross revenue expenditure. The council's anti-fraud section was committed to detecting and preventing benefit fraud. A number of good practices were identified, including:

- interviews under caution are witnessed in a high proportion of the cases that were sampled;
- all the fraud investigation officers have had professionalism in security training;
- appropriate and fully documented use of authorised officers' powers.

However, senior management must ensure that all staff are aware of and fully understand the policies and procedures relating to their area of work. The report notes that there is a lack of understanding as to how the council's sanctions policy should be applied, and this has resulted in some sanctions being applied that did not comply with the policy or the Department's guidance.

The lack of a systematic checking regime means that the council can only have limited assurance on the quality of its counter-fraud activities. Improvements are also required in the quality and quantity of management information collected and analysed.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State is considering the report and may ask the council for its proposals in response to BFI's findings.

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Mr. James Plaskitt):** On behalf of my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, the BFI inspection report on East Staffordshire borough council was published today and copies have been placed in the Library.

In 2003–04 East Staffordshire borough council administered some £16 million in housing benefits, about 40 per cent. of its gross revenue expenditure. Although the council was not at standard for any of the seven functional areas of performance standards it was providing a fair towards good service in housing benefit and council tax benefit administration and counter-fraud activities.

The council had a clear vision and had initiated a major business transformation programme during 2003–04 to radically improve the way it delivered its benefits service. This programme had culminated in the introduction of new IT systems for its benefits and council tax administration and a document image processing system.

As well as implementing new processes and procedures, East Staffordshire Borough Council improved performance. It cut the processing of new claims from an average of 89 days in 2002–03 to an impressive 33 days. A high standard of personal service was being provided to customers by professional, knowledgeable and courteous staff. Readily accessible customer information helped to ensure customer enquiries were dealt with promptly. However, this was let down by very little activity being undertaken to encourage benefit take-up. East Staffordshire borough council had recognised this as an area for improvement and planned to increase customer consultation and take-up initiatives in the future.

However, the council had not made full use of available management information and this and inadequate management checking meant there was limited assurance about the accuracy of claims processed.

Efforts to counter fraud were also improving. The requirements of the verification framework were being met. A number of sanctions, including successful prosecutions and administrative penalties, had been applied. However, more needs to be done to sustain improvement, including the sifting of referrals and management checks on investigations and the use of a wider range of overpayment recovery methods.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State is considering the report and may ask the council for its proposals in response to BFI's findings.

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Mr. James Plaskitt):** On behalf of my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, the BFI inspection report on Maldon district council was published today and copies have been placed in the Library.

In 2004–05 Maldon district council administered some £11million in housing benefits, about 50 per cent of its gross revenue expenditure. The council is committed to tackling benefit fraud and its counter-fraud work was well supported by members and senior managers. Demanding targets for fraud work were set and achieved. Investigations were subjected to a thorough checking regime and there was a clear process for authorising and applying sanctions. The council had a good working relationship with the Department's counter-fraud investigation service and had successfully undertaken joint investigations leading to sanctions. The Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 was strictly adhered to and surveillance activity carried out in accordance with legislation. But the council was not fully complying with the security against fraud and error scheme in that a clear admission to the offence was not obtained before the offer of a caution to the customer.

Investigations resulting in administrative penalties and prosecutions were carried out to a high standard, and interviews under caution were conducted in accordance with the relevant legislation.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State is considering the report and may ask the council for its proposals in response to BFI's findings.

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Mr. James Plaskitt):** On behalf of my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, the BFI inspection report on Shepway district council was published today and copies have been placed in the Library.

In 2003–04 Shepway district council administered some £30 million in housing benefits, about 48 per cent. of its gross revenue expenditure. The council is keen to take a strong stance against benefit fraud. The work of the fraud team is well supported by members, the chief executive and senior officers.

Good practices include:

- a code of conduct for counter-fraud investigators;
- well trained and experienced fraud staff;
- authorised officers are registered with the Department and are working well, within the legislation;
- all surveillance is authorised and reviewed regularly;
- excellent publicity for the prosecutions that the council has undertaken.

However, BFI found weaknesses in the investigation process and in the management of the fraud team, including:

- interviews under caution were very brief, with poor interviewing techniques being used in some cases;
- errors and omissions in both the case log notes and paperwork;

the council's sanction criteria are too vague to be applied consistently and reasons for variance are not always fully documented;

surveillance was not always proportionate or effective;

management checks are not carried out, and all action taken during an investigation is not always recorded on the file in accordance with the Department's guidance.

The council recognises the need to improve practices in those areas and has asked for support from BFI's performance development team.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State is considering the report and may ask the council for its proposals in response to BFI's findings.

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Mr. James Plaskitt):** On behalf of my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, the BFI inspection report on North West Leicestershire district council was published today and copies have been placed in the Library.

In 2004–05 North West Leicestershire district council administered some £13 million in housing benefits, about 28 per cent. of its gross revenue expenditure. There was commitment at all levels within the council to deter and prevent fraud. The work of the council's benefits inquiry unit was well supported by members and managers and BFI found a number of good practices.

BFI was impressed with the commitment shown by the benefits inquiry unit to combat benefit fraud. It had raised a large number of sanctions in relation to the number of staff and its caseload. However, there were delays in informing suspects of the outcome of the investigation, and no formal management checking of cases. Overall, the council was tackling fraud effectively.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State is considering the report and may ask the council for its proposals in response to BFI's findings.

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Mr. James Plaskitt):** On behalf of my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, the BFI inspection report on North Norfolk District Council was published today and copies have been placed in the Library.

In 2003–04, North Norfolk district council administered some £18 million in housing benefits, about 32 per cent of its gross revenue expenditure. Overall, although the council did not meet any of the seven functional areas of performance standards, it was providing a fair standard in housing benefit and council tax benefit administration and counter-fraud activities.

Surveys by the council showed high levels of customer satisfaction in terms of the physical reception facilities, the quality of advice available and improvements in the speed of the service. But the council had been striving to cope with a backlog of work since June 2004 and processing delays meant performance was below the standards required to decide new claims and changes of circumstances.

The council's counter-fraud work was under-resourced. The council operated from December 2003 until September 2004 without any investigators and had not achieved any successful prosecutions. Overpayments arose because notified changes of circumstances were not dealt with promptly and overpayment recovery was ineffective. Management information necessary to monitor the level and age of housing benefit debt was not collected.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State is considering the report and may ask the council for its proposals in response to BFI's findings.

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Mr. James Plaskitt):** On behalf of my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, the BFI inspection report on Berwick-upon-Tweed borough council was published today and copies have been placed in the Library.

In 2003–04, Berwick-upon-Tweed borough council administered some £5.6 million in housing benefits, about 30 per cent, of its gross revenue expenditure. The council gives high priority to combating benefit fraud and is committed to complying with all aspects of the security against fraud and error scheme. The counter-fraud investigation team works hard to deliver a professional and high quality service. The team is well supported by the leader of the council, members, the chief executive and senior managers.

The report notes a number of good practices, including:

good working relations with key stakeholders;

a high standard of recording and filing of documentation in case files;

a high percentage of referrals investigated;

accurate subsidy claims that fully comply with Departmental guidance;

vigorous recovery of fraud overpayments and administrative penalties.

However, some important weaknesses were identified:

poor interviewing techniques;

delays in investigation activity;

interviews under caution not fully complying with legislation and Departmental guidance;

no systematic management checking regime;

The council demonstrated its commitment to improve performance by revising some procedures during the on-site phase of the inspection, including the management of formal cautions, and by acknowledging that other areas need improvement.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State is considering the report and may ask the council for its proposals in response to BFI's findings.

### Disability Rights Commission

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Mrs. Anne McGuire):** The Disability Rights Commission's annual report and accounts 2004–05 have been published today and laid before Parliament. The DRC's annual report of its activities in the last accounting year amply demonstrates its continuing success in its important work to eliminate discrimination against disabled people; to promote equal opportunities; to encourage good practice and to keep the working of the Disability Discrimination Act and the DRC Act under review.

# Written Ministerial Statements

*Wednesday 20 July 2005*

## CABINET OFFICE

### Better Regulation Bill

**The Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (Mr. John Hutton):** A copy of the consultation document on proposals for a Better Regulation Bill is today being placed in the House Library and on the website of the Cabinet Office Better Regulation Executive at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/regulation/better_regulation_bill/index.asp.

The consultation exercise will run from 20 July to 12 October.

The proposals will make it simpler to remove or amend outdated, unnecessary or over complicated legislation, and make it easier to streamline regulatory structures in the private sector.

The Bill will also help deliver the Better Regulation Task Force "Less is More" recommendations for administrative burdens reductions and rolling simplification programmes across Whitehall. It will also enable the delivery of some of the Hampton report recommendations for reform of the regulators.

## TREASURY

### Ten-Year Science and Innovation Investment Framework

**The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (John Healey):** HM Treasury, the Department of Trade and Industry and the Department for Education and Skills are today publishing "The ten-year Science and Innovation Investment Framework Annual Report 2005". Alongside this, HM Treasury, HM Revenue and Customs and the Department of Trade and Industry are also publishing "Supporting growth and innovation: enhancing the R & D tax credit". Copies of both documents are available in the Library of the House.

## CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

### MCSI Inspection of Court Services Annual Report for 2004–05

**The Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs (Ms Harriet Harman):** The MCSI Inspection of Court Services annual report for 2004–05 has been laid before Parliament today. This document gives full details of MCSI's performance for that year. Copies of the report have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

### Legal Services Commission Annual Report 2004–05

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Constitutional Affairs (Bridget Prentice):** The Legal Services Commission (LSC) has today published its annual report for the financial year 2004–05 which includes its statement of annual accounts.

Paragraph 14 of schedule 1 to the Access to Justice Act 1999 requires the Legal Services Commission to provide to the Secretary of State, as soon as possible after the end of each financial year, a report on how it has:

funded services from the Community Legal Service (CLS) Fund,

funded services as part of the Criminal Defence Service (CDS) and

exercised its other functions.

Sub-paragraph 14(3) requires the Secretary of State to lay a copy of the annual report before each House of Parliament, and for the LSC to publish it.

## DEFENCE

### Aircraft Environmental Noise

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. Don Touhig):** The House will be aware from recent Adjournment debates that military flying activity is essential if we are to maintain operational capability. However, we also take our commitment to minimise, as far is reasonably practicable, the impact of noise on local communities. We have therefore conducted a study on aircraft environmental noise. The report is today being placed in the Library of the House and is published on the Ministry of Defence website at:

http://www.mod.uk/linked_files/dsc/env/aen_report.pdf.

We will continue to strive for a fair balance between our need to fly and the effect of aircraft noise on local communities.

### BFPO Key Targets

**The Minister of State for the Armed Forces (Mr. Adam Ingram):** The Key Targets have been set for the Chief Executive of BFPO for the Financial Year 2005–06. The targets are as follows:

*Key Target 1.* To provide a 100 per cent. secure Defence Courier Service (DCS) for the carriage of Protectively Marked Material (PMM). This target is broken down into the following sub targets:

PI 1: 100 per cent. of packages to reach the required destination.

PI 2: 100 per cent. availability of the DCS capability.

*Key Target 2.* To provide a secure Defence Courier Service for the carriage of Protectively Marked Material (PMM) operating within timescales for scheduled and special items at not less than 98.7 per cent. of that agreed with customers.

*Key Target 3.* To provide a resilient and dependable service for the controlled and specialised handling of Defence Official Mails by operating at least 96 per cent. of deliveries within scheduled timings, agreed with customers.

*Key Target 4.* To meet 96 per cent. of the requirements negotiated and agreed with customers for the transit times for delivery and collection at Defence Mail Centres (DMCs). This target is broken down into the following sub targets:

PI 1: 96 per cent. of mail delivered to DMC by Defence Mail Service (DMS)/Parcelforce (PF)/ Royal Mail (RM) to be sorted and ready for delivery within one hour and ten minutes of receipt.

PI 2: 96 per cent. of mail delivered to DMCs by DMS/PF/RM to be delivered to local customers the same day.

PI 3: 98 per cent. of mail delivered/collected into DMCs from local customers before 1500 hours to be sorted within one hour and ten minutes of receipt.

*Key Target 5.* To meet 95 per cent. of the agreed customer requirement for the movement of private and official mails from BFPO London to authorised overseas destinations within agreed timescales. This target is broken down into the following sub targets:

PI 1: 95.5 per cent. or more of deliveries of private and official mail to static locations world-wide (less British Forces Germany) within agreed timescales.

PI 2: 98 per cent. or more of deliveries of private and official mail to British Forces Germany within agreed timescales.

PI 3: 93.5 per cent. or more of deliveries of private and official mail to Operational and exercise locations within agreed timescales.

PI 4: 95.5 per cent. or more of deliveries of private and official mail to HM Ships within agreed timescales.

*Key Target 6.* Total year-on-year Direct Resource Departmental Expenditure Limit cost growth to be no more than Defence inflation less 1 per cent. This is an efficiency measure for continuous improvement whilst maintaining an effective level of service to our customers in accordance with the Service Level Agreements.

## Military Low Flying

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. Don Touhig):** The amount of low flying training carried out in the UK Low Flying System (UKLFS) during the training year April 2004 to March 2005 was the minimum required for aircrew to reach and maintain their ability to fly at low level. The number of low flying training hours booked in the UKLFS (excluding the Rotary Wing Dedicated user Areas, where different booking arrangements apply) was 46,678 hours, a slight increase of 1,616 hours in comparison with the previous training year. This increase can be mostly attributed to the need by helicopter aircrew to convert to use of the Apache Attack helicopter, and the Merlin helicopter. The level of Operational Low Flying by fixed wing aircraft reduced by over 25 per cent. when compared to the last training year.

The Ministry of Defence is committed to ensuring that low flying training across the UK is spread as widely as is practically possible across the UK so that no single area is too burdened. However, due to a variety of reasons, population distribution and geographical and climate restrictions, it is unavoidable that some areas of the country may experience more activity than others.

I have today placed in the Library of the House a report giving a detailed account of the low flying training that has taken place in the UK Low Flying System for the training year April 2004 to March 2005.

Additional copies of *The Pattern of Military Low Flying Across the UK 2004–05* are available on request from the following address:

Directorate of Air Staff
Complaints and Enquiries Unit
Ministry of Defence
Level 5 Zone H
Main Building
Whitehall
London SW1A 2HB

Alternatively it can be viewed on the MOD's website: www.mod.uk/issues/lowflying.

## Watchkeeper

**The Secretary of State for Defence (John Reid):** Networked enabled capability is the way we intend to improve our operational effectiveness on the battlefield through more efficient and effective sharing and exploitation of information by our armed forces, both with each other and with our coalition partners. We have recognised that unmanned aerial vehicles—UAVs—have the potential to contribute significantly though their ability to provide persistent surveillance of the battlefield, providing UK commanders with accurate, timely and high quality imagery to support decision making.

Last year my predecessor announced the selection of Thales Defence Ltd as the preferred bidder for the WATCHKEEPER tactical UAV programme. We have now negotiated an affordable solution with the company and I am pleased to announce today that we can move forward to the demonstration and manufacture phase of this important programme, subject to finalisation of a contract with Thales, worth around £700 million. We plan to deliver this capability incrementally from 2010.

Thales Defence Ltd is an international company directly employing some 11,000 people in the UK. It leads a strong international team including Elbit Systems Ltd, Cubic Defence and Boeing. Thales will lead on systems integration and bring considerable experience in sensors and command and control systems to the programme. Thales have confirmed their intention to complete the bulk of production in the UK, so this announcement is very good news for UK industry. The company estimates that up to 2,000 UK jobs, in Crawley, Leicester and across the UK, will be created or sustained and with export success this could rise further.

The WATCHKEEPER system is a new capability that will provide an all-weather, day and night capability. By integrating long endurance unmanned air vehicles, advanced sensor payloads and ground control facilities we will be able to direct surveillance and reconnaissance activities from the ground, putting fewer

lives at risk, gather information, enhance our target acquisition ability and cue weapon systems in a hostile environment.

This decision to fund a contract for the development and manufacture phase of this programme is a major step forward and demonstrates significant progress in the delivery of new capability and the migration towards NEC. Our evaluation of Thales' bid has been extremely thorough and we have engaged fully with the company to ensure we obtain the best value for money and the right equipment for our armed forces.

### RAF Training Group Defence Agency

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. Don Touhig):** The commander-in-chief, Royal Air Force Personnel and Training Command has set the chief executive of the Training Group Defence Agency the following targets for Financial Year 2005–06:

*Key Target 1*

*Output—RAF Initial Flying Training*

To recruit and train the required number of Royal Air Force aircrew to the standards required for entry to operational conversion unit training and other specialist flying training courses.

To compensate for the variations in the individual pipelines, successful achievement will be assumed if the total number of graduations is within 5 per cent. of target requirement. This KT subsumes the need for separate KTs for each of the specialisations. Individual Targets continue to be set for each specialisation for the next four years and are monitored through the Training Group Performance Management Plan.

| | |
|---|---|
| Commissioned aircrew Outturn | 5% of target requirement |
| Non-Commissioned Aircrew Outturn | 5% of target requirement |
| Overall Outturn | 5% of target requirement |

*Key Target 2*

*Output—RAF Initial Ground Training*

To recruit and train the required number of Royal Air Force personnel to the standards required to undertake ground appointments.

To compensate for variations in the individual recruiting and training pipelines, successful achievement of this target will be assumed if the total number of graduations is +/− 5% of the target.

| | |
|---|---|
| Overall Outturn | 5% target requirement |
| Officer Basic Specialist Training | 5% of target requirement |
| Airman Basic Specialist Training | 5% of target requirement |

*Key Target 3*

*Output—Defence Initial Ground Training*

To train the required number of Royal Navy and Army personnel to the standards required to undertake ground appointments.

To compensate for variations in the individual recruiting and training pipelines, successful achievement of this target will be assumed if the total number of graduations is +/− 5% of the target.

| | |
|---|---|
| Overall Outturn | 5% of target requirement |
| Officer Basic Specialist Training | 5% of target requirement |
| Ors Basic Specialist Training | 5% of target requirement |

*Key Target 4*

*Output—Defence Flying Training*

To train aircrew of the Royal Navy and Army to standards for entry operational conversion unit training and other specialist flying training courses, as well as providing training places for international students.

| | |
|---|---|
| RAF | 560 |
| RN | 164 |
| Army | 305 |
| Tri-Service | 95 |
| International | 111 |
| Total | 1,235 |

*Key Target 5*

*Output—Defence Ground Training*

To train personnel of the 3 Services to the standard required for career development and to undertake ground appointments.

| | |
|---|---|
| RAF | 17,077 |
| RN | 2,585 |
| Army | 7,413 |
| Total | 27,075 |

*Key Target 6*

*Quality of Output*

To underpin the military effectiveness of the Royal Air Force by the timely provision of military personnel trained to the standards agreed with the Agency's customers.

*Key Target 7*

*Efficiency*

To reduce the average cost of training by improving first time and overall pass rates.

## EDUCATION AND SKILLS

### Gateways to the Professions Report

**The Minister for Lifelong Learning, Further and Higher Education (Bill Rammell):** I am able to inform the House that the Secretary of State for Education and Skills has received a copy of Sir Alan Langlands' report examining the gateways to the professions.

Sir Alan Langlands was appointed by the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (Mr. Clarke) last year, following the debate on the Higher Education Bill, to act as an independent person to oversee the report. The announcement about his appointment and the terms of reference was made in a statement to the House on 12 February 2004. Sir Alan was asked to examine how the public sector and the professions can sustain and improve recruitment opportunities for graduates, especially those who do not qualify for the full

£3,000 support that will be available in grants and bursaries under our plans to introduce variable fees from 2006. He was asked to put forward recommendations on actions that can be taken by employing organisations to provide clear and accessible gateways for all graduates who want to pursue such careers and which will benefit the recruitment needs of these sectors.

Sir Alan formally started his work on 1 July 2004, following Royal Assent of the Higher Education Bill, and I am extremely grateful to him for submitting his report within the timescale agreed. Sir Alan has agreed that his report should be published, along with the Government's response, in the autumn.

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### Annual Review of Controls on Imports of Animal Products

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Mr. Ben Bradshaw):** As required under the Animal Health Act 1981 (as amended by the Animal Health Act 2002) the Government will publish today a review of controls on the import of animal products for the financial year 2004–05. We welcome the opportunity to report on progress made in the past year.

This has been delivered by continuing to follow the three key principles of: investment in enforcement; securing better public engagement and awareness; and gaining a greater understanding of the risks.

DEFRA continues to work closely with HM Revenue and Customs, the Food Standards Agency, and Local/Port Health Authorities to provide a joined-up approach to risk based targeting of enforcement, and intelligence sharing. There continues to be a significant increase in seizures of illegally imported animal products when compared to previous years.

Successful specific targeted phases of publicity activity to raise awareness of the restrictions on the import of products of animal origin, both at home and abroad, have been undertaken as part of our overall ongoing campaign.

The Government continue to develop their approach to managing the risk posed by illegal imports, and examine risk across the board, including legal and illegal imports, EU and third country trade, and live animals to get a picture of relative risk, to help determine future enforcement strategy.

Copies of the review will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses and on the DEFRA "personal food imports" website at: www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/illegali. Hard copies will be available on request.

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS

### Afghanistan/UK Enduring Relationship

**The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Mr. Jack Straw):** I wish to inform the House that my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister and His Excellency Hamid Karzai, President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, signed a joint declaration of an enduring relationship between the UK and Afghanistan on 19 July, a copy of which I have placed in the Library of the House.

### 2004 Annual Report on Strategic Arms Controls

**The Minister for the Middle East (Dr. Kim Howells):** The 2004 annual report on Strategic Export Controls will be published at 1400 today as a Command Paper. Copies will be placed in the Library of the House. The report includes information on licensing decisions made during 2004 as well as describing UK policy and international developments in export control regimes.

The annual report on Strategic Export Controls is an innovation of this Government. Our defence export licensing system is one of the most rigorous and open regimes in the world and the annual report symbolises our commitment to accountability and transparency. Since 2004 the Government have also produced quarterly reports. This will be the Government's eighth annual report (the first report was published in 1997). The report will be available on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website (www.fco.gov.uk) and also published through the stationery office. This year, due to the increasing volume of information on strategic exports that is being published by the Government, the annual report will be available on a CD ROM. This CD will also include quarterly reports in 2004, information on licence refusals and further information on trade licences issued.

### Wilton Park's Annual Report and Accounts

**The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Mr. Jack Straw):** Wilton Park is an academically independent executive agency of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. Its annual report and accounts for 2004–05 is published today.

Highlights of the last year include: the greatest ever number of conferences held by Wilton Park—58; an increase in the number of overseas conferences, including the first ones held in the Arab world and sub-Saharan Africa; continued high ratings from participants of the value of Wilton Park conferences (although these were slightly below a demanding target).

Wilton Park's performance against agreed targets for 2004–05 is shown below.

| | *2004–05 Target* | *2004–05 Performance* |
|---|---|---|
| Total income | £3.9 million | £3.7 million |
| Excellent rating for programmes | 57 per cent. | 54.5 per cent. |
| Excellent rating for administration | 89 per cent. | 84.2 per cent. |

Targets for 2005–06 are:

*Target 1:* Wilton Park should achieve an average "excellent" rating for their programme higher than the previous year's rating of 54.5 per cent.

*Target 2:* The impact of Wilton Park conferences on policy and opinion should receive the positive endorsement of its Academic Council and the FCO.

*Target 3:* Wilton Park should recover all its running costs from conference and commercial income. Total planned income for 2005–06 is £4.2 million

## HEALTH

### Commission for Patient and Public Involvement in Health

**The Minister of State, Department of Health (Ms Rosie Winterton):** The 2004–05 annual report for the Commission for Patient and Public Involvement in Health, HC194, was laid before Parliament today. Copies are available in the Library.

### NHS Estates and Facilities Management Development Agency Annual Report and Accounts

**The Minister of State, Department of Health (Jane Kennedy):** We have received the NHS Estates and Facilities Management Development Agency annual report and accounts 2004–05 and copies have today been laid in accordance with the requirements of section 5 of the Exchequer and Audit Departments Act 1921.

The report describes the agency's performance against key tasks and targets and incorporates its accounts for that year.

Copies of the annual report and accounts 2004–05 have been placed in the Library.

### Variant CJD

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health (Caroline Flint):** Further to the statements made to the House by the then Secretary of State my right hon. Friend the Member for Airdrie and Shotts (John Reid), on 17 December 2003 and 16 March 2004 (and the written statements of 22 July 2004 and 9 September 2004) concerning variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (vCJD) and blood, I wish to provide a further update on this subject.

Following cases of possible transmission of vCJD by blood transfusion, we have already put in place a series of precautionary public health measures.

In December 2003 we put in place arrangements for contacting recipients of blood from donors who went on to develop vCJD so that any necessary action could be taken.

Since April 2004 we have excluded anyone who has received a blood transfusion since January 1980 from donating blood.

In September 2004 we announced arrangements to identify and notify patients who had received certain batches of UK manufactured plasma products.

In the light of further advice I have received from two of my Department's expert committees, the CJD Incidents Panel (CJDIP) and the Committee on Microbiological Safety of Blood, Tissues and Organs (MSBTO), I am now announcing further public health precautions in relation to a small group of blood donors whose blood has been transfused to people who later developed vCJD.

The Chief Medical Officer, Sir Liam Donaldson, had asked the expert committees to consider the implications for donors where a recipient of their blood had developed vCJD. The recommendations of the committees are based on an assessment of risk undertaken by the Department of Health's analysts. The risk assessment is being published on the Department's website.

There are 110 donors in the UK whose blood was given to three people who later developed vCJD and for whom this blood might be a possible source of their infection. The advice of the committees is that, although we do not know whether these cases of vCJD could be related to the blood that they received, we should take precautionary steps to inform and support the individual blood donors concerned and to safeguard public health.

As an extension to the current precautionary measures, these people are being contacted by the National Blood Service and advised not to donate blood, tissues or organs. Current donors from this group of 110 are being contacted today and offered expert advice and support. The National Blood Service will contact the GPs of lapsed donors, that is those who have not donated blood during the last five years, and make arrangements to contact these people as soon as practicable.

The committees have also advised that the donors in question should be considered at risk of vCJD for wider public health purposes and that the donors and their clinicians should be informed of their risk status and asked to implement the public health precautions currently specified by the CJD Incidents Panel. This means that they should inform doctors, nurses and dentists of their status if they present for surgery or other invasive medical procedures.

These public health precautionary measures are the same as those applied to any patients considered by the CJDIP to be at risk of vCJD, including the individuals notified following the previous statements to the House.

There is another group of people for whom further public health precautions may need to be considered. This group is all the other recipients of blood from the currently identified group of 110 donors (estimated to be up to 3,000 individuals). At present, these people are already excluded from blood donation themselves by the measures implemented in April 2004. I have asked for additional expert advice on this group and I will take further action if necessary.

Blood donors should be assured that it is not possible to contract vCJD by giving blood. Blood donors are highly committed to helping others and we greatly value their contribution. The NHS depends on their continued commitment to donating blood which saves lives every day in this country.

The vast majority of the over two million current blood donors will not be involved in this new safety measure and need take no action. However, current and past blood donors who are concerned can contact the National Blood Service helpline on 0845 7711711. People who have received blood donations and other members of the public who are concerned should contact NHS Direct on 0845 850 9850.

As with our actions to date on the possible transmission of vCJD, we continue to follow a highly precautionary approach.

### Health Trainers

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health (Caroline Flint):** In the White Paper "Choosing Health" we announced the introduction of health trainers, a new type of personal health support in the public health workforce. From 2006 national health service accredited health trainers will be giving support to people who want it in areas of highest need.

Many people have difficulty in changing to a healthier way of life. There is a great deal of advice and information available and exhortations to change often from distant national bodies and others, but equally often with little recognition of the realities of everyday life. There is support but it is patchy, fragmented and does not fit with their lives. It may be available at the wrong time of day or only accessible to people who speak and read English well, and access is unequal and erratic. Health trainers are designed to address these problems.

Heath trainers will be visible and accessible to local people through living and working in the communities they serve providing "support from next door". They will engage local people where they are to be found, for example, mothers at the children's centre, customers at the local pharmacy, members of the tenants' association. Their task is to motivate individuals to set personal goals for improving their health, by developing personal health plans using a core set of skills based on health psychology and a good understanding of what works. They will support people to carry out their plans, for example, accompanying a woman to a breast screening appointment; encouraging a teenage mother to go to the children's centre by arranging to meet her; planning a walking route with a 50 year old man. They will identify barriers with individuals to healthier choices and help find individual solutions by listening, empathising and sharing experiences. They will be able to "signpost" people to local services that can support their healthier choices, through their detailed knowledge of the local area. Health trainers may refer individuals on, but will also encourage, motivate and support them to use what is available, for example information about the local smoking cessation service, and then go with them to the first session.

In February the Government published the cash allocations for the NHS for 2006–07 and 2007–08 including additional cash to help to fund "Choosing Health" initiatives such as school nurses, community matrons and health trainers.

Those in greatest need were also allocated more money. In November, the Government announced the creation of 88 spearhead primary care trusts, which are those most in urgent need of action to tackle health deprivation and reduce inequalities in life expectancy and infant mortality. These areas have received a higher level of funding than other areas, making the allocation much fairer.

Primary care trusts and their partners, especially the spearhead primary care trusts, are planning to recruit, train, and fund health trainers from April 2006 when this funding comes on stream. In preparation for that I am announcing today 12 early adopter partnerships in 2005–06, led by the NHS, to develop and test elements of the recruitment. training and employment package and local models of service provision.

From September, these early adopters will begin to trial a draft set of core competencies and job descriptions prepared by my department and the sector skills council "Skills for Health". The early adopters will identify suitable local people who, for the most part are already carrying out roles with some similarity to health trainers, assess them against the competencies, provide training to address gaps and then deploy them in local communities.

During 2005–06 we will be providing all early adopters with additional funding to support them in this work and other primary care trusts with funding support totalling £5 million. Every primary care trust which expressed an interest in being an early adopter will receive £25,000 and the early adopters themselves up to £200,000. The early adopters have been selected following expressions of interest from over 130 primary care trusts and their local partners. These are shown in the following table.

| *Partnership organisation* | *NHS bodies (all PCTs except where shown spearhead PCTs in bold)* | *Other Partners* |
|---|---|---|
| Bradford District | **Bradford City, North Bradford, Airedale, South & West** | Bradford District Health Development Partnerships Bradford Metropolitan District Council Bradford Vision Bradford Council for Voluntary Service Keighley Voluntary Services Consortium of Ethnic Minority Organisations, Leeds Metropolitan University |
| Tameside & Glossop PCT | **Tameside & Glossop PCT** | Tameside College, Tameside 3rd Sector Coalition (local voluntary community sector organisation), vielife (limited company). |
| SE London Health Trainers Programme | South East London Strategic Health Authority **Greenwich Teaching PCT, Lambeth PCT, Lewisham PCT, Southwark PCT** | South East London Research Support Unit / South Thames Research Network South East London Learning Alliance, London Boroughs of Lewisham, Greenwich, Lambeth and Southwark Voluntary Action Lewisham, Southwark Action for voluntary organisations London Open College Network |
| Manchester | **North, South & Central Manchester PCTs** | Manchester City Council Manchester Joint Health Unit Manchester Public Health Development Services |
| Gateshead Health Economy | **Gateshead Health Trainers Partnership** | Gateshead Primary Care Trust including the Centre for Enabling Health Improvement Gateshead Council including the Public Service Academy Gateshead Voluntary Organisations Council Gateshead NHS Foundation Trust University of Sunderland Age Concern Gateshead College Workers Educational Association North East Change Centre National Primary Care Development Team—Healthy Communities Collaborative Innovation and Development Agency |
| Hull Health Trainer Partnership | **Eastern Hull Primary Care Trust; West Hull Primary Care Trust,** Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals Trust Humber Mental Health Teaching Trust The Quays, PCT Medical Services | City of Hull Local Strategic Partnership;Hull City CouncilH.M. Prison Hull; University of Hull;Hull College FE. Preston Road Neighbourhood |

| *Partnership organisation* | *NHS bodies (all PCTs except where shown spearhead PCTs in bold)* | *Other Partners* |
|---|---|---|
| | Humber Teaching PCT consortium: Hull and York Medical School Local Medical Committee—Hull | Development Company Ltd Sure Start: Goodwin Development Trust Ltd: Hull Community Network: North Bank Forum: PPI forum: Hull DOC (Developing our communities): The Warren—Young People 16–25, social exclusion: Age Concern HLC |
| Kirklees Council and Three PCTs Health Trainer Partnership | South and Central Huddersfield Kirklees Council and PCTs Health Trainer Partnership NHS: South and Central Huddersfield PCTs, North Kirklees PCT | Partnership: Kirklees Council and Kirklees MC Voluntary Action Kirklees South West Yorkshire Mental Health Trust West Yorkshire Strategic Health Authority & Workforce Development Confederation Yorkshire & Humberside Regional Public Health Group |
| Bristol | Bristol North PCT , Bristol South and West PCT | Bristol City Council University of the West of England (UWE): Faculties of Health and Social Care and Applied Sciences Black Development Agency Knowle West Healthy Living Centre Hartcliffe Health and Environmental Action Group (HHEAG |
| Birmingham and The Black Country | Birmingham and The Black Country SHA **Heart of Birmingham, Oldbury and Smethwick, Rowley Regis and Tipton, Wednesbury and West Bromwich, Walsall, Wolverhampton, North Birmingham, South Birmingham, Eastern Birmingham,** Solihull, Dudley South and Dudley Castle and Beacon | Sport England West Midlands West Midlands Public Health Group Sure Start Friar Park & Mesty Croft Woods West Midlands Deanery Birmingham City Council |
| County Durham and Tees Valley Public Health Network | County Durham & Tees Valley Strategic Health Authority **Sedgefield, Langbaurgh, Easington, Durham Dales, Darlington, Durham and Chester le Street, Derwentside, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, North Tees** | |
| Derbyshire LAA Partnership | **North Eastern Derbyshire,** Chesterfield, High Peak and Dales, Amber Valley, Erewash , Derbyshire Dales and South Derbyshire | Derbyshire County Council, Sheffield Hallam University, Faculty of Health and Wellbeing, North Derbyshire Health Promotion Service |
| Northumberland, Tyne & Wear Public Health Network | **Newcastle Primary Care Trust, North Tyneside Primary Care Trust, South Tyneside Primary Care Trust, Sunderland Teaching Primary Care Trust, Northumberland Care Trust** | Gateshead Community Work Assessment Consortium North East Northumbria University Primary Care Development Centre |

## NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency: Annual Report and Accounts

**The Minister of State, Department of Health (Jane Kennedy):** The NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency's annual report and accounts has been published today and copies have been placed in the Library.

## Sexual Health and HIV (Select Committee Report)

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health (Caroline Flint):** The Government's response to the Third Report of the House of Commons Health Select Committee, on New Developments in Sexual Health and HIV/AIDS Policy, Cm 6649, has been published today.

Copies have been placed in the Library.

# HOME DEPARTMENT

## Criminal Records Bureau Annual Report and Accounts

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Andy Burnham):** I announce that copies of the 2004–05 annual report and accounts for the Criminal Records Bureau have been placed in the Library of the House today. Arrangements are now in hand for their publication.

## Lord Carlile's Report on the Terrorism Act 2000

**The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Charles Clarke):** Lord Carlile of Berriew QC prepared a report on the operation in 2004 of the Terrorism Act 2000, which I laid before the House on 26 May 2005.

I am grateful to Lord Carlile for his detailed report and I have considered his recommendations folly. Following consultation within my department and with other relevant departments and agencies I am pleased to place my response to Lord Carlile's recommendations in the House Library today.

# INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

## Niger

**The Secretary of State for International Development (Hilary Benn):** I am very concerned about the deepening nutritional crisis in Niger, and I spoke yesterday to Jan Egeland, the UN's Emergency Relief Co-ordinator about what needs to be done.

DFID was one of the first donors to respond to the UN Flash Appeal issued in May, when we gave £0.5 million to the World Food Programme. Following a DFID humanitarian assessment mission to Niger, we have now given a further £1.5 million to humanitarian NGOs providing emergency feeding and medical care. Our total contribution (£2 million) is equivalent to 22 per cent. of the original UN appeal and will deliver emergency nutritional therapy for up to 30,000 malnourished children, health care for up to 700,000 people, and food assistance for up to 250,000 people.

After a slow start, there is now a substantial humanitarian operation underway. I am urging other donors to work together with the Government of Niger and humanitarian agencies to ensure that needs are met and lives are saved as quickly as possible.

## NORTHERN IRELAND

### Ordnance Survey of Northern Ireland

**The Minister of State, Northern Ireland Office (Mr. David Hanson):** I have today arranged for the Ordnance Survey of Northern Ireland Corporate Plan 2005–08 and Business Plan 2005–06 document to be placed in the Libraries of both Houses. This document will also be made available on the Ordnance Survey of Northern Ireland website at www.osni.gov.uk

### Independent Assessor of Military Complaints Procedures (Annual Report)

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Mr. Shaun Woodward):** I have today arranged for copies of Jim McDonald's annual report for 2004 to be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

The report of the independent assessor continues to provide valuable reassurances to both the public and the Government that the Army's complaints procedures stand scrutiny. I welcome Mr. McDonald's report and I will consider it carefully. I will respond in due course.

### Report and Financial Statements of Strategic Investment Board Limited

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Angela E. Smith):** My hon. Friend the Minister of State for Northern Ireland (Lord Rooker) has made the following ministerial statement:

> "Copies of the report and financial statements of Strategic Investment Board Ltd. for the year ended 31 March 2005 incorporating the auditor's report have been deposited in both Libraries of both Houses".

### Youth Justice Agency of Northern Ireland Annual Report and Accounts for 2004–05

**The Minister of State, Northern Ireland Office (Mr. David Hanson):** I have placed copies of the Youth Justice Agency's annual report and accounts for 2004–05 in the Libraries of both Houses.

This is the Agency's second annual report since its inception on 1 April 2003. It achieved all eight of its key performance targets and 20 of its [illegible] development objectives.

### Independent Monitoring C[illegible] Report on Paramilitary [illegible]

**The Secretary of State for North[illegible]and (Mr. Peter Hain):** On 24 May 2005 I laid [illegible] Parliament and published the 5th report from the Independent Monitoring Commission (IMC).

As required by the agreement that established it, the Commission reported on the nature and levels of ongoing paramilitary activity and other criminality including that undertaken by the Ulster Volunteer Force. The Commission concluded that the Progressive Unionist Party had not done as much as it should in exerting influence to prevent such activities. The Commission recommended that I should continue the financial measures against the Progressive Unionist Party.

I have considered carefully the IMC's report and I have today written to the Progressive Unionist Party to advise them that I am minded to remove for a period of 12 months the party's entitlement to financial assistance payable to political parties in Northern Ireland. I have provided the PUP with seven days from today to make representations to me. At the end of that period I will take into account any such representations made to me and will reach a final decision.

## SOLICITOR-GENERAL

### Army Prosecutions

**The Solicitor-General (Mr. Mike O'Brien):** My right hon. Friend the Attorney-General has made the following written ministerial statement.

"In my statement of 14 June 2004, *Official Report*, columns WS 22–23, I undertook to inform the House by way of written statement when any further charges are laid against British servicemen arising from incidents in Iraq. The Army Prosecuting Authority has directed that seven individuals should stand trial by court martial for various offences. The offences and the names of those individuals are set out below.

The allegations against the servicemen relate to incidents in Basra, from 13 to 15 September 2003. It is alleged that seven servicemen committed a number of offences against Iraqi detainees who had been arrested following a planned operation. One of the detainees, Baha Da'oud Salim Musa, was allegedly killed and inhumanely treated by one of these servicemen. The same serviceman is also alleged to have inhumanely treated other detainees and committed acts tending and intended to pervert the course of justice. It is further alleged that two other servicemen inhumanely treated the internees, who sustained injuries following repeated assaults. One further serviceman is alleged to have assaulted a detainee. The three remaining servicemen are charged with negligently performing their duties or neglecting to perform a duty, contrary to the Army Act 1955.

The cases against all seven servicemen were reviewed by prosecutors of the independent Army Prosecuting Authority who applied the evidential and public interest criteria set out in the code for crown prosecutors. The Army Prosecuting Authority, following advice from highly experienced counsel, is satisfied that there is a realistic prospect of convicting all defendants and that the prosecutions are in the public interest.

These offences have been directed to be tried before a court martial rather than the civilian courts.

The men who have been directed by the Army Prosecuting Authority to stand trial and who have been informed of the charges against them are:

> Corporal Donald Payne (34) of the Queen's Lancashire Regiment, attached to 1st Battalion The Kings Regiment, based at Catterick, charged with three offences of: (i) manslaughter; (ii) inhuman treatment of persons; and, (iii) perverting the course of justice.

Lance Corporal Wayne Ashley Crowcroft (21) of the Queen's Lancashire Regiment, currently based in Cyprus, charged with inhuman treatment of persons.

Private Darren Trevor Fallon (22) of the Queen's Lancashire Regiment, currently based in Cyprus, charged with inhuman treatment of persons.

Sergeant Kelvin Lee Stacey (28), of the Queen's Lancashire Regiment, currently based in Cyprus charged with assault occasioning actual bodily harm, alternatively common assault.

Warrant Officer Mark Lester Davies (36) of the Intelligence Corps based in Preston, charged with neglecting to perform a duty.

Major Michael Edwin Peebles (34) of the Intelligence Corps, based at Northwood, charged with negligently performing a duty.

Colonel Jorge Emmanuel Mendonca (41) late of Queen's Lancashire Regiment, based at Northwood, charged with negligently performing a duty".

### Army Prosecutions (No. 2)

**The Solicitor-General (Mr. Mike O'Brien):** My right hon. Friend the Attorney-General has made the following written ministerial statement.

"In my statement of 14 June 2004, *Official Report*, columns WS 22–23, I undertook to inform the House by way of written statement when any further charges are laid against British servicemen arising from incidents in Iraq. The Army Prosecuting Authority has directed that four individuals should stand trial by court martial for the offence of the manslaughter of Ahmed Kareem, an Iraqi civilian.

The allegation against the servicemen relates to an incident in Basra, on 8 May 2003. It is alleged that the four servicemen detained four suspected looters of whom Mr. Kareem was one. The servicemen allegedly punched and kicked the looters before forcing them into the Shat Al-Basra Canal. Mr. Kareem could not swim and drowned.

The cases against all four servicemen were reviewed by prosecutors of the independent Army Prosecuting Authority who applied the evidential and public interest criteria set out in the code for crown prosecutors. The Army Prosecuting Authority, following advice from highly experienced counsel, is satisfied that there is a realistic prospect of convicting all defendants and that the prosecutions are in the public interest.

The servicemen who have been directed by the Army Prosecuting Authority to stand trial before a court martial have already been informed of the charges by the Army are:

Sergeant Carle Nicholas Selman, (38) currently serving with the Scots Guards, currently in Germany.

Guardsman Martin McGing, (21) with the Irish Guards, currently based in London.

Guardsman Joseph McCleary, (23) with the Irish Guards, based in London.

One serviceman, a Lance Corporal (21), with the Irish Guards, has yet to be informed of the charge against him. Once he has been notified, I will set out his name in a further written statement, which I will lay before the House at the earliest opportunity.

No date has yet been set for the trial or preliminary hearings in this matter".

## TRADE AND INDUSTRY

### Company Law Reform

**The Minister for Industry and the Regions (Alun Michael):** I would like to draw the attention of the House to the explanatory statement that has been placed in both Libraries of the House on the subject of company law reform. This statement is also available at www.dti.gov.uk/cld/facts/clr.htm.

The Government's approach to the development of its proposals in this area has been extremely inclusive, and I am very grateful for the support and input of those who have contributed to the various consultation exercises. This is the final phase of our consultation process providing an opportunity for stakeholders to comment on some further aspects on our planned Company Law Reform Bill.

In addition to giving additional detail on how we will give expression to the policies set out in our White Paper "Company Law Reform" (March 2005) the explanatory statement explains how we will take forward elements of the proposed EC directive on audit and provisions for the oversight of the actuarial profession announced in the Budget.

We intend to place further detail on the DTI website at www.dti.gov.uk/cld/facts/clr.htm as it becomes available.

## TRANSPORT

### London Gateway Port

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Derek Twigg):** I am today setting out my position on the proposals submitted by P & O to develop a new container port at the old Shellhaven oil refinery site in Thurrock, Essex. I am minded to approve the proposals, subject to satisfaction on a number of outstanding issues including the provision of additional highway capacity in the area.

This position, and the reasons for it, are set out in the minded letter my Department has issued today. It follows a public inquiry in 2003 into the application for approval for the port development, and also into an application from P & O and Shell UK Ltd in respect of an adjacent commercial and logistics centre. The inquiry inspector recommended last year in favour of both proposals, subject to conditions including the provision of extra highway capacity in the area to accommodate traffic likely to be generated by the two developments in combination.

The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister is today issuing a parallel minded to approval for the commercial and logistics centre.

The Government fully recognise the nation's and industry's needs for additional container port capacity in order to meet future economic demand. However, it is important that any new development, particularly on this large scale, be sustainable in a manner consistent with Government policy. We need to be sure, in particular, that the impacts of the full development on the area's highway network can be accommodated, and that any measures proposed to mitigate those impacts are not only adequate but also likely to be carried out.

The Government are therefore inviting the promoters over the next three months to discuss with the relevant highway authorities the means of addressing future highway capacity. We are hopeful that the relevant parties will then be able to agree on a way forward.

A copy of the Department's letter to the applicants for the port has been placed in the House Library.

**Financial Planning Guidelines for Local Transport Plans**

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Ms Karen Buck):** I am today publishing a consultation document setting out how I propose to allocate funding, other than for major schemes, to local transport authorities outside London during the second local transport plan period.

The document proposes a new formula for the allocation of the integrated transport block, together with transitional arrangements to safeguard authorities from sudden change. This formula has been developed in consultation with authorities and is designed to ensure that funding allocations are fair and transparent.

Two modifications are also proposed to improve the operation of the existing formula for distributing highway maintenance funds, and the document includes draft guidance on the reports which local authorities will be planning on their first local transport plans.

The Department is seeking views by 12 October. I am placing a copy of the document in the House of Commons Library.

**A303 Trunk Road (Stonehenge)**

**The Minister of State, Department for Transport (Dr Stephen Ladyman):** Plans to upgrade the A303 trunk road passing Stonehenge and to improve the setting of this outstanding World Heritage Site have a long history. In July 1998, after extensive assessment of alternative options, the Government announced the inclusion in the targeted programme of trunk road improvements of the A303 Stonehenge improvement as an "exceptional environmental scheme". Following further studies and consultations, a preferred route was announced in June 1999 for improvements to 12.4 km of the A303 running from the countess roundabout in the east to Berwick Downs in the West. The scheme provided for dualling of the route and included a bypass of the village of Winterbourne Stoke and a 2km cut-and-cover tunnel past Stonehenge.

Following further consultations with English Heritage and the National Trust, a number of alternative tunnel options were evaluated and on 10 December 2002 the Government announced that they would proceed with further consideration of a 2.1 km tunnel (extending the tunnel by 100 metres compared with the preferred route announcement) and that the tunnel would be bored rather than cut-and-cover, thereby providing significant additional environmental benefits.

The public inquiry into this proposed scheme was held between 17 February and 11 May 2004. The inspector's report was received in January 2005 and the Government have been considering it carefully. The inspector, having considered all the representations and submissions from objectors, was satisfied that the case for the scheme had been made and has recommended that the scheme orders should be made, subject to a number of minor modifications. In particular, he was satisfied with:

- the line of the published scheme;
- all the proposed slip and side road changes required to implement the scheme;
- the requirements of the traffic prohibition orders restricting certain classes of traffic from using the tunnel and some of the new roads; and
- the acquisition of all the land and interests necessary to carry out the published scheme.

However, there has been a material change in the estimated scheme costs since the scheme went to public inquiry and which was not part of the inspector's considerations. The Highways Agency's evidence to the public inquiry indicated that the construction cost of the scheme would be £192 million. After allowing for additional factors including land, preparation and supervision costs this translates into a total outturn scheme cost of £284 million, assuming a construction start date of spring 2005.

In addition, following the completion of the public inquiry, the Highways Agency has carried out further detailed assessments of the ground conditions through which the tunnel would be bored. These have confirmed the scale of two significant factors along the line of the proposed tunnel:

- very large quantities of phosphatic (soft, weak) chalk;
- a high water table, with the groundwater potentially rising to the surface at times of heavy rainfall where the tunnel passes below a shallow valley to the south of Stonehenge.

These factors would significantly complicate the tunnelling process and extend the overall construction period of the scheme. Together with certain other factors which serve to increase tunnel costs, including more rapid increases in construction cost inflation than had previously been anticipated, the Highways Agency's latest estimate of the outturn cost of the scheme has now risen to some £470 million. For consistency with earlier estimates, this figure also assumes a construction start date of spring 2005. Slippage in the start date beyond spring 2005 will have further increased the estimated cost in line with continuing inflation in construction costs.

This represents a significant change to the basis on which the Government originally decided to progress this scheme. Our recognition of the importance of Stonehenge as a World Heritage Site remains unchanged but given the scale of the cost increase we have to re-examine whether the scheme still represents value for money and the best option for delivering improvements to the A303 and the setting of Stonehenge. The Government therefore plan to carry out a detailed review of the options, consulting relevant environmental interests including, in particular, English Heritage and the National Trust, before taking a final decision on the inspector's report. The review will also consider the implications of delaying the Stonehenge scheme for the delivery of improvements proposed for other single carriageway sections of the A303 further to the west.

I have placed copies of the inspector's report in the Library of the House.

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### New Deal for Disabled People

**The Minister for Employment and Welfare Reform (Margaret Hodge):** The New Deal for Disabled People will be extended for a further year to 31 March 2007. This will provide continuity of support to priority customers and allow emerging evaluation evidence, from this and other initiatives, to be taken into consideration in the development of future provision.

All existing job brokers will have the opportunity to bid to participate in the extended programme, details of which will be published in the autumn.

### Child Support Scheme

**The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Mr. David Blunkett):** This quarterly report is to update the House on progress of the Child Support Agency. It covers the period from March to June 2005 and contains improved management information. The last report formed part of the Government's response to the Work and Pensions Select Committee's Second Report of the Session 2004–05 and covered performance up to February 2005.

The Agency is currently administering cases under new and old schemes, across two computer systems. At the end of June 2005, the Agency's caseload stood at around 1.4 million cases. Of these, 950,000 cases were being administered under the old child support scheme (270,000 of which were on the new computer system having migrated from the old computer system because they were linked in some way to a new application) and 480,000 were being administered under the new scheme. Around 12,000 new scheme cases are being administered clerically as they are un-progressable on the new computer system.

Since the inception of the new scheme in March 2003 the Agency has received 680,000 potential new scheme applications, of which 420,000 have been cleared. The remaining 260,000 are at various stages of the work in progress, representing a marginal reduction since March as a result of efforts by the Agency to focus on its backlogs. In addition, there are 78,000 old scheme cases awaiting an assessment, a reduction from 130,000 in June 2004.

In June 2005, as a result of the Agency's intervention, 390,000 parents with care (equating to 520,000 children) were in receipt of maintenance via the collection service, or had a maintenance direct arrangement in place. Despite the problems with the administration of the new scheme the proportion of parents with a new scheme calculation who receive maintenance is higher (54 per cent.) than if they had been assessed under the old scheme (46 per cent.).

During the period March 2005 to June 2005 overall Agency case compliance remained stable at 70 per cent. This is also the case for old scheme compliance at 72 per cent. New scheme compliance, at 66 per cent. in June 2005, has risen from 61 per cent. in June 2004.

As a result of initiatives rolled out since autumn 2004, we are seeing real improvement in case compliance for those cases for which maintenance was calculated from September 2004 onwards. The overall new scheme compliance rate was 66 per cent in June 2005, and, for those new cases calculated in February 2005 (the latest month for which compliance has begun to stabilise for new cases), compliance had reached 78 per cent.

Trends in cash compliance performance are broadly flat over the period, with overall Agency performance at 69 per cent. in June 2005. Old and new scheme performance was 72 per cent and 62 per cent respectively with new scheme performance having improved from 50 per cent in June 2004.

During the quarter ending June 2005 the Agency collected maintenance arrears equivalent to 35 per cent of the total amount of unpaid regular maintenance which accrued over the same period. Performance across the quarter has remained unchanged for the old scheme at 40 per cent, with new scheme performance demonstrating further improvement from 22 per cent to 27 per cent (having already risen from 15 per cent in June 2004).

Accuracy performance is measured cumulatively month-on-month throughout the year. Figures based on the first results of 2005–06 show performance to June of 82 per cent for new scheme and 75 per cent for old scheme.

Whilst we have seen continuing progress some significant problems remain with the new computer and telephony systems and these continue to slow progress on business recovery. The Agency is working closely with EDS to resolve these problems and further IT releases were successfully implemented in December 2004 and May 2005.

We have always said that no decision will be taken on when to convert old scheme cases until we are confident the new scheme is working well. A new chief executive was appointed in April this year and he has initiated a strategic review of the Agency's objectives and operational arrangements. He will report to Ministers in the coming months and we will report to the House in due course.

*Summary of Agency Performance to June 2005*

*Table 1—Agency Performance—New applications intake, clearances, work in progress*

| *New Scheme* | *January 2005* | *February 2005* | *March 2005* | *April 2005* | *May 2005* | *June 2005* | *Scheme to Date—June 2005*[4] |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Intake | 22,000 | 25,000 | 25,000 | 25,000 | 25,000 | 25,000 | 682,000 |
| Clearances: [1 & 3] | 16,000 | 19,000 | 24,000 | 24,000 | 27,000 | 26,000 | 419,000 |
| Work in progress [2] | 259,000 | 265,000 | 266,000 | 267,000 | 265,000 | 263,000 | 263,000 |
| Clearances as % of intake | 69% | 78% | 95% | 97% | 108% | 106% | 60% |

*Notes:*

1. A case is defined as cleared if:

a maintenance calculation has been carried out and a payment arrangement between the parent with care and the non resident parent is in place;

the case has been closed because the PWC is claiming Good Cause or is subject to a Reduced Benefit Decision; or

the application is identified as being a change of circumstances on an existing case.

Further changes in the definition of a clearance may be made as further progress is made with the improvement in management information.

2. Previously, a case was defined as cleared when it had been closed or a maintenance liability had been calculated. Improvements in management information now enable the Agency to extend the definition as described above, and thereby provide a more accurate picture of the Agency's intake and volumes of new applications work in progress. Further changes in the definition of a clearance may be made as further progress is made with the improvement in management information.

3. Figures exclude cases which have been progressed and cleared clerically. This is because it is not possible to determine how many clerically progressed cases are still included in the Agency's work in progress, or were originally included in the intake figures. Details of clerically progressed cases are included below:

| *Scheme to June 2005* | |
|---|---|
| Applications Cleared | 6,000 |
| Maintenance Calculations | 5,000 |
| Closures | 1,000 |

4. While we can give accurate scheme to date information, it is not currently possible to break this down into a monthly time series prior to January 2005 as work to produce this information is still in progress.

*Table 2—Agency Performance—Compliance, Arrears & Accuracy*

| | *June 2004* | *September 2004* | *December 2004* | *March 2005* | *April 2005* | *May 2005* | *June 2005* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Case Compliance*[1] | | | | | | | |
| Overall Agency | 71 per cent | 70 per cent | 70 per cent | 70 per cent | 70 per cent | 70 per cent | 70 per cent |
| New Scheme | 61 per cent | 62 per cent | 64 per cent | 66 per cent | 66 per cent | 66 per cent | 66 per cent |
| All Old Scheme | 73 per cent | 73 per cent | 72 per cent | 72 per cent | 72 per cent | 72 per cent | 72 per cent |
| *Cash Compliance*[1] | | | | | | | |
| Overall Agency | 68 per cent | 66 per cent | 67 per cent | 70 per cent | 69 per cent | 69 per cent | 69 per cent |
| New Scheme | 50 per cent | 52 per cent | 55 per cent | 61 per cent | 60 per cent | 61 per cent | 62 per cent |
| All Old Scheme | 71 per cent | 70 per cent | 70 per cent | 73 per cent | 73 per cent | 72 per cent | 72 per cent |
| *Quarterly Arrears* | | | | | | | |
| Overall Agency | 30 per cent | 28 per cent | 29 per cent | 34 per cent | 34 per cent | 34 per cent | 35 per cent |
| New Scheme | 15 per cent | 16 per cent | 18 per cent | 22 per cent | 22 per cent | 24 per cent | 27 per cent |
| All Old Scheme | 35 per cent | 33 per cent | 34 per cent | 40 per cent | 40 per cent | 39 per cent | 40 per cent |
| *Accuracy*[2] | | | | | | | |
| New Scheme | | 83 per cent | 78 per cent | 75 per cent | | 88 per cent | 82 per cent |
| All Old Scheme | 84 per cent | 80 per cent | 80 per cent | 78 per cent | | 79 per cent | 75 per cent |

*Notes:*

1. Compliance is measured over a quarterly period as opposed to monthly, as it is a less volatile measure of performance in that it smoothes out the impact of events such as bank holidays, late payments and processing details. These figures may be subject to change as more reliable information becomes available.

2. There are no figures for new scheme for June 2004 or for new and old scheme in April 2005 because no accuracy checks were performed during that month. Accuracy across old scheme cases on both systems has been recorded only since May 2005. Prior to May 2005, accuracy was measured only against those old scheme cases on the old computer system.

## Social Fund/Social Fund Commissioner

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Mr. James Plaskitt):** The Secretary of State's annual report on the social fund for 2004–05 (Cm 6595) was published today and has been laid before Parliament.

The report records that total gross expenditure in 2004–05, excluding winter fuel payments, was £867 million. This included more than 261,000 non-repayable grants and around 2.2 million interest free loans together worth almost £700 million, and funeral and cold weather payments totalling more than £48 million. In addition around 236,000 Sure Start maternity grants worth over £119 million were made, and over 8.2 million households benefited from a winter fuel payment at a cost of around £1.95 billion.

The report also outlines reforms to the social fund loan scheme, some of which have already been announced in the pre-Budget report. Introduction of the reforms is planned for April 2006.

The social fund commissioner's report has also been published today and placed in the Library.

## Remploy

**The Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Anne McGuire):** Remploy's achievement against its targets set by Government for 2004–05 is in the table.

| | *Target* | *Achievement* |
|---|---|---|
| Gross Margin—the Company will achieve Gross Margin of £60.5m | £60.5m | £61.0m |
| Progressions from Remploy Factories and Interwork to open employment | 1,400 | 1,683 |
| Average cost of supported employee | £10,500 | £12,075 |
| Employee Development Time | 5% | 7.7% |

Remploy will publish its annual report and accounts in the autumn giving further detail of its peformance throughout 2004–05. Copies of the annual report and accounts will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

In addition, on behalf of my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, I have written to the Chairman of Remploy informing him that I am disappointed at the increasing unit cost and approving the 2005–06 Performance and Resources Agreement between the Department and the Company. The Performance and Resources Agreement includes targets for the coming year. The Agreement has been negotiated by the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus on behalf of my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions. The Targets for 2005–06 are:

a total of 1,700 progressions from Remploy factories or Interwork to open employment;

Remploy Ltd. will keep within an average cost per supported employee of £10,000;

the company will achieve a gross margin (sales less cost of materials) figure of £64.5m;

the company's employee development time will be at least 5 per cent.

The full Agreement for 2005–06 has been placed in the Library.

### Agency Annual Reports and Accounts

**The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Mr. David Blunkett):** I am pleased to announce that the Department for Work and Pensions has today published the 2004–05 annual reports and accounts for five of its executive agencies: The Pension Service (HC342), Child Support Agency (HC256), Disability and Carers Service (HC181), The Rent Service (HC220) and Appeals Service (HC235). Copies have been placed in the Library. The annual report and accounts of Jobcentre Plus will be published after the summer recess.

# Written Ministerial Statements

*Thursday 21 July 2005*

## CABINET OFFICE

### Correspondence

**The Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (Mr. John Hutton):** I am today publishing revised guidance for Departments on the handling of Members' and Peers' correspondence.

Copies have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

## TREASURY

### Office for National Statistics

**The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (John Healey):** The Office for National Statistics' annual report and accounts for 2004–05 is being laid before Parliament today. It contains an assessment of how the Office for National Statistics performed against its key targets in 2004–05. Copies are available in the Libraries of both Houses and electronic copies are freely accessible on the National Statistics website.

## ECOFIN

**The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Gordon Brown):** On 12 July I chaired the first meeting of the Economic and Financial Affairs Council (ECOFIN) under the UK presidency. The Economic Secretary to the Treasury, my hon. Friend the Member for Bury, South (Mr. Lewis), represented the UK.

I set out the UK presidency's work programme, copies of which are available in the Libraries of both Houses, and highlighted measures to combat terrorist financing. ECOFIN agreed to offer advice and technical assistance to other countries which need to build up anti-terrorist finance capacity.

The Council took note of progress on financing for development. This will be discussed further at the Informal ECOFIN ahead of the UN Millennium Development Goals Summit in New York on 14–16 September.

The Council discussed support for the economic regeneration in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and invited the Commission and the European Investment Bank to pursue their work on options for the economic regeneration of this area and to report back to the Informal ECOFIN meeting in September.

The Commission presented its Communication on a "Roadmap to an integrated internal control framework". Council conclusions were agreed on the process for taking this issue forward.

The Council adopted an opinion on an updated stability programme presented by Portugal for the period 2005–09.

The Council reached political agreement on a decision, under article 104(6) of the EC treaty, on the existence of an excessive deficit in Italy and on a Recommendation, under article 104(7), on action to be taken for its correction. The Council will adopt the Decision and Recommendation by written procedure at the end of July, once Council Regulation (EC) No. 1056/2005, which implements the new rules on the excessive deficit procedure, has entered into force.

The Economic Secretary to the Treasury chaired a ministerial dialogue with the accession and candidate countries, approving joint conclusions on all four countries (Bulgaria, Romania, Croatia and Turkey), and joint opinions on Bulgaria's and Romania's 2004 pre-accession economic programmes.

*7 June ECOFIN*

I represented the UK the Economic and Financial Affairs Council (ECOFIN) in Brussels.

The Council agreed Conclusions:

on statistical governance;

allowing for a change to the common side of euro coins to ensure that the map of Europe reflected the enlargement of the EU to 25; and

on guidelines for Member States in determining the national side of their euro coins and also on the handling of euro coins unfit for circulation.

The Council agreed to abrogate the existing excessive deficit procedure against the Netherlands.

The Council adopted the broad economic policy guidelines. The text was submitted to the European Council in June for approval.

The UK introduced a joint UK-Luxembourg Paper on "Financing for Development". The Council discussed the EU's strategy on financing for development. Member States confirmed their commitment to the ODA target of 0.7 per cent. GNI by 2015.

Political Agreement was reached by the Council on the Third Money Laundering Directive. The Council agreed a general approach on company law directives covering annual and consolidated accounts.

ECOFIN agreed that the Savings Tax Directive would apply from 1 July subject to final confirmations of bilateral agreements from European third countries and crown dependencies.

ECOFIN welcomed the progress achieved by the code of conduct group under the Luxembourg presidency.

### Banknote Issue (Scotland and Northern Ireland)

**The Economic Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Ivan Lewis):** The Treasury will publish a consultation paper on Monday 25 July seeking views on its proposals to strengthen and modernise the arrangements under which a limited number of commercial banks in Scotland and Northern Ireland are permitted to issue their own banknotes. Copies will be available in the Libraries of the House. Responses to the consultation will be requested by Friday 16 September.

### Pre-Owned Asset Regulations (Double Charges)

**The Paymaster General (Dawn Primarolo):** This is to announce regulations under section 104 Finance Act 1986 to provide relief from double inheritance tax charges in situations caught by the pre-owned assets provisions at Schedule 15, Finance Act 2004.

Double inheritance tax (IHT) charges can arise in certain circumstances when taxpayers who have used IHT avoidance schemes re-arrange their affairs in response to the income tax charge on "pre-owned assets" introduced by Schedule 15, Finance Act 2004.

My statement of 8 March 2005 announced regulations to provide relief from double charges where taxpayers have made an election to disapply the pre-owned asset income tax charge under paragraph 21, Schedule 15.

Comparable double charges can arise where taxpayers do not make this election, but instead dismantle their previous arrangements so that the pre-owned asset income tax charge is no longer due. In particular, many taxpayers have used a "double trust" scheme; this involves selling a valuable asset to one trust in which the vendor retains an interest, in exchange for an IOU, and then giving the IOU to a second trust. The gift is a potentially exempt transfer for IHT purposes, and the value of the IOU will be chargeable if the scheme user dies within seven years of implementing the scheme. If in the meantime the scheme has been reversed, so that the full value of the asset originally sold is back in the scheme user's ownership at the time of their death, that value will also be subject to IHT.

I am satisfied that scheme users can have legitimate non-avoidance reasons for arranging their affairs in this way, and the regulations already made will therefore be extended to provide relief from double charges which arise from their doing so. They will cover cases where:

- a deceased person has made a gift of a debt owed to them;
- the gift was chargeable to IHT or becomes so chargeable (by virtue of the donor's death);
- the donor dies within seven years of the gift and on or after 6 April 2005;
- the debt was entered into as consideration for the purchase of an asset owned by the donor, or to provide funds for such a purchase;
- the full value of that asset, or of property derived from it, is also chargeable to IHT as part of the donor's estate at death.

In those circumstances, relief will be given so that tax will be due only on the more valuable of the two chargeable assets mentioned.

The regulations will be made as soon as practicable and made available in HM Revenue and Customs' website (www.hmrc.gov.uk).

### Regional Funding Allocations

**The Chief Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Des Browne):** "Regional funding allocations: Guidance on preparing advice" is today being published by the Deputy Prime Minister, the Secretary of State for Transport, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry and myself. This is in response to the consultation launched at the time of the 2004 pre-Budget report, devolving decision making: A consultation on regional funding allocations. The publication includes indicative regional transport spending over the 2004 spending review period, and indicative longer-term funding assumptions for transport, economic development and housing. Regions are invited to provide advice on priorities within the three indicative funding allocations. Copies are available in the Libraries of both Houses. The report can also be obtained free on the HM Treasury website.

## CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

### Electoral Registration

**The Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs (Ms Harriet Harman):** I am pleased to announce the publication of the Government's response to the Constitutional Affairs and Office of the Deputy Prime Minister Select Committees' report on Electoral Registration.

As the Committees' report recognises, there is a challenge to be met in achieving the objectives of security, participation and full registration of all those who are entitled to the franchise. The Committees provide a thoughtful analysis of these issues, and a range of possible solutions.

Work in this area is ongoing and many of the Committees' suggestions are under active consideration. The Government will inform the Committees and the House when this work has concluded.

Copies of the Government response will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

### The Court Service

**The Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs (Ms Harriet Harman):** The magistrates courts business returns annual report 2004–05 has been laid before Parliament today. Copies of the report have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

## CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

### Digital Switchover

**The Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (Tessa Jowell):** In the statement I made to this House on 22 July 2004, I said that I would report further material developments in the move towards digital switchover. I am pleased to say that good progress continues to be made.

By the end of March 2005, digital television was being enjoyed by over 62 per cent. of the UK households.

A growing number of retailers and manufacturers, as well as other parts of the industry, are using the digital switchover logo and committing to give reliable information to consumers. Over 250 retail organisations (representing over 2,300 retail outlets, covering both nationwide chains and small independent stores), 20 manufacturers (covering most major brands) and seven manufacturers of aerials and/or coaxial cables had registered to use the logo by June 2005.

A not-for-profit company, Switchco, has been set up by the public service broadcasters and the digital terrestrial television multiplex operators, with the support of manufacturers, and retailers, to co-ordinate

the technical roll out of digital terrestrial television across the UK, region by region, to a timetable agreed by Government.

While the Government will continue to inform the public of the benefits of digital switchover, Switchco will lead a major communication campaign to educate the public and ensure everyone knows what is happening, what they need to do, and when. They will also liaise with TV manufacturers, retailers, aerial installers, digital platform operators and consumer groups to ensure the switchover programme is properly implemented.

The new digital replacement licences for the commercial public service broadcasters (ITV, Channel 4, Five and Teletext) require the extension of the digital terrestrial network so that digital coverage can reach the same level as analogue. By this means we should be confident that the 98.5 per cent. of households who today are able to receive all the nationally available analogue public services will be able to receive the digital equivalents of these services. We are also considering with OFCOM how people who cannot receive analogue television could receive digital television through satellite, cable, ADSL or another emerging technology.

We are publishing today the report of the digital switchover technical trial in Ferryside and Llansteffan and the associated research on Vulnerable Households. This trial investigated the technical issues for broadcasters and consumers associated with the switch from analogue to digital terrestrial television transmission. It has received overwhelming support from the community involved which was the first one to undergo the switchover process.

We acknowledge that landlords who own or manage communal TV systems need to start taking steps to prepare for digital switchover. In association with the Chartered Institute of Housing, we are developing comprehensive new guidance for private and social sector landlords who have properties with analogue communal systems which need to be upgraded. The guidance will be published during the summer.

As stated in our Manifesto, we are committed to achieving digital switchover between 2008 and 2012 ensuring universal access to high-quality, free-to-view and subscription digital TV.

However, we need to ensure that the interests of elderly people and other vulnerable groups are protected. We know there will be some people who need assistance to understand, install and use digital television equipment.

We will be running a pilot in Bolton this autumn. This will help us to understand how best to provide this assistance whether it is by using leaflets, dedicated phone lines, support from social workers and charities or installation by professional engineers.

We are now close to the point where we will have the information which we require to confirm the region by region timetable for switchover. I expect to make a further announcement this autumn, and will report further progress to the House as appropriate.

Copies of the report have been placed in both Libraries of the House and are available at www.digitaltelevision.gov.uk

## DEFENCE

### Defence Storage and Distribution Agency

**The Minister of State, Ministry of Defence (Mr. Adam Ingram):** Key targets have been set for the chief executive of DSDA for financial year 2005–06[1]. The targets are as follows:

a. *Key Target 1.* To meet the customers' requirements as negotiated and agreed in business agreements (BAs). This key target is broken down into the following sub-targets (each sub-target is reported separately):

i. *Key Target 1a.* For explosive materiel; to supply 95 per cent. of available maintained munitions within demand timescales.

ii. *Key Target 1b.* For non-explosive materiel; to supply 95 per cent. of issues to consumers, as forecast and agreed in BAs, to meet that element of the supply chain pipeline time (SCPT) for which DSDA has responsibility.

iii. *Key Target 1c.* To process within limits, agreed with each individual customer, 98 per cent. of all receipts that conform to the specifications laid down in the contract and/or materiel regulations.

b. *Key Target 2.* KT2 is an efficiency measure for continuous performance improvement to achieve a 2.5 per cent. (net of 2.5 per cent. inflation factor) reduction in the unit cost of output (UCO) in FY05–06 (based on FY04–05) while maintaining an effective level of services to the customers in accordance with the BAs.

c. *Key Target 3.* The value of inventory written off as a result of DSDA's actions to be less than the levels agreed within each business agreement BA. This key target is broken down into two sub-targets:

i. *Key Target 3a.* The value of explosives materiel written off as a result of DSDA's action to be less than 0.02 per cent. of the explosives inventory. This includes associated weapons build components that are integral to the weapon system or munitions (including non-explosive components), tools, test equipment and materials that belong to the integrated project teams (IPTs), which are in the custody of DSDA.

ii. *Key Target 3b.* The value of non-explosive materiel written off as a result of DSDA's action to be less than levels agreed within each specific BA.

### Army Training and Recruiting Agency

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. Don Touhig):** The chief executive of the Army Training and Recruiting Agency (ATRA) has been set the following key targets for 2005–06:

*Key Target 1*

To meet the Army's requirement from the ATRA for 666 trained mainstream officers available to take up their first appointment within a permissible variance of 3 per cent. (below only).

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[1] The key targets for the remainder of this year, and subsequent years may be revised to reflect the future defence supply chain initiative recommendations.

*Key Target 2*

To meet the Defence requirement from the ATRA for 1,807 Army recruits who have completed common initial training and are available to Defence Training Agencies for their specialist training with a permissible variance of + 5 per cent. to − 5 per cent.

*Key Target 3*

To meet the Defence requirement from the ATRA for 8,863 ratings, soldiers and airmen (7,649 from ATRA schools and 1,447 to the other services) trained as specialists and available to take up their first appointment within a permissible variance of + 5 to − 5 per cent. in any career employment group or capbadge.

*Key Target 4*

To achieve a 96 per cent. first time pass for all officers and other ranks made available to undergo career or professional development training and meeting entry standards.

## MARS Programme

**The Secretary of State for Defence (John Reid):** I am pleased to announce our decision that the military afloat reach and sustainability (MARS) programme should now enter its assessment phase.

This is excellent news for the Royal Fleet Auxiliary (RFA), which will operate the ships, the Royal Navy and the armed forces. MARS will be a cornerstone of our future worldwide operations, replacing many of the RFA's existing ships. It will support our new aircraft carriers and the rest of the fleet, as well as deployed amphibious, land and air forces close to the shore.

The MARS programme is currently assuming three classes of ships, which will deliver fuel and other stores to the fleet, helicopter support and sea-based logistics for deployed forces. During the project's assessment phase, we will investigate a range of solutions to meet this capability.

## Defence Supply Chain Modernisation

**The Secretary of State for Defence (John Reid):** The Ministry of Defence has been reviewing how best to organise elements of our supply chain in order to provide the armed forces with the necessary logistic support in a modern environment. I am today able to announce the outcome of a number of studies into logistic support arrangements.

The Future Defence Supply Chain initiative aims to deliver a modern and effective Defence Supply Chain focused on meeting the demands of today's armed forces both in peace-time and in support of operations. MOD has been evaluating four alternatives and has selected an in-House option worked-up in close consultation with the trades unions to provide the best possible combination of effectiveness and cost. By updating processes, improving training for staff, rationalising the distribution network and the closure of the storage depots at Stafford by the end of 2007, Llangennech by mid-2008, and Longtown by mid-2009 we expect to make savings of over £50 million per year by 2010 and over £400 million over the next 10 years.

The new organisation will require around 2,000 fewer civilian posts and around 50 fewer armed forces personnel. These reductions will contribute to the wider MOD manpower reductions announced in the 2004 White Paper.

A study into the future role of the Defence Munitions Centre at Crombie in Dumferline West is now complete and I have decided, subject to consultation with the national trades unions, to implement the recommendations.

The study determined that the explosives storage capacity available at DMC Crombie is not required to meet the known and projected storage liability of its customers. Crombie will, in future, concentrate on providing a loading/off-loading function to HM Ships and Royal Fleet Auxiliaries, together with berthing and other jetty operations.

DMC Crombie currently employs 168 staff. If the recommendations of the Study are implemented, there would be a reduction of 142 posts at the site. It is anticipated that 67 posts would go in the first year, with the balance of 75 posts being phased over years 2006–07 to 2009–10. Implementation of the study recommendations has the potential to deliver savings in the order of £18.1 million over a 10 year period.

I have also today approved, subject to conclusion of trade union consultation, ABRO's proposal, to begin phase one of a two part rationalisation programme. Phase one addresses the immediate impact of the downturn in ABRO's Defence revenue projections, but will not diminish the range of capabilities ABRO is currently able to deliver to the front line.

As a result, ABRO will reduce its headcount to approximately 2,150 posts by 31 March 2006, which includes the potential for up to 246 redundancies. The changes will realise annual manpower cost savings in the region of £2.1 million in 2005–06, and £8.3 million per year thereafter.

ABRO are still developing phase two of the programme but the aim is to address the process efficiencies, site re-structuring, and other change initiatives required to ensure ABRO has a sustainable competitive position from which it can grow in the medium term.

Finally, as a direct consequence of an announcement made today by Rolls-Royce Defence Aerospace on the outcome of an open competition for future overhaul and component repair on RB199 engine modules, up to 50 jobs will be lost at the Defence Aviation Repair Agency's (DARA) Engines Business Unit at Fleetlands in Gosport, Hampshire. I have agreed that DARA can now begin the formal 30-day consultation process with the trades unions.

We are doing everything possible to mitigate the impact on the people affected by these announcements. Our current plans envisage that the majority of civilian reductions will be achieved through a combination of natural wastage and voluntary early release but some compulsory redundancies may prove necessary. There will be no redundancies from the armed forces. Staff and the trade unions are being kept fully informed of developments through meetings, briefings and formal consultation.

### 1990–91 Gulf Veterans Illnesses

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. Don Touhig):** A key principle of the Government's approach to addressing the health concerns of veterans of the 1990–91 Gulf Conflict is that there should be appropriate research into veterans' illnesses and factors that may have a bearing on these.

The Ministry of Defence has funded a study by the National Institute for Biological Standards and Control into the particular interaction of anthrax and pertussis vaccines in mice. The study is part of a wider programme of research into vaccines interactions, which has been overseen by an independent panel of experts. A paper reporting the final results of the study was published in the online version of the journal Human Vaccines on 14 July 2005 in advance of hard-copy publication in the August/September edition of the journal. In brief, the researchers report that, in mice, pertussis vaccine, vaccine combinations, or aluminium salt caused illness; anthrax vaccine produced little effect; diluted vaccine combinations produced less serious side effects of shorter duration; and pertussis vaccines act as an adjuvant for anthrax vaccine. As the researchers point out, caution should be exercised in applying these results to humans because of the relatively high dosage used in the tests and the very different sensitivity to these vaccines in mice and humans.

This work represents a further step towards meeting the Department's commitment to investigate these issues. A full summary of the findings is freely available on the journal website and via a link on the MOD website at: www.mod.uk/issues/gulfwar/whats_new.htm

### RAF Force Restructuring

**The Secretary of State for Defence (John Reid):** As was recognised in the 2003 defence White Paper, "Delivering Security in a Changing World" (Cm 6041–I), the international situation that we now face is radically different to that of the cold war. As a consequence, there have been a great many changes to the size and structure of our armed forces as they have adapted to meet this changed environment. I am today announcing two such changes.

The cold war radar station of RAF Saxa Vord on the Shetland island of Unst will be put on care and maintenance from April 2006, subject to consultation with the trade unions. This will mean that the station is effectively closed, but that the main operational part of the estate will continue to be maintained should it be required for future use. Further work will be undertaken to consider how much of the remainder of the station will be retained.

Radar cover at the level required can be provided by other RAF radars augmented by those of the National Air Traffic Services. Placing the station on care and maintenance means that we would be able to re-instate a radar capability should the threat assessment change. Some 70 service personnel, 30 MoD civilians and 10 contractor staff will be affected by this proposal.

I understand this will be disappointing news for our staff, the island of Unst and the Shetland islands community. Naturally, we will be happy to work with the Scottish Executive and the local authority to consider any measures within the defence remit that might assist the local community to adjust to the proposed change.

As announced on 21 July 2004, the role of providing ground based air defence (GBAD) is to be transferred to the Army and the four Royal Air Force GBAD squadrons disbanded.

I am now able to inform the House that 37 Squadron RAF Regiment based at RAF Wittering will disband by March 2006, that 16 Squadron, based at RAF Honington, will disband by March 2007, and that 15 Squadron and the RAF GBAD wing headquarters, also based at RAF Honington, and 26 Squadron, based at RAF Waddington, will disband by March 2008.

This phased programme will allow that Royal Regiment of Artillery to take over the pan-defence GBAD role in a progressive manner. The RAF Regiment will now focus on its role protecting other elements of the armed forces, particularly on deployment.

As part of these changes, both 3 Squadron RAF Regiment, based at RAF Aldergrove and the Queen's Colour Squadron, based at RAF Uxbridge, will be expanded by around 40 personnel each in order to enhance their operational capability to match that of the other four regular RAF Regiment field squadrons. This will improve the units' ability to deploy on operations and so enhance the operational flexibility of the RAF Regiment in its force protection role.

Around 340 posts will be lost as a result of these changes. These form part of the 7,500 RAF post reductions also announced last July. I do not expect any redundancies additional to those announced on 9 December 2004 (*Official Report*, column 102WS) to result from this announcement.

As a consequence of the decision taken last July, the RAF has conducted an overall review of the structure and basing of the RAF Regiment. As a result of this work, I have decided that 1 Squadron RAF Regiment will move from RAF St Mawgan to RAF Honington by March 2007.

In addition, I have decided that 2625 (County of Cornwall) Squadron Royal Auxiliary Air Force Regiment, based alongside 1 Squadron at RAF St Mawgan, should be disbanded with effect from November 2006. This decision has been taken as Royal Auxiliary Air Force Regiment squadrons need to be based alongside regular units in order to maximise training opportunities and give the auxiliary personnel access to equipment held by the regular unit. With 1 Squadron's relocation, this would not be possible at St Mawgan. Around 75 reservists will be affected. Members of 2625 Squadron will be offered the opportunity to continue their reservist activities with other parts of the armed forces reservist organisation or with an alternative RAF unit elsewhere.

We are doing everything possible to mitigate the impact on the people affected by these announcements. Our current plans envisage that the majority of reductions will be achieved through a combination of natural wastage and voluntary early release, but some compulsory redundancies may prove necessary. Staff and the trade unions are being kept fully informed of developments through meetings, briefings and formal consultation.

## DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

### Housing Act (Licensing)

**The Minister for Housing and Planning (Yvette Cooper):** The Government are today publishing summary responses on the remaining issues raised in their consultation on the implementation of the licensing provisions in the Housing Act 2004. These cover the licensing of private sector Houses of Multiple Occupation (HMOs) in Part 2 of the Act and the discretionary powers for the Selective Licensing of privately rented properties in areas of low housing demand or significant anti-social behaviour in Part 3 of the Act. This follows on from a statement made by my right hon. Friend the Member for Streatham (Keith Hill) on 6 April 2005 which covered the principal issues arising from the HMO licensing consultation exercise. Copies of these responses have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

We are also announcing the Government's intentions on a number of related issues which have been raised by consultees during the period following the end of the formal consultation exercise.

The two consultation papers Licensing in the Private Rented Sector: Consultation on the Implementation of HMO Licensing (published in July 2004) and Licensing in the Private Rented Sector: Consultation on the Implementation of Selective Licensing (published in July 2004) sought to explain the Government's proposals for licensing in the private rented sector. They invited interested parties to comment on how the powers should be implemented, and asked questions about the possible form that the necessary items of secondary legislation should take.

The consultation period for selective licensing ended in October 2004 and for HMO licensing in February 2005. There was a considerable amount of cross-over in these exercises which explains the delay in producing the summary of responses for the selective licensing work. We have now analysed all the responses and reached decisions on most of these issues: this has allowed us to start drafting the appropriate secondary legislation to allow these important measures to be commenced by the late autumn of this year. We also plan to phase the introduction of the enforcement provisions over a period of no more than three months from commencement to allow local authorities' licensing procedures to settle down and to allow landlords sufficient time to make their applications.

On most of the remaining issues covered by the consultation paper, the majority of respondents agreed with the Government's proposals.

The Government are introducing licensing as a measured response to the problems of the private rented sector. They are keen to strike the right balance between setting clear national benchmarks and giving local authorities the discretion to respond to local housing market conditions.

A paper detailing the responses to the consultations and the Governments intentions regarding them has been placed in the Libraries of both House Libraries.

### Planning Policy Statement 9

**The Minister for Housing and Planning (Yvette Cooper):** The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister expects to publish in August:

> a new Planning Policy Statement on Biodiversity and Geological Conservation; and
>
> an accompanying joint ODPM/DEFRA Government Circular: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation—Statutory obligations and their impact within the Planning System.

The new Planning Policy Statement 9 (PPS9) sets out the Government's planning policies for biodiversity and geological conservation in England. A joint ODPM/DEFRA circular accompanies PPS9 and will provide administrative guidance on the law relating to planning and nature conservation as it applies in England. Together these two documents will replace existing Planning Policy Guidance note 9 on Nature Conservation (PPG9), published in October 1994.

Drafts of PPS9 and the accompanying Circular were issued for public consultation in September 2004. PPS9 has a new emphasis on the need to conserve, enhance and restore biodiversity and makes clear that geological conservation is an important part of protecting our natural heritage. Positive planning which facilitates conservation of biodiversity and geological conservation contributes to the Government's principles for sustainable development set out in the UK Strategy. The policies set out in PPS9, together with the guidance in the circular will enable planning authorities, regional planning bodies and planning inspectors to play their part taking forward the UK Strategy.

It is also our intention to publish, later in the year, good practice guidance to complement the PPS and the circular.

Copies of PPS9 and the accompanying Government circular will be placed in the Library of the House following publication of the documents. They will also be made available on the website of ODPM. A summary of the responses to the consultation drafts has been published on the ODPM web site and copies of the responses will be made available for inspection through the ODPM library.

### Local Authority Business Growth Incentives Scheme

**The Minister for Local Government (Mr Phil Woolas):** I am pleased to announce the final details of the Local Authority Business Growth Incentives scheme (LABGI), which will make its first payment in February 2006. The scheme allows local authorities to retain a share of increased business rates revenue generated in their area. By creating a direct financial incentive for local authorities to encourage business growth in their locality, LABGI provides the opportunity for local government and business to work together to deliver economic success and prosperity to their local community.

In our consultations we have set out five principles for the scheme, which the Government remains committed to:

> that the scheme should give all local authorities an incentive to maximise local economic growth;
>
> that the scheme will give local authorities additional revenues to spend on their own priorities;

that the incentive should be consistent with Government aims for growth in all regions of the country and reductions in the persistent gap in performance between regions;

that the distribution of benefits must be fair, reflecting relative performance not relative circumstances; and

that the scheme should be as intelligible and transparent as possible.

Following the announcement of the scheme in the Chancellor's 2002 pre-Budget report, consultations have been held in 2003 and 2004 and volunteer local authorities also took part in a dry-run exercise to test out the administration of the scheme. All responses to the consultations and the experiences from the test exercise have been carefully considered and taken into account in the details of the scheme I am confirming today.

Business growth is measured in terms of the increase in a local authority's rateable value during a calendar year. A single payment will be made to each eligible local authority in the final quarter of the financial year. The scheme operates as an unringfenced grant under Section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003: authorities are free to spend the revenue on their own priorities in their own areas. Administering the scheme in this way was broadly welcomed in the recent consultation.

The starting point for each authority is their rateable value at 31 December 2004. An authority's rateable value figure will not be reduced by successful appeals. Empty and part-empty property reliefs will be netted off, using the most recent set of audited data from the authority's normal National Non Domestic Rates (NNDR) return.

Each authority has a target level of rateable value growth that must be reached to benefit from LABGI—known as the floor. The floor is defined as an authority's baseline growth rate minus a national adjustment factor. Baselines are calculated using a National Historic Growth Model—the preferred model from the first consultation. This has been modified by dividing all the authorities into eight baseline groups based on historical growth rate, rather than seven as previously announced. Feedback from the second consultation highlighted a fairer split was necessary and we have accepted this argument.

The other features of the scheme are the same as the Government set out in the final consultation paper and which received broad support.

There is a national adjustment factor for all baseline groups of 1.4 per cent. At the end of the first year a new list of rateable values will be produced by the Valuation Office Agency, as at 31 December 2005, not including appeals, but net of empty and part-empty property reliefs. This will be compared to the starting list from 31 December 2004 to calculate each local authority's growth rate. Growth above the floor is then multiplied by the business rate multiplier. A scaling factor of 70 per cent. is applied to all revenues above the floor to calculate the final amount eligible locally. Each authority has a ceiling—the maximum revenue that can be kept in any year—with money above the ceiling being passed back to the central business rates pool for distribution between all authorities. An authority's gains in one year in excess of the ceiling will be counted against the following year's target. The ceiling is based on a modified version of part of the Environmental, Protective and Cultural Services (EPCS) element of the Formula Spending Share (FSS) from the local authority's Revenue Support Grant calculation.

The ceilings in the first three years of the scheme will be 3 per cent., 6 per cent. and 9 per cent. of modified EPCS FSS, respectively. In two-tier areas, LABGI revenues will be shared out according to each tier's contribution to the total ceiling amount. In London, revenues will remain with the boroughs.

To prevent authorities that fail to gain money in one year having an unrealistic growth target the next year, their floor will be re-based and a new lower floor will be calculated. This will maintain the incentive effect of the scheme for all authorities. Feedback from the recent consultation suggested that re-basing floors was a positive modification to the scheme.

The scheme puts in place the right incentives for local government to work with local business and promote economic growth in its area. This will encourage local government to build effective partnerships with local business, to help deliver increased prosperity and to build long-term economic sustainability for its locality. Local authorities stand to gain up to £1 billion in England and Wales over three years—this is genuinely additional and unringfenced.

The scheme will be reviewed following the first year to test both how it is delivering against the design principles the Government set out and which were agreed in consultation and the level of spend from the scheme.

### Planning Delivery Grant

**The Minister for Housing and Planning (Yvette Cooper):** In March my right hon. Friend the Member for Streatham (Keith Hill) and then Minister for Housing and Planning announced the majority of the 2005–06 round of planning delivery grant, a performance-related grant paid to local authorities in recognition of their work in planning. It is with pleasure that today I announce the remaining final element of that grant to the House.

This final grant element, rewarded on the basis of local planning authority performance in making future plans for their local area, amounts to £21,545,275 across English local authorities and will see each of the 395 local authorities that delivered a satisfactory local development scheme to Government offices by 28 March 2005 receive £54,545.

The planning delivery grant (PDG) is not ring-fenced or hypothecated beyond the condition that 25 per cent. of the total received in the 2005–06 financial year must be used for capital expenditure. In this year as a whole, £170 million has been invested in planning through the PDG, in addition to other efforts at boosting the resources available to enhance good planning, such as the raising of planning fees in April.

The Government's aim is to enhance the resourcing of the planning system in a way that drives performance improvement and ensures effective delivery of our objectives for sustainable communities. It is specifically targeted towards meeting the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister's public service agreements (PSA) 5 and 6. PSA 5 aims to achieve a better balance between housing availability and demand. PSA 6 requires all authorities

to have local development frameworks in place (in accordance with agreed local development schemes) and to meet the best value development control targets by the end of 2006–07.

Today we have also launched a consultation on the next round of planning delivery grant, 2006–07, which proposes a further £135 million in planning resource to be announced in November 2005.

### Waste and Minerals Policies (South-East)

**The Minister for Housing and Planning (Yvette Cooper):** My right hon. Friend the Deputy Prime Minister will shortly publish for public consultation *Proposed Changes to Regional Planning Guidance for the South East*. These proposed changes concern policies on minerals and waste. They follow the public examination in October 2004 and the report of the independent panel in January 2005.

The changes stem from a partial review of RPG9 which aims to expand and further amplify policy on these topics. On commencement of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act in 2004 RPG9 became the statutory Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS).

Proposed changes include new and revised policies to encourage recycling and recovery of waste materials, provision of new waste treatment and handling facilities and ensure the continue supply of primary aggregates and other minerals.

Overall the panel considered the drafts to be broadly compatible with RPG9 and national policy. The panel did, however, recommend some changes. Notably, on waste the panel recommended adjustments to targets for diversion of waste from landfill and the target for recycling construction and demolition waste and that policy on waste management capacity requirements should be strengthened. On minerals, the panel recommended that the supply of primary aggregates should be increased to accord with national guidelines and that a lower target should be assumed for the proportion of aggregates to come from alternative materials.

Government are grateful for the recommendations of the panel. We propose accepting the recommendations of the independent panel who held the public examination into the proposed alterations, with some adjustment particularly in order to provide clearer guidance for waste planning authorities on waste management capacity requirements.

The process of comprehensively reviewing RPG9 has already begun. Further refinement of these policies will be continued through this process. As part of this work the South East of England Regional Assembly is working towards improving the monitoring of waste management and mineral extraction. I support this valuable work.

I will also be writing to the regional assembly with the proposed changes. There will be a public consultation period on the proposed changes, from date of publication for a period of 12 weeks.

Copies of the relevant documents will be available, once published in the Libraries of the House and will be provided for all of the region's MPs, MEPs and local authorities.

### Local Enterprise Growth Initiative

**The Minister for Local Government (Mr. Phil Woolas):** I am pleased to be able to announce further information on the Government's local enterprise growth initiative, launched by my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer in the Budget in March. The responses to the consultation exercise were overwhelmingly positive and included many thoughtful comments, which will help us refine the initiative. A summary of submissions to the consultation and the Government's response will be issued soon.

In the meantime I am pleased to today place copies of a document on next steps in the Library of the House. This document includes basic background information on the next steps involved for those interested in being involved in the Local Enterprise Growth Inititative.

### Mineral Policy Statement

**The Minister for Housing and Planning (Yvette Cooper):** I am announcing today the publication of consultation drafts of four annexes to Minerals Policy Statement 1 (MPS1) "Planning and Minerals". These deal with "Aggregates provision in England", "Brick clay provision in England", "Natural building and roofing stone in England" and "Onshore oil and gas in England". These set out the planning policies that Government considers should be followed by local authorities, the minerals industry, and other stakeholders to ensure that the supply of these minerals is achieved at acceptable cost to society, including environmental costs, and to help protect the environment, in the interests of sustainable development. They should be read in conjunction with MPS1. That document, which contains the over-arching principles for minerals planning, will be finalised in the light of consultation carried out on it in winter 2004–05 and on these annexes.

When finally published, the annex "Aggregates provision in England" will, together with the guidelines for aggregates provision issued in June 2003 and parts of MPS1, complete the review and revision of Minerals Planning Guidance Note 6 "Guidelines for aggregates provision in England", published in 1994. When finalised, the annex "Onshore oil and gas in England" will replace DOE Circular 2/85 "Planning control over oil and gas operations".

The draft annexes to MPS1 take account of relevant legislative changes since earlier guidance was issued including the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004). They contribute to the Government's sustainable development objectives for planning and the creation of sustainable communities, by helping to secure the necessary supplies of minerals, particularly for construction, while seeking to minimise the effects of mineral working on local communities and the environment.

Consultation on the draft annexes to MPS1 will run until 31 October 2005. Copies of the consultation paper have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

### Deprived Area Grants

**The Minister for Local Government (Mr Phil Woolas):** I am announcing today the allocation of a total of £1.3 billion new resources for the most deprived areas of England. These new resources for the Neighbourhood

Renewal Fund (NRF) and the Safer and Stronger Communities Fund (SSCF) demonstrate the Government's continued commitment to social justice and opportunity for all, to eradicate social exclusion and anti social behaviour.

*The Neighbourhood Renewal Fund (NRF)*

People living in the most disadvantaged areas suffer most from antisocial behaviour and crime. We are determined to ensure, through the NRF, that respect within the community and between individuals is protected.

As part of the Spending Review 2004, the Government announced that they would be making available an additional £1.05 billion for the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund (NRF) (£525 million for 2006–07 and a further £525 million for 2007–08).

These new resources are in addition to the £1.875 billion NRF the Government made available over the period 2001–06. The 88 Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs) who have received NRF have made good progress in using it to help address some of the most serious problems in our most disadvantaged areas.

The gaps between these areas and the rest on crime, educational attainment and worklessness have narrowed. However, we must not be complacent and must continue to ensure that this progress is sustained and built upon. Reducing the health inequalities gap is a significant challenge and ODPM remains committed to working with the Department of Health and its Spearhead group of local authorities to tackle this issue.

The Government are determined to build momentum to ensure that improvements in quality of life and quality of public services reach the most disadvantaged citizens. Floor targets on employment, education, crime, health, housing and liveability are a public commitment to this work, and the success of some authorities in meeting them shows what is possible. We look forward to continuing our joint work to deliver change.

All the evidence shows that neighbourhood renewal is only successful when changes in the physical environment and improvement in public services are combined with a strong commitment to promote liveability and tackle antisocial behaviour. The determination of local authorities to use the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund to employ neighbourhood wardens and promote after-school provision for young people, side-by-side with active partnership with the police in the use of powers to tackle anti-social behaviour, is delivering real change on the ground. We will be working with local authorities, including through the Local Area Agreement process, to ensure that this approach is embedded in our regeneration activities, and that there is continued innovation to target the activity of the minority of citizens who can blight the lives of the majority.

This new NRF settlement, the largest since the neighbourhood renewal strategy was launched in 2001, recognises and will build upon progress so far, allowing LSPs more resources to help improve service delivery in their most disadvantaged neighbourhoods.

I am therefore announcing today the indicative allocations of £1.05 billion NRF resources for 2006–07 and 2007–08 to 86 local authority districts. Details of allocations to individual local authorities are set out in the attached table (Annex A). Final NRF allocations will be confirmed when the Revenue Support Grant (RSG) is paid to local authorities in November.

NRF will be allocated to any local authority area which falls within the 50 most deprived districts in England on any of the six district level measures of deprivation included in the Index of Deprivation 2004 (ID04). The size of the allocation to each eligible area has been determined by the number of people within the district living in the 10 per cent. most disadvantaged neighbourhoods in the country.

Six of the 88 authorities which are currently receiving NRF have improved sufficiently to come off the list of the most disadvantaged districts in the country. However, these authorities will continue to receive tapering NRF over the next two years. This funding will support these authorities over the transitional period and allow them to time to adapt and to sustain the progress they have made to date.

*The Neighbourhood Element of the Safer and Stronger Communities Fund*

As well as the new NRF allocations, I am also announcing the allocation of two elements of the new Safer and Stronger Communities Fund, the Neighbourhood Element and the Cleaner, Safer, Greener element.

The SSCF is one of the Local Area Agreement funding streams. The Neighbourhood Element of SSCF is also designed to address deprivation in our most disadvantaged neighbourhoods. It will provide funding for 100 of the most disadvantaged neighbourhoods in the country. Details of allocations of the neighbourhood element of SSCF to individual authorities are attached at Annex B. The new ID04 has allowed us to identify small pockets of deprivation in otherwise affluent areas for the first time. This element of the SSCF will target such neighbourhoods, including many beyond those areas that will receive NRF. Neighbourhood element funding is targeted at the 3 per cent. most disadvantaged neighbourhoods and is worth £41.3 million and £51.6 million in 2006–07 and 2007–08 respectively. Between the NRF and the neighbourhood element of SSCF, we will target a higher proportion of the people living in the most disadvantaged neighbourhoods in the country than has ever been possible before.

*The Cleaner, Safer, Greener element of the Safer and Stronger Communities Fund*

There is extensive evidence of a clear correlation between deprivation and poor local environmental quality. The cleaner safer greener element of SSCF, therefore, is being targeted at disadvantaged neighbourhoods in greatest need of improving their local public spaces. This element is worth £48.5 million and £56.5 million in 2006–07 and 2007–08 respectively. Details of individual allocations of the Cleaner, Safer, Greener element of SSCF are attached at Annex C.

Annexes A, B and C have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

## EDUCATION AND SKILLS

### Education Ministers (Informal Meeting)

**The Minister of State for Lifelong Learning, Further and Higher Education (Bill Rammell):** On 12–13 July, my right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Education and Skills chaired an informal meeting in London of Education Ministers from the EU, accession, candidate and EEA countries to look at how skills can contribute to raising productivity and therefore to the Lisbon goals for jobs and growth.

The meeting consisted of four sessions, which considered:

(1) *Sector skills*

My right hon. Friend outlined our presidency focus on highlighting how education and skills can contribute to the Lisbon agenda and the importance of skills responding to the needs of employers. Ministers discussed national experiences in developing sector-based approaches as a mechanism for employers to express skills requirements and to link education and training with labour market requirements in a knowledge economy.

There was consensus that employers should be involved in both designing and delivering vocational training courses, but only a few Member States involved employers in academic education. Ministers agreed that vocational training should be made more attractive to learners.

(2) *European Qualifications Framework*

This session was focused on a presentation by Commissioner Figel of the European Commission's consultation on a proposed European Qualifications Framework. This would provide a tool for improved understanding of qualifications from different countries. This should help mobility of learners and workers and thereby alleviate skills gaps. The Commission consultation is planned to last until the end of the year. The idea was welcomed by ministers, but they underlined that it should be user-friendly and must be implemented on a voluntary basis. Commissioner Figel explained that the Commission would propose a Council and Parliament Recommendation next spring.

(3) *The Relationship of Skills to Productivity*

The presidency tabled a paper, prepared by the four UK Government Skills Alliance Departments and agreed jointly with the European Commission. This sets out evidence for the contribution of skills to increasing productivity. It also raises questions for ministerial discussion.

Ministers discussed skills in a panel session with representatives from industry. John Monks, General Secretary ETUC, explained that unions could be ambassadors for learning. He pointed out that employees were often nervous about undertaking training, as they were worried about failing. Philippe de Buck, Secretary General of the EU-wide employers' organisation, UNICE, argued that governments needed to provide more support for training in companies particularly for SMEs. Bill Thomas, a member of the UK's ICT Sector Skills Council, underlined the importance of businesspeople understanding how ICT could be used to improve productivity.

Ministers agreed that economies would increasingly need highly skilled people, but also underlined the importance of having good basic skills as a foundation for achieving this.

(4) *Possible Next Steps*

The meeting concluded with Ministerial discussion groups. I chaired one group, with other groups chaired by Phil Hope MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Skills, and Allan Wilson MSP, Deputy Minister for Enterprise and Lifelong Learning in Scotland.

During these groups, Ministers agreed that: skills needs should be addressed at a sectoral and regional level; better recognition of informal and non-formal learning was needed; and that businesses should be encouraged to invest more in training their employees. There was an interest in member states continuing to share experiences and learn from each other on sector-based approaches. There was also recognition that Education Ministers should explore ways of working across Government, with other Ministers with an interest in skills and productivity, and that Education Ministers should be closely involved drawing up Lisbon National Action Plans.

### Teenage Pregnancy

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Education and Skills (Maria Eagle):** I have today placed in the Library of the House the Government's response to the third annual report of Independent Advisory Group on Teenage Pregnancy.

The Government welcome the recommendations made in the Independent Advisory Group's third annual report and acknowledges the valuable contribution the group makes to the strategy and its implementation. We have carefully considered and responded specifically to the recommendations put forward.

The responses are framed within the context of the wider "Change for Children" programme, focusing on the underpinning measures that are being put in place to ensure that work on reducing teenage conceptions, and on supporting teenage parents, remain a priority for all. These measures are designed to ensure that the delivery of the strategy is integrated with the joint needs assessment planning commissioning and funding decisions expected by all local authorities in the Children and Young People Plan.

### School Funding (2006–07)

**The Minister for Schools (Jacqui Smith):** This statement relates to schools' recurrent funding from 2006–07.

1. In February this year my Department launched a consultation on proposed new arrangements for school funding from 2006–07. The proposals were designed to deliver greater certainty and stability for schools, building on the package of measures that we put in place in 2004–05. In particular, they were designed to guarantee delivery of the Government's commitment to increase spending on schools in every local authority area, to provide schools with the tools to take a strategic approach to their financial planning, to reduce bureaucracy, and to give schools greater control over how they used the resources available to them for the benefit of their pupils.

2. I am today publishing a summary of the responses to the consultation and placing a copy of that summary in the Library of the House. I am grateful to all those who responded to the consultation, and in particular to our national partners with whom we have been discussing detailed implementation issues in parallel with the consultation.

3. For the most part, the Government's proposals were welcomed by respondents to the consultation, who recognised the significant benefits that they would bring

for schools. However, it is clear from the responses we received and from our discussions with partners that some aspects of the proposals imply significant changes to the way in which local authorities manage the budget-setting process. The Government also recognises that it is critical that changes to the school funding system—and in particular those which affect the distribution of funds between local authorities or schools—are introduced gradually, in order to avoid a repeat of the financial difficulties which some schools experienced in 2003–04.

4. We therefore intend that the two years 2006–07 and 2007–08 should be a transitional period, and that the new arrangements should be introduced in full from 2008–09. During the first two years we will review a number of aspects of the system to ensure that when the new arrangements are fully implemented from 2008 they will be on a sound footing, and that funding is distributed in the most appropriate way possible.

5. The introduction of three year budgets for schools was widely welcomed by respondents to the consultation. From 2008–09, schools will receive three year budgets in line with the spending review cycle.

6. In the short term, the Government's decision to review its spending plans using a zero-based approach, to report in 2007, means that schools will receive a two year budget settlement in early 2006 to cover 2006–07 and 2007–08, but will not receive information for future years until after the spending review has reported. We intend to review the way in which the budget setting process has worked during 2006 and 2007, so that we can make any changes to the arrangements I am announcing today if necessary to ensure that the first full three year settlement in 2008–09 is implemented smoothly.

7. It remains the Government's aim to move school budgets onto an academic year basis in due course. However, although many respondents welcomed this proposal, some practical concerns were raised which we believe we should discuss further with our partners before making a final decision. It also makes sense to let the other changes we are introducing in 2006 bed down before making this further change. School budgets for 2006–07 and 2007–08 will therefore be set on a financial rather than an academic year basis, but we will review during that period whether to move to an academic year basis for setting budgets from 2008–09.

8. In deciding on how to implement multi-year budgets at school level, it has been necessary to strike a balance between certainty on the one hand and responsiveness to changed circumstances on the other. So we will require authorities to make key decisions before the start of each multi-year period, including the transitional two year period starting in 2006–07: for example how their local funding formula should work, and what the split should be between the amount of funding delegated to schools and the amount retained centrally by the local authority. But we will also allow flexibility for these decisions subsequently to be reconsidered in exceptional circumstances, and where the local Schools Forum agrees. This will be important to allow authorities to deal with significant and unexpected changes in circumstances.

9. We have also considered carefully how far we need to be prescriptive in terms of how multi-year budgets for individual schools are put together, and how far we can leave this to local discretion. We have concluded that it is essential that budgets are updated annually to reflect changes in pupil numbers; and we propose to require authorities to use a consistent approach to this. However, we believe that other decisions—in particular the extent to which annual changes should be made to reflect changes in other data—should be taken locally in discussion with the Schools Forum, to ensure that local circumstances can be fully taken into account.

10. The Learning and Skills Council will be carrying out its own consultation in the early autumn on its arrangements for providing school sixth forms with a two year settlement in 2006–07 and 2007–08.

11. Two key safeguards which were introduced into the system in 2004–05 will remain. The first is the minimum funding guarantee for schools, which will be the key guarantor of stability in schools' budgets during the transition to the new arrangements. There will continue to be a need for the detailed operation of the guarantee to be varied where it would otherwise produce an anomalous outcome due to local circumstances, and in future we intend that some variations of this kind should be agreed locally by the Schools Forum and only come to the Secretary of State where they can't be locally agreed.

12. The minimum funding guarantee will be set in advance for the whole of the period covered by schools' budgets. The Government's intention is to set the guarantee for 2006–07 and 2007–08 at a level which covers anticipated average cost pressures on schools in each of those years, including the full-year costs of implementing workforce reform, subject to a final assessment of those pressures. The precise level of the guarantee in each year will be announced in the autumn. We intend to review the way in which the guarantee should operate from 2008–09 onwards, including the link to cost pressures, with a view to ensuring that it leaves sufficient scope to redistribute funding in a way which responds to changing needs and priorities.

13. The Learning and Skills Council has confirmed that it will match the minimum funding guarantee for secondary schools in 2006–07 and 2007–08. The Learning and Skills Development Agency has however today published a report which identifies some technical anomalies between the school sixth form and further education funding systems: we intend to examine the scope for addressing these, and will announce our conclusions in the autumn.

14. The second key safeguard for schools in the current system is the limit on centrally retained expenditure within the schools budget: this ensures that the local authority's centrally retained budget cannot increase at a faster rate than funding delegated to the authority's schools, unless there are exceptional circumstances. This limit will continue to operate in essentially the same way as now; but in future any proposal by an authority to exceed the limit because of exceptional circumstances will need agreed locally by the Schools Forum and only come to the Secretary of State where it can't be locally agreed.

15. The introduction of a ring-fenced grant for schools, or Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) is an essential precursor to three year budgets for schools. Grant will be allocated to authorities to cover the same period for which we will require them to give their schools budget allocations, in line with the spending review cycle. That means we will allocate grant to cover 2006–07 and 2007–08 initially, and in late 2007 we will give authorities a three year settlement covering 2008–09 to 2010–11.

16. The baseline for the DSG at national level will be the total of authorities' budgeted expenditure on schools provision in 2005–06. I can confirm that, as set out in the Five Year Strategy for Children and Learners, the Dedicated Schools Grant for 2006–07 and 2007–08 will increase by 6 per cent. over that baseline in each year. Every authority will receive an increase of at least 5 per cent. per pupil in both 2006–07 and 2007–08. To protect schools in authorities with rapidly falling rolls, there will also be a minimum overall increase for authorities in cash terms: we will announce in the autumn the level at which that will be set.

17. The baseline for each individual authority will also start from its existing level of spend: there will be no need for authorities to add to the schools budget from their own resources in order to maintain spending at the current level. It nevertheless remains true that if we use the existing Schools Formula Spending Share (SFSS) distribution methodology to distribute the DSG as proposed in our consultation document, schools in authorities which currently spend above their SFSS allocation will, over time, see their funding level reduced in relative terms. A number of authorities have raised concerns about this. We have also been considering further whether the current approach, using a single formula, remains the most appropriate method for the distribution of DSG, under a system in which it determines far more closely the overall level of funding received by schools.

18. These two considerations have caused us to consider a modified method of distribution which takes the existing level of spend as the baseline, and gives every authority a minimum increase in its per pupil budget each year: as I have explained, this will be 5 per cent in 2006–07 and 2007–08. The remaining grant would be distributed according to criteria which would be determined by Ministers in advance of each multi-year budget period. Distribution against these criteria would be through a formula based on objective data.

19. It would be possible for the existing SFSS formula to be used to determine the distribution of some or all of the increase above the minimum per pupil increase. We propose to keep the formula running in its current form, subject to some minor technical changes.

20. We believe it is important to seek the views of local authorities and others on this proposal before deciding whether to go ahead. We therefore intend to publish a consultation document shortly which will set out the proposals in more detail. We expect to announce final decisions, along with provisional allocations for individual authorities, in the autumn.

21. Because the modified method of distribution which we are proposing is in part a response to the problems of transition to the new system, we would propose to review its operation, to consider what lessons can be learned from the first two years of operation of the DSG, and also to work up proposals for the longer term. Equity of funding will be a key consideration in that review. We intend to complete that review by the summer of 2007, in time for the first three year allocations of DSG later that year.

22. The purpose of the ring-fenced grant is, of course, that money intended for schools reaches schools. The Dedicated Schools Grant will therefore be paid to authorities on condition that it is allocated in its entirety to the authority's schools budget. However, an issue raised in the consultation was whether local authorities should be able to include money from the schools budget along with money from other local authority services and other agencies in combined budgets in support of "Every Child Matters" work. We have concluded that they should be able to do so, where they can demonstrate that there are clear benefits for schools and pupils, and so long as the educational benefit is broadly proportionate to the contribution made and the Schools Forum agrees.

23. The consultation document also proposed a rationalisation of standards-related grants, to reduce complexity and bureaucracy and give schools greater freedom over how they spend their budgets. These proposals were broadly welcomed by respondents.

24. We therefore propose to combine a number of existing grants into a single School Development Grant from April 2006, as set out in the consultation document. To ensure stability for schools as we move to the new arrangements, the distribution of that grant in 2006–07 and 2007–08 will reflect the current distribution of its constituent grants. The grant will be increased each year in line with the minimum funding guarantee, and this will be funded through a transfer from the DSG: that amount, and the allocations available to individual authorities, will be announced in the autumn. We intend to end matched funding for school grants through a transfer from the Dedicated Schools Grant to specific grants.

25. Respondents to the consultation also agreed that it was necessary to retain some separate grants. Some will remain separate because they are targeted at particular schools, or time-limited. We have an existing commitment to keep the Ethnic Minority Achievement Grant separate and ring-fenced until at least 2008. And some grants are spent at local authority level and are not devolved to schools: grants in this last category are being considered as part of a separate exercise to rationalise local authority grants.

26. The School Standards Grant will remain separate from the consolidated grant in 2006–07 and 2007–08. We will replace the existing distribution methodology with a fairer formula based on a flat rate per school plus a per pupil amount, with transitional arrangements to ensure that no school loses out. Details will be announced in the autumn. Additional resources were allocated to the School Standards Grant in the Budget to help schools meet the challenges of developing extended services. As a result, from 2006–07 schools will be able to spend their School Standards Grant to support extended services.

27. From 2008–09, we will consider bringing the School Development Grant and the School Standards Grant together into a single standards grant. We will consult fully on how that grant should be distributed in due course.

28. The consultation document proposed that it should be possible, with Schools Forum agreement, for authorities to increase the amount they held back from the single grant from 2008–09 onwards. On reflection, we have decided not to go ahead with this proposal: we believe we should be working towards a position where schools decide for themselves whether to buy into additional central support from their authority.

29. Schools Forums will have a key role to play both during the transitional period and in the longer term. They currently have an important role as an advisory body, and this will continue. But from 2006–07 we will also be giving them a number of decision-making responsibilities. These powers will relate to areas where we are providing some flexibility for authorities to move away from the requirements of the school funding regulations in order to take account of specific local circumstances: in the past it has only been possible to exercise such flexibilities with the approval of the Secretary of State. The Government believes it is right that it should be possible to agree to the exercise of these flexibilities locally if a consensus can be reached. Where that is not the case, the authority will retain the right to apply to the Secretary of State for a decision.

30. The evidence is that many Schools Forums are already working effectively. However, as their role changes from a purely advisory one to one in which they will also be asked to make a range of important decisions on behalf of schools, it is clearly essential that schools can have confidence in those decisions. That means ensuring that Forums' constitutions and proceedings are appropriate to their new role, and that they have access to appropriate support and guidance.

31. We therefore intend to make a number of changes to the existing regulations governing Forums' constitution and proceedings, and draft regulations are being issued for consultation today. In addition we will publish, early in the autumn term, a good practice guide for Schools Forums and a range of other guidance to support them in exercising their new responsibilities.

32. In advance of the first three year budget settlement in 2008–09, we propose a wider review of the role of Schools Forums, and the way in which they are working. We will want to look in particular at the question of whether Forums are properly representative of the schools in their areas, and ensure that they have access to appropriate advice and support to ensure that they exercise their responsibilities effectively. We will also want to consider whether the remit of Forums remains right given changes in the school system since they were established: we might for example want to consider whether they should have a role in considering capital as well as recurrent funding issues.

33. Once they are fully implemented, the new arrangements I have outlined today will give schools greater certainty over their future budgets than ever before. And in doing so, they will provide schools with the tools they need to plan ahead with confidence, to improve their financial management, and to link their financial planning to the outcomes they are aiming to achieve. Taken together with other measures under the New Relationship with Schools which will provide a sharper focus on priorities for improvement specific to individual schools, these measures will ensure that each pound spent on school funding will have a greater impact in terms of delivering better education for our children.

34. My Department is issuing detailed guidance on the new arrangements to local authorities and others today. A copy of that guidance will be placed in the Library. The statement relates to schools' recurrent funding from 2006–07.

35. In February this year my Department launched a consultation on proposed new arrangements for school funding from 2006–07. The proposals were designed to deliver greater certainty and stability for schools, building on the package of measures that we put in place in 2004–05. In particular, they were designed to guarantee delivery of the Government's commitment to increase spending on schools in every local authority area, to provide schools with the tools to take a strategic approach to their financial planning, to reduce bureaucracy, and to give schools greater control over how they used the resources available to them for the benefit of their pupils.

36. I am today publishing a summary of the responses to the consultation and placing a copy of that summary in the Library of the House. I am grateful to all those who responded to the consultation, and in particular to our national partners with whom we have been discussing detailed implementation issues in parallel with the consultation.

37. For the most part, the Government's proposals were welcomed by respondents to the consultation, who recognised the significant benefits that they would bring for schools. However, it is clear from the responses we received and from our discussions with partners that some aspects of the proposals imply significant changes to the way in which local authorities manage the budget-setting process. The Government also recognises that it is critical that changes to the school funding system—and in particular those which affect the distribution of funds between local authorities or schools—are introduced gradually, in order to avoid a repeat of the financial difficulties which some schools experienced in 2003–04.

38. We therefore intend that the two years 2006–07 and 2007–08 should be a transitional period, and that the new arrangements should be introduced in full from 2008–09. During the first two years we will review a number of aspects of the system to ensure that when the new arrangements are fully implemented from 2008 they will be on a sound footing, and that funding is distributed in the most appropriate way possible.

39. The introduction of three year budgets for schools was widely welcomed by respondents to the consultation. From 2008–09, schools will receive three year budgets in line with the spending review cycle.

40. In the short term, the Government's decision to review its spending plans using a zero-based approach, to report in 2007, means that schools will receive a two year budget settlement in early 2006 to cover 2006–07 and 2007–08, but will not receive information for future years until after the Spending Review has reported. We intend to review the way in which the budget setting

process has worked during 2006 and 2007, so that we can make any changes to the arrangements I am announcing today if necessary to ensure that the first full three year settlement in 2008–09 is implemented smoothly.

41. It remains the Government's aim to move school budgets onto an academic year basis in due course. However, although many respondents welcomed this proposal, some practical concerns were raised which we believe we should discuss further with our partners before making a final decision. It also makes sense to let the other changes we are introducing in 2006 bed down before making this further change. School budgets for 2006–7 and 2007–08 will therefore be set on a financial rather than an academic year basis, but we will review during that period whether to move to an academic year basis for setting budgets from 2008–09.

42. In deciding on how to implement multi-year budgets at school level, it has been necessary to strike a balance between certainty on the one hand and responsiveness to changed circumstances on the other. So we will require authorities to make key decisions before the start of each multi-year period, including the transitional two year period starting in 2006–07: for example how their local funding formula should work, and what the split should be between the amount of funding delegated to schools and the amount retained centrally by the local authority. But we will also allow flexibility for these decisions subsequently to be reconsidered in exceptional circumstances, and where the local Schools Forum agrees. This will be important to allow authorities to deal with significant and unexpected changes in circumstances.

43. We have also considered carefully how far we need to be prescriptive in terms of how multi-year budgets for individual schools are put together, and how far we can leave this to local discretion. We have concluded that it is essential that budgets are updated annually to reflect changes in pupil numbers; and we propose to require authorities to use a consistent approach to this. However, we believe that other decisions—in particular the extent to which annual changes should be made to reflect changes in other data—should be taken locally in discussion with the Schools Forum, to ensure that local circumstances can be fully taken into account.

44. The Learning and Skills Council will be carrying out its own consultation in the early autumn on its arrangements for providing school sixth forms with a two year settlement in 2006–07 and 2007–08.

45. Two key safeguards which were introduced into the system in 2004–05 will remain. The first is the minimum funding guarantee for schools, which will be the key guarantor of stability in schools' budgets during the transition to the new arrangements. There will continue to be a need for the detailed operation of the guarantee to be varied where it would otherwise produce an anomalous outcome due to local circumstances, and in future we intend that some variations of this kind should be agreed locally by the Schools Forum and only come to the Secretary of State where they can't be locally agreed.

46. The minimum funding guarantee will be set in advance for the whole of the period covered by schools' budgets. The Government's intention is to set the guarantee for 2006–07 and 2007–08 at a level which covers anticipated average cost pressures on schools in each of those years, including the full-year costs of implementing workforce reform, subject to a final assessment of those pressures. The precise level of the guarantee in each year will be announced in the autumn. We intend to review the way in which the guarantee should operate from 2008–09 onwards, including the link to cost pressures, with a view to ensuring that it leaves sufficient scope to redistribute funding in a way which responds to changing needs and priorities.

47. The Learning and Skills Council has confirmed that it will match the minimum funding guarantee for secondary schools in 2006–07 and 2007–08. The Learning and Skills Development Agency has however today published a report which identifies some technical anomalies between the school sixth form and further education funding systems: we intend to examine the scope for addressing these, and will announce our conclusions in the autumn.

48. The second key safeguard for schools in the current system is the limit on centrally retained expenditure within the schools budget: this ensures that the local authority's centrally retained budget cannot increase at a faster rate than funding delegated to the authority's schools, unless there are exceptional circumstances. This limit will continue to operate in essentially the same way as now; but in future any proposal by an authority to exceed the limit because of exceptional circumstances will need agreed locally by the Schools Forum and only come to the Secretary of State where it can't be locally agreed.

49. The introduction of a ring-fenced grant for schools, or Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) is an essential precursor to three year budgets for schools. Grant will be allocated to authorities to cover the same period for which we will require them to give their schools budget allocations, in line with the Spending Review cycle. That means we will allocate grant to cover 2006–07 and 2007–08 initially, and in late 2007 we will give authorities a three year settlement covering 2008–09 to 2010–11.

50. The baseline for the DSG at national level will be the total of authorities' budgeted expenditure on schools provision in 2005–06. I can confirm that, as set out in the Five Year Strategy for Children and Learners, the Dedicated Schools Grant for 2006–07 and 2007–08 will increase by 6 per cent. over that baseline in each year. Every authority will receive an increase of at least 5 per cent. per pupil in both 2006–07 and 2007–08. To protect schools in authorities with rapidly falling rolls, there will also be a minimum overall increase for authorities in cash terms: we will announce in the autumn the level at which that will be set.

51. The baseline for each individual authority will also start from its existing level of spend: there will be no need for authorities to add to the schools budget from their own resources in order to maintain spending at the current level. It nevertheless remains true that if we use the existing Schools Formula Spending Share (SFSS) distribution methodology to distribute the DSG as proposed in our consultation document, schools in authorities which currently spend above their SFSS allocation will, over time, see their funding level reduced in relative terms. A number of authorities have raised concerns about this. We have also been considering

further whether the current approach, using a single formula, remains the most appropriate method for the distribution of DSG, under a system in which it determines far more closely the overall level of funding received by schools.

52. These two considerations have caused us to consider a modified method of distribution which takes the existing level of spend as the baseline, and gives every authority a minimum increase in its per pupil budget each year: as I have explained, this will be 5 per cent. in 2006–07 and 2007–08. The remaining grant would be distributed according to criteria which would be determined by Ministers in advance of each multi-year budget period. Distribution against these criteria would be through a formula based on objective data.

53. It would be possible for the existing SFSS formula to be used to determine the distribution of some or all of the increase above the minimum per pupil increase. We propose to keep the formula running in its current form, subject to some minor technical changes.

54. We believe it is important to seek the views of local authorities and others on this proposal before deciding whether to go ahead. We therefore intend to publish a consultation document shortly which will set out the proposals in more detail. We expect to announce final decisions, along with provisional allocations for individual authorities, in the autumn.

55. Because the modified method of distribution which we are proposing is in part a response to the problems of transition to the new system, we would propose to review its operation, to consider what lessons can be learned from the first two years of operation of the DSG, and also to work up proposals for the longer term. Equity of funding will be a key consideration in that review. We intend to complete that review by the summer of 2007, in time for the first three year allocations of DSG later that year.

56. The purpose of the ring-fenced grant is, of course, that money intended for schools reaches schools. The Dedicated Schools Grant will therefore be paid to authorities on condition that it is allocated in its entirety to the authority's Schools Budget. However, an issue raised in the consultation was whether local authorities should be able to include money from the schools budget along with money from other local authority services and other agencies in combined budgets in support of Every Child Matters work. We have concluded that they should be able to do so, where they can demonstrate that there are clear benefits for schools and pupils, and so long as the educational benefit is broadly proportionate to the contribution made and the Schools Forum agrees.

57. The consultation document also proposed a rationalisation of standards-related grants, to reduce complexity and bureaucracy and give schools greater freedom over how they spend their budgets. These proposals were broadly welcomed by respondents.

58. We therefore propose to combine a number of existing grants into a single School Development Grant from April 2006, as set out in the consultation document. To ensure stability for schools as we move to the new arrangements, the distribution of that grant in 2006–07 and 2007–08 will reflect the current distribution of its constituent grants. The grant will be increased each year in line with the minimum funding guarantee, and this will be funded through a transfer from the DSG: that amount, and the allocations available to individual authorities, will be announced in the autumn. We intend to end matched funding for school grants through a transfer from the Dedicated Schools Grant to specific grants.

59. Respondents to the consultation also agreed that it was necessary to retain some separate grants. Some will remain separate because they are targeted at particular schools, or time-limited. We have an existing commitment to keep the Ethnic Minority Achievement Grant separate and ring-fenced until at least 2008. And some grants are spent at local authority level and are not devolved to schools: grants in this last category are being considered as part of a separate exercise to rationalise local authority grants.

60. The School Standards Grant will remain separate from the consolidated grant in 2006–07 and 2007–08. We will replace the existing distribution methodology with a fairer formula based on a flat rate per school plus a per pupil amount, with transitional arrangements to ensure that no school loses out. Details will be announced in the autumn. Additional resources were allocated to the School Standards Grant in the Budget to help schools meet the challenges of developing extended services. As a result, from 2006–07 schools will be able to spend their School Standards Grant to support extended services.

61. From 2008–09, we will consider bringing the School Development Grant and the School Standards Grant together into a single standards grant. We will consult fully on how that grant should be distributed in due course.

62. The consultation document proposed that it should be possible, with Schools Forum agreement, for authorities to increase the amount they held back from the single grant from 2008–09 onwards. On reflection, we have decided not to go ahead with this proposal: we believe we should be working towards a position where schools decide for themselves whether to buy into additional central support from their authority.

63. Schools Forums will have a key role to play both during the transitional period and in the longer term. They currently have an important role as an advisory body, and this will continue. But from 2006–07 we will also be giving them a number of decision-making responsibilities. These powers will relate to areas where we are providing some flexibility for authorities to move away from the requirements of the school funding regulations in order to take account of specific local circumstances: in the past it has only been possible to exercise such flexibilities with the approval of the Secretary of State. The Government believes it is right that it should be possible to agree to the exercise of these flexibilities locally if a consensus can be reached. Where that is not the case, the authority will retain the right to apply to the Secretary of State for a decision.

64. The evidence is that many Schools Forums are already working effectively. However, as their role changes from a purely advisory one to one in which they will also be asked to make a range of important decisions on behalf of schools, it is clearly essential that schools can have confidence in those decisions. That

means ensuring that Forums' constitutions and proceedings are appropriate to their new role, and that they have access to appropriate support and guidance.

65. We therefore intend to make a number of changes to the existing regulations governing Forums' constitution and proceedings, and draft regulations are being issued for consultation today. In addition we will publish, early in the autumn term, a good practice guide for Schools Forums and a range of other guidance to support them in exercising their new responsibilities.

66. In advance of the first three year budget settlement in 2008–09, we propose a wider review of the role of Schools Forums, and the way in which they are working. We will want to look in particular at the question of whether Forums are properly representative of the schools in their areas, and ensure that they have access to appropriate advice and support to ensure that they exercise their responsibilities effectively. We will also want to consider whether the remit of Forums remains right given changes in the school system since they were established: we might for example want to consider whether they should have a role in considering capital as well as recurrent funding issues.

67. Once they are fully implemented, the new arrangements I have outlined today will give schools greater certainty over their future budgets than ever before. And in doing so, they will provide schools with the tools they need to plan ahead with confidence, to improve their financial management, and to link their financial planning to the outcomes they are aiming to achieve. Taken together with other measures under the new relationship with schools which will provide a sharper focus on priorities for improvement specific to individual schools, these measures will ensure that each pound spent on school funding will have a greater impact in terms of delivering better education for our children.

68. My Department is issuing detailed guidance on the new arrangements to local authorities and others today. A copy of that guidance will be placed in the Library.

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### Government Decontamination Service

**The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Margaret Beckett):** My hon. Friend the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, announced on 25 January 2005, *Official Report*, column WS165, that the Government were intending to set up a Government Decontamination Service (GDS), as an executive agency of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra). The decision was part of cross-government work to ensure that the UK is prepared for a range of emergencies and has been developed as part of the CBRN Resilience Programme led by the Home Office.

The new service will be launched on 1 October 2005. Robert Bettley-Smith, a Fellow of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, has been appointed as its chief executive.

The service will have four principal functions to ensure the UK has a highly effective decontamination capability.

Firstly, the service will provide high quality advice and guidance to responsible authorities during their contingency planning for CBRN, significant HAZMAT incidents and during actual incidents, and regularly help validate and test the arrangements that are in place.

Secondly, the service will work hand in hand with specialist suppliers and advisers to rigorously assess the ability of companies in the private sector to carry out decontamination operations, and ensure that responsible authorities have ready access to those services if the need arises. If required, the GDS will also help co-ordinate decontamination operations.

Thirdly, the service will work with Government Departments, responsible authorities, specialist suppliers, research organisations and other nations to improve decontamination technologies and capabilities.

Finally, the service will be the Government's eyes and ears on the national capability for the decontamination of buildings, infrastructure, mobile transport assets and the open environment; will be a repository of information, and a source of expertise in the event of CBRN incident or major release of HAZMAT materials. The GDS will regularly review the United Kingdom's capability gaps.

The GDS will provide a service in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland as well as in England. In Scotland CBRN resilience is devolved. Scottish Ministers decided that the GDS should be invited to provide a service in Scotland and the Scottish Executive has been actively involved in its establishment. A similar statement will therefore be made in the Scottish Parliament. The Welsh Assembly Government is not responsible for CBRN resilience under the terms of the devolved settlement in Wales but has been fully consulted and supports the development of the GDS.

The following key performance targets to deliver these functions have now been agreed for the Service's first six months of operation:

> The GDS will put in place the first framework of contracts with specialist suppliers who have CBRN decontamination expertise, and as far as possible ensure the framework is scientifically robust, by the end of October 2005.
>
> The GDS will have defined its operational structure, role and response arrangements, agreed them with our stakeholders and secured the approval of the Ownership Board, by the end of March 2006. The GDS will have put in place a comprehensive training programme for its staff, by the end of December 2005, who will be fully engaged in CBRN response preparation and planning with stakeholders through participation in Regional Resilience Forum CBRN working groups and their equivalents in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland by the same date.
>
> The GDS will have established effective working relationships with centres of excellence for scientific advice on CBRN hazards and their decontamination through mechanisms such as memoranda of understanding or the establishment of regular exchanges of information by the end of October 2005. The GDS will have created a database of information on contaminants, their effects and relevant decontamination techniques for use within the GDS, and introduced a programme to ensure that it is reviewed and updated regularly, by the end of December 2005. The GDS will be working with other Government Departments by July 2005, particularly through the Home Office Science and Technology Programme, to improve understanding through research projects with academia and industry.

The GDS will focus on developing a successful GDS team by developing (by July 2005) and implementing (by December 2005) a succession and recruitment plan that values diversity and talent, and by setting a clear training plan and starting the process of becoming accredited to the Investors in People standard by the end of March 2006. By the end of March 2006 the GDS will have established a baseline for staff satisfaction so that it can address areas where improvement is necessary in future years.

The GDS will engage with its potential customers to deliver a new user-friendly and effective GDS. The GDS will carry out a customer satisfaction exercise to establish a baseline against which to set standards and objectives for the future. The GDS will endeavour to meet (within the constraints of the resources available) the needs of stakeholders for advice and guidance. To do this the GDS will draw up a communications plan, incorporating a strategy for stakeholder engagement, and secured the approval of the Ownership Board, by the end of November 2005. The plan will include the GDS's strategic objectives in communications, the resources it will commit to the task, and the range of opportunities that it will seek to make use of to deliver the plan.

By the end of October 2005, the GDS will have established an Audit and Risk Committee (as set out in the Framework Document), established its terms of reference, and completed a comprehensive review of risks to the Service's core business and an action plan to address them.

The GDS will work towards improving its efficiency by modelling, with the relevant specialist suppliers, the costs of two decontamination scenarios, so that it can set a baseline and show efficiency gains in future years. The GDS will also establish a baseline for the GDS's running costs and meet the Defra year on year 2.5 per cent. efficiency savings objective.

The GDS will balance the GDS's books for the financial year 2005–06 within Government guidelines.

## Foot and Mouth Disease

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Mr. Ben Bradshaw):** I have today laid before Parliament DEFRA's Exotic Animal Disease Generic Contingency Plan, in accordance with Section 18 of the Animal Health Act 2002 which came into force on 24 March 2003.

This plan sets out the operational arrangements DEFRA will put in place to deal with any occurrence of Foot and Mouth Disease, Avian Influenza, Newcastle Disease or Classical Swine Fever. It replaces DEFRA's Foot and Mouth Disease Contingency Plan and the Avian Influenza and Newcastle Disease Contingency Plan which were both laid before Parliament on 31 March 2004.

DEFRA's Contingency Plan is very much a "living document". It will be subject to ongoing revision taking on the latest scientific advice, developments in policy and comments from operational partners and stakeholders. To meet the provisions of the Animal Health Act, the plan will also be subject to formal annual review.

## Home Energy Conservation Act

**The Minister for Climate Change and the Environment (Mr. Elliot Morley):** Data reported by energy conservation authorities in England under the Home Energy Conservation Act 1995 in the period 1 April 1996 to 31 March 2004 have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses. The data have also been published on the Department for Food and Rural Affairs website, at address http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/energy/heca95/index.htm. Authorities have reported an overall improvement in domestic energy efficiency of approximately 14.7 per cent. as measured against a 1996 baseline.

## Sustainable Waste Management

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Mr. Ben Bradshaw):** My colleague, the Minister for Housing and Planning, and I are today announcing our intention to publish shortly the final versions of three policy documents on waste strategies and planning on which we consulted earlier this year. These are:

(i) Planning Policy Statement 10: "Planning for Sustainable Waste Management" (PPS10);

(ii) Guidance on the Preparation of Municipal Waste Management Strategies;

(iii) Changes to Decision-making Principles in Waste Strategy 2000.

Together these provide for a more integrated and effective framework in England for delivering the significant expansion in new waste management facilities needed to meet EU obligations and national policy. We have considered very carefully the responses to the consultation documents. While a number of detailed points were made, which have been addressed in finalising the documents, the approach set out received broad support. This includes:

greater clarity on what is required at regional and local levels: to ensure decisions are made at the most appropriate level in a timely fashion, and effective integration of spatial planning and municipal waste management strategies;

increased integration of waste management alongside other spatial planning concerns (e.g. housing and economic development);

more emphasis on regular monitoring and review to ensure that plans and strategies are up-to-date.

The planning system is pivotal to the adequate and timely provision of the new facilities needed for all types of waste. The new PPS10 underlines the importance of planning for, and consenting, the necessary number and range of facilities to support sustainable waste management. Government expect development plans to be up-to-date and fit for purpose.

Government also expect all local authorities to have in place a fit for purpose and up-to-date Municipal Waste Management Strategy. In some areas this is a statutory requirement. The new guidance provides greater clarity on the role of strategies and the key requirements for developing and reviewing them.

Both this new guidance and the new PPS10 emphasise the need for effective community engagement and full appraisal of options. They will be accompanied by practice guidance which will provide further support and advice. Both sets of practice guidance are currently being finalised and we expect to publish them later in the summer.

The policy review, which informed the preparation of these documents, included, in response to concerns expressed by a number of stakeholders, the underpinning decision-making principles set out in Waste Strategy 2000[1].

[1] Primarily in Chapter 3 and Part 2.

The key aim of waste policy of moving waste management "up the waste hierarchy"[2] has not changed. However, the principles of "proximity" of waste disposal and "self sufficiency" (as set out in the EU Waste Framework Directive) have been re-formulated and are now set out as objectives to be delivered through the framework provided by development plans and strategies. The objectives are that communities should take more responsibility for their own waste (self-sufficiency), and that waste should disposed of in one of the nearest appropriate installations (proximity).

The role of the Best Practicable Environmental Option process in decision-making has also been reviewed. In future, the tenets that underlie BPEO will be delivered in spatial planning through plan-led strategies that drive waste management up the waste hierarchy. These strategies, at both the regional and local level, will be subject to Sustainability Appraisal and set within the community engagement that is central to the reformed planning system. Similarly, local authorities developing municipal waste management strategies should undertake Strategic Environmental Assessment, combined with a thorough assessment of social and economic factors[3].

PPS10 also includes a requirement for regional spatial strategies to take account of any Government advice on waste arisings and recycling potential and any nationally identified need for waste management facilities. The Government consulted on both what this advice should be, and who should be responsible for both drawing up and disseminating it. The consultation was again broadly supportive of the proposed approach. Our intention is to provide more information centrally to help inform waste planning and publish this periodically. We expect to publish the first such advice before the end of this year.

The three documents that we intend to publish shortly will help deliver the Government's vision for sustainable waste management, as set out in the UK's strategy for sustainable development. This is to protect human health and the environment by producing less waste and by using it as a resource wherever possible. Through more sustainable waste management, moving the management of waste up the "waste hierarchy" of reduction, re-use, recycling and composting, using waste as a source of energy, and only disposing as a last resort the Government aim to break the link between economic growth and the environmental impact of waste.

Government recognise the size of the task and everyone has a role to play in managing waste more sustainably: manufacturers, waste managers, local communities and the authorities which serve them. The policy set out in these documents provides the clear, consistent, and integrated policy framework necessary to deliver a significant step-change in the delivery of new waste management facilities.

[2] Chapter 3 part 2.

[3] Where an authority is under a duty to produce a municipal waste management strategy the authority must carry out a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in line with the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004. Where an authority is not required to produce such a strategy under any legislative provision, authorities are not under a duty to carry out an SEA, but we would encourage them to do so. Full details on the application of SEA can be found under the Environmental Assessment section at www.odpm.gov.uk/planning.

## Newcastle Disease

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Mr. Ben Bradshaw):** On 11 July 2005, suspicions were raised about the possibility of Newcastle Disease being present in pheasants on an estate in Surrey. We acted immediately on suspicion of disease following the control measures set out in Defra's exotic animal disease generic contingency plan. The suspect premises were immediately placed under restriction while the state veterinary service started their investigation.

Initial investigations identified two possible sources of the infection. Among the 12,000 pheasants on the suspect premises were a number of birds imported from France during the previous month and so it was possible that they had first become infected there. The second possibility was that the pheasants had been infected once they had arrived in England from contact with wild birds. It is known that wild birds can carry the virus responsible for Newcastle Disease.

The UK contacted the French authorities who immediately began a thorough investigation. There has been excellent co-operation between authorities in the two countries. There was a rapid exchange of information concerning the movement of birds between France and the infected premise in England. The French authorities identified a number of farms that had supplied birds to the infected farm. They undertook active surveillance and sampling which has now allowed them to conclude by blood sampling that birds on one farm have been exposed to the Newcastle Disease virus in the Loire Atlantique. Although virus isolation results are not yet available, culling of 20,000 pheasants and 35,000 partridges will commence on that farm today, ahead of final confirmation. The farm has been placed under restrictions and all movements off have been stopped.

Disease on the premises in Surrey was confirmed on 15 July and an order was given for the pheasants on the infected premises to be killed. The first birds on the infected premise were humanely culled on Monday morning and by 5 pm on Monday, 2,700 birds had been killed. Depopulation is continuing and we will ensure that as many of the birds as possible are killed. The culled birds are incinerated in a commercial animal incinerator. None of the affected birds will enter the human food chain.

Also on 15 July, a Declaratory Order was signed, putting in place a Protection Zone around the Infected Premise and a Surveillance Zone. A census of all poultry premises has been undertaken and patrol visits started in the Protection and Surveillance Zone. Samples have been taken from premises adjacent to the Infected Premise which could be epidemiologically linked. Clinical examinations of the larger poultry premises have started in the Surveillance Zone with no clinical evidence of Newcastle Disease being apparent.

The EU Commission were informed immediately disease was confirmed and we continue to keep in close touch about the control measures we have put in place. The EU Commission is satisfied with the measures we have taken so far.

We immediately put in place measures to ensure exports, both to EU member states and non EU countries of birds and hatching eggs do not originate from within the Infected Area. Intra-Community trade in birds and hatching eggs takes place on the basis of EU export health certificates which give area freedom from Newcastle Disease. Trade in birds and other susceptible commodities which originate from outside the restricted area can continue. Export health certificates to non EU destinations are required for most commodities relating to birds, including hatching eggs, poultrymeat, poultry products, table eggs, ready meals etc. The conditions for export depends on that country's import requirements. Exports to non-EU countries can take place provided the importing country has not imposed a total ban on imports of poultry and poultry meat or requires the UK to be free of the disease.

Our advice to poultry keepers is to put in place strong biosecurity arrangements, keep an eye open for disease and to consider, in consultation with their veterinarians, whether vaccination would be appropriate. Some large-scale poultry producers already routinely vaccinate their flocks against Newcastle Disease. The Secretary of State may order vaccination of poultry if she thinks it is an appropriate and proportionate response to the disease outbreak.

The Health Protection Agency has confirmed that Newcastle Disease virus does not pose a significant threat to human health even when people handle birds known to be infected. Close contact is required for transmission to man. The virus is spread via aerosols from infected birds which can occasionally cause conjunctivitis, fever and flu like symptoms. The symptoms only last a few days and there are no long term effects on health. There is no risk of human infection from consuming poultry meat.

Industry and other stakeholders, including game shooting bodies, have been kept informed of the suspicion and confirmation of disease and their views have been sought. Industry supports the action taken as they wish the outbreak to be eradicated as quickly as possible.

**Agriculture and Fisheries Council—Monday 18 July**

**The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Margaret Beckett):** I chaired the Council for the agriculture items on the agenda. My hon. Friend the Member for Exeter (Mr. Bradshaw) represented the United Kingdom and chaired the Council for the fisheries item. Also in attendance was my hon. Friend the Member for South Dorset (Mr. Knight).

Before the Council I met a delegation from the EU federation of farm unions and farm co-operatives (COPA-COGECA) including representatives of the sugar beet growers organisation (CIBE).

I began the Council by presenting the UK presidency work programme for the next six months. It includes amongst other things, sugar reform, the EU's Rural Development Strategic Guidelines, Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT), Avian Influenza, Welfare of Broiler Chickens and a range of proposals to progress the sustainability of the fisheries industry.

The Commissioner for Health and Consumer Protection took the opportunity to announce adoption of a TSE Roadmap setting out the Community's BSE Strategy for the short, medium and long term, and signalled his intention to publish an Action Plan on Animal Welfare towards the end of the year.

He also presented a proposed directive establishing minimum rules for the welfare of chickens kept for meat production. I said the presidency would take forward technical discussions on the proposal.

At the request of France, Council discussed the measures introduced by the Commission on 1 July to protect the Bay of Biscay anchovy stock. The Commission was not prepared to relax its ban on fishing at this stage but said it would keep the situation under constant review.

The Agriculture Commissioner presented her proposal for EU Strategic Guidelines for Rural Development, hoping for political agreement on this proposal in October. The guidelines aimed to ensure that rural development programmes contributed to the Lisbon and Gothenburg objectives of jobs, growth and sustainability. Once the EU Guidelines had been agreed, they would be the basis for drawing up national strategies through a process of dialogue between Member States and the Commission.

Over lunch the Agriculture Commissioner provided the Council with an update from last week's WTO mini-ministerial meeting under the Doha Development Agenda negotiations. There had been no major developments but she noted that its existing mandate had allowed the Commission to engage constructively in the discussion and to maintain pressure on other trading partners.

The Council held its first discussion on Commission proposals to reform the EU sugar regime. There was broad support for a restructuring scheme instead of production quota cuts, and for a 10-year time horizon, but some member states argued that the proposed price cuts went too far and too fast, that compensation should be higher, and that the "Everything But Arms" import arrangements should be reviewed.

Under Any Other Business, Italy called for the Commission to open crisis distillation measures before the end of July to deal with the critical situation on its wine market. The Commission replied that they needed time to analyse the situation, but would do so as quickly as possible.

The Netherlands expressed concern about the clarity of Community marketing standards for poultry meat. In particular, they were concerned that poultry meat that had been frozen should not be labelled as fresh. They also called for the introduction of a label for poultry meat originating from EU. The Commission agreed that marketing defrosted poultry meat as fresh was not in conformity with EU standards. The Commission would reflect thoroughly on both questions.

In light of an intervention by the Danish Minister, a proposal for a Council Decision providing for derogations from the Restrictions on Hazardous Substances Regulation for lead and for the flame retardant, Deca BDE, in electrical and electronic equipment, which had come forward for formal

adoption from the Environment Council, was referred back to the Committee of Permanent Representatives for further discussion.

In closing the Council I noted that the informal Agriculture Council would be a joint event with the Environment Council taking place in London from 10–12 September. The next Agriculture and Fisheries Council would be on 19 and 20 September.

### Government's National Waste Strategy

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Mr. Ben Bradshaw):** The Government's strategy on waste is set out in "Waste Strategy 2000", published in May 2000. The strategy is currently under review, and this statement updates Parliament on progress.

We have made considerable advances since the original waste strategy was conceived, for example with work on delivering our 2010 Landfill Directive targets following the Strategy Unit report "Waste Not, Want Not" of 2002; the introduction of the local authority landfill allowance trading scheme and increases in landfill tax; substantially improved levels of household recycling; and the implementation of a range of European waste legislation. I am separately announcing with my colleague the Minister for Housing and Planning a package of documents that together comprise a more integrated and effective planning framework in England for delivering the significant expansion in new waste management facilities needed to meet EU obligations and national policy. This includes changes to the decision-making principles in WS2000.

It is now time to review progress and refresh our waste strategy. Our focus is on the protection of human health and the environment by producing less waste and using it as a resource wherever possible. We began consulting with the interested parties at the beginning of this year on the composition and scope of the strategy review. We have had a very positive response.

In the light of these discussions and continuing development of waste and resource use policies here and in Europe, the Government intend to publish a substantial progress report on the waste strategy review this autumn. This will draw together stakeholder opinion so far and the major policy developments since WS2000 and "Waste Not, Want Not", and give the Government's view of likely policy directions. We shall in the progress report seek comments on the way forward, and the scope and content of an updated waste strategy.

Subject to the outcome of this consultation, the Government intend to publish an authoritative revised waste strategy for England next summer. In the meantime, we shall continue to develop waste policies in line with the Government's objectives and our European and international obligations.

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS

### General Affairs and External Relations Council

**The Minister for Europe (Mr. Douglas Alexander):** The General Affairs and External Relations Council (GAERC) was held on 18 and 19 July in Brussels. The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Blackburn (Mr. Straw) chaired the Council, given our presidency. I represented the UK.

The Foreign Secretary made a short intervention at the start of the GAERC on the London bombings. He thanked partners for their expressions of sympathy and recalled the declaration agreed by the JHA Council on 13 July. The Council adopted short conclusions reaffirming the declaration, focusing on external action.

The agenda items were covered as follows:

*Presidency Work Programme*

The Foreign Secretary gave a brief presentation on the GAERC work programme for the next six months, highlighting in particular future financing and the future of Europe. On future financing, the Foreign Secretary highlighted the presidency's commitment to work towards a deal during the presidency. On the future of Europe, the Foreign Secretary welcomed Luxembourg's referendum result, and said that the next step should be on the basis of the declaration agreed at the June 2005 European Council. We are committed to having a broad, inclusive debate during the period of reflection. The informal Heads of Government meeting this autumn was a key next step.

*Enlargement*

The Foreign Secretary briefed partners on the 11 July meeting of the Croatia task force, where there was further consideration of Croatian co-operation with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY). There was no change in its assessment that Croatia was not yet co-operating fully with the tribunal. The Foreign Secretary invited the task force to review the situation in September.

Commissioner Rehn presented the Commission's draft negotiating mandate for Turkey. He highlighted that Turkey's progress would be long and difficult. The Council's reasons for opening talks and its previous commitments remained unchanged. The opening of negotiations on 3 October was conditional on six pieces of legislation entering into force—they all had on 1 June—and on Turkey signing the Ankara agreement protocol. The Foreign Secretary confirmed that the presidency would be working towards the signing of the protocol in consultation with the Council legal service.

*World Trade Organisation (WTO)*

Commissioner Mandelson updated the Council on the mini-ministerial in Dalian (12 to 13 July) and gave an assessment of how preparations are going in the run-up to the end-July WTO general council in Geneva. The Foreign Secretary noted that the main trade discussion would take place during the informal trade ministers' dinner on 18 July. The Council agreed conclusions, which recalled that Council conclusions from October 1999 and 28 June 2003, in particular, remain valid and set the Community approach to the Doha development agenda (DDA) negotiations.

*Preparation of the EU-China Summit*

The Foreign Secretary updated partners on the progress of preparation for the 5 September summit. A progress report on summit preparations covering the draft agenda, elements for a joint statement and declaration on climate change and energy was agreed. Commissioner Ferrero-Waldner highlighted that the

Commission would also be signing the financing agreement for two environmental projects totalling €55 million. The Commission also raised China market economy status (MES), noting that they would keep this under active review and wanted to see some progress at the summit. The Foreign Secretary concluded that the Commission and presidency would take forward summit negotiations with the Chinese and keep partners fully informed.

*Uzbekistan*

The Foreign Secretary highlighted the importance of the EU's response to the situation in Uzbekistan. The EU would not solve the problem in one stroke, and should bear in mind its long-term policy towards Uzbekistan and the region as a whole. The Council welcomed the appointment of Jan Kubis as EU special representative for central Asia and noted his intention to travel to the region as soon as possible. The Council agreed to review the EU-Uzbekistan partnership and co-operation agreement in the light of his visit. The Council agreed conclusions expressing profound concern about the situation in Uzbekistan. The presidency will continue to monitor the situation during August.

*Zimbabwe*

High Representative Solana gave an account of the unacceptable situation in Zimbabwe and stressed the need to work with the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and other African partners. He also welcomed the UN's forthcoming assessment and the African Union's decision to send an envoy to Zimbabwe. Commissioner Michel also condemned the recent actions and noted that the EU position was clearly stated in the declaration on 7 June and the démarches in SADC capitals. The Foreign Secretary concluded that if the UN special envoy's report was critical, the Council should consider further restrictive measures. The Council agreed conclusions condemning Operation Murambatsvina; expressing profound concern about the demolitions and evictions; and agreeing to keep EU policy, including on sanctions, under review.

*UN Millennium Review Summit*

Commissioner Ferrero-Waldner outlined the key elements of the Commission's communication on UN reform to the Council. Irish Foreign Minister Ahern, in his capacity as one of the UN Secretary-General's special envoys for the summit, updated the Council on summit preparations. Conclusions were agreed reiterating the EU's strong support for a successful UN millennium review summit outcome.

*Syria/Lebanon*

Terje Roed-Larsen, the UN Secretary-General's special envoy on the implementation of UN Security Council resolution (UNSCR) 1559 briefed Ministers over lunch. Larsen highlighted that the withdrawal of Syrian military forces was now complete. Larsen informed the Council that the recent Lebanese elections, which had been broadly free and fair, had been an important step towards creating an independent and sovereign Lebanon. The EU should now encourage the Lebanese to form a new Government quickly and play a role in tackling corruption and strengthening good governance and security. The Foreign Secretary summed up and expressed strong support for Larsen's work. Council conclusions were agreed, which call on Syria to take action to promote stability in Iraq, Lebanon and on the middle east peace process.

*Middle East Peace Process (MEPP)*

High Representative Solana briefed the Council on his recent (10 to 14 July) visit to the region. He commented that the situation on the ground was now calm, but developments at the end of last week and over the weekend had not been positive. The Council discussed Gaza disengagement and reiterated its full support for Quartet Special Envoy James Wolfensohn. Ministers emphasised the urgent need for Israel and the Palestinian Authority to co-operate effectively with each other and with Mr. Wolfensohn to support Palestinian institutional and economic development. The Council urged the Palestinian Authority to accelerate reforms and Israel to put in place the conditions essential to viable Palestinian economic growth. The Council noted the ongoing role played by the Commission in leading donor activity on Palestinian governance issues. Conclusions were agreed which reflected these points.

*Iran*

The Foreign Secretary, together with the French and German Ministers and High Representative Solana, briefed partners on the work towards a comprehensive package on the three issues covered by the 15 November 2004 Paris agreement: nuclear issues; political and security issues; and economic and technological co-operation. Commissioner Ferrero-Waldner briefed on the outcome of the 12 to 13 July negotiations on the EU-Iran trade and co-operation agreement. Ministers also discussed the outcome of the recent Iranian presidential elections.

*Indonesia/Aceh*

Over lunch, Ministers were briefed by High Representative Solana on developments in Aceh. The Council noted the report of the EU assessment mission to Indonesia/Aceh. It welcomed the successful conclusion of the Helsinki negotiations and agreed that the EU should be prepared, in principle, to provide observers to monitor the implementation of the peace agreement.

*AOB—Estonia/Russia Border Treaty*

Estonian Foreign Minister Paet outlined to partners why the ratification of this treaty has stalled and how they hope to take matters forward with the Russian Federation. The presidency said this was a matter of acute concern for the Estonian people. We hoped for a satisfactory outcome of the ratification process, based on what had already been agreed between Estonia and Russia, as soon as possible.

*AOB—Malta/Illegal Immigration*

The Council heard an intervention from Maltese Foreign Minister Frendo on the increasingly acute problem of illegal immigration in Malta and noted his request for solidarity and for this issue to be kept on the Council's agenda.

*EU-Macedonia Association Council*

In the margins of the GAERC, the annual EU-Macedonia Stabilisation and Association Council meeting took place on 18 July. Macedonian Foreign Minister Mitreva chaired. I led the EU, supported by Commission Rehn, the Council secretariat and the

Austrian Minister for Europe, Dr. Winkler. Mitreva was accompanied by experts on the Ohrid framework agreement, policing, judiciary, minorities and the economy, who made technical presentations in these areas. Mitreva expressed disappointment at the EU's cautious stance on visa liberalisation. The Association Council underlined the June 2005 European Council's commitment, which emphasised that the future of the western Balkans lay within the EU, provided each country met the established conditions. The Association Council welcomed Macedonia's adoption of the final legislation linked to the framework agreement and looked forward to its full implementation. The Association Council also stressed the need for further reform of the police and judiciary, fighting corruption, structural economic reform and meeting the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) criticisms of this year's municipal elections.

*EU-Kazakhstan Cooperation Council*

In the margins of the GAERC, the EU and the Republic of Kazakhstan held its seventh meeting on 19 July 2005. I chaired the meeting and was supported by the Austrian Minister for Europe, Dr. Winkler, and the Commissioner for Energy, Mr. Andris Piebalgs. Kazakhstan was led by Deputy Prime Minister Akhmetzhan Smagulovich Yessimov.

The Co-operation Council reaffirmed the desire to see EU-Kazakhstan relations continue to strengthen politically, economically and commercially, especially in the context of the partnership and co-operation agreement. It emphasised the need for increased efforts by the Kazakh authorities to comply fully with international norms and standards, including those of OSCE, in the fields of rule of law, democracy and human rights. The Co-operation Council expressed its expectation that the forthcoming presidential elections would be fair and in line with international standards. The Co-operation Council also agreed to promote bilateral dialogue focusing on market access issues and to work for early accession of Kazakhstan to the WTO. It welcomed the signature of the agreement between the European Community and the Republic of Kazakhstan on trade in certain steel products. The Co-operation Council underlined the importance of regional co-operation in central Asia as an effective means of conflict prevention and economic development in the region and welcomed the increasingly active role Kazakhstan is playing in different regional initiatives.

## HEALTH

### NHS Bodies (Accounts)

**The Minister of State, Department of Health (Jane Kennedy):** For the NHS Appointments Commission and the NHS Litigation Authority, their annual accounts and any accompanying Comptroller and Auditor General report have today been laid before Parliament pursuant to section 98(1C) of the National Health Service Act 1977. Copies have been placed in the Library.

### Venous Thromboembolism (Prevention)

**The Minister of State, Department of Health (Jane Kennedy):** The Government's response to the Second Report of the House of Commons Health Committee on the Prevention of Venous Thromboembolism in Hospitalised Patients, Cm 6635, has been published today.

Copies have been placed in the Library.

Patient safety is a priority for this Government. Whilst a great deal of progress has been made towards improving patient safety, we recognise that much more needs to be done to prevent deaths from venous thromboembolism (VTE) in hospitalised patients. The Committee's estimation of 25,000 deaths a year due to VTE is a serious issue which requires rapid and comprehensive action and we welcome the advice and information the Committee has provided to help the Government tackle this issue.

As an immediate step the chief medical officer has written to all doctors to remind them of the clinical guidance which exists.

Overall, the challenge is to make sure that good practice is spread within the whole National Health Service. We will therefore set up an independent expert working group which will make recommendations on developing a national strategy on the prevention and treatment of VTE.

### NHS Continuing Care

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health (Mr. Byrne):** The Government's response to the Health Select Committee's report on NHS continuing care is published today. Copies have been placed in the Library.

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### Yarl's Wood

**The Minister for Immigration, Citizenship and Nationality (Mr. McNulty):** I have today placed in the Library of the House the action plan in respect of the report into the fire and disturbance at Yarl's Wood immigration removal centre. Mr. Stephen Shaw was asked to conduct a report into this incident and the findings of the investigation was completed and published on 16 November 2004. The report contained a number of recommendations designed to minimise the risk of future disturbances.

My right hon. Friend the then Secretary of State for the Home Department also announced in a written statement that he accepted Stephen Shaw's recommendation (number 60) that a forum comprising officials, contractors and relevant interest groups be set up to consider the provision of purposeful activity in removal centres. The purpose of the forum is to examine the seven relevant recommendations contained in the report and identify how they can be taken forward in order to enhance removal centre regimes. A number of meetings have already taken place and have involved consultation with both the chief inspector of prisons and the prison and probation ombudsman.

The action plan identifies the recommendations have already been acted on and what considerations and progress has been made on the others. A completion date for implementation has been set for the end of 2005.

### Independent Race Monitor

**The Minister for Immigration, Citizenship and Nationality (Mr. McNulty):** My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary has today laid before Parliament the third annual report produced under section 19E of the Race Relations Act 1976 by Mary Coussey, the Independent Race Monitor, and placed copies of the report and his response in the Libraries of both Houses. The Race Monitor has a statutory duty to report to Parliament via the Home Secretary on ministerial authorisations made under section 19D of the Race Relations Act enabling immigration staff to discriminate on the basis of nationality or ethnic or national origin in the exercise of their functions.

### Immigration Services Commissioner

**The Minister for Immigration, Citizenship and Nationality (Mr. McNulty):** I am pleased to announce Suzanne McCarthy's appointment as Immigration Services Commissioner. This is a five-year appointment and she will take up the post on 5 September 2005. Mrs McCarthy is a qualified solicitor with a background in the Senior Civil Service. She was Chief Executive of the Financial Services Compensation Scheme from 2000–2004 and Chief Executive of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority from 1996–2000. She will be taking unpaid leave from the Civil Service for the duration of this appointment.

### Police Complaints Authority

**The Minister for Policing, Security and Community Safety (Hazel Blears):** I am pleased to announce that the final annual report and accounts of the Police Complaints Authority (PCA) will be laid before Parliament today. The Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) replaced the PCA on 1 April 2004.

When published, copies of the report will be available in the Libraries of both Houses.

### Forensic Science Service

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Andy Burnham):** I have today laid before Parliament copies of the Forensic Science Service's (FSS) Annual Report and Accounts for 2004–05.

*Performance against Agency Targets 2004–05*

The FSS met 18 of its 20 targets and put in a strong financial performance. Of the two targets not achieved, one was related to timeliness, the other to the Investors in People (IiP) Standard. Although the FSS made further improvements in service delivery times against the previous year, performance fell short of target. A better performance is expected this year. The Service was very disappointed to lose its IiP status but has been encouraged by the assessor's view that strong foundations are in place to begin the work to regain the standard.

The Forensic Science Service Agency Targets for 2005–06 are as follows. These targets might be subject to review in the light of the proposed change of status for the FSS:

*Finance:*

Target: A minimum of 15 per cent. return on capital employed—three-year rolling average (2003–04 to 2005–06).

Target: A real reduction in charges by limiting price increases to 75 per cent. of the Average Earnings Index.

Target: An investment in development work of 10 per cent. of turnover.

Target: Generate £500k external funding for research and development.

*Non-Finance:*

Target: Some 100 per cent. of cases with an assigned case officer.

Target: To develop and extend current training to police and CPS.

Target: Percentage of fast track processing of DNA, (subject to demand), 20 per cent.

Target: Average time to analyse and inform customers of DNA crime scene stain results of five days.

Target: Some 95 per cent. of DNA crime scene stain results to have a turnaround time of less than 10 days.

Target: Average time to analyse and inform customers of DNA suspect sample results of five days.

Target: Some 95 per cent. of DNA suspect sample results to have a turnaround time of less than eight days.

Target: Some 95 per cent. of jobs to achieve a turnaround time of less than 33 days.

Target: Maintain ISO Accreditation.

Target: Establish processes and behaviours to regain IiP in 2006–07.

Target: Maintain the diversity programme.

### Independent Monitor of Certification

**The Minister for Immigration, Citizenship and Nationality (Mr. McNulty):** My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary has today placed in the Libraries of both Houses the 1st annual report of the Independent Monitor of Certification of Claims as Clearly Unfounded under Section 94 of the Nationality, Immigration And Asylum (NIA) Act 2002, and the Government response to the report and its recommendations.

The Certification Monitor has a statutory duty to report to Parliament via the Home Secretary under Section 111 of the NIA Act 2002. Sarah Woodhouse was appointed as Monitor in January 2004 for two years. Her role is to monitor the operation of the use of the power to certify an asylum claim or human right claim (or both) as unfounded under Section 94 of the NIA Act 2002, and in particular the quality and effectiveness of decisions made under this procedure.

### Law of Murder

**The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Charles Clarke):** On 28 October 2004, my predecessor—now the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, my right hon. Friend the Member for Sheffield, Brightside (Mr. Blunkett)—announced a review of murder. There has been a long-standing debate over many years about the need to review the

laws on murder. The Law Commission has produced a report on partial defences to murder and this review will build on the analysis of the law set out in that work.

The terms of reference for the review, to be led by the Home Office have today been placed in the Libraries of both Houses. There will be a full public consultation as part of the review and hon. Members will have the opportunity to comment at any stage.

I am pleased to announce that the Law Commission has agreed to join the Home Office in this work. The review will be in two stages. The Law Commission will first conduct an analysis of the laws relating to murder, taking into account its earlier work on the partial defences but looking at them in this wider context. Following consultation, it will provide the Home Office with its conclusions, which the Home Office will take into account in conducting a review of the wider public policy issues and producing recommendations, as appropriate, for new legislation.

The review is expected to take between 18 months and two years.

### Commission for Racial Equality

**The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Charles Clarke):** The Commission for Racial Equality's Annual Report 2004 is published today.

Copies will be available in the Libraries of both Houses. Copies will also be sent to the Scottish Parliament and the National Assembly for Wales.

### Immigration (Pre-entry Health Screening)

**The Minister for Immigration, Citizenship and Nationality (Mr. McNulty):** As part of the five-year asylum and immigration strategy announced in February, the government announced its intention to apply targeted screening for TB overseas and at the entry clearance stage, rather than the current practice of screening at UK ports of entry.

While some screening is already carried out routinely in certain countries, our approach will be to prioritise screening of entry clearance applicants wishing to come to the UK for more than six months and coming from countries which combine the highest levels of incidence of TB, as measured by the World Health Organisation, with the highest numbers of potentially infectious travellers to the UK.

We will begin an initial phase by the end of the summer in posts in four overseas countries, to test the screening system. The initial countries are Bangladesh, Thailand (which also processes entry clearance applications from Cambodia and Laos), Tanzania and Sudan. These all have high rates of TB, represent the various kinds of entry clearance operation the UK runs globally (outsourced, personal applications and postal/remote applications), and includes those where the medical infrastructure allows the testing phase to be set up quickly. A further announcement will be made early next year regarding the countries to be included in the next phase of the rollout.

Screening overseas at the entry clearance stage will bring many benefits. It will identify infectious travellers who will be asked to complete treatment before applying for entry clearance. It will generate data on infection among travellers to the UK which will enable us to understand better the role of migration on TB infections rates in the UK, and respond with effective health policies. Entry clearance applicants themselves will benefit from health screening which will be conducted to high standards that are quality assured. Host countries will benefit from the earlier identification of individuals with infectious TB. We also aim to share data on infection rates with host countries so as to inform their own public health programmes. We are however mindful that pre-entry screening is only part of dealing effectively with TB globally. We will continue to work with the World Health Organisation to help developing countries diagnose and treat patients. We will evaluate the effect of this policy on our wider development objectives and messages.

We believe the impact on migration will be minimal. But we will examine the experience of other countries already implementing such schemes, such as the US, Australia and Canada. And we will carefully monitor any impact on entry clearance application rates.

### Office for Contracted Prisons

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Fiona Mactaggart):** The Prison Service Annual Report and Accounts were laid on the 19 July. Today, the Office for Contracted Prisons has published its Statement of Performance and Financial Information indicating its performance during 2004–05. Copies have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

## INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### Nepal

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for International Development (Mr. Gareth Thomas):** DFID has completed a review of its support programme in Nepal. The review was prompted by political events in the early part of the year.

DFID plans to continue a substantial programme in the country and the overall purpose of our country assistance plan (CAP) remains unchanged: to reduce poverty and social exclusion, establishing a basis for lasting peace.

However, the conflict and political context have made it more difficult to deliver development assistance effectively, and DFID has scaled back the plans in the CAP to increase significantly our levels of assistance. Instead, we plan to keep these at about £32 million—close to the amount spent in the previous UK financial year.

The published CAP had five objectives covering peace-building, improving rural livelihoods, expanding basic services, supporting the social inclusion of women and excluded caste and ethnic groups, and improving governance. We have not radically changed those objectives, but we have adjusted priorities to give more attention to the possible humanitarian operations and the protection of vulnerable groups, such as internally displaced people, and working with pro-democracy groups, including the political parties, to help ensure that an eventual return to democracy is sustained.

DFID will strengthen further its risk management systems to ensure that we continue to protect staff and respond in a timely way to further changes in the context in which we are working. We will also build further our skills to manage the programme within a conflict setting.

We will continue to work closely with other Whitehall Departments, helping to ensure that best use is made of the global conflict prevention pool (GCPP) and that DFID's activities make a positive contribution to the wider UK objective of a sustainable peace based on democratic government.

### Post-Conflict Reconstruction Unit

**The Secretary of State for International Development (Hilary Benn):** Following my written statement to the House on 16 September 2004, and together with the Foreign Secretary and the Secretary of State for Defence, I wish to inform Parliament of the establishment and current capabilities of the post-conflict reconstruction unit (PCRU). The PCRU is an interdepartmental unit, which has been set up by our three Departments to improve the United Kingdom's capacity to contribute to the creation of a stable environment in countries emerging from conflict. The unit's work is overseen by the Defence and Overseas Policy (Conflict Prevention and Reconstruction) Committee, chaired by the Foreign Secretary.

The PCRU has been established to carry out two main tasks: first, to develop Government strategy for post-conflict stabilisation, which includes linking military and civilian planning, as well as working with the wider international community for the spread of best practice, capacity building and burden sharing; and, secondly, to plan and direct activities designed to create stability in post-conflict environments in the period immediately following the cessation of hostilities.

The PCRU is nearly fully staffed and has reached an initial capacity to plan for, and support, stabilisation activities. The unit is building up a database of civilian experts who can be deployed. It is also developing methods to help the Government reach an understanding of, and plan responses to, individual conflicts. In addition, the unit is writing a series of guidance papers on a range of specific issues that may need to be tackled in post-conflict situations, such as security sector reform and governance. The PCRU is also developing links with international organisations and other Governments to ensure that the UK's efforts are part of a co-ordinated contribution to the international response to conflict. I expect the PCRU to be able, if necessary, to plan and organise a large-scale deployment of up to several hundred civilians, including police, as part of a post-conflict stabilisation operation by mid-2006.

## NORTHERN IRELAND

### Food Safety Promotion Board

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Mr. Woodward):** Copies of the Food Safety Promotion Board annual report 2003, incorporating financial statements for 2002 and 2003 and a review of activities for 2001, has been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

## PRIME MINISTER

### Ministerial Travel 2004–05

**The Prime Minister (Mr. Tony Blair):** Expenditure on Ministerial overseas visits for the last three financial years and for the year 1996–97 is estimated as follows:

| *Year* | *Expenditure £ million* |
|---|---|
| 1996–97 | 7.9 |
| 2002–03 | 5.7 |
| 2003–04 | 5.2 |
| 2004–05 [1] | 5.1 |

[1] The figure for 2004–05 reflects payments made so far for travel undertaken in the period; a few bills have yet to be submitted to departments for payment.

A list of all visits overseas undertaken by Cabinet Ministers costing £500 or more during the period 1 April 2004 to 31 March 2005 has been placed in both Libraries of the House. The list provides details of the date, destination and purpose of all such visits and the cost of Ministers' travel and accommodation where appropriate.

### Ministerial Gifts 2004–05

**The Prime Minister (Mr. Tony Blair):** I have today published a list of gifts received by Ministers. The list provides details of gifts received by Ministers valued at more than £140 for the period 1 April 2004 to 31 March 2005. Copies of the list have been placed in the Libraries of the both Houses.

### Numbers and Cost of Special Advisers

**The Prime Minister (Mr. Tony Blair):** Listed below are the names of special advisers in post at 21 July 2005, the special advisers' pay ranges for 2005–06, the number of special advisers in each pay band by department and the total pay bill cost of special advisers for 2004–05.

All special advisers are appointed under terms and conditions set out in the *Model Contract for Special Advisers* providing assistance on the full range of their appointing Minister's departmental responsibilities. Where a special adviser has a specific expertise or works mainly in a particular area of the department's work this is indicated.

Advisers in post:

| *Appointing Minister* | *Special Adviser in post* | *Expertise* |
|---|---|---|
| The Prime Minister[1] | Jonathan Powell | Chief of Staff |
| | Ruth Turner | Director of Government Relations |
| | Matthew Taylor | Chief Adviser on Strategy |
| | *Policy Directorate* | |
| | David Bennett[2] | Head of Policy Directorate |
| | Julian Le Grand | |

| *Appointing Minister* | *Special Adviser in post* | *Expertise* |
|---|---|---|
| | Conor Ryan | |
| | Nicholas Rowley | |
| | Geoffrey Norris | |
| | Philip Collins | |
| | Justin Forsyth | |
| | *Strategic Communications & Press* | |
| | David Hill | Director of Communications |
| | David Bradshaw | |
| | Hilary Coffman | |
| | Darren Murphy | |
| | Huw Evans | |
| | Chris McShane | |
| | *Events & Visits* | |
| | Jo Gibbons | Director of Events, Visits and Scheduling |
| | Katie Kay | |
| | Angela Goodchild (p/t) | |
| | John Watts | |
| | Parna Taylor | |
| | *Research and Information Unit* | |
| | Catherine Rimmer | |
| | Katie O'Donovan | |
| Deputy Prime Minister and First Secretary of State | Joan Hammell | Chief of Staff |
| | Mick Halloran | |
| | Alan Schofield | |
| Minister for Communities and Local Government | Tim Williams | Communities and Local Government |
| Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Minister for the Cabinet Office | John Williams | |
| | John Woodcock | |
| Chief Whip (Commons) | Sue Jackson | |
| | Simon Benson | |
| Chief Whip (Lords) | Margaret Ounsley | |
| Secretary of State for Constitutional Affairs and Lord Chancellor | Garry Hart | |
| | Philip Bassett | |
| Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport | Nick Bent | |
| | Roger Sharp | |
| | Sarah Latham | |
| Secretary of State for Defence | Steve Bates | |
| | Josh Arnold-Forster | |
| Secretary of State for Education and Skills | Richard Darlington | |
| | Dan Corry | |
| Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs | Stephen Hale | |
| | Sheila Watson | |
| Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs | Mark Davies | Communications and EU |
| | Michael Williams | UN; human rights; Asia, Africa and the Balkans |
| Secretary of State for Health | Liz Kendall | |
| Secretary of State for the Home Department | Hannah Pawlby | |
| Leader of the House of Lords, and Lord President of the Council | Joe Dancey | |
| Secretary of State for International Development | Alex Evans | Communications |
| | Beatrice Stern | |
| Secretary of State for Northern Ireland and Secretary of State for Wales | Claire McCarthy | |
| | Philip Taylor | |
| | Andrew Bold | |
| | Matthew Burchell | |
| Lord Privy Seal and Leader of the House of Commons | James Connal | |
| | Michael Dugher | |
| Secretary of State for Trade and Industry | Tom Clark | |
| | Tim Horton | |
| | Emily Thomas (unpaid) | |
| Secretary of State for Transport and Secretary of State for Scotland | Andrew Maugham | |
| | Sam White | |
| | Iain Gray | Scottish affairs |
| Chancellor of the Exchequer[3, 4] | Spencer Livermore | |
| | Damien McBride | |

| *Appointing Minister* | *Special Adviser in post* | *Expertise* |
|---|---|---|
| Chief Secretary | Jonathan Ashworth | |
| | Cathy Koester | |
| Secretary of State for Work and Pensions | Sue Regan | Pension reform |
| | Anna Turley | Disability, Inequality, Child Poverty, Housing Benefit reform |
| | Katherine Raymond | Employment and Incapacity Benefit reform |
| | Matthew Doyle | Media and Communications |
| Minister without Portfolio | Martin O'Donovan | |
| | Blair McDougall | |

[1] Plus Lord Birt who is the Prime Minister's unpaid strategy adviser.
[2] David Bennett is an expert adviser, appointed in accordance with para 2.11 of the Ministerial Code.
[3] In addition, the Chancellor of the Exchequer has appointed Paul Gregg, Shriti Vadera, Michael Jacobs, Stewart Wood and Matt Cavanagh to the Council of Economic Advisers on special adviser terms.
[4] Plus Sue Nye appointed as an unpaid adviser.

*Pay bands for 2005–06*

The pay bands and pay ranges for special advisers for 2005–06 are as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| Scheme Ceiling | £133,900 |
| Pay Band 4 | £82,423 to £98,907 |
| Pay Band 3 and Premium | £61,543 to £95,609 |
| Pay Band 2 | £48,355 to £63,824 |
| Pay Band 1 | £37,366 to £50,148 |
| Pay Band 0 | Up to £37,365 |

*Advisers by Pay Band*

At 21 July 2005, the number of special advisers in each pay band by department is as follows:

| *Department* | *Pay band* 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| No 10[1] | 1 | [2]3 | 4 | [2]12 | — |
| Office of the Deputy Prime Minister | — | 1 | 1 | 1 | — |
| Minister for Communities & Local Government | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| Chancellor of Duchy of Lancaster and Minister for the Cabinet Office | — | [2]1 | — | — | [2]1 |
| Chief Whips' Offices (Commons and Lords) | — | 1 | 2 | — | — |
| Constitutional Affairs | — | — | — | — | 2 |
| Culture, Media and Sport | — | — | 2 | 1 | — |
| Defence | — | — | 1 | [2]1 | — |
| Education and Skills | — | — | 1 | 1 | — |
| Environment, Food and Rural Affairs | — | — | 1 | 1 | — |
| Foreign and Commonwealth Office | — | 1 | — | 1 | — |
| Health | — | — | 1 | — | — |
| Home Office | — | 1 | — | — | — |
| International Development | | 2 | | | |
| Lord President of the Council and Leader of the House of Lords | — | 1 | — | — | — |
| Lord Privy Seal, Leader of the House of Commons | — | 1 | 1 | — | — |
| Secretary of State for Northern Ireland and Secretary of State for Wales | — | 4 | — | — | — |
| Trade and Industry[3] | 1 | — | 1 | — | — |
| HM Treasury[4] | 1 | 1 | [2]1 | 1 | — |
| Secretary of State for Scotland and Secretary of State for Transport | — | 1 | 2 | — | — |
| Work and Pensions | — | 1 | [2]3 | — | — |
| Minister without Portfolio | 1 | 1 | — | — | — |
| Total | 4 | 20 | 21 | 20 | 3 |

*Paybill costs*

The cost of special advisers in 2004–05 was £5.5 million[5].

[1] Plus three special advisers who are paid beyond Pay Band 4 but within the scheme ceiling.
[2] Includes provisional salaries yet to be agreed.
[3] Plus one adviser who is unpaid.
[4] Plus the five members of the Council of Economic Advisers who are employed on special adviser terms (one in Band 4, three in Band 3, and one in Band 1). One of the members of the Council works part time.
[5] This figure includes salary, severance pay and estimate of pension costs.

**Special Advisers**

**The Prime Minister (Mr. Tony Blair):** I have today placed in the Libraries of the both Houses copies of the revised code of conduct for special advisers and the revised model contract for special advisers. These reflect commitments given by the Government to the Public Administration Committee and the Committee on Standards in Public Life.

The civil service Order in Council governing the appointment of special advisers has also been amended to the effect that special advisers are appointed to assist Ministers.

### Ministerial Code

**The Prime Minister (Mr. Tony Blair):** I have today placed in the Libraries of the both Houses copies of a revised ministerial code. The code provides guidance on how Ministers should conduct themselves in carrying out their official duties. The foreword to the code reiterates how I expect all Ministers to operate within both the letter and the spirit of the code. The revised code takes account of recommendations made by the Public Administration Committee, the Committee on Standards and Privileges and the Committee on Standards in Public Life. In particular, the code is split for the first time into two parts: a ministerial code of ethics and procedural guidance for Ministers.

### Advisory Committee on Business Appointments

**The Prime Minister (Mr. Tony Blair):** I have today published the seventh report of the independent Advisory Committee on Business Appointments. The report provides an account of the work of the committee in advising former Ministers and Crown servants on the acceptance of appointments after leaving government. The report covers the period 1 April 2004 to 31 March 2005. Copies of the report have been placed in the Libraries of the both Houses.

## SOLICITOR-GENERAL

### Army Prosecutions (Update)

**The Solicitor-General (Mr. Mike O'Brien):** My right hon Friend the Attorney-General has made the following written ministerial statement:

> "In a written statement of 19 July 2005, *Official Report*, Column 99WS, I informed the House that four British servicemen had been charged with manslaughter, following the alleged unlawful killing of Ahmed Jabar Kareem in Basra on 8 May 2003.
>
> The statement named three servicemen. I can now inform the House that the fourth serviceman, Lance Corporal James Stephen Cooke (21) with the Irish Guards, has now been told of the charge against him."

### Treasury Solicitor's Annual Report

**The Solicitor-General (Mr. Mike O'Brien):** The Annual Report and Accounts 2003–04 have today been published and laid before Parliament. Copies have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

## TRADE AND INDUSTRY

### Renewable Energy

**The Minister for Energy (Malcolm Wicks):** I am making today a statement to the House on the interaction of existing Government policy and planning procedures, with regard to the need for new energy infrastructure, arising from the targets, goals and aspirations for renewable generation set out in the 2003 energy White Paper, "Our Energy Future—creating a low carbon economy".

The 2003 energy White Paper set out four key goals of energy policy:

> To put the UK on a path to cut carbon dioxide ($CO_2$) emissions by some 60 per cent. by about 2050.
>
> To maintain the reliability of energy supplies.
>
> To promote competitive markets in the UK and beyond.
>
> To ensure that every home is adequately and affordably heated.

The energy White Paper makes clear that UK energy systems will undergo a significant change over the next 20 years to allow these goals to be met. Therefore, it will be necessary to update much of the UK's energy infrastructure during that period[1]. There will be a requirement for:

> An expansion in infrastructure (e.g. overhead power lines and underground cables, and pipelines).
>
> New forms of infrastructure (e.g. smaller scale distributed generation, gas storage sites).
>
> Infrastructure development in areas that have not previously seen such developments.

The energy White Paper also makes clear that UK energy policy is delivered through a market framework, governed by an independent regulator. Government policy puts in place broad objectives, which are supported by regulation, fiscal regimes and, where necessary, financial support. As with the sector in general, the private sector is best placed to develop the systems that can deliver the demanding new renewables generation targets and objectives in the most economic, efficient and effective way possible[2].

This principle applies to decisions about the exact provision and location or route of energy transmission and distribution infrastructure which must be taken within the planning system which ensures that development and changes in land use occur in suitable locations.

Beyond broad targets for renewable electricity and combined heat and power (see the energy White Paper) the UK Government do not believe that energy policy should set out a specific fuel mix for electricity generation; nor have they attempted to determine the best specific location for new facilities to generate electricity power or other kinds of energy infrastructure.

Instead the UK Government believe that the private sector is best placed to decide exactly what energy infrastructure is needed and how, subject to planning and environmental requirements, to deliver policy objectives most effectively. It therefore falls to the developer to demonstrate the desirability of a particular scheme in a particular location. For the monopoly transmission and distribution networks that is to be achieved within the price controls set by the regulator.

A slightly different approach has been taken in Wales, where the Assembly Government have set out in their revised technical advice note (TAN) 8 that 800 MW of additional capacity will be required to be provided by large-scale onshore wind by 2010. TAN8 has identified specific areas considered suitable for large-scale onshore wind farm development. The capacity of the electricity distribution system to accommodate sufficient wind energy developments is a key influence on the shape and distribution of proposals in Wales.

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[1] e.g. Energy White Paper 2003, paras 1.16–1.17, page 10.

[2] e.g. EWP, para 1.21.

The provision of energy infrastructure is part of a delivery system that provides an essential national service. Business and homes in the UK require a reliable supply of energy free from disruption and interruption. New energy infrastructure projects may not appear to convey any particular local benefit and may indeed have adverse local effects, but they provide crucial national benefits, which all localities share. In particular, projects will usually add to the reliability of national energy supply, from which every user of the system benefits.

Failure to put in place energy infrastructure will, immediately or over time—and individually, incrementally or cumulatively—reduce the reliability of energy systems, with potentially disastrous consequences for the local, regional and national community and economy. Energy infrastructure projects often have long lead times and/or cater for longer-term needs, based on careful forward planning by energy companies. Therefore, even where new projects may not appear to have immediate benefits, failure to put them in place may reduce future reliability.

In remoter areas, where new renewable generation is to take place, new distribution and transmission networks will be required as a consequence of the need to achieve—through new energy sources, as part of a package of measures—the Government's energy policy objectives. Electricity generation is itself a key source of emissions of carbon dioxide ($CO_2$), the main greenhouse gas. How electricity is generated will play a crucial part in whether the Government will be able to deliver their international commitments and their domestic goal for a 20 per cent. reduction in $CO_2$ emissions in 2010 (set out in the UK climate change strategy) and, ultimately, reductions of 60 per cent. by 2050.

The Government have therefore set targets for the expansion of renewable forms of electricity generation, which produce low $CO_2$ emissions or no $CO_2$ emissions at all.

*Renewable Energy*

The UK Government have set a target that generation from renewable sources (wind power, wave power, biomass, hydropower, solar power etc.) should supply 10 per cent. of the UK electricity in 2010. The Government's aspiration is by 2020 to double renewable energy's share of electricity to 20 per cent. The Scottish Executive have set a target that 18 per cent. of their electricity will come from renewables by 2010, and recently consulted about raising this to 40 per cent. by 2020. In Wales, the Welsh Assembly Government have set benchmark targets of 4 TWh per annum of renewable energy production by 2010 and 7 TWh by 2020.

The expansion of renewable energy is essential as a part of a package of measures to meet the Government's $CO_2$ reduction targets and mitigate future global climate change, which could have significant impacts on all areas of the UK.

Renewable energy will also provide economic benefits for the UK economy. Often, individual renewables developments can offer economic benefits to local areas in terms of jobs, investment and revitalisation of the rural economy.

As with all energy infrastructure, however, there will be occasions when such developments may appear to offer few local benefits, but will still add to the essential resilience of national energy systems.

Renewable generation infrastructure needs to be developed where sufficient renewable energy resources exist for it to be economic and effective. For example:

> Wind turbines generally require average wind speeds of more than 4 to 5 metres per second.
>
> Biomass installations need access to sufficient sources of biomass fuel within the local area. The recommended radius for energy crops is 25 miles/40 kms under DEFRA's energy crops planting scheme.

However, developers will be best placed to make a judgment about the technical feasibility and economic viability of individual projects.

Renewable energy resources are distributed widely throughout the UK. Therefore, for UK renewables targets to be met, a significant amount of new renewable generation infrastructure will need to be built in every region of the UK, often in local areas that have not previously housed generation infrastructure.

I am today placing in the Libraries of both Houses a fuller note setting out Government policy that is intended to provide assistance by being a material consideration of significant weight in planning decisions on energy infrastructure.

## Regional Development Agencies

**The Minister for Industry and the Regions (Alun Michael):** I have today laid before Parliament the annual reports and accounts for 2004–05 for the eight regional development agencies (RDAs) outside London. Copies have been placed in the Library.

The annual report and accounts for the London Development Agency are presented to the Mayor of London rather than Parliament. I shall provide a copy to the House of Commons Library when copies are available.

The Government welcome the contribution that the RDAs have made during this year to driving forward economic development in their respective regions.

Also published today are the RDAs' reported tier 3 outputs for 2004–05. These results are evidence that the RDAs continue to play a valuable role in improving the economic performance of the English regions and, through working with their partners, the RDAs are making a real difference to the individual regional economies concerned. The figures cover the creation and safeguarding of jobs, the amount of brownfield land brought back into use, the number of businesses added to the regional economies, the number of learning opportunities created and the amount of private sector investment attracted benefiting deprived areas, all as a result of RDA activity.

Press releases on the tier 3 outputs have been issued in each region. Copies of the output results have been placed in the Library, and are also available on the DTI website at www.dti.gov.uk/rda/info.

## Informal Competitiveness Council

**The Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (Alan Johnson):** The Informal Competitiveness Council

hosted by the UK presidency took place in Cardiff on 11 to 12 July 2005. Lord Sainsbury of Turville chaired the first day, covering research issues, and I chaired the second day, which considered EU better regulation and the development of the internal market. Over dinner on 11 July, both Research and Economics/Industry Ministers discussed innovation policy.

On the first day, Research Ministers heard presentations from a number of speakers, including Research Commissioner Potocnik and representatives from industry and science.

The Commission stressed the need for the EU to help fulfil Lisbon goals for growth and jobs by committing more money for EU research, both nationally and for the EU's next research framework programme (FP7). Speakers from academia and business gave presentations on how the framework programme could be made simpler and more accessible for business and how the Scientific Council for the proposed European Research Council (ERC) had been chosen.

Ministers then broke up into five small groups for detailed discussions on the structure of the European Research Council (ERC); increasing industry and SME participation in the framework programme; and how to develop the potential of the less research intensive regions. In addition, Ministers were asked to consider the cross-cutting issue of simplification as it related to their areas.

Group rapporteurs reported vigorous and useful discussions. Lord Sainsbury concluded that, while there were still difficult issues to tackle, there was consensus on the need for the ERC to be independent; on the need for effective, practical help for SMEs; that collaborative research should be more user-driven; that help for less research intensive regions had to be focussed; and on the continued importance and need for simplification.

On the second day, the session on EU better regulation opened with presentations from Vice-President of the European Commission and Commissioner for Enterprise and Industry Gunter Verheugen, Alain Perroy, the director general of CEFIC (the European Confederation for the Chemicals Industry) and leading member of the Alliance for a Competitive European Industry, and Jacek Piechota, the Polish Economics Minister.

The Commission's commitment to progressing the better regulation agenda in the EU and the importance of regulatory reform in achieving Lisbon objectives on growth and jobs were stressed. The Commission also outlined recent initiatives that would contribute to the delivery of regulatory reform, including strengthened impact assessment guidelines that would ensure that the effects of proposed legislation on competitiveness were taken into account. A new push to simplify existing EU regulation and screening of proposals that were already on the table for their effects on competitiveness. Alain Perroy gave a business perspective on the need for regulatory reform and Jacek Piechota outlined steps that Poland had taken at a national level to improve policy-making processes.

Ministers then split into four groups to discuss using impact assessments in Council deliberations; maximising the involvement of business in policy-making; simplification; and what member states can do to improve the regulatory framework at a national level. Ministers reported productive and positive discussions, with a strong consensus on the need to deliver regulatory reform for growth and jobs. In my summary, I welcomed the Commission's clear commitment to change and recent initiatives, and emphasised the need for the Commission and member states to work together to achieve results.

Debate on the internal market began with presentations from Czech Deputy Prime Minister for economic affairs Martin Jahn, who explained how membership of the internal market has benefited the Czech economy, and Internal Market Commissioner Charlie McCreevy, who called for greater efforts to ensure effective implementation of the existing acquis and for progress on opening up the market in services.

Subsequent breakout group discussions concluded that the internal market was often taken for granted and should be more vigorously promoted. The perception of enlargement (focused on immigration and social dumping) was at odds with the actual impact (a strengthened global position for the EU, a more varied and flexible EU economy). Ministers also emphasised the need for progress on the services directive as key to the future development of the internal market. In addition, implementation, enforcement and the provision of advice and assistance to businesses and citizens were seen as crucial.

The presidency summary of debate has been placed in the Libraries of both Houses and can also be found at www.dti.gov.uk/ewt/compet.htm.

### Coal Health Compensation Schemes

**The Minister for Energy (Malcolm Wicks):** Following news reports in recent weeks, I made a statement about the coal health compensation schemes to the House on 30 June, outlining a number of immediate steps I was taking to respond to these issues.

I now wish to inform the House that the Secretary of State and I have also decided to initiate an external review of the Department's administration of the former British Coal health schemes so that the Government can be advised whether any further action is necessary in the way in which we are internally managing the schemes.

The draft terms of reference are:

> "To review the integrity of the administration of the scheme for dealing with coal health claims; and to identify any specific measures needed to improve the administration of the scheme; to consider whether there are adequate safeguards in place to prevent, detect and pursue fraud whilst ensuring the fair and timely settlement of claims; and to make recommendations accordingly to Ministers and/or the Accounting Officer."

Candidates to lead the review are currently being approached and we hope that the lead of the review will be announced shortly. The precise timing and conduct of the review would be a matter for further discussion with the head of the review, but we would expect that conclusions should be available by the end of September.

The review will not encroach on the ongoing investigations being carried out by the South Yorkshire police into potential fraud under the compensation schemes.

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Disability Discrimination Act 2005

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Mrs. McGuire):** I am today announcing the final implementation timetable for the main duties in the Disability Discrimination Act 2005 and the outcome of consultations on the use of certain regulation-making powers in the Act.

The 2005 Act introduces a wide range of major reforms to the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (DDA 1995) and, when taken together with other changes we have made since 1997, represents the most significant package of improvements to disabled people's civil rights ever seen.

Subject to parliamentary approval of implementing secondary legislation, the duties will be commenced as follows:

| *Commencement date* | *Provision/s* |
|---|---|
| 5 December 2005 | Extend the DDA 1995 to cover, effectively from the point of diagnosis, people with HIV infection, cancer or multiple sclerosis.<br>End the requirement that a mental illness must be "clinically well-recognised" before it can be regarded as an impairment under the DDA 1995.<br>Make third party publishers (e.g. newspapers) liable for publishing discriminatory advertisements.<br>Amend the way that the DDA 1995 applies to group insurance to clarify the responsibilities of those concerned with its provisions.<br>Introduce for Part 3 of the DDA 1995 (i.e. access to goods and services, public authorities, private clubs and premises) a Questions Procedure similar to that which already exists in Part 2 (i.e. employment and occupation).<br>Make it unlawful for private clubs with 25 or more members to treat disabled people less favourably.<br>Make it unlawful for local authorities and the Greater London Authority to treat their disabled members less favourably.<br>Clarify where liability falls if police officers discriminate under Part 3 of the DDA 1995. |
| 4 December 2006 | Duty on public authorities to promote equality of opportunity for disabled people.<br>Functions of public authorities not already covered by the DDA 1995 to be brought within its scope.<br>Land based public transport vehicles to be brought within scope of Part 3 of the DDA 1995.<br>Provide for all rail vehicles to comply with rail vehicle accessibility regulations by 1 January 2020, apply accessibility regulations to refurbishment of rail vehicles and introduce certification and enforcement provisions.<br>Subject to consultation, formalise recognition of disabled persons' parking badges issued by other countries.<br>Extend the duty of reasonable adjustment, other than in respect of physical features, to those who let or manage rented premises, and to commonhold premises.<br>Ensure landlords cannot unreasonably withhold consent for a disability-related improvement to certain rented dwelling houses.<br>Extend duties of reasonable adjustment to private clubs with 25 or more members. Extend duties of reasonable adjustment to local authorities and the Greater London Authority in respect of their disabled members. |

The 2005 Act also covers general qualifications bodies awarding general qualifications, such as A-levels and GCSEs. This new duty was introduced following a recommendation made by the pre-legislative Scrutiny Committee in May 2004. During passage of the Bill, we made clear that we would need to consult with all interested parties before finalising the detail of the duty. That consultation is ongoing and we will announce the commencement date of the duty later this year.

I am also placing in the Library the outcome of the consultation exercise the Department completed earlier this year on our proposals for using regulation making powers under the 2005 Act's provisions on private clubs, premises, the definition of disability and the Part 3 Questions Procedure. In general, respondents agreed with our proposed approach and we will be bringing forward draft Regulations accordingly.

However, in the light of consultation, and following a review of evidence of the extent of discrimination faced by people with more minor forms of cancer, we have decided not to exercise the 2005 Act's regulation-making power which would allow us to exclude certain types of cancer from automatic coverage by the DDA 1995.

We have concluded that it is not possible to distinguish effectively between those people whose cancers are likely to go on to require substantial treatment and those whose cancers are not and that, if we were to attempt to do so, we would introduce uncertainty and complexity into the definition of disability. This would lead to unfair and unequal outcomes for disabled people, and make it difficult for employers and others with responsibilities under the Act to understand and comply with their duties. Treating all people who have cancer as disabled people ensures a straightforward approach, which will provide equity of outcome, while having minimal consequences for employers and service providers by reducing red tape.

Finally, our 2004 consultation document, "Delivering equality for disabled people" (CM 6255) covered the bodies that would be subject to 'specific duties' to assist them in complying with the new general public sector duty to promote equality for disabled people. As a result of that consultation, we have decided that the following additional bodies will be subject to the specific duties:

Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service
Anglesey Local Health Board
Arts and Humanities Research Council
The Big Lottery Fund
Biotechnology & Biological Sciences Research Council
Blaenau Gwent Local Health Board
Bridgend Local Health Board
Caerphilly Local Health Board
Cardiff Local Health Board
Carmarthenshire Local Health Board
Ceredigion Local Health Board
Children's Commissioner for Wales
Council for the Central Laboratory of the Research Councils
Countryside Agency
Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority
Denbighshire Local Health Board
Economic & Social Research Council

Engineering & Physical Sciences Research Council
English Heritage
Estyn
Financial Services Authority
Flintshire Local Health Board
General Dental Council
General Medical Council
General Social Care Council
Gwynedd Local Health Board
Heritage Lottery Fund
Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority
Independent Police Complaints Commission
Independent Regulator on NHS Foundation Trusts
Independent Review Service
The Information Commissioner
Law Society of England and Wales
Medical Research Council
Merthyr Tydfil Local Health Board
Monmouthshire Local Health Board
Museums, Libraries and Archives Council
National Consumer Council
National Lottery Commission
Newport Local Health Board
Neath Port Talbot Local Health Board
Nursing and Midwifery Council
National Forest Company
Natural Environment Research Council
Ofcom
Particle Physics & Astronomy Research Council
Pembrokeshire Local Health Board
Powys Local Health Board
Remploy Limited
Rhondda Cynon Taff Local Health Board
Royal Mail Group
Standards Board for England
Student Loans Company Ltd.
Swansea Local Health Board
Torfaen Local Health Board
UK Film Council
UK Sport
Vale of Glamorgan Local Health Board
Wrexham Local Health Board

The former Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, my right hon. Friend for Kingston upon Hull, West and Hessle (Alan Johnson) confirmed on 23 March that schools would also be subject to specific duties. I will make a further statement in due course.

# Written Answers to Questions

*Monday 4 July 2005*

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### Animal Welfare

**Miss Widdecombe:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many circuses are resident in the UK; which use wild animals; and if she will make a statement. [7037]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** There are three conventional circuses resident in the Great Britain which use wild and exotic animals.

We do not have any data for Northern Ireland.

### Beddingham Landfill Site

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for what reasons the landfill site at Beddingham has been refused a licence to operate by the Environment Agency. [8607]

**Mr. Bradshaw** *[holding answer 30 June 2005 ]:* In order to avoid confusion, I should explain that the Environment Agency has refused to issue a Pollution Prevention and Control (PPC) permit for the site in question, rather than a licence. Under the Landfill (England and Wales) Regulations 2002 all landfill sites operating under the terms of a waste management licence are required to apply for a PPC permit which places more stringent requirements on the operator, in line with the EU Landfill Directive.

The Environment Agency has refused the application for a Pollution Prevention and Control permit for Beddingham landfill site, as submitted, on two grounds. Firstly, leachate from the landfill currently poses an unacceptable risk to groundwater surrounding the site. The application as submitted does not adequately address this issue. Secondly, improvements to the site's liner system (intended to control the escape of leachate and gas from the site) are required. This has not been adequately addressed in the application either. It should however be noted that the site poses no significant risk to human health.

Under the regulations, the operator has six months to appeal the refusal or make a fresh application. Under the regulations, the site may continue to receive waste in the meantime. In the event that the operator decides to appeal the decision or makes a fresh application, the site can also continue to receive waste while these matters are dealt with. Negotiations between the operator and the Environment Agency are ongoing to resolve the reasons for refusal. It is likely that these negotiations will conclude with a new application for a PPC permit for this site.

### Bees

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate she has made of the increased costs to beekeepers resulting from adoption of the EC directive 2004/28 regarding the supply of veterinary products and inspections; and what discussions she has had with British beekeepers on this matter. [8349]

**Mr. Bradshaw** *[holding answer 30 June 2005]:* Directive 2004/28/EC amends directive 2001/82/EC, which sets out requirements for the authorisation and control of veterinary medicines. It was published by the European Commission on 30 April 2004 following a major review of EU medicines legislation. Member states are required to implement its provisions by 30 October 2005.

During negotiations in Brussels, a requirement to restrict the distribution of veterinary medicinal products for food producing animals, including honeybees, to prescription supply was presented with the intention of strengthening the control of these medicines and related consumer safeguards. While there are valid reasons for restricting some veterinary medicines to prescription supply, we do not consider this appropriate for all medicines for use in food-producing animals. Neither the commission nor the majority of member states supported the UK view and the requirement was consequently taken forward in the amending directive. We are aware that this provision has the potential to increase the costs to beekeepers of obtaining medicines by incurring additional veterinary charges.

However, the UK successfully negotiated the inclusion of a provision that allows medicines that meet certain criteria, to be agreed subsequently, to be exempt from the prescription requirement. This provision also allows the current distribution arrangements to remain until a list of exemption criteria is agreed, or until January 2007 if no list has been agreed by then. This exemption list is to be proposed by the commission and voted on by the member states. Officials at the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD) are well aware of the concerns expressed by beekeepers and continue to argue strongly for medicines authorised for use in bees to be included on this list. The commission has not yet proposed a list and it may be some time before the outcome is known.

In addition to pressing for bee medicines to be exempted from the prescription requirement, we have proposed new distribution categories for the UK that include tiered categories of prescription only medicines (ROMs). If adopted, these will comply with the directive's provisions while allowing veterinary medicines for food-producing animals that are currently available without prescription to continue to be supplied by pharmacists or registered merchants without the need to involve a veterinary surgeon.

VMD officials are working closely with beekeeper representatives and are making arrangements for the beekeepers to speak to a meeting of EU medicines regulators under the UK presidency.

## Bovine TB

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many and what percentage of cattle in England are estimated to have contracted bovine tuberculosis, broken down by region. [5883]

**Mr. Bradshaw** *[holding answer 20 June 2005]:* The number and percentage of cattle herds in Great Britain placed under movement restriction as a result of a bovine TB breakdown during 2004 is shown in the following table. The information is not available on a UK basis.

| *Region*[1] | *Number of cattle herds registered on State Veterinary Service database* | *Number of cattle herds under TB restriction* | *Percentage of cattle herds under TB restriction* |
|---|---|---|---|
| England—West | 23,471 | 3,451 | 14.7 |
| England—North | 25,698 | 481 | 1.9 |
| England—East | 12,907 | 130 | 1.0 |
| England—Total | 62,076 | 4,062 | 6.5 |
| Wales | 15,495 | 1,065 | 6.9 |
| Scotland | 14,718 | 117 | 0.8 |
| GB Total | 92,289 | 5,244 | 5.7 |

[1] Relates to the former State Veterinary Service Regions.

*Note:*

Data downloaded from the State Veterinary Service database on 8/9 February 2005 and published on the Defra website. All data are provisional and subject to change as more data become available.

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will list the locations of the proposed trial of the badger TB vaccine. [6822]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** We are currently considering a number of potential locations in south west England. Once potential locations have been identified we will seek landowner permission to carry out the proposed trial.

## Carbon Sequestration

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the legal impediments to the use of depleted gas and oil fields for carbon sequestration purposes. [7044]

**Mr. Bradshaw** *[holding answer 27 June 2005]:* The placement of materials in the maritime area (which includes geological structures under the seabed) is regulated internationally by the London Convention and the 1996 protocol to the Convention, and by the OSPAR Convention for the protection of the marine environment of the north-east Atlantic. The 1996 protocol to the London Convention is not yet in force, but has been ratified by the United Kingdom and we would expect to abide by its provisions.

The question of the compatibility of carbon dioxide placement in geological structures, including depleted or partly depleted oil and gas fields, has been discussed in both conventions.

Under both conventions, there is no bar on the use of carbon dioxide for operational purposes. This implies that carbon sequestration in association with enhanced oil recovery would be permitted.

The contracting parties to the OSPAR convention agreed a position statement on carbon sequestration in 2004. This established that in other certain circumstances carbon sequestration is compatible with the convention. The position is set out in full in Annex 12 to the summary record of the 2004 meeting of the OSPAR Commission. A copy will be placed in the Library of the House, and it is also available on the OSPAR web site, www.ospar.org.

The United Kingdom raised the issue of the carbon sequestration during the 2004 consultative meeting of the parties to the London Convention. The legal position has not yet been established. It was agreed to set up an inter-sessional correspondence group to consider the legal issues raised under both the convention and the 1996 protocol. The UK is coordinating the work of this group. The issue will be discussed again at the 2005 consultative meeting in October, when results of the inter-sessional work will be considered.

Any proposed project for carbon sequestration would also need to comply with relevant European directives and domestic legislation, for example in relation to the assessment environmental impacts and to the protection of the environment.

## Energy Efficiency

**Colin Challen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will use the UK presidency of the European Council to promote responses to the new European Commission Green Paper on energy efficiency. [7581]

**Mr. Morley:** The Government welcome the publication of the European Commission's Green Paper on Energy Efficiency, "Doing More With Less". The priority that the Commission is attaching to this important initiative is entirely consistent with our own aims and objectives under the UK presidency. We are sure that the Green Paper will act as an important catalyst for action on energy efficiency issues and recognition of its importance in tackling climate change and hope that the process will lead to an ambitious plan of action.

Under the UK presidency, the Government will therefore look to pro-actively encourage responses to the Green Paper as part of the wider public debate on energy efficiency which the Commission have launched. We are already in discussion with the Commission about hosting an internationally focused energy efficiency event drawing on the European Commission Green Paper as well as the experience and knowledge of a wide cross section of international experts and we will also look to encourage the debate in other fora.

## Environment Agency

**Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much revenue she estimates the Environment Agency will receive from companies which register their premises

with regards to collections of waste; under what legislation such registration is a requirement; and if she will make a statement. [6149]

**Mr. Bradshaw** *[holding answer 21 June 2005]*: The Environment Agency estimates that producer notification of premises producing hazardous waste will generate an income of £2.25 million in a full year of operation to assist in meeting their costs of administering the new regime. This is a requirement of the Hazardous Waste Regulations 2005 (Statutory Instrument number 2005894). This funding will enable the Environment Agency to begin to target its resources on compliance activity and carry out periodic inspections of hazardous waste producers as required by the Hazardous Waste Directive.

### Flood Protection

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the *(a)* current and *(b)* future level of flood protection necessary for Canvey Island; and if she will make a statement. [6892]

**Mr. Morley:** The Environment Agency's assessment is that Canvey Island is protected by sea defences to a standard which is among the highest in the country. The sea walls around Canvey Island currently provide protection against coastal flooding in all but the most extreme conditions (those with a probability of occurrence of less than 0.1 per cent. in any one year). By the year 2030, on the assumption of no further improvements to the current defences, it is estimated that protection would be slightly reduced to a level effective against events with a probability equal to 0.1 per cent. in any one year.

The Environment Agency has initiated a project, 'Thames Estuary 2100', to address the impacts of future climate change and sea level rise on the Thames estuary (including Canvey Island). More accurate assessments of the standards of sea walls in the Thames estuary are being undertaken as part of this overall project. Once this work has been completed, the need for any greater protection can be assessed.

The final Plan of the Thames Estuary 2100 project is due in 2008.

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what guidance the Environment Agency has issued on single-storey development in areas susceptible to flooding; and if she will make a statement. [7382]

**Mr. Morley:** I understand the Environment Agency has not itself issued any specific national guidance on single-storey development in areas susceptible to flooding. However, it has worked closely with the Construction Industry Research and Information Association (CIRIA), who have recently issued guidance on the development of bungalows and single-storey dwellings in areas at risk of flooding, as part of CIRIA Guidance "Development and flood risk—Guidance to the construction industry".

Government policy for effective national management of flood risk is to avoid inappropriate development in areas at risk. The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister's Planning Policy Guidance Note 25 "Development and Flood Risk" cautions planning authorities to take particular care in respect of proposed single-storey developments behind existing sea defences because of the speed of flooding in such circumstances combined with no means of escape to an upper floor.

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what future works are planned on Canvey Island's flood defences; when they are expected to start; and what the expected cost is. [7381]

**Mr. Morley:** I understand the Environment Agency's plans for flood defence improvement work on Canvey Island involve the replacement/refurbishment of 12 pumping stations to improve the level of fluvial defence to reduce the chance of flooding in any one year from 10 per cent. to 0.5 per cent.

The existing pumping stations have reached the end of their design life and also require some modifications if Environment Agency staff are to operate and maintain them safely.

I understand work began on 27 June 2005 and will be carried out on a 'one by one' basis over 18 months. The construction cost for these works is estimated at £3.5 million. The Canvey Island Drainage Improvement Scheme as a whole will be £5.79 million.

### Honours

**Mr. Pope:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many officials currently in the Department received honours in the recent Queen's Birthday Honours List; and at what rank of honour. [5120]

**Jim Knight:** Within Defra one official received a CBE, two received OBEs, one an MBE. Also one official in the Forestry Commission received an MBE.

A full listing can be found in the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (Mr. Hutton) on 22 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 1059W.

### Interceptor Tunnel (River Thames)

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what the latest estimate is of the cost of building an interceptor tunnel for the River Thames; [8213]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 23 June 2005, *Official Report*, columns 1119–21W, on the River Thames (pollution), when she expects the report by her officials and the Thames Tideway Strategic Study Steering Group to be completed. [8236]

**Mr. Morley:** The latest estimate, at 2004 prices, of building the large 35 km interceptor tunnel and the associated treatment facilities proposed by the Thames Tideway Strategic Study Group is £1.7 billion.

The further report from the Thames Tideway Strategic Study Steering Group report is expected to be completed and submitted to Ministers and the Office of Water Services this summer.

## Litter

**Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps are being taken to discourage the dropping of litter on streets; what penalties apply to the offence; and if she will make a statement. [8113]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** It is an offence under section 87 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 to thrown down, drop or otherwise deposit any litter in any place in the area of a principal litter authority which is open to the air. A person found guilty of the offence may be fined up to £2,500 in a magistrates court. Section 88 of the 1990 Act also enables local authorities to issue fixed penalties for the offence as an alternative to prosecution. The level of fixed penalties in England is currently set at £50.

Government have recently introduced new legislation to discourage the dropping of litter through the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005. Until 7 June this year, it was only an offence to drop litter on land to which the public have access. This has now been extended to cover all types of land, including private land and land covered by water, sending out a clear message that the dropping of litter anywhere is unacceptable.

The Act also contains changes to the fixed penalty notice regime which will be brought into force in April next year. It will enable local authorities to authorise officers other than their own employees to issued fixed penalties for litter, and additionally, will extend this power to parish councils. This will help to discourage littering by widening the range of officers that are able to take immediate enforcement action.

At the same time, local authorities will be given the freedom to set the level of fixed penalties themselves within a range set out by the Secretary of State in regulations, and to offer discounts for early payment. A standard default amount of £75 will apply if the local authority chooses not to exercise this power. The Act will make it an offence for someone to fail to supply their name and address or to give a false name or address, when requested to do so by an authorised officer serving an FPN. This will deter people from dropping litter by increasing on-the-spot fines and giving enforcement officers more effective powers.

The Government are seeking to discourage littering not only through improved legislation and enforcement, but also by educating people about the responsible disposal of litter and highlighting the link between irresponsible disposal, poor health, a degraded local environment, and levels of anti-social behaviour. It is for this reason that Defra provides grant-funding to the environmental charity ENCAMS to conduct public awareness campaigns on its behalf. These are targeted at specific groups to reduce types of littering that have been identified as particularly problematic or prevalent. For example, the focus this year is on youth littering and smoking-related litter.

## London Sewer Rats

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will list the local authorities that responded to the consultation on the London Sewer Rat Joint Working Protocol. [7329]

**Mr. Morley:** The Local Government Association (LGA) and Water UK published a joint protocol in 1999 which set out arrangements for a closer working relationship between local authorities and water companies in England and Wales on the issue of rat infestation of sewers. Department records list that the following authorities responded to the survey on the effectiveness of the Protocol:

Adur district council
Basildon district council
Birmingham city council
Bournemouth borough council
Braintree district council
Brentwood borough council
Brighton and Hove city council
Bromsgrove district council
Calderdale council
Cannock Chase council
Castle Point borough council
Cheltenham borough council
Chiltern district council
Copeland borough council
Corby borough council
Coventry city council
Craven district council
Dacorum district council
Durham council
East Cambridgeshire district council
East Dorset district council
East Northamptonshire council
Eastleigh council
Elmbridge borough council
Enfield council
Erewash district council
Fenland district council
Gravesham council
Guildford borough council
Hambleton council
Harrogate borough council
Harrow borough council
Havany borough council
Havering borough council
Herefordshire district council
Hounslow borough council
Hull city council
Huntingdonshire district council
Isle of Wight council
Macclesfield borough council
Maldon district council
Manchester city council
Mansfield district council
Mid Bedfordshire council
Mid Devon district council
Middlesbrough council
New Forest district council
Newcastle Under Lyme borough council
Newham borough council
North Somerset council
North Wiltshire district council

Peterborough council
Preston city council
Richmondshire district council
Rugby borough council
Rushcliffe borough council
Sedgefield borough council
Sedgemoor district council
Shrewsbury and Atcham borough council
Shropshire county council
South Derbyshire district council
South Gloucestershire council
South Northamptonshire council
Tandridge district council
Tonbridge and Malling borough council
Trafford Metropolitan borough council
Uttlesford district council
Wakefield Metropolitan district council
Warwick district council
Waveney council
West Lancashire district council
Weymouth and Portland borough council
Winchester city council
Worthing borough council

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans she has to establish closer working relationships between London boroughs and water companies in relation to the London Sewer Rat Joint Working Protocol; and if she will make a statement. [7332]

**Mr. Morley:** The Department is awaiting publication of the rodent element of the English House Condition Survey (EHCS) before deciding what further action is appropriate. This document is due for publication this summer.

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 22 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 1041W, whether *(a)* Barnet council, *(b)* Thames Water and *(c)* Three Valleys Water submitted responses to the consultation on the London Sewer Rat Joint Working Protocol. [7333]

**Mr. Morley:** The Department has no record of Barnet council providing a response. Responses were not sought from water companies.

## Packaging

**Dr. Kumar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will take further steps to encourage companies to reduce the amount of packaging goods are sold in. [5857]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** There are currently two sets of Regulations which cover packaging in the UK; both of which encourage producers to minimise packaging. The Producer Responsibility Obligations (Packaging Waste) Regulations 1997 (as amended) are intended to increase the recovery and recycling of packaging waste. The amount of packaging waste producers have to recover and recycle is determined, in part, by the amount of packaging they handle. Producers can therefore save money if they use less packaging. The Packaging (Essential Requirements) Regulations 2003 (as amended) place a number of requirements on all packaging placed on the market in the UK, including a requirement that packaging should be manufactured so that the packaging volume and weight are limited to the minimum adequate amount to maintain the necessary level of safety, hygiene and acceptance for the packed product and for the consumer.

Both regulations have led to decreases in the amount of packaging used around products. However, more still needs to be done to reduce the amount of packaging that is produced in the first place. The Government's Advisory Committee on Packaging is working with industry to find ways of encouraging businesses to further reduce the amount of packaging they use.

Although legislation is one way of reducing packaging consumers also have a part to play. For example, if consumers made a point of choosing goods that are not heavily packaged, or bought 'loose food' rather than pre-packaged, or used their own shopping bags or boxes, manufacturers would be more inclined to reduce the quantity of packaging on their products.

**Dr. Kumar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will take steps to make companies responsible for recycling and disposing of packaging from the goods they sell. [5858]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The management of packaging waste is already addressed in the UK through the Producer Responsibility Obligations (Packaging Waste) Regulations 1997 (as amended). As an extension of the 'polluter pays principle', the Regulations oblige businesses in the packaging chain, which have an annual turnover of more than £2 million and which handle more than 50 tonnes of packaging a year, to recover and recycle a specified amount of packaging waste each year which is determined, in part, by the amount of packaging they handle. These Regulations are intended to drive minimisation of packaging and packaging waste, encourage reuse of packaging and increase the recovery and recycling of packaging waste. They have succeeded so far in raising the recycling rate for packaging waste from around 27 per cent. in 1997 to 49.5 per cent. in 2004.

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what consideration has been given to requiring manufacturers to display information on all product packaging relating to the environmental impact of the packaging used, with particular reference to non-recyclable material. [8606]

**Mr. Bradshaw** *[holding answer 30 June 2005]:* Most, if not all packaging is recyclable. Commission Decision 97/129/EC provides for numbering and abbreviations to identify packaging materials. While the marking system is voluntary, we would encourage manufacturers to use the markings wherever possible to aid the process of sorting and recycling of packaging waste.

## Recycling (London)

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many recycling points there are in each London borough per 1,000 population. [8313]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The number of recycling points in each London borough per 1,000 population are listed in the table.

| *London borough* | *Number of recycling points per 1,000 population* |
|---|---|
| Barking and Dagenham | 0.4 |
| Barnet | 0.2 |
| Bexley | 0.4 |
| Brent | 0.4 |
| Bromley | 0.2 |
| Camden | 0.7 |
| Corporation of London | 1.8 |
| Croydon | 0.1 |
| Ealing | 0.2 |
| Enfield | 1.3 |
| Greenwich | 0.3 |
| Hackney | 0.4 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 0.5 |
| Haringey | 0.8 |
| Harrow | 0.2 |
| Havering | 0.1 |
| Hillingdon | 0.3 |
| Hounslow | 0.3 |
| Islington | 0.9 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 1.3 |
| Kingston-upon-Thames | 0.2 |
| Lambeth | 0.1 |
| Lewisham | 0.2 |
| Merton | 0.2 |
| Newham | 0.5 |
| Redbridge | 0.3 |
| Richmond upon Thames | 0.7 |
| Southwark | 1.0 |
| Sutton | 1.1 |
| Tower Hamlets | 1.6 |
| Waltham Forest | 1.1 |
| Wandsworth | 1.6 |
| Westminster | 1.0 |
| Total London | 0.6 |

[1]'Recycling points' include both civic amenity and recycling sites situated within each London borough. Civic amenity and recycling site numbers are taken from the 2003–04 Defra/GLA municipal waste management survey.

*Source:*

Population data are taken from the National Statistics' website and are mid-year estimates for 2003.

### River Thames

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the estimated number of fish in the River Thames was in each year since 1997. [5277]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Environment Agency and its predecessor organisations have performed a biannual qualitative fisheries survey on the tidal River Thames since 1992. However, the dynamic nature of estuaries, with highly mobile and widely dispersed fish populations means that no quantitative data is available to estimate fish numbers using currently available methodologies. This is the case throughout Europe for estuarine fish populations. Recent EC FAIR (June 2000) research[1] identified our current fisheries monitoring programme as 'Best Practice'. The primary objective of this survey programme is to provide a consistent data set to detect trends and new species in the Thames.

[1] European Commission FAIR report, "Commercial Fish and European Estuaries—Priorities for Management and Research". Institute of Estuarine and Coastal Studies, June 2000.



**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what forecasts were made of the number of times the Thames Barrier would be closed in each year since its inception. [8427]

**Mr. Morley:** The Thames Barrier is operated by the Environment Agency. At the design stage of the barrier the forecast number of closures was 1–2 per year in the 1980s when the barrier first became operational, gradually rising to approximately 30 by the year 2030 or broken down as follows:

| | *Closures per year* |
|---|---|
| 1990 | 5 |
| 2000 | 10 |
| 2015 | 20 |

Forecasting the frequency of future closures of the barrier depends on two principal factors:

*(a)* the impacts of climate change on sea and river levels—based on the climate change scenarios currently available; and

*(b)* the extent to which these levels may be reduced by other flood risk management measures used within the Thames Estuary in conjunction with operation of the barrier.

### Waste Management Licences

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will review the *(a)* waste management licence requirements for small, low-risk biofuel processes and *(b)* the regulatory burden relating to on-farm composters. [5887]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The information requested is as follows:

*(a)* Officials are about to open a review of waste management licensing exemptions and would consider this the best place to look at representations for amendment of the exemptions regime. The review will consider representations about the inherent risks that the processing of biofuels may pose to the environment and to human health. The review will evaluate whether any activity in connection with the processing of bio fuels for recovery should be eligible for exempt from waste management licensing.

*(b)* We announced the consultation on the draft Waste Management (England and Wales) Regulations 2005 on 9 December 2004, *Official Report*, column 106WS. One of the main purposes of the draft Regulations is to apply to agricultural waste the national controls that are in place to comply with the Waste Framework Directive and which currently apply to all other sectors of industry and types of waste. The consultation paper included a Regulatory Impact Assessment and is available in the Library of the House and on the Department's website at http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/agwaste-regs/index.htm. The consultation closed on 18 March 2005 and we are currently considering the responses to it.

### Water Leaks

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much leakage from the mains water supply in London there has been in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [8211]

**Mr. Morley:** The Director General of Water Services publishes leakage figures annually in the "Security of Supply, Leakage and the Efficient Use of Water" report. Ofwat will publish the figures for 2004–05 in July and the formal report towards the end of 2005.

Ofwat do not publish leakage figures for the London area. However data are available for Thames Water's area of supply, which covers London and other areas. Total Thames Water leakage, in megalitres per day, for the last five years was reported as follows:

| | *Ml/d* |
|---|---|
| 1999–2000 | 662 |
| 2000–01 | 688 |
| 2001–02 | 865 |
| 2002–03 | 943 |
| 2003–04 | 946 |

## SOLICITOR-GENERAL

### Criminal Offences

**John Penrose:** To ask the Solicitor-General what procedures *(a)* Government Departments and agencies and *(b)* local authorities with independent prosecuting authority for criminal offences use to forward details of convictions, cautions and intelligence on possible criminals to (i) the Criminal Records Bureau and (ii) the Police National Computer; what amendments to these procedures are proposed in relation to the National Intelligence Database; and if he will make a statement. [9736]

**The Solicitor-General:** The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Parental Responsibility

**Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Solicitor-General what discussions he has had with the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) on the CPS's ability to prosecute under the existing provision in law for parents being held accountable for the behaviour of their children. [8414]

**The Solicitor-General:** I regularly meet with the Director of Public Prosecutions to discuss criminal justice issues; however, we have not had any formal discussions on this topic.

Parents are encouraged to accept responsibilities for the behaviour of their children.

Where problems exist, parents could be made subject to parenting orders if they have either failed to cooperate with the terms of a parenting contract or have been uncooperative during the course of voluntary efforts to tackle their child's behaviour. If they then fail to comply with the terms of the order, they may be prosecuted for breaching it.

Youth courts also have the power to impose parental bindovers on the parents of young people who have been convicted of an offence, but these are rarely used.

Breaches of parenting orders and parental bindovers are the only measures available to the CPS to hold parents accountable for the behaviour of their children.

## DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

### Rent Officers

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many local authority rent officers have been employed *(a)* in England and *(b)* by each local authority on average in each year since 1997. [5442]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** I have been asked to reply.

The administration of The Rent Service is a matter for the Chief Executive, Charlotte Copeland. She will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Charlotte Copeland to Mr. Paul Goodman:*

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions about the numbers of rent officers employed since 1997.

Rent officers have not been employed by individual Local Authorities since 1 October 1999. From that date, rent officers have been employees of The Rent Service (TRS), which is now an executive agency of Department of Work and Pensions. The figures shown in the table are from 1 October 1999 only, as we do not hold information prior to this date.

As TRS covers England as a whole, its organisational structure does not match local authority boundaries. However, in the spirit of your question, I have provided the average number of rent officers by TRS operational areas.

*Average number of rent officers in England*

| | *1999–2000* | *2000–01* | *2001–02* | *2002–03* | *2003–04* | *2004–05* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| London | 84 | 104 | 83 | 68 | 60 | 64 |
| East | 29 | 35 | 28 | 23 | 21 | 22 |
| South East | 38 | 43 | 46 | 35 | 35 | 34 |
| South West | 45 | 47 | 36 | 32 | 32 | 34 |
| West Midlands | 28 | 29 | 30 | 27 | 27 | 27 |
| East Midlands | 19 | 24 | 19 | 20 | 19 | 20 |
| North West | 62 | 66 | 58 | 60 | 52 | 59 |
| North East | 18 | 21 | 18 | 19 | 15 | 17 |
| Yorkshire | 35 | 40 | 34 | 32 | 32 | 26 |
| Total | 358 | 409 | 352 | 316 | 293 | 303 |

*Note:*

The figures for 1999–2000 cover the period from 1 October 1999 (ie the date The Rent Service was established) to 31 March 2000 only. All other figures are the average for the financial year 1 April to 31 March.

### Standards Board

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what the average length of time taken to complete an investigation by the Standards Board for England has been since it was set up. [9135]

**Mr. Woolas:** Over the whole life of the Standards Board for England, the average time taken by officers of the Board to complete investigations into allegations that the code of conduct for local authority members has been breached is seven months.

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many cases the Standards Board for England has investigated since its establishment relating to (*a*) county councils, (*b*) district councils, (*c*) metropolitan borough councils, (*d*) unitary authorities, (*e*) parish councils and (*f*) town councils. [9136]

**Mr. Woolas:** The information requested is as follows:

| *Authority to which the allegation refers* | *Number of allegations investigated by officers of the Standards Board* |
|---|---|
| County council | 86 |
| District council | 832 |
| Metropolitan borough council | 172 |
| Unitary authority | 264 |
| Parish and town council[1] | 1,858 |

[1] Statistics in respect of parish and town councils are grouped together.

## TRANSPORT

### A21 Upgrade

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make a statement on the issuing of draft orders on the proposed upgrade of the A21. [9311]

**Dr. Ladyman:** All the schemes for the upgrading the A21 have been referred to the regions for their advice on priorities. On receipt of this advice a programme for the delivery of the schemes will be produced. Draft orders for each of the schemes will be published to meet this programme.

### Air Travellers (Financial Protection)

**Dr. Cable:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA)'s estimate of the number of UK leisure passengers who flew without financial protection in 2004; and if he will bring forward legislation to ensure that affected UK passengers can be repatriated by the CAA in the event of a major airline failure. [9359]

**Ms Buck:** The Department is aware of the trend for consumers to make their own travel arrangements, rather than buy package holidays that are protected by the ATOL scheme. The Civil Aviation Authority has provided advice to the Government on a range of options, including an extension of the scope of financial protection to cover passengers on all flights. We are currently considering that advice and will then decide whether to bring forward appropriate legislation.

**Mr. Swayne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 27 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 1259W, on air travellers (financial protection), what the timetable is for formal consultation on his proposals; and if he will make a statement. [9077]

**Ms Buck:** The Government have not yet reached a decision in relation to the scope of air passenger financial protection.

### Aviation Ministers

**Mr. Mullin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will list aviation Ministers since May 1997, indicating the dates between which they held office. [6696]

**Ms Buck:** There is no post designated as "aviation Minister". My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has had responsibility for all forms of transport, including aviation, since the formation of the Department on 29 May 2002. He has been supported by other members of his ministerial team.

### Civil Aviation (Missile Defence)

**Mr. Ian Austin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of microwave technologies for deflecting shoulder-fired missiles in the civil aviation sector. [8746]

**Ms Buck:** There are a number of technologies capable of defeating shoulder-fired missiles of which microwave-based is one. The Government are considering whether such systems could be realistically applied to civil aviation.

### Classic Aircraft (Insurance Costs)

**Mr. Letwin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the effect of regulations on the costs of insurance for classic aircraft. [9167]

**Ms Buck:** The coming into force earlier this year of EU Regulation 785/2004 obliged almost all UK operators of non-commercial aircraft to meet minimum requirements for passenger and third party insurance. In some cases aircraft operators have had to raise their level of cover, which has resulted in an increase in premium. We are aware of only one case where this has caused difficulty in relation to classic aircraft, but through the efforts of the' insurance industry and a commercial sponsor, this problem has been resolved. The European Commission is aware of the difficulties faced by some owners of classic aircraft and has agreed to consider an amendment to the Regulation.

### Community Transport

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what financial support his Department has given to community transport schemes in each year since 1997. [8437]

**Ms Buck:** The Department for Transport values the role that community transport plays in delivering transport services to communities and individuals who would otherwise be socially excluded. We support their activities in a wide variety of ways.

The Department funds the information and advice service provided by the Community Transport Association. The CTA provides an extensive service to community transport operators and local authorities on a range of legal and operational issues. The following is the funding given by the Department to the Community Transport Association from 1997–98 financial year onwards.

| *Financial year* | *Grant* |
|---|---|
| 1997–98 | 70 |
| 1998–99 | 70 |
| 1999–2000 | 70 |
| 2000–01 | 100 |
| 2001–02 | 100 |
| 2002–03 | 100 |
| 2003–04 | 100 |
| 2004–05 | 100 |
| 2005–06 | 125 |
| Total to date | 835 |

The Department also publishes guidance on the type of services that can be run and the legal framework for them.

A substantial proportion of the total of 400 projects awarded funding since 1998 under the Rural and Urban Bus Challenge competitions involve support for community transport services. Prior to this there was no specific bus funding in support of community transport schemes.

Over 800 community transport schemes have been granted eligibility to claim Bus Service Operators Grant since the broadening of the scheme in 2002 to include these schemes. Amounts of grant claimed under this scheme by community transport operators are as follows.

| | *Grant claimed (£ million)* |
|---|---|
| 2002–03 | 0.67 |
| 2003–04 | 2.81 |
| 2004–05 | 4.52 |

**Departmental Staff (Stress)**

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many cases of work-related stress have been reported in his Department in each of the last three years; how much compensation was paid to employees in each year; how many work days were lost due to work-related stress in each year; at what cost; what procedures have been put in place to reduce work-related stress; at what cost; and if he will make a statement. [7873]

**Ms Buck:** It is difficult to differentiate between work-related and non work-related stress absence. Experience has shown that stress related absences are often due to a combination of work and personal circumstances. We are also aware that some staff are reluctant to report that their absence has been as a result of stress.

The following information relates to 'all' stress related absences reported by staff over the last two years which includes anxiety, nervous debility, neurosis, emotional upset and stress:

| | *Days lost due to all stress related absence* | *Cost of absence (£)* |
|---|---|---|
| 2003 | 34,092 | 2,792,493 |
| 2004 | 37,539 | 3,127,546 |

We do not have the complete figures for 2002.

There has been one compensation claim settled at a cost of £52,000.

The Department has a stress policy in place and across the Department various proactive measures have been introduced. The measures include guidance to staff by way of workshops and presentations and the provision of guidance leaflets. Training is provided for managers to clarify their role and responsibilities to help reduce stress in themselves and their staff. Well being and lifestyle screening programmes are also being considered. The total cost of these measures is not readily available although some have involved little or no cost.

The Department also believes in early intervention by occupational health in response to reported stress absences and all staff have access to counselling services.

**Driver Vehicle Licensing (Northern Ireland)**

**Mr. Gregory Campbell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what studies the Driver Vehicle Licensing Agency has carried out in the past 12 months regarding the future of Driver Vehicle Licensing Northern Ireland Coleraine. [9446]

**Dr. Ladyman:** In September 2004, DVLA initiated a study to examine the feasibility of merging the vehicles registration and licensing operations in Coleraine, (processing NI transactions) and in Swansea, (processing GB transactions).

The study concluded that there were benefits from integrating the vehicle licensing operations and management to deliver a UK-wide service from a single IT system. However, service to NI customers will continue to be delivered from Coleraine and NI local offices.

Separate discussions are taking place in respect of the future of driver licensing in Northern Ireland.

**Driving Tests (Kent)**

**Jonathan Shaw:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* passes and *(b)* failures of driving tests there were in each test centre in Kent in each of the last five years. [8054]

**Dr. Ladyman:** The following tables show the results, by category of vehicle, of practical driving tests conducted at test centres in Kent in each of the last five years.

*Pass and fails in Kent 2000–01 to 2004–05*

*Cars*

| | 2000–01 | | | | 2001–02 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Fail | Pass | Total | Percentage Pass | Fail | Pass | Total | Percentage Pass |
| Ashford (Kent) | 1,004 | 1,067 | 2,071 | 51.5 | 1,299 | 1,239 | 2,538 | 48.8 |
| Broadstairs (Thanet) | 1,130 | 1,178 | 2,308 | 51.0 | 1,321 | 1,340 | 2,661 | 50.4 |
| Canterbury | 1,610 | 1,216 | 2,826 | 43.0 | 1,451 | 1,143 | 2,594 | 44.1 |
| Folkestone | 1,487 | 1,270 | 2,757 | 46.1 | 1,680 | 1,359 | 3,039 | 44.7 |
| Gillingham L and LGV | 2,850 | 1,959 | 4,809 | 40.7 | 3,516 | 2,421 | 5,938 | 40.8 |
| Gravesend | 1,947 | 1,696 | 3,643 | 46.6 | 2,164 | 1,845 | 4,009 | 46.0 |
| Herne Bay | 1,340 | 1,322 | 2,662 | 49.7 | 1,695 | 1,672 | 3,367 | 49.7 |
| Sevenoaks | 1,285 | 1,172 | 2,457 | 47.7 | 1,291 | 1,124 | 2,415 | 46.5 |
| Tunbridge Wells | 1,681 | 1,660 | 3,341 | 49.7 | 1,667 | 1,602 | 3,269 | 49.0 |
| National pass rate | — | — | — | 43.9 | — | — | — | 43.4 |

| | 2002–03 | | | | 2003–04 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Fail | Pass | Total | Percentage Pass | Fail | Pass | Total | Percentage Pass |
| Ashford (Kent) | 1,302 | 1,279 | 2,581 | 49.6 | 1,332 | 1,338 | 2,670 | 50.1 |
| Broadstairs (Thanet) | 1,623 | 1,456 | 3,079 | 47.3 | 1,433 | 1,359 | 2,792 | 48.7 |
| Canterbury | 1,556 | 1,213 | 2,769 | 43.8 | 1,551 | 1,144 | 2,695 | 42.4 |
| Folkestone | 2,016 | 1,560 | 3,576 | 43.6 | 2,650 | 1,857 | 4,507 | 41.2 |
| Gillingham L and LGV | 3,566 | 2,611 | 6,177 | 42.3 | 3,980 | 2,608 | 6,588 | 39.6 |
| Gravesend | 2,255 | 1,703 | 3,958 | 43.0 | 3,211 | 2,096 | 5,307 | 39.5 |
| Herne Bay | 1,969 | 1,770 | 3,739 | 47.3 | 1,908 | 1,642 | 3,550 | 46.3 |
| Sevenoaks | 1,771 | 1,507 | 3,278 | 46.0 | 1,786 | 1,421 | 3,207 | 44.3 |
| Tunbridge Wells | 1,974 | 1,917 | 3,891 | 49.3 | 1,853 | 1,830 | 3,683 | 49.7 |
| National pass rate | — | — | — | 43.2 | — | — | — | 42.8 |

| | 2004–05 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Fail | Pass | Total | Percentage Pass |
| Ashford (Kent) | 1,591 | 1,588 | 3,179 | 50.0 |
| Broadstairs (Thanet) | 1,944 | 1,707 | 3,651 | 46.8 |
| Canterbury | 1,796 | 1,323 | 3,119 | 42.4 |
| Folkestone | 2,366 | 1,789 | 4,155 | 43.1 |
| Gillingham L and LGV | 4,508 | 2,837 | 7,345 | 38.6 |
| Gravesend | 3,940 | 2,517 | 6,457 | 39.0 |
| Herne Bay | 2,577 | 1,968 | 4,545 | 43.3 |
| Sevenoaks | 2,710 | 2,009 | 4,719 | 42.6 |
| Tunbridge Wells | 2,291 | 2,303 | 4,594 | 50.1 |
| National pass rate | — | — | — | 42.1 |

*Bike*

| | 2000–01 | | | | 2001–02 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Fail | Pass | Total | Percentage Pass | Fail | Pass | Total | Percentage Pass |
| Ashford (Kent) | 146 | 317 | 463 | 68.5 | 89 | 185 | 274 | 67.5 |
| Broadstairs (Thanet) | 111 | 287 | 398 | 72.1 | 96 | 214 | 310 | 69.0 |
| Folkestone | 93 | 200 | 293 | 68.3 | 80 | 182 | 262 | 69.5 |
| Gillingham L and LGV | 338 | 576 | 914 | 63.0 | 361 | 566 | 927 | 61.1 |
| Tunbridge Wells | 159 | 317 | 476 | 66.6 | 132 | 340 | 472 | 72.0 |
| National pass rate | — | — | — | 66.2 | — | — | — | 65.8 |

| | 2002–03 | | | | 2003–04 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Fail | Pass | Total | Percentage Pass | Fail | Pass | Total | Percentage Pass |
| Ashford (Kent) | 2 | 4 | 6 | 66.7 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.0 |
| Broadstairs (Thanet) | 108 | 282 | 390 | 72.3 | 162 | 345 | 507 | 68.0 |
| Folkestone | 149 | 345 | 494 | 69.8 | 146 | 302 | 448 | 67.4 |
| Gillingham L and LGV | 456 | 708 | 1,164 | 60.8 | 408 | 707 | 1,115 | 63.4 |
| Tunbridge Wells | 163 | 353 | 516 | 68.4 | 163 | 374 | 537 | 69.6 |
| National pass rate | — | — | — | 64.7 | — | — | — | 64.5 |

| | 2004–05 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Fail | Pass | Total | Percentage Pass |
| Ashford (Kent) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.00 |
| Broadstairs (Thanet) | 173 | 348 | 521 | 66.8 |
| Folkestone | 101 | 231 | 332 | 69.6 |
| Gillingham L and LGV | 381 | 640 | 1,021 | 62.7 |
| Tunbridge Wells | 152 | 341 | 493 | 69.2 |
| National pass rate | — | — | — | 64.4 |

*LGV (Lorry)*

| | 2000–01 | | | | 2001–02 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Fail | Pass | Total | Percentage Pass | Fail | Pass | Total | Percentage Pass |
| Canterbury LGV | 113 | 99 | 212 | 46.7 | 243 | 233 | 476 | 48.9 |
| Gillingham L and LGV | 472 | 479 | 951 | 50.4 | 741 | 755 | 1,496 | 50.5 |
| National pass rate | — | — | — | 53.0 | — | — | — | 52.0 |

| | 2002–03 | | | | 2003–04 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Fail | Pass | Total | Percentage Pass | Fail | Pass | Total | Percentage Pass |
| Canterbury LGV | 319 | 282 | 601 | 46.9 | 334 | 310 | 644 | 48.1 |
| Gillingham L and LGV | 818 | 813 | 1,631 | 49.8 | 751 | 808 | 1,559 | 51.8 |
| National pass rate | — | — | — | 49.4 | — | — | — | 48.8 |

| | 2004–05 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Fail | Pass | Total | Percentage Pass |
| Canterbury LGV | 458 | 364 | 822 | 44.3 |
| Gillingham L and LGV | 1,146 | 1,060 | 2,206 | 48.1 |
| National pass rate | — | — | — | 46.0 |

*PCV (Bus)*

| | 2000–01 | | | | 2001–02 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Fail | Pass | Total | Percentage pass | Fail | Pass | Total | Percentage pass |
| Canterbury LGV | 35 | 27 | 62 | 43:5 | 38 | 53 | 91 | 58.2 |
| Gillingham L and LGV | 74 | 81 | 155 | 52.3 | 213 | 159 | 372 | 42.7 |
| National pass rate | — | — | — | 48.0 | — | — | — | 45.0 |

| | 2002–03 | | | | 2003–04 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Fail | Pass | Total | Percentage pass | Fail | Pass | Total | Percentage pass |
| Canterbury LGV | 61 | 41 | 102 | 40.2 | 44 | 40 | 84 | 47.6 |
| Gillingham L and LGV | 324 | 231 | 555 | 41.6 | 286 | 217 | 503 | 43.1 |
| National pass rate | — | — | — | 44.0 | — | — | — | 46.0 |

| | 2004–05 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Fail | Pass | Total | Percentage Pass |
| Canterbury LGV | 68 | 44 | 112 | 39.3 |
| Gillingham L and LGV | 276 | 164 | 440 | 37.3 |
| National pass rate | — | — | — | 44.0 |

### Electric Wheelchairs/Scooters

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has to increase the number of electric powered wheelchair and scooter users who take out insurance cover. [9437]

**Ms Buck:** We strongly encourage users of these vehicles to take out insurance cover. However there is no legal obligation for them to do so.

We are currently reviewing the law which governs the use of powered wheelchairs and powered scooters on the

highway and one of the issues we have raised in consultation with stakeholders is whether there should be some form of compulsory insurance. The final report and recommendations from that review are expected in the summer and we will be looking closely at this and a range of other issues.

### Heathrow

**Mr. Hands:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment his Department has made of the effects on aircraft noise over Hammersmith and Fulham if the proposed third runway is built at Heathrow. [5895]

**Ms Buck:** Noise exposure estimates for the larger UK airports—including Heathrow with a possible third runway—were published in December 2003 to support the Air Transport White Paper and are in the document "Revised Future Aircraft Noise Exposure Estimates for UK Airports", ERCD report 0308, available on the Department's website. They will be reviewed as necessary in the light of further work in hand to assess the prospects for future development at Heathrow, consistent with the conditions laid down in the White Paper.

The document does not attempt to assess noise impacts by individual London borough, but it includes an explanation of the methodology, figures for households and area affected at different noise levels, and diagrams to illustrate the $L_{eq}$ daytime contours for Heathrow under maximum use of the existing two runways and with a short third runway at various traffic levels.

### Helicopter Noise

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will introduce controls on helicopter flights in residential areas to reduce noise nuisance; and if he will make a statement. [8689]

**Ms Buck:** The Government recognise that helicopter noise can be disturbing. UK helicopter noise certification standards exist in relation to helicopter noise and are based on the International Civil Aviation Organisation's (ICAO) Annex 16—we both helped to establish, and have adopted, the international standard.

All civil aircraft fly subject to the legislation of the Air Navigation Order (ANO) and the Rules of the Air Regulations (RoA). These require that helicopters should not fly within 500 feet of any person, vessel, vehicle or structure (except when landing or taking off) nor below 1,000 feet over a congested area. Although these regulations are concerned primarily with safety, the height restrictions do give an incidental noise benefit.

There are no plans to introduce any further legislation on helicopter noise, but we seek reductions in noise at source by encouraging industry developments in aircraft and engine technology.

### House Building (South-east)

**Mr. Soames:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the likely effects of the Government's house building targets for the south-east on *(a)* traffic flows and *(b)* consequent noise levels on the M23 between junctions 9 and 10 and on the A23 beyond junction 10. [9393]

**Dr. Ladyman:** Changes to the traffic flows on the M23 between Junctions 9 and 10 will depend upon the future location of housing which will, in the first instance, be determined by the South East England Regional Assembly. The Highways Agency is contributing to deliberations on the draft Plan.

Traffic from the sustainable communities proposed for the south-east is unlikely to result in a noticeable increase in noise from motorways. However the Government will in 2007 publish maps of noise from motorways. These maps will be updated at least every five years to take into account any changes in conditions and plans to reduce noise levels will be reviewed accordingly.

### Maritime Coastguard Agency

**Mr. Carmichael:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of whether the Incident Management System computer database operated by the Maritime Coastguard Agency is working effectively; what steps he is taking to ensure the system operates well; and if he will make a statement. [8649]

**Dr. Ladyman:** The Incident Management System (IMS) works well. There were some initial teething problems with the Incident Management System, but these were all recorded and investigated. Any necessary improvements to the system have been implemented and the system is now working well. Any reported faults are dealt with promptly and do not impact on the Agency's ability to respond to search and rescue calls.

**Mr. Carmichael:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment he has made of staffing levels at the Maritime Coastguard Agency; what steps he is taking to improve skill levels in the organisation; and if he will make a statement. [8650]

**Dr. Ladyman:** The Maritime and Coastguard Agency performs to a high standard and has the resources it needs for the functions it carries out. The Chief Executive and his Management Team keep the skills of staff under review as part of the Agency's approach to learning and development. Specifically in relation to those working in coastguard rescue co-ordination centres, the Agency uses a concept of "Training Ahead of Need" for Coastguard Watch Assistants aspiring to be Watch Officers, which has the support of the PCS Union. Peer reviews are also used to test, develop and support the core skills of search planning and co-ordination.

### Pensioners' Free Travel

**Mr. Meacher:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport on what grounds the pensioners' free travel scheme excludes trams; and if he will reconsider this exclusion. [8925]

**Ms Buck:** The £350 million announced in the Budget for 2006–07 was to cover the extra costs of concessionary free travel on local bus services. Local authorities will remain able to offer concessions on light

rail services after April 2006. This will continue to be at their discretion, based on their judgment of local needs and circumstances and their overall financial priorities.

### Rail Infrastructure (London)

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will list for each London borough the *(a)* rail viaducts and *(b)* rail bridges in use which have exceeded their original planned end-of-life date. [8067]

**Derek Twigg:** This is an operational matter for Network Rail. Network Rail advises that the information is not available in the form requested.

### Speed Cameras

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what proportion of road traffic accidents occurred on or near to the calibration lines of speed cameras in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [8076]

**Dr. Ladyman:** The specific information requested is not available. The latest published information on the national safety camera programme—"Three year evaluation report", carried out by University College London and PA Consulting Group, found that there had been a 40 per cent. reduction in the number of people killed or seriously injured at camera sites, and a 33 per cent. reduction in the total number of personal injury collisions at camera sites. The report was published in June 2004 and copies are available in the Library and from the Department's website.

### Roads

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps are taken by the Highways Agency to evaluate the potential effects of road building schemes on *(a)* sites of special scientific interest, *(b)* areas of outstanding natural beauty and *(c)* national parks. [8447]

**Dr. Ladyman:** In designing and constructing new road schemes there is a strong presumption against schemes that would significantly affect environmentally sensitive sites, important species or important habitats. The Highways Agency evaluates the potential effects of road building proposals on the environment in liaison with the appropriate statutory bodies and other consultees.

Where such construction is unavoidable then this is only carried out after a rigorous examination of the possible impacts and the incorporation of mitigation measures to address these.

**Sir Paul Beresford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which roads in Surrey have had *(a)* crash barriers removed and *(b)* solid barriers replaced by wire barriers in the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [9644]

**Dr. Ladyman:** For roads in Surrey for which the Secretary of State for Transport has responsibility, there are no locations where crash barriers have been removed without alternative containment being provided and there have been no cases in the last five years where wire rope safety barrier has been used to replace the existing barrier.

On local roads the local highway authority is responsible for provision of barriers.

On trunk roads whatever safety barriers are used, they are all required to meet the same minimum specified performance criteria in terms of containment.

### Shipping

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much shipping tonnage is registered in the United Kingdom. [8616]

**Dr. Ladyman:** The tonnage of trading vessels of 100 gt and over registered in the United Kingdom at the end of March 2005 was 10.4 million in gross tons and 10.9 million in deadweight tonnes.

### Speed Limits

**Charles Hendry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects to issue his revised guidance on the setting of speed limits in villages. [9356]

**Dr. Ladyman:** The Government's guidance to local highway authorities, who are responsible for setting local speed limits, is that the limit for villages should normally be 30mph, and Traffic Advisory Leaflet 1/04 provides guidance on how this can be achieved.

This is being incorporated into the Department's revised wider guidance to Traffic Authorities on setting local speed limits, to be published later this year.

### Traffic Signs

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many types of road traffic signs are approved by his Department. [8328]

**Dr. Ladyman:** Section 64 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 provides that traffic signs shall be of a size, colour and type prescribed by regulations made by the Secretary of State except where the Secretary of State authorises the erection or retention of a sign of another character.

The current regulations specifying the appearance and use of signs are the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions (TSRGD) 2002 (SI No. 3113). The basic sign types are warning signs, regulatory signs, directional and other informatory signs, road markings and signals. For ease of reference the TSRGD group signs for railway and tramway level crossings together in schedule 3, signs for bus, tram and pedal cycle facilities in schedule 5, and road works signs in schedule 12. Decisions about the placing of particular types of sign at particular locations are the responsibility of the relevant traffic authority.

## INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### Jamaica

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assistance his Department has given to Jamaica following its recent earthquake; and if he will make a statement. [8397]

**Mr. Thomas:** At 2258 hrs on Sunday 12 June, Jamaica experienced an earthquake measuring 5.1 on the Richter scale, followed by 12 smaller aftershocks. This was the strongest to affect the island since a 5.4 earthquake in 1993. The Government of Jamaica's Office for Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management (ODPEM) was quick to assess the situation and reported no loss of life or injuries. Damage to property was also minimal. The DFID office in Kingston, Jamaica, kept in close touch with ODPEM, but the organisation did not consider it necessary to issue an appeal for international assistance.

### Madagascar

**Mr. Mullin:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what programmes his Department has in Madagascar; how they will be affected by the closure of the British embassy; and if he will make a statement. [8384]

**Hilary Benn:** The Department for International Development does not have a development programme in Madagascar.

### NGOs (China)

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will make it his policy not to fund non-governmental organisations who are involved in the one child policy in China. [8122]

**Mr. Thomas:** DFID do not fund non-governmental organisations (NGOs) that support China's one child policy. UK assistance for sexual and reproductive health programmes anywhere in the world is provided in support of the principles of free and informed choice set out at the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo in 1994 and reaffirmed in various international fora since. These principles reject coercion in matters relating to child bearing and reproduction.

### Yemen

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assistance his Department is providing to the Yemeni Government to promote health services in Yemen. [8125]

**Hilary Benn:** DFID has recently approved a project of £3.09 million over four years to assist the Government of Yemen to improve maternal and infant health services. The project will operate at two levels: field (district and governorate) level, working with UNICEF and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPAO, local government and civil society to improve service delivery in maternal and neonatal health; and at central Government level where the focus will be on developing policy and planning capacity within the Ministry of Public Health and Population. The project will also work closely with other donors including World Bank, the Netherlands and the World Health Organisation.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

### Cleaners' Pay

**Mr. Winnick:** To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what representations the Commission has received from the trade union side of the Whitley Committee regarding contract Commons cleaners' pay; and if he will make a statement. [8964]

**Nick Harvey:** The Commission has received no representations from the trade union side of the Whitley Committee about contract cleaners' pay. The trade union side raised the issue briefly with officials at the Whitley meeting on 28 February but, as the matter was outside the remit of the Committee, there was no substantive discussion.

## LEADER OF THE HOUSE

### Work-related Stress

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Leader of the House how many cases of work-related stress have been reported in his Office in each of the last three years; how much compensation was paid to employees in each year; how many work days were lost due to work-related stress in each year; at what cost; what procedures have been put in place to reduce work-related stress; at what cost; and if he will make a statement. [7868]

**Nigel Griffiths:** No cases of work-related stress have been reported by staff working in the Office of the Leader of the House of Commons over the past three years. No compensation has been paid and no work days have been lost over the same period.

Staffing for the Office of the Leader is provided by the Privy Council Office (PCO). PCO has an external employee counselling service at an annual cost of £3,000, and regularly consults its staff to seek their views and ideas on how working practices might continue to be improved. Such consultation includes a staff survey each year (costing £8,000) which specifically asks whether they have difficulties with work/life balance or long hours. PCO gives its staff the option, where compatible with business needs, to work flexibly or at home or part-time—or in a combination of these ways. Career breaks are also available.

## CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

### Baghdad Museum

**Harry Cohen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will make a statement on missing and damaged Iraqi artefacts; when she expects the Baghdad Museum to be fully open; and if she will make a statement. [8641]

**Tessa Jowell:** The scale of the looting of artefacts was thankfully not as devastating as originally thought. Recent estimates suggest that around 3,000 items were taken, although the lack of inventories makes precise calculations impossible. Of the items taken, 30 or so are

considered to be highly significant, and the British Museum has suggested that around half of these artefacts have now been recovered.

Due to the continued security concerns, there are currently no immediate plans to reopen the museum. The decision on when to open the museum is one for the Iraqi authorities.

### Broadcast Advertising (Food and Drink)

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what progress Ofcom's consultation on proposals to tighten the rules on broadcast advertising, sponsorship and promotion of food and drink to children, as set out in the Choosing Health White Paper has made to date; and what the timetable is for publication of this consultation. [8063]

**James Purnell:** I understand that Ofcom is currently finalising the details of its consultation on proposals to tighten the rules on broadcast advertising, sponsorship and promotion of food and drink to children, as set out in the Government's public health White Paper, Choosing Health. Ofcom has indicated that the consultation will take place this autumn with the results published subsequently.

### Casinos

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when she expects the Gambling Commission *(a)* to issue new casino licences and *(b)* to publish the Codes of Conduct which will be a condition of the new licences. [8218]

**Mr. Caborn:** The detailed timetable for implementation of the Gambling Act 2005 is still being finalised. The current expectation is that the Gambling Commission will publish licence conditions and codes of practice by around June 2006, and that it will start to accept advance applications for casino operating and personal licences by January 2007. These will come into effect from autumn 2007.

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when applications for a casino licence under the Gaming Act 1968 will cease to be considered. [8219]

**Mr. Caborn:** The timetable for the implementation of the Gambling Act 2005 is still being finalised. No cut off date has yet been set for applications for gaming licences under the 1968 Act. A further announcement will be made in due course.

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what guidance will be issued to local authorities to ensure a consistent approach to the issuing of casino licences once the Gambling Act 2005 becomes fully operational. [8220]

**Mr. Caborn:** Under Section 25 of the Gambling Act 2005, the Gambling Commission is required to issue guidance to local authorities on the exercise of their functions under the Act and the principles they should apply when exercising those functions. The issuing of casino premises licences will form part of this guidance and will be made available to local authorities before the new licensing regime begins. All local authorities must have regard to this guidance when carrying out functions under the Act.

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether the advisory panel recommendations on location of casinos will relate to *(a)* local authority areas and *(b)* specific sites within a local authority. [8221]

**Mr. Caborn:** My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State will ask the casino advisory panel to assist her in the exercise of her order making powers under Section 175(4) of the Gambling Act 2005 to determine the geographical distribution of casino premises licences. For this purpose, she is required to specify in the order which local authorities should be permitted to issue casino premises licences of a specified kind, and how many of each type of casino premises licence each specified local authority should be permitted to issue. The casino advisory panel's role will be to provide the Secretary of State with advice on these issues, and it will not be required to recommend specific sites.

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) whether regenerative benefits will be the only consideration in the granting of a regional casino licence; [8222]

(2) what criteria the advisory panel will use to make recommendations on the location of new *(a)* small, *(b)* large and *(c)* regional casinos. [8223]

**Mr. Caborn:** The casino advisory panel will consider submissions from local authorities wishing to issue premises licences for regional, large or small casinos. The criteria against which the panel will assess these submissions were set out in the Government's national policy statement on casinos published on 16 December 2004. The primary consideration will be to ensure that locations provide the best possible test of social impact. Subject to this, the criteria will also be:

to include areas in need of regeneration (as measured by employment and other social deprivation data) and which are likely to benefit in these terms from a new casino;

to ensure that those areas selected are willing to license a new casino.

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether there will be a right of appeal against *(a)* the advisory panel's recommendation and *(b)* the Secretary of State's decision on the location of new *(a)* small, *(b)* large and *(c)* regional casinos. [8224]

**Mr. Caborn:** The Gambling Act 2005 does not provide for a right of appeal in either of the circumstances specified.

The Secretary of State's order making powers under Section 175(4) of the Gambling Act 2005 are subject to the affirmative resolution procedure. Both Houses of Parliament will have to approve her order before it takes effect.

The panel is a purely advisory body to provide advice to the Secretary of State on the exercise of her powers, and as such it would be inappropriate for there to be a right of appeal.

### Commonwealth Institute

**Tony Baldry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when she expects to announce her decision concerning the statutory listing of the Commonwealth Institute Building in Kensington. [9099]

**Mr. Lammy:** My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State will announce her decision once she has considered advice from English Heritage, statutory advisers on the historic environment, and intends to do so shortly.

### Digital Television

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps she will take to encourage private sector landlords to upgrade their digital reception systems in the run up to digital switchover; and if she will make a statement. [7972]

**James Purnell:** We are working with a number of housing bodies including representatives of private landlords to develop communications for landlords. We will shortly publish, in association with the Chartered Institute of Housing, guidance for the housing sector on how to prepare for digital switchover.

We intend to follow this up with targeted communications aimed at the housing sector which will be developed in association with the new switchover organisation, Switchco Ltd.

### Licensing Act

**Mr. Redwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many pages the form to be completed by pubs to gain renewal of licences under the Licensing Act 2003 comprises. [7667]

**James Purnell:** The form to be completed by pubs and other establishments wishing to convert their present licences is 21 pages long. However, this allows for variations in the terms of licences. Those establishments wishing only to convert their licences need to complete only 7 pages of the form.

Completed application forms must be returned to licensing authorities before 6 August.

**Mr. Redwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate she has made of the cost to a typical pub of complying with the Licensing Act 2003. [7668]

**James Purnell:** The Licensing Act 2003 makes no distinction between pubs and other establishments which are licensed to sell alcohol on the premises. The Government's estimates of the costs and benefits of the Act cover the whole spectrum of businesses and other establishments which will be affected by the new licensing regime—an estimated total of some 200,000 premises.

The Regulatory Impact Assessment published by my Department in March 2003 estimated the net benefits to business of the new licensing regime at some £2 billion over the next decade.

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) what steps her Department is taking to ensure that those individuals and businesses that have been brought into the licensing regime are aware of the 24 November deadline for applications for all licences; [9142]

(2) what steps her Department is taking to ensure that those individuals and businesses that have been brought into the licensing regime are aware of their new responsibilities and duties; [9143]

(3) what steps her Department is taking to ensure that those individuals and businesses who need to convert their licences in order to retain existing rights are aware of the 6 August deadline. [9146]

**James Purnell:** My Department is making every effort to make all affected individuals and businesses aware of their responsibilities under the Licensing Act 2003, including the 6 August and 24 November deadlines. These efforts have included:

- a regular newsletter for local authorities and others since August 2004, which is used as the basis for National Pubwatch articles;
- an improved licensing section on the DCMS website;
- a letter through the Courts to all alcohol licence holders at renewal in 2004;
- a trade and ethnic press campaign including 28 advertisements aimed at independent operators; and
- information initiatives through suppliers, distributors, wholesalers, and cash and carries, who are including reminders of the relevant deadlines on invoices and other literature.

The progress of this information campaign is being monitored closely through the High Level Group, which includes my Department, the Local Government Association, the Local Authorities' Co-ordinators of Regulatory Services, the Association of Chief Police Officers, the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, the Home Office, and representatives of the hospitality industry.

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment she has made of the impact of the Licensing Act 2003 and related regulations requiring a single individual to take legal responsibility for all licensed events at a particular village hall during a 12-month period; and what representations she has received concerning this issue. [3962]

**James Purnell:** Concern has been expressed to DCMS by village halls as to the duties of an individual who is specified on a premises licence as the designated premises supervisor (DPS). The role of a DPS only applies when a premises licence authorises the supply of alcohol. It is not relevant in respect of other licensable activities such as regulated entertainment. While the DPS has certain responsibilities under the 2003 Act, it is important that this is kept in perspective. The main purpose of having a DPS is to provide a primary point of contact for authorities investigating problems, and to ensure that any necessary preventative measures are taken to promote the licensing objectives.

For example, we have clarified that the DPS does not have to be physically present at the premises for sales of alcohol to take place there. In addition, regular users can take out their own premises licence with their own named DPS or other hirers could be asked to use temporary event notices and there would therefore be no need to have a DPS for those events.

These arrangements are important in the interests of those living near village halls. It is vital that there is a proper balance between the needs of local residents and of those conducting licensable activities at such halls. We believe that the Act strikes the correct balance, but we continue to discuss with representatives of village halls the ways in which the burdens involved can be best managed.

**Mr. Redwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate she has made of the number of licence applications under the Licensing Act 2003 which have been received to date by local councils. [8788]

**James Purnell:** My Department estimates that 20 per cent. of all licensed premises have so far submitted applications to their licensing authorities. This percentage is expected to increase rapidly as the 6 August deadline for converting existing licences approaches.

**Mr. Redwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will grant automatic extensions of existing public house licences which do not seek a variation on the terms of the licence. [8790]

**James Purnell:** My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State will not be granting automatic extensions to licence holders who do not seek variations in the terms of their licences. All applications for the conversion of existing licences, whether variation is sought or not, must be made to licensing authorities by 6 August.

The Government are aware of the possible pressures on licensing authorities that may arise during the transition period, and the Licensing Act 2003 includes appropriate safeguards. Where a licensing authority is unable to complete its consideration of an application for conversion (without variation) within two months, that application is deemed to have been granted.

### Olympic Bid 2012

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what safeguards are in place to ensure that local community sporting initiatives are not adversely affected by the London 2012 Olympic bid. [6940]

**Tessa Jowell:** Government and lottery investment in local community sporting initiatives is not dependent on the outcome of the London 2012 bid. On the contrary, we expect the bid, if successful, to provide a major boost to sports participation in this country, a strong legacy of facilities which will benefit the whole of the UK and to inspire the next generation of young people to greater sporting activity and help foster a healthy and active nation.

### Special Advisers

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will list *(a)* the special advisers in her Department, *(b)* their specific areas of expertise and *(c)* the total cost of employing them in the latest year for which figures are available. [8830]

**Mr. Lammy:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister to my hon. Friend the Member for St. Helens, North (Mr. Watts) on 22 July 2004, *Official Report*, columns 466–70W. Information on special advisers for 2004–05 is currently being collated and will be published in the normal way before the summer recess.

## PRIME MINISTER

### EU Budget

**Mr. Llwyd:** To ask the Prime Minister what representations he received from the First Secretary of the National Assembly for Wales on the recent negotiations on the EU's budget. [9183]

**The Prime Minister:** I have received representations from the First Minister of the National Assembly for Wales on this matter.

### Floods (North Yorkshire)

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to the oral answer of 22 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 795, when the hon. Member for Vale of York will be able to meet the relevant Minister; and if he will make emergency funds available to pay for the clear-up of the countryside and repair to damaged roads and bridges. [9469]

**The Prime Minister:** I understand the hon. Member will be meeting my hon. Friend the Minister of State for the Environment (Mr. Morley) shortly to discuss the points she raises.

### Ken Bigley

**Alan Simpson:** To ask the Prime Minister what the results were of the FBI test on the hairbrush belonging to Ken Bigley; and what information he has received on the whereabouts of Mr. Bigley's body. [8591]

**The Prime Minister:** Samples of Mr. Bigley's DNA have been supplied to the US authorities. US military and FBI investigators have tested Mr. Bigley's DNA profile against material obtained from Iraq. So far, they have not discovered a match but the FBI continue to compare Mr. Bigley's profile with further material obtained from Iraq.

Regrettably we have nothing to report as yet on the whereabouts of Mr. Bigley's body. We continue to work closely with the Iraqi and US authorities, and remain in touch with Mr. Bigley's family.

### Ministerial Duties

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to his answer of 6 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 271W, on ministerial duties, whether he spent more or less than 48 hours performing his official duties in the week commencing 9 May. [9741]

**The Prime Minister:** I have nothing further to add to the answer I gave the hon. Member on 6 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 271W.

### Mistakes

**Andrew George:** To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to his speech to the Labour party spring conference, what mistakes he has *(a)* made and *(b)* admitted to since May 1997. [8803]

**The Prime Minister:** I have nothing further to add to my spring conference speech.

### Official Engagements

**Mr. Maples:** To ask the Prime Minister if he will list his official engagements for 6 June. [8729]

**The Prime Minister:** I had meetings with ministerial colleagues and others. Later in the day I left for Washington for talks with President Bush.

**Mr. Maples:** To ask the Prime Minister which members of the staff of the British embassy in Washington accompanied him during his official engagements on 6 June. [8730]

**The Prime Minister:** I had no official engagements in Washington on 6 June. I arrived in Washington early on the morning of 7 June.

### Race Relations

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Prime Minister how many and what percentage of staff in his Office have received training on the general and specific duties of the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000, broken down by *(a)* ethnicity and *(b)* grade. [3561]

**The Prime Minister:** For these purposes my office forms part of the Cabinet Office. I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given to him by my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (Mr. Hutton) today.

### Royal Prerogative

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to the answer of 15 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 384W, to the hon. Member for Nottingham, North (Mr. Allen), on the Royal Prerogative, what the most commonly exercised powers under the Royal Prerogative are. [8126]

**Mr. Meacher:** To ask the Prime Minister if he will list the occasions on which each prerogative power has been exercised by the holder of his office in the last 30 years. [8956]

**The Prime Minister:** I refer the hon. Members to the memorandum from the Treasury Solicitor's Department (MPP09*(a)* ) in the report by the Public Administration Select Committee "Taming the Prerogative: Strengthening Ministerial Accountability to Parliament" (HC 422). Copies are available in the Libraries of the House.

### Sir Richard Dearlove

**Adam Price:** To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to the oral answer to the hon. Member for Carmarthen, East and Dinefwr on 29 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 1288, on what basis he concluded that the statement by Sir Richard Dearlove to which the question referred was contained in a memorandum covered by the Butler Review. [9366]

**The Prime Minister:** I have nothing further to add to the answer I gave the hon. Member on 29 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 1288.

### Special Advisers

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Prime Minister if he will list *(a)* the special advisers in his Office, *(b)* their specific areas of expertise and *(c)* the total cost of employing them in the latest year for which figures are available. [8815]

**The Prime Minister:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave my hon. Friend the Member for St. Helens, North (Mr. Watts) on 22 July 2004, *Official Report*, columns 466–70W. Information on special advisers for 2004–05 is currently being collated, and this will be published in the normal way once it has been completed.

### Trident

**Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to the oral answer to the hon. Member for Sunderland, South on 29 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 1292, if he will undertake to have a vote in Parliament on any proposal to replace the Trident nuclear deterrent. [9806]

**The Prime Minister:** I have nothing further to add to the answer I gave to my hon. Friend the Member for Sunderland, South (Mr. Mullin) on 29 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 1292.

### Work-related Stress

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Prime Minister how many cases of work-related stress have been reported in his Office in each of the last three years; how much compensation was paid to employees in each year; how many work days were lost due to work-related stress in each year; at what cost; what procedures have been put in place to reduce work-related stress; at what cost; and if he will make a statement. [7870]

**The Prime Minister:** For these purposes my office forms part of the Cabinet Office. I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to her by my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (Mr. Hutton) today.

## DEFENCE

### Iraq

17. **Patrick Mercer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the security situation in Iraq. [8667]

**John Reid:** We condemn each and every terrorist attack. The vast majority of the victims are ordinary Iraqi people. They deserve our support in fighting this insurgency. We can expect attacks to continue as Iraq maintains progress towards a constitution, referendum and further elections. Attacks are mainly confined to four out of 18 provinces in Iraq. The Iraqi Security Forces are conducting, both independently and with coalition support, an increasing number of counter-insurgency operations.

**Adam Price:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to his reply of 27 June 2005, *Official Report*, columns 1204–05W, on Iraq, whether comments by the

British Deputy Senior Judge Advocate on the 27 August 2003 detainee interrogation policy concerned use of *(a)* dogs, *(b)* stress positions, *(c)* sleep management, *(d)* sensory deprivation, *(e)* yelling, *(f)* loud music and *(g)* light control. [9050]

**Mr. Ingram:** The content of the advice of the British Deputy Staff Judge Advocate given in August 2003 is covered by legal professional privilege and remains the property of the United States Government. For these reasons I am not able to comment on it.

**Adam Price:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 27 June 2005, *Official Report*, columns 1204–05W, on Iraq, whether the British Deputy Senior Judge Advocate in Iraq had a role in the formulation of a response to the Red Cross report on Abu Ghraib which he summarised for senior coalition personnel. [9095]

**Mr. Ingram:** The British Officer embedded within the office of the Staff Judge Advocate did not have a role in formulating the response to the ICRC report received in November 2003. An Australian Officer embedded within that office led in preparing the initial draft response and was working direct to the Staff Judge Advocate on that issue.

**Sir Menzies Campbell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the amount and type of ordnance dropped on Iraq by RAF aircraft was in *(a)* November 2002, *(b)* December 2002, *(c)* January 2003 and *(d)* February 2003. [7261]

**John Reid** *[holding answer 28 June 2005]:* RAF aircraft used Paveway laser-guided precision bombs in Iraq over this period, while policing the no-fly zones. 16 Paveways were dropped by UK aircraft in November 2002; 24 in December 2002; four in January 2003; and five in February 2003.

**Mr. Moore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many reservists are serving in Iraq; and what proportion had been previously mobilised for service *(a)* overseas and *(b)* in Iraq since May 2002. [8621]

**Mr. Touhig:** Just over 560 reservists are currently called out for permanent service and serving in Iraq. Of the 530 reservists from the Territorial Army and Army's Regular Reserve currently serving in Iraq, approximately 11 per cent. have previously been called out for permanent service in Iraq and 3 per cent. for other overseas operational service since May 2002. Information regarding previous permanent service undertaken by members of the other reserve forces is not held centrally and could be provided only by a manual check of individual records.

### Africa (Peace-building)

18. **Michael Jabez Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what role his Department has played in strengthening African peace-building capabilities. [8668]

**Mr. Ingram:** The Ministry of Defence's contribution to the strengthening of African peace-building capability mainly focuses on peace support training of African armed forces and mentoring and advisory functions through its permanently deployed training teams and liaison officers. For example, at present, 10 Defence Attachés and around 120 British armed forces personnel are based in Sub-Saharan Africa to assist in these tasks. Additionally, there are around 25 personnel seconded to UN missions in Sub-Saharan Africa.

22. **Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what role his Department plays in strengthening African peace-building capabilities. [8672]

**Mr. Ingram:** I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave earlier today to my hon. Friend the Member for Hastings and Rye (Michael Jabez Foster).

### Second World War

19. **Rosie Cooper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans his Department has to commemorate the role of women in the Second World War. [8669]

**Mr. Touhig:** I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave to my hon. Friend the Member for Islington, South and Finsbury (Ms Thornberry) earlier today.

24. **Mr. Marsden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on activities organised by his Department to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the end of the second world war. [8674]

**Mr. Touhig:** I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence earlier today to my hon. Friend, the Member for Hackney, South and Shoreditch (Meg Hillier).

### Procurement

20. **Dr. Cable:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what forecast he has made of total cost over-runs occurring in current defence procurement projects worth over £1 billion. [8670]

**Mr. Ingram:** Details of major equipment projects over £1 billion and their performance against financial targets are set out in the Major Projects Report 2004 (MPR04). This year's report, MPR05, is due to be placed in the Library of the House prior to the summer recess.

There are additionally eight infrastructure and support projects outside the DPA worth over £1 billion, none of which is forecasting cost overruns.

### Surface Fleet

21. **Linda Gilroy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has to enhance the Royal Navy's surface fleet. [8671]

**Mr. Ingram:** We are adapting and modernising the Royal Navy into a versatile maritime force that is structured to meet the challenges of the future. The capability of the surface fleet will be enhanced through the procurement of two new, large aircraft carriers, new Type 45 destroyers and new amphibious support shipping.

### Veterans' Organisations

23. **Mr. Simon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent discussions he has had with veterans' organisations. [8673]

**Mr. Touhig:** The Ministry of Defence maintains a close dialogue with veterans' organisations at both ministerial and official level. Since becoming Minister for Veterans, I have chaired a meeting of the Veterans Forum, which brings together representatives from the Ministry of Defence, other Government Departments and the Confederation of British Service and Ex-Service Organisations (COBSEO) as part of the highly successful Veterans' Programme. I have also had introductory meetings with a number of individual veterans' organisations, and more are planned. Our discussions have been wide-ranging and constructive, and I look forward to working together to make the Veterans' Programme even more effective.

### EU Defence Contribution

25. **Chris Bryant:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps he is taking in the EU to press for a greater defence contribution from EU states. [8675]

**John Reid:** During the United Kingdom's EU presidency we will promote a European Security and Defence Policy which is more capable, more coherent and more active. As presidency we are pressing ahead with the Headline Goal 2010 capability development process, aiming to deliver the final military Requirements Catalogue 2005.

The UK also continues to play a leading role in the EU rapid-response Battlegroups initiative, to which 22 member states have so far declared commitments.

### Armed Forces Personnel

**Harry Cohen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many armed forces personnel applied to take up appointments with defence industry companies in *(a)* 2003 and *(b)* 2004, broken down by rank; and how many of the applications were accepted in each case. [9322]

**Mr. Touhig:** I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave on 28 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 1394, to the right hon. and learned Member for Devizes (Mr. Ancram).

### Computer Crime

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many cases of computer *(a)* hacking, *(b)* fraud and *(c)* theft his Department recorded in each year since 2001–02; and for each year, on how many occasions computer systems have been illegally accessed by computer hackers (i) within and (ii) outside his Department. [7179]

**Mr. Touhig:** The number of incidents affecting MOD computer systems for the years 2003, 2004 and 2005 are summarised in the following table:

| *Incident type* | *2003 (1 January–31 December 2003)* | *2004 (1 January–31 December 2004)* | *2005 (1 January–23 June 2005)* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Computer hacking incidents, comprising: | 12 | 36 | 30 |
| Computer network exploitation | 0 | 2 | 1 |
| External probe or scan | 1 | 6 | 6 |
| External unauthorised access (intrusion) | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| External unauthorised Modification (including defacement) | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Internal—misuse of resources | 4 | 10 | 19 |
| Internal—probe or scan | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Internal Unauthorised Access (intrusion) | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| Internal unauthorised modification (including defacement) | 0 | 6 | 1 |
| Internal—privilege abuse | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Other (including suspicious activity) | 3 | 5 | 4 |
| Computer fraud | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Computer theft | 59 | 158 | 23 |

Some of the hacking incidents outlined above represent precursor activity (such as probes or scans) to a hacking attack. In many cases, the protective measures deployed to safeguard MOD information systems are likely to have dissuaded hackers from developing their reconnaissance into a proper hacking attack. None of the reported incidents of hacking had any operational impact.

There were no recorded incidents of computer fraud over the period 2003–05.

### EU Military Bodies

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list staff on secondment to EU military bodies, broken down by grade. [8973]

**Mr. Touhig:** There are currently 13 UK military personnel seconded to the EU military staff: one brigadier, one colonel, nine lieutenant colonels or equivalent, one warrant officer, and one flight sergeant.

There is one UK commander seconded as a military assistant to the Chairman of the EU Military Committee.

There are currently no UK civilian staff seconded to EU military bodies.

### Gibraltar

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many custody suites each of the services operates in Gibraltar; and how often each was used in each of the last three years. [7598]

**Mr. Ingram:** The Command has one custody suite and six persons have been held in custody, for short periods of time, in the last three years. In 2002 no persons were held. In 2003 six persons were held. In 2004 no persons were held. To date, in 2005, no persons have been held.

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* doctors and *(b)* nurses work in Gibraltar Naval Hospital. [7203]

**Mr. Ingram:** There are five permanent medical consultant posts at Royal Naval Hospital, Gibraltar. Locums and visiting military consultants currently man these posts while permanent consultants are being recruited. The commanding officer is also a GP. Several specialist consultants visit on a regular basis.

The Royal Navy Hospital, Gibraltar employs 25 nurses across various specialisms.

### Kandahar (Service Personnel)

**Patrick Mercer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* aircraft, *(b)* airmen, *(c)* soldiers and *(d)* sailors the UK has in the Kandahar area; and under whose operational command they are. [7609]

**Mr. Ingram:** As at 27 June 2005, there are six Harrier GR7 aircraft, 146 airmen, 30 soldiers and 10 sailors in the Kandahar area. All come under the operational command of the UK's Chief of Joint Operations.

### Military Costs (Afghanistan/Middle East)

**Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will estimate the costs of military involvement in *(a)* Afghanistan and *(b)* the Middle East since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [8049]

**Mr. Ingram:** The Ministry of Defence identifies the costs of operations in terms of the net additional costs it has incurred. Additional costs for larger operations are identified separately and are published each year in the MOD's annual report and accounts, which are available in the Library of the House.

On this basis, the additional costs of military operations in Afghanistan and the middle east from 2001 are:

*£ million*

| | *Afghanistan* | *Gulf* | *Iraq (OpTelic)* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2001–02 | 221 | 61 | — |
| 2002–03 | 311 | 45 | 847 |
| 2003–04 | 46 | — | 1,311 |

The additional costs of operations in Afghanistan and Iraq in 2004–05 will be published this autumn in the MOD's 2004–05 departmental report and accounts.

### Military Readiness

**Mr. Robathan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) if he will make a statement on the finding of the National Audit Office report Assessing and Reporting Military Readiness, paragraph 2.44, concerning engineering risk and cannibalisation; and how much equipment and of what type in *(a)* Challenger 2 regiments, *(b)* AS90 regiments, *(c)* Warrior battalions and *(d)* CVR(T) regiments has been damaged during cannibalisation; [7547]

(2) if he will make a statement on the finding of the National Audit Office report Assessing and Reporting Military Readiness, paragraph 2.45, concerning the effects of cannibalisation of equipment on the remaining pool of equipment; how many units have been left properly equipped following this process of cannibalisation; and how many *(a)* tank, *(b)* CVR(T), *(c)* AS90 and *(d)* Warrior units are fully equipped for operations. [7549]

**Mr. Ingram** *[holding answer 27 June 2005]:* The process of cannibalisation is undertaken in a deliberate and effective manner by fully qualified and professional army engineers. As a result no equipment in Challenger 2 regiments, AS90 regiments, Warrior battalions or CVR(T) regiments has been damaged during cannibalisation.

All units deployed or earmarked for current operations have deployed or will deploy equipped with their full complement of heavy armoured vehicles. Cannibalisation has had no impact on this requirement.

### Recruitment

**Mr. Ancram:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many applications there were from civilians to join UK regular forces in *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* non-commissioned posts in each quarter since 2002. [7529]

**Mr. Touhig:** The number of civilian applications for employment in the UK regular forces since financial year 2002–03 were:

| *Naval Service* | *T1* | *T2* | *T3* | | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Officers (intake is calculated by three terms, not quarters)* | | | | | |
| 2002–03 | 510 | 585 | 405 | — | 1,500 |
| 2003–04 | 380 | 480 | 305 | — | 1,165 |
| 2004–05 | 440 | 405 | 280 | — | 1,125 |
| *Other ranks* | *Q1* | *Q2* | *Q3* | *Q4* | |
| 2002–03 | 3,038 | 3,185 | 2,168 | 3,852 | 12,243 |
| 2003–04 | 3,399 | 2,895 | 2,084 | 2,593 | 10,971 |
| 2004–05 | 2,637 | 2,656 | 2,076 | 2,497 | 9,866 |
| *Army Officers* | | | | | |
| 2002–03 | 1,468 | 1,368 | 1,863 | 1,459 | 6,158 |
| 2003–04 | 1,224 | 1,095 | 1,266 | 1,290 | 4,875 |
| 2004–05 | 1,004 | 877 | 1,244 | 1,081 | 4,206 |
| *Other ranks* | | | | | |
| 2002–03 | 7,883 | 10,794 | 7,647 | 10,483 | 36,807 |
| 2003–04 | 9,959 | 8,250 | 6,215 | 9,998 | 34,422 |
| 2004–05 | 7,671 | 6,984 | 4,995 | 8,598 | 28,248 |
| *RAF Officers* | | | | | |
| 2002–03 | 1,096 | 941 | 1,576 | 833 | 4,466 |
| 2003–04 | 755 | 672 | 1,397 | 895 | 3,719 |
| 2004–05 | 757 | 570 | 1,377 | 489 | 3,193 |
| *Other ranks* | | | | | |
| 2002–03 | 3,745 | 3,988 | 2,946 | 1,872 | 12,551 |
| 2003–04 | 1,801 | 2,421 | 1,781 | 3,068 | 9,071 |
| 2004–05 | 2,489 | 2,228 | 1,799 | 1,750 | 8,266 |

### Recuperation Levels

**Mr. Gerald Howarth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects recuperation levels within the RAF to return to pre-Operation Telic levels of readiness. [7885]

**Mr. Ingram:** The Royal Air Force continues to meet its standing and contingent overseas operational and enduring home commitments, contributing forces to a number of theatres around the world: the Gulf, Northern Ireland, South Atlantic, Afghanistan and the Balkans. Planning assumptions and requirements are kept under constant review to ensure that the RAF continues to be ready to meet the challenges of today and tomorrow. The pre-Operation Telic levels of readiness were a reflection of the Defence position prior to 2003 and are not necessarily an indication of our future requirements.

### Royal Air Force

**Mark Pritchard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on manning levels in the Royal Air Force. [8664]

**Mr. Touhig:** On 1 May 2005, the trained strength of the regular Royal Air Force was 48,760. As part of the restructuring of the armed forces announced in this House on 21 July last year, RAF trained manpower is being reduced to around 41,000 by April 2008.

### Surveys

**Mr. Moore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when the most recent continuous attitude surveys for each of the services will be completed; and if he will place copies in the Library. [8617]

**Mr. Touhig:** The most recent Royal Navy continuous attitude survey (CAS) was completed in March 2005; while the Army's latest CAS was completed in June 2005. The RAF report on their aggregated 2004 CAS results is now being prepared and will be available for publication towards the end of the year. When the RAF report is complete, the results of all three services' CAS will be placed in the Library of the House and MOD FOI website.

### Territorial Army

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the manning levels of the Territorial Army are. [8663]

**Mr. Touhig:** The whole strength of the TA as at 1 May 2005 stood at 37,100.

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the future of the Territorial Army in Chorley. [9580]

**Mr. Touhig:** I refer my hon. Friend to the reply I gave him on 28 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 1400W.

### Troop Deployment

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the cost of troop deployments to Iraq in each of the next three years; and from which budgets they will be funded. [6333]

**Mr. Ingram:** The Ministry of Defence is constantly reviewing and assessing its commitment in Iraq, based on the security and political situation, and changing force posture and equipment requirements as Iraqi Security Forces take on increasing responsibility for security. Consequently any speculation on potential future costs would be misleading. As with all net additional costs of operations, we would expect these costs to be funded by HM Treasury from the Contingency Reserve.

### Typhoon

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Typhoon aircraft are in use with the Royal Air Force. [9576]

**Mr. Ingram:** As of 30 June 2005 the RAF has taken delivery of 15 Typhoons.

## CABINET OFFICE

### Government Cars

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster whether the Government Car Agency plans to replace cars in the ministerial fleet with cars which use alternative fuel technology. [7415]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** The responsibility for the provision of ministerial cars and drivers has been delegated under the terms of the Framework Document to the Government Car Despatch Agency. I have asked its Chief Executive Mr. Roy Burke to write to the hon. Member. Copies of his letter will be placed in the Library.

### Myerscough Quarry

**Mr. Wallace:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to his written answer of 27 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 1226W, which local stakeholders are being consulted in the early stages of the investigation into the possibility of the former Myerscough Quarry becoming a strategic rural gateway for Lancashire. [8775]

**Mr. Hutton:** The Duchy Office has prepared the following list of stakeholders/consultees which either have been consulted or are to be consulted over the next few months in respect of the proposals for the Myerscough Quarry site.

Lancashire County Council

Wyre Borough Council

Myerscough and Bilsborrow Parish Council

Lancaster City Council

North West Development Agency

Lancashire West Partnership

Pan-Lancashire Partnership

Ben Wallace MP Lancaster and Wyre

Michael Jack MP Fylde

British Waterways

Garstang Area Partnership

Garstang and Eccleston Show Committees

Myerscough College

Lancaster University

Lancaster Farmers Auction Mart

Brock Auction Mart

Royal Lancashire Agricultural Society

### Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many and what percentage of staff in his Department have received training on the general and specific duties of the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000, broken down by *(a)* ethnicity and *(b)* grade. [3539]

**Mr. Hutton:** A programme of training on the general and specific duties of the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000 was provided to Cabinet Office senior managers when the first Race Equality Scheme was produced in 2002. Further training and advice has followed as senior management teams have changed.

Detailed records of those who attended the training in 2002 have not been kept. However, as at 1 April 2002 when the training was being delivered, the grades (pay bands) and ethnicity of all staff in the Department at the targeted grades are shown in the table.

*Number and ethnic origin of staff in the SCS and at band A as at 1 April 2002*

| | *Asian* | *Black* | *Mixed ethnic origin* | *Other ethnic origin* | *White* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Senior civil servant | * | * | * | * | 131 |
| Band A | * | * | * | * | 367 |
| Total | 13 | 6 | * | * | 498 |

*Notes:*

1. As per civil service statistical convention, figures between 0 and 5 and those from which figures between 0 and 5 could be calculated are asterisked (*) to avoid identification of individuals.
2. Response rate to the ethnic origin questionnaire at Senior Civil Servant level was 83 per cent. and at band A level 90 per cent.

In addition to specific training on the Act, diversity and equality issues are covered in the Department's management development programmes.

The Department is currently undertaking a detailed review of its Race Equality Scheme which includes how it trains staff in the duties of the Race Relations (Amendment) Act. The revised scheme will be published in September 2005.

### Work-related Stress

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many cases of work-related stress have been reported in his Department in each of the last three years; how much compensation was paid to employees in each year; how many work days were lost due to work-related stress in each year; at what cost; what procedures have been put in place to reduce work-related stress; at what cost; and if he will make a statement. [7856]

**Mr. Hutton:** Work-related stress is recorded if it results in absence from work. The Cabinet Office figures are available from 1 April 2003 and set out in the table. There may be cases of work-related stress that do not result in an absence but that information is not recorded.

No compensation has been claimed or paid to employees in the last three years.

| | *Number of individuals* | *Working days lost* | *Cost of working days lost* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 April-31 December 2003 | [1]Less than 5 | [1]n/a | [1]n/a |
| 1 January-31 December 2004 | 8 | 107 | 11,183 |
| 1 January 2005 to date | [1]Less than 5 | [1]n/a | [1]n/a |

[1] To protect the privacy of individuals details have not been provided. This is in accordance with statistical conventions, which recommend that records of 5 or less should not be published.

The Cabinet Office has a number of procedures in place to reduce stress at work. A stress management framework based on the Health and Safety Executive's Management Standards was launched in February 2005 and is available on the Department's intranet site. Stress management workshops were organised to explain the framework to managers and employees, and the framework is covered in the Department's on-going health and safety training.

The well-being of employees is important to the Department and it supports them in managing their work-life balance. In addition to leave entitlements the Department offers child care support and, where possible, it encourages flexible working arrangements. An on-site gym is available to employees in London, and health awareness initiatives are run from time to time.

The Department is also committed to creating a supportive working environment that is free from any form of harassment and bullying. All complaints are taken seriously and individuals have access to a confidential network of Harassment Contact Officers which is in addition to Department's counselling service.

Information on the individual costs of these initiatives could be obtained but only at disproportionate cost.

## TRADE AND INDUSTRY

### Acts of Parliament (Internet Access)

**Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will take steps to make all Acts of Parliament published before 1988 for which his Department is responsible available online. [3722]

**Alan Johnson:** The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office (HMSO) within the Cabinet Office is the Queen's printer of Acts of Parliamentary, and responsible for the publication of Acts of Parliament. HMSO has considered the publication of Acts prior to 1998, which is the earliest date when these were available electronically, but has decided not to do so as many have been heavily amended and to publish them in their original form would be misleading for many users. The Government are, however, taking forward development of a statute law database which will contain the fully

revised and updated text of all legislation from 1275. It is expected that this will be made available to the general public during 2006.

### Advanced Gas-cooled Reactor Nuclear Power Stations

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (1) what weaknesses were uncovered in which power stations during recent inspections by Government nuclear inspectors of the graphite cores of advanced gas-cooled reactor nuclear power stations; [4481]

(2) what dates were originally predicted by computer models as to when inevitable weakening in the graphite cores of advanced gas-cooled reactor nuclear power stations would occur; what revision of these dates was undertaken in subsequent studies; and what bearing this has on the scheduling of decommissioning advanced gas-cooled reactor nuclear power stations; [4482]

(3) what factors lead to the onset of weakening in the graphite cores of advanced gas-cooled reactor nuclear power stations at a rate faster than that predicted by computer modelling; and what measures his Department has put in place to guard against further such weakening; [4483]

(4) what implications the risk of advanced gas-cooled reactor nuclear power stations developing cracks in their graphite cores will have on *(a)* their current operational life, *(b)* the operational life of plants using similar systems and *(c)* Government policy relating to the possible construction of new nuclear power stations; and if he will make a statement. [4484]

**Malcolm Wicks:** Technical issues relating to the graphite cores of advanced gas-cooled reactor power stations are complex technical matters for British Energy and the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate. Therefore, I have asked the Chief Inspector of Nuclear Installations to write to the hon. Member. The Government's position on new nuclear power stations remains the same as stated in the 2003 White Paper—we are keeping the option of new build open. Before any decision were taken to proceed with the building of new nuclear power stations there would need to be the fullest public consultation and the publication of a further White Paper setting out our proposals.

The 'West Midlands Regional Energy Strategy' published in November 2004 by GOWM, The West Midlands Regional Assembly and Advantage West Midlands, also recognises the need for the increased use of renewable energy resources as one of its four key objectives and sets out four priorities under this banner along with identifying those organisations with a lead responsibility and milestones.

The Regional Planning Guidance for the West Midlands published in June 2004 by the GOWM includes a chapter on Energy Policies which includes renewable energy, base lining its use in the region at 0.1 per cent. in 2000, identifying the potential to increase this to at least 15 per cent. and encouraging local authorities to encourage renewable energy proposals in their development plans. This includes location guidance and the environmental impact of its generation.

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will estimate the total cost of closing down each advanced gas-cooled reactor nuclear power station in order to carry out maintenance work on the graphite core. [4485]

**Malcolm Wicks:** This is a matter for British Energy.

### Advantage West Midlands

**Paul Farrelly:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how much has been provided by Advantage West Midlands for each regeneration zone in the west midlands in each year since they were established. [7620]

**Alun Michael:** There have been a number of changes to the way the Government requires AWM to report on it's spend. There was no geographic analysis of figures spent by Advantage West Midlands prior to 2002–03, when the Government changed the way they expect Regional Development Agency's to report on their spending.

The following figures cover 2002–03, 2003–04 and also 2004–05, although the figures for 2004–05 have not yet been audited.

| | *2002–03* | *2003–04* | *2004–05* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Coventry and Nuneaton | 19,019 | 13,675 | 12,359 |
| East Birmingham and North Solihull | 17,600 | 40,580 | 66,980 |
| North Black Country and South Staffs | 23,596 | 36,684 | 39,582 |
| South Black Country and West Birmingham | 27,430 | 25,223 | 25,517 |
| North Staffordshire | 16,031 | 20,825 | 19,880 |
| Rural | 15,437 | 15,731 | 25,045 |
| Expenditure Outside Regeneration Zones | 88,664 | 111,720 | 53,774 |
| Region Wide | 15,055 | 26,292 | 57,006 |
| Total | 222,832 | 290,730 | 300,143 |

### Agents

**Malcolm Bruce:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry pursuant to the answer given on 13 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 68W, on agents, on how many occasions in the previous year UK trade and investment provided information to companies about potential agents; if he will list *(a)* the companies to which information was given and *(b)* the countries about which the information was given. [7924]

**Ian Pearson:** UKTI does not hold this data centrally. To co-ordinate it would represent disproportionate cost.

### Air Travellers (Financial Protection)

**Dr. Cable:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (1) what assessment he has made of consumers' understanding of financial protection schemes for air travellers; and if he will make a statement; [8293]

(2) what recent discussions he has had with consumer groups on financial protection schemes for air travellers; and if he will make a statement; [8294]

(3) what assessment he has made of the UK's ability to meet its obligations under the Package Travel Directive if major tour operators move their business outside the Air Travel Organisers' Licence scheme. [8295]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The Air Travel Organisers' Licence (ATOL) regulations use the same definition of "package" as the Package Travel Directive and the UK regulations which implement the Directive to define their coverage in respect of package travel organisers. Any tour operator which provides flight-based packages has no choice but to hold an ATOL or to be acting for a disclosed principal which holds an ATOL. If a tour operator were to legally operate outside of the ATOL scheme they would need to alter their products in such a way that they no longer constituted a package. Since the definition in the ATOL Regulations and the Directive is the same, it follows that if a product falls outside of one it will fall outside of the other and the UK would have no obligations under the Directive in respect of that business.

I am very aware of the views of consumer representatives' on this high profile issue for the leisure travel sector. I understand they have made those views known to both the Civil Aviation Authority and the Department for Transport as they consider the arguments for change to the current regime.

The Civil Aviation Authority has undertaken extensive work in order to assess consumers' understanding of financial protection in this market. This assessment was reported in the CAA's advice to the Government (Financial Protection for Air Travellers and Package Holiday Makers in the Future, CAA Advice to Government, July 2004) and in their consultation document of July 2003. These reported the results of their consultation with consumer organisations and also the results of research carried out for the CAA into customer expectations and their perceptions of protection in the holiday market (Financial Protection for Air Holiday, Final Report: NFO Transport and Tourism). These documents and reports are available at www.atol.org.uk.

### Carbon Abatement Technologies

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment he has made of the economic effects on UK industry of the use of carbon abatement technologies. [6617]

**Malcolm Wicks:** Work undertaken by the National Economic Research Association (NERA) last year estimated that currently some 38,000 jobs and a turnover of £3 billion per year is attributable to activities in cleaner fossil fuel technologies. The report was not able to quantify the growth in the sector as the result of the increased used of carbon abatement technologies but suggested that both jobs and turnover should rise significantly.

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what support the Government plan to offer to encourage companies *(a)* to undertake further research into clean coal technologies, *(b)* to invest in clean coal technologies for existing coal-fired power plants and *(c)* to develop new facilities that fully utilise clean coal technologies. [6618]

**Malcolm Wicks:** We have allocated some £20 million from spending round 2005–06 to 2007–08 to support carbon abatement technologies which would include cleaner coal technologies. Although there is currently no support for investing in either new or existing plant, we have announced £25 million for demonstrating carbon abatement technologies for fossil fuel plant. Also under the climate change programme review we are assessing the possibility of incentives for carbon capture and storage which, if found to be justified, could also encourage investment in these technologies.

**Mr. Hood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what steps he is taking to support the development of clean coal technology in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* Scotland. [8852]

**Malcolm Wicks:** The Carbon Abatement Technology Strategy announced on 14 June includes a programme of £25 million to support demonstrations over four years from 2006 and some £20 million over the next three years for R&D support. This support is for the UK as a whole and until the projects have been identified it is not possible separately provide a figure for that part of the funding which would benefit Scotland.

### Carbon Sequestration

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what discussions he has had with the US Department of Energy regarding its FutureGen carbon sequestration initiative. [6707]

**Malcolm Wicks:** We have had no formal discussions with the US Department of Energy about FutureGen although under a Collaborative Arrangement we are working with the US on two Cleaner Coal Technology Projects with the UK Government contributing some £3.5 million. We are also currently discussing collaboration on a third project.

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment he has made of the potential for carbon sequestration in the North sea oil fields. [6619]

**Malcolm Wicks:** The British Geological Survey have estimated that the North sea oil fields have a capacity to store some 5.8 gigatonnes of $CO_2$. The publication "Review of the Feasibility of Carbon Dioxide Capture and Storage in the UK" published in September 2003 provides further information on the potential for storage in North sea's gas fields and aquifers.

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how much the Government have spent on research and development into carbon sequestration technology in the past five years. [6620]

**Malcolm Wicks:** Since 1999 we have committed some £5.8 million towards a variety of R&D projects which would contribute to the development of carbon capture and storage technologies.

### Coal Gasification Technology

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry of what *(a)* public and *(b)* private proposals in the UK (i) to develop new power plants that utilise coal gasification technology and (ii) to retrofit existing coal-fired power plants to utilise coal gasification technology he has been informed. [6625]

**Malcolm Wicks:** To date we are aware of two private proposals to develop power plant using IGCC technology. One is to develop a plant in Teesside and the

second to build a plant on the site of the Hatfield Colliery. Both projects are still at the feasibility stage. We are not aware of any retrofit proposals.

### Coal Liabilities Unit

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what reports have been received since January 2004 from Coal Liabilities Unit staff responsible for updating the storybooks that detail where improvements have been made to claims handlings; and if he will publish these storybooks. [9645]

**Malcolm Wicks:** Regular reports are provided to the Department to allow us to monitor the effectiveness of the claims handling process. These contain commercial information and are not appropriate for publication.

### Consultants

**Mrs. Dean:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what plans he has to issue guidance on effective commissioning for those in the public and voluntary sectors who are commissioning work from external consultants. [7023]

**Alan Johnson:** I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given by my hon. Friend, the Financial Secretary on 27 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 1286W.

For my own Department comprehensive guidance to staff on the effective commissioning of Consultancy and Professional Services was issued to all staff via the DTI intranet in 2004. A pamphlet "A Brief Guide to Engaging Consultants" was published in January 2005 and was distributed to all staff in DTI London offices. Specific Budgeting and Accounting Guidance has also been issued to all Director Generals and their finance staff.

### Corporate Social Responsibility

**Mr. Arbuthnot:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry pursuant to the answer of 23 June 2005, *Official Report*, columns 1162–63W, on Corporate Social Responsibility, how the sums allocated to corporate social responsibility initiatives in each year have been spent. [8906]

**Alun Michael:** DTI made the following allocations to Corporate Social Responsibility for the relevant years:

*CSR Budget for 2003–04: £330,000*

Sponsorship of:

Business in the Community's CR Index and Awards

Small Business Consortium's Small Business Journey

Study by Chatham House following World Summit on Sustainable Development

McKinsey Report on UN Global impact assessment

Development of HMG's CSR Website

*CSR Budget for 2004–05: £369,000*

Sponsorship of:

Business in the Community's CR Index, and Awards

Small Business Consortium's Small Business Journey Toolkit

Impact Assessment on UN Global Compact

CSR Government Report

*CSR Budget for 2005–06: £500,000. Spend to date is £91,000*

CSR Academy

UK CSR Presidency Conference

Sponsorship of Business in the Community's CR Index, and Awards

### Correspondence

**Mr. Andrew Turner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry when he will reply to the letter from the hon. Member for the Isle of Wight *(a)* concerning outstanding correspondence, dated 10 December 2004 and *(b)* concerning Royal Mail, dated September 2004. [9100]

**Malcolm Wicks:** We do not appear to have received the correspondence dated 10 December 2004 referred to by the hon. Member. If the hon. Member would forward copies of this correspondence to me, we will respond with all due urgency.

It would appear that due to an administrative oversight a reply to the hon. Member's correspondence of September 2004 was not issued. A reply will be sent within the next few days along with a sincere apology.

### Defence Industrial Capability

**Mr. Soames:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what aspects of defence industrial capability he is seeking to develop. [9392]

**Alun Michael:** The Department of Trade and Industry is working closely with the Ministry of Defence to establish a defence industrial strategy. This strategy will be aimed at prioritising the importance to the UK of defence industrial capabilities in all sectors.

### Defence Units

**Malcolm Bruce:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the duties and responsibilities are of the Export Control Organisation's *(a)* Policy Unit, *(b)* Chemical Weapons Convention Unit, *(c)* Enforcement Unit, *(d)* Secure Document Unit, *(e)* UK Safeguards Office, *(f)* IAEA Sponsorship Unit and *(g)* Technical Policy Unit. [7959]

**Malcolm Wicks** *[holding answer 29 June 2005]:* The Policy Unit is responsible for the Export Control Organisation's input into export control policy. The Chemical Weapons Convention Unit provides the UK's national Authority, required by Article VII.4 of the Chemical Weapons Convention and is responsible for the implementation of the Convention in the UK. The Enforcement Unit is responsible for the matching of intelligence material to export licence applications. The Special Documents Unit manages the Department's link to the intelligence agencies. The UK Safeguards Office ensures the application of nuclear safeguards in the UK working with UK industry and works on UK and international policy on nuclear safeguards and related nuclear non-proliferation issues. The IAEA Sponsorship Unit is responsible for nuclear non-proliferation policy as it affects the DTI. This includes the Government lead on overall relations with the

International Atomic Energy Agency. The Technical Policy Unit has been merged with Policy Unit to support their role.

More detailed information is available from the following Government websites:

www.dti.gov.uk/export.control/help/introductiontothe_eco.pdf

www.dti.gov.uk/non-proliferation

### Electricity Expenditure

**Mr. Dodds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the average amount spent by each household in England on electricity was in the last year for which figures are available. [8997]

**Malcolm Wicks:** The average amount spent on electricity in 2003–04 across all households in England was £6.36 per week.

### Energy Strategy

**Mr. Jenkin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what plans he has for his Department to conduct a review of the Government's energy strategy. [9097]

**Malcolm Wicks:** The Government remain committed to the framework for energy policy, set out in the Energy White Paper. In the White Paper we made a commitment to keep our progress toward our energy policy goals under review, for example through the work of the Joint Energy Security of Supply Working Group. Another example is the Climate Change Programme Review, which is already showing that we will need to do more to reach our domestic goal for carbon reductions and we are considering the options for addressing this.

### England-Belgium Gas Interconnector

**Mr. Jenkin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry when the England-Belgium gas interconnector enhancement project will be completed; and whether the project is on schedule. [8961]

**Malcolm Wicks:** The first phase of the enhancement project is expected to be complete in December 2005, enabling a doubling of present import capacity. The second phase is scheduled for December 2006, allowing three times the present capacity to flow. I understand that both phases of the project are currently on schedule.

### Exhibitions and Seminars Abroad

**Mr. Arbuthnot:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry pursuant to the answer of 21 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 897W, on the Exhibitions and Seminars Abroad scheme, whether UK Trade and Investment has set a fixed number of overseas exhibitions that any one given company will be eligible to attend under the Support for Exhibitions and Seminars Abroad scheme plans for 2006–07; and if he will make a statement. [8807]

**Ian Pearson:** An eligible company will be able to receive up to three grants to attend overseas exhibitions. The target companies for this scheme are small and medium sized enterprises who are new to exporting. The purpose of the grant is to help such companies overcome perceived commercial risks in pursuing market entry and to enable them to acquire experience on the pat to sustained and successful exporting.

**Mr. Arbuthnot:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry pursuant to the answer of 21 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 897W, on the Exhibitions and Seminars Abroad scheme, whether UK Trade and Investment plans to include mounting UK pavilions which will be eligible to all exporters in its Support for Exhibitions and Seminars Abroad scheme in 2006–07; and if he will make a statement. [8808]

**Ian Pearson:** UK Trade and Investment will work with Accredited Trade Organisations to draw up a programme of overseas exhibitions, including UK pavilions. Participation in such groups will be open to all UK companies. Grant support will be limited to small and medium sized enterprises who are new to exporting.

### Export Control Organisation

**Malcolm Bruce:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will place in the Library the reports submitted by ASE Consulting in relation to its review of the Export Control Organisation's services. [7960]

**Malcolm Wicks** *[holding answer 29 June 2005]:* I have arranged for a copy of the final report released under the Freedom of Information Act to be placed in the Libraries of the House.

**Malcolm Bruce:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will place in the Library the terms of reference for ASE Consulting's review of the Export Control Organisation's services. [7961]

**Malcolm Wicks** *[holding answer 29 June 2005]:* I have arranged for a copy of the terms of reference to be placed in the Libraries of the House.

**Malcolm Bruce:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry which *(a)* organisations and *(b)* other Government departments (i) his Department and (ii) consultants commissioned by his Department have contacted in relation to the review of the Export Control Organisation's services. [7962]

**Malcolm Wicks** *[holding answer 29 June 2005]:* The review was internal to Government and involved FCO, MOD, DFID, the Cabinet Office, HM Revenue and Customs, HM Treasury and other Government agencies. Views of external organisations have not been formally sought.

### Home Computing

**Mr. Michael Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what estimate he has made of the percentage of households in Worcester that *(a)* own a home computer, *(b)* have access to the internet via a normal telephone line and *(c)* have access to the internet via broadband. [7906]

**Alun Michael:** The information is as follows:

*(a)* In the latest Consumer Durables survey by ONS in 2002–03, 54 per cent. of households owned a home computer. This information is not available at local authority level.

*(b)* and *(c)* In Worcester, the percentage of households with a dial-up internet connection is 30 per cent. The percentage of households with a broadband internet connection is 24.8 per cent. in Worcester.

### Humbly Grove/Hole House Farm Gas Storage Facility

**Mr. Jenkin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry when the *(a)* Humbly Grove gas storage facility and *(b)* upgrade of the Hole House Farm storage facility will be complete. [8962]

**Malcolm Wicks:** The Humbly Grove storage facility is due to commence commercial operations in October 2005. The upgrade of the Hole House Farm storage facility is currently expected to be complete in 2008.

### Liberalisation

**Mr. Marsden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what position the United Kingdom will take on liberalisation of *(a)* agricultural markets, *(b)* non-agricultural markets and *(c)* service industries in developing countries at the World Trade Organisation General Council meeting on 27 July 2005. [8291]

**Ian Pearson:** The agenda has yet to be set for the World Trade Organisation General Council meeting on 27 July 2005. The European Commission speaks on behalf of the EU at these meetings. The United Kingdom will continue to work for a pro-development outcome across all the dossiers of the Doha development agenda, as set out in our White Paper "Making Globalisation a Time for Good".

### MG Rover

**Charles Hendry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment his Department has made of its actions in trying to prevent MG Rover entering administration; and if he will make a statement. [5871]

**Ian Pearson:** The DTI, in common with other commentators, had long taken the view that an alliance with one or more strategic partners would be key to MG Rover's long-term future. Officials tracked the progress of negotiations with China Brilliance Automotive, TATA, Proton and the owners of the former Daewoo plant in Warsaw and Ministers made representations at the company's request to assist in certain of these negotiations.

During 2004 it became clear that the proposed alliance with SAIC was critical to MG Rover's future. Ministers and officials did everything possible to secure the deal when it became clear that matters were coming to a head earlier this year. Senior officials flew to Shanghai for discussions with SAIC and the Government stood ready to provide a bridging loan of over £100 million. It was a devastating blow to all those involved, but particularly the workers and their families, that those efforts proved unsuccessful—with the company's entry into administration being the inevitable consequence.

### Miners (Compensation Claims)

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many health-related claims for compensation from surface workers in the coal industry have been refused. [7623]

**Malcolm Wicks:** The Department's expert medical advice is that respirable dust levels on the surface of coal mines were insufficient to cause Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) in the great majority of cases. The Department believes that around 7,500 surface only claims may have been registered under the Claims Handling Agreement for respiratory disease. However, they are not eligible for compensation.

The miners' solicitors had been intending to contest this in new group litigation but advised the court in December 2004 that they were not now going ahead with this. Individual claims may be brought against the Department under common law.

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many claims relating to chronic obstructive pulmonary disease in coal miners have been refused where the claimant worked more than five years underground. [7627]

**Malcolm Wicks** *[holding answer 27 June 2005]:* The figure requested is not available. However, no claim would be denied solely on the basis of the length of underground employment.

### Non-agricultural Market Access

**Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the Government's stance at the World Trade Organisation is on non-agricultural market access negotiations, with particular reference to protecting the environment. [8099]

**Ian Pearson:** Negotiations in Geneva on NAMA are undertaken by the European Commission on behalf of the European Union. The UK objective in the NAMA negotiations within the Doha Development Agenda trade round is for significantly improved real access to markets (except those of least developed developing countries and other weak and vulnerable countries) for all WTO members, especially developing country access to developed markets, and to give a stimulus to trade between developing countries. This to be achieved through the reduction or elimination of tariff and non-tariff barriers. Our commitment to sustainable development underpins our rating stance. Consistent with the Doha trade negotiations mandate the UK also fully supports the reduction or elimination of tariff and non-tariff barriers to trade in environmental goods. The UK does not support any steps in the NAMA negotiations that would deny us, or others, the ability to enforce or implement necessary and proportionate environmental protection measures.

### North West (Economy)

**Mr. Wallace:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what steps the Government are taking to

strengthen the regional economy of the north west following the redundancies announced by Lappett Manufacturing Company Ltd.; and what assistance the Government will provide to those who have lost their jobs. [7723]

**Alun Michael:** The job losses announced by Lappett Manufacturing Company are regrettable but I understand this is a commercial decision in the light of strong international competition. Support for those losing their jobs is available from Jobcentre Plus who can assist them in seeking other opportunities (including on retraining) as well as providing benefit advice.

Much is happening to help strengthen the north west economy. In particular the North West Development Agency has supported a range of initiatives and is working with partners across the region to deliver the regional economic strategy. It is also now working with the other northern regions to take forward the northern way growth strategy. These initiatives are contributing to improving business competitiveness and productivity, strengthening the regions skills base and providing the right environment to retain and attract investment.

Initiatives include a cluster development programme to develop strong clusters around growth sectors, a major manufacturing sector project, 'Agenda for Change', providing intensive business support, a realignment of business support services and workforce development to achieve greater business productivity, provision of technology support facilities, including the Lancashire Technology Management, and supply chain programmes.

Despite the recent losses, unemployment in the north west is now 2.4 per cent. compared to 6.6 per cent. in 1995, and I am encouraged by the progress that is being made. I applaud the energy and commitment in the region to ensure the significant resources available are used to the maximum effect.

### Oil and Gas Imports

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment he has made of the potential consequences for the UK's energy security of continued reliance on imported oil and natural gas. [6621]

**Malcolm Wicks:** My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State will make a report on security of supply to Parliament in July. This will include an assessment of the consequences of the UK becoming increasingly dependent on imported sources of fuel.

Import dependency is not necessarily a threat to energy security. Oil and—currently to a lesser extent—gas are internationally traded commodities. All countries, whether import-dependent or not, have a common interest in promoting open markets and predictable prices. Most other advanced industrial economies already import significant proportions of their energy needs without noticeable disruption.

### Pensioners

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what estimate he has made of the number of people over state pension age who were *(a)* working in low paid jobs, *(b)* receiving the minimum wage and *(c)* receiving below the minimum wage in (i) the UK and (ii) each region in each of the last eight years. [7682]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** Data for the UK from the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings indicates that in 2003 around 170,000 (29 per cent.) of employees who were over the state pension age earned below 60 per cent. of median earnings (£5.24). In 2004, the figure was largely unchanged with around 180,000 (29 per cent.) of employees earning below 60 per cent. of median earnings (£5.42).

Due to the sample size it is not possible to provide an accurate estimate of the number of employees who are over state retirement age who actually earn the minimum wage exactly.

The DTI estimates that in the UK around 60,000 employees over state pension age stood to benefit from the October 2003 uprating of the national minimum wage to £4.50. This is equivalent to 9.5 per cent. of all employees over state pension age.

Around 80,000 employees over the state pension age stood to benefit from the October 2004 uprating of the national minimum wage to £4.85. This is equivalent to 12.7 per cent. of all employees over state pension age

It is not possible to give estimates for the regions due to small sample sizes.

These estimates assume full compliance.

### Post Office Services (Amington)

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry when Post Office Ltd. will write to the hon. Member for Tamworth regarding provision of post office services in Amington, as promised in the written answer of 7 April 2005, *Official Report*, column 1633W. [8791]

**Barry Gardiner:** Post Office Ltd. makes every effort to issue replies to hon. Members within five working days of receiving our request for information. It would appear that due to an administrative error my hon. Friend's question was not passed on to Mr. Mills' office at Post Office Ltd. for a direct reply. This has now been done and a response will be sent direct to my hon. Friend within the next few days.

### Press Officers

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many press officers the Department employed in each year since 1997; and what the cost was in each year. [8131]

**Alan Johnson:** The number of press officers employed by the Department of Trade and Industry for the years requested are as follows.

| | Number |
|---|---|
| 1997 | 20 |
| 1998 | 17 |
| 1999 | 24 |
| 2000 | 25 |
| 2001 | 23 |
| 2002 | 23 |
| 2003 | 23 |
| 2004 | 19 |
| 2005 | 18 |

Information on the costs is not held in the form requested and could be recovered only at disproportionate cost.

### Public Telephone Boxes

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what arrangements are made for public consultation in respect of decisions to remove public telephone boxes. [8039]

**Alun Michael:** The matter raised is the responsibility of the Office of Communications (Ofcom) as independent regulator. Accordingly, DTI officials have asked the Chief Executive of Ofcom to respond directly to the hon. Member. Copies of the Chief Executive's letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House and I shall also see a copy of the letter.

### Renewable Energy (Coventry)

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what measures are being taken to encourage the use of renewable energy in Coventry, South. [6944]

**Malcolm Wicks:** The Government's primary support mechanism for Renewables Energy in the UK is the Renewables Obligation (RO). The RO requires electricity suppliers to obtain an annually increasing percentage of their electricity from renewable source. This is supported by over £500 million in spending on developing emerging renewables and low carbon technologies up to 2008.

Though not directly relating to Coventry, South there are a number of initiatives to encourage renewables in the region.

The Government Office for the West Midlands (GOWM), together with its partners The West Midlands Regional Assembly and Advantage West Midlands, has recently published a booklet in March 2005 entitled a 'Common Sense Guide To Renewable Energy'. This is intended for non-experts to help them understand the concept better and encourage them to get involved in renewable energy projects.

The regions latest 'Regional Sustainable Development Framework' published in January 2005 by Sustainability West Midlands also promotes the increased use of energy generated from renewable sources.

### Royal Mail

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what recent discussions he has had with the Royal Mail about delivery of mail in Essex. [8527]

**Barry Gardiner:** DTI Ministers and officials meet with representatives from Royal Mail on a regular basis to discuss a wide range of issues, including delivery performance issues.

We are pleased to see that Royal Mail's quality of service has improved overall over the past year. We have received assurances from Allan Leighton and Adam Crozier that the board will continue to give quality of service top priority.

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what plans he has to share the ownership of Royal Mail beyond Government. [9122]

**Barry Gardiner:** The Government have given Royal Mail greater commercial freedom and have no plans to privatise it.

### Taxis

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how much the Department has spent on taxis in each of the last five years. [6503]

**Alan Johnson:** The Department's expenditure on taxis in each of the last two years amounted to £320,763 in 2003–04 and £344,620 in 2004–05.

Prior to 2003–04 taxi expenditure was collated as part of the overall costs of travel and subsistence, rather than being separately identified.

### TUPE

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry when he will publish new guidelines for TUPE arrangements covering the movement of public sector workers into the private sector. [9435]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The Government are currently revising the TUPE regulations and expects to lay them before Parliament in the autumn to come into effect on 6 April 2006. Guidance on the application of these new regulations will be issued later in the year.

Transfers of staff from the public sector to the private sector are covered by a Statement of Practice issued by the Cabinet Office in 2000 entitled "Staff Transfers in the Public Sector", which will be revised, as required, in the light of the revised TUPE regulations. Staff in public sector transfers involving local government contracting are covered by the provisions of the Local Government Bill.

### Union of Democratic Mineworkers

**Mr. Clapham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry whether officials from his Department *(a)* advised and *(b)* assisted the Union of Democratic Mineworkers to set up Vendside. [9084]

**Malcolm Wicks:** The Department neither advised nor assisted the Union of Democratic Mineworkers to set up Vendside.

**Mr. Clapham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what monitoring his Department undertook of the activities of Vendside. [9085]

**Malcolm Wicks:** Vendside is the Union of Democratic Mineworkers' (UDM) claims handling company. The Department meets with the UDM to discuss operational issues relating to the claims handling process.

**Mr. Clapham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry when his Department became aware of the business relationship between Vendside and Walker and Co. Claims Services Ltd. [9086]

**Malcolm Wicks:** The Department became aware of the business relationship between Vendside and Walker and Co. Claims Services Ltd. in January 2005.

**Mr. Clapham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry when his Department became aware of the need to investigate the activity of Vendside and the Union of Democratic Mineworkers relating to coal health claims; and what action the Department took. [9087]

**Malcolm Wicks:** The Department became aware of the investigation into the activity of Vendside and the Union of Democratic Mineworkers in January 2005 and has been co-operating fully with the police investigation since this time.

**Mr. Clapham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what action his Department plans to take to safeguard the claims of former miners and their widows whose claims were lodged with Vendside; and if he will make a statement. [9088]

**Malcolm Wicks:** I refer my hon. Friend to my written statement to the House of 30 June 2005, *Official Report*, columns 66–68WS.

**Adam Price:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will suspend his Department's handling agreement with the Union of Democratic Mineworkers pending the conclusion of the fraud squad inquiry into the affairs of the Union. [9094]

**Malcolm Wicks:** I refer the Member to my written statement to the House of 30 June 2005, *Official Report*, columns 66–68WS.

### Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what estimate the Government have made of the cost to local councils of the implementation of the waste electrical and electronic equipment directive. [7508]

**Malcolm Wicks:** Local authorities have no specific obligations under the forthcoming WEEE implementing regulations although their established role in relation to domestic waste collection means they will be involved in the practical implementation. The Department is encouraging local authorities to participate in the system it is establishing to implement the WEEE directive, which will build on the existing contact and awareness householders have with their local civic amenity sites.

## CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

### Electoral Registration

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs if she will *(a)* issue guidelines on how to increase voter registration and *(b)* produce a league table of the best- and worst-performing local authorities in respect of voter registration; and if she will make a statement. [8885]

**Ms Harman:** The Electoral Commission has previously issued guidance to electoral registration officers in the form of its 'Managing Electoral Services' documents. The Commission has informed the Government that these documents are due to be updated within the coming months.

The Government have agreed with the Electoral Commission's recommendation in its report 'Voting for Change', to introduce performance standards for electoral administrators. The Government will implement this recommendation when parliamentary time allows.

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs if she will assess the implications of the experience of the introduction of single registration in Northern Ireland for voter registration in the rest of the UK, with particular reference to those council wards that are experiencing under-registration; and if she will make a statement. [8886]

**Ms Harman:** We are currently considering how the electoral registration system in Great Britain might be improved both to improve security and increase access. We intend to bring forward legislation on this issue when parliamentary time allows.

We are drawing on the Northern Ireland experience as set out in the Electoral Commission's report "The Electoral Fraud (Northern Ireland) Act 2002: An assessment of its first year in operation", the Commission's subsequent update reports, the Northern Ireland Affairs Select Committee report "Electoral Registration in Northern Ireland", and the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and Constitutional Affairs Select Committee report "Electoral Registration".

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how much has been spent in real terms on voter registration per elector in each local authority area in each of the last 10 years. [8887]

**Ms Harman:** As electoral registration is dealt with and funded at local level, this information would be held by individual local authorities, and is not something that is held centrally by Government.

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs if she will assess the merits of using *(a)* council tax registration, *(b)* Census and *(c)* Labour Force Survey data to augment the electoral register; and if she will make a statement. [8888]

**Ms Harman:** Under the Representation of the People Regulations 2001, Electoral Registration Officers (ERO) have access to the records of the local authority that appointed them for the purpose of their registration

duties. Further, where an ERO receives an application to register under rolling registration provisions, and the applicant indicates that they are currently registered at an address outside the ERO's area but have ceased to reside there, the new ERO is required as soon as practicable to notify the former ERO that the applicant no longer resides in his area. We are currently considering whether the sources of data available to EROs should be broadened, taking into account any data protection implications, to help EROs carry out their duties.

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs (1) what assessment she has made of the impact voter under-registration has on the Department's aim of the greatest possible access to democracy; [8929]

(2) if she will commission research into the reasons for low levels of voter registration; [8931]

(3) what assessment she has made of the level of under-registration in UK constituencies; and if she will make a statement. [8932]

**Ms Harman:** The Government are concerned that persons that are entitled to register to vote, should be included on electoral registers.

My Department has been conducting research into the attitudes of the electorate, especially those who are currently the most disengaged. A report is being prepared. In terms of registration, the variable with greatest association with non-registration is age, with younger respondents being less likely to be registered.

The Electoral Commission is also undertaking research into registration rates and will report in due course.

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs if she will seek to amend data protection legislation to allow the exchange of information between local authority departments for the compilation of the electoral register; and if she will make a statement. [8930]

**Ms Harman:** Under the Representation of the People Regulations 2001, Electoral Registration Officers (ERO) have access to the records of the local authority that appointed them for the purpose of their registration duties. Further, where an ERO receives an application to register under rolling registration provisions, and the applicant indicates that they are currently registered at an address outside the ERO's area but have ceased to reside there, the new ERO is required as soon as practicable to notify the former ERO that the applicant no longer resides in his area. We are currently considering whether the sources of data available to EROs should be broadened, taking into account any data protection implications, to help EROs carry out their duties.

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs pursuant to the answer of 13 June 2005 to the hon. Member for Sittingbourne and Sheppey (Derek Wyatt), *Official Report*, column 181W, on the electoral register, how many prosecutions for failure to complete and return an annual registration form there were in each of the last 10 years in each local authority area; and if she will make a statement. [8933]

**Ms Harman:** This information is not collected centrally. However, I understand that there have only been a few prosecutions for failure to complete and return an annual registration form over the last 10 years. I am aware of the following instances; Medway council have prosecuted individuals in 2003 and 2004 and East Cambridgeshire district council prosecuted a person in 2004 for putting false information on the annual registration form. In 2003, ODPM conducted a survey on turnout at local elections and reported that nine authorities replied that they had prosecuted non-responders to the annual canvass form.

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs whether voter under-registration will be taken into account by the boundary commission when reviewing boundaries in England. [8951]

**Ms Harman:** In accordance with the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986, the boundary commission for England will base its recommendations on the number of electors on the register in force on the date that the commission announced its review in February 2000. The boundary commission has previously indicated that its review will take account of the new wards resulting from the Periodic Electoral Reviews being conducted by the Local Government Commission for England.

## Legal Aid

**Mr. Djanogly:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs if she will make an assessment of the impact of the level of legal aid on high street solicitors' firms. [8368]

**Bridget Prentice:** In the civil bid round held in April 2004 for the award of new solicitor General Civil Contracts with the Legal Services Commission (LSC) over 90 per cent. of solicitor firms applied to renew their contracts. As at 31 March 2005, 2,643 solicitors' offices operated under a Criminal Defence Service contract compared with 2,669 as at 31 March 2004.

Reasons cited by those solicitors' firms that are withdrawing from legal aid work have included remuneration and profitability. However, the Department's Review of Supply, Demand and Purchasing Arrangements concluded that the legal aid market—for both civil and criminal work—could absorb a small increase in demand for services without the need for an increase in remuneration. Independent research contained in the "Financial Benchmarking Survey 2004" produced by the Law Management Section of The Law Society suggests that there may be a positive correlation between the profitability of a firm and it's handling of a moderate amount of legal aid work. This indicates that the discipline of undertaking legal aid work could result in operational efficiencies, which extend across the firm.

**Mr. Djanogly:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how barristers will be remunerated for preparatory work on criminal cases eligible for legal aid which do not proceed to trial. [8707]

**Bridget Prentice:** For criminal cases which do not proceed to trial, advocates are currently remunerated either within the Graduated Fee scheme, or by means of an ex post facto assessment of preparation work. The choice of means depends on the amount of prosecution evidence, the number of witnesses and the estimated length of trial.

The Department has consulted with the legal professions to include all those cases that do not proceed to trial within the Graduated Fee scheme. The Lord Chancellor is considering the results of that consultation. The aim is to produce a scheme where payments reflect more accurately the amount of work undertaken at each stage until the trial.

### Postal Voting

**Mr. Marsden:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what assessment her Department has made of the effect on turnout of postal voting on demand. [8412]

**Ms Harman:** Returning Officers have a duty to complete a 'statement as to postal ballot papers for each election (form K, schedule 3 to the Representation of the People (England and Wales) Regulations 2001). This includes the total of postal ballot papers issued and received by the Returning Officer.

The Electoral Commission will collate and publish this information later this summer, as part of their general duty to report on UK Parliamentary elections. We cannot make an assessment of the exact percentage of the overall turnout that can be attributed to postal voting, until the Commission publishes its report.

**Lorely Burt:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many cases resulting in conviction there have been of *(a)* denying another person's right to a secret vote when using a postal ballot and *(b)* forcing another to vote for a certain person or political party when using a postal ballot in each of the last five years. [8920]

**Ms Harman:** This information is not held centrally. The following table indicates the number of people found guilty of electoral fraud related offences from 1994 to 2002. Since 2002 a councillor in Blackburn pleaded guilty to conspiracy to defraud the returning officer. He was sentenced to 3 years and 7 months on 8 April 2005 and in Guildford, a councillor was jailed for four months in April 2004 for forging ballot papers in a local election.

*Persons[1] proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts of various fraud related offences under the Representation of the People Act 1983, England and Wales 1994 to 2002*

| | *Offence description: tampering with nomination and ballot papers etc. making false declarations as to election expenses, bribery, treating, undue influence and personation offences* | |
|---|---|---|
| | *Persons proceeded against* | *Persons found guilty* |
| 1994 | 1 | 2 |
| 1995 | 12 | 14 |
| 1996 | — | — |
| 1997 | 9 | 5 |
| 1998 | 7 | 6 |
| 1999 | 3 | 5 |

*Persons[1] proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts of various fraud related offences under the Representation of the People Act 1983, England and Wales 1994 to 2002*

| | *Offence description: tampering with nomination and ballot papers etc. making false declarations as to election expenses, bribery, treating, undue influence and personation offences* | |
|---|---|---|
| | *Persons proceeded against* | *Persons found guilty* |
| 2000[2] | 2 | 1 |
| 2001 | 16 | 10 |
| 2002 | 1 | 1 |

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Excluding any cases in Staffordshire.

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Benefits/Pensions (Payment Methods)

**Malcolm Bruce:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many customers have responded to the invitation to move to the direct payment of pensions and benefits stating that they could not open or operate a bank or Post Office card account; [3153]

(2) how many and what proportion of pension and benefit recipients have been identified as suitable for the cheque-based system of paying pensions and benefits. [3160]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** Information is not available in the format requested. We did not collect data on how many customers responded stating that they could not open or operate an account.

We contacted all customers who were not paid by direct payment asking them to provide details of which account they would like their money paid into. Customers who did not provide account details (for whatever reason, including not being able to open or operate an account) were moved to cheque payment.

We are now paying over 96 per cent. of customer accounts by direct payment.

The number and percentage of customers that were being paid by cheque at April 2005 is shown in the following chart:

| | *GB total* |
|---|---|
| Total customers (million) | 16.1 |
| Paid by cheque (million) | 0.712 |
| Paid by cheque (percentage) | 4 |

**Malcolm Bruce:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans his Department has to evaluate the success of the exceptions scheme for people who are unable to use Post Office card accounts or basic bank accounts to receive their pensions or benefits. [3156]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** As at April 2005 there were 712,000 customers who were being paid regularly by cheque.

We have monitored payment by cheques since they replaced girocheques in October 2004 and will continue to do so.

We believe that while cheques are a practical way of paying customers we also believe that, wherever possible, our customers should be encouraged to be paid direct into an account. That method of payment provides the safest, most reliable and best service.

**Malcolm Bruce:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in *(a)* Gordon and *(b)* the North East of Scotland have been contacted about the move to the Direct Payment of benefits and pensions; and how many of those have (i) opted to receive their benefits or pension into a (A) bank account and (B) Post Office Card Account (ii) responded that direct payment is not a suitable method for the payment of benefits and (iii) not responded. [3169]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The information is not available in the format requested. Information which is available at 16 April 2005 is shown in the table.

All DWP customers have now been contacted about the move to Direct Payment and in Scotland we are now paying over 95 per cent. of customer accounts this way. Independent research has shown that there are very high levels of satisfaction among those customers who have transferred to Direct Payment.

Customers who did not respond to the initial invitation were contacted again and those who still did not provide account details were moved to cheque payment following confirmation of their on-going entitlement.

*Benefit and pension accounts in Scotland by method of payment and parliamentary constituency as at April 2005*

| | *All* | *Direct payment via bank account* | *Direct payment via post office card account* | *Cheque* | *Payable order* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Scotland | 1,933,365 | 1,351,580 | 497,535 | 82,320 | 1,935 |
| Aberdeen Central | 21,445 | 15,195 | 5,345 | 855 | 50 |
| Aberdeen North | 22,285 | 16,120 | 5,395 | 760 | 15 |
| Aberdeen South | 24,020 | 18,410 | 4,875 | 710 | 20 |
| Airdrie and Shotts | 33,010 | 20,125 | 11,230 | 1,590 | 65 |
| Angus | 28,530 | 22,290 | 5,300 | 900 | 40 |
| Argyll and Bute | 24,900 | 18,100 | 5,545 | 1,220 | 35 |
| Ayr | 30,170 | 21,790 | 7,280 | 1,045 | 55 |
| Banff and Buchan | 28,205 | 19,255 | 7,900 | 1,030 | 20 |
| Caithness Sutherland and Easter Ross | 20,580 | 14,335 | 5,315 | 905 | 25 |
| Carrick Cumnock and Doon Valley | 37,800 | 25,155 | 11,400 | 1,225 | 20 |
| Central Fife | 31,485 | 22,655 | 7,815 | 1,005 | 15 |
| Clydebank and Milngavie | 24,815 | 18,010 | 5,600 | 1,195 | 10 |
| Clydesdale | 33,075 | 24,315 | 7,535 | 1,205 | 15 |
| Coatbridge and Chryston | 28,720 | 17,435 | 9,980 | 1,305 | 5 |
| Cumbernauld and Kilsyth | 23,135 | 16,790 | 5,530 | 800 | 10 |
| Cunninghame North | 30,620 | 21,635 | 7,640 | 1,320 | 25 |
| Cunninghame South | 27,535 | 18,395 | 7,915 | 1,210 | 15 |
| Dumbarton | 24,285 | 17,865 | 5,195 | 1,200 | 25 |
| Dumfries | 31,475 | 23,395 | 7,010 | 1,050 | 20 |
| Dundee East | 31,960 | 21,680 | 8,905 | 1,360 | 20 |
| Dundee West | 28,960 | 20,020 | 7,645 | 1,285 | 10 |
| Dunfermline East | 26,970 | 19,295 | 6,720 | 950 | 10 |
| Dunfermline West | 23,235 | 17,595 | 4,890 | 705 | 45 |
| East Kilbride | 29,875 | 22,910 | 6,015 | 945 | 5 |
| East Lothian | 27,920 | 20,430 | 6,490 | 970 | 25 |
| Eastwood | 28,600 | 22,795 | 4,955 | 820 | 30 |
| Edinburgh Central | 21,625 | 16,020 | 4,490 | 1,090 | 20 |
| Edinburgh East and Musselburgh | 29,085 | 20,220 | 7,245 | 1,610 | 10 |
| Edinburgh North and Leith | 23,765 | 17,085 | 5,280 | 1,385 | 20 |
| Edinburgh Pentlands | 23,500 | 18,005 | 4,595 | 880 | 20 |
| Edinburgh South | 23,470 | 17,755 | 4,615 | 1,050 | 45 |
| Edinburgh West | 26,475 | 20,550 | 4,960 | 915 | 50 |
| Falkirk East | 25,080 | 17,720 | 6,525 | 815 | 20 |
| Falkirk West | 28,165 | 19,860 | 6,985 | 1,250 | 70 |
| Galloway and Upper Nithsdale | 29,780 | 20,820 | 8,015 | 915 | 30 |
| Glasgow Anniesland | 31,520 | 19,615 | 9,750 | 2,110 | 45 |
| Glasgow Baillieston | 31,220 | 17,720 | 11,510 | 1,970 | 20 |
| Glasgow Cathcart | 26,835 | 17,645 | 7,850 | 1,315 | 25 |
| Glasgow Govan | 24,690 | 16,815 | 6,440 | 1,395 | 35 |
| Glasgow Kelvin | 21,980 | 13,775 | 6,555 | 1,640 | 15 |
| Glasgow Maryhill | 31,000 | 16,830 | 11,640 | 2,500 | 30 |
| Glasgow Pollok | 30,885 | 19,465 | 9,790 | 1,530 | 105 |
| Glasgow Rutherglen | 29,190 | 18,405 | 9,465 | 1,290 | 25 |
| Glasgow Shettleston | 33,145 | 17,635 | 12,985 | 2,515 | 15 |
| Glasgow Springburn | 34,845 | 18,405 | 13,775 | 2,615 | 50 |
| Gordon | 22,520 | 16,775 | 5,145 | 590 | 15 |
| Greenock and Inverclyde | 27,605 | 18,465 | 7,865 | 1,250 | 20 |
| Hamilton North and Bellshill | 27,940 | 17,940 | 8,765 | 1,210 | 25 |
| Hamilton South | 26,070 | 16,915 | 8,040 | 1,100 | 15 |
| Inverness East Nairn and Lochaber | 29,560 | 22,095 | 6,185 | 1,245 | 30 |
| Kilmarnock and Loudoun | 31,205 | 22,030 | 7,815 | 1,325 | 30 |

*Benefit and pension accounts in Scotland by method of payment and parliamentary constituency as at April 2005*

| | *All* | *Direct payment via bank account* | *Direct payment via post office card account* | *Cheque* | *Payable order* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Kirkcaldy | 26,380 | 19,315 | 6,270 | 780 | 20 |
| Linlithgow | 27,180 | 18,720 | 7,295 | 1,155 | 10 |
| Livingston | 26,985 | 20,050 | 5,820 | 1,090 | 25 |
| Midlothian | 24,510 | 18,170 | 5,335 | 980 | 25 |
| Moray | 26,570 | 19,615 | 6,005 | 925 | 25 |
| Motherwell and Wishaw | 31,100 | 19,140 | 10,410 | 1,530 | 15 |
| North East Fife | 24,165 | 18,445 | 4,895 | 765 | 60 |
| North Tayside | 30,075 | 23,565 | 5,540 | 940 | 30 |
| Ochil | 26,700 | 19,650 | 6,255 | 785 | 10 |
| Orkney and Shetland | 13,020 | 9,595 | 2,935 | 480 | 10 |
| Paisley North | 26,890 | 17,850 | 7,735 | 1,290 | 15 |
| Paisley South | 28,950 | 19,590 | 8,080 | 1,220 | 60 |
| Perth | 28,555 | 22,035 | 5,570 | 930 | 25 |
| Ross Skye and Inverness West | 26,890 | 19,295 | 6,335 | 1,220 | 40 |
| Roxburgh and Berwickshire | 22,730 | 17,000 | 5,085 | 625 | 25 |
| Stirling | 23,415 | 16,695 | 5,935 | 765 | 20 |
| Strathkelvin and Bearsden | 27,090 | 21,600 | 4,645 | 820 | 25 |
| Tweeddale Ettrick and Lauderdale | 21,890 | 16,870 | 4,385 | 615 | 20 |
| West Aberdeenshire and Kincardine | 20,935 | 16,290 | 4,115 | 520 | 15 |
| West Renfrewshire | 23,695 | 17,015 | 5,720 | 920 | 40 |
| Western Isles | 10,885 | 6,525 | 3,440 | 910 | 10 |

*Notes:*
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 5 and may not sum due to rounding.
2. Figures are taken from the latest available data at 16 April 2005.
3. Figures refer to payment accounts. Claimants with more than one account will be counted for each account and customers with combined payments will only be counted through the paying benefit (i.e. RP with PC). Figures relate only to accounts live and in payment on the specified date.
4. Child benefit is now administered by the Inland Revenue and War Pensions are now administered by MOD. These benefits have therefore been excluded.
5. Parliamentary constituencies are allocated using the relevant ONS postcode directory.

*Source:*
DWP, Information Directorate, 100 per cent. data.

### Disability Living Allowance

**Mr. MacNeil:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 27 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 1247W, on disability living allowance, what assessment he has made of the reasons the percentage of rejected claims has increased since 2002; and if he will make a statement. [9531]

**Mrs. McGuire:** The administration of disability living allowance is a matter for the chief executive of the Disability and Carers Service, Mr. Terry Moran. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Terry Moran to Mr. Angus MacNeil, dated 4 July 2005:*

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, pursuant to the Answer of 27th June, Official Report, column 1247W, on disability living allowance, for what reason the percentage of rejected claims has increased since 2002. The Minister for Disabled People, Anne McGuire MP, promised you a substantive reply from the Chief Executive of the Disability and Carers Service.

The percentage rejections on disability living allowance claims has increased since 2002 because the conditions of entitlement to benefit have been found not to be satisfied in a greater proportion of claims.

No action has been taken by Disability and Carers Service with the intention of reducing the award rate. Our intention remains to pay the right money to the right person at the right time.

I hope this is helpful.

### Housing Benefit

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what criteria were used to set the broad rental market areas in the housing benefit pathfinders; how often they will be reviewed; and how they will be monitored; [5477]

(2) what assessment he has made of how up-to-date the information used by rent officers to set *(a)* standard housing allowances in the pathfinders and *(b)* the local reference rents or single room rents elsewhere is. [5485]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The administration of The Rent Service is a matter for the chief executive, Charlotte Copeland. She will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Charlotte Copeland to Mr. Paul Goodman, dated 4 July 2005:*

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Questions about The Rent Service, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, about the criteria used to set the broad rental market areas in the housing benefit pathfinders, how often they will be reviewed, how they will be monitored, and how up-to-date information used by rent officers is when setting rents for Housing Benefit purposes.

The criteria used by rent officers to set the broad rental market areas are covered in the Rent Officers (Housing Benefit Functions)

(Local Housing Allowance) Amendment Order 2003 [Statutory Instrument 2003 No. 2398]. This defines the broad rental market area as:

" . . . an area—

(a) comprising two or more distinct areas of residential accommodation, each distinct area of residential accommodation adjoining at least one other in the area;

(b) within which a person could reasonably be expected to live having regard to facilities and services for the purposes of health, education, recreation, personal banking and shopping, taking account of the distance of travel, by public and private transport, to and from facilities and services of the same type and similar standard; and

(c) containing residential premises of a variety of types, and including such premises held on a variety of tenancies."

The broad rental market areas are reviewed on a monthly basis, with a more in depth review carried out each quarter.

The broad rental market areas are monitored through the monthly and quarterly review process and The Rent Service's own internal quality assurance processes.

Rent officers continually research the private rented sector for market evidence of lettings of property and accommodation where the rent is being paid without the aid of housing benefit. The Rent Service's market evidence database is therefore continually being updated with the latest information available.

Rent officers use the most up to date market evidence available when setting Local Housing Allowances, Local Reference Rents and Single Room Rents. The Rent Service's guidelines are that market evidence used should be, in the main, no more than 3 months old, but with a maximum of six months if this is necessary in some cases.

If there is anything further you require, please do not hesitate to contact me direct.

### Income Support

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average response time is for processing new applications for income support; and what the figure is for applications received by the Department's Ilford office. [7378]

**Margaret Hodge:** The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Acting Chief Executive, Lesley Strathie. She will write to the hon. Member.

*Letter from Lesley Strathie to Mr. James Brokenshire, dated 4 July 2005:*

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what the average time is for processing new applications for Income Support; and what the figure is for applications received by the Department's Ilford office. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The national average clearance time for new applications to Income Support to year ending May 2005 is 10.5 days. The target for the clearance of Income Support claims is 12 days.

As at 31 May 2005 Ilford Benefit Processing Centre (BPC) had 800 new claims waiting to be processed, taking an average of 21.5 working days to process.

As at 20 June 2005 there were 276 new claims outstanding, taking an average of 13 working days to process.

As part of the Department for Work and Pensions modernisation programme, backroom benefits work for North East London District customers has been centralised at Ilford BPC. As the work from various locations was transferred to the centre there was an increase in the number of telephone enquiries from customers, which caused a backlog of work. Interim measures were put in place to alleviate the immediate problems; these included the opening of additional telephone lines and the deployment of staff from outside the BPC to speed up the processing of claims. The situation at the BPC was monitored daily by local management to ensure any telephone delays were minimised.

The increase in the number of telephone lines coming into the office helped to improve the situation and it will continue to improve as more staff become available in the BPC over the coming weeks and as more work is done to further increase the telephone capacity.

As the figures show there has been a significant improvement over the past month in processing new applications reflecting the hard work of local management and staff.

Local management will continue to monitor the situation.

I hope this is helpful.

### Maternity Grant

**John Hemming:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many Sure Start maternity grants have been paid to mothers in each age cohort from 12 to 19 in each year since 2000–01; and how many mothers received such a grant in respect of a second or subsequent child in each case. [7502]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The information is not available.

### Post Office Card Accounts

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many Post Office card accounts have been opened; and if he will make a statement. [6358]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** As at 15 May 2005, 4,720,824 Post Office card accounts were open for the receipt of benefits, pensions and tax credits.

### Poverty (London)

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people are estimated to be living below the poverty line in each London borough. [7467]

**Margaret Hodge:** Poverty is about more than low income. It is also about health, housing and the quality of the environment. The sixth annual 'Opportunity for all' report (Cm 6239), published in September 2004, sets out the Government's strategy for tackling poverty and social exclusion and presents information on the indicators used to measure progress against this strategy.

Specific information regarding low income for Great Britain is available in "Households Below Average Income 1994/95–2003/04". The threshold of below 60 per cent. contemporary median income is the most commonly used in reporting trends in low income. Data is not available below regional level, therefore we are not able to provide figures for London boroughs.

Copies of both documents are available in the Library.

## TREASURY

### Census

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people aged over 18 years there were in each parliamentary constituency in England and Wales according to the 2001 census, broken down by ward. [7764]

**John Healey** *[holding answer 28 June 2005]:* The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Len Cook to Mr. Chris Ruane, dated 30 June 2005:*

As National Statistician and Registrar General for England and Wales, I am replying to your recent parliamentary question asking how many people aged over 18 years there were in each parliamentary constituency in England and Wales according to the 2001 census, broken down by ward. (7764)

We have interpreted the phrase "over 18" to mean aged 18 and over. Specially commissioned table COS 19 has been run to identify the number of people aged 18 and over living in each ward within each parliamentary constituency in England and Wales on census day (29 April 2001). The table has been placed in the House of Commons Library [and can also be accessed on the National Statistics website at http://www.statistics.gov.uk/census2001/op15.asp].

| *Parliamentary constituency* | *Ward* | *Persons aged 19 and over* |
|---|---|---|
| 025 Berwick-upon-Tweed | 35UBFT Alnmouth and Lesbury | 1,413 |
| 025 Berwick-upon-Tweed | 35UBFU Alnwick Castle | 2,708 |
| 025 Berwick-upon-Tweed | 35UBFW Alnwick Clayport | 1,640 |
| 025 Berwick-upon-Tweed | 35UBFX Alnwick Hotspur | 1,752 |
| 025 Berwick-upon-Tweed | 35UBFY Amble Central | 1,719 |
| 025 Berwick-upon-Tweed | 35UBFZ Amble East | 1,759 |
| 025 Berwick-upon-Tweed | 35UBGA Amble West | 1,588 |
| 025 Berwick-upon-Tweed | 35LJBGE Longframlington | 1,669 |
| 025 Berwick-upon-Tweed | 35UBGF Longhoughton with Craster and Rennington | 2,399 |
| 025 Berwick-upon-Tweed | 35UBGG Rothbury and South Rural | 2,412 |
| 025 Berwick-upon-Tweed | 35UBGH Shilbottle | 2,448 |
| 025 Berwick-upon-Tweed | 35UBGJ Warkworth | 1,645 |
| 025 Berwick-upon-Tweed | 35UBGK Whittingham | 1,536 |
| 025 Berwick-upon-Tweed | 35UCFU Belford | 1,475 |
| 025 Berwick-upon-Tweed | 35UCFW Cheviot | 1,417 |
| 025 Berwick-upon-Tweed | 35UCFX Edward | 1,358 |
| 025 Berwick-upon-Tweed | 35UCFY Elizabeth | 2,084 |
| 025 Berwick-upon-Tweed | 35UCGB Islandshire | 2,203 |
| 025 Berwick-upon-Tweed | 35UCGCLowick | 1,563 |
| 025 Berwick-upon-Tweed | 35UCGD Norhamshire | 1,270 |
| 025 Berwick-upon-Tweed | 35UCGE North Sunderland | 2,180 |
| 025 Berwick-upon-Tweed | 35UCGF Prior | 2,095 |
| 025 Berwick-upon-Tweed | 35UCGG Seton | 1,439 |
| 025 Berwick-upon-Tweed | 35UCGJ Spittal | 2,298 |
| 025 Berwick-upon-Tweed | 35UCGKWooler | 1,514 |
| 025 Berwick-upon-Tweed | 35UEFY Chevington | 2,592 |
| 025 Berwick-upon-Tweed | 35UEFZ Ellington | 2,289 |
| 025 Berwick-upon-Tweed | 35UEGA Hartburn | 793 |
| 025 Berwick-upon-Tweed | 35UEGD Longhorsley | 1,150 |
| 025 Berwick-upon-Tweed | 35UEGE Lynemouth | 1,366 |
| 025 Berwick-upon-Tweed | 35UEGT Ulgham | 2,275 |
| 042 Bishop Auckland | 20UGGB Byerley | 2,622 |
| 042 Bishop Auckland | 20UGGG Low Spennymoor and Tudhoe Grange | 4,314 |
| 042 Bishop Auckland | 20UGGH Middlestone | 3,979 |
| 042 Bishop Auckland | 20UGGN Spennymoor | 4,079 |
| 042 Bishop Auckland | 20UGGP Sunnydale | 2,849 |
| 042 Bishop Auckland | 20UGGQ Thickley | 2,704 |
| 042 Bishop Auckland | 20UGGR Tudhoe | 2,739 |
| 042 Bishop Auckland | 20UHFW Barnard Castle East | 1,305 |
| 042 Bishop Auckland | 20UHFX Barnard Castle North | 1,180 |
| 042 Bishop Auckland | 20UHFY Barnard Castle West | 2,840 |
| 042 Bishop Auckland | 20UHGA Cockfield | 1,272 |
| 042 Bishop Auckland | 20UHGC Eggleston | 1,126 |
| 042 Bishop Auckland | 20UHGD Etherley | 1,933 |
| 042 Bishop Auckland | 20UHGE Evenwood | 1,820 |
| 042 Bishop Auckland | 20UHGF Gainford and Winston | 1,820 |
| 042 Bishop Auckland | 20UHGG Greta | 1,043 |

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the legal basis was for the disclosure of personal information, by the Registrar General, from closed decennial censuses for England and Wales, during the period 1972 to 2001, in return for a search fee. [9508]

**John Healey:** The information requested falls with the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Len Cook to Mr. Mike Hancock, dated 4 July 2005:*

As National Statistician and Registrar General for England and Wales, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the legal basis was for the disclosure of personal information by the Registrar General, from closed decennial census for England and Wales between 1997 and 2001. (9508)

On 21 November 1972 the then Secretary of State Keith Joseph who had responsibility for the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys (now the Office for National Statistics) announced in Parliament a concession which allowed, subject in each instance to the consent of the person concerned or that of one of his direct descendants the release of limited information on age and place of birth only. This concession applied to censuses prior to and including that of 1901.

On 12 April 1989 the then Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State Roger Freeman announced in Parliament an extension to the concession to allow the release in respect of persons who died childless, provided the consent of the next of kin was given. In addition, age and place of birth information would be available to public trustee administrators seeking to trace possible beneficiaries to the estate of a deceased person.

On 21 April 1993 the then Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State Tom Sackville announced in Parliament that the Registrar General would be willing to consider particular applications for information to be extracted from the 1901 Census and the 1911 Censuses if it would enable the applicant to establish a legal entitlement such as an inheritance. Such authority would be given only where the information was not available from any other source and was clearly requisite for establishing the entitlement in question.

Mr Sackville went on to say that the Registrar General would wish to be satisfied from documentary evidence as to the identity of the applicant. Where the desired information from the census form related to a living person other than the applicant, that person's consent would be required before the information would be released.

The census records to which the concessions applied were held by the Public Record Office (now National Archives) and under the legislation existing at the time—the Public Records Act Section 5(4) it was not unlawful for the Keeper of the Public Records to permit a person to inspect any records if he had obtained special authority in that behalf from the Registrar General. The Registrar General gave authority for searches to be made in respect of those applications which satisfied the conditions of the concessions.

## Accountancy Secondments

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many individuals from *(a)* KPMG, *(b)* PricewaterhouseCoopers, *(c)* Deloitte, *(d)* Ernst and Young, *(e)* Grant Thornton and *(f)* BDO Stoy Hayward are seconded to his Department; what their roles are; and what the cost to his Department is of each such secondment. [8232]

**John Healey:** The following table provides information requested:

| | *Number of secondees* | *Roles* | *Total monthly charge including VAT (£)* |
|---|---|---|---|
| KPMG | 3 | Senior advisor financial management<br>Business tax specialist<br>PFI commercial advisor | 24,840 |
| PWC | 2 | Senior advisor corporate and private finance projects<br>Environment tax specialist | 15,422 |
| Deloitte | 2 | VAT policy advisor<br>Corporate finance advisor | 4,895 |
| Ernst & Young | 0 | — | 0 |
| BDO Stoy Hayward | 0 | — | 0 |
| Grant Thornton | 0 | — | 0 |

## Alcohol/Drug Related Deaths

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer in respect of how many deaths, in each Government Office region, alcohol was the primary cause in each of the last five years. [7966]

**John Healey:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Len Cook to Lynne Featherstone, dated 30 June 2005:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking in respect of how many deaths, in each Government Office Region, alcohol was the primary cause in each of the last five years. (7966)

The latest year for which figures are available is 2004. The table shows the numbers of deaths among residents of Government Office Regions where the underlying cause of death indicated a condition directly related to alcohol use in the years 2000 to 2004.

*Alcohol-related deaths[1] to usual residents of Government Office Regions, registered 2000 to 2004*

| | *Year of registration* | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Area of usual residence* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* |
| *Government Office Region in England* | | | | | |
| North East | 335 | 346 | 346 | 389 | 430 |
| North West | 950 | 1,053 | 1,065 | 1,115 | 1,179 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 428 | 500 | 487 | 580 | 627 |
| East Midlands | 427 | 420 | 446 | 497 | 497 |
| West Midlands | 604 | 664 | 710 | 752 | 750 |
| East of England | 438 | 454 | 473 | 489 | 491 |
| London | 806 | 809 | 838 | 834 | 772 |
| South East | 725 | 843 | 831 | 882 | 842 |

*Alcohol-related deaths[1] to usual residents of Government Office Regions, registered 2000 to 2004*

| Area of usual residence | Year of registration 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| South West | 467 | 500 | 502 | 527 | 537 |
| Wales | 345 | 396 | 372 | 416 | 419 |
| England and Wales | 5,525 | 5,985 | 6,070 | 6,481 | 6,544 |

[1] For the year 2000 the cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9). The codes used by ONS to define alcohol-related deaths are listed below:
291—Alcoholic psychoses
303—Alcohol dependence syndrome
305.0—Non-dependent abuse of alcohol
425.5—Alcoholic cardiomyopathy
571—Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis
E860—Accidental poisoning by alcohol.
For the years 2001–2004 the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) was used. To maintain comparability with earlier years the following codes were used:
F10—Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol
142.6—Alcoholic cardiomyopathy
K70—Alcoholic liver disease
K73—Chronic hepatitis, not elsewhere classified
K74—Fibrosis and cirrhosis of liver
X45—Accidental poisoning by and exposure to alcohol.
Deaths were selected using the original underlying cause.
The selection of codes to define alcohol-related deaths is described in:
Baker A and Rooney C (2003). Recent trends in alcohol-related mortality, and the impact of ICD-10 on the monitoring of these deaths in England and Wales. Health Statistics Quarterly 17, pp 5–14.

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many deaths in which the primary cause was *(a)* alcohol and *(b)* illegal drugs there were in (i) Stroud and (ii) Gloucestershire in each of the last five years. [8001]

**John Healey:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Len Cook to Mr. David Drew, dated 30 June 2005:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many deaths in which the primary cause was *(a)* alcohol and *(b)* illegal drugs there were in (i) Stroud and (ii) Gloucestershire in each of the last five years. (8001)

The most recently available information is for deaths registered in 2004 and deaths occurring in 2003. Relevant figures are only readily available for deaths where the underlying cause was either related to drug poisoning or directly related to alcohol (alcohol abuse, dependence and poisoning, and diseases directly related to alcohol use). It is not possible to identify from death certificates which substance was the primary cause when more than one was involved.

Figures for alcohol-related deaths to usual residents of Stroud and Gloucestershire registered in the years 2000 to 2004 are given in the table below. ONS compiles a special database to analyse mortality from drug-related poisoning adding more detail than is available on routine annual extracts. This database is compiled using the annual occurrences extract of mortality data. Figures showing deaths related to drug poisoning involving controlled drugs occurring in the years 1999 to 2003, to usual residents of Stroud and Gloucestershire, are given in the table below. Information on deaths involving illegal drugs is not available, as how the deceased obtained a particular drug is not recorded at death registration.

It should be noted that the figures on drug-related poisoning are not directly comparable to the figures on alcohol for the following reasons:

The figures on drugs do not include long-term effects of drug taking, whereas the figures on alcohol include cirrhosis of the liver.

Deaths from poisoning which involved both drugs and alcohol are coded as due to drug poisoning, in accordance with international rules for coding cause of death.

The figures on alcohol include only those where the underlying cause was alcohol-related. The figures on specific drugs include any mention of a substance on a death related to drug poisoning.

*Number of alcohol-related deaths[1] and deaths from drug-related poisoning[2] involving controlled drugs[3], Stroud and Gloucestershire[4], 1999 to 2004[5]*

| | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *(a) Alcohol-related deaths* | | | | | | |
| (i) Stroud | — | 8 | 8 | 10 | 6 | 8 |
| (ii) Gloucestershire | — | 51 | 57 | 62 | 44 | 58 |
| *(b) Deaths from drug-related poisoning involving controlled drugs* | | | | | | |
| (i) Stroud | [6]— | [6]— | [6]— | [6]— | 5 | — |
| (ii) Gloucestershire | 8 | 19 | 10 | 10 | 16 | — |

*Notes:*
[1] For the year 2000 the cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9). The codes selected to define alcohol-related deaths are listed below:
291—Alcoholic psychoses
303—Alcohol dependence syndrome
305.0—Non-dependent abuse of alcohol
425.5—Alcoholic cardiomyopathy
571—Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis
E860—Accidental poisoning by alcohol.
For the years 2001–2004 the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) was used. To maintain comparability with earlier years the following codes were selected:
F10—Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol
142.6—Alcoholic cardiomyopathy
K70—Alcoholic liver disease
K73—Chronic hepatitis, not elsewhere classified
K74—Fibrosis and cirrhosis of liver
X45—Accidental poisoning by and exposure to alcohol.
The selection of codes to define alcohol-related deaths is described in: Baker A and Rooney C (2003). Recent trends in alcohol-related mortality, and the impact of ICD-10 on the monitoring of these deaths in England and Wales. Health Statistics Quarterly 17, pp 5–14.
[2] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) codes 292, 304, 305.2–305.9, E850-E858, E950.0-E950.5, E962.0 and E980.0-E980.5 for 1999 to 2000, and the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes F11-F16, F18-F19, X40-X44, X60-X64, X85 and Y10-Y14 from 2001 onwards.
[3] Drugs mentioned on the death certificate of a death where the underlying cause was drug poisoning.
[4] Deaths of usual residents of:
(i) Stroud local authority
(ii) County of Gloucestershire.
[5] Data are for deaths registered in each calendar year for alcohol-related deaths and for deaths occurring in each calendar year for deaths related to drug poisoning.
[6] Fewer than 5 deaths.

## Antisocial Behaviour Statistics

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what data the Office for National Statistics *(a)* collects and *(b)* publishes on the antisocial behaviour of (i) children and (ii) adults at a (A) ward and (B) neighbourhood level. [8371]

**John Healey:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Colin Mowl to Mr. Mark Hoban, dated 30 June 2005:*

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning what data the Office for National Statistics collect and publish on the anti-social behaviour of *(a)* children and *(b)* adults at a (i) ward and (ii) neighbourhood level. I am replying in his absence. (8371)

Data on the number of anti-social behaviour orders are collated each quarter by the Home Office and are published on the crime reduction website for Criminal Justice System areas (www.crimereduction.gov.uk/asbos2.htm).

Unpublished data on the number of anti-social behaviour orders issued by local authority area, according to the restrictions imposed on individuals, are held by the Home Office. Statistics on the number of anti-social behaviour order incidents are not collected centrally.

### Aviation Fuel Taxation

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will seek international agreement to a tax on aviation fuel, with the revenue hypothecated to the alleviation of global poverty. [9638]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** I refer the hon. Member to what the Chancellor of the Exchequer said in the House on 30 June 2005, *Official Report*, columns 1428–29.

### Breach of Confidence

**Lorely Burt:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many persons sued the Registrar General in the English courts for breach of confidence for releasing personal information from the closed 1901 decennial census for England and Wales between 1997 and 2001. [9030]

**John Healey:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Len Cook to Lorely Burt, dated 4 July 2005:*

As National Statistician and Registrar General for England and Wales, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many persons sued the Registrar General in the English courts for breach of confidence for releasing personal information from the closed 1901 decennial census for England and Wales between 1997 and 2001. (9030)

There have been no instances of court action against me as Registrar General for breach of confidence for releasing personal information from the 1901 decennial census for England and Wales between 1997 and 2001.

### Carers

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many carers were recorded by the 2001 Census, broken down by *(a)* under 18 years, *(b)* 18 to 64 years, *(c)* 65 to 74 years, *(d)* 75 years and over and *(e)* age not known in each London borough. [8429]

**John Healey:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Len Cook to Mr. Paul Burstow, dated 30 June 2005:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning the number of carers recorded by the 2001 Census, broken down by *(a)* under 18 years, *(b)* 18 to 64 years, *(c)* 65 to 74 years, *(d)* 75 years and over and *(e)* age not known in each London borough. (8429)

Specially commissioned table C0520 has been run to identify the number of people aged under 18 years and *(b)* 18 to 64 years, *(c)* 65 to 74 years, *(d)* 75 years and over who are providing unpaid care in each London Borough. This has been placed in the House of Commons Library and can also be accessed on the National Statistics website at: http://www.statistics.gov.uk/census2001/op15.asp

There are no statistics on 'age not known'. Where date of birth is missing on the Census form age is imputed based on other characteristics of the individual and relationships within the household.

### Child Benefit

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what rules apply to claimants for child benefit for a child born in the UK who had entered the UK under the family reunion scheme on the agreement that they would impose no claims on the state. [8360]

**Dawn Primarolo:** I refer the hon. Gentleman to my reply of 21 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 927W. Under the Home Office's asylum family reunion scheme, in which the spouse and minor children are admitted to the UK to be reunited with a person granted refugee status, the spouse and children are also granted such status and indefinite leave to remain. In such cases, they are not subject to immigration control and either spouse is entitled to claim child benefit.

Where a person has limited leave to remain in the UK and is subsequently joined by a spouse on similar limited leave, then both persons are subject to immigration control and, in general, there is no entitlement to child benefit.

If a UK national is joined by a foreign spouse who has limited leave to remain in the UK, child benefit legislation allows either person to claim child benefit. In this case, the foreign spouse would be entitled to claim child benefit as a member of the family of a national of a member state of the European economic area (EEA).

If the hon. Gentleman wishes to write to me with details of any particular cases, I should be pleased to respond more fully.

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer under what circumstances it is permissible for child benefit to be paid to a UK national father of a child who is a UK citizen whose mother is subject to immigration regulations that prevent her from drawing on public funds. [8362]

**Dawn Primarolo:** I refer the hon. Gentleman to my reply of 21 June 2005, *Official Report* column 927W. If a UK national is joined by a foreign spouse who has limited leave to remain in the UK and is thus subject to immigration control, child benefit legislation nevertheless allows either person to claim child benefit. In this case, the foreign spouse would be entitled to claim child benefit as a member of the family of a national of a member state of the European economic area (EEA).

If the hon. Gentleman wishes to write to me with details of any particular cases, I should be pleased to respond more fully.

### Child Tax Credit

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what plans he has to delay the proposed transfer from Jobcentre Plus to HM Revenue and Customs of administration of child tax credit; and if he will make a statement. [8841]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The administration of the child tax credit has been the responsibility of HM Revenue and Customs (and before that the Inland Revenue) since the credit was first introduced in April 2003.

### Child Trust Fund

**Mr. Dodds:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the rate of take-up of the Child Trust Funds is in Northern Ireland. [8999]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The information requested is only available at disproportionate cost. UK-wide information is available and I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Yeovil (Mr. Laws) on 6 June 2005, *Official Report*, columns 286–87W.

### Correspondence

**Sir Gerald Kaufman:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects to reply to the letters to him dated 18 May from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to the religious lobby on world poverty. [8776]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** I did so on 6 June.

### Departmental Reports

**Mr. Alan Williams:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library the guidance provided by HM Treasury to departments on what they should disclose in their spring 2005 departmental reports. [9211]

**Mr. Des Browne:** A copy of the guidance issued for the spring 2005 departmental reports has been placed in the Library.

### Double Taxation Agreements

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with how many countries the UK has a double taxation agreement or treaty. [8426]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The UK has comprehensive double taxation agreements with 109 countries or territories.

### Drug Deaths (Lincolnshire)

**Mark Simmonds:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many fatalities attributed to drug use in Lincolnshire there have been in each year since 1997. [9246]

**John Healey:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Len Cook to Mr. Mark Simmonds, dated 4 July 2005:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many fatalities attributed to drug use in Lincolnshire there have been in each year since 1997. (9246)

Figures are readily available from death certification on deaths due to drug poisoning, not the total number that were attributable to drug use. The most recent year for which figures are available is 2003. Numbers of deaths certified as due to drug poisoning for Lincolnshire in the seven years 1997 to 2003 are given in the table below.

Figures are not readily available where death was indirectly related to the use of drugs as the direct cause is generally selected as the underlying cause of death (e.g. HIV infection).

*Deaths related to drug poisoning,[1] Lincolnshire,[2] 1997–2003[3]*

| | *Number of deaths* |
|---|---|
| 1997 | 16 |
| 1998 | 37 |
| 1999 | 20 |
| 2000 | 26 |
| 2001 | 25 |
| 2002 | 30 |
| 2003 | 27 |

[1] Defined using the following codes from the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision for 2001–2003: F11-F16, F18-F19, X40-X44, X60-X64, Y10-Y14, X85 and the following codes from the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision for 1997–2000: 292, 304, 305.2–305.9, E850-E858, E950.0-E950.5, E962.0 and E980.0-E980.5

[2] Usual residents of Lincolnshire.

[3] Data are for deaths occurring in each calendar year

*Source:*

Office for National Statistics.

### Drug Smuggling

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps the Government are taking to stop drugs being imported into the UK; and how much the Government has invested in drugs detection technology in *(a)* ports and *(b)* airports since 1998. [8538]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The updated drug strategy 2002 sets out HMG's approach to tackling drugs in the UK. Responsibility for driving forward the supply side activity rests with those law enforcement agencies and other bodies engaged in tackling drug supply, working together as the concerted inter-agency drug action group (CIDA).

CIDA agencies recently agreed a new delivery strategy, which aims to improve our performance and to achieve a sustained impact on the availability of class A drugs in our communities, thereby reducing the harm that drugs cause. It broadly covers four areas:

Harm reduction in UK communities: Measuring the impact of supply side activity in terms of the outcomes in UK communities.

Intelligence process: Adopting an intelligence led process to target activity more effectively.

Zonal linkages: Prioritising efforts across and within geographical "zones" of action, trying to maximise our impact.

Street level up: Testing a new approach of tracing the supply chain back from street level problems (called "street level up"), and then hitting it in a co-ordinated way.

As for drug detection technology, until recently expenditure on proven drug detection technologies had been limited by their capability and value for money.

However, technology research in port and airport security dramatically increased post 9/11, and in the last 18 months we established that systems primarily built for this purpose were readily adaptable for identifying drug concealments. Working in partnership with manufacturers we have established a project aimed at purchasing new systems and providing testing opportunities, at border controls to inform further development and enhance workable solutions.

Post 1998 and prior to the project we spent in the region of £10 million on technology and scientific aids to provide additional tools for front line officers in the fight against drugs smuggling. In these early stages of the new project we have contributed £300,000 to the research and development of two new technologies, including capital for the purchase of a prototype.

The project has identified a number of new technologies for the short, medium and long-term, which will see further substantial investment in new and more reliable product-specific technology to combat drug importations more successfully.

### Emigration

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many UK subjects have emigrated to live in Commonwealth countries since 2001. [8536]

**John Healey:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Colin Mowl to Mr. Andrew Rosindell, dated 30 June 2005:*

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your question regarding estimates for the number of UK subjects who have emigrated to live in Commonwealth countries since 2001. I am replying in his absence. (8536)

The table below shows annual estimates for the number of British citizens migrating to Commonwealth countries between 2001 and 2003. The definition of a migrant used in the calculation of these estimates is a person who changes their country of usual residence for a period of at least a year. Therefore, some of the people estimated to have migrated to the Commonwealth over this period may have subsequently returned to the UK.

*International migration: estimates from the International Passenger Survey, 2001 to 2003 British citizens migrating to the Commonwealth*

*United Kingdom (thousand)*

| *Citizenship* | *Country of next residence* | *Year* | *Outflow*[1] *(emigration out of the UK)* |
|---|---|---|---|
| British | Commonwealth countries | 2001 | 53.5 |
| | | 2002 | 53.7 |
| | | 2003 | 63.4 |

[1] Estimates for 2001–03 are based on data from the International Passenger Survey only. They do not include adjustments for those whose intended length of stay changes so that their migrant status changes.

*Note:*

International Passenger Survey estimates are subject to sampling and non-sampling error since they are derived from a sample survey. One standard error for each outflow shown above is equal to 8 per cent.

The annual reference volume "Series MN, International Migration" includes a table (Table 3.1) showing migration estimates by country of last or next residence for British citizens (and other groups of citizens). The most recent annual reference volume is "Series MN No. 30, International Migration, 2003". This publication, and earlier editions, can be accessed at: http://www.statistics.gov.uk/STATBASE/Product.asp?vlnk=507.

### European Union

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the unfunded pensions liabilities of the European Union institutions are; what Council Decision forms the legal base for supporting the accounting entry for pension liability; and if he will make a statement. [9106]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** There are no unfunded pension liabilities of the European Community Institutions. Like almost all member states, the European Union has a funded pension scheme for its civil servants. The pension scheme for civil servants of European Community Institutions is funded partly by the officials themselves, who contribute to one third of the scheme's financing, with the balance funded by member states through the annual European Community Budget. The Staff Regulation (Council Regulation 723/2004 amending the Staff Regulation) governs the funding of the pension scheme for civil servants of European Community Institutions. The Financial Regulation (Council Regulation 1605/2002) requires the Commission to keep accounting records. In the Commission's balance sheet, a provision is entered on the liabilities side in respect of the estimated amount of pension rights (the amount is based on an actuarial study); however this is balanced by an entry on the assets side to reflect the undertaking given by member states to the Communities to pay Community pensions.

### Expenditure

**Mr. Herbert:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of what total managed expenditure between 1999 and 2000 and 2007–08 would have been had spending been increased by 2.5 per cent. per annum in real terms. [8351]

**Mr. Des Browne:** No estimate has been made of what total managed expenditure (TME) would be had spending been increased by 2.5 per cent. per annum in real terms.

### Faith Awareness Training

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many civil servants in the Department received faith awareness training in 2004. [3806]

**John Healey:** Comprehensive information relating to how many civil servants in the Treasury have received training on faith awareness in 2004 is not readily available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

### G8 Conference

**Mr. Gale:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer who will bear the policing costs of the G8 conference. [8255]

**Mr. Des Browne:** Policing is a devolved responsibility of the Scottish Executive and Scottish police authorities. The Government have agreed to contribute £20 million towards the cost.

### Great Britain National Insurance Fund

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what the administrative costs were of the National Insurance Fund in each of the last three years; what the value of the Fund is; what estimate he has made of the *(a)* surplus in the Fund and *(b)* value of National Insurance contributions in (i) 2005, (ii) 2010, (iii) 2020, (iv) 2030, (v) 2040 and (vi) 2060; and what advice he has received from the Government Actuary on the desirable level of the surplus. [8751]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Information on the administrative costs to the Great Britain National Insurance Fund for the last three years are in the following table:

£000

| | *Admin Costs* |
|---|---|
| 2002–03 | 1,241,496 |
| 2003–04 | 1,754,093 |
| 2004–05 | 1,480,033 |

The value of the fund as at 31 March 2004 stood at £27,081,605,770.

I refer the hon. Member to Table 15.7 on page 129 of the Government Actuary's Quinquennial Review of the National Insurance Fund (published in 2003) for the estimate of *(a)* the surplus in the Fund and *(b)* value of NICs in (i) 2005, (ii) 2010, (iii) 2020, (iv) 2030, (v) 2040 and (vi) 2060. In this context, surplus is defined as the excess of income over expenditure. The Government Actuary has not given any advice on the desirable level of surplus in the NIF in any particular year.

### HIPCs

**Jeremy Corbyn:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) whether the suspension of debt servicing agreed by the G7 for the 18 Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPCs) who have reached their HIPC Initiative Completion Points *(a)* has been implemented and *(b)* is subject to ratification by international financial institutions; [8593]

(2) what estimate he has made of the total value of the G7 debt relief initiative in 2005 for the 18 countries qualifying; [8643]

(3) if he will make it his policy that funds from G8 aid budgets should not be used as part of debt relief arrangements; [8644]

(4) what criteria will be used to determine levels of good governance allowing the implementation of debt relief in developing countries; [8645]

(5) what further progress he expects to be made on aid and debt relief for developing countries at the G8 Gleneagles summit; [8646]

(6) if he will reduce the level of conditionality within the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative. [8647]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** Substantial progress has been made on both aid and debt relief in recent months. The EU has made an historic commitment to double its aid from current levels of around US$40 billion to over $80 billion in 2010 and on debt G8 Finance Ministers have agreed debt relief worth up to $55 billion. The total debt service (principal and interest) of the 18 HIPCs due to the IMF, World Bank and African Development Bank in 2005 is $560 million.

Finance Ministers agreed that the G8 debt relief proposal should be put forward for agreement at the Annual Meetings of the IMF and World Bank in September. Once it is agreed it will be implemented as soon as possible.

The UK believes that debt relief should be funded through additional resources. In this way, it is an important source of additional funds for countries to spend on poverty reduction and the investments in health, education, water and infrastructure that are essential if the MDGs are to be met. We continue to lobby others to support this view.

Our share of the G8 debt agreement will be funded through the additional resources allocated to DFID in the recent Spending Review: by 2007–08, total UK aid will rise to nearly £6.5 billion a year, representing 0.47 per cent. of GNI, a real terms increase of 140 per cent. since 1997. Part of the increase in DFID's budget was earmarked for the provision of further debt relief, and it is these earmarked funds that will be used. Our multilateral debt assistance will be in addition to generous UK contributions to the IDA 14 and AfDF X replenishments.

It is essential that the resources freed up by debt relief are used to support poverty reduction. For this reason, the G8 debt agreement provides debt relief only to those countries that have demonstrated their commitment to reducing poverty through implementing a successful Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP). PRSPs include strategies for investment in health, education and water and sanitation to help countries to reach the Millennium Development Goals. The countries that qualify for the G8 debt agreement have reached completion point of the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative have demonstrated their commitment to poverty reduction and sound financial management.

In order to reach completion point, a country must maintain macroeconomic stability under a PRGF-supported program, carry out key structural and social reforms, and implement a PRSP for one year upon which Bank and Fund staff prepare recommendations to their respective boards for consideration. The final determination is made by the boards of the two institutions.

The World Bank and IMF are both undertaking reviews of their approach to conditionality this year. In the context of these reviews, the UK will work to ensure that these institutions only support programmes which are agreed rather than imposed, and where benchmarks to assess progress are focussed on the impact of a country's overall policy programme rather than any particular policy decision.

### Hospital Infections

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many deaths have been recorded where *(a) Clostridium difficile* associated disease, *(b)* MRSA, *(c)* vancomycin resistant enterococci, *(d)* multi-resistant acinetobacter spp and *(e)* penicillin resistant

*Streptococcus pneumoniae* was mentioned on the death certificate in each year since 2001; and in how many cases it was also the underlying cause of death. [8229]

**John Healey:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has asked him to reply.

*Letter from Colin Mowl to Mr. Paul Burstow, dated 30 June 2005:*

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many deaths have been recorded where *(a)* clostridium difficile associated disease, *(b)* MRSA, *(c)* vancomycin resistant enterococci, *(d)* multi-resistant acinetobacter and *(e)* penicillin resistant streptococcus pneumoniae was mentioned on the death certificate in each year since 2001; and in how many cases it was also the underlying cause of death. I am replying in his absence. (8229)

In the Tenth Revision of the International Classification of Diseases (ICD-10), deaths involving enterocolitis due to *Clostridium difficile* can all be identified from the code A04.7. Enterocolitis is the commonest illness caused by *C. difficile* infection. For causes other than enterocolitis that are also known to be associated with *C. difficile*, it is not possible to identify from ICD codes alone the number of deaths where *C. difficile* actually contributed to the death. For this reason, the only routinely available mortality statistics on *C. difficile* are those where it was associated with enterocolitis. These figures were provided in answer to a question from Mr David Lidington MP, Hansard Written Answer 3764, page 49W.

Figures for MRSA were published in an annual report in *Health Statistics Quarterly* on 24 February 2005.[1] Figures for vancomycin resistant enterococci and multi-resistant acinetobacter spp are not available from routine death certification data. These are laboratory classifications of microorganisms, details of which are rarely used in describing the illnesses from which patients suffer or die.

Figures on the number of deaths involving *Streptococcus pneumoniae* are given in the attached table for the years 2001 to 2003.

[1] Office for National Statistics (2005) Report: Deaths involving MRSA: England and Wales, 1999–2003. *Health Statistics Quarterly* 25, 60–65.

*Numbers of deaths where Streptococcus pneumoniae was mentioned on the death certificate and the number where it was specified as penicillin resistant and the number of these mentions where it was also the underlying cause of death,[1] England and Wales, 2001–03*[2]

| | *Total mentions* | *Total mentions—specified as penicillin resistant* | *Underlying cause* | *Underlying cause—specified as penicillin resistant* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2001 | 240 | 0 | 164 | 0 |
| 2002 | 245 | 0 | 187 | 0 |
| 2003 | 269 | 0 | 190 | 0 |

[1] Selected using the codes J13, G00.1 and A40.3 and a text search within codes A49.1 and H66 from the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10)

[2] Figures are for deaths occurring in the years 2001 to 2003.

*Source:*

Office for National Statistics

### Illegal Firearms

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps the Government are taking to stop the smuggling of illegal firearms into the UK. [8524]

**Dawn Primarolo:** HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) are responsible for enforcement of controls in respect of smuggling of illegal firearms into the UK.

To detect and prevent the smuggling of firearms HMRC deploy resources according to risk, through intelligence-led and targeted activity with teams, including national and regional strike forces, that work flexibly to match any changing threat and whose training includes recognition of firearms and their component parts. HMRC target all types of traffic arriving at UK ports and airports both from other EU member states and from non-EU countries.

HMRC work closely with NCIS and police forces to share information and to improve the intelligence available on firearms smuggling. They have agreed operational arrangements to follow-up detections of smuggled firearms, parts and ammunition.

In all cases where such goods are detected HMRC will seize them, share the information with NCIS and police and agree with police the arrangements for any follow up investigation. HMRC will normally seek to prosecute in any case involving a deliberate attempt to smuggle a firearm into the UK.

As part of the Government's commitment to reduce gun crime, the Criminal Justice Act 2003 included a provision to increase the maximum term of imprisonment for smuggling prohibited weapons (other than stun guns and self defence sprays) from seven years to 10.

### Insurance Premium Tax Fraud

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what representations he has received from Customs and Excise in the last 10 years regarding cases of alleged fraud by insurance companies using the Insurance Premium Tax; [8250]

(2) what discussions he has had with the Financial Services Authority on investigations into possible causes of fraud by insurance companies using the Insurance Premium Tax. [8251]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The Treasury has received no such representations and has had no such discussions.

### Jersey

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions his Department has had with the Government of Jersey on the introduction of a zero-ten tax rate; and if he will make a statement. [8216]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The proposed introduction of a zero-ten rate in Jersey is a result of a program of modernisation of the Jersey tax system designed to be in compliance with international standards, including those set up by the OECD and by the EU Code of Conduct for business taxation.

The States of Jersey have kept HM Government informed of developments in relation to the reform of its tax system.

## Lisbon Score Card

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the relative performance of the UK by comparison with other EU member states in respect of the Lisbon score card measures of *(a)* innovation, *(b)* liberalisation, *(c)* enterprise, *(d)* employment and social inclusion and *(e)* sustainable development. [7796]

**John Healey:** There are over 100 Lisbon structural indicators in the full set of economic, social and environmental categories. A full set of structural indicators can be found on the Eurostat Structural Indicators website: (http://epp.eurostat.cec.eu.int/portal/page?_pageid=1133,1400891,1133_1402816&_dad_portal&_schema=PORTAL). A selection of the higher-level indicators relevant to the areas requested are set out in the table.

*Table of relative UK performance*

| | *UK* | *EU* |
|---|---|---|
| *(a) Innovation* | | |
| Gross domestic expenditure on R and D (GERD)—as a percentage of GDP[1] | 1.87 | 1.93 |
| Broadband penetration rate—number of broadband lines subscribed in percentage of the population | 7.4 | 6.5 |
| *(b) Liberalisation* | | |
| Price of telecommunications—national calls—price level and evolution in the telecommunications market (in Euro per 10 min call) | 0.44 | 0.9 |
| Electricity prices—households—price level and evolution in the electricity market (in Euro per kWh) | 0.08 | 0.10 |
| *(c) Enterprise* | | |
| Venture capital investments—early stage—as a percentage of GDP[2] | 0.039 | [3]0.02 |
| Total state aid—as a percentage of GDP[1] | 0.26 | [3]0.57 |
| *(d) Employment and social inclusion* | | |
| Total employment rate—employed persons aged 15 to 64 as a percentage share of the total population of the same age group | 71.6 | 63.3 |
| Life-long learning—percentage of the adult population aged 25 to 64 participating in education and training (in the four weeks preceding the survey) | 21.3 | 9.9 |
| At-risk-of-poverty rate after social transfers—the percentage share of persons with an equivalised disposable income below the risk-of-poverty threshold[4] | 19 | 15 |
| *(e) Sustainable development* | | |
| Total greenhouse gas emissions—percentage change since base year and targets according to Kyoto Protocol/EU Council Decision for 2008–201 2 (in $CO^2$ equivalents) indexed on actual base year = 100[2] | 85 | 91.1 |

[1] Data for 2002.
[2] Data for 2003.
[3] Data for EU 15.
[4] Date for 2001.
*Data for Note:*
Where possible, except where indicated otherwise, data for 2004 and the EU as comprised of 25 member states have been used.

## Mortgage Mis-selling

**Andrew Stunell:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what representations he has received on the mis-selling of shared appreciation mortgages; and if he will make a statement. [8381]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** Treasury Ministers have received written representations on shared appreciation mortgages from a number of individuals and from the Shared Appreciation Mortgage Action Group.

The Government understand the concerns of people who purchased shared appreciation mortgages in the mid-1990s. However, to date no evidence of mis-selling has been found by the Financial Ombudsman Service.

## National Insurance (Offshore Facilities/Registration)

**Mr. MacNeil:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the effect is on *(a)* UK nationals and *(b)* non-UK nationals access to benefits conditional on payment of national insurance contributions of their employer's decision to register offshore. [8555]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The UK social security system does not distinguish between UK and non UK-nationals working in the UK. In general, having an employer that is a company registered outside the UK will make little practical difference to an employee's access to contributory benefits. If the employee works in the UK and meets the conditions as to residence or presence in the UK he or she will still have to pay NICs and therefore will qualify for benefits.

**Mr. MacNeil:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with the *(a)* Scottish Executive and *(b)* the management of Caledonian MacBrayne on offshore crewing; what assessment he has made of the effect of offshore crewing on (i) national insurance revenues paid by Caledonian MacBrayne and (ii) rights and entitlements for crew arising from changes in their national insurance contributions; and if he will make a statement. [8525]

**Mr. Des Browne:** The Chancellor has had no discussions with the Scottish Executive or the management of Caledonian MacBrayne on these matters or made an assessment of the impact on national insurance revenues paid by Caledonian MacBrayne offshore crewing. Crew members will be liable for the

employee's share of the NICs and will be able to have them taken into account in the normal way in claims for contributory benefits.

**Mr. MacNeil:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 15 June 2005, *Official Report*, columns 391–92W, on offshore facilities, what discussions he has had with the Scottish Executive about the consequences for the *(a)* proposed competitive tendering process for the West Highland and Hebridean ferry services and *(b)* off shoring for tax purposes of Caledonian Macbrayne crew of the position outlined. [7716]

**John Healey** *[holding answer 28 June 2005]:* The Chancellor has had no discussions with the Scottish Executive on these matters. The competitive tendering process for the West Highland and Hebridean ferry services is a devolved matter for the Scottish Executive. It is a matter for Caledonian Macbrayne to decide whether to introduce offshore crewing arrangements.

## National Minimum Wage

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will exempt all individuals on minimum wage from income tax and national insurance contributions. [9402]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The personal allowance for income tax and the primary threshold for national insurance contributions would have to be raised to over £9,000 to exempt all individuals earning the national minimum wage and working a full working week of 35 hours.

This would cost tens of billions of pounds and would provide the greatest benefit to higher rate taxpayers, for whom any increase would be worth four times as much to them as starting rate taxpayers. It would also remove millions of individuals from building up entitlement from benefits such as the basic state pension.

The Government prefer to use measures that provide benefits to those that need it most.

Unlike the personal allowance tax credits can reduce a family's net tax bill below zero through payments and can provide support tailored to the family's circumstances, such as the number of children in a family.

Together with child benefit the system of tax credits offsets income tax liabilities so that the effective point at which a family with two children starts paying tax on net is now £21,200 and from April 2007 will be over £22,000.

## Oil Revenues

**Mr. Salmond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the *(a)* actual and *(b)* forecast oil revenues are for the 2005–06 financial year to date. [8953]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Monthly receipts to May 2005 of petroleum revenue tax (PRT) can be found on the HM Revenue and Customs website at: http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/tax_receipts/table1-3.pdf. Receipts of corporation tax (CT) from north sea companies are not separately disclosed.

Budget 2005 forecasts of PRT and CT receipts for 2005–06 from UK north sea oil and gas producers can be found at http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/corporate_tax/table11-11.pdf

## Personal Finances (London)

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average *(a)* unsecured debt per person and *(b)* annual income in London has been in each year since 1997. [8199]

**John Healey:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Len Cook to Sarah Teather, dated 4 July 2005:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent parliamentary question about average unsecured debt per person and annual income in London since 1997. (8199)

Figures for average incomes per person for London are shown in Table A. These were published on 29 April 2005. Gross disposable household income (GDHI) is the amount of money that households have available for consumption expenditure or saving. Total household incomes represent the total amount of money households receive before any deductions. Regional GDHI data are available on the national statistics website http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=7359

Regional figures for unsecured debt are not available. Average unsecured debt per person figures for the United Kingdom, are shown in Table B. These were published on 30 June 2005 in Blue Book 2005 on the national statistics website http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=1143.

The statistics used are national accounts series for the combined household and non-profit institutions serving households sectors. Estimates for household alone are not available.

*Table A*[1]

*Average incomes per capita*[2]*, London*

| | *Gross disposable household income (GDHI)*[3] *(£)* | *Total incomes*[4] *(£)* |
|---|---|---|
| 1997 | 11,660 | 18,040 |
| 1998 | 12,060 | 19,450 |
| 1999 | 12,730 | 20,570 |
| 2000 | 13,600 | 22,070 |
| 2001 | 14,480 | 23,210 |
| 2002 | 14,750 | 23,650 |
| 2003 | 15,240 | 24,510 |

[1] Data are rounded.
[2] Based on the total population.
[3] GDHI estimates are a moving average based "trend" of the unadjusted estimates for each region. The "trending" removes some of the year to year volatility of the unadjusted series.
[4] All household income including employers' social contributions, imputed social contributions, social benefits and other current transfers received.

*Table B*[1]

*UK (£)*

| | *Annual income per person*[2] | *Unsecured debt per person*[2] |
|---|---|---|
| 1997 | 12,340 | 3,440 |
| 1998 | 12,730 | 3,690 |
| 1999 | 13,300 | 3,970 |
| 2000 | 14,010 | 4,310 |
| 2001 | 14,830 | 4,730 |
| 2002 | 15,200 | 5,410 |
| 2003 | 15,840 | 5,820 |
| 2004 | 16,250 | 6,730 |

[1] Data are rounded.
[2] Based on the population aged 16+.

## PRODCOM Forms

**Mr. Weir:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the cost to a small business of management time in completing and returning PRODCOM forms. [9585]

**John Healey:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Len Cook to Mr. Weir, dated 4 July 2005:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning the cost to a small business of management time in completing and returning PRODCOM forms (9585).

I am keen to ensure that our inquiries minimise the load on those from whom we seek information. Our estimates are that the annual PRODCOM form costs the average small (less than 20 employees) business around £65 to complete. Some industries have been covered quarterly rather than annually and these quarterly forms have cost the average business around £39 to fill in. However, the quarterly inquiries have recently, following consultation, been dropped so businesses in the industries affected will in future—if they are selected—receive only one form a year rather than four.

We ask around one in 16 small businesses to complete a PRODCOM form each year.

**Mr. Hands:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many small businesses have been required to complete PRODCOM returns in each of the last five years. [9586]

**John Healey:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Len Cook to Mr. Hands, dated 4 July 2005:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning how many small businesses have been required to complete PRODCOM returns in each of the last five years. (9586)

For most industries PRODCOM is an annual inquiry. For some however it has been quarterly. The number of small (less than 20 employee) businesses selected for each of the last five years has been:

| | *Numbers selected* | |
|---|---|---|
| *Year to which the inquiry related* | *For the annual inquiry* | *For the quarterly inquiries* |
| 2000 | 6,974 | 1,032 |
| 2001 | 6,984 | 1,023 |
| 2002 | 6,930 | 1,019 |
| 2003 | 6,970 | 1,013 |
| 2004 | 6,964 | 1,009 |

The total number of small businesses in these sectors is around 131,000.

From the beginning of this year the quarterly PRODCOM inquiries have ceased. These industries are now, like the others, being covered annually. Therefore, selected firms in these industries that would previously have received four forms in the year, will in future only get one.

**Mr. Weir:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what the *(a)* maximum, *(b)* minimum and *(c)* average fine imposed on small businesses in (i) Scotland, (ii) Wales and (iii) England for failure to return PRODCOM forms was in each of the last five years; [9583]

(2) how much in fines was levied on businesses in *(a)* Scotland, *(b)* Wales and *(c)* England in each of the last five years for failure to complete and return PRODCOM forms; [9584]

(3) how many *(a)* companies and *(b)* individuals have been fined for failure to return and complete PRODCOM returns in each of the last five years in (i) Scotland, (ii) Wales and (iii) England; [9587]

(4) how many companies have been prosecuted for failure to return PRODCOM returns in each of the last five years. [9588]

**John Healey:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Len Cook to Mr. Mike Weir, dated 4 July 2005:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Questions concerning the prosecution of businesses for failures to return their PRODCOM forms, and the fines they have received (9583, 9584, 9587 and 9588).

Prosecution of recalcitrant responders is very much a last resort: we would much prefer to proceed with the cooperation of those we ask to fill in forms, and for the vast part we succeed in that. However, 5 businesses have been prosecuted and fined in the last five years for failure to return their PRODCOM forms (one in the year 2000; two in 2001; and two in 2004). One of those businesses had an address in Scotland; the others all had addresses in England. One was a business with fewer than 20 employees.

The fines varied from £75 to £1000. The total for the five cases was £1925.

## Revenue and Customs (Haverfordwest)

**Mr. Crabb:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what plans he has to change the status of the HM Revenue and Customs office in Haverfordwest; and if he will make a statement on what changes he expects to make to the numbers of jobs in the office; [8191]

(2) what plans he has to reorganise local offices following the merger of HM Customs and Excise and the Inland Revenue; and if he will make a statement on the expected change in numbers employed; [8192]

(3) what the net change in the numbers of jobs in HM Revenue and Customs in Wales will be following reorganisation of local offices. [8193]

**Dawn Primarolo:** I refer the hon. Gentleman to the reply I gave on 28 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 1428W, to the hon. Member for Carmarthen, East and Dinefwr (Adam Price).

## Tax Credits

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many cases of overpayment of tax credits are being investigated by tax credit offices; how many cases of overpayment have been resolved since the present tax credits were introduced; and how many cases of overpayment are awaiting action. [7842]

**Dawn Primarolo:** At 31 May 2005, HM Revenue and Customs had received around 271,000 requests to reconsider recovery of an overpayment of tax credits on the grounds of official error. Of these, 151,000 had been decided upon and the balance were awaiting a decision.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the estimated take-up rate is for *(a)* child tax credit and *(b)* working tax credit; and how many families he estimates are entitled but not claiming. [8108]

**Dawn Primarolo:** On average for 2003–04 5.5 million families benefited from child tax credit and working tax credit and initial analysis suggests that in its first year, child tax credit achieved an estimated take-up rate of 80 per cent. by caseload. Further work to produce final take-up rate estimates for child tax credit and working tax credit for 2003–04 is continuing and we expect this analysis to be completed towards the end of 2005–06.

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the level of tax credit overpayment was in the 2003–04 financial year in Peterborough constituency. [8444]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The number of tax credit awards for 2003–04 underpaid and overpaid after finalisation are available for each region, parliamentary constituency and local authority in the publication "Child and Working Tax Credit Statistics. Finalised Awards 2003–04. Supplement on Payments in 2003–04. Geographical Analyses". This is available on the HMRC website at http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/menu.htm.

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much has been paid in tax credits since 2003, broken down by *(a)* London borough and *(b)* local authority in Essex. [8526]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Information on payments of working and child tax credits is not available below national level.

Data about tax credits awards by reference to geographical areas such as Parliamentary constituencies and local authorities can be found at: http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-stats.htm.

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps the Government are taking to stop overpayments of tax credits; and if he will make a statement. [8528]

**Dawn Primarolo:** I refer the hon. Member to the statement I made to the House on 26 May 2005, *Official Report*, column 802, on tax credits.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many compensation payments have been made by HM Revenue and Customs for tax credit problems in *(a)* 2002–03, *(b)* 2003–04, *(c)* 2004–05 and *(d)* 2005–06 to date; what the total value is of such payments for each year; and if he will make a statement. [8564]

**Dawn Primarolo:** For 2002–03 and 2003–04, I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 7 February 2005, *Official Report*, columns 1244–45W.

Around 20,000 compensation payments to tax credits claimants were made in 2004–05 with a value of around £1.24 million. In the two months ending 31 May 2005, around 1,600 such payments had been made with a value of around £187,000.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his estimate is of the total cost of administering tax credits in *(a)* 2003–04, *(b)* 2004–05 and *(c)* 2005–06; and if he will make a statement. [8565]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The cost of managing and paying the child and working tax credits in the financial year 2003–04 appears in note 3 to the Trust Statement in the Inland Revenue Annual Report and Accounts for that year. Figures for 2004–05 and 2005–06 will not be available until the Trust Statements for these years are released.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his latest estimate is of the number of tax credit *(a)* overpayments and *(b)* underpayments in 2004–05; and if he will make a statement. [8567]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Estimates of numbers and values of overpayments or underpayments for 2004–05 awards at 5 April 2005 will not be available until after family circumstances and incomes for 2004–05 have been finalised. The most recent estimates available for the number of overpaid awards and the value of these overpayments is for awards at 5 April 2004 based on final family circumstances and incomes for 2003–04. They appear in the HMRC publication "Child and Working Tax Credits Annual statistics. 2003–04 Payments." The estimates are based on samples and are subject to significant sampling uncertainty.

This publication can be found on the HMRC website at http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-quarterly-stats.htm

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much of the total amount of tax credits overpaid in 2003–04 has so far been recovered; and if he will make a statement. [8569]

**Dawn Primarolo:** No estimates can be made until the departmental accounts for 2004–05 have been prepared and the Trust Statement published.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many tax credit payments have been made to the wrong bank account; and if he will make a statement. [8570]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The information is not available.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many tax credit awards were made in *(a)* 2003–04 and *(b)* 2004–05 to households with incomes of (i) £40,000 per annum and (ii) £50,000 per annum; and if he will make a statement. [8572]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The number of awards made to families in 2003–04 whose finalised income in that year was (i) £40,000 to £50,000 and (ii) over £50,000 is contained in the publication "Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics. Finalised awards 2003–04.

Supplement on payments in 2003–04". This is available on the HMRC website at http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/menu.htm.

Figures for 2004–05 are not yet available.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many tax credit overpayments were not clawed back in 2003–04 due to the operation of the £2,500 disregard; and if he will make a statement. [8573]

**Dawn Primarolo:** It is not possible reliably to estimate the number of extra families who would have had an overpayment if the disregard had not applied.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his estimate is of the average waiting time to get through on the public tax credit helpline for each month since January 2003; and if he will make a statement. [8575]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The following table shows average waiting times for those calls that were answered by tax credits helpline advisers in 2003–04, 2004–05 and the current tax year.

| *Year/month* | *Average waiting time (min:sec)* |
|---|---|
| *2003–04* | |
| April | 6:25 |
| May | 3:33 |
| June | 2:53 |
| July | 1:26 |
| August | 0:45 |
| September | 0:42 |
| October | 0:23 |
| November | 0:38 |
| December | 0:30 |
| January | 0:26 |
| February | 0:18 |
| March | 0:17 |
| *2004–05* | |
| April | 0:24 |
| May | 0:24 |
| June | 0:26 |
| July | 0:29 |
| August | 0:20 |
| September | 0:40 |
| October | 0:24 |
| November | 0:24 |
| December | 0:33 |
| January | 0:49 |
| February | 0:42 |
| March | 0:37 |
| *2005–06* | |
| April | 1:12 |
| May | 1:06 |
| To 25 June | 0:56 |

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer by what date the redesigned tax credit award notices will be available for *(a)* publication and *(b)* consultation; and if he will make a statement. [8578]

**Dawn Primarolo:** HMRC has consulted representative groups and worked closely with them to improve the award notice, and the revised award notice has been warmly welcomed by them. The revised award notices will be issued to claimants from April 2006.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his estimate is of the number of tax credit overpayments in 2003–04 that were caused by HM Revenue and Customs error; and if he will make a statement. [8579]

**Dawn Primarolo:** There were well-publicised IT system problems in the early part of 2003–04. One particular software problem led to some incorrect payments being made to some claimants as detailed in the Report of the Comptroller & Auditor General for 2003–04. This is available on the HMRC website at: http://www.inlandrevenue.gov.uk/pdfs/report2004.pdf.

Overpayments can arise for a number of reasons or from a combination of factors, of which HMRC error may be just one, e.g. when a claimant's entitlement varies following a change in their circumstances. No reliable estimate of the amount of overpayments resulting solely from HMRC error for 2003–04 is available.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many overpayments of tax credits during 2003–04 were recovered before the end of the financial year. [8580]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Overpayments of tax credits are not identified until family circumstances and income are finalised after the end of the financial year. However, tax credit awards can be adjusted during the year to take account of a change in circumstances or income. Where the amount payable is reduced, payments are adjusted with the aim of paying out the right amount for the year as a whole. This is explained in HMRC's Code of Practice 26 "What happens if we have paid you too much tax credit?", available on our website at http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/leaflets/cop26.htm. This is part of the normal operation of the tax credit system, and no count of such occurrences is maintained.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make a statement on progress in resolving computer problems relating to tax credit payments. [8583]

**Dawn Primarolo:** I refer the hon. Gentleman to the written statement I made on 26 May 2005, *Official Report*, column 22WS in particular the fourth of the six measures I have agreed with the Chairman of HMRC.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his estimate is of the total cost of the £2,500 disregard for increases in annual income for tax credit entitlement for 2003–04; and if he will make a statement. [8584]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The final entitlement to tax credits in 2003–04 would have been about £800 million lower without the £2,500 disregard. This estimate takes no account of behavioural differences.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many letters have been received by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Inland Revenue from hon. Members on tax credits for each month since January 2003; and if he will make a statement. [8587]

**Dawn Primarolo:** I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave him on 10 February 2005, *Official Report*, column 1685W, and to the reply I gave on 21 February 2005, *Official Report*, columns 75W-76W to the hon. Member for Northavon (Steve Webb).

Details for the further period 1 January 2005 to 31 May 2005 are given as follows:

| Month | Number of letters from hon. Members to TCO |
|---|---|
| January 2005 | 798 |
| February 2005 | 906 |
| March 2005 | 1,218 |
| April 2005 | 763 |
| May 2005 | 607 |

In addition to the letters received by the Tax Credit Office, Treasury Ministers and Inland Revenue Board members received around 950 letters from hon. Members in the same period, 1 January 2005 to 31 May 2005.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of tax credit payments have had an error of some kind, in each year from 2003–04 to 2005–06; and if he will make a statement. [8592]

**Dawn Primarolo:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to him on 7 February 2005, *Official Report*, column 1245W.

The Department will report against its targets for 2005–06 in due course.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many tax credit award notices were sent out in total in *(a)* 2003–04, *(b)* 2004–05 and *(c)* 2005–06 to date; and if he will make a statement. [8597]

**Dawn Primarolo:** There are more than 6 million families benefiting from tax credits at present. Each adult included in a tax credit award receives an award notice when the initial claim has been decided, each time a change of circumstance is reported, and another after the end of the year when their claim is renewed.

The number of tax credit awards notices issued in the tax year 2003–04 was about 20.5 million.

In the tax year 2004–05 the number issued was about 34 million. The increase in the number issued reflects additional award notices issued when awards for 2003–04 were finalised.

In the tax year 2005–06 to date almost 11 million have been issued.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the *(a)* working tax credit and *(b)* child tax credit have been more expensive to administer than the working families tax credit; and if he will make a statement. [8598]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The administrative costs of managing and paying child and working tax credits in 2003–04, expressed as percentages of total payments, were very similar to the working and disabled person's tax credits regime.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what his estimate is of the average time taken to respond to a letter of complaint from a member of the public regarding tax credits in each month from January 2003 to June 2005; and if he will make a statement. [8853]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The information requested is not available. HMRC aim to deal with 80 per cent. of correspondence within 15 working days and 95 per cent. of correspondence within 40 working days.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, pursuant to the statement of 22 June 2005 by the Paymaster General, *Official Report*, columns 801–14, on tax credits, if he will change the payments page of an award notice to draw tax credit recipients' attention to the availability of additional tax credits. [8856]

**Dawn Primarolo:** HMRC are looking at options for improving the information they give claimants about overpayments. This includes highlighting on the award notice the availability of the extra help customers can get if their payments have decreased.

Where there is an overpayment, the award notice sent to claimants shows the amount and how it will be recovered. The accompanying notes tell claimants that HMRC's approach to overpayments is outlined in their Code of Practice 26 (CoP26). CoP26 is published on the HMRC website. They send a copy to claimants who write to them about their overpayment. Claimants who want to dispute recovery of their overpayment do not have to complete form TC846 but HMRC will send them one if they have not already provided the information needed to consider the position.

**Mr. Salmond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has updated his forecast for the price of a barrel of oil as set out in his Budget report. [8952]

**John Healey:** The oil price assumption will be updated in the pre-Budget report later this year.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many instances of recovery of overpayments or excess payments have been disputed by tax credit recipients in each of the last two years; [8106]

(2) how many TC846 forms have been received in each of the last two years. [8107]

**Dawn Primarolo:** In 2004–05, around 217,000 claimants had returned form TC846, or had otherwise been recorded as requesting the write off of their overpayments on the grounds of official error. In April and May 2005, the Tax Credit Office received around 54, 000 similar requests.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the cost of administering *(a)* family credit, *(b)* working families tax credit and disabled person's tax credit and *(c)* child tax credit and working tax credit in each of the last eight years in which credits were payable in (i) cash and (ii) real terms. [6199]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The cost of managing and paying the child and working tax credits in the financial year 2003–04 appears in Note 3 to the Trust Statement in the Inland Revenue Annual Report and Accounts for that year. The costs of managing and paying working families' and disabled person's tax credits are shown in the Inland Revenue Trust Accounts, at Note 3 for 1999–2000 to 2001–02 and at Note 4 for 2002–03. I understand from the Department of Work and Pensions that the estimated annual costs for family credit in Great Britain are given in the annual reports of the former Department of Social Security.

The costs of managing and paying of family credit, working families tax credit and disabled person's tax credit, and child tax credit and working tax credit in each of the last eight in real terms were as follows:

| | *Costs of managing and paying tax credits (£ million)* | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | *In nominal terms* | *In real terms (at 2004–05 prices)* | *Total families benefiting (Thousands)* |
| 1996–97 (FC) | 66.0 | 80.1 | [1]725.6 |
| 1997–98 (FC) | 59.0 | 69.8 | [1]766.1 |
| 1998–99 (FC) | 72.0 | 82.8 | [1]790.5 |
| 1999–2000 (WFTC and DPTC) | 36.1 | 40.6 | [2]834 |
| 2000–01 (WFTC and DPTC) | 136.7 | 152.1 | [3]1,195 |
| 2001–02 (WFTC and DPTC) | 143.9 | 156.2 | [3]1,326 |
| 2002–03 (WFTC and DPTC) | 143.0 | 150.1 | [3]1,414 |
| 2003–04 (WTC and CTC) | 403.0 | 411.0 | [3]5,700 |

[1] Number of awards to all families, as at November of each year.

[2] All recipients, as at October for DPTC and November for WFTC.

[3] Average number of families benefiting on each day over the year.

The comparison over time is affected by the absence of children's tax credit from the costs of managing and paying tax credits for 2001–02 and 2002–03 as this was included in the Inland Revenue's routine work and not separately identified in running costs.

As a proportion of total payments made each year, administration costs have remained stable since 1999, at around 2.5 per cent. to 3 per cent.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the value is of tax credit overpayments written off in each month since April 2003. [7995]

**Dawn Primarolo:** HMRC wrote off 373,000 overpayments to a value of around £37 million following the identification of a software error that affected some 455,000 households in April and May 2003. This is explained in the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General 2003–04, which can be found in the board's annual report at http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/pdfs/report2004.pdf

Overpayments for 2003–04 were only finally identified after April 2004 when HMRC started finalising awards for that year and the Department began considering disputed overpayments in June 2004.

The monthly breakdown of overpayments written off each month from June 2004 on the grounds of official error is as follows:

£

| *Month* | *Amount written off* |
|---|---|
| *2004* | |
| June | 118,000 |
| July | 30,000 |
| August | 39,000 |
| September | 41,000 |
| October | 326,000 |
| November | 643,000 |
| December | 299,000 |

£

| *Month* | *Amount written off* |
|---|---|
| *2005* | |
| January | 1,246,000 |
| February | 1,102,000 |
| March | 1,788,000 |
| April | 605,000 |
| May | 30,823,000 |
| Total | 37,060,000 |

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the statement of 22 June 2005, *Official Report*, columns 801–14 by the Paymaster General on tax credits, what estimate he has made of the number of cases in which in-year recovery of excess tax credits has occurred for recipients of *(a)* income support and *(b)* income-based jobseeker's allowance; what the average value was of the excess recovered; what proportion of these cases were disputed; and in how many of these cases (i) the overpayments were written off and (ii) additional tax credits were awarded. [8022]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The information requested is not available.

Tax credit awards can be adjusted during the year to take account of a change in circumstances or income. Where the amount payable is reduced, payments are adjusted with the aim of paying out the right amount for the year as a whole. This is explained in HMRC's Code of Practice 26 "What happens if we have paid you too much tax credit?", which is accessible at http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/leaflets/cop26.htm. This is part of the normal operation of the tax credit system, and no count of such occurrences is maintained.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the statement of 22 June 2005, *Official Report*, columns 801–14 by the Paymaster General, on tax credits, what assessment he has made of the level of awareness among tax credit office staff of the circumstances in which additional tax credits are payable; and what additional *(a)* training and *(b)* guidance he plans to give to ensure appropriate use of additional tax credits. [8023]

**Dawn Primarolo:** HMRC have work in hand to enhance the guidance helpline advisers follow so that it will prompt them to refer to the availability of additional tax credits in situations where they could prevent financial hardship.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the statement of 22 June 2005, *Official Report*, columns 801–14 by the Paymaster General, on tax credits, what timetable has been set to train tax credit staff on the appropriate use of interim payments; and what new guidance is to be produced on issuing interim payments. [8026]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Existing guidance for HMRC staff tells them that, where a customer is not receiving system-generated payments, they may need to set up manual payments. HMRC are reminding advisers to follow this guidance. And they have work in hand to further enhance the guidance so that it will prompt helpline

advisers to refer to the availability of additional tax credits in situations where they could prevent financial hardship.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when discussions with EDS on compensation for problems with the tax credit IT system were started; how much compensation has been paid by EDS; and if he will make a statement. [8105]

**Dawn Primarolo:** HMRC and EDS have for some time, been engaged in a process of discussions which the Department hoped would lead to a satisfactory out-of-court resolution to the claim against EDS. No such settlement has yet resulted and no compensation has been paid. Negotiations continue which may lead to a financial settlement and, while that is the case, it is not appropriate to disclose confidential and privileged information, the quantum of HMRC's claim or the timetable for negotiations. HMRC is clear that if it is not possible to reach an acceptable negotiated settlement in the near future, it will commence legal proceedings.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many tax credit overpayments there were in 2004–05; and what the value was. [8110]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Estimates of numbers and values of overpayments or underpayments for 2004–05 awards at 5 April 2005 will not be available until after family circumstances and incomes for 2004–05 have been finalised. The most recent estimates available for the number of overpaid awards and the value of these overpayments is for awards at 5 April 2004 based on final family circumstances and incomes for 2003–04. They appear in the HMRC publication "Child and Working Tax Credits Annual statistics. 2003–04 Payments." The estimates are based on samples and are subject to significant sampling uncertainty. This publication can be found on the HMRC website at http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-quarterly-stats.htm

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the statement of 22 June 2005, *Official Report*, columns 801–14, by the Paymaster General, on tax credits, if he will change the payments page of an award notice to *(a)* advise tax credit recipients that recovery of an overpayment can be challenged, *(b)* draw claimants' attention to the code of practice 26 and *(c)* draw claimants' attention to form TC846; and if he will change the guidance notes accompanying the award notice to give greater prominence to how the Revenue can help with financial hardship. [8124]

**Dawn Primarolo:** HMRC are looking at options for improving the information they give claimants about overpayments. This includes highlighting on the award notice the availability of the extra help claimants can get if their payments have decreased.

Where there is an overpayment, the award notice sent to claimants shows the amount and how it will be recovered. The accompanying notes tell claimants that HMRC's approach to overpayments is outlined in their code of practice 26 (CoP26). CoP26 is published on the HMRC website. They send a copy to claimants who write to them about their overpayment. Claimants who want to dispute recovery of their overpayment do not have to complete form TC846 but HMRC will send them one if they have not already provided the information needed to consider the position.

**Mr. Dunne:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will revise the operation of tax-credits complaints procedures so that individual case officers within HM Revenue and Customs are assigned to each case. [8184]

**Dawn Primarolo:** HM Revenue and Customs deal with complaints about tax credits in accordance with the policy and procedures set out in their Code of Practice 1: 'Putting things right'. Individual complaints handlers, who are members of dedicated teams, are assigned to each complaint and remain responsible for it until it is resolved.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what legal advice he has received in relation to recovery of overpaid tax credits; and if he will make a statement. [8604]

**Dawn Primarolo:** I refer the hon. Member to the letter I sent him today.

**Mr. Hood:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, how many requests to reconsider the recovery of overpayments of working tax credit were received in *(a)* 2003, *(b)* 2004 and *(c)* 2005. [8847]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Overpayments for 2003–04 were only finalised after April 2004 when HMRC started finalising tax credits awards for that year and the Department began considering disputed overpayments in June 2004.

In 2004–05, around 217,000 claimants had returned form TC846, or had otherwise been recorded as requesting the write off of their overpayments on the grounds of official error. In April and May 2005, the tax credit office received around 54,000 similar requests. There are no separate figures relating to working tax credit.

## Tax Gap

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will *(a)* use a model similar to that used by the US Inland Revenue Service to estimate the tax gap in the UK and *(b)* regularly publish the results of the estimate. [8226]

**Dawn Primarolo:** There is currently no reliable estimate of the amount of direct taxes underpaid. The model used by US Inland Revenue Service to estimate the tax gap consists of a large number of component parts. HMRC is exploring the use of a number of these methods to estimate parts of the tax gap.

It was acknowledged by the NAO Fraud Study—published in 2003—that HMRC is as well advanced as overseas fiscal authorities in its thinking and work on fraud measurement.

## Tax Incentives

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what tax incentives are available to businesses locating and operating in the UK. [8231]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The UK's macroeconomic stability, low rates of corporation tax and other tax incentives such as tax relief for intangibles assets and R and D tax credits, make the UK a very competitive environment for business.

### Tax Relief (Pension Contributions)

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimates he has made of the cost of tax life on pension contributions in *(a)* 2005–06 *(b)* 2006–07 and *(c)* 2007–08, broken down by tax rate. [8741]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** Latest estimates of the cost of tax relief on private pension contributions for 1998–99 to 2003–04 are published on the HMRC website: http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/pensions/table7_9_september04.pdf

Estimates for the years asked for in the question are not available.

### Taxation

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effect of the level of taxation on the economy. [8518]

**Mr. Des Browne:** The Government's macro-economic framework consistently has delivered stability with strong growth and low inflation, establishing a track record that has been acknowledged internationally. The Government's approach to taxation balances the need to finance better quality public services, deliver fairness and promote sustainable development while ensuring that the UK benefits from the advantages of being a lightly taxed economy.

### Taxis

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much the Department has spent on taxis in each of the last five years. [6514]

**John Healey:** The Treasury's estimated spending on taxis in the last five years is as follows:

*£000*

| | *Cost* |
|---|---|
| 2000–01 | 143 |
| 2001–02 | 120 |
| 2002–03 | 163 |
| 2003–04 | 151 |
| 2004–05 | 149 |

The figures for 2002–03 onwards include courier costs, since the Treasury has a combined contract for courier and taxi services, and it is not feasible to disaggregate the courier element.

### VAT

**Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Health on reducing the VAT rate on condoms. [9070]

**Dawn Primarolo:** VAT rates are a matter for the Chancellor and any changes will be considered as part of the Budget process.

Treasury Ministers and officials meet their Department of Health counterparts regularly to discuss a wide range of issues

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the VAT gap was in each year since 1997. [8225]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Estimates of the VAT gap for recent years are available in the December 2004 paper "Measuring and Tackling Indirect Tax Losses", which is available in the Library of the House.

### Volunteering

**Mr. Kidney:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps are being taken within his Department to support the International Year of the Volunteer; and what steps have been taken to promote volunteering since 1997. [6404]

**Paul Goggins:** I have been asked to reply.

The Home Office budget to promote volunteering and the wider voluntary and community sector has increased almost tenfold from £16 million in 1997–98 to £153 million in 2005–06. Some examples of the initiatives that the budget has been used for, include:

The Time Limited Development Fund (TLDF)—a £13.5 million boost for volunteering in deprived communities. 113 voluntary organisations were selected in May 2002 for funding over the years 2002–03 to 2004–05. The organisations worked in deprived areas across England to help build the capacity of local communities by significantly increasing the number of local people involved in voluntary services and community support.

ChangeUp—a capacity building and infrastructure framework for the voluntary and community sector. ChangeUp is being supported by an initial investment of £80 million to be spent by March 2006, and a further £70 million for years 2006–07 and 2007–08.

Futurebuilders—the Government set up the £125 million Futurebuilders Fund, an innovative programme designed to assist front line voluntary and community organisations to build their capacity to deliver public services by providing tailored loan based funding packages.

The Russell Commission—the Government are allocating £45 million between 2005–06 and 2007–08 to support the implementation of the Commission's recommendations. This will be supported by a matched volunteering opportunities fund, which aims to attract at least £55 million from private sector sources.

International Year of the Volunteer—The National Centre for Volunteering, in consultation with the Home Office and key volunteering-involving organisations, agreed a structure for the delivery of the International Year of the Volunteer which took place in 2001. Those involved in the programme considered the Year to be a success. The Active Community Unit at the Home Office provided £297,229 core funding for the Year. Furthermore, 2005 is the Year of the Volunteer. The aims and objectives of the Year are to create awareness of, increase the opportunities for and encourage more people to get involved in volunteering. The Year is

owned by volunteers, led by a partnership between Community Service Volunteers (CSV) and the Volunteering England consortium, and supported by the Home Office. The Volunteering England consortium consists of Volunteering England, community sector. TimeBank, YouthNet UK, The Media Trust, Business in the Community (BitC) and Youth Action Network. The Home Office spending on the Year is illustrated in table one. The devolved administrations are funding and hosting their own campaigns and initiatives to support the year and these differ in each country.

*Table 1: Home Office investment into YV05*

| | *Policy initiatives* | *Amount invested by the Home Office (£)* |
|---|---|---|
| Community Service Volunteers | Principal Voluntary Sector partner delivering a range of activities, events, promotional materials and press and media coverage. | 1,000,000 |
| Community Service Volunteers | To deliver a government employee volunteering scheme. | 500,000 |
| Volunteering England | Principal Voluntary Sector partner working with a consortium to deliver a range of activities, events, promotional materials and press and media coverage. | 1,000,000 |
| Volunteering England | To increase the capacity of local volunteer centres throughout England. | 3,000,000 |
| Volunteering England | Small grants programme for other stakeholders who can contribute to achieving the objectives of YOV 2005 | 250,000 |
| Marketing/Communications Support | Research and branding, publicity, partnership marketing and the YOV 2005 website (www.yearofthevolunteer.org). | 250,000 |
| Website and YOV 2005 evaluation support | To develop and enhance www.yearofthevolunteer.org and manage project evaluation. | 100,000 |
| Media Trust | For high-profile, multi-media consumer marketing campaign which aims to supercharge the year, raise awareness of volunteering and drive registrations of new volunteers. | 1,000,000 |
| Total | | 7,100,000 |

### Young People (Denbighshire)

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many and what percentage of young people are not in employment, education or training in Denbighshire, broken down by ward and listed in descending order. [8268]

**John Healey:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Len Cook to Chris Ruane, dated 4 July 2005:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about young people in Denbighshire. (8268)

The number of people aged 16 to 24 not in employment, or in full-time education or government training, resident in Denbighshire during the 12 months ending February 2004 is estimated at 1,000. This represents around 11 per cent. of the population in that age group. A breakdown by ward is not available.

This estimate is based on annual local area Labour Force Survey data which, as with any sample survey, is subject to sampling variability.

## HOME OFFICE

### "Scrap it" Campaign

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for what reasons his Department plans to withdraw funding for the Scrap It campaign. [7216]

**Hazel Blears:** The Home Office has provided more than £13 million over three years until March 2006 with the aim of kick starting abandoned vehicle removal in London. From the outset, it was agreed that the scheme would be funded for three years, with the long-term goal for all partners to have in place good procedures and practice to continue vehicle removal after the funding ended.

We are delighted with the success of the Scrap It scheme which has enabled more than 30,000 (98 per cent.) vehicles confirmed as untaxed or abandoned to be removed within 72 hours of reporting. This has made a significant impact on the numbers of vehicles reported as abandoned, which fell to 220,000 vehicles in 2003–04. In April 2005, the British Crime Survey also recorded a significant reduction in people perceiving abandoned or burnt out cars as a very or fairly big problem in their area.

### Acts of Parliament (Internet Access)

**Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will take steps to make all Acts of Parliament published before 1988 for which his Department is responsible available online. [3720]

**Mr. Charles Clarke:** The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office (HMSO) within the Cabinet Office is the Queen's Printer of Acts of Parliament, and responsible for the publication of Acts of Parliament. HMSO has considered the publication of Acts prior to 1988, which is the earliest date when these were available electronically, but has decided not to do so as many have been heavily amended and to publish them in their original form would be misleading for many users. The Government are, however, taking forward development of a Statute Law Database which will contain the fully revised and updated text of all legislation from 1275. It is expected that this will be made available to the general public during 2006.

### Additional Police Officers (Funding)

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what contractual relationship is entered

into when a local authority funds additional police officers; and whether funding is *(a)* on the basis of full cost recovery and *(b)* is guaranteed for a fixed period. [5030]

**Hazel Blears:** Under section 92 of the Police Act 1996 the council of a county, district, county borough or London borough may make grants to any police authority established under section three of the Act whose police area falls wholly or partly within the county, district, county borough or borough. Grants under this section may be made unconditionally or, with the agreement of the chief officer of police for the police area concerned, subject to conditions. The details of any agreement are a matter for negotiation between the council, police authority and chief officer concerned.

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he has approved the contract to be signed between Gloucestershire county council and Gloucestershire police authority to meet the new administration's commitment to the employment of 60 new police officers. [5031]

**Hazel Blears:** I understand that the chief constable of Gloucestershire Constabulary (Dr. Tim Brain QPM), the police authority and the county council are discussing a possible grant by the council to the authority. Section 92 of the Police Act 1996 makes provision for such grants, which do not require the approval of the Home Secretary.

### African Children

**Mr. Hands:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps he has taken since September 2001 to prevent the importation of children from Africa to be murdered as human sacrifices in churches; and if he will make a statement. [6765]

**Mr. McNulty:** Since September 2001 the Immigration and Nationality Directorate (IND) has taken forward several initiatives aimed at identifying vulnerable children on arrival in the UK:

Taking forward the recommendations of Operation Paladin—a multi-agency project led by the Metropolitan police aimed at protecting children.

An interviewing minors course has been available to staff in the Immigration Service since November 2004, providing specialist training in the skills needed to recognise signs of abuse as well as an awareness of the potential issues.

In June 2004 the IND Children's Taskforce was set up to address new duties and responsibilities imposed on agencies by the Children Act 2004.

The vulnerability of children who arrive unaccompanied in the United Kingdom is recognised and every effort is made to establish the bona-fides of the person they are meeting and the purpose of their visit. Social Services are alerted in all cases where an immigration officer has concerns for the welfare of the child.

### Agency Funding

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what funding the *(a)* Youth Crime Programme Board, *(b)* Crime Reduction Delivery Board, *(c)* Penalty Notices for Disorder Operational Working Group, *(d)* Prolific and Other Priority Offenders Programme Board and *(e)* Safer Schools Partnership Steering Group has received from (i) his Department and (ii) the Youth Justice Board for 2005–06. [4900]

**Paul Goggins:** I understand from the Secretary of State for Education and Skills that there is no programme budget to cover the Youth Crime Programme Board as it is classed as routine business. The costs of these meetings are absorbed by normal running costs allocated across the Children, Young People and Families Directorate in the Department for Education and Skills.

The Safer Schools Partnership Steering Group is also chaired by the Department for Education and Skills. This board received £300,000 last year. Funding for 2005–06 is still under negotiation.

No specific budgets are allocated to the Crime Reduction Delivery Board, the Penalty Notices for Disorder Operational Working Group or the Prolific and other Priority Offenders Programme Board from either the Home Office or the Youth Justice Board. Again, the costs of these meetings are absorbed by normal running costs allocated across the Home Office.

### Antisocial Behaviour Orders

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many antisocial behaviour orders have been issued to minors in each of the last five years, broken down by age. [4605]

**Hazel Blears:** The available information is given in the following table.

*The number of ASBOs issued at all courts, as reported to the Home Office, by age and period, up to 30 September 2004 (latest available)*

*England and Wales*

| | Period | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Age* | *1 June 2000 to 31 December 2000*[1] | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *1 January 2004 to 30 September 2004* | *Total* |
| 10 | 1 | 2 | — | 5 | 5 | 13 |
| 11 | 3 | 10 | 5 | 10 | 13 | 41 |
| 12 | 5 | 10 | 10 | 15 | 16 | 56 |
| 13 | 8 | 17 | 13 | 34 | 48 | 120 |
| 14 | 5 | 23 | 44 | 73 | 107 | 252 |
| 15 | 21 | 49 | 51 | 119 | 168 | 408 |
| 16 | 9 | 45 | 64 | 148 | 189 | 455 |
| 17 | 9 | 28 | 48 | 110 | 188 | 383 |
| Total | 61 | 184 | 235 | 514 | 734 | 1,728 |

[1] Between 1 April 1999 and 31 May 2000 data were collected on aggregate numbers only by police force area (pfa).

**Mr. Malins:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many antisocial behaviour orders have been issued in each of the last four years for which figures are available; and what proportion were issued to persons under 18 years. [5156]

**Hazel Blears:** The available information is given in the table.

*The number of ASBOs issued at all courts, as reported to the Home Office, by period, and percentage age breakdown, up to 30 September 2004[1]—England and Wales*

| | | Percentage by age group | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Period | Number issued | 10–17 | 18+ | not known |
| 2001 | 323 | 57 | 41 | 2 |
| 2002 | 403 | 58 | 38 | 4 |
| 2003 | 1,035 | 50 | 50 | 0 |
| 2004[2] | 1,826 | 40 | 58 | 1 |
| Total | 3,587 | 46 | 52 | 1 |

[1] Latest available.

[2] January to September.

**Dr. Cable:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many antisocial behaviour orders have been served on people with *(a)* mental health problems and *(b)* disabilities. [7236]

**Hazel Blears:** Information is not collected centrally about the characteristics of persons issued with an antisocial behaviour order.

**Dr. Cable:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the latest figures are for the numbers of occasions on which antisocial behaviour orders have been breached; and when figures will be updated. [7237]

**Hazel Blears:** The currently available information on the number of occasions on which antisocial behaviour orders have been breached is 2,053. This figure is based on those orders issued, as reported to the Home Office, between 1 June 2000 and 31 December 2003 and covers all breach occasions within that period.

Breach data for 2004 will be available towards the end of the year.

**Dr. Cable:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for what types of behaviour antisocial behaviour orders have been used; and how many antisocial behaviour orders have been used for each type of behaviour. [7238]

**Hazel Blears:** Antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) are commonly used to tackle general unruly behaviour such as verbal abuse, harassment, graffiti and noise nuisance. However, they have also been used to combat racial harassment, drunk and disorderly behaviour, vehicle crime and prostitution. The wide range of antisocial behaviour that can be tackled by ASBOs illustrates their flexibility.

Data collated by the Home Office for statistical purposes does not identify the circumstances that led to the issuing of an ASBO.

**Dr. Cable:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the effectiveness of antisocial behaviour orders will be evaluated; and what the criteria for the evaluation will be. [7239]

**Hazel Blears:** From the summer we will be conducting an evaluation of antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs). The criteria for evaluation will be based on key research questions. These questions will focus on the extent and circumstances under which ASBOs are effective in tackling antisocial behaviour, and how ASBOs work as part of wider strategies to tackle antisocial behaviour.

Published findings from this work will be available in 2006.

## Asylum and Immigration

**Tony Baldry:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much the Government will be required to pay to GSL UK Ltd. as a consequence of not proceeding with the accommodation centre for asylum seekers in Bicester. [5814]

**Mr. McNulty:** The cost of terminating the contract with GSL for the accommodation centre at Bicester is currently the subject of discussions between the parties.

**Tony Baldry:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of the cost of the proposed accommodation centre for asylum seekers at Bicester is attributable to the cost of the acquisition of the land. [5815]

**Mr. McNulty:** The cost of the Bicester site was £3.25 million.

**Tony Baldry:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his Department acquired the site for the proposed accommodation centre at Bicester from the Ministry of Defence at full market value. [5816]

**Mr. McNulty:** Yes. The price agreed with the Ministry of Defence's retained valuer was market value.

**Tony Baldry:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many places he expects there to be at the secure detention centre for failed asylum seekers at Bicester. [5817]

**Mr. McNulty:** The details of any such centre have yet to be decided.

**Tony Baldry:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what legal advice is provided to failed asylum seekers held in secure detention centres. [5818]

**Mr. McNulty:** Legal advice given to those in immigration detention is a confidential matter between legal representatives and their clients. However, detainees are made aware of the availability of legal advice through information displayed around the removal centres. Information is also provided in the library. It is a matter for individual detainees to decide whether or not they wish to seek legal advice or representation. In those cases where individuals are detained as part of the Fast Track asylum process legal advice is available on site.

**Tony Baldry:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department who he expects to run the proposed secure detention centre at Bicester. [5819]

**Mr. McNulty:** Should we proceed to develop a secure removal centre near Bicester we will appoint a contractor following a procurement competition under EU procurement regulations.

**Mr. Malins:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for what reason applicants for asylum arriving from France are not returned to France. [3625]

**Mr. McNulty:** Returns of applicants to other European states, including France, are governed by the provisions of the Dublin II and Eurodac regulations.

Where there is evidence that France is the responsible state, then the appropriate procedures will be initiated by the Immigration Service to secure the transfer of the applicant to France.

If the evidence and application of the Dublin arrangements establishes that responsibility lies with any other participating state then the appropriate transfer would be sought to that state rather than to France.

If no other participating state (including France) has responsibility in accordance with the Dublin II criteria then the application for asylum is considered by the United Kingdom.

**Mr. Malins:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will renegotiate the bilateral agreement with France to enable the UK to send asylum seekers arriving from France back to France to process their claims. [3626]

**Mr. McNulty:** We have no intention to renegotiate the bilateral "gentleman's agreement". The asylum aspects have been replaced by the Dublin II and Eurodac regulations. These regulations have enabled us to return more asylum seekers, not just to France, but to other EU member states.

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much has been spent on provision for asylum seekers in each local authority since 1995. [5403]

**Mr. McNulty:** Local authorities retain responsibility for providing support to certain asylum seekers and can claim grant from the Home Office to meet the reasonable costs of providing this support. Details of the grants paid for adults and families since 1 April 1999 and Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children UASC, since 1 April 2000 are available on the Immigration and Nationality Directorate website:

http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/ind/en/home/applying/national_asylum_support/stakeholders/finance.html.

Other expenditure on the provision of support to asylum seekers is not recorded by individual local authority and therefore a breakdown cannot be provided.

Prior to 1 April 1999 the Department of Health was responsible for the grant to local authorities for the provision of support to asylum seekers.

**Jeremy Corbyn:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum applicants from *(a)* Somalia, *(b)* Ethiopia, *(c)* Eritrea, *(d)* Democratic Republic of Congo, *(e)* Senegal and *(f)* Ivory Coast have been (i) granted exceptional leave to remain, (ii) granted indefinite leave to remain, (iii) refused leave and (iv) removed in each year since 2000. [5753]

**Mr. McNulty:** The table shows initial decisions, appeal determinations and removals for nationals of Somalia, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Democratic Republic of Congo, Senegal and the Ivory Coast since 2000. Decisions do not necessarily relate to applications made in the same period and appeal outcomes do not necessarily relate to initial decisions made in the same period.

Information on asylum applications, initial decisions, appeals and removals are published quarterly. The next publication covering the second quarter of 2005 will be available in August 2005 on the Home Office Research Development and Statistics Directorate website at http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html.

*Initial decisions[1,2] on asylum applications, 2000 to 2004*

| | | *Cases considered under normal procedures* | | | *Backlog clearance exercise* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Total initial decisions* | *Grants of asylum* | *Grants of ELR, HP or DL[3]* | *Total refusals* | *Granted asylum or ELR under backlog criteria[4,5]* | *Refused under backlog criteria[4,6]* |
| *Somalia* | | | | | | |
| 2000 | 11,325 | 5,310 | 3,575 | 2,365 | 55 | 15 |
| 2001 | 8,430 | 2,910 | 1,995 | 3,525 | n/a | n/a |
| 2002 | 6,735 | 2,515 | 1,405 | 2,815 | n/a | n/a |
| 2003[7] | 6,050 | 1,665 | 550 | 3,835 | n/a | n/a |
| 2004[7] | 3,280 | 460 | 465 | 2,360 | n/a | n/a |
| *Ethiopia* | | | | | | |
| 2000 | 895 | 40 | 80 | 355 | 390 | 30 |
| 2001 | 1,175 | 90 | 240 | 845 | n/a | n/a |
| 2002 | 705 | 50 | 170 | 485 | n/a | n/a |
| 2003[7] | 740 | 15 | 135 | 590 | n/a | n/a |
| 2004[7] | 660 | 15 | 130 | 515 | n/a | n/a |
| *Eritrea* | | | | | | |
| 2000 | 705 | 35 | 60 | 330 | 265 | 15 |
| 2001 | 1,305 | 120 | 230 | 955 | n/a | n/a |
| 2002 | 1,110 | 140 | 210 | 755 | n/a | n/a |
| 2003[7] | 1,115 | 65 | 175 | 875 | n/a | n/a |
| 2004[7] | 995 | 75 | 185 | 735 | n/a | n/a |

*Initial decisions[1,2] on asylum applications, 2000 to 2004*

| | | Cases considered under normal procedures | | | Backlog clearance exercise | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Total initial decisions | Grants of asylum | Grants of ELR, HP or DL[3] | Total refusals | Granted asylum or ELR under backlog criteria[4,5] | Refused under backlog criteria[4,6] |
| *Dem Rep. of Congo* | | | | | | |
| 2000 | 2,005 | 145 | 180 | 990 | 610 | 75 |
| 2001 | 2,475 | 325 | 340 | 1,815 | n/a | n/a |
| 2002 | 2,050 | 155 | 305 | 1,590 | n/a | n/a |
| 2003[7] | 1,970 | 90 | 200 | 1,685 | n/a | n/a |
| 2004[7] | 1,765 | 55 | 175 | 1,530 | n/a | n/a |
| *Senegal* | | | | | | |
| 2000 | 10 | * | * | 5 | * | — |
| 2001 | 15 | — | — | 15 | n/a | n/a |
| 2002 | 25 | * | * | 25 | n/a | n/a |
| 2003[7] | 30 | — | — | 30 | n/a | n/a |
| 2004[7] | 25 | — | * | 25 | n/a | n/a |
| *Ivory Coast* | | | | | | |
| 2000 | 365 | 15 | 15 | 265 | 70 | 5 |
| 2001 | 500 | 20 | 25 | 455 | n/a | n/a |
| 2002 | 225 | 10 | 15 | 200 | n/a | n/a |
| 2003[7] | 515 | 20 | 25 | 470 | n/a | n/a |
| 2004[7] | 290 | 5 | 15 | 270 | n/a | n/a |

n/a = not applicable
[1] Figures rounded to nearest 5, with '*' = 1 or 2.
[2] Information is of initial determination decisions, excluding the outcome of appeals or other subsequent decisions.
[3] Humanitarian protection and discretionary leave replaced exceptional leave to remain from 1 April 2003.
[4] Cases decided under pragmatic measures aimed at reducing the pre '96 Act asylum backlog.
[5] May include a small number of cases where asylum has been granted.
[6] May include a small number of cases where the application has been refused on substantive grounds.
[7] Provisional figures.

**Mr. Fabian Hamilton:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will allow asylum seekers to work while awaiting a decision on their cases. [7232]

**Mr. McNulty:** Asylum seekers are not allowed to work in the UK and we have no plans to change this policy. However, since 6 February 2005, following the introduction of the EU directive on reception standards for asylum seekers, asylum seekers may seek permission to work if their claim remains outstanding for longer than 12 months without a decision being made on it and providing the reason for the delay cannot be attributable to the asylum seeker.

**Mr. Shepherd:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make a statement on his policy on deporting failed asylum seekers who are suffering from HIV/AIDS, following the Court of Appeal's judgment in N (FC) *v.* the Secretary of State for the Home Department. [7992]

**Mr. McNulty** *[holding answer 28 June 2005]:* The policy on removing persons, including failed asylum seekers, who are suffering from HIV/AIDS is being reviewed in the light of the House of Lords appeal judgment in N (FC) *v.* the Secretary of State for the Home Department.

**Mr. Gale:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will grant indefinite leave to remain to asylum seekers proven to have come to the UK from Zimbabwe and held in UK detention centres awaiting deportation. [8252]

**Mr. McNulty** *[holding answer 29 June 2005]:* Asylum and human rights claims by Zimbabwean nationals, like those from nationals of every other country, are considered on their individual merits in accordance with our obligations under the 1951 UN refugee convention and the European convention on human rights (ECHR). We do not consider it appropriate to grant indefinite leave to remain purely on the basis of a person's nationality.

As with any other nationality, Zimbabweans who meet the definition of a refugee in the 1951 convention are granted asylum. If they do not qualify for asylum, but there are other circumstances that make them particularly vulnerable and engage our obligations under the ECHR, they are granted humanitarian protection or discretionary leave. If their application is refused, they have a right of appeal to the independent asylum and immigration tribunal. If an asylum and human rights claim is refused, and any appeal to the independent asylum and immigration tribunal is unsuccessful, that means that it would be safe for that particular individual to return to Zimbabwe. It is in this way we ensure that we provide protection to those Zimbabweans who need it.

**Alistair Burt:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) if he will ensure that no asylum detainee is transported to a port of departure pursuant to a deportation order in a vehicle without CCTV, or the offer of escort by an independent observer; [8454]

(2) whether CCTV cameras have been introduced in all the vehicles used to escort asylum detainees to and from Yarl's Wood and Oakington Detention Centres; and if he will make a statement. [8455]

**Mr. McNulty:** Group 4 Securicor is contracted to carry out all in-country escorts as well as escorted removals overseas.

Since the commencement of the contract, due to the increased volume of demand, Securicor has not been able to meet all requests for overseas removals. As a result, for some overseas removals we have continued to use our previous approved list supplier Recruitment Solutions International (RSI).

All vehicles used by our contracted supplier Securicor are fitted with CCTV. RSI are currently fitting their vehicles with CCTV.

**Alistair Burt:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum detainees have received new orders for deportation during the course of investigation into complaints made against escort services for transport to and from Oakington and Yarl's Wood Detention Centres in the last five years. [8458]

**Mr. McNulty:** This information is not readily available and the provision of a reply would be at disproportionate cost.

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* male and *(b)* female asylum seekers were accepted into the UK since 1997. [8460]

**Mr. McNulty:** The requested information on when asylum seekers arrive in the UK is not available. Data on applications by asylum seekers are based on the date when an application is made.

The table shows the number of asylum applications received since 1997 by sex.

Data on applications and initial decision outcomes for asylum seekers broken down by sex is published annually. The next publication covering 2004 will be available in August 2005 on the Home Office Research Development and Statistics Directorate website at http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html.

*Applications[1] for asylum in the UK, excluding dependants by sex—1997 to 2003*

| | *Applications received* | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | *Male* | *Female* | *Total* |
| 1997 | 24,375 | 8,125 | 32,500 |
| 1998 | 35,430 | 10,585 | 46,015 |
| 1999 | 47,675 | 23,480 | 71,160 |
| 2000[2] | 65,055 | 15,260 | 80,315 |
| 2001 | 53,940 | 17,090 | 71,025 |
| 2002 | 62,355 | 21,780 | 84,130 |
| 2003[3] | 34,090 | 15,320 | 49,405 |

[1] Figures rounded to the nearest 5.

[2] May exclude some cases lodged at local enforcement offices between January 1999 and March 2000.

[3] Provisional figures.

**Alistair Burt:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the investigation into the complaints made by Angeline Bure, Ashley S. Tshabangu and Anastancia Zulu, Zimbabwean nationals, against the escort service RSI in relation to the execution of a deportation order on 1 May has been completed. [8503]

**Mr. McNulty** *[holding answer 30 June 2005]:* Ms Bure, Ms Tshabangu and Ms Zulu have all alleged assault by the escorts contracted to escort them on their removal.

In all cases where a detainee alleges assault by the escorts, the escorting Contract Monitor will first refer the matter to the police as the appropriate investigating authority. The Immigration Service will co-operate fully with any police enquiries. The Contract Monitor will also consider whether the allegation is such that it is appropriate to suspend the certification of the escorting officer(s) involved.

On completion of any police inquiry, the Contract Monitor will also conduct an investigation into the allegation under the UK Immigration Service's internal complaints procedures.

The investigations into the complaints made by Ms Bure, Ms Tshabangu and Ms Zulu are still outstanding with the police.

**Alistair Burt:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he received notification of a complaint by Angeline Bure, Ashley S. Tshabangu and Anastancia Zulu, Zimbabwean nationals, about the escort service RSI in relation to the execution of a deportation order to Zimbabwe on 1 May 2005. [8504]

**Mr. McNulty:** Notification of these complaints was received by the escorting contract monitor on 3 May 2005.

**Alistair Burt:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent representations he has received concerning the conduct of escort services for asylum detainees to and from Yarl's Wood and Oakington detention centres. [8505]

**Mr. McNulty** *[holding answer 30 June 2005]:* Representations have recently been received from the Association of Visitors to Immigration Detainees (AVID). AVID inquired into the circumstances surrounding the escorted removal of three Zimbabwean women from Yarl's Wood Removal Centre.

**Mr. Hood:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for asylum were received from Zimbabwean nationals in *(a)* 2001, *(b)* 2002, *(c)* 2003, *(d)* 2004 and *(e)* 2005; and if he will make a statement. [8838]

**Mr. McNulty:** Information on asylum applications for nationals of Zimbabwe are published quarterly and annually. The information requested is given in the following table, and published in the annual bulletin Asylum Statistics United Kingdom 2003, and (data for 2004 and Q1 2005) Asylum Statistics: 1st Quarter 2005 United Kingdom. Copies are available from the Library of the House and on the Home Office Research Development and Statistics Directorate website at http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html

*Applications[1] for asylum in the UK, excluding dependants, for nationals of Zimbabwe, 2001 to Q1 2005*

| | *Applications received* |
|---|---|
| 2001 | 2,140 |
| 2002 | 7,655 |
| 2003[2] | 3,295 |

*Applications[1] for asylum in the UK, excluding dependants, for nationals of Zimbabwe, 2001 to Q1 2005*

| | Applications received |
|---|---|
| 2004[2] | 2,050 |
| Q1 2005[2] | 220 |

[1] Figures rounded to the nearest 5.
[2] Provisional figures.

**Mr. Hood:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum applications from Zimbabwe have been successful in the past 18 months; and if he will make a statement. [8840]

**Mr. McNulty:** Information on asylum applications, initial decision outcomes and appeal outcomes for nationals of Zimbabwe are published quarterly and annually. The information requested is given in the following table, and published in the annual bulletin Asylum Statistics United Kingdom 2003, and (data for 2004 and Q1 2005) Asylum Statistics: 1st Quarter 2005 United Kingdom. Copies are available from the Library of the House and on the Home Office Research Development and Statistics Directorate website at http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html

*Asylum applications[1] received in the United Kingdom, excluding dependants, and initial decisions[2] on applications, nationals of Zimbabwe, Q4 2003—Q1 2005*

*Principal applicants*

| | Applications | Decisions | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Total | Total decisions | Grants of asylum | Grants of HP[3] | Grants of DL[3] | Total refusals |
| Q4 2003 | 680 | 950 | 115 | — | 5 | 830 |
| Q1 2004 | 545 | 845 | 90 | — | 10 | 740 |
| Q2 2004 | 505 | 550 | 55 | — | 5 | 490 |
| Q3 2004 | 535 | 630 | 45 | [4]— | 10 | 575 |
| Q4 2004 | 460 | 530 | 25 | [4]— | 5 | 500 |
| Q1 2005 | 220 | 330 | 20 | [4]— | 5 | 300 |

[1] Figures are provisional and rounded to nearest 5.
[2] Information is of initial determination decisions, excluding the outcome of appeals or other subsequent decisions.
[3] Humanitarian protection and discretionary leave replaced exceptional leave to remain from 1 April 2003.
[4] Figures = 1 or 2.

**Michael Connarty:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for asylum in the UK were made in 2004; and how many of those applying were detained during the application process. [8947]

**Mr. McNulty:** 33,930 asylum applications were received in 2004, 31 per cent. lower than in 2003 (49,405). Information on how many of these were detained during the application process is not available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost by examination of individual case files.

As at 25 December 2004, 1,515 persons who had sought asylum at some stage were being detained in the UK solely under Immigration Act powers. This represented 78 per cent. of the total number of persons detained as at that date. This excludes persons detained in police cells and persons detained under dual immigration and other powers.

Information on asylum applications and asylum detainees are published quarterly on the Home Office Research Development and Statistics Directorate website at http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps the Government are taking to stop illegal immigrants being smuggled into the UK. [8529]

**Mr. McNulty:** Through expanding our juxtaposed controls, deploying new detection technology and increasing our airline liaison network overseas we have already made significant improvements to border controls and in preventing illegal immigrants being smuggled into the UK. These measures have had a significant impact in deterring illegal immigration and in reducing asylum intake.

In order to enhance further our border controls we are expanding our airline liaison officer network abroad and developing and implementing a more comprehensive and debriefing system in the UK. We are also expanding our mobile freight search and surveillance capability to counter any new or emerging threats.

**Mr. Laxton:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will review the immigration process for overseas doctors who have passed the Professional and Linguistic Assessment Board Test. [6114]

**Mr. McNulty:** The provisions for overseas doctors coming to the UK to take the Professional and Linguistic Assessment Board Test were reviewed earlier this year. After consultation with the Department of Health, General Medical Council and British Medical Association, these provisions were incorporated into the Immigration Rules on 15 March 2005. We have no further plans to review these specific provisions.

We are in the process of reviewing the immigration system for all those coming to the UK to work, train or study, following the publication of the five year strategy "Controlling our borders: Making migration work for Britain" on 7 February 2005.

**Mr. Randall:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many immigration cases that were suspended following the Sutton Report have not yet been processed. [5135]

**Mr. McNulty:** We intend to publish all statistics relating to the European Community Association Agreements towards the end of August 2005.

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what measures he is undertaking to increase the number of immigration staff at key immigration posts in the UK; [6436]

(2) when he expects all immigration posts to be operated by the target number of staff. [6437]

**Mr. McNulty:** The Immigration Service is currently conducting internal and external recruitment campaigns at a number of locations to meet current and anticipated staffing requirements for the current financial year. We intend to follow this with a further rolling recruitment programme to maintain staffing levels.

Postings will be made on a phased basis and on current projections it is anticipated that the majority of successful candidates will be in post by October 2005 and all will be in post by December.

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) which officials are entitled to assess the standard of English of an applicant for citizenship in the UK; [6439]

(2) what qualifications an official is required to possess to assess the standard of English of an applicant for citizenship in the UK. [6438]

**Mr. McNulty:** Government officials do not assess language ability. Home Office officials check that documents submitted show that the applicant meets the standard required for those applying for naturalisation.

Applicants can submit a certificate at English for Speakers of Other Language (ESOL) entry three or above or an educational certificate that could only have been obtained by someone with good English. Entry three is set at the B1 threshold level under the Council of Europe framework which is a level adopted in many European countries for naturalisation purposes.

For those applicants who hold no such certificate, a qualified solicitor or notary may, by way of a short interview certify that someone is a native speaker of English or that their English language skills are as good as would be expected of a native English speaker of full age and capacity.

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans he has to extend the length of visit visa that can be issued to an overseas doctor on successful completion of the Professional and Linguistic Assessment Board examination. [6475]

**Mr. McNulty:** There is no need to extend the leave granted to overseas doctors after they pass the Professional and Linguistic Assessment Board (PLAB) Test. Once they have passed the PLAB Test, overseas doctors can apply to extend their stay to pursue their training in the UK or to take up employment here. They do not need to have a specific training post arranged in order to be granted leave for this purpose, as long as the relevant Postgraduate Dean confirms that they will be pursuing their training in the UK.

Since 15 March 2005 those granted leave to take the PLAB Test are not considered as visitors but have a separate category within the Immigration Rules.

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many overseas doctors *(a)* made original applications for, *(b)* passed and *(c)* failed the Professional and Linguistic Assessment Board examination; and how many who passed made renewal applications for their visit visa (i) in total, (ii) once, (iii) on two or three occasions, (iv) on four or five occasions and (v) on more than five occasions in each year. [6476]

**Mr. McNulty:** The General Medical Council (GMC) uses the Professional and Linguistic Assessment Board (PLAB) to enable overseas doctors to demonstrate their knowledge of English and their medical expertise. The Home Office does not administer the PLAB test, nor does it know how many candidates sat either part of the test (the first part of which may be taken overseas) or what the results were.

Doctors coming to the UK to take the PLAB test are eligible for up to six months of leave to take the PLAB test. They can extend this twice if they need further time to take or re-take the test and have a confirmed test date. If this is not sufficient to enable them to pass the test, they are expected to leave the UK. Once they have passed the PLAB test they are expected to switch into the relevant managed migration route to enable them to pursue their training or take up employment in the UK.

The figures on the number of overseas doctors seeking to extend their leave to take the PLAB test are not available.

### Automatic Number Plate Recognition

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment has been made of the incidence of false positive alerts from the automatic number plate recognition system. [3955]

**Paul Goggins:** The Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) pilot evaluation report, "Driving Crime Down—Denying Criminals the Use of the Roads" highlighted inadequacies in the accuracy of various intelligence databases available to the Police Service. Not only does poor quality data lead to police time being wasted but it can also detract from the real aim of ANPR, which is to deny criminals the use of the roads.

Work is advancing to improve the timeliness of the Driving Vehicle Licensing Authority (DVLA) databases that are used by ANPR. The DVLA will shortly have Criminal Justice Extranet (CJX) (this provides police forces with telephony, internet access and a secure extranet) accreditation to allow full electronic updating to police forces on a regular basis. In addition, bar coding of Vehicle Excise Licenses at point of issue and vehicle documentation registration improvements should further improve matters during the coming year.

Plans are also in hand to ensure reports generated by the Police National Computer are accurate and that only current information, uploaded from police local databases, is used in ANPR systems.

### Biometric Information

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of *(a)* the error rate and *(b)* the durability of (i) fingerprint

identification, (ii) retina identification and (iii) facial mapping; and what assessment has been made of the effects of (A) age and (B) seasonal work on the accuracy of fingerprint identification. [6160]

**Andy Burnham:** We have taken a number of steps to assess the accuracy of biometric readings: we have closely reviewed leading scientific evidence in the field; we have consulted biometric experts from academia and industry and we have sought to build on the experience and knowledge of other organisations, such as Immigration and Nationality Directorate (IND), Police Information Technology Organisation (PITO) and Communications-Electronic Securities Group (CESG).

With regard to the effects of age and durability of biometrics, the Home Office has consulted expert opinion which has concluded that fingerprint and iris biometrics do not generally change over long periods, once adulthood is reached. We have reviewed leading studies on facial mapping and continue to review the likely performance of future technologies in this field to make a more detailed judgment on its durability.

Some occupations cause damage to fingerprint biometrics and this may, in some instances, limit the ability of an individual to use this biometric. However, face and iris image biometrics would still be available for these people.

### Citizenship Test

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the citizenship tests will contain; who will sit them; and what will happen to an applicant who fails the citizenship test. [7126]

**Mr. McNulty:** I refer my hon. Friend to the written ministerial statement of 15 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 14WS, which sets out the steps we are taking to introduce the requirement that all those applying for naturalisation will need to demonstrate knowledge of life in the United Kingdom. The statement also sets out the two ways in which prospective citizens can demonstrate their knowledge. A person who fails the test is advised to study the source material further before attempting it again.

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the Government have commissioned research into the usefulness of citizenship tests in helping people to settle in the UK. [7127]

**Mr. McNulty:** We shall be looking to the Advisory Board on Naturalisation and Integration to advise on the effectiveness of the tests once they have been introduced.

### Computer Crime

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cases of computer *(a)* hacking, *(b)* fraud and *(c)* theft his Department recorded in each year since 2001–02; and for each year on how many occasions computer systems have been illegally accessed by computer hackers (i) within and (ii) outside his Department. [6953]

**Mr. Charles Clarke:** Home Office records show that there were no cases of computer hacking or fraud detected from 2001 to date.

The number of incidents of computer theft recorded was 14 in 2001, 19 in 2002, 59 in 2003, 140 in 2004, and 95 in 2005 (to date).

### Computer Misuse Act

**Derek Wyatt:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans he has to reform the Computer Misuse Act 1990; and if he will make a statement. [5041]

**Paul Goggins** *[holding answer 15 June 2005]:* As has previously been announced, changes to the Computer Misuse Act 1990 will be required in order to implement the requirements of the European Union Framework Decision on Attacks Against Information Systems and the related provisions contained in the Council of Europe Cybercrime Convention. These measures will be brought forward when parliamentary time allows.

### Correspondence

**Mr. Donohoe:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects to reply to the letter of 14 January, from the hon. Member for Central Ayrshire, regarding the application of Edward Salmon of McDonald Drive in Irvine for a British passport. [6159]

**Andy Burnham** *[holding answer 21 June 2005]:* I replied to my hon. Friend on 30 June 2005.

**Lady Hermon:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the reason was for the delay in the reply to the letter dated 29 October 2004 from the hon. Member for North Down in relation to the impact of immigration on security in Northern Ireland. [7154]

**Mr. McNulty:** The delay in responding to the hon. Member's letter was not acceptable. It was received on 4 November by the Immigration and Nationality Directorate's (IND) MP's Correspondence Section, whose responsibility is to allocate MP's letters to the appropriate part of IND to draft a reply. Unfortunately, the hon. Member's letter was then misallocated within the Home Office on a number of occasions and was also overlooked in one department for a number of months. Once the correct department had been identified, a draft reply was prepared immediately. Existing procedures have been streamlined and are being enforced, and more staff have been recruited, to ensure that this situation is not repeated.

**Mr. Malins:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he will answer the letter dated 1 June 2005 from the hon. Member for Woking concerning Mr. Ahmed (refereqces A581078/3 and PO7892/04). [8372]

**Mr. McNulty:** I wrote to the hon. Member on 1 July.

**Lady Hermon:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects to answer the letter to him dated 3 June from the hon. Member for North Down in relation to Mr. James Milsom Boland. [9132]

**Mr. McNulty** *[holding answer 30 June 2005]:* My hon. Friend, the Parliamentary under Secretary of State at the Home Office, the member for Leigh (Andy Burnham) wrote to the hon. Member on 29 June 2005.

### Cost of Imprisonment

**Dr. Cable:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the average cost per year of a prisoner held in *(a)* PFI-funded and *(b)* non PFI-funded prisons in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [4540]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** Prior to 1 April 2003 costs for public and contracted prisons were not separated. In financial years 2001–02 and 2002–03 the average cost per prisoner for the whole prison system was £23,105 and £24,241 respectively. In 2003–04 the average cost per prisoner was £25,377 for contracted prisons and £25,718 for public sector prisons.

### Credit Card Fraud (London)

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were convicted of credit card fraud in each London borough in each of the last five years. [5282]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** The Home Office Court Proceedings database is unable to distinguish offences of credit card fraud from other types of fraud, as the circumstances of individual offences are not collected centrally.

### Crime and Disorder Partnerships

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of crime and disorder partnerships; and if he will make a statement. [4787]

**Hazel Blears** *[holding answer 16 June 2005]:* The Home Office has in place performance management arrangements to ensure the effectiveness of crime and disorder reduction partnerships (CDRPs). Under these arrangements challenging targets for crime reduction have been agreed with each CDRP and progress against them is regularly monitored. Under-performing partnerships are offered support and assistance to improve delivery.

Many partnerships are now delivering real reductions in crime, disorder and substance misuse to their communities. Our approach to performance management is to work with local partners to bring the performance of all CDRPs, to the level of the best.

### Criminal Records Bureau

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects the Criminal Records Bureau to have the necessary functionality to analyse disclosure applications by employment group. [8004]

**Andy Burnham:** The Criminal Records Bureau remains committed to its plans to build in enhancements to the disclosure application form which, in the future, will enable more specific analysis of employment groups. I am unable to provide a specific time-scale for the installation of this function at present.

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Criminal Records Bureau disclosure applications were received in each of the last 12 months; how many were issued; and what the average length of time taken to issue a disclosure was in each month. [8005]

**Andy Burnham:** The information requested is as follows:

| | *Applications received* | *Applications issued* | *Average issue time (days)* |
|---|---|---|---|
| June 2004 | 205,859 | 208,098 | 19.61 |
| July 2004 | 223,928 | 210,059 | 20.68 |
| August 2004 | 190,266 | 192,227 | 22.02 |
| September 2004 | 233,083 | 201,169 | 23.93 |
| October 2004 | 242,154 | 218,087 | 22.44 |
| November 2004 | 239,827 | 225,528 | 24.13 |
| December 2004 | 190,732 | 194,337 | 25.48 |
| January 2005 | 186,431 | 197,253 | 28.41 |
| February 2005 | 211,601 | 203,294 | 24.75 |
| March 2005 | 227,434 | 218,364 | 24.32 |
| April 2005 | 219,830 | 225,422 | 25.75 |
| May 2005 | 228,159 | 207,203 | 26.29 |

### Drugs

**Dr. Kumar:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment his Department has made of the health effects of prolonged cannabis use. [6634]

**Paul Goggins:** The advice contained in the report of the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs on the classification of cannabis, published in March 2002, included a wide-ranging assessment of the risks to human health from cannabis use.

The Advisory Council found that there were several serious consequences of prolonged cannabis use, which included that repeated cannabis use leads to a significant proportion of regular users becoming dependent upon the drug.

The health risks of using cannabis are also described in guidance commissioned by the Department of Health, published in September 2003, and entitled "Dangerousness of Drugs—A Guide to the Risks and Harms associated with Substance Misuse".

The smoking of cannabis presents a health risk with an increased incidence of bronchitis, asthma and lung cancer as well as disorders of the heart and circulation. Preliminary studies of lung function in regular cannabis smokers have not found a major cause for concern in the majority, but some severe cases of lung damage have been reported in very heavy users.

Cannabis use can worsen existing mental illness, such as schizophrenia, and it slows recovery.

We continue to monitor the health effects carefully. My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary asked the Advisory Council in March to consider all the relevant evidence from recent studies into the links and associations between taking cannabis and developing mental health problems. He wants to be clear whether the evidence would alter the council's overall assessment of the appropriate classification of cannabis. He also asked for advice on the claims of greater prevalence of increased strength cannabis. It is intended that the council will have concluded its assessment in time to report back to my hon. Friend by the end of the year.

**Anne Main:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what alternatives to the charitable sector there are for the provision of facilities for *(a)* drug treatment and testing orders and *(b)* drug rehabilitation requirements in St. Albans; [6734]

(2) what non-charitable premises are available in St. Albans for the provision of *(a)* treatment testing and *(b)* rehabilitation of offenders by his Department; and what provision there is other than the charitable sector for (i) through care and (ii) after-care elements in St. Albans. [6735]

**Paul Goggins:** The non-charitable sector providers for drug treatment and testing orders (DTTOs) and drug rehabilitation requirements (DRRs) in St. Albans are:

A consultant psychiatrist, employed by the Health Partnership Trust, who undertakes prescribing and delivers any other medical interventions that may be required, as part of St. Albans Community Drug and Alcohol Team (CDAT) based at Edinburgh House, London Road, St. Albans, AL1 1TR.

Hertfordshire Probation Area (HPA), which has statutory responsibility for the supervision and enforcement of DTTOs/DRRs and delivers accredited offending behaviour programmes at 62–72 Victoria Street, St. Albans, AL1 3XH.

HPA's Victoria Street premises are used by Drugcare, a charitable foundation, for the provision of assessments and/or counselling for offenders with drug problems who are subject to community penalties, other than DTTOs/DRRs.

The non-charitable throughcare and aftercare element i.e. statutory provision for the rehabilitation of drug misusing offenders in St. Albans is provided by Hertfordshire Drug Interventions Programme (DIP). Through the Hertfordshire DIP, some of the elements of throughcare and aftercare provision for clients and potential clients is provided in St. Albans every Friday currently at SS Alban and Stephen Catholic Church, where they can be assessed, drug tested and offered further support through the dedicated team.

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were arrested for the *(a)* supply and *(b)* possession with intent to supply of (i) heroin, (ii) crack cocaine, (iii) all class A drugs and (iv) all class B drugs excluding cannabis prior to reclassification in each of the calendar years since 2001, broken down by (A) police force and (B) age of individual arrested. [4942]

**Paul Goggins** *[holding answer 20 June 2005]:* The information requested is not available centrally.

**Paul Flynn:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what his estimate is of the numbers of *(a)* prosecutions and *(b)* convictions that are likely to result in each of the next years from the implementation of the Drugs Act 2005. [6118]

**Paul Goggins:** The total estimated additional prosecutions anticipated in a full year are approximately 3,076 and the additional convictions are anticipated to be approximately 1995.

**Dr. Kumar:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps his Department has taken to make information available to those attending nightclubs on the effects of combining the use of Viagra and amyl nitrates as recreational drugs. [5853]

**Caroline Flint:** I have been asked to reply.

The Department has issued no specific guidance on the dangers of combining Viagra and amyl nitrates as recreational drugs.

Viagra is a licensed medicine and the product information for patients supplied with the medicine contains warnings that Viagra should not be used in combination with nitrates.

The Department has published two guidance leaflets specifically aimed at young people, which give advice about the use and side effects of a number of drugs, including 'poppers' containing amyl nitrite.

In addition, the FRANK website aims to inform young people and their parents, carers and families about the effects and risks of taking illicit drugs, including 'poppers' containing amyl nitrite. It also makes very clear the health risk of mixing both Viagra and 'poppers', and of mixing drugs in general.

## English Nationality

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will ensure that English appears as an option for nationality on Government documents and questionnaires; and if he will make a statement. [8533]

**John Healey:** I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Len Cook to Mr. Andrew Rosindell, dated 4 July 2005:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question regarding English nationality. (8533)

The Office for National Statistics collects information on national identity and advises organisations on the collection and classification of national identity data (*Ethnic Group Statistics: A guide for the collection and classification of ethnic data (2003)*, Office for National Statistics: http://www.statistics.gov.uk/about/ethnic_group_statistics).

With the new devolved administrations, there has been an increasing interest in 'national' consciousness with many people wanting their 'national' identity to be acknowledged. Many people in the White British ethnic group feel that their national identity is English. The Office for National Statistics encourages organisations to collect data on national identity and recommends the following question:

What do you consider your national identity to be?

Please choose your answer from this card. *Choose as many or as few as apply:*

English

Scottish

Welsh

Irish

British

Other, please specify

The question allows respondents to choose more than one identity (if they think of themselves as having more than one). This is because national identity is self-defined, i.e. it is something that is subjectively meaningful to the person concerned.

### EU Immigration Controls

**Mr. Malins:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make a statement on progress towards setting up an EU joint border force. [3621]

**Mr. McNulty:** There are no plans to create an EU joint border force.

The EU's Hague Programme refers to a feasibility study into a "European system of Border Guards" but makes no commitment to establishing one. The feasibility study will take place in 2007, as part of the review of the recently-established European Border Agency.

Like many EU member states, the Government remain unconvinced of the need for a European Border force. The case for a centrally managed, multi-national European Corps of Border Guards has not yet been made. There are many practical actions and concrete measures that can be taken forward with EU partners without the need to go as far as creating a European Border Guard.

But we fully support the Border Agency, which will play a key role in co-ordinating joint operations between EU member states to strengthen the EU's external border. The UK supports the increased number of joint activities and co-operation between member states at the EU external borders where that activity is conducted on an operationally focused, intelligence-led basis. Such action has the potential to enhance the security of the EU's external borders to the benefit of all member states. It should complement, not replace, the work of national border services.

We also welcome the statement in the Programme that the control and surveillance of external borders falls within the sphere of national border authorities—this is a matter of sovereignty.

During the UK presidency we will continue to contribute actively to EU work on strengthening the EU's external borders and make it a priority to achieve progress in this area.

### Exorcism

**Mr. Hands:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps he is taking to monitor the activities of certain churches in London that are known or believed to carry out exorcisms or similar procedures. [6762]

**Paul Goggins:** The Home Office does not monitor places of religious worship.

Exorcism is a legitimate activity provided it is practised within the confines of the law.

It would be a matter for the police to decide the circumstances in which there had been a breach in the law.

### Extradition

**Mr. Swire:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions he *(a)* has had and *(b)* intends to have with his US counterpart about the extradition regime between the UK and the US. [7304]

**Andy Burnham:** *[holding answer 29 June 2005]:* Since the new bilateral extradition treaty was signed on 31 March 2003, the Home Secretary has discussed extradition matters with the former US Attorney General on 16 December 2004 and has also raised the issue with the new Attorney General at the recent G8 bilateral in Sheffield on 16 June.

**Mr. Swire:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on their extradition regime arrangements with the United States of America. [7305]

**Andy Burnham** *[holding answer 29 June 2005]:* None. Any bilateral extradition arrangements between another EU member state and the USA are strictly a matter for the countries concerned.

**Mr. Swire:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many extradition cases are outstanding in which the United States is seeking the extradition of individuals to the US from the UK. [7308]

**Andy Burnham** *[holding answer 29 June 2005]:* As at 23 June 2005, there were 44 extradition cases outstanding in which the USA is seeking the extradition of individuals to the USA from the United Kingdom. Requests are being dealt with under the procedures of the Extradition Act 1989, for requests received on or before 31 December 2003; and under the procedures of the Extradition Act 2003 for requests received since that date.

**Mr. Boris Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many requests for extradition were received in *(a)* 2000, *(b)* 2001, *(c)* 2002, *(d)* 2003 and *(e)* 2004 from each of the countries that were the subject of the Part 2 Territories Designation Order 2003. [6010]

**Andy Burnham:** The following are figures for the number of extradition requests to the UK from countries that were designated as extradition partners under the Extradition Act 2003 (Designation of Part 2 Territories) Order 2003.

| *Designated as extradition partners* | *Number of extradition requests* |
|---|---|
| *2000* | |
| USA | 17 |
| Germany | 11 |
| Italy | 9 |
| France | 7 |
| The Netherlands | 5 |
| Switzerland | 3 |
| Czech Republic | 2 |
| Greece | 2 |
| Cyprus | 1 |
| Luxembourg | 1 |
| Australia | 1 |
| Romania | 1 |
| Hong Kong SAR | 1 |
| Iceland | 1 |
| Malawi | 1 |
| Ukraine | 1 |
| Turkey | 1 |
| Uganda | 1 |
| All other countries | 0 |
| Total for 2000 | 66 |

| Designated as extradition partners | Number of extradition requests |
|---|---|
| *2001* | |
| Germany | 17 |
| USA | 16 |
| Czech Republic | 16 |
| Italy | 14 |
| The Netherlands | 11 |
| Switzerland | 7 |
| France | 7 |
| Lithuania | 5 |
| Poland | 4 |
| Turkey | 3 |
| Bulgaria | 2 |
| Estonia | 2 |
| Russian Federation | 2 |
| Austria | 2 |
| Luxembourg | 1 |
| Peru | 1 |
| Greece | 1 |
| Canada | 1 |
| Ukraine | 1 |
| Latvia | 1 |
| Hong Kong SAR | 1 |
| Norway | 1 |
| Total for 2001 | 116 |
| *2002* | |
| Italy | 16 |
| Germany | 13 |
| The Netherlands | 12 |
| Czech Republic | 12 |
| France | 10 |
| USA | 8 |
| Lithuania | 8 |
| Slovakia | 3 |
| Russian Federation | 3 |
| The Bahamas | 3 |
| Turkey | 3 |
| Switzerland | 3 |
| Albania | 3 |
| Zimbabwe | 2 |
| Swaziland | 2 |
| Tanzania | 2 |
| Moldova | 1 |
| Cyprus | 1 |
| India | 1 |
| Norway | 1 |
| Bolivia | 1 |
| South Africa | 1 |
| Slovenia | 1 |
| Luxembourg | 1 |
| Poland | 1 |
| Columbia | 1 |
| Australia | 1 |
| Grenada | 1 |
| Austria | 1 |
| New Zealand | 1 |
| Trinidad and Tobago | 1 |
| Croatia | 1 |
| Total for 2002 | 119 |
| *2003* | |
| USA | 14 |
| Germany | 12 |
| The Netherlands | 11 |
| Czech Republic | 11 |
| Italy | 8 |
| France | 8 |
| Lithuania | 6 |
| Australia | 4 |
| Hungary | 2 |
| Poland | 2 |
| Argentina | 2 |
| Switzerland | 1 |
| India | 1 |
| Monaco | 1 |
| Romania | 1 |
| Norway | 1 |
| Uganda | 1 |
| Azerbaijan | 1 |
| Zimbabwe | 1 |
| Turkey | 1 |
| Greece | 1 |
| Slovenia | 1 |
| Bulgaria | 1 |
| Canada | 1 |
| Total for 2003 | 93 |
| *2004* | |
| USA | 35 |
| Czech Republic | 9 |
| Germany | 9 |
| Italy | 8 |
| France | 6 |
| Russia | 4 |
| Lithuania | 4 |
| Australia | 3 |
| Albania | 3 |
| Poland | 3 |
| The Netherlands | 2 |
| New Zealand | 2 |
| Estonia | 2 |
| Bulgaria | 1 |
| Turkey | 1 |
| Croatia | 1 |
| Canada | 1 |
| Romania | 1 |
| Zambia | 1 |
| Ukraine | 1 |
| Slovakia | 1 |
| Total for 2004 | 98 |

Furthermore the figures for the first six months of this year, up to 30 June 2005 are as follows:

| Designated as extradition partners | Number of extradition requests |
|---|---|
| *2005 (up to June)* | |
| Romania | 9 |
| Italy | 3 |
| USA | 3 |
| Canada | 2 |
| India | 2 |
| Israel | 2 |
| Albania | 1 |
| Australia | 1 |
| Croatia | 1 |
| Czech Republic | 1 |
| Georgia | 1 |
| Germany | 1 |
| Mauritius | 1 |

| Designated as extradition partners | Number of extradition requests |
|---|---|
| Russian Federation | 1 |
| Turkey | 1 |
| Total | 30 |

*Note:*

1. Countries are not listed above for those years in which they made no extradition requests to the UK.

2. After the Extradition Act 2003 (Designation of Part 2 Territories) Order 2003 came into force on 1 January 2004, the following countries that were originally designated under that Order, became designated as Part 1 territories under the Extradition Act 2003, on the dates given as follows: 27 July 2004 Austria, Cyprus, France, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, The Netherlands, Poland, Slovenia. 1 March 2005 Czech Republic, Estonia, Germany, Greece, Slovakia.

### Friedhelm Eronat

**John Bercow:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what assurances were sought by his Department from Friedhelm Eronat about the prospective scope of his business activities before the decision was made to grant him British citizenship; [4513]

(2) what discussions took place between his Department and the United States Administration about the activities in the oil business of Friedhelm Eronat before he was granted British citizenship. [4559]

**Mr. McNulty:** It is not our normal policy to discuss individual applications. An application for naturalisation must meet certain requirements. These are set out in section 6 of, and Schedule 1 to, the British Nationality Act 1981.

### Gangmasters

**Andrew George:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cases of illegal gangmaster activity have been *(a)* detected and *(b)* successfully prosecuted in the last five years; and how many migrant workers were involved in each case. [7175]

**Mr. McNulty:** The information requested is not held centrally as data on illegal working operations carried out by the Immigration Service does not identify where there was gangmaster involvement.

However, examples of some high-profile, police-led gangmaster prosecutions where the Immigration Service assisted are in the following table.

| Date | Gangmaster | Offences | Number of illegal workers | Sentences |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| March 2004 | V. Cox | Facilitation and forgery | Up to 1,700 | 7 years |
| | J. Cox | Facilitation and forgery | | 7 years |
| April 2004 | D. Mutch | Money laundering, using false HO documents to provide workers | Around 250 | 6 years |
| | R. Kulish | | | 7 years[1] |
| | J. Carter | | | 4½ years |
| | L.V. Linuza | | | 2 years 9 months[1] |
| | V. Kulish | | | 2 years 9 months[1] |
| | D. Lyashkov | | | 3 years[1] |
| February 2005 | V. Solomka | Money laundering and facilitating illegal immigration | Up to 700 | 7 years |

[1] The court also recommended deportation on completion of prison sentence.

### Gleneagles Summit (Security)

**Mark Simmonds:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate has been made of the cost of security for the G8 summit at Gleneagles. [7235]

**Mr. Des Browne:** I have been asked to reply.

At this stage it is not known what the cost of security for the G8 summit will be.

### Human Detection Equipment

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much the Government have spent on human detection equipment at UK *(a)* airports and *(b)* ports in 2004–05. [8530]

**Mr. McNulty:** The information is as follows.

*(a)* There is no human detection equipment currently deployed by the Immigration and Nationality Directorate (IND) at UK airports.

*(b)* During the period April 2001 to June 2004, IND has spent £11,862,000 on the deployment of New Detection Technology (NOT) at UK and overseas seaports. This includes Carbon Dioxide and Heartbeat detectors, Passive Millimetre Wave Imagers and Gamma Scanner technology. The deployment of NOT overseas has been successful in reducing illegal entry via such ports, detecting people concealed in vehicles prior to embarkation for the United Kingdom.

### Identity Checks (Heathrow)

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to his answer of 9 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 656W to the hon. Member for Stoke-on-Trent, Central (Mark Fisher), on identity checks (Heathrow), if he will make a statement on the results of the confidence testing process. [6378]

**Mr. McNulty:** The IRIS system passed confidence testing in France on 28 January 2005. Installation at Heathrow Airport Terminals 2 and 4 (the operational pilot locations), has been followed by extensive and rigorous user acceptance testing over a four month period. This has involved the successful processing of over 200 staff at Heathrow (both enrolment and barrier crossing). The UK Immigration Service is fully confident that the systems offer an effective and secure border control.

## LD50

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the evidential basis is for the permitted use of the mouse LD50 procedure by the manufacturers of *(a)* Dysport and *(b)* Botox; and if he will make a statement. [6589]

**Andy Burnham:** International and UK regulations relating to the safety and efficacy of medicines require the testing of botulinum toxin products at various stages of their processing, from harvesting through to marketing for use as a prescription-only medicine. The European Pharmacopoeia states that the potency of the toxin as a reconstituted product is determined by an LD50 assay in mice, the reference method, or by a method validated with respect to the LD50 assay. Unfortunately there is at present no accepted and validated alternative to the LD50 test for determining the potency of botulinum toxin at the production stage. The Home Office and all others, including the laboratories and the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency, concerned with conducting and regulating such testing are committed to moving to less severe testing procedures as soon as it becomes practicable to do so. The laboratories involved in ensuring that botulinum toxin products are safe for therapeutic use, the only use for which animal tests are licensed, are already gaining expertise in non-animal methods.

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment he has made of alternatives to the use of the mouse LD50 procedure. [6480]

**Andy Burnham:** The mouse LD50 test is used to determine potency, for example, of botulinum neurotoxins used for the medical treatment of patients with certain neurological and other conditions. We pay close attention to technical progress in the field of alternatives and are aware that refined and replacement tests for the LD50 have been developed. Once they have been validated and published in the European Pharmacopoeia as alternatives to the mouse LD50 test, we will stop licensing the mouse LD50 test for this purpose, except where there is specific scientific justification for its continued use.

## Magic Mushrooms

**Dr. Iddon:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what discussions he has had with people and organisations outside his Department about possible risks associated with using magic mushrooms; [6223]

(2) what research his Department has *(a)* carried out and *(b)* commissioned to assess the risks of using magic mushrooms; [6224]

(3) whether he has sought the advice of the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs on the possible risks associated with using magic mushrooms; [6225]

(4) for what reasons magic mushrooms have been categorised as a class A drug. [6226]

**Paul Goggins:** Psilocin, the active ingredient of magic mushrooms, is a class A drug under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971. It is a powerful hallucinogen, placed by the United Nations Convention on Psychotropic Substances 1971 in schedule 1, the highest level of control. Magic mushrooms are also already controlled as a class A drug under the 1971 Act if they have been prepared (e.g. dried) or are in the form of a product. Section 21 of the Drugs Act 2005 extends the existing classification to such mushrooms whatever form they are in. The Home Office discussed what is now section 21 of the Drugs Act with the Department of Health, HM Revenue and Customs, the Crown Prosecution Service and the police. We maintain that it is already unlawful for magic mushrooms to be sold as a product. It has proved difficult to satisfy the courts on what constitutes a product, hence this clarification of the law. Section 21 is not a new control on a new substance and consequently it was not necessary to carry out or commission new research. The Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD) was informed of the proposed change to the law on 6 December 2004. On 19 May 2005, the ACMD agreed the need for regulations to make an exception from the offence of possession in certain circumstances. The chair of the ACMD, Professor Sir Michael Rawlins, wrote to me on two June setting out the ACMD's support for the measures.

## Motoring Offences

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many convictions which have resulted in custodial sentences there have been for *(a)* drink-driving and *(b)* other motoring offences in each year since 1997, broken down by (i) type and (ii) gender; and what each figure represents as a percentage of the total number of convictions resulting in custodial sentences. [2295]

**Hazel Blears:** Information taken from the Home Office Court Proceedings Database on convictions and custodial sentences for drink-driving and other motoring offences by gender 1997 to 2003 (latest available) is given in the following table. Data for 2004 will be available early in 2006.

*Table G findings of guilt and sentence of immediate custody[1] at all courts for motoring offences, England and Wales, 2003*

*Number of offences*

| *Offence* | *Male* | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | *Total findings of guilt* | *Immediate custody* | *Percentage* |
| *Driving etc after consuming alcohol or taking drugs:* | | | |
| Unfit to drive through drink or drugs (impairment) | 2,031 | 331 | 16 |
| Driving with alcohol in the blood above the prescribed limit | 69,233 | 4,591 | 7 |
| Driving and failing to provide specimen for analysis (breath, blood or urine) | 8,199 | 1,015 | 12 |
| In charge of a motor vehicle while unfit through drink or drugs (impairment) | 416 | 45 | 11 |
| In charge of motor vehicle, with alcohol in the blood above the prescribed limit | 1,730 | 79 | 5 |
| In charge of motor vehicle, and failing to provide specimen for analysis (breath, blood or urine) | 868 | 75 | 9 |

*Table G findings of guilt and sentence of immediate custody[1] at all courts for motoring offences, England and Wales, 2003*

*Number of offences*

| *Offence* | *Male* *Total findings of guilt* | *Male* *Immediate custody* | *Male* *Percentage* |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Other motoring offences:* | | | |
| Causing death by dangerous driving | 254 | 238 | 94 |
| Causing death by careless driving under influence of drink or drugs | 62 | 61 | 98 |
| Causing death by aggravated vehicle taking | 11 | 9 | 82 |
| Causing bodily harm | 21 | 11 | 52 |
| Dangerous driving | 6,531 | 3,072 | 47 |
| Failing to stop after accident, etc | 8,971 | 445 | 5 |
| Failing to report accident within 24 hours | 5,540 | 141 | 3 |
| Failing to give name and address after an accident | 356 | 15 | 4 |
| Aggravated vehicle taking—driving dangerously, causing injury or damage | 5,385 | 1,788 | 33 |
| Aggravated vehicle taking—criminal damage of £5,000 or under | 1,947 | 479 | 25 |
| Unauthorised taking or the theft of a motor vehicle | 14,045 | 4,104 | 29 |
| Theft of a motor vehicle | 2,148 | 1,030 | 48 |
| Driving while disqualified | 53,206 | 24,735 | 46 |
| Driving after false declaration as to physical fitness etc | 19 | 4 | 21 |
| Other driving licence related offences (excluding forgery) | 3,234 | 3 | 0 |
| Fraud and forgery—driving licence | 182 | 7 | 4 |
| Fraud and forgery—insurance certificate | 639 | 7 | 1 |
| Fraud and forgery—registration and licensing | 5,186 | 34 | 1 |
| Fraud and forgery—work record | 860 | 48 | 6 |
| Fraud and forgery—operator's licence | 35 | 2 | 6 |
| Other offences of neglect of traffic directions | 6,688 | 1 | 0 |
| Failing to give name and address etc when required | 1,845 | 14 | 1 |

*Number of offences*

| *Offence* | *Female* *Total findings of guilt* | *Female* *Immediate custody* | *Female* *Percentage* |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Driving etc after consuming alcohol or taking drugs:* | | | |
| Unfit to drive through drink or drugs (impairment) | 230 | 8 | 3 |
| Driving with alcohol in the blood above the prescribed limit | 8,479 | 138 | 2 |
| Driving and failing to provide specimen for analysis (breath, blood or urine) | 986 | 17 | 2 |
| In charge of a motor vehicle while unfit through drink or drugs (impairment) | 33 | 3 | 9 |
| In charge of motor vehicle, with alcohol in the blood above the prescribed limit | 156 | 3 | 2 |
| In charge of motor vehicle, and failing to provide specimen for analysis (breath, blood or urine) | 98 | 3 | 3 |
| *Other motoring offences:* | | | |
| Causing death by dangerous driving | 18 | 8 | 44 |
| Causing death by careless driving under influence of drink or drugs | 4 | 3 | 75 |
| Causing death by aggravated vehicle taking | — | — | — |
| Causing bodily harm | 1 | — | — |
| Dangerous driving | 257 | 56 | 22 |
| Failing to stop after accident, etc | 1,209 | 10 | 1 |
| Failing to report accident within 24 hours | 962 | 2 | 0 |
| Failing to give name and address after an accident | 51 | — | — |
| Aggravated vehicle taking—driving dangerously, causing injury or damage | 257 | 39 | 15 |
| Aggravated vehicle taking—criminal damage of £5,000 or under | 101 | 9 | 9 |
| Unauthorised taking or the theft of a motor vehicle | 737 | 113 | 15 |
| Theft of a motor vehicle | 96 | 24 | 25 |
| Driving while disqualified | 2,421 | 665 | 27 |
| Driving after false declaration as to physical fitness etc | 2 | — | — |
| Other driving licence related offences (excluding forgery) | 526 | — | — |
| Fraud and forgery—driving licence | 18 | — | — |
| Fraud and forgery—insurance certificate | 34 | — | — |
| Fraud and forgery—registration and licensing | 462 | — | — |
| Fraud and forgery—work record | 2 | — | — |
| Fraud and forgery—operator's licence | 1 | — | — |
| Other offences of neglect of traffic directions | 573 | — | — |
| Failing to give name and address etc when required | 194 | 2 | 1 |

[1] Immediate custody = detention and training order, young offender institution and unsuspended sentence of imprisonment.

### Passports

**Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of *(a)* the efficiency of and *(b)* security arrangements for issuing passports by the Newport passport office; and if he will make a statement. [8111]

**Andy Burnham:** The UK Passport Service is satisfied that the Newport passport office's overall performance in issuing over one million passports annually is effective, and efficient, and based on audits that its security and control arrangements are satisfactory.

### Police

**Mark Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* police officers and *(b)* administrative staff there are in the Dyfed Powys constabulary. [7265]

**Hazel Blears:** The number of police officers in Dyfed Powys constabulary on 31 December 2004 was 1,169. This excludes staff on career breaks and maternity or paternity leave to enable comparison with previous years. The number of police staff not including community support officers and traffic wardens was 551.

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will list the guidance sent by his Department to Hertfordshire police officers since June 2004; what the cost of providing the guidance was; and what the total number of pages was. [5375]

**Hazel Blears:** This information is not kept centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers there were in the London borough of Haringey on 31 March; how many there were on 31 March *(a)* 2000 and *(b)* 1995; and if he will make a statement. [4808]

**Hazel Blears:** Data for police service strength as at 31 March 2005 is due to be published this autumn. In 2003–04, there were 682 police officers in the Haringey Basic Command Unit. Data for 2000 and 1995 is not available centrally.

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police stations have *(a)* closed and *(b)* opened in each police force authority area in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [4679]

**Mr. Charles Clarke:** The management of the police estate and allocation of resources are matters for each police authority and the Chief Officer, who are responsible for assessing local needs. The ownership of police stations is vested in the local police authority, not the Home Office. Their use and disposal are a matter for local decisions.

A full survey of police stations in each police authority area, closed or opened from 1992–93 to 2003–04, was undertaken in 2004. I have placed in the Library a copy of the results since 1997.

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what training new police officers receive in *(a)* typing and *(b)* IT skills. [4995]

**Mr. Charles Clarke:** At present, it is the responsibility of each local force to train new police officers in IT skills. Information on each force's training in typing and IT skills cannot be obtained due to disproportionate cost.

IT training for new police officers is a requirement under the national curriculum of the Initial Police Learning and Development Programme, under which we are modernising the training given to new police officers. However, there are currently no plans to introduce requirements for forces to train new police officers in typing skills.

There will be new IT training available in critical areas such as Airwave. Airwave provides modern, secure and efficient digital radio communications for the police service in England, Wales and Scotland. The clarity of voice transmissions and the ability to send instructions in text form aids speed and efficiency. Mobile data can help to reduce the burden of bureaucracy on police officers and enable them to spend more time out on patrol.

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police community support officers are registered on the police DNA elimination database. [6376]

**Mr. Charles Clarke:** On 21 June 2005 there are 84,394 records on the police elimination database (RED). No central record is maintained of the number of police staff, including community support officers, who have been included. Since April 2003, all new police recruits have been required to provide a sample for the RED.

### Retail Crime Initiative (Hemel Hempstead)

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what assessment his Department will make of the Hemel Hempstead Shopwatch scheme as a model for implementation in other parts of the country; [5371]

(2) if he will make a statement on the implementation of the Retail Crime Initiative in Hemel Hempstead; how many *(a)* prosecutions and *(b)* convictions have resulted from the initiative; and what budget has been provided. [5372]

**Hazel Blears:** Hemel Hempstead Retail Crime Initiative was awarded the Safer Shopping Award in September 2002, through the British Retail Consortium. This award, developed by the Home Office in co-operation with the retail sector, recognises partnerships that have a developed set of protocols and management procedures which comply with the laws around data sharing and issuing exclusion orders.

We are committed to developing and increasing the number of schemes such as the Hemel Hempstead initiative. This is why we have given £899,000 to fund the setting up of an Action against Business Crime Group to develop 100 new town centre business crime partnerships across England and Wales to the same standard.

No separate statistics are kept by Hertfordshire police relating to prosecutions and convictions directly resulting from the Retail Crime Initiative and the scheme has not received any additional Home Office funds.

### Science and Engineering Graduate Scheme

**Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many students have applied to join the Science and Engineering Graduate scheme since its launch on 25 October 2004, broken down by courses defined by the JACS coding system; and how many have been refused. [6076]

**Mr. McNulty** *[holding answer 20 June 2005]:* Since its launch on 25 October 2004, 1,990 students have applied to join the Science and Engineering Graduate Scheme (SEGS). Of these, a total of 110 applications were refused. We are unable to provide specific figures on SEGS applications broken down by the JACS coding system: this information is not held on the Caseworker Information Database (CID).

Figures correct as of 19 June 2004 and rounded to the nearest 10.

### Sectors Based Scheme

**Dr. Starkey:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the written statement of 23 June 2005, *Official Report*, columns 47–49WS, on the Sectors Based Scheme review, if he will publish the evidence on which the decision to terminate the SBS hospitality quota was based; what assessment he has made of the effect of the decision on 'Indian restaurants'; and if he will meet urgently representatives of the industry to discuss those effects. [7728]

**Mr. McNulty:** A report outlining the findings of the Sectors Based Scheme (SBS) review, including the basis of the decision to terminate the SBS hospitality quota, is being placed on Work Permits (UK)'s website. The effect of this decision on the ethnic catering industry was considered as part of the wider review. Home Office Ministers have meet representatives from this industry.

### Sexual Offences

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the detection rate for *(a)* rape and *(b)* other sexual offences was in 2003–04 in each police force area in England and Wales. [6372]

**Mr. Charles Clarke:** The information requested is given in the following table. The Home Office are currently undertaking research to look in detail at detection rates in rape and sexual assault cases in England and Wales, including variation between forces.

*Detection rates for sexual offences 2003–04*

*Percentage*

| *Police force area* | *Rape*[1] | *Other sexual offences* |
|---|---|---|
| Avon and Somerset | 21 | 22 |
| Bedfordshire | 21 | 41 |
| Cambridgeshire | 15 | 30 |
| Cheshire | 29 | 40 |
| Cleveland | 31 | 51 |
| Cumbria | 30 | 46 |
| Derbyshire | 33 | 37 |
| Devon and Cornwall | 19 | 33 |
| Dorset | 17 | 31 |
| Durham | 71 | 69 |
| Dyfed-Powys | 25 | 46 |
| Essex | 29 | 36 |
| Gloucestershire | 28 | 35 |
| Greater Manchester | 32 | 30 |
| Gwent | 78 | 57 |
| Hampshire | 34 | 36 |
| Hertfordshire | 50 | 41 |
| Humberside | 20 | 30 |
| Kent | 27 | 29 |
| Lancashire | 35 | 41 |
| Leicestershire | 28 | 28 |
| Lincolnshire | 28 | 41 |
| London, City of | 0 | 44 |
| Merseyside | 43 | 41 |
| Metropolitan Police | 33 | 33 |
| Norfolk | 18 | 38 |
| North Wales | 29 | 42 |
| North Yorkshire | 41 | 50 |
| Northamptonshire | 37 | 52 |
| Northumbria | 30 | 35 |
| Nottinghamshire | 27 | 47 |
| South Wales | 53 | 36 |
| South Yorkshire | 38 | 38 |
| Staffordshire | 32 | 41 |
| Suffolk | 26 | 43 |
| Surrey | 35 | 34 |
| Sussex | 24 | 31 |
| Thames Valley | 18 | 29 |
| Warwickshire | 19 | 42 |
| West Mercia | 35 | 41 |
| West Midlands | 32 | 30 |
| West Yorkshire | 31 | 32 |
| Wiltshire | 41 | 37 |
| Total | 31 | 35 |

[1] Includes rape of a female and rape of a male.

### Student Visas

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department from which countries of origin students with student visas are required to report changes of residence; and how many such changes in residence were reported to each police centre where such reports are made in the last two complete academic years. [6318]

**Mr. McNulty:** People who are given leave to enter or remain as students, and who are "relevant foreign nationals" for the purposes of Part 10 of the Immigration Rules, are normally required to register with the police as a condition of their leave. They are also required to inform the police of any change of address.

The countries or territories whose nationals or citizens are relevant foreign nationals for the purposes of Part 10 are listed in Appendix 2 to the Immigration Rules.

Information about changes of address is recorded by the police force concerned. It is not reported to the Home Office, and information about the numbers of such changes could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many members there are of the task force considering student visa charges and requirements; and whether the task force will consider the present residence reporting requirements imposed on a number of countries. [6329]

**Mr. McNulty:** 21 organisations are represented on the Joint Education Task Force announced on 7 February.

The requirement for students of certain nationalities to register with the police arises from the police registration arrangements in part 10 of the immigration rules. The task force will not be considering changes to part 10 of the rules.

### Unaccompanied Children

**Mr. Hands:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects the National Register of Unaccompanied Children to be operational; and if he will make a statement. [6761]

**Mr. McNulty:** The National Register of Unaccompanied Children was launched on 23 November 2004, at which time it was a working model for testing purposes and the establishing of a network of local authority contacts. It will be fully operational from 18 July 2005.

**Mr. Hands:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many unaccompanied child asylum seekers from Africa have arrived in each of the 33 London boroughs since 2001. [6763]

**Mr. McNulty:** The information requested is not available centrally and could be obtained only by requiring individual local authorities to search their individual case records. There are currently 3,470[1] unaccompanied asylum seeking children supported by the 32 London boroughs and the Corporation of London. This compares to 4,220[1] in 2004.

In 2002 there were 1,745[1] applications for asylum from unaccompanied asylum seeking children from Africa. Corresponding figures for 2003 and 2004 are 1,355[1] and 1,190[1] respectively.

[1] all figures rounded to nearest five.

### Volunteering

**Mr. Kidney:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what *(a)* spending has been allocated and *(b)* policy initiatives have been pursued to support the International Year of the Volunteer. [5746]

**Paul Goggins:** The National Centre for Volunteering, in consultation with the Home Office and key volunteering-involving organisations, agreed a structure for the delivery of the International Year of the Volunteer which took place in 2001. Those involved in the programme considered the Year to be a success. The Active Community Unit at the Home Office provided £297,229 core funding for the Year. 2005 is the Year of the Volunteer. The aims and objectives of the Year are to create awareness of, increase the opportunities for and encourage more people to get involved in volunteering. The Year of the Volunteer 2005 is owned by volunteers, led by a partnership between Community Service Volunteers (CSV) and the Volunteering England Consortium, and supported by the Home Office. The Volunteering England Consortium consists of Volunteering England, TimeBank, YouthNet UK, The Media Trust, Business in the Community (BitC) and Youth Action Network. The Home Office is investing £7.1 million in the Year of the Volunteer. The devolved Administrations are funding and hosting their own campaigns and initiatives to support the year and these differ in each country.

*Home Office investment into YV05*

| | *Policy initiatives* | *Amount invested by the Home Office (£)* |
|---|---|---|
| Community Service Volunteers | Principal Voluntary Sector partner delivering a range of activities, events, promotional materials and press and media coverage | 1,000,000 |
| Community Service Volunteers | To deliver a government employee volunteering scheme | 500,000 |
| Volunteering England | Principal Voluntary Sector partner working with a consortium to deliver a range of activities, events, promotional materials and press and media coverage | 1,000,000 |
| Volunteering England | To increase the capacity of local volunteer centres throughout England | 3,000,000 |
| Volunteering England | Small grants programme for other stakeholders who can contribute to achieving the objectives of YOV 2005 | 250,000 |
| Marketing/Communications Support | Research and branding, publicity, partnership marketing and the YOV 2005 website (www.yearofthevolunteer.org) | 250, 000 |
| Website and YOV 2005 evaluation support | To develop and enhance www.yearofthevolunteer.org and manage project evaluation | 100,000 |
| Media Trust | For high-profile, multi-media consumer marketing campaign which aims to supercharge the year, raise awareness of volunteering and drive registrations of new volunteers | 1,000,000 |
| Total | | 7,100,000 |

### War Crimes

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 13 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 166W, on Nazi war criminals, how many personal files of alleged war crimes suspects have been examined by the police; how many names were on the list passed to the Metropolitan police earlier this year; when he expects the Metropolitan police to conclude the process of checking the list against material already in their possession and liaising with other Departments; and if he will make a statement. [6019]

**Mr. McNulty:** A very large number of cases were examined and investigated, but to calculate the number of personal files examined by the police would involve examining 11,000 individual records, which would incur disproportionate cost.

75 names were on the list that was passed to the Metropolitan police by my hon. Friend in January 2005.

A dedicated team of Metropolitan police officers will be deployed to carry out the task of checking this list against existing material and liaising with Departments, but it is not possible to give an accurate estimate of when this work will be completed.

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 14 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 296W, on war crimes, which other agencies he is working with; what lines of inquiry are being explored; and if he will make a statement. [6020]

**Mr. McNulty:** Other agencies that the Metropolitan police are working with include the Immigration and Nationality Directorate and the Office for National Statistics.

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 14 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 297W, on Nazi war criminals, what the outcome was of the war crimes inquiry investigation into the 34 suspects to which he referred; and if he will make a statement. [6021]

**Mr. McNulty:** The war crimes investigation resulted in seven cases being submitted to the CPS. The CPS recommendation was for no further action to be taken in any of those seven cases.

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which overseas *(a)* law enforcement agencies and *(b)* voluntary organisations (i) his Department and (ii) the Metropolitan Police had discussions within the last eight years over tracing Nazi war criminals; and if he will make a statement. [6929]

**Mr. McNulty:** Home Office officials have held discussions with representatives from the Canadian, Australian and United States Governments about Nazi war criminals in the context of wider discussions on genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Representatives from the Metropolitan Police Service have had discussions with:

*(a)* law enforcement agencies worldwide including Russia, Latvia, Lithuania, Ukraine, Belarus, Georgia, Poland, Germany, Austria, USA, Australia, Canada, South Africa, Israel, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Sweden and New Zealand.

*(b)* Voluntary organisations worldwide including various survivor groups traced through the board of deputies of British Jews, Yad Vashem Survival Memorial Organisation, Institute of National Remembrance, Poland and similar organisations in US and Canada.

### Worker Registration Scheme

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what his Department's backlog of cases is for the worker registration scheme for nationals of *(a)* Poland, *(b)* Hungary, *(c)* Slovenia, *(d)* Slovakia, *(e)* Czech Republic, *(f)* Estonia, *(g)* Latvia, *(h)* Lithuania, *(i)* Cyprus and *(j)* Malta. [6907]

**Mr. McNulty:** The published service standards of 70 per cent. of worker registration scheme applications cleared within two weeks of receipt (including payment processing) and 90 per cent. cleared within four weeks are currently being met or exceeded. There is no backlog. The number of cases awaiting decision is at a normal work in progress levels.

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the Government plan to implement worker registration schemes for nationals of future member states of the European Union. [6908]

**Mr. McNulty:** No decision has yet been made as to the level of access to its labour market the UK will offer nationals of any other state currently engaged in accession negotiations.

### Working in Scotland Scheme

**Stewart Hosie:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how his Department defines an appropriate period in respect of the amount of time an applicant must have lived in Scotland for the purposes of the Fresh Talent: Working in Scotland eligibility criteria. [8264]

**Mr. McNulty:** The immigration caseworker or entry clearance officer considering the application will assess whether the applicant has spent an appropriate period in Scotland, based on the facts of each application. The guidance to them indicates for courses lasting one academic year, the student can normally be expected to have lived in Scotland for at least three months. Courses lasting two academic years, the student can normally be expected to have lived in Scotland for at least six months and courses lasting three academic years, the student can normally be expected to have lived in Scotland for at least 12 months. This guidance is publicly available on the Immigration Nationality Directorate (IND) website at www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk and there is also a link to it from the Scottish Executive website.

**Stewart Hosie:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department why the eligibility criteria for the Fresh Talent: Working in Scotland scheme do not include post-graduate diplomas. [8265]

**Mr. McNulty:** The scope of the scheme was drawn up in consultation with the Scottish Executive and drew upon the example of the Science and Engineering Graduates Scheme, which was launched last October. Both schemes refer to undergraduate degrees, master's degrees and PhDs.

**Stewart Hosie:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what targets his Department has set for the *(a)* number of applications, *(b)* number of successful applications and *(c)* uptake of successful applications in respect of the Fresh Talent: Working in Scotland scheme. [8266]

**Mr. McNulty:** We have set no targets for this scheme.

**Stewart Hosie:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) when he will publish the first set of figures on applications to the Fresh Talent: Working in Scotland scheme; and what data will be made available; [8804]

(2) how often his Department will provide information on *(a)* the numbers of applicants to the Fresh Talent: Working in Scotland scheme and *(b)* the status of the applications. [8805]

**Mr. McNulty:** We have yet to finalise the timing or format of the information that will be published on applications for the Fresh Talent: Working in Scotland scheme.

**Stewart Hosie:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what measures are in place to ensure that Fresh Talent scheme visa holders remain in Scotland for the two-year period specified in the scheme. [8806]

**Mr. McNulty:** Participants in the Fresh Talent: Working in Scotland scheme will have already shown an interest in and commitment to Scotland by choosing Scotland for their studies. They have to have been awarded their qualification by a Scottish institution and also to have lived in Scotland for an appropriate period during their studies. During their stay, the Scottish Executive's Relocation Advisory Service will provide them with advice on a range of issues, such as finding suitable employment and accommodation in Scotland. If participants wish to remain beyond their participation in the scheme, they must apply for leave under the appropriate managed migration route. If they wish to stay on as a work permit holder, they will only be able to switch into the relevant category of leave if their work permit is for employment in Scotland.

### Zimbabwe

**Kate Hoey:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will ensure that Tafara Nhendu (Home Office reference M116 1492) is not deported to Zimbabwe. [7592]

**Mr. McNulty:** Information on individual cases is confidential and cannot be divulged without the express consent of the individual concerned.

## EDUCATION AND SKILLS

### Academies

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) pursuant to the Answer of 13 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 184W, on academies, what role her Department plays in determining the sites of new academies; [8475]

(2) pursuant to the Answer of 13 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 184W, on academies, how parental demand is taken into account prior to the decision to site new academies; [8476]

(3) what role local education authorities play in deciding *(a)* whether new academies are to open and *(b)* the site of new academies. [8495]

**Jacqui Smith:** The location of Academies is determined on an individual basis taking into account historic educational performance, the level of deprivation in the area concerned, parental demand and the quality and suitability of each specific proposal. In agreeing new Academy proposals, my Department works closely with key stakeholders, including local education authorities, sponsors, Academy Trusts and groups representing parents' views.

Local education authorities are required to consider the need for a new Academy as part of the Building Schools for the Future programme, and are strongly encouraged to engage with Academies where they can meet parental demand for school places. Local education authorities decide where to site the Academy, so that it serves the needs of pupils in the most deprived areas. Where an existing school is to be replaced by an Academy, the local education authority is under a statutory duty to consult on the closure proposals; and we actively encourage consultation with local parents where a new Academy is to be established.

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what steps her Department is taking to clarify the rules concerning admissions to academies for children with special educational needs. [8477]

**Jacqui Smith:** The Code of Practice for special educational needs (SEN) and admissions applies to Academies in a similar way as for LEA maintained schools. This means that pupils with SEN who do not have a statement are admitted to Academies in the same way as for maintained schools.

For pupils with statements, LEAs retain the statutory responsibility and consult with Academies over the naming of a particular Academy in a statement. Once an Academy has agreed to be named, it is required to admit. Officials have provided both LEAs and Academies with guidance on how to make sure that procedures are clear, simple and in the best interests of the children. To complement this guidance, Academies have also had access to independent advice on SEN admission issues which has helped to support a range of positive working practices with LEAs and parents.

Academies on average admit more pupils with SEN (with statements and not), than LEA maintained schools.

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if she will make a statement on the effectiveness of city academies of independent provision within the state sector, with particular reference to their role as examples. [8478]

**Jacqui Smith:** As independent schools academies have flexibilities in a number of areas. On their effectiveness, the PricewaterhouseCoopers (PWC) second annual report on academies found that:

- there is a 'significant difference in the learning culture in new academies, compared to their predecessors';
- 90 per cent. of parents report that most pupils like going to the academy and that their children enjoy attending the school;
- 97 per cent. of staff think that the principal really believes that the academy can make a difference to pupils' learning whatever their family background;
- academies are using their independence to adopt innovative approaches to the curriculum, staffing, teaching and learning and the timetabling.

The programme is still in its infancy and, as PWC state, principals are concentrating on ensuring that the basics of school provision are in place. Academies will increasingly spread best practice and their lessons learned. For example, a number of academies have a specialist focus on business and enterprise, which is raising the profile of enterprise education nationally in their localities.

**Anne Snelgrove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) if she will extend the requirement to register with the General Teaching Council to teachers in academies; [8772]

(2) what discussions she has had with *(a)* the General Teaching Council, *(b)* teaching unions and *(c)* others concerning the absence of the requirement for qualified teachers in academies to be registered. [8773]

**Jacqui Smith:** We have had correspondence with the GTC about the Council's concerns at the lack of requirement for Academy teachers to be registered with them. We have also answered a range of correspondence, from various sources, on this issue, including questions here in the House—but have received no direct representation from teaching unions.

Academies are registered independent schools. Like all independent schools, they are not bound by the legislation which requires teachers in maintained schools to register with the GTC. Academies are replacing some of our weakest under performing schools; it is right, therefore, that they are given the flexibilities and freedoms from bureaucracy to be able to take radical and innovative approaches to governance, staffing and the curriculum.

That is not to say, however, that teachers in Academies will not be registered with the GTC. The vast majority of teachers within Academies have moved across from the maintained sector and will already be registered with the Council. We will continue to promote the unencumbered movement of teachers between schools and Academies—most teachers are, therefore, likely to remain registered with the GTC. There would be little incentive for them not to do so.

There is certainly no bar on teachers in Academies registering with the Council if they decide it is in their interest to do so. I can also confirm that many Academies have decided that it is right actually to require that their teachers should be registered. The Government will continue to encourage Academies to register new and existing staff with the Council.

### Adult/Community Learning

**Kerry McCarthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what steps she has taken to encourage schools, including schools which do not fall under local authority control, to make their facilities available for use by the wider community. [8796]

**Beverley Hughes:** We have recently issued an extended schools prospectus, which sets out our expectation that schools will need to consult with parents, young people and the wider community on making the best use of their facilities to the community. We want all schools to enable pupils, parents, families and the wider community to access a core range of services by 2010. The core offer will include schools providing wider community access to ICT, sports, arts and other facilities including adult learning. The prospectus gives some helpful pointers to schools as to how to start developing services, including the need to consult with the wider community to ensure they provide services that meet local needs and demand. Schools can play an important role in supporting their local communities, on key issues such as poverty, community cohesion and neighbourhood regeneration. The prospectus is available on our Teachernet website, together with further guidance, practical advice and case studies. We are adding to this material all the time as work develops. We have committed additional funding to support schools in developing extended services. The Department has made approximately £160 million of funding available since 2003 and we will be making a further £680 million available over the 2006–08 period including £250 million that will go direct to all schools.

The Department has also asked the National Remodelling Team to take a lead role in supporting local authorities and schools through the development of extended services, and we are also funding "ContinYou" to run the Extended Schools Support Service, to offer further practical help.

**Mr. Brady:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what her Department's priorities are for the provision of adult and community learning; and what targets have been set. [8870]

**Phil Hope:** The priorities for adult and community learning provided through local education authorities remain (i) to sustain a wide range of learning opportunities to gain skills for personal and community development and (ii) to provide opportunities for those who want a "first step" on the learning ladder before committing themselves to further learning leading to qualifications. There are no specific targets for adult and community learning.

The Department for Education and Skills will shortly receive proposals from the LSC on the reform of the funding and planning arrangements for learning which does not lead directly to qualifications. This includes First Steps and Personal and Community Development Learning for Adults. The proposals will cover such provision both by local education authorities and further education colleges. The objectives of the reforms are: to maintain the safeguard for the continued availability of courses for personal and community development set out in the 2003 and 2005 Skills White Papers; to fund "first steps learning" on the same basis regardless of the provider; to ensure an equitable distribution of public funding between geographical areas; and a proper balance between public funding, and financial contributions by individuals.

### Alcohol Education

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what resources her Department has given to schools for educating children about the effects of alcohol for the 2004–05 academic year. [8206]

**Jacqui Smith:** The Department supports schools in helping them decide which resources to choose when educating children about the effects of alcohol, for example through the resources referenced in the PSHE section of the Department's Teachernet website. However, it is up to individual schools and teachers to determine the resources that are appropriate to assist them in delivering this teaching, having regard to the needs of their pupils and local communities.

The statutory national curriculum science order requires that all pupils should learn about the effects of alcohol and other drugs. The framework for Personal Social and Health Education (PSHE) provides the context for developing drug, alcohol and tobacco education beyond this. Alcohol education in schools has

an essential role to play in enabling pupils to develop their knowledge, skills, attitudes and understanding about alcohol.

### Children's Commissioner for Wales

**Mr. Roger Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what memoranda of understanding have been issued to address *(a)* issues arising from children in Wales appealing to the Children's Commissioner for Wales on non-devolved matters and *(b)* cross-border issues. [8256]

**The Beverley Hughes** *[holding answer 30 June 2005]:* The Children's Commissioner for England's remit is set out in the Children Act 2004. In line with the Devolution Settlements, the Children's Commissioner has the function of promoting awareness of the views and interests of children in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland in so far as they relate to reserved matters.

The existing responsibilities of the Commissioners in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland are unchanged, and children throughout the UK will in the first instance be able to approach their local commissioner on any matter, devolved or reserved. Children will not be expected to know the intricacies of the various devolution settlements.

We anticipated that the various UK Commissioners would draw up their own co-operation agreements appropriate to local circumstances but we have left them to act as they saw fit in this respect.

The Children's Commissioner, Professor Al Aynsley-Green, has met with the other UK Commissioners and discussed this issue with them. His office is currently working on drafting a memorandum of understanding. The Commissioner is due to meet with the other Commissioners in August and ways of working together will be a key area of discussion.

**Mr. Roger Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what memoranda of understanding have been issued to ensure effective communication between the Children's Commissioner for England and the Children's Commissioner for Wales. [8257]

**Beverley Hughes** *[holding answer 30 June 2005]:* The Children's Commissioner for England's remit is set out in the Children Act 2004. In line with the Devolution Settlements, the Children's Commissioner for England has the function of promoting awareness of the views and interests of children in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland in so far as they relate to reserved matters.

The existing responsibilities of the Commissioners in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland are unchanged, and children throughout the UK will in the first instance be able to approach their local commissioner on any matter, devolved or reserved. Children will not be expected to know the intricacies of the various devolution settlements.

Furthermore, the Children Act explicitly states that when the Children's Commissioner considers reserved matters, he "must take account of the views of, and any work undertaken by" the Commissioners in the Devolved Administrations. The Government have always emphasised that the UK Commissioners should be left to draw up any further co-operation agreements among themselves, in order that they could be made appropriate to local circumstances.

The Children's Commissioner for England, Professor Al Aynsley-Green, has met with the other UK Commissioners and discussed this issue with them. His office is currently working on drafting a memorandum of understanding. The Commissioner is due to meet with the other Commissioners in August and ways of working together will be a key area of discussion.

### Consultants

**David Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills when the auditors' report on the use of consultants within her Department will be published; and if she will make a statement. [5936]

**Maria Eagle:** Internal audit reports are produced for internal management purposes and are not published.

As part of this audit, which was carried out jointly with the National Audit Office, a good practice guide on the engagement and use of consultants was prepared. This has been distributed to all divisions in the Department. A copy of this guide will be placed in the House of Commons Library.

**Paul Holmes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what value for money procedures the Department uses when considering the use of consultants. [6350]

**Maria Eagle:** My Department uses the following value for money procedures when considering the use of consultants.

Firstly, we undertake a process to establish the most appropriate way of meeting a requirement. This includes a consideration of the options including using existing staff, fixed term appointments and secondees. Consultants will only be engaged when they can provide:

- specialist skills or expertise not available in house;
- additional skilled resource on a temporary basis;
- a broader perspective drawn from work with other organisations;
- an objective/independent change agent or facilitator; or
- an independent view of current issues.

Secondly, if a decision is made to engage a consultant a further process is undertaken to establish the most appropriate way of selection. This may be through *(a)* a competitive tender, *(b)* selecting from either the Department's, Office of Government Commerce's or another Government Department's framework agreement, or *(c)* by single tendering where certain qualifying conditions are met. The conditions for single tendering are where:

- it is known (not assumed) that only one supplier can meet the requirement;
- the cost of open or selective tendering would exceed the potential for saving, e.g. based on the results of a recent tender exercise;
- the continuity of knowledge or synergy with previous work is an overriding consideration; or

you have received an unsolicited proposal that contains ideas of concepts that you wish to use because it meets your needs, these ideas are the property of the tenderer and may be legally protected under intellectual property rights.

In all cases proposals from consultants are systematically evaluated on a whole life cost basis with a view to obtaining best value for money using pre-prepared criteria. Evaluation looks at the economic, financial and technical capability of the consultant and includes among others, financial stability of the organisation, past experience, management structure, key personnel, ability to meet the requirement, level of quality and costs.

As mentioned earlier my Department maintains a list of consultancy framework providers that have been tendered through the Official Journal of the European Union and which meets most of the external consultancy needs of the Department. These provide additional value for money savings through the competitive prices obtained during the competition and also by removing the administrative burden of each requirement being tendered separately. Office of Government Commerce and certain other Government Departments maintain similar lists.

### Education Maintenance Allowance

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of education maintenance allowances in increasing *(a)* participation and *(b)* attainment in (i) school sixth forms, (ii) sixth form colleges and (iii) colleges of further education. [8468]

**Maria Eagle:** The evaluation of the education maintenance allowance (EMA) was one of the most extensive ever undertaken. It was piloted in 10 areas and 11 control areas and involved following two cohorts of young people over a four year period. The results showed that EMA increased participation in further education among eligible 16-year-olds in the pilot areas by 5.9 percentage points. This is equivalent to 3.8 percentage points across the whole cohort nationally. The impact was highest among groups with previously lowest participation rates, particularly young men, those with moderate or lower attainment at age 16 and those from lower socio-economic groups.

EMA was rolled out for 16-year-olds in all areas from September 2004 and will be fully rolled out for all 16 to 18-year-olds by 2006/07. The DfES and LSC are carefully monitoring progress and will be undertaking continuing work to assess the effectiveness of EMA. To date, EMA has been paid to a total of 296,000 young people, including 216,000 16-year-olds, which is over 99 per cent. of the numbers projected.

Evaluation information is not readily available to show the impact of EMA on participation separately in school sixth forms, sixth form colleges and colleges of further education. However, the latest participation figures which were published today (SFR 27/2005) show that, in 2004, of the 73.3 per cent. of 16-year-olds in full-time education, 29.5 per cent. are in school sixth forms, 10.4 per cent. are in sixth form colleges and 27 per cent. are in colleges of further education. A further 6.4 per cent. are in independent schools or HE institutions. The increases, in particular over 2003 across different post-16 providers, are similar.

### Education Services (Worcestershire)

**Mr. Michael Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many children who live in Worcestershire attend school in another local authority, broken down by local authority; and how many children in each school in Worcestershire live in another local authority. [8970]

**Jacqui Smith:** The information requested broken down by local education authority has been provided in the following tables. The information requested at school level has been made available to the House of Commons Library.

*The number and percentages of pupils residing in Worcestershire attending schools in other local authorities*

| | *Number of pupils* | *Percentage of pupils* |
|---|---|---|
| Total number of pupils resident in Worcestershire | 81,700 | 100 |
| *Local education authority* | | |
| Worcestershire | 78,107 | 95.6 |
| Warwickshire | 1,512 | 1.9 |
| Birmingham | 692 | 0.9 |
| Gloucestershire | 443 | 0.5 |
| Solihull | 377 | 0.5 |
| Dudley | 274 | 0.3 |
| Herefordshire | 97 | 0.1 |
| Shropshire | 97 | 0.1 |
| Staffordshire | 59 | 0.1 |
| Sandwell | 20 | [1]— |
| Wolverhampton | 4 | [1]— |
| Somerset | 4 | [1]— |
| Other LEAs | 14 | [1]— |
| Total pupils schooled outside of authority | 3,593 | 4.4 |

[1] Denotes percentage of less than 0.05 per cent.

*Source:*

PLASC 2005 Provisional data

*The number and percentages of the school population in Worcestershire residing in other authorities*

| | *Number of Pupils* | *Percentage of pupils* |
|---|---|---|
| Pupils attending schools in Worcestershire | 81,127 | 100.0 |
| *Home authority* | | |
| Worcestershire | 78,107 | 96.3 |
| Birmingham | 1,188 | 1.5 |
| Dudley | 616 | 0.8 |
| Herefordshire | 307 | 0.4 |
| Shropshire | 184 | 0.2 |
| Sandwell | 150 | 0.2 |
| Gloucestershire | 149 | 0.2 |
| Warwickshire | 100 | 0.1 |
| Solihull | 33 | [1]— |

*The number and percentages of the school population in Worcestershire residing in other authorities*

| | *Number of Pupils* | *Percentage of pupils* |
|---|---|---|
| Staffordshire | 26 | [1]— |
| Other LEAs | 6 | [1]— |
| Unknown/not given[2] | 261 | 0.3 |
| Total residing outside of authority | 3,020 | 3.7 |

[1] Denotes percentage of less than 0.05 per cent.

[2] Residence of pupil unknown/not given

*Source:*

PLASC 2005 Provisional data

## Entry to Employment Programme

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many young people are participating in the Entry to Employment programme; and how many are expected to be participating by the end of July. [6511]

**Jacqui Smith:** This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council. Mark Haysom, the Council's Chief Executive, will write to the hon. Member with this information and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Library.

*Letter from Mark Haysom to Mr. John Mann, dated 1 July 2005:*

I am writing in response to your Parliamentary Question with reference to the number of young people who are participating in Entry to Employment (E2E) now and the expected number in July 2005.

As at the end of April 2005, 24,467 young people were participating in E2E. I am able to report that over 30 per cent. of the participants declared themselves as having a Learning Difficulty or Disability and 19 per cent. as being from an ethnic minority background. This demonstrates that E2E is truly addressing the Government's inclusion agenda.

In July we expect there to be a similar number of participants on E2E, indeed we would expect to maintain the programme at this level at least until July 2006. We have recently announced that the budget and funding rates for E2E have been increased by 2.5 per cent. support for 2005-06.

You will also, I am sure, be pleased to note that since E2E was introduced in 2003 the percentage of young people moving into a job, training or education place has improved by 11 per cent. from 32 per cent. to 43 per cent.

I hope these statistics reassure you that E2E is being maintained at the required level and that it is meeting the priorities the Government has set for it. Should you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact the LSC.

## EU Students

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many EU students she expects to attend higher education institutions in England in each year between 2006 and 2010. [8032]

**Bill Rammell:** Latest projections of EU student numbers are given in the table. These are subject to change, and projections for years after 2007/08 are not available.

*EU domiciled higher education students in English institutions*[1, 2]

| *Academic year* | *Headcount* |
|---|---|
| 2003/04[3] | 63,000 |
| 2004/05[4] | 76,000 |
| 2005/06[4] | 81,000 |
| 2006/07[4] | 85,000 |
| 2007/08[4] | 91,000 |

[1] Covers students studying at Higher Education Institutions and Further Education Colleges.

[2] Figures are headcounts on a DfES whole year count basis, and are rounded to the nearest 1,000.

[3] Estimated out-turn

[4] Projection

Projections for 2004/05 include students from the 10 Accession countries who joined the EU in 2004. Forecasts for later years include assumptions about new countries joining the EU.

## Faith Schools

**Mrs. Ellman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills when she expects building to start on the new faith school in Everton. [6878]

**Jacqui Smith:** I am pleased to report that we are writing to the Archdiocese of Liverpool and the school to confirm that we are minded to approve the construction of the new school. This Department has yet to agree the design of the new school buildings and the precise level of funding, but it will be contained within the overall sum of £13 million allocated to three voluntary aided schools in the local authority's area. This confirmation will mean that the design work can proceed as soon as possible.

## Family Resolutions Pilot Project

**Annette Brooke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many couples have been referred to the Family Resolutions Pilot Project since its inception; and how many have not been referred for reasons relating to domestic violence. [8802]

**Maria Eagle:** As of 24 June 2005, 48 couples have been referred to the Family Resolutions Pilot Project. The Pilot Project began in September 2004 but data gathering for evaluation purposes did not begin until 15 March 2005. Therefore it is not possible to give an exact figure for the number of couples who were not referred to Family Resolutions since it began for reasons relating to domestic violence.

However, since data gathering began from 15 March 2005 I can say that, of the 71 couples not referred to the Pilot Project, 14 of these non-referrals were for reasons relating to domestic violence.

## Foresters

**Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what steps she is taking to promote the training and development of foresters. [8918]

**Phil Hope:** The Government have established a network of sector skills councils as strategic bodies to improve skills and productivity in industry and business across the UK economy. Lantra is the sector skills council for environmental and land-based industries and is working on a number of developments in trees and timber trades which include forestry. It has developed an apprenticeship in trees and timber and intends to consult on developing an advanced apprenticeship. It is also developing a wide-ranging Sector Skills Agreement for the sector involving a detailed assessment of skill needs and current training provision including forestry. Identifying and promoting business champions through case studies and providing careers information in the sector is another area of work being undertaken. Forestry is also one of the five priority areas in Lantra's development of a business competence framework for industries within the sector.

## Foster Care

**John Hemming:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many children were taken into care in each Government Office region in *(a)* 2002, *(b)* 2003 and *(c)* 2004; how many of those children were aged under two years; and how many of those aged under two years how many were siblings of a child previously taken into care under the age of two years. [7734]

**Maria Eagle:** The figures requested are shown in the following table. Information on siblings of children looked after are not collected centrally.

*Children who started to be looked after in the years ending 31 March 2002 to 2004 by age[1,2,3]: England*

*Number*

| | *Age on starting, year ending 31 March* | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *2002[4]* | | | *2003[4]* | | | *2004[5]* | | |
| | *Under two years* | *Two years or over* | *Total* | *Under two years* | *Two years or over* | *Total* | *Under two years* | *Two years or over* | *Total* |
| England | 5,400 | 19,800 | 25,200 | 5,300 | 19,500 | 24,800 | 5,300 | 19,300 | 24,600 |
| North East | 370 | 1,210 | 1,580 | 330 | 990 | 1,330 | 350 | 1,110 | 1,460 |
| North West | 850 | 2,910 | 3,760 | 790 | 2,690 | 3,480 | 880 | 2,700 | 3,580 |
| Yorkshire and The Humber | 670 | 1,820 | 2,490 | 700 | 1,970 | 2,670 | 640 | 1,680 | 2,320 |
| East Midlands | 480 | 1,480 | 1,960 | 370 | 1,250 | 1,620 | 390 | 1,310 | 1,700 |
| West Midlands | 650 | 2,300 | 2,950 | 620 | 2,360 | 2,980 | 610 | 2,010 | 2,630 |
| East of England | 420 | 1,600 | 2,020 | 390 | 1,740 | 2,130 | 520 | 1,750 | 2,270 |
| Inner London | 410 | 1,830 | 2,240 | 410 | 1,680 | 2,090 | 460 | 1,880 | 2,340 |
| Outer London | 470 | 2,360 | 2,830 | 530 | 2,390 | 2,920 | 470 | 2,550 | 3,020 |
| South East | 580 | 2,380 | 2,960 | 690 | 2,480 | 3,160 | 580 | 2,250 | 2,830 |
| South West | 490 | 2,060 | 2,550 | 460 | 2,040 | 2,490 | 450 | 2,030 | 2,480 |

[1] Figures exclude children who start to be looked after under an agreed series of short term placements.
[2] Only the first occasion on which a child started to be looked after in the year has been counted.
[3] National figures have been rounded to the nearest 100. Regional figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.
[4] Figures are derived from the SSDA903 one-third sample survey.
[5] Figures are taken from the SSDA903 return, which in 2003–04 covered all children looked after.

**John Hemming:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many children were in external foster care of local authorities in each Government office region in *(a)* 2002, *(b)* 2003 and *(c)* 2004. [7882]

**Maria Eagle:** The figures requested are shown in the following table.

*Children looked after at 31 March in a foster placement 2002 to 2004[1,2]: England*

*Numbers*

| | *Year ending 31 March* | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *2002* | | | *2003* | | |
| | *Arranged through agency[3]* | *Arranged through LA[3]* | *Total[4]* | *Arranged through agency[3]* | *Arranged through LA[3]* | *Total[4]* |
| England | 5,200 | 34,100 | 39,200 | 6,400 | 34,700 | 41,100 |
| North East | 150 | 2,060 | 2,220 | 200 | 2,040 | 2,250 |
| North West | 410 | 5,670 | 6,090 | 550 | 5,780 | 6,340 |
| Yorkshire and The Humber | 240 | 3,980 | 4,220 | 380 | 4,040 | 4,420 |
| East Midlands | 130 | 2,620 | 2,750 | 130 | 2,640 | 2,770 |
| West Midlands | 790 | 3,750 | 4,540 | 770 | 4,050 | 4,820 |
| East of England | 440 | 3,160 | 3,600 | 550 | 3,370 | 3,920 |
| London | 2,220 | 5,130 | 7,350 | 2,890 | 4,970 | 7,860 |
| Inner London | 1,070 | 2,490 | 3,560 | 1,290 | 2,280 | 3,570 |
| Outer London | 1,140 | 2,640 | 3,790 | 1,600 | 2,680 | 4,280 |
| South East | 540 | 4,390 | 4,920 | 690 | 4,470 | 5,160 |
| South West | 270 | 3,290 | 3,560 | 280 | 3,250 | 3,540 |

*Numbers*

| | Year ending 31 March 2004 | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | *Arranged through agency*[5] | *Arranged through LA*[5] | *Total*[5] |
| England | 7,300 | 34,300 | 41,600 |
| North East | 240 | 2,070 | 2,310 |
| North West | 690 | 5,840 | 6,530 |
| Yorkshire and The Humber | 430 | 4,020 | 4,450 |
| East Midlands | 270 | 2,460 | 2,730 |
| West Midlands | 790 | 3,970 | 4,750 |
| East of England | 640 | 3,470 | 4,110 |
| London | 3,080 | 4,970 | 8,060 |
| Inner London | 1,360 | 2,290 | 3,660 |
| Outer London | 1,720 | 2,680 | 4,400 |
| South East | 800 | 4,360 | 5,160 |
| South West | 380 | 3,140 | 3,520 |

[1] Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short term placements.
[2] Regional figures have been rounded to the nearest 10. National figures have been rounded to the nearest 100.
[3] Figures are derived from the SSDA903 one-third sample survey.
[4] Figures are taken from the CLA100 return.
[5] Figures are taken from the SSDA903 return, which in 2003–04 covered all children looked after.

**Harry Cohen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if she will establish a system for registration of private fostering; and if she will make a statement. [9363]

**Maria Eagle:** The strengthened and enhanced private fostering notification scheme came into effect on Friday 1 July, as provided for in the Children Act 1989 and the Children Act 2004. Before November 2008, the Government will form a view on the effectiveness of the new measures and whether a registration scheme should be introduced using powers under the Children Act 2004.

### Functional Skills

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what pilot initiatives her Department has set up to test the teaching of functional skills in mathematics and English at GCSE level. [8467]

**Jacqui Smith:** There are currently no pilot initiatives established to test the teaching of functional skills in maths and English GCSE. We will be publishing an implementation plan for the 14–19 reforms, including the functional skills in English and maths, in the autumn.

### Further Education

**Simon Hughes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the proportion of black and ethnic minority students in *(a)* the London borough of Southwark, *(b)* Greater London and *(c)* England is in (i) sixth form colleges and (ii) further education colleges. [8809]

**Bill Rammell:** The information requested was contained in a letter from the Chief Executive of the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) to the hon. Gentleman dated 25 April 2005, and is reproduced as follows.

*Proportion of black and ethnic minority learners LSC-funded learners in further education and sixth form colleges, 2003/04*

*Percentage*

| | *Sixth form colleges* | *Further education colleges* | *Overall* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Southwark | n/a | 69.6 | 69.6 |
| London | 66.5 | 53.2 | 54.0 |
| England | 18.1 | 15.7 | 15.8 |

n/a = not applicable.
*Notes*:
1. Figures for further education colleges include tertiary colleges, but exclude specialist colleges.
2. Figures exclude students whose ethnicity was not known/not provided (around 6 per cent. nationally).

### Key Stage 3

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) pursuant to the answer of 14 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 357W, on key stage learning, when the review of the key stage 3 curriculum will commence; and when it will report; [8489]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 14 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 357W, on key stage learning, who will be leading the review of the key stage 3 curriculum; [8490]

(3) pursuant to the answer of 14 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 357W, on key stage learning, whether a report will be published following the review of the key stage 3 curriculum. [8491]

**Jacqui Smith:** The Department asked QCA to undertake a review of the key stage 3 curriculum in March 2005. Planning and research have been in train since then, in anticipation of the review starting in September 2005. There will be initial advice to the Secretary of State following informal consultation early in 2007 with final advice following formal consultation in summer 2007. This will allow a full year for the development of guidance and continuing professional development for teachers and other staff before first teaching in September 2008. QCA will publish a report of the formal consultation.

### Learning and Skills Council

**Mr. Michael Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what account the Learning and Skills Council takes of cost pressures arising from higher than average local wage levels in allocating funding for post-16 provision; and if she will make a statement; [9174]

(2) what account is taken of high local wage and salary levels by the Learning and Skills Council in allocating funds to institutions providing further education. [9517]

**Bill Rammell:** As part of a development plan, the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) enters into a funding agreement with each provider. The funding agreement sets out the funds for the provision of further education (FE) that the LSC has agreed to pay to the provider, and the education and training provision that the provider has agreed to provide in return.

The level of funding is determined by the application of a national funding formula, and should reflect the directly incurred costs of efficiently delivered provision.

As part of the funding formula, there is an 'area costs' element. This provides a funding uplift to reflect that in some geographical areas, higher salaries are needed to attract staff of a similar standard.

Success for All, the strategy for reforming FE and training, makes clear that the Government's approach to pay is to enable local flexibility to meet local needs and to encourage a clear link between pay and individual performance. General FE colleges and sixth form colleges are autonomous institutions, and as such they negotiate their own pay and conditions of service with staff and their unions without Government involvement.

### Literacy/Numeracy

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what criteria are used to assess the functional literacy and numeracy of school leavers. [8465]

**Jacqui Smith:** The national curriculum sets out a clear, full and statutory entitlement to learning for all pupils up to the age of 16. It determines the content of what will be taught and sets attainment targets for learning. The programmes of study set out what pupils should be taught in each subject at each key stage, and attainment targets set out the knowledge, skills and understanding which pupils of different abilities and maturities are expected to have by the end of each key stage. Functional literacy and numeracy skills are embedded in the English and mathematics programmes of study.

At key stage 4 (ages 14–16) GCSE qualifications are the principle means of assessing attainment, including functional literacy and numeracy. The changes to the assessment of functional skills in English and maths GCSE, announced in the White Paper "14–19 Education and Skills", will ensure that no one can get a grade C or better in English and maths without mastering the functional elements.

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if she will make a statement on the differences in *(a)* assessment, *(b)* teaching and *(c)* content between the proposed tests of functional numeracy and literacy for school leavers and GCSEs in English and mathematics. [8466]

**Jacqui Smith:** The White Paper "14–19 Education and Skills" announced that GCSEs in English and maths would be revised to ensure that students cannot get a grade C or better without passing a functional skills unit. We are working closely with the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority and other stakeholders to develop the content, assessment and teaching of the functional skills units and how they will fit within English and maths GCSE. This work will build on the best aspects of the Key Stage 4 National Curriculum, Skills for Life and the current range of English and maths-related qualifications.

It is too early to say what the differences will be from the current GCSEs in English and maths but we will ensure that a grade C or better at GCSE is a guarantee that young people have the functional skills they need for life, learning and work.

### Looked-after Children

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many and what proportion of looked-after children aged under two years in each London borough experienced three or more changes of accommodation in each of the last five years. [8237]

**Maria Eagle:** The figures requested are shown in the following table.

*Children looked after at 31 March aged under 2 with three or more placements in the year ending 31 March, 2000 to 2004[1,2]—England*

*Numbers and percentages*

| | *Number of children looked after at 31 March aged under 2* | | | | | *Number at 31 March aged under 2 with three or more placements in the year* | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *2000*[3] | *2001*[3] | *2002*[3] | *2003*[3] | *2004*[4] | *2000*[3] | *2001*[3] | *2002*[3] | *2003*[3] | *2004*[4] |
| *England* | 4,700 | 4,700 | 5,000 | 5,000 | 5,200 | 1,200 | 790 | 810 | 720 | 640 |
| *London* | 820 | 720 | 820 | 900 | 920 | 160 | 90 | 110 | 150 | 120 |
| *Inner London* | 440 | 400 | 420 | 390 | 440 | 70 | 50 | 60 | 60 | 50 |
| Camden | 30 | 20 | 30 | 35 | 30 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | — |
| City of London | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Greenwich | 55 | 45 | 50 | 30 | 50 | 15 | 5 | 10 | 15 | — |
| Hackney | 25 | 40 | 40 | 30 | 45 | 10 | 10 | — | 10 | — |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 50 | 30 | 30 | 35 | 30 | 10 | — | 10 | — | 5 |
| Islington | 40 | 35 | 40 | 35 | 35 | 10 | — | — | — | — |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 20 | 30 | 10 | 5 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | — |
| Lambeth | 50 | 40 | 40 | 35 | 50 | 5 | 5 | — | 0 | 10 |
| Lewisham | 40 | 20 | 10 | 25 | 45 | 10 | — | — | 0 | — |
| Southwark | 65 | 65 | 55 | 35 | 45 | 5 | 15 | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| Tower Hamlets | 15 | 30 | 50 | 45 | 45 | — | 0 | 10 | — | — |
| Wandsworth | 15 | 25 | 30 | 45 | 35 | — | 5 | 5 | 10 | 0 |
| Westminster | 30 | 20 | 30 | 45 | 25 | 5 | — | — | 10 | — |
| *Outer London* | 380 | 320 | 400 | 510 | 470 | 90 | 40 | 50 | 90 | 70 |
| Barking and Dagenham | 15 | 5 | 10 | 25 | 20 | 0 | 0 | — | 5 | — |
| Barnet | 25 | 30 | 35 | 30 | 25 | 5 | — | — | 10 | — |
| Bexley | 5 | — | 5 | 10 | 10 | 0 | 0 | — | 0 | 0 |
| Brent | 30 | 15 | 30 | 45 | 30 | 10 | — | — | 5 | 5 |
| Bromley | 10 | 15 | 20 | 35 | 30 | — | 0 | — | 10 | — |

*Children looked after at 31 March aged under 2 with three or more placements in the year ending 31 March, 2000 to 2004[1,2]—England*

*Numbers and percentages*

| | Number of children looked after at 31 March aged under 2 | | | | | Number at 31 March aged under 2 with three or more placements in the year | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2000[3] | 2001[3] | 2002[3] | 2003[3] | 2004[4] | 2000[3] | 2001[3] | 2002[3] | 2003[3] | 2004[4] |
| Croydon | 40 | 30 | 35 | 45 | 35 | 10 | 0 | — | 0 | — |
| Ealing | 35 | 35 | 50 | 40 | 25 | 15 | 5 | 10 | 10 | — |
| Enfield | 10 | 20 | 10 | 35 | 25 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Haringey | 40 | 30 | 10 | 20 | 40 | 10 | 5 | 0 | 5 | 5 |
| Harrow | 15 | 5 | 5 | 15 | 15 | 5 | — | 0 | — | — |
| Havering | — | 5 | 15 | 10 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | — |
| Hillingdon | 20 | 20 | 15 | 25 | 30 | — | 0 | 0 | — | — |
| Hounslow | 15 | 25 | 25 | 25 | 35 | — | 0 | 0 | 10 | 5 |
| Kingston upon Thames | 10 | 10 | 10 | 5 | 10 | 0 | — | — | 0 | — |
| Merton | 10 | — | 20 | 20 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | — |
| Newham | 55 | 35 | 55 | 60 | 50 | 10 | 10 | 5 | 15 | 10 |
| Redbridge | 5 | 10 | 5 | 5 | 10 | — | 0 | — | 0 | — |
| Richmond upon Thames | 15 | 5 | — | 0 | 5 | — | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Sutton | — | — | 10 | 5 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 0 | — | 0 |
| Waltham Forest | 10 | 15 | 35 | 50 | 35 | 0 | — | 5 | 15 | 10 |

| | Percentage at 31 March aged under 2 with three or more placements in the year | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2000[3] | 2001[3] | 2002[3] | 2003[3] | 2004[4] |
| *England* | 25 | 17 | 16 | 14 | 12 |
| *London* | 19 | 13 | 13 | 16 | 13 |
| *Inner London* | 17 | 14 | 13 | 14 | 11 |
| Camden | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | — |
| City of London | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Greenwich | 24 | 15 | 20 | 50 | — |
| Hackney | 38 | 29 | — | 30 | — |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 19 | — | 27 | — | 19 |
| Islington | 29 | — | — | — | — |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | — |
| Lambeth | 11 | 14 | — | 0 | 18 |
| Lewisham | 19 | — | — | 0 | — |
| Southwark | 8 | 19 | 12 | 17 | 16 |
| Tower Hamlets | — | 0 | 18 | — | — |
| Wandsworth | — | 29 | 25 | 23 | 0 |
| Westminster | 20 | — | — | 23 | — |
| *Outer London* | 23 | 12 | 13 | 18 | 15 |
| Barking and Dagenham | 0 | 0 | — | 22 | — |
| Barnet | 25 | — | — | 27 | — |
| Bexley | 0 | 0 | — | 0 | 0 |
| Brent | 40 | — | — | 14 | 22 |
| Bromley | — | 0 | — | 27 | — |
| Croydon | 25 | 0 | — | 0 | — |
| Ealing | 45 | 18 | 24 | 21 | — |
| Enfield | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Haringey | 27 | 22 | 0 | 29 | 18 |
| Harrow | 40 | — | 0 | — | — |
| Havering | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | — |
| Hillingdon | — | 0 | 0 | — | — |
| Hounslow | — | 0 | 0 | 38 | 20 |
| Kingston upon Thames | 0 | — | — | 0 | — |
| Merton | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | — |
| Newham | 18 | 25 | 12 | 21 | 17 |
| Redbridge | — | 0 | — | 0 | — |
| Richmond upon Thames | — | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Sutton | 0 | 0 | 0 | — | 0 |
| Waltham Forest | 0 | — | 18 | 29 | 26 |

*Notes:*

1. Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short-term placements.

2. National figures over 1,000 have been rounded to the nearest 100. National figures under 1,000 and all regional figures have been rounded to the nearest 10. Figures between 1 and 5 have been suppressed and replaced by a hyphen (-). All other figures have been rounded to the nearest 5.

3. Figures have been derived from the SSDA903 one-third sample survey.

4. Figures have been taken from the SSDA903 return, which in 2004–04 covered all children looked after.

## Mathematics

**Mr. Gibb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what proportion of mathematics teachers teaching in secondary schools have degrees in mathematics. [9381]

**Jacqui Smith:** The information requested has been published in table 24 of the Statistics of Education, School Workforce in England Volume, 2004 edition, a copy of which has been placed in the House of Commons Library. Alternatively it may be accessed at the following URL: http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/VOL/v000443/index.shtml

Table 25 of the same publication provides the proportion of subject periods taught by level of qualification.

**Mr. Gibb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if she will ask the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority to review the requirement for coursework in GCSE mathematics specifications. [9382]

**Jacqui Smith:** On 24 March, the Secretary of State wrote to Sir Anthony Greener asking the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority to take forward work on a number of proposals in the 14–19 Education and Skills White Paper. One of these was to consider scope for reducing the coursework burden across all GCSEs, including mathematics, with a view to ensuring that coursework adheres to principles for assessment set out in chapter 9 of the White Paper, summarised in the case of coursework in paragraph 8.12. She asked that the review address in particular: the need for a consistent approach to coursework in similar subjects; fairness; the cumulative burden of coursework; and that coursework should be used to test skills and attributes that cannot be tested by a terminal examination.

**Mr. Clappison:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many students entered as candidates for mathematics *(a)* at GCSE or O-level and *(b)* A-level in each of the last 30 years. [8719]

**Jacqui Smith:** The following table shows the information readily available on the number of entries for mathematics at O-level or GCSE and A-level for each year between 1975 and 2004.

*O-level entries, GCSE candidates and A-level entries for mathematics in all schools and further education sector colleges, 1975–2004*

| | O-level entries[1] | A-level entries |
|---|---|---|
| 1975 | 309,901 | 69,759 |
| 1976 | 325,727 | 73,682 |
| 1977 | 352,727 | 70,606 |
| 1978 | 357,418 | 73,281 |
| 1979 | 381,424 | 79,412 |
| 1980 | 395,254 | 80,881 |
| 1981 | 413,822 | 87,446 |
| 1982 | 433,164 | 91,550 |
| 1983 | 440,917 | 92,858 |
| 1984 | 444,639 | 90,688 |
| 1985 | 452,778 | 87,682 |
| 1986 | — | — |
| 1987 | — | — |
| 1988 | — | — |

| | GCSE candidates | A-level entries |
|---|---|---|
| 1989 | 528,580 | — |
| 1990 | 490,260 | — |
| 1991 | 471,410 | — |
| 1992 | 460,391 | 66,395 |
| 1993 | 452,773 | 62,616 |
| 1994 | 479,084 | 60,607 |
| 1995 | 522,290 | 58,796 |
| 1996 | 537,759 | 62,181 |
| 1997 | 533,992 | 64,209 |
| 1998 | 526,882 | 64,435 |
| 1999 | 536,779 | 63,584 |
| 2000 | 539,934 | 60,808 |
| 2001 | 563,852 | 61,305 |
| 2002 | 568,851 | 50,421 |
| 2003 | 585,017 | 51,426 |
| 2004 | 605,980 | 53,530 |

*Notes:*

*A-levels:*

1. Figures from 1974/75 to 1976/77 are for England and Wales, summer examinations.
2. Figures from 1977/78 to 1984/85 are for England, summer examinations.
3. Figures from 1985/86 to 1990/91 are unavailable as these data were not supplied by the awarding bodies to the Department.
4. Figures from 1990/91 onwards relate to schools and colleges in England.
5. 2004 figures are revised. All other figures are finalised.

*GCSEs:*

1. Figures from 1974/75 to 1987/88 are taken from the School Leavers Survey, and include school leavers of any age from all schools except special schools.
2. Figures from 1985/86 to 1987/88 are combined for O-level and CSE and are not therefore comparable.
3. Figures from 1988/89 to 1990/91 are taken from the School Examinations Survey, and are based on 15-year-old pupils in all schools except special schools.
4. Figures from 1991/92 to 2003/04 are taken from the database on School Achievement and Attainment Tables, and are based on 15-year-old pupils in all schools including special schools.
5. Figures from 1974/75 to 1984/85 are for O-level entries. Figures from 1988/89 to 2003/04 are for GCSE candidates.
6. 2004 figures are revised. All other figures are finalised.

## Missing Children

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills which local authorities have *(a)* established protocols for joint working across all agencies for children who go missing, *(b)* established a senior manager with responsibility to oversee these protocols and their implementation and *(c)* produced an annual strategic monitoring report on children who go missing from home or care, as set out in her Department's report Children who go Missing: Research, Policy and Practice. [8006]

**Maria Eagle:** The Department of Health published 'Children Missing from Care and Home—a guide to good practice' with its related Circular LAC (2002)17 in November 2002. These were issued under Section 7 of the Local Authority Social Services Act 1970, which means that local authorities are obliged to follow their requirements, unless there are exceptional circumstances. The good practice guide requires that protocols for the management of 'missing from care' incidents are drawn up between the local authority and the police, that a senior manager is appointed to monitor these protocols and that there should be regular reports to council members with responsibility for "corporate parenting" on patterns of children going missing from care. The Guidance also suggests a similar model of protocols and a named manager for children missing from home.

As part of the arrangements for performance management of local authorities, all local authorities in England were required to complete a Delivery and Improvement Statement (DIS) each spring, giving a self-assessment of their progress. From April 2004, the information provided by the DIS was returned to the Commission for Social Care Inspection and it provided part of the evidence base used to evaluate the performance of each local authority in delivering their services for vulnerable adults and children. In spring 2004, the DIS included questions about LA compliance with the Children Missing from Care and Home Guidance. The data on local authorities response to these questions indicated that 96 per cent. of local authorities had appointed a senior manager to monitor 'missing from care' incidents and that 88 per cent. of local authorities had protocols in place with the police for managing missing from care incidents.

Data is not collected centrally on which local authorities have complied with the Children Missing from Care and Home Guidance, nor on local authorities which have produced annual strategic monitoring reports on children who go missing from home or care.

## New Schools

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the answer of 15 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 492W, on building schools for the future (BSF), how much money has been set aside within the BSF budget for special schools. [8496]

**Jacqui Smith:** Funding is not set aside specifically for special schools within the budget for building schools for the future. We provide funding based on local authorities' statements of priority, which include any plans for special schools. Based on local authorities' latest statements of priority in waves one to three, the following allocations have been made for special schools.

£ million

| Wave | Allocation made for special schools | With additional ICT funding |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 97.7 | 3.2 |
| 2 | 48 | 1.1 |
| 3 | 62 | 1.6 |

These allocations include initial provision for construction inflation, but may be subject to change as local authorities' business cases for BSF are further refined and if local authorities make changes to the schools included within individual BSF waves. In addition, the allocations are before any potential uplift due to the introduction of the revised Building Bulletin 77: Designing for Pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities in Schools, which is currently subject to consultation.

## Non-EU Students

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what the estimated income was from fees paid by *(a)* undergraduate and *(b)* postgraduate non-EU students in higher education institutions in England in each year between 1999 and 2004; [8037]

(2) what the total amount of fees raised from *(a)* undergraduate students and *(b)* postgraduate students attending higher education institutions in England was in each year between 1999 and 2004. [8038]

**Bill Rammell:** The available information gives data on the income received in respect of fees for students on courses for which fees are charged.

Figures for non-EU overseas students are not broken down into postgraduate and undergraduate.

The available figures are given in the table.

*Income to English HE institutions in respect of fees for students on courses for which fees are charged, academic year 1999/2000 to 2003/04*

£ million

| Academic year | Home and EU domiciles: Postgraduate | Home and EU domiciles: Undergraduate | Non-EU overseas domiciles |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1999/2000 | 420.1 | 1,187.5 | 583.1 |
| 2000/01 | 438.0 | 1,248.1 | 649.0 |
| 2001/02 | 487.5 | 1,310.2 | 763.4 |
| 2002/03 | 530.7 | 1,415.4 | 950.5 |
| 2003/04 | 546.5 | 1,506.4 | 1,121.5 |

*Source:*
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) Finance record

Data in the answer cover all fee income, including short courses, self-financing full-cost courses funded by private/non-private sources in respect of all and only those students on courses for which fees are charged. This includes expenditure by Student Loans Company (SLC), Local Education Authorities (LEAs), Student Awards Agency for Scotland (SAAS), the Department for Employment and Learning, Northern Ireland (DEL), the Department of Health (DH) (including National Health Service (NHS), Workforce Development Confederations (England) and NHS Trusts), Regional Offices of the NHS Executive (RONE), the Scottish Home and Health Department (SHHD), and other sources not covered including individual students.

## Prison Education

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the answer of 15 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 491W, on Prison Education, (1) how much has been spent on supporting Open University undergraduate courses for offenders in custody for each year between 2002–03 and 2004–05; and what the projection is for 2005–06; [7373]

(2) what the projected number of offenders in custody who will study *(a)* Open University undergraduate courses and *(b)* access courses is in 2005–06. [7387]

**Phil Hope:** The following table sets out the spend from the Department for Education and Skills offender learning and skills budget on Open University courses for offenders in custody since 2002–03, and the projected spend for 2005–06:

*OU courses*

| | Funding (£) |
|---|---|
| 2002–03 | 100,000 |
| 2003–04 | 249,000 |
| 2004–05 | 379,250 |
| 2005–06 | 1,048,550 |

The budget for 2005–06 is intended to support up to 1,300 opportunities for offenders in custody to commence study (1,050 new places on undergraduate and 250 Openings access courses) in addition to those offenders already studying and those who finance their own learning. Actual numbers taking up the opportunities will be affected by demand, and by operational considerations, including security.

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the Answer of 15 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 491W, on prison education, which subjects are covered by access courses; which service providers are employed to provide each one; and what proportion of prisoners who apply to participate in such courses are offered places on them. [8182]

**Phil Hope:** The entire suite of Openings (access) courses are available to offenders in custody, subject to Prison Service security considerations. The courses are provided by the Open University. Data is not collected centrally regarding the numbers of offenders in custody who apply for places.

## Qualifications and Curriculum Authority

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if she will list reviews of examination standards undertaken by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority since its establishment. [8494]

**Jacqui Smith:** The list of QCA reviews of examination standards is as follows. Access to the reports is available on QCA's website at www.qca.org.uk.

QCA has carried out investigations of standards over time in the following areas. All reports are published on the QCA website.

| | |
|---|---|
| *A level* | |
| Art and Design | 1978–98 |
| Biology | 1977–97 |
| Chemistry | 1995–98 |
| Classical Subjects | 1977–97 |
| Design and Technology | 1979–99 |
| English Literature | 1996–99 |
| French | 1977–97 |
| General Studies | 1980–2000 |
| Geography | 1980–2000 |
| German | 1976–96 |
| German | 1996–2001 |
| Government and Politics | 1976–96 |
| History | 1976–96 |
| Mathematics | 1995–98 |
| Physics | 1976–96 |
| Physics | 1996–2001 |
| Psychology | 1977–97 |
| *GCSE* | |
| Art and Design | 1979–99 |
| Biology | 1978–98 |
| Chemistry | 1978–98 |
| Design and Technology | 1978–98 |
| English | 1995–98 |
| English | 1998–2002 |
| English Literature | 1980–2000 |
| French | 1976–96 |
| French | 1996–2001 |
| Geography | 1976–96 |
| Geography | 1996–2001 |
| German | 1977–97 |
| History | 1977–97 |
| Mathematics | 1995–99 |
| Physical Education | 1976–96 |
| Physics | 1977–97 |
| Physics | 1997–2002 |
| Religious Studies | 1976–96 |
| Science Double Award | 1995–2000 |

In addition, there have been reports on GCSE and A level biology, 1997/98 to 2003 and GCSE and A level chemistry, 1997/98 to 2003 and one looking across GCSE and A level business studies and economics, 1978–2003. Work is currently under way on A level computing/ICT, A level French, A level sociology and GCSE and A level mathematics, all looking at 2004 examinations in comparison with predecessors.

### School Building Projects (Chorley)

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many school building projects will take place in 2005–06 in Chorley; and how much money has been allocated. [9611]

**Jacqui Smith:** My Department does not have this information, which is held locally. The bulk of schools capital funding is allocated by needs-related formula to schools and local authorities so that they can address their local priorities.

Schools capital funding has increased from under £700 million in 1996–97 to £5.5 billion this year, and will increase further to £6.3 billion by 2007–08. For 2005–06, Lancashire and its schools have been allocated £38 million and this will rise to £43 million by 2007–08. Additionally, Lancashire has been prioritised in wave one of the Building Schools for the Future programme which starts this year.

### School Bullying

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills whether schools are under an obligation regularly to review their school bullying policy. [8470]

**Jacqui Smith:** Under section S61 of the School Standards Framework Act 1998, head teachers have a legal obligation to ensure an anti-bullying policy is in place within their school and to publicise it annually.

Our guidance additionally suggests that this policy is reviewed regularly through the feedback provided by staff, families, pupils and governors, enabling the policy to be updated and improved, if necessary.

### School Leavers

**Mr. Rob Wilson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many and what percentage of secondary school pupils left formal education at the statutory permitted age of 16 in each of the last five years. [9986]

**Jacqui Smith:** Estimates of the number and percentage of young people aged 16 who were not in full-time education in England in each of the last five years are given in Table 1. Many of these were in Apprenticeships or other training, so the numbers and percentages of young people in the age cohort who were not in any education or training are also shown in the table.

*Table 1*

| | *Not in full-time education*[1] | | *Not in any education or training* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *End of calendar year* | *Number (thousand)* | *Percentage* | *Number (thousand)* | *Percentage* |
| 2000 | 176 | 29.0 | 83 | 13.6 |
| 2001 | 186 | 29.3 | 91 | 14.4 |
| 2002 | 177 | 28.1 | 88 | 13.9 |
| 2003 | 179 | 27.7 | 86 | 13.4 |
| 2004[2] | 176 | 26.7 | 85 | 13.0 |

[1] This group comprised of those who were in work based learning programmes; employer funded training; other education and training; and those who were not in any education or training.
[2] provisional

These estimates are snapshot information as at the end of the calendar year. They are taken from the Department's Statistical First Release (SFR 27/2005) entitled, 'Participation in Education, Training and Employment by 16–18 year olds in England: 2003 and 2004'.

### School Meals

**Helen Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what discussions she has had on implementing the Government's strategy for improving school meals; and how many of these discussions involved *(a)* trade unions and *(b)* staff who work in the school meals service. [9301]

**Jacqui Smith:** The Secretary of State and I have had conversations and meetings with a range of partners who have expressed interest in helping us improve school meals. The Secretary of State spoke at the Unison conference on 1 June and had a productive dialogue with members on issues affecting cooks and caterers. She met Jamie Oliver on 4 February and Sir Donald

Curry, Chairman of the Sustainable Farming and Food Implementation Group on 22 June. I have recently had a meeting with Suzi Leather who is chairing the School Meals Review Panel and acting as interim Chair of the School Food Trust.

We have asked officials to liaise with a wide group of stakeholders in drawing together and implementing the strategy for improving school meals. This group includes union representatives, local authority and primary care trust (PCT) officers, ConfEd, the Bursars' Association and the National Governors' Council, and has met once a month since February this year. A senior official met with the Workforce Agreement Monitoring Group, comprising of union representatives on 3 February to outline our emerging strategy.

The School Meals Review Panel, which has met twice, includes a union representative, and several members work in the school meals service.

**Dr. Starkey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if she will require schools to comply with the nutrient-based standards for school meals published by the Caroline Walker Trust on 23 June. [9631]

**Jacqui Smith:** The Department has commissioned the School Meals Review Panel to review the nutritional standards for school meals. The new, draft guidance will be available from September 2005, with the new standards mandatory from September 2006.

## School Premises

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many temporary buildings there were on school premises in each London borough in *(a)* 1997, *(b)* 2001 and *(c)* 2005, broken down by (i) primary, (ii) secondary and (iii) special schools. [8068]

**Jacqui Smith:** The following table shows numbers of temporary buildings on primary, secondary and special school premises for each London borough. The figures are derived from data supplied to the Department by authorities in 2001 and 2003. No data were collected in 1997. New data have been requested at the end of this year. Not all temporary buildings are used for teaching. They may accommodate one or more classrooms.

Central government capital support for investment in schools has increased from under £700 million in 1996–97 to £5.5 billion this year and will rise further to over £6.3 billion by 2007–08. Progress is being made year-by-year in improving the quality of the school building stock. The bulk of schools capital is now allocated by formula to authorities and schools so that they can address their local priorities, including the replacement of decayed temporary accommodation, on which we have set a high priority.

Modern, high quality mobile or demountable classrooms provide a good environment for teaching and learning where there is short term need. They might, for instance, be needed to cope with a short term increase in pupil numbers, or where extensive remodelling or rebuilding of permanent accommodation means providing temporary accommodation on the school site, rather than transporting children elsewhere.

*Numbers of temporary buildings at primary, secondary and special schools in London boroughs*

| | *Primary* | *Secondary* | *Special* |
|---|---|---|---|
| *2001 data* | — | — | — |
| Barking and Dagenham | 5 | — | — |
| Barnet | — | — | — |
| Bexley | 123 | 80 | 3 |
| Brent | 65 | 15 | 2 |
| Bromley | 19 | 6 | 3 |
| Camden | — | — | — |
| City of London | — | — | — |
| Croydon | 106 | 22 | 3 |
| Ealing | 12 | 5 | 3 |
| Enfield | — | — | — |
| Greenwich | — | — | — |
| Hackney | 20 | 9 | 3 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | — | — | — |
| Haringey | 2 | 5 | — |
| Harrow | 121 | 19 | 3 |
| Havering | — | — | — |
| Hillingdon | 56 | 41 | 6 |
| Hounslow | 25 | 15 | 4 |
| Islington | 2 | — | — |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 3 | — | — |
| Kingston upon Thames | — | — | — |
| Lambeth | 32 | 8 | 4 |
| Lewisham | 28 | 3 | — |
| Merton | — | — | — |
| Newham | 68 | 11 | 4 |
| Redbridge | — | — | — |
| Richmond upon Thames | — | — | — |
| Southwark | 9 | 2 | — |
| Sutton | 57 | 44 | — |
| Tower Hamlets | 9 | 5 | 2 |
| Waltham Forest | — | — | — |
| Wandsworth | 10 | 3 | 9 |
| Westminster | 2 | 2 | — |
| *2003 data* | | | |
| Barking and Dagenham | 7 | 3 | 1 |
| Barnet | — | — | — |
| Bexley | 116 | 54 | 3 |
| Brent | 52 | 16 | — |
| Bromley | 19 | 6 | 3 |
| Camden | — | — | — |
| City of London | — | — | — |
| Croydon | 88 | 20 | 3 |
| Ealing | 84 | 22 | 11 |
| Enfield | — | — | — |
| Greenwich | — | — | — |
| Hackney | 8 | — | 2 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | — | — | — |
| Haringey | 16 | 12 | 2 |
| Harrow | 119 | 20 | 6 |
| Havering | — | 2 | — |
| Hillingdon | 51 | 33 | 6 |
| Hounslow | 35 | 14 | 4 |
| Islington | 8 | 2 | 1 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 3 | — | — |
| Kingston upon Thames | — | — | — |
| Lambeth | 30 | 4 | 6 |
| Lewisham | 26 | 5 | 1 |
| Merton | 4 | — | — |
| Newham | 45 | 9 | 2 |
| Redbridge | — | — | — |
| Richmond upon Thames | 10 | 5 | 1 |
| Southwark | 10 | 1 | — |
| Sutton | 61 | 42 | — |
| Tower Hamlets | 5 | 6 | 1 |
| Waltham Forest | 12 | 5 | 2 |
| Wandsworth | 10 | 3 | 9 |
| Westminster | — | — | — |

*Note:*
Where no figures are shown, either no data have been supplied by authorities, or there are clearly significant data anomalies.

### School Violence

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what her Department's policy is on dealing with violence taking place in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools. [9934]

**Jacqui Smith:** Although the great majority of schools are safe and orderly places the Government take the issue of violence very seriously. We have made it clear that head teachers may permanently exclude pupils for violence even when this is a first offence. But it is even more important to help schools create an environment that reduces the risk of violence to an absolute minimum. To achieve that we have:

- given every secondary school access to high-quality behaviour management training materials and expert advice from behaviour management consultants;
- funded extra support for schools facing the greatest challenges through our Excellence in Cities and Behaviour Improvement Programmes;
- provided £120 million for school security improvements since 1997;
- given schools a legal toolkit on how to ban aggressive parents from the site and have them removed and prosecuted if they flout the ban; and
- helped to establish over 400 safer schools partnerships that base police officers in schools.

In addition, we are:

- giving every primary school access to high-quality training and curriculum materials for developing pupils' social, emotional and behavioural skills and developing similar materials for secondary schools;
- developing specific violence prevention advice and training in collaboration with associations representing heads and other school staff;
- working with the Home Office on legislation to give heads the power to search pupils for offensive weapons; and
- asking an expert group of heads and teachers to consider what else could be done to promote discipline and a culture of respect in all schools.

### Sixth Forms

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what proposals she has received from learning and skills councils relating to school sixth forms referring to *(a)* closure, *(b)* reorganisation and *(c)* opening in each year since councils' powers were introduced. [8493]

**Jacqui Smith:** My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has received two reorganisation proposals relating to school sixth forms from the LSC:

- a proposal to close four school sixth forms in Haringey and open a new 16–19 school, submitted in September 2004;
- a proposal to close six school sixth forms, one sixth form college and one general FE college in Hastings and Rother and to open a new general FE college delivering 16–19 provision on four sites, submitted in February 2005.

### Special Schools

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many proposals to close moderate learning disability special schools in the last eight years went to adjudication; and how many schools were subsequently closed. [4097]

**Maria Eagle:** Schools adjudicators are independent of the Department for Education and Skills. Details of the decisions they have made are published each year by the Office of the Schools Adjudicator in their annual report. Copies, for each year since the office was created in April 1999, have been placed in the House Library.

The Office of the Schools Adjudicators (OSA) was established on 1 April 1999. To date adjudicators have considered 17 proposals to reorganise provision in 31 special schools. Of these, 11 included proposals to close special schools catering for children with moderate learning difficulties (MLD). Adjudicators approved nine of these proposals, amounting to the closure of 13 schools with provision for children with MLD.

### Student Unions

**Mrs. Ellman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what assessment she has made of the responsibility of universities for student unions in respect of the implementation of race relations and diversity policies and legislation. [9138]

**Bill Rammell:** Universities are bound by equality and diversity legislation and it is the responsibility of their governing bodies to ensure that non-discriminatory practices are followed. With regard to race relations specifically, governing bodies of universities have a positive duty have due regard to the need to eliminate racism and to promote equality. This duty applies to all functions exercised by governing bodies, including their regulatory function in respect of student unions. There is also the specific duty placed upon governing bodies to have in place a policy for promoting race equality and to monitor its effect. The CRE has prepared guidance for further and higher education institutions on their duties under the race relations legislation. Government's approach to pay is to enable local flexibility to meet local needs and to encourage a clear link between pay and individual performance. General FE colleges and sixth form colleges are autonomous institutions, and as such they negotiate their own pay and conditions of service with staff and their unions without Government involvement.

### Teachers

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many *(a)* primary and junior school teachers, *(b)* secondary school teachers and *(c)* classroom assistants there were in (i) West Sussex, (ii) Kent, (iii) Durham and (iv) the East Riding of Yorkshire in each of the last eight years. [7916]

**Jacqui Smith:** The following table provides the information requested. Teacher numbers are not yet available for 2005 at LEA level.

*Full-time equivalent regular teachers (excluding occasionals) and teaching assistants: January 1998 to 2005*

| | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Nursery/Primary* | | | | | | | | |
| West Sussex | 2,760 | 2,830 | 2,800 | 2,760 | 2,810 | 2,870 | 2,760 | n/a |

*Full-time equivalent regular teachers (excluding occasionals) and teaching assistants: January 1998 to 2005*

| | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Kent | 5,880 | 4,860 | 4,970 | 4,960 | 5,050 | 5,210 | 5,440 | n/a |
| Durham | 2,060 | 2,110 | 2,090 | 2,150 | 2,160 | 2,150 | 2,090 | n/a |
| East Riding of Yorkshire | 1,070 | 1,090 | 1,130 | 1,150 | 1,150 | 1,200 | 1,170 | n/a |
| *Secondary* | | | | | | | | |
| West Sussex | 2,510 | 2,540 | 2,540 | 2,630 | 2,720 | 2,800 | 2,810 | n/a |
| Kent | 6,650 | 5,510 | 5,810 | 5,850 | 5,750 | 5,730 | 6,270 | n/a |
| Durham | 1,920 | 1,910 | 1,920 | 1,890 | 1,930 | 1,970 | 2,010 | n/a |
| East Riding of Yorkshire | 1,250 | 1,250 | 1,300 | 1,310 | 1,330 | 1,370 | 1,390 | n/a |
| *Teaching Assistants* | | | | | | | | |
| West Sussex | 500 | 500 | 560 | 600 | 1,030 | 1,090 | 1,120 | 1,260 |
| Kent | 2,040 | 1,780 | 1,980 | 2,210 | 3,090 | 3,480 | 3,730 | 4,180 |
| Durham | 440 | 460 | 480 | 540 | 520 | 650 | 850 | 890 |
| East Riding of Yorkshire | 300 | 330 | 380 | 460 | 430 | 530 | 660 | 780 |

n/a = not available
*Source:*
Annual survey of teacher numbers and vacancies (Form 618g) for teacher numbers. Annual School Census for teaching assistants.

**Mr. Gibb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if she will list the qualifications approved for teaching in maintained schools under section 96 of the Learning and Skills Act 2000. [9383]

**Jacqui Smith:** The qualifications approved for teaching in maintained schools under section 96 of the Learning and Skills Act 2000 are available via website at www.dfes.gov.uk/section96.

### Training and Enterprise Council

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the total value was of Training and Enterprise Council *(a)* assets and *(b)* cash reserves received by her Department; and how much of this was transferred to individual learning accounts. [8736]

**Bill Rammell:** The total value of *(a)* assets was £24,692,898 and *(b)* total cash reserves received to date £286,710,259. £123,872,849 was transferred to individual learning accounts.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills which of the former training and enterprise council pension schemes have not yet been transferred to the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme; what type of pension scheme they are; and how many members each has. [8737]

**Phil Hope:** Of the 72 TEC/CCTEs 33 operated final salary schemes which required action to be taken to enable them to transfer their accrued benefits into the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme (PCSPS).

Of these 33, 24 participated in the "industry-wide" TEC National Pension Scheme, which in March 2001 had nearly 1,000 active members of whom 742 have now transferred their accrued pension rights into the PCSPS as active members. In addition, there have been 926 transfers into the PCSPS in the form of deferred pension rights. The remainder chose not to transfer their accrued benefits into PCSPS.

The following table sets out the information on the remaining nine TECs with final salary-type pension arrangements. Information on the total membership of each TEC pension scheme in March 2001 was not routinely requested, as it was not strictly required in order to arrange a bulk transfer.

| *TEC/CCTE* | *Number of active members for whom accrued TEC pension rights have been transferred to PCSPS*[1] | *Number of deferred pensioners for whom accrued TEC pension rights have been transferred to PCSPS*[1] |
|---|---|---|
| North Yorkshire[2] | 46 | nil |
| Tyneside and Sunderland[2] | 130 | nil |
| Hertfordshire[2] | 7 | nil |
| Northumberland | 35 | 48 |
| Suffolk | 47 | 25 |
| Greater Nottinghamshire | 42 | 21 |
| Staffordshire | 71 | 35 |
| HOETEC[3] | nil | nil |
| Teesside | 90 | 32 |

[1] In the time available, it has not been possible to verify that the above numbers include all late data amendments, but there were relatively few of these.
[2] These TECs each participated in one of the local government schemes; as these schemes would not be wound-up, no transfer option was required for deferred pensioners.
[3] Discussions with the independent trustee are ongoing with the objective of securing a bulk transfer to PCSPS. We understand that there are approximately 100 to 120 members.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills for what reason she appointed an administrative receiver to manage the affairs of the Heart of England Training and Enterprise Council. [8740]

**Phil Hope:** The Department for Education and Skills appointed an administrative receiver to expedite the conclusion of the outstanding financial affairs of the TEC.

### University Admissions

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what assessment she has made of the effects of making module grades of A level students available to universities as an interim measure before moving to a system of post-qualification application to university. [8472]

**Jacqui Smith:** We welcome and support UCAS's initiative (as set out in the 14–19 Education and Skills White Paper) to make unit grades available to higher education institutions as a swift and practicable interim measure for universities to discern differentiation at the top end. We do so in the belief that it will provide universities with robust and objective information for choosing between candidates. The precise way in which the availability of that information will affect universities' offer making is a matter for the individual

institutions and UCAS to determine. The results of the consultation process have not yet been made public. However the UCAS/Joint Council for Qualifications Working Group is now investigating the possible effects. The Working Group will meet again on 8 July to consider next steps.

### University Graduates

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many university students graduated in each discipline in each of the last five years. [8835]

**Bill Rammell:** Information on qualifications obtained by students on HE courses is published annually by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA). Provisional figures for the 2003/04 academic year were published on 11 January 2005.

*First degree qualifications obtained by students on HE courses at HEIs in the UK by subject area, 1999/2000 to 2003/04 (thousand)*[1]

| | First degree | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| *HESACODE subject area* | *1999–2000* | *2000–01*[2] | *2001–02*[2] |
| Medicine and dentistry | 5.8 | 6.0 | 6.0 |
| Subjects allied to medicine | 17.6 | 17.8 | 19.5 |
| Biological sciences | 17.4 | 18.4 | 18.6 |
| Veterinary science | 0.5 | 0.6 | 0.6 |
| Agriculture and related subjects | 2.3 | 2.3 | 2.3 |
| Physical sciences | 13.1 | 13.2 | 13.0 |
| Mathematical sciences | 4.3 | 4.1 | 4.2 |
| Computer science | 10.4 | 11.2 | 12.5 |
| Engineering and technology | 22.0 | 20.6 | 19.8 |
| Architecture, building and planning | 7.2 | 6.6 | 6.2 |
| Total science | 100.6 | 100.7 | 102.7 |
| Social, economic and political studies | 21.6 | 22.7 | 22.0 |
| Law | 10.0 | 10.2 | 10.0 |
| Business and administrative studies | 30.9 | 31.9 | 32.6 |
| Librarianship and information science | 3.8 | 4.6 | 4.5 |
| Languages | 16.0 | 16.6 | 16.6 |
| Humanities | 10.4 | 10.4 | 9.9 |
| Creative arts and design | 20.3 | 21.3 | 22.2 |
| Education | 13.5 | 11.9 | 11.8 |
| Combined | 36.6 | 34.9 | 33.1 |
| All subjects | 263.7 | 265.3 | 265.3 |

| | First degree | |
|---|---|---|
| *JACS subject area*[4] | *2002–03*[2] | *2003–04*[2,3] |
| Medicine and dentistry | 6.1 | 6.8 |
| Subjects allied to medicine | 22.3 | 23.1 |
| Biological sciences | 23.2 | 25.4 |
| Veterinary science | 0.6 | 0.7 |
| Agriculture and related subjects | 2.1 | 2.3 |
| Physical sciences | 12.1 | 11.7 |
| Mathematical sciences | 5.0 | 5.3 |
| Computer science | 17.6 | 19.3 |
| Engineering and technology | 18.8 | 19.1 |
| Architecture, building and planning | 6.3 | 6.4 |
| Total science | 114.0 | 120.1 |
| Social studies | 24.5 | 25.9 |
| Law | 11.4 | 12.2 |
| Business and administrative studies | 38.7 | 40.1 |
| Mass communications and documentation | 7.2 | 7.7 |
| Languages | 19.7 | 19.5 |
| Historical and Philosophical studies | 13.1 | 14.6 |
| Creative arts and design | 26.1 | 27.8 |
| Education | 9.3 | 9.2 |
| Combined | 9.3 | 5.0 |
| All subjects | 273.4 | 282.1 |

[1] The figures presented above include qualifications submitted to HESA by a reporting deadline; however this deadline has changed over the years. Details of reporting schedules are given in earlier Statistical First Releases. These changes are not thought to have affected the number of qualifications reported.
[2] For 2000/01 and subsequent data collections, the figures exclude qualifications obtained by incoming visiting and exchange students. To enable comparison, there were approximately 500 first degree qualifications obtained by incoming visiting and exchange students not included in the figures presented for 2000/01. Also from 2000/01 dormant students are included in the above figures.
[3] The 2003/04 figures above are provisional.
[4] In 2002/03 the Joint Academic Subject Classification (JACS) replaced HESACODE as the basis for grouping by subject area. Although JACS and HESACODE look similar and are closely related, they are not by any means identical, and so are not directly comparable. It has accordingly been necessary for 2002/03 onwards to construct subject area definitions afresh in terms of JACS.
The shift of numbers shown between 2001/02 and 2002/03 is largely attributable to the introduction of a new procedure of apportionment for dealing with students, notably those on combined/split programmes, rather than to the changes in the way subjects are classified. It can also be seen that improved reporting practice has led to further reduction in the numbers on combined programmes shown in 2003/04.

Due to differing coverage, changes between 2002/03 and 2001/02 are not directly comparable.

### Work Experience Schemes

**Mr. Boswell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what action her Department is taking to improve the evaluation of work experience schemes for school children. [700]

**Jacqui Smith:** Work experience is increasingly important as part of our strategy to engage employers in supporting schools and colleges, but the issue raised is of an operational nature which is a matter for the LSC. Mark Haysom, the LSC's chief executive, will write to my hon. Friend, and a copy of his reply will be placed in the Library.

*Letter from Mark Haysom to Mr. Boswell, dated 1 July 2005:*

I write in response to your Parliamentary Question which has been referred to the LSC, in which you asked the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what action is being taken by the Department for Education and Skills to improve the evaluation of work experience schemes for schoolchildren.

Funding for Work Experience is delivered as part of the Education Business Links funding which local offices receive to further the links and understanding between businesses, employers, young people and staff teaching in schools. A significant amount of the total EBL funding supports the 95% of Key Stage 4 pupils who go on placements each year. The majority of these placements are delivered through partnerships between schools and their local Education Business Partnerships. The evaluation of these placements forms part of the contractual arrangements for funding. A number of other agencies; for example QCA and NEBPN are working to ensure quality standards in the delivery of work-experience placements providing resources and support for teachers and students in the evaluation of their experiences.

I trust this is helpful.

### Work-related Stress

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many cases of work-related stress have been reported in her Department in each of

the last three years; how much compensation was paid to employees in each year; how many work days were lost due to work-related stress in each year; at what cost; what procedures have been put in place to reduce work-related stress; at what cost; and if she will make a statement. [7861]

**Jacqui Smith:** My Department takes the health and welfare of all its employees very seriously. Systems and practices are being developed, in line with HSE guidance, to help prevent work related stress occurring and also to identify periods of absence that are connected with employment. This work is ongoing and is at nil additional cost to the Department as staff currently employed to take forward statutory requirements such as this are developing policy, systems and practices.

In addition, we encourage the use of the Department's Employee Assistance Programme for counselling and information. Staff and their managers also use departmental occupational health advisers to provide advice on all areas where health may affect attendance and performance.

My Department has no cases of work related stress to report, no days lost to work related stress and compensation has not been paid to employees for work related stress during the last three years.

### Young Offenders

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many hours per day *(a)* 16 to 18-year-old and *(b)* over 18-year-old prisoners in each young offenders institution receive of (i) compulsory education, (ii) extra curricular education, (iii) sport and (iv) general exercise: and if she will make a statement. [8047]

**Phil Hope:** The Prison Service collects data on the time spent by prisoners held in each young offender and juvenile establishment on education and physical education on a weekly basis. Where both juveniles (aged 15 to 17 inclusive) and young adult offenders (aged 18 to 20 inclusive) are held within the same establishment, the Prison Service does not separate the data for the number of hours undertaken by each age group.

Consequently, provision of a detailed breakdown by day for the age groups and by the specific categories requested could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

The following table sets out the weekly average number of hours of education and physical education (PE) undertaken by offenders at each young offender and juvenile establishment in 2004–05.

| | *Establishment* | *Education hours* | *PE services hours* |
|---|---|---|---|
| YOI | Aylesbury | 5.5 | 3.3 |
| YOI | Brinsford[1] | 7.9 | 3.7 |
| YOI | Castington[1] | 10.9 | 4.0 |
| YOI | Coldingley | 9.2 | 2.5 |
| YOI | Deerbolt | 8.3 | 3.7 |
| YOI | Feltham[1] | 6.3 | 4.2 |
| YOI | Glen Parva | 4.0 | 2.0 |
| YOI | Lancaster Farms[1] | 10.1 | 4.0 |
| YOI | Northallerton | 7.5 | 5.8 |
| YOI | Onley | 6.0 | 3.7 |
| YOI | Portland | 5.0 | 2.7 |
| YOI | Reading | 5.6 | 2.2 |
| YOI | Rochester | 4.4 | 2.9 |
| YOI | Stoke Heath[1] | 5.8 | 3.0 |
| YOI | Swinfen Hall | 7.8 | 3.5 |
| YOI | Thorn Cross[1] | 13.3 | 6.1 |
| Juvenile | Huntercombe | 8.7 | 4.5 |
| Juvenile | Warren Hill | 10.0 | 4.5 |
| Juvenile | Werrington | 15.5 | 7.3 |
| Juvenile | Wetherby | 9.2 | 2.8 |

[1] Establishments holding both juveniles and young adult offenders.

*Source:*
HMPS

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

### Altayib Ali Ahmed

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations on the case of Altayib Ali Ahmed sentenced to death in Khartoum. [8418]

**Ian Pearson:** Our embassy in Khartoum made representations, both bilaterally and through the EU, to the Government of Sudan on this case on 27 June. Following these interventions the Sudanese authorities postponed the execution.

We are resolutely opposed to the death penalty in all circumstances, and raise these concerns with the Government of Sudan on a regular basis. The case also goes against the provisions of the N'djamena Cease-Fire Agreement of 2004 in which the parties agreed to release all prisoners of war and those detained in relation to the conflict. We will continue to follow this case closely.

### British Council

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the effect of the shift in status of the British Council from a non-departmental public body to a public corporation on *(a)* balance sheet departmental liabilities and *(b)* financial constraints under departmental expenditure limits. [9045]

**Mr. Straw:** The reclassification of the British Council from a non-departmental body to a public corporation has no effect on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's (FCO) balance sheet liabilities.

The FCO's financial constraints under departmental expenditure limits (DEL) are unaffected by the British Council's change in status because the FCO's DEL was adjusted to take account of the change.

### British Embassies

**Mr. McGovern:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the total saving to his Department has been in each year since the British embassies in Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador were closed. [7034]

**Mr. Straw:** The British embassy in Honduras closed in December 2003 and the British embassy in El Salvador closed in August 2003. The British embassy in Guatemala City remains open and the UK's ambassador in Guatemala City is now the non-resident ambassador to Honduras and El Salvador. The British embassy in Nicaragua also closed in March 2004 and the UK's ambassador in Costa Rica is now the non-resident ambassador to Nicaragua.

Since closing the embassies in Honduras, El Salvador and Nicaragua in Financial Year 2003–04, the annual net saving on running costs and staff salaries has been £958,000.

The decision to close the British embassies Honduras, El Salvador and Nicaragua was based on the need to align our resources with our priorities, to maximise efficiency and ensure that the UK has a cost-effective and flexible network of overseas representation.

### Correspondence

**Sir Gerald Kaufman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he will answer the letter dated 19 May from the Right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mukhtar Ali. [7887]

**Dr. Howells:** My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary replied to the letter on 29 June.

### Cyprus

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to Turkey concerning numbers and types of equipment of the Turkish Army in northern Cyprus; and if he will make a statement. [8274]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** None. In assessing the military situation on the island, we continue to be guided by the assessment of the UN Secretary-General on the United Nations Operations in Cyprus. In his latest report of June 2005, the Secretary-General noted that there were no indications of an increase in defence spending on either side, nor of acquisitions of new major equipment. The Secretary-General further noted that the rotation of Turkish troops and their equipment did not imply a reinforcement and thus the number of Turkish troops and their equipment remained unchanged.

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will review his Department's advice to UK nationals considering purchasing property in occupied Cyprus; and if he will make a statement. [8275]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) keeps its travel advice under regular review. The travel advice for Cyprus, including the section on property, was most recently amended on 16 June, and is available on the FCO website: www.fco.gov.uk.

We strongly encourage potential purchasers of property in Cyprus to take independent, qualified legal advice. The travel advice also explains that there are a number of potential practical, financial and legal implications, particularly for those considering buying property in the north—these relate to the non-recognition of the "Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus", the possibility of a future political settlement in Cyprus, and claims to ownership from people displaced in 1974. The advice also warns that there is a risk that purchasers would face legal proceedings in the courts of the Republic of Cyprus, as well as attempts to enforce judgments from the courts of the Republic of Cyprus elsewhere in the EU, including the UK.

### Departmental Expenditure

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of man hours required to fill in the Collinson Grant questionnaires on process activity in his Department was; and if he will make a statement. [9047]

**Mr. Straw:** The amount of time spent completing the Collinson Grant respondent spreadsheet was not recorded so it is not possible to give a firm figure. The Collinson Grant project team estimated the time required to complete the spreadsheet would be approximately three hours based on the experience of a short pilot. There were 539 respondents.

### Diversity Advisory Groups

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the role is of his Department's diversity advisory groups; what activities the groups undertake; what the cost was of each group in the last year for which figures are available; what publications each has produced; and if he will make a statement. [9083]

**Mr. Straw:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (ECO) has three diversity advisory groups administered by Human Resources Directorate: the Disability Action Group, the Ethnic Diversity Advisory Group and the Gender Advisory Group. The role of these groups is to advise Human Resources Directorate and the FCO Board on disability, ethnic and gender issues respectively. Each of these groups meets quarterly and is chaired by a member of the FCO Board. There are no costs for running these groups.

The Disability Action Group aims to raise awareness in the FCO of disability issues, to suggest ways of increasing numbers of disabled staff and of meeting their needs, to provide support for disabled staff, to share best practice, to develop the FCO's action plan on disability and, through the Board Disability Champion, to contribute to the FCO Ministerial Group on diversity.

The Ethnic Diversity Advisory Group aims to enable the FCO to benefit fully from the ethnic diversity of its staff, suggest and monitor activities to increase the number of staff from minority ethnic groups, review and develop the FCO's action plan on race and through the Board Champion on race to contribute to the FCO Ministerial Group on diversity.

The Gender Advisory Group aims to suggest ways to improve representation of women, review and develop the FCO's action plan on gender and through the Board Champion on gender to contribute to the FCO Ministerial Group on diversity. The FCO Gender Advisory

Group produced a booklet, "Inclusive Government: mainstreaming gender into foreign policy", in June 2004.

The FCO Lesbian and Gay Group (FLAGG) and the Ethnic Minority Action Group (EMAG) are run by staff, rather than HR. EMAG is a network of staff with an interest in minority ethnic issues, who wish to make an impact on issues relating to equal opportunity, diversity and inclusion. The group meets monthly. FLAGG is a staff support group for all gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered staff

### English Wine

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs at which *(a)* receptions and *(b)* parties in overseas missions to celebrate the Queen's birthday in 2005 English wine was served (i) exclusively and (ii) on the request of guests; and if he will make a statement. [8869]

**Mr. Straw:** This information is not held centrally within the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and research to obtain the relevant data would incur disproportionate cost.

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much and what percentage of his Department's budget for *(a)* the UK and *(b)* missions overseas was spent on (i) English wine, (ii) French wine, (iii) wine from the new world and (iv) wine from elsewhere, in each of the last four years; how many cases of each type of wine were consumed in each case; and if he will make a statement. [8873]

**Mr. Straw:** This information is not held centrally within the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and research to obtain the relevant data would incur disproportionate cost. However, English wine is often served and appears to be much appreciated by those drinking it.

### EU Diplomatic Staff

**Mr. Redwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many diplomatic staff are employed by the EU. [5210]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** According to European Commission sources, the majority of their overseas delegations have been full diplomatic missions since the late 1980s. There are approximately 1,000 Commission officials and 900 contracted experts working in the Commission delegations overseas and approximately 25 Council Secretariat officials working in the Council Secretariat offices in Geneva and New York.

### G8 Summit

**Anne Milton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much public money he estimates will be spent on hospitality at the G8 Summit at Gleneagles on 6 July. [8783]

**Ian Pearson:** The G8 Summit at the Gleneagles Hotel is a working event. The estimated cost of all catering for the 4,000 people, which includes delegates and media, attending the three days of the Summit is around £350,000.

### Iran

**Andrew Mackinlay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what information the Government have received on the *(a)* circumstances of the arrest and *(b)* detention location of trade union and human rights activist Ebdal Karimi on 21 June in Isfahan, Iran; what representations he has made to the Iranian Government on this matter; and if he will make a statement. [9096]

**Dr. Howells:** We have seen reports on the arrest and detention of Ebdal Karimi from an Iranian opposition group, whose information is often not reliable. We are seeking to verify the information, but have not yet been able to do so.

### Iraq

**Sir Menzies Campbell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the *(a)* size, *(b)* capability and *(c)* tactics of insurgent forces in Iraq. [9021]

**Mr. Straw:** The nature of the insurgency is complex and disparate with many localised groups collaborating on a short term basis. The numbers of those participating in the insurgency remain unclear but while the greater part of the insurgency stems from Iraqi groups and individuals, evidence does not suggest a popular insurgency across the country. In recent months we have seen an increase in car bombs and improvised explosive devices used by the insurgents. These high profile attacks deliberately aim to cause higher numbers of casualties.

### Joint Intelligence Committee

**Sir Menzies Campbell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which officials serve on the Joint Intelligence Committee; whether officials of foreign governments attend meetings of the Committee; and if he will make a statement. [9019]

**Mr. Straw:** Members of the Joint Intelligence Committee are senior officials in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Ministry of Defence (including the Chief of Defence Intelligence), Home Office, Department of Trade and Industry, HM Treasury and Cabinet Office; the Heads of Security Service, Secret Intelligence Service and Government Communications Headquarters; and the Chief of the Assessments Staff. Officials from other departments are invited as necessary. Representatives of the Australian, Canadian and United States intelligence communities also attend as appropriate.

### Kosovo

**Mr. Robathan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what requests he has received *(a)* via the UN and *(b)* from the President of Kosovo for UK military support to keep order during the final status talks on the future of Kosovo; and if he will make a statement. [8374]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** None. Under United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1244 (1999) and Annex 2 to the UNSCR, the North Atlantic

Treaty Organisation (NATO)-led Kosovo Force (KFOR) is responsible for establishing and maintaining security in Kosovo, not the UN.

The UK contributes some 180 troops to the NATO operation in Kosovo. In addition the UK provides a battalion to the Balkans-wide over the horizon operational reserve force, along with Germany and Italy. Should NATO request the deployment of this asset to Kosovo the UK would respond accordingly, just as we did in March 2004 and March 2005.

### Madagascar

**Mr. Mullin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he proposes to close the British Embassy in Antananarivo, Madagascar; what net savings he expects; and if he will make a statement. [8385]

**Ian Pearson:** It is anticipated that the British Embassy in Antananarivo will close at the end of August 2005. We estimate that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office will save £300,000 per annum on direct running costs and £265,000 in one-off savings from the sale of assets. There will also be staff and broader running costs savings.

**Mr. Mullin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the current value of the small grants scheme in Antananarivo is; and whether it will continue after the closure of the British Embassy. [8386]

**Ian Pearson:** The Small Grants Scheme allocation to Madagascar for the financial year 2004–05 was £295,000.

We are still considering the precise arrangements for this financial year. Once the Embassy closes, the Small Grants Scheme in Madagascar will not continue on the present basis. It would be inefficient and impractical to administer a large number of small schemes without the presence of an Embassy. We are however considering whether some projects could be run by the High Commission in Port Louis, which will cover British interests in Madagascar when the British Embassy in Antananarivo closes.

**Mr. Mullin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans he has for continuing to represent British interests in Madagascar after the closure of the British Embassy there; and if he will make a statement. [8387]

**Ian Pearson:** After the closure of our Embassy in Madagascar, our High Commission in Port Louis will cover British interests, supported by Honorary Consuls in Antananarivo and Toamasina. Our High Commissioner from Port Louis will be accredited as non-resident Ambassador to Madagascar. He and his staff will visit Madagascar on a regular basis.

### Nigeria

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if the Government will make representations to the Nigerian Government to uphold its side of the Bakassi peninsula agreement with Cameroon. [8705]

**Ian Pearson:** We have made representations to the Nigerian authorities about upholding the International Court of Justice ruling on Bakassi. We maintain a close dialogue with both Nigeria and Cameroon on the completion of the demarcation exercise, and have urged both sides to continue to cooperate closely with the UN Mixed Commission to this end.

### Nuclear Weapons (Africa)

**Sir Menzies Campbell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the *(a)* possession and *(b)* development of nuclear weapons technologies in African states; and if he will make a statement. [9018]

**Mr. Straw:** My assessment is that no African country possesses nuclear weapons or is currently developing them.

However, as the right hon. Gentleman will be aware, the former South African President, FW De Klerk, announced in March 1993 that South Africa had decided in 1974 to develop a limited nuclear deterrent capability, and that six of seven projected nuclear fission devices had been completed by the time it decided in 1990 to dismantle and destroy all the nuclear devices and accede to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). South Africa duly acceded to the NPT in July 1991, and its consequent comprehensive safeguards agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) came into force in September 1991. The IAEA subsequently conducted a number of inspections to verify the completeness and correctness of South Africa's initial report of its inventory of nuclear material. In 1993 South Africa also asked the IAEA to conduct visits to confirm the abandoned status of its former nuclear weapon programme. As a result of these activities, the IAEA concluded that it had found nothing inconsistent with the South African account of the programme.

The right hon. Gentleman will also be aware that on 19 December 2003 Libya announced that it had shown US and UK experts "the materials, equipments and programmes which lead to the production of internationally proscribed weapons", including centrifuge machines, and that it had decided "to eliminate these materials, equipments and programmes". Libya has since acknowledged to the IAEA that it received documentation related to nuclear weapon design and fabrication from a foreign source as well as some pre-assembled centrifuge machines and many components for other such machines. The United Kingdom has strongly welcomed Libya's renunciation of these activities, as well as its conclusion of an Additional Protocol in March 2004 to its existing Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement with the IAEA, and strongly supports its continued co-operation with the IAEA.

The United Kingdom is a strong supporter of the Treaty of Pelindaba, which seeks to establish a nuclear weapon free zone in Africa. We have ratified the relevant Protocols to the Treaty, and continue to call on enough states to ratify the Treaty for it to enter into force.

### Peru

**Mark Simmonds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the likely effects on counter-narcotics strategies of the lifting of the by-law in the Cusco region of Peru legalising the growth of coca; and if he will make a statement. [8288]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** The Peruvian Government reacted strongly to the recent announcement by the Regional President of Cusco to legalise coca cultivation in certain districts in the Department of Cusco. Although the Peruvian Prime Minister and the Regional President of Cusco have since come to an agreement not to expand legal coca cultivation in the Department of Cusco, we share the Peruvian Government's concern over the message which this announcement conveys about drugs misuse. We continue to co-operate closely with the Peruvian Government and other international partners to tackle drug trafficking from the region.

### Sir David Manning

**Mr. Maples:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 27 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 1282W, on Sir David Manning, whether Sir David Manning declined or cancelled any other invitation, or engagement, to be able to introduce Mrs. Blair and attend her lecture in Washington on 6 June; whether he accompanied Mrs. Blair travelling to and from the lecture; whether the ambassador's official car was used for these journeys; and whether any staff of the British embassy in Washington were involved in organising Mrs. Blair's lecture or issuing invitations to it. [8728]

**Ian Pearson:** Sir David did not cancel or decline any other invitations to attend the lecture by Mrs. Blair on 6 June. He did not accompany Mrs. Blair to or from the lecture. He travelled on his own in his official car. No members of the British embassy were involved in organising the lecture or in issuing the invitations.

### Special Advisers

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will list *(a)* the special advisers in his Department, *(b)* their specific areas of expertise and *(c)* the total cost of employing them in the latest year for which figures are available. [8821]

**Mr. Straw:** As at 29 June 2005, the special advisers in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and their areas of expertise are:

Dr. Michael Williams—UN, Human rights, Asia, Africa and the Balkans

Mr. Mark Davies—Communications and the EU

All special advisers are appointed under terms and conditions set out in the "Model Contract for Special Advisers".

On costs, I refer the hon. Member to the reply my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister gave to my hon. Friend the Member for St. Helens, North (Mr. Watts) on 22 July 2004, *Official Report*, columns 466–70W.

### Stranded Air Travellers

**Dr. Cable:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the ability of UK embassies and consulates to provide assistance to British citizens stranded overseas in the event of a major airline failure. [8339]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** British embassies, consulates and high commissions overseas have up to date plans for helping British citizens affected by all types of consular emergency. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office strongly recommends that UK citizens travelling abroad take out comprehensive travel insurance.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Transport is currently considering the issue of financial protection for air travellers, including the possibility of extending statutory protection to all UK-originating flights.

### Sudan

**Mr. Arbuthnot:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Government of Sudan about British business interests in Sudan; and if he will make a statement. [9035]

**Ian Pearson:** Foreign and Commonwealth Office Ministers have had no recent discussions with the Government of Sudan on British business interests. We do, however, make clear to the Government of Sudan that progress in implementing the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, a resolution to the conflict in Darfur, greater transparency in business dealings and a stable legal environment would be essential to encourage investment.

### Tibet

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make it his policy to support the Tibetan autonomy movement; and if he will make a statement. [8400]

**Ian Pearson:** Successive British Governments have regarded Tibet as autonomous while recognising the special position of the Chinese authorities there.

We monitor developments in Tibet closely and regularly raise Tibet-related issues with the Chinese Government, including during our biannual UK/China Human Rights Dialogue, the last round of which was held in London on 6 June 2005. My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister raised Tibet with Chinese Premier, Wen Jiabao during the latter's visit to the UK in May 2004; my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary raised the case of a Tibetan prisoner during his trip to China in January 2005; and my noble Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Lord Triesman of Tottenham) raised Tibet at the dialogue in June. We have made clear to the Chinese authorities that a long-term, legitimate and peaceful solution to the Tibet issue can be found only through dialogue and continue to urge them to engage with the Dalai Lama and his representatives.

### Uganda

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the prospects for free and fair elections in Uganda, with particular reference to *(a)* the 1997 Movement Act, *(b)* the President's appointed Electoral Commission, *(c)* the state-funded Movement Secretariat, *(d)* funding for the opposition; and if he will make a statement. [8610]

**Ian Pearson:** To enable the elections due in March 2006 to be free and fair under a multi-party system, many legislative changes are needed. We have received assurances from the Ugandan Foreign Minister that these will be in place by the end of August 2005. To help ensure that the elections are properly managed we, together with other development partners in Uganda, are contributing to a basket fund to support the work of the Electoral Commission. We are aware of the constraints under which opposition parties are working, and have provided all the major parties with some support for capacity building. Meanwhile, we regularly urge the Government of Uganda to ensure that a level playing field for all parties is established in good time before the elections. On 24 June the Ugandan Foreign Minister told our officials that state funding will cease as soon as a multi-party system of Government is adopted.

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the Ugandan authorities regarding the return of *(a)* Dr. Kizza Besigye and *(b)* Dr. Apollo Milton Obote; and if he will make a statement. [8623]

**Ian Pearson:** We have had no discussions with the Ugandan authorities specifically about the return to Uganda of Dr. Kizza Besigye or Dr. Apollo Milton Obote. However, we do regularly discuss with Ugandan Ministers and officials issues of political rights. We make clear the importance of political change in Uganda carrying the genuine confidence of the people and their representatives, respecting the rule of law and institutions of governance, and being free from physical intimidation or manipulation.

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions *(a)* he and *(b)* his officials have had with the Ugandan authorities regarding (i) the cost of the June referendum and (ii) the decision by the Forum for Democratic Change to boycott the referendum; and if he will make a statement. [8624]

**Ian Pearson:** Our officials in Kampala have frequently highlighted in discussions with the Ugandan authorities our concerns about the high monetary and time costs of the referendum in relation to alternative options. However, following the Government of Uganda's decision to hold a referendum, we have consistently urged all opposition parties, including the Forum for Democratic Change (FDC), to take part, most recently in a meeting on 24 June. We are concerned that their decision to boycott the referendum risks undermining the democratic process, and will continue to press them to reverse this decision.

### Zimbabwe

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government are taking to put pressure on Zimbabwe in relation to human rights. [8541]

**Ian Pearson:** We have redoubled our efforts to increase international pressure on Mugabe, raising Zimbabwe in capitals across Africa. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary on 22 June challenged all African Governments to address what is happening. We have also raised the issue with the UN Secretary-General and the UN Commissioner for Human Rights. We welcome Kofi Annan's decision to send a Special Envoy to Zimbabwe, and look forward to his report.

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations the Government are making to the Zimbabwean Government regarding the recent ZANU-PF slum clearances. [8704]

**Ian Pearson:** We have made our condemnation of recent events in Zimbabwe clear. On 13 June my noble Friend the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) Minister for Africa (Lord Triesman of Tottenham) summoned the Zimbabwean chargé d'affaires to the FCO to express the Government's outrage at the recent crackdown which has rendered hundreds of thousands homeless. Our ambassador in Harare has protested directly to both the Zimbabwean Vice President and the Minister of National Security. We have also raised our concerns with other African Governments and urged them to make their own representations to the government of Zimbabwe.

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if the Government will make representations for Operation Murabatsvina to be discussed at the African Union Summit in Libya. [8706]

**Ian Pearson:** The agenda for the African Union Summit is a matter for the African Union. But we have made clear our hope that African governments will address the situation in Zimbabwe. My noble Friend the Foreign and Commonwealth Office Minister for Africa (Lord Triesman of Tottenham) and my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for International Development (Hilary Benn) will attend the summit on 4 and 5 July and will make our views clear.

## NORTHERN IRELAND

### Adult Education

**Mr. Dodds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people have participated in adult education courses in Northern Ireland in each year since 1997. [7837]

**Angela E. Smith:** The term "adult education" primarily refers to provision in further education colleges for those aged 18 years and over, as well as those undertaking adult basic education through Essential Skills courses and Learndirect. Total numbers of enrolments are as follows.

| Academic year | Total |
|---|---|
| 1997/98 | 117,060 |
| 1998/99 | 115,022 |
| 1999/2000 | 123,229 |
| 2000/01 | 128,029 |
| 2001/02 | 131,293 |
| 2002/03 | 114,921 |
| 2003/04 | 149,766 |

### Breast Screening

**Mrs. Iris Robinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the take-up is of breast screening opportunities for women in the age categories for which the service is offered through the NHS; and if he will make a statement. [8800]

**Mr. Woodward:** Currently breast screening in Northern Ireland is offered to women in the age group 50 to 64, with an interval of approximately 36 months between the date of a women's previous appointment and the date of their next offered appointment.

For year end March 2004 the uptake rate among women within the target age group was as set out in the following table.

| Board | Percentage uptake |
|---|---|
| Eastern | 68.5 |
| Northern | 82.8 |
| Southern | 76.4 |
| Western | 78.8 |
| Northern Ireland | 75.5 |

The uptake rate in the Eastern board area continues to fall behind that in the other three boards. Efforts are continuing there to improve the rate particularly among ethnic minorities and women with disabilities. Health professionals are collaborating in this with voluntary groups such as Action Cancer.

### Cancer Deaths

**Mrs. Iris Robinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many women have died from *(a)* ovarian cancer and *(b)* breast cancer in each board area since 2000 in Northern Ireland; and if he will make a statement. [8799]

**Mr. Woodward:** The table gives the number of deaths registered in Northern Ireland of female residents in each health and social services board area in each year between 2000 and 2004, where the cause of death was recorded as either *(a)* malignant neoplasm of ovary or *(b)* malignant neoplasm of breast.

In January 2004 the Regional Cancer Services Framework Steering Group was established to consider the future development of cancer services, including the treatment and care of people with ovarian and breast cancer. The group is expected to report in autumn 2005.

*Number of deaths registered in Northern Ireland*

| | *Malignant neoplasm of ovary* | | | | | *Neoplasm of breast* | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* |
| Eastern | 43 | 43 | 54 | 56 | 52 | 122 | 146 | 125 | 123 | 134 |
| Northern | 16 | 28 | 28 | 41 | 35 | 80 | 72 | 58 | 78 | 81 |
| Southern | 19 | 25 | 16 | 16 | 22 | 47 | 62 | 45 | 47 | 63 |
| Western | 22 | 20 | 12 | 16 | 12 | 40 | 34 | 49 | 39 | 42 |
| Total | 100 | 116 | 110 | 129 | 121 | 289 | 314 | 277 | 287 | 320 |

### Care Homes

**Mr. Dodds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* nursing homes and *(b)* residential homes in Northern Ireland charge top-up fees; and what the average top-up fees are in each case. [7824]

**Mr. Woodward:** For the cases under its care management, the Health and Personal Social Services (HPSS) contracts with independent sector care home providers to meet the full cost of assessed care needs. Additional payments, sometimes known as top ups, should only be on the basis of clearly defined added value. The HPSS has no right of access to information about payments that are not part of its contracts with independent providers.

### Clinical Negligence

**Lady Hermon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many clinical negligence complaints have been lodged in Northern Ireland in each of the last three years; and how many of those complaints have been resolved. [9131]

**Mr. Woodward:** The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Consultants

**Mrs. Dean:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what plans he has to issue guidance on effective commissioning for those in the public and voluntary sectors who are commissioning work from external consultants. [7027]

**Angela E. Smith:** The Department of Finance and Personnel has recently issued new guidance, on the effective commissioning of work from external consultants. This is in the form of a Dear Accounting Officer letter (DAO 03/05) and is applicable throughout the public sector. A good practice guide on Finance and Governance in the Community and Voluntary Sector, prepared jointly by Government Departments and the sector, will be launched on 19 July. This refers the Community and Voluntary sector to relevant guidance on procurement and puts in place arrangements for funding bodies to support the sector in applying relevant guidelines.

### Electricity Costs

**Mr. Dodds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the average amount spent by each household in Northern Ireland on electricity was in the last year for which figures are available. [7835]

**Angela E. Smith:** The average household electricity bill in Northern Ireland for the year ended 31 March 2005 was £412.

The Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment is continuing to work towards securing EU State aid approval of a proposed Government intervention aimed at reducing electricity prices. As an interim measure, £8.8 million of the available funding has been allocated to assist with energy efficiency measures which will have the effect of an average 1.5 per cent. reduction in electricity tariffs for all customers in the 2005–06 tariff year.

### EU Presidency

**Mr. Dodds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what activities and meetings are planned to take place in Northern Ireland in connection with the UK presidency of the European Union. [7099]

**Angela E. Smith:** Northern Ireland will host, on behalf of the Department for Work and Pensions, the Informal Meeting of EU Employment Ministers in Belfast on 7–9 July 2005.

Other events to be held will include: a meeting in Belfast of EU environmental attachés on 24–27 July; a conference of EU paying agencies due to take place in Belfast on 13–14 October; a conference on the creative industries being staged in Belfast by a private organisation, "Creative Clusters" on 26 October; and Opportunity Europe (26 September to 4 October), a programme of events designed to highlight the multiple links between Northern Ireland and the rest of Europe.

### Free Bus Travel

**Mr. Donaldson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what plans he has to introduce free bus travel for people with disabilities in Northern Ireland. [9364]

**Mr. Woodward:** Blind people and war pensioners already receive free travel and other groups of people with disabilities are entitled to half fare travel. There are no plans to extend the provision of free fares.

### Freedom of Information

**Mr. Dodds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many requests for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 have been made to each of the Northern Ireland Government Departments since the introduction of the legislation. [7094]

**Angela E. Smith:** The following table sets out the number of requests for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 made to each of the Northern Ireland Departments between the 1 January 2005 and 17 June 2005.

| *Department* | *Number of requests* |
|---|---|
| Agriculture and Rural Development | 134 |
| Culture, Arts and Leisure | [1]535 |
| Education | 70 |
| Employment and Learning | 50 |
| Enterprise, Trade and Investment | 33 |
| Finance and Personnel | 202 |
| Health, Social Services and Public Safety | 63 |
| Environment | 393 |
| Regional Development | 179 |
| Social Development | 82 |
| Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister | 47 |
| Total | [2]1,788 |

[1] Figure includes requests made to the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland.
[2] A further 98 requests for information were received by Northern Ireland Office (NIO) during the same period.

### Further Education Colleges

**Mr. Dodds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many students there have been in colleges of further education in Northern Ireland in each year since 1997. [7840]

**Angela E. Smith:** Figures for total enrolments per academic year in Northern Ireland further education colleges are only available from 1998–99. The most up-to-date audited figures available are for academic year 2002–03. These figures are set out in the following table.

*Total enrolments in the NI FE sector by Mode of Attendance from 1998–99 to 2002–03*

| | *Mode of Attendance* | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Academic year* | *Full-time* | *Part-time (including non-voc)* | *Total* |
| 1998–99 | 26,992 | 156,296 | 183,288 |
| 1999–2000 | 27,245 | 165,962 | 193,207 |
| 2000–01 | 27,918 | 175,241 | 203,159 |
| 2001–02 | 27,459 | 169,430 | 196,889 |
| 2002–03 | 27,524 | 170,437 | 197,961 |

*Notes:*
1. Data is extracted from the Further Education Statistical Record.
2. The merger of the Northern Ireland Hotel and Catering College and the University of Ulster in 2001 is responsible for an approximate total enrolment decline of 3,000 between 2001–02 and 2002–03.

### Health and Safety Inspections

**Lady Hermon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* planned and *(b)* unannounced health and safety inspections were carried out in each health and safety district in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [7164]

**Angela E. Smith:** The number of inspections carried out by each district council is provided in the following table, for the years for which they are available. A breakdown between *(a)* planned and *(b)* unannounced inspections is not available.

*Number of inspections carried out by district councils*

| | *2001–02* | *2002–03* | *2003–04* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Antrim | 155 | 122 | 110 |
| Ards | 308 | 288 | 312 |

*Number of inspections carried out by district councils*

| | 2001–02 | 2002–03 | 2003–04 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Armagh | 191 | 123 | 138 |
| Ballymena | 427 | 425 | 394 |
| Ballymoney | 58 | 48 | 61 |
| Banbridge | 106 | 197 | 107 |
| Belfast | 316 | 714 | 519 |
| Carrickfergus | 62 | 35 | 70 |
| Castlereagh | 135 | 166 | 168 |
| Coleraine | 158 | 165 | 237 |
| Cookstown | 49 | 47 | 26 |
| Craigavon | 260 | 233 | 161 |
| Down | 228 | 319 | 172 |
| Dungannon | 83 | 24 | 40 |
| Fermanagh | n/k | 112 | 169 |
| Larne | 48 | 83 | 91 |
| Limavady | 108 | 133 | 94 |
| Lisburn | 602 | 617 | 489 |
| Londonderry | 328 | 310 | 514 |
| Magherafelt | 50 | 91 | 60 |
| Moyle | 32 | 24 | 34 |
| Newry | 176 | 142 | 136 |
| Newtownabbey | 265 | 127 | 147 |
| North Down | 288 | 333 | 347 |
| Omagh | 122 | 62 | 132 |
| Strabane | 63 | 80 | 77 |
| Total | 4,618 | 5,020 | 4,805 |

## Health and Safety Staffing

**Lady Hermon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many Health and Safety officials are employed in each health and safety district in Northern Ireland broken down by rank; and what the equivalent figures were in each of the last five years. [7163]

**Angela E. Smith:** The number of Officers authorised by District Councils under the Health and Safety at Work Order (NI) 1978, for the years for which they are available, are provided in the following table. Not all of these officers spent all of their time working on health and safety issues and therefore the full time equivalents are also given. Figures by rank are not available although officers will either be Environmental Health Officers or Senior Environmental Health Officers.

*Number of officers authorised by district councils under the Health and Safety at Work (NI) Order 1978 and their full-time equivalents (FTEs)*

| | 2001–02 | | 2002–03 | | 2003–04 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| District council | Number of Officers | FTEs | Number of Officers | FTEs | Number of Officers | FTEs |
| Antrim | 3 | 0.9 | 2 | 0.8 | 2 | 0.8 |
| Ards | 3 | 1.5 | 3 | 1.5 | 8 | 1.3 |
| Armagh | 1.5 | 1.5 | 4 | 1.25 | 4 | 1.25 |
| Ballymena | 8 | 2 | 8 | 2.25 | 5 | 3 |
| Ballymoney | 4 | 0.16 | 6 | 0.35 | 6 | 0.36 |
| Banbridge | 1 | 0.6 | 1 | 0.6 | 4 | 1.8 |
| Belfast | 7 | 6 | 6.5 | 6.5 | 7 | 5 |
| Carrickfergus | 1 | n/k | 1 | n/k | 2 | 0.4 |
| Castlereagh | 6.5 | 1.2 | 5.5 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Coleraine | 2 | 1 | 7 | 1 | 10 | 2 |
| Cookstown | 3 | 0.5 | 3 | 0.33 | 3 | 0.33 |
| Craigavon | n/k | 1.5 | 7 | 2 | 7 | 1 |
| Down | 2 | 1.5 | 3 | 1.8 | 8 | 1.8 |
| Dungannon | n/k | 1.38 | 0 | 1.38 | n/k | 1.38 |
| Fermanagh | 5 | 1 | 5 | 1.2 | 8 | 1.8 |
| Larne | 5 | 0.45 | 5 | 0.75 | 4 | 0.5 |
| Limavady | 3.75 | 1.15 | 5 | 1.26 | 5 | 1.25 |
| Lisburn | 9 | 2 | 9 | 1.2 | 11 | 1.2 |
| Londonderry | 4 | 2.5 | 8 | 2 | 8 | 2 |
| Magherafelt | 4 | 0.4 | 5 | 0.35 | 5 | 0.3 |
| Moyle | 3 | 0.3 | 1 | 0.3 | 1 | 0.25 |
| Newry | 2 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 0.7 |
| Newtonabbey | 10 | 1.65 | 2 | 0.9 | 2 | 1.5 |
| North Down | 1.5 | n/k | 2 | 1.5 | 2 | 1.5 |
| Omagh | n/k | 0.75 | 1 | 0.4 | 1 | 0.75 |
| Strabane | n/k | 1.05 | n/k | 0.97 | 1 | 1.05 |
| Totals | 105 | 34.5 | 103 | 32.59 | 116 | 34.22 |

## Human Rights Commission

**Lady Hermon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many applications were received for the post of Commissioner within the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission, broken down by party political affiliation; how many applicants were short-listed, broken down by party political affiliation; and what the nationality was of each applicant. [7577]

**Mr. Hanson:** 164 applications were received for the post of Commissioner.

Applicants were not asked to confirm their nationality.

Applicants were not asked to confirm their party political affiliation. As is standard in public appointments, applicants were asked on their application form to indicate whether they had undertaken any of the following activities during the past five years.

Obtained office as a Local Councillor, MP, MEP, MLA etc.

Stood as a candidate for one of the above offices.

Spoken on behalf of a political party or candidate.

Acted as a political agent.

Held office, such as chair, treasurer or secretary of a local branch of a political party.

Canvassed on behalf of a political party or helped at elections.

Undertaken any other political activity which they considered relevant.

Made a recordable donation to a political party.

When a candidate indicated that they had undertaken one or more activity, they were asked to indicate the party for which the activity was undertaken. This is broken down as follows for all applicants:

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| Alliance Party | 8 |
| Labour | 8 |
| SDLP | 6 |
| UUP | 4 |
| NI Women's Coalition | 3 |
| DUP | 3 |
| Liberal Democrat | 2 |
| Worker's Party | 2 |
| Fianna Fail | 1 |
| Green Party | 1 |
| No activity indicated | 126 |

87 applicants met the criteria required to be short-listed for interview. The political parties for which activities were undertaken by these applicants are broken down as follows:

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| Labour | 8 |
| Alliance Party | 4 |
| SDLP | 4 |
| NI Women's Coalition | 3 |
| UUP | 2 |
| DUP | 2 |
| Worker's Party | 1 |
| Green Party | 1 |
| No activity indicated | 62 |

### Illiteracy

**Mr. Dodds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many adults in Northern Ireland have been classified as illiterate in each year since 1997. [7839]

**Angela E. Smith:** Research to date has focused on measuring levels of literacy and at present no data is available which specifically identifies the levels of illiteracy. The International Adult Literacy Survey (IALS) which was conducted in 1996 indicated that 24 per cent. of the adult population in Northern Ireland performed at the lowest level of literacy, Level 1.

Of those adults performing at the lowest level of literacy:

20 per cent. were aged between 16–25;

16 per cent. were aged between 26–35;

21 per cent. were aged between 36–45;

43 per cent. were aged over 45.

Since the launch of the essential skills for living strategy in October 2002 to March 2005, 28,965 adults have been supported to improve their levels of literacy and numeracy.

### Kidney Transplants

**Lady Hermon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people are awaiting a kidney transplant in Northern Ireland, broken down by health trust; and how long each patient has been waiting. [9128]

**Mr. Woodward:** There are currently 261 people waiting for kidney transplants at Northern Ireland hospitals.

A breakdown of this figure by health trust is not available.

Transplantation is very much dependent upon the availability of suitable donor organs which can be matched to the potential recipient. The average waiting time at present for a kidney transplant is 2.5 years.

### Mackie's Site, West Belfast

**Mr. Dodds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much has been spent by *(a)* Invest Northern Ireland and *(b)* other Government agencies and departments in respect of the road layout in the Mackie's site in West Belfast; when such works were ordered to begin; and who gave the authority for such work to begin. [7850]

**Angela E. Smith:** It is extremely difficult to make a meaningful separation of the roads element of this major civil engineering project which also includes earthworks, embankments and services. The total cost of the project is £2.7 million. The contractor was appointed on 30 March 2004 following ministerial approval for the project on 20 May 2003.

### NHS Dentistry

**Mrs. Iris Robinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what percentage of people are registered with an NHS dentist in each board area in Northern Ireland; and if he will make a statement. [8777]

**Mr. Woodward:** Information requested is provided in the following table.

*Percentage of persons registered with an NHS dentist by HSS board, May 2005*

| *HSS board* | *Percentage of persons registered with an NHS dentist* [1,2] |
|---|---|
| Eastern | 52.0 |
| Northern | 53.0 |
| Southern | 55.0 |
| Western | 44.0 |

[1] Figures are derived from dental registration data and the 2003 mid-year estimate of population (latest available from General Registrar Northern Ireland).
[2] Figures are based on HSS board of residency of the patient.
*Source:*
Central Services Agency

Registration with a dentist is entirely voluntary and in itself is not an accurate measurement of the numbers of people who receive dental treatment. However, the fact

that someone is registered with a general dental practice and attends for check-ups means that they will benefit from oral health advice and problems can be picked up more quickly and before intervention is required.

### Parade Application

**Lady Hermon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland on what date the office of the Chief Constable of the Police Service of Northern Ireland received the legal opinion about Parade Application Form 11/1. [9134]

**Mr. Woodward:** The Chief Constable received the legal opinion about Parade Application 11/1 on 6 June 2005.

### Paramedic Services

**Mrs. Iris Robinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether he plans to introduce NHS car/motorcycle paramedic services in Northern Ireland as an alternative to the use of the traditional ambulance; and if he will make a statement. [8774]

**Mr. Woodward:** The Northern Ireland Ambulance Service currently deploys six rapid response vehicles manned by single paramedics to provide treatment in life-threatening cases until a conventional ambulance arrives to transport the patient to hospital if necessary. There are no plans to introduce a motorcycle paramedic service in Northern Ireland.

The Department is currently considering the Department of Health's strategic review of NHS ambulance services in England, "Taking Healthcare to the Patient—Transforming NHS Ambulance Services" published last week, which announces changes in the way ambulances deliver care in England, to determine to what extent its recommendations are relevant to Northern Ireland.

### Rates Revenue

**Mr. Dodds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the total revenue from *(a)* the regional rates and *(b)* district rates in Northern Ireland was in each year since 2001. [7101]

**Angela E. Smith:** The following table shows the rate revenue generated from the regional rate and the district rate in Northern Ireland for each year since 2001.

£

| | *Regional rate* | *District rate* |
|---|---|---|
| 2001–02 | 324,774,999 | 242,607,628 |
| 2002–03 | 345,824,458 | 260,491,333 |
| 2003–04 | 368,618,570 | 284,367,910 |
| 2004–05 | n/a | n/a |

n/a = Not available until October 2005

### Restorative Justice Schemes

**Lady Hermon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will make a statement on his Department's policy on restorative justice schemes in Northern Ireland. [9133]

**Mr. Hanson:** Government have been working with local community restorative justice organisations to develop guidelines to enable the operation of an accredited community based restorative justice scheme. The scheme would enable local community-based initiatives to deal with low level crime, in line with the recommendations in the Criminal Justice Review.

Guidelines will require the upholding of individual human rights, participation with criminal justice organisations including the police, accreditation and adherence to agreed standards.

### Schools

**Mr. Dodds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many pupils resident in the Belfast Education and Library Board area have attended schools outside that area in each year since 2001. [7841]

**Angela E. Smith:** The information in respect of post-primary pupils is as follows:

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2000–01 | 3,189 |
| 2001–02 | 3,099 |
| 2002–03 | 3,052 |
| 2003–04 | 3,036 |
| 2004–05 | 3,007 |

The information is currently not collected for primary schools or special schools.

### Visually Impaired People

**Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people are registered as visually impaired in Northern Ireland; what services are available for people who are visually impaired; what steps he is taking to improve provision; and if he will make a statement. [8112]

**Mr. Woodward:** The Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety holds records of those who are blind and partially sighted who have been in contact with Health and Social Services Trusts. Latest figures available for 2003–04 indicate that there are: 2,273 people who are blind, 3,122 people who are partially sighted giving a total of 5,395 people who are either blind or partially sighted.

New certification and registration procedures introduced in April 2005 will ensure that those with serious visual impairment are fast tracked towards relevant social services support within their Health and Social Services Trust. In addition there are comprehensive peripatetic low vision outreach services across the whole province. Other specialist services are available for children and special needs patients. There is also a network of sensory support teams, including social services, which regularly meet to discuss needs and future service delivery.

Northern Ireland is also participating in clinical trials for new drug therapies for Age Related Macular Degeneration. It is thought that Belfast is the only United Kingdom centre for one of these trials. Queens University in Belfast is one of three centres in the whole of the United Kingdom that provides analysis of eye

angiograms through a central angiographic facility. Data from this facility is used to inform state-of-the-art diagnosis for macular degeneration.

The Department's Social Services Inspectorate launched its report "Challenge and Change" about services for adults with a sensory loss. That report will help inform service development of sensory services in the medium to longer term in both the statutory and voluntary sector in Northern Ireland.

### Waste Collection

**Mr. Dodds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the cost of collecting household rubbish per household in Northern Ireland has been in each year since 1997. [7832]

**Angela E. Smith:** The information requested was not held centrally until 2002–03. The following figures reflect the cost per household of collecting household waste for the financial years 2002–03 and 2003–04. Information for 2004–05 is not yet available.

*Cost per household (NI)*

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2002–03 | 33.51 |
| 2003–04 | 34.63 |

## HEALTH

### Adverse Drug Reactions (Older People)

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what her most recent estimate is of the number of *(a)* 50 to 64-year-olds, *(b)* 65 to 74-year-olds and *(c)* over 75-year-olds who (i) died and (ii) were injured in a year as a result of adverse drug reactions. [6658]

**Jane Kennedy:** The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency's pharmacovigilance database does not hold specific information on the number of people who were injured as a result of an adverse drug reaction (ADR).

The table shows the total number and number of fatal of "suspected adverse" drug reaction (ADR) reports received via the yellow card scheme from 1 January to 31 December 2004 for each age group.

*Number of reports received via the yellow card scheme*

| *Age (years)* | *Number of adverse drug reaction reports* | *Number of fatal adverse drug reaction reports* |
|---|---|---|
| 50–64 | 4,017 | 180 |
| 65–74 | 2,727 | 143 |
| 75+ | 2,390 | 194 |

It is important to note that a report of an adverse drug reaction does not necessarily mean that it was caused by the drug. Many factors have to be taken into account in assessing causal relationships including temporal association, the possible contribution of concomitant medication and the underlying disease. It is particularly important to note that causality has not been established for fatal reports.

### Alliance Medical Ltd.

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what factors were taken into consideration when determining whether Alliance Medical should provide scanning services in the NHS. [2253]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answer 6 June 2005]:* The contract was negotiated based on increasing clinical capacity, improving patient care, an ability to deliver service and value for money.

Alliance Medical Ltd. demonstrated its ability to provide additional radiologists and radiographers to carry out the scans and reports, which was an important aspect to the procurement. The contract was secured at a competitive price compared to the NHS equivalent cost and makes use of 12 mobile scanning units to provide high quality services direct to patients in response to the changing requirements of the national health service.

### Alzheimer's Disease

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what measures have been taken to assist carers of patients with advanced Alzheimer's disease in Hornsey and Wood Green; and if she will make a statement. [7805]

**Jane Kennedy:** All carers, including those caring for people with dementia, are entitled to an assessment to determine their needs as carers and eligibility for support. This Government have supported legislation, which supports all carers in their caring role. The Carers and Disabled Children Act 2000 strengthens the rights of carers to an assessment of their own needs as carers. The Carers (Equal Opportunities) Act 2004 introduces new provisions that will ensure that carers are made aware of this right.

The carers grant, worth £185 million this year, provides money for local councils to provide short breaks and services to carers to enable them to continue in their caring role. Carers are also entitled to cash payments for carers' services to enable them to purchase the type of support they require and promote a better quality of life.

At local level, Haringey Teaching Primary Care Trust has worked with London borough of Haringey, service providers, the voluntary sector and carers to create a carer's strategy for Haringey. The strategy addresses the needs of carers of all types of patients and incorporates the requirements of the Carers (Equal Opportunities) Act 2004 in terms of opportunities for work, education, training and life-long learning. An action plan, based on the recommendations in the strategy, is being finalised at present and should be implemented shortly.

### Antipsychotic Medication

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many prescriptions were issued in each of the last five years for *(a)* atypical, *(b)* traditional and *(c)* all antipsychotic medication in each (i) region and (ii) health authority for (A) 0 to 15 years, (B) 16 to 59 years and (C) 60 years and over age groups. [2909]

**Jane Kennedy** *[pursuant to the reply, 15 June 2005, Official Report, c. 499–500W]:* I regret that the table placed in the Library in my previous reply is incorrect. The total for the category aged 60 and over states 96,000 items were dispensed in 2003, and it should read 950,000.

This incorrect figure was also given in the table in the reply to the hon. Member on 27 January 2005, *Official Report*, column 544W. The correct tables will be placed in the Library.

## Arm's-length Bodies

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what changes outlined in the Department's Implementation Framework for reconfiguring its arm's length bodies, published on 30 November 2004, will require *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary legislation. [3357]

**Jane Kennedy:** The changes outlined in the Department's implementation framework for reconfiguring its arm's length bodies will require legislation affecting the following bodies as shown in the table.

*Legislation required for reconfiguration of arm's length bodies*

| | *Legislation already enacted* | *Legislation to come* |
|---|---|---|
| *Bodies being set up* | | |
| Human Tissue Authority[1] | Primary | — |
| Health and Social Care Information Centre | Secondary | — |
| NHS Institute for Innovation and Improvement | — | Secondary |
| NHS Blood and Transplant | — | Secondary |
| NHS Business Services Authority | — | Secondary |
| Regulatory Authority for Tissue and Embryology | — | Primary |
| *Bodies being dissolved or merged* | | |
| Family Health Services Appeal Authority | Secondary | — |
| Health Development Agency | Secondary | — |
| National Clinical Assessment Authority | Secondary | — |
| NHS Information Authority | Secondary | — |
| National Radiological Protection Board | Primary | — |
| Public Health Laboratory Service | Primary | — |
| NHSU | — | Secondary |
| National Blood Authority | — | Secondary |
| UK Transplant | — | Secondary |
| Dental Practice Board | — | Secondary |
| NHS Pensions Agency | — | Secondary |
| Prescription Pricing Authority | — | Secondary |
| Dental Vocational Training Authority | — | Secondary |
| National Biological Standards Board | — | Primary |
| NHS Estates—Trading Fund Order winding up | — | Secondary |
| NHS Logistics | — | Secondary |
| Commission for Patient and Public Involvement in Health | — | Primary |
| Merger of the Healthcare Commission and the Commission for Social Care Inspection | — | Primary |
| Mental Health Act Commission | — | Primary |
| Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority | — | Primary |
| Human Tissue Authority[1] | — | Primary |
| *Changes involving other bodies* | | |
| NHS Litigation Authority—amendment order | Secondary | — |
| National Patient Safety Agency—amendment order | Secondary | — |
| National Institute for Clinical Excellence—amendment order | Secondary | — |
| NHS Appointments Commission—additional powers | — | Primary |
| NHS Pensions Agency—additional powers | — | Primary |
| Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Authority—Trading Fund Order amendment | — | Secondary |
| NHS Direct—new governance arrangements[2] | — | — |
| NHS Professionals—new governance arrangements[2] | — | — |

[1] Human Tissue Authority—set up April 2005, to be absorbed into the Regulatory Authority for Tissue and Embryology in April 2008.
[2] It has yet to be decided whether these changes will require any kind of legislation.

## Cancer

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 26 May 2005, *Official Report*, columns 76–77W, on breast cancer, what discussions her Department has had with the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence since the Magnetic Resonance Imaging for Breast Screening study became available. [7844]

**Ms Rosie Winterton** *[holding answer 28 June 2005]:* The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) normally reviews its guidelines after three to five years to ensure that they continue to reflect the best available evidence. Should NICE be aware of any trials or research projects that are due for completion after the published appraisal, NICE will then bring forward the review date to coincide with completion of the trial or research.

The NICE guideline on familial breast cancer noted that several magnetic resonance imaging studies would be reporting over the following two years, and that the recommendations in the guideline would be reviewed when the information from these studies became available.

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of breast cancer patients lived for at least five years after treatment in the last period for which figures are available; and if she will make a statement. [8123]

**John Healey:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Len Cook to Ms Lynne Featherstone, dated 30 June 2005:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question concerning what percentage of breast cancer patients lived for at least five years after treatment in the last period for which figures are available. [8123]

Information on cancer survival based on treatment dates is not available from registration information held centrally. Routinely available survival rates are calculated from date of diagnosis.

The latest available survival rates for breast cancer in England are for adult patients (aged 15–99 years) diagnosed during 1998–2001 and followed up to 31 December 2003. The five-year age-standardised[1] relative survival rate for female patients diagnosed with breast cancer during 1998–2001[2] in England was 79.9 per cent.

The survival statistics are available on the National Statistics website at: http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Productasp?vlnk=14007

[1] As cancer survival varies with age at diagnosis, rates have been age standardised to control for changes in the age profile of cancer patients over time.

[2] Complete five-year follow-up is currently only available for those diagnosed in 1998. For patients diagnosed in later years the most up-to-date estimates of shorter-term survival were used in this analysis of survival rates.

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what financial resources are being made available in 2005–06 for *(a)* research into and *(b)* increasing public awareness of the causes of (i) lung cancer, (ii) prostate cancer, (iii) heart disease and (iv) cervical cancer; and if she will make a statement. [6697]

**Jane Kennedy:** The main agency through which the Government supports medical and clinical research is the Medical Research Council (MRC). The MRC is unable at this stage to predict 2005–06 spend by topic.

Over 75 per cent. of the Department's total expenditure on health research is devolved to and managed by national health service organisations. Research active NHS organisations account for their use of the research and development allocations they receive from the Department in an annual report. These retrospective reports analyse expenditure by reference to some 16 national priority areas including cancer and coronary heart disease.

The National Cancer Research Institute (NCRI) publishes a strategic analysis that provides a detailed overview of the cancer research in the United Kingdom that is directly funded by the NCRIs 20 partner organisations. The latest analysis can be found on the NCRI's website at: www.ncri.org.uk/crd/index.cfm?NavSub=10. This shows the proportion of expenditure on research under way on 1 April 2004 devoted to a number of tumour types.

Smoking and tobacco use are major causes of a number of cancers and of coronary heart disease and the Department has an ongoing campaign using national media, helplines and support materials that increases public awareness of this. Some £41 million is being allocated to the campaign in 2005–06.

Cervical cancer is caused by an infection that is nearly always sexually transmitted. The Department will launch a £50 million advertising campaign later this year promoting condom use and highlighting the risks from sexually transmitted infections.

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement on cervical cancer screening in the NHS. [8044]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** In 2003–04, 81 per cent. of eligible women in England had a cervical screening test result at least once in the last five years[1]. 3.6 million women were screened[2] and laboratories reported four million tests. 128,000 women were referred following abnormal results.

Following an appraisal by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) in 2003, the cervical screening programme in England is currently being modernised with the introduction of liquid based cytology (LBC). LBC techniques offer a new way to prepare screening test samples for examination in the laboratory. NICE concluded LBC will reduce the number of unsatisfactory tests and improve the speed with which slides can be read. Due to a large retraining programme, full implementation is expected by 2008.

The Government are also committed to speeding up the results of cervical screening, and officials are working on the best way of taking this forward.

*References:*

[1] Department of Health Statistical Bulletin, Cervical Screening Programme, England: 2002–03

[2] Department of Health Statistical Bulletin, Cervical Screening Programme, England: 2002–03

**Mr. Havard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will investigate the Pan Birmingham Cancer Network's decision to place a moratorium on the use of a number of newly licensed cancer drugs. [8511]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** It is for individual cancer networks and primary care trusts to make decisions on the drugs they wish to make available to patients, taking into account the needs of the local population and, where appropriate, national guidance from National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence.

We are putting record amounts of new investment into the national health service. Between 2003 and 2008, NHS expenditure in England will increase on average by 7.5 per cent., each year. It is for PCTs to decide how best to spend these resources taking into account local circumstances.

In the case of recently licensed treatments, the Department has made it clear that funding should not be withheld because guidance from NICE is

unavailable. In these circumstances, the Department expects PCTs to take full account of the available evidence when reaching funding decisions.

### Counterfeit Medicines

**Mr. Walker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what actions the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency is taking to tackle the distribution of counterfeit medicines through the supply chain; and if she will make a statement; [5676]

(2) what steps her Department takes *(a)* to advise patients about counterfeit medicines and *(b)* to educate patients to identify counterfeit medicines; and if she will make a statement; [5677]

(3) what action her Department is taking to tackle the *(a)* production, *(b)* import and *(c)* purchase of counterfeit medicines; and if she will make a statement; [5678]

(4) what the estimated value of counterfeit medicines entering the UK supply chain was in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement; [5679]

(5) what discussions her Department has had with Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs on counterfeit medicines; and if she will make a statement. [5680]

**Jane Kennedy:** The regulation of all medicines on the United Kingdom market is undertaken by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) on behalf of Health Ministers. The MHRA is an executive agency of the Department. Its primary aim is to protect public health through the control of medicines on the UK market. This is achieved through a licensing and inspection system, which assures medicines conform to agreed standards of quality, safety and efficacy, and further ensures that licensed medicines are manufactured, stored and distributed to maintain these standards.

In August 2004, two counterfeit products, purporting respectively to be Cialis, an erectile dysfunction treatment, and Reductil, an anti-obesity treatment, were discovered in the legitimate UK supply chain. This is the first time in 10 years that counterfeit products are known to have reached the legitimate UK supply chain.

Over 600 million prescriptions are written annually in the UK. Therefore these two discoveries of counterfeit medicines in the small numbers that reached the legitimate UK supply chain, prior to recall, needs to be viewed in that context. However, the MHRA takes each and every such case very seriously and full investigation follows discovery.

The number of boxes of counterfeit Cialis, including part-boxes, that were returned following the MHRA recall was 2,300. Each 20 milligrammes (mg) box of four Cialis tablets is valued at £23.40[1]. The number of boxes, including part-boxes, of counterfeit Reductil that were returned following the MHRA recall was 61. Each 10 mg box of 28 Reductil capsules is valued at £41.29[1].

The MHRA's intelligence unit coordinates a comprehensive agency-wide anti-counterfeiting strategy to apply an array of measures to ensure that counterfeit medicines do not penetrate the UK medicines supply chain.

This includes regular liaison with all stakeholders including Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) and other law enforcement agencies on all manners of pharmaceutical crime. HMRC collaboration focuses on tackling importations of counterfeit medicines through its border controls. Another key area of such collaboration with HMRC includes joint meetings with the pharmaceutical industry to identify ways to collectively deal with counterfeit medicines.

Educational aspects of the MHRA anti-counterfeiting strategy are primarily focussed on stakeholder education at a national and European level. The aim being to ensure that necessary procedures are in place throughout the supply chain to prevent counterfeit medicine penetration. Thus, a patient can confidently receive a safe, good quality and efficacious medicine through the regulated medicines supply chain.

Educating patients to identify counterfeit medicines is considered counter-productive in that it could lead to the undermining of public confidence in the UK medicines distribution chain and perfectly safe treatment regimes. Also, potential checks by the public are likely to prove futile as most counterfeit medicines cannot be detected by the untrained eye and even trained personnel often have to rely on forensic laboratory testing to confirm counterfeits.

The MHRA has launched an internet campaign to warn the public of the potential dangers involved with purchasing medicines over the internet where some, but not all, websites belong to unscrupulous vendors that sell counterfeit medicines. An education campaign is also being drafted to target those members of the public who purchase medicines through illicit means.

[1] Monthly Index of Medical Specialities (MIMS) June 2005

### Dentistry

**Mr. Walker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many dentists in Hertfordshire have applied for personal dentist service contracts; and if she will make a statement. [7487]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The information requested is not collected by dentist but by dental practice. The number of dental practices that have applied for personal dental service contracts in Hertfordshire is 18, across the eight Hertfordshire primary care trusts.

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many dentists undertaking NHS work there are in *(a)* Lancashire and *(b)* Chorley South Ribble primary care trust; and if she will list the practices which are taking new patients. [7661]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Information relating to the numbers of dentists undertaking national health service dental work across Lancashire is shown in the table.

*General dental service (GDS) and personal dental service (PDS)—number of dentists by primary care trust (PCT) at 31 March 2005*

| *Cumbria and Lancashire strategic health authority (SHA)—Lancashire PCTs* | *All dentists* |
|---|---|
| Blackburn with Darwen PCT | 60 |
| Blackpool PCT | 57 |
| Burnley, Pendle and Rossendale PCT | 91 |
| Chorley and South Ribble PCT | 81 |

*General dental service (CDS) and personal dental service (PDS)—number of dentists by primary care trust (PCT) at 31 March 2005*

| *Cumbria and Lancashire strategic health authority (SHA)—Lancashire PCTs* | *All dentists* |
|---|---|
| Fylde PCT | 35 |
| Hyndburn and Ribble Valley PCT | 54 |
| Morecambe Bay PCT | 130 |
| Preston PCT | 72 |
| West Lancashire PCT | 54 |
| Wyre PCT | 38 |
| Total | 672 |

*Note:*
The figures given by PCT and SHA include all dentists practicing in that area. Some dentists have an open GDS or PDS contract in more than one PCT or SHA and will, therefore, appear in the figures for each PCT where they practice.

Local PCTs and NHS Direct are able to provide information about dental practices that are currently taking on new NHS patients.

**Sir Paul Beresford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how the Dental Practice Board calculates the notional patient lists for personal dental services applicants. [9659]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** At the start of a personal dental service (PDS) arrangement the primary care trust (PCT) negotiates a patient list with the dental practice. The PCT then instruct the Dental Practice Board (DPB) to transfer the patient list from either an existing general dental service or PDS contract. The patient list is then amended from records supplied to the DPB by the dental surgery working in PDS.

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans she has to increase the number of NHS dentists in Portsmouth. [5976]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** In 2004–05, Portsmouth City Primary Care Trust (PCT) received an allocation of £120,000 in dental access funding. Of this allocation, £60,000 was to support the development of personal dental service (PDS) agreements and provide an increase of up to 6,000 additional patient registrations. £23,400 was used to increase provision for unregistered patients needing urgent dental care.

I am advised that Portsmouth City PCT has locally recruited three new dentists from overseas. The PCT is in negotiation with a number of practices, who wish to change to PDS and initial discussions have taken place with a view to a new surgery opening in Portsmouth.

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost of providing NHS dentistry in Portsmouth was in each of the last five years; how the money was allocated; and if she will make a statement. [6006]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Primary care provided by independent general dental practitioners (GDPs) forms the major element of national health service dental services. Most GDPs operate within the national terms of the general dental service (GDS), although some have opted to provide similar patient services under local contracts agreed with their primary care trust (PCT) as part of the recently introduced personal dental service (PDS). Under the GDS, the main costs are the individual treatment fees, including patient registration payments, payable to dentists. Under the PDS, dentists are usually paid a regular contract value for a defined level of NHS commitment. The gross cost of GDS fees and PDS contract payments in the area of the Portsmouth City PCT are shown in the table.

The GDS is currently funded from a national non discretionary budget; local budgets are not allocated to specific areas, but payments are made purely in response to the treatment and service claims submitted by individual GDPs.

Expenditure on community and hospital dental services is determined by the relevant local NHS body and expenditure on services in the Portsmouth area alone is not identifiable from data available centrally.

*Gross cost of GDS and PDS within the area of the Portsmouth City PCT*

*£ million*

| | *Gross GDS dental fees* | *Gross PDS payments* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2000–01 | 6.047 | 0 | 6.047 |
| 2001–02 | 6.486 | 0 | 6.486 |
| 2002–03 | 6.486 | 0 | 6.486 |
| 2003–04 | 7.085 | 0 | 7.085 |
| 2004–05 | 6.852 | 0.884 | 7.736 |

*Notes:*
1. Gross GDS fees include all adult and child treatment fees, continuing care and capitation payments, and commitment payments. Certain allowances and costs, such as reimbursement of business rates, seniority payments, and employers' superannuation contributions, are excluded.
2. All costs are shown gross of any income contributed by dental charges payable by patients.
3. Figures extracted from payment data held by the Dental Practice Board.

**Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what provisions she has made for dentistry in Shrewsbury. [6113]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Shropshire County Primary Care Trust (PCT) received £256,000 to improve access to dentistry.

The PCT has developed a dental action plan, which was approved by the Department's dental support team in June 2004. Funding of a further £695,000 was also allocated to support the plan's implementation. The aim of the action plan was to deliver the capacity to provide national health service dental care for at least 50,000 more patients. Services are now in place to deliver care for almost 40,000 patients and other developments are in progress. For example, a primary care centre in Market Drayton will expand to include two dental surgeries in October 2005.

In the PCT area, four practices have opened recently, two of which are in Shrewsbury. The two practices have a combined capacity for around 15,000 NHS patients. Of four existing practices in the PCT area that have expanded, one is in Shrewsbury and it will provide capacity for an additional 3,000 NHS patients.

There has been a dental access centre in Shrewsbury since 1999. This was in the first wave of personal dental service pilots.

Five Polish dentists were recruited as part of the first wave of overseas recruitment for Shropshire, two of whom are based in Shrewsbury.

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the contractual arrangements are for those dentists who are seeking to expand the numbers of NHS patients on their list by recruiting additional dentists to their practice, including from abroad. [6356]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The contractual arrangements for a dental practice recruiting additional dentists to expand the numbers of national health service patients vary according to whether the practice is operating under general dental services (GDS) or personal dental services pilot (PDS) arrangements.

Under GDS, a dentist or dental practice, which chooses to offer NHS services, register their participation with their local primary care trust and the Dental Practice Board and make claims for reimbursement for items of service performed in line with the statement of dental remuneration. If they choose to recruit an additional dentist to expand the numbers of NHS patients, the extra items of service performed for these patients would be included in the reimbursement claims made. As self-employed contractors, dentists are free to vary the extent of their NHS work as and when they choose.

Under PDS, a dentist or dental practice who wishes to recruit an additional dentist to expand the numbers of NHS patients applies to their local PCT for a contract to cover the expanded NHS commitment. Local negotiations between the dental practice and PCT take place and when the proposed contract is agreed, it is referred to the national PDS team at the Department for approval under delegated powers from the Secretary of State.

The criteria for approving PDS contractual arrangements are designed to encourage growth in NHS services. Once approved, the dental practice and PCT sign a contract, which specifies the nature and extent of the NHS commitment, usually in terms of a practice list, the contract value and agreed arrangements for variations to the contract conditions.

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many students there were *(a)* at the Newcastle upon Tyne Medical School and *(b)* the Newcastle upon Tyne Dental School in each of the last five years; and what plans there are to increase the numbers of students. [6319]

**Bill Rammell:** I have been asked to reply.

The available information is given in the table.

*HE enrolments[1] on Medicine and Dentistry courses at the University of Newcastle Upon Tyne[2] 1999–2000 to 2003–04*

| *Subject/Level* | *1999–2000*[3] | *2000–01*[3] | *2000–01*[4] | *2001–02*[4] | *2002–03*[4] | *2003–04*[4] |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Medicine* | | | | | | |
| PG | 390 | 365 | 375 | 425 | 455 | 545 |
| UG | 980 | 1,025 | 1,025 | 1,110 | 1,250 | 1,390 |
| Total | 1,365 | 1,390 | 1,400 | 1,535 | 1,705 | 1,935 |
| *Dentistry* | | | | | | |
| PG | 35 | 35 | 50 | 65 | 65 | 60 |
| UG | 355 | 350 | 350 | 370 | 360 | 375 |
| Total | 390 | 390 | 400 | 435 | 425 | 435 |
| Total Medicine and Dentistry | 1,760 | 1,780 | 1,800 | 1,965 | 2,130 | 2,370 |

[1] Figures are rounded to the nearest 5 hence constituent parts may not sum to the totals.
[2] Figures for 2001–02 onwards include students on stage 1 of the Medicine and Surgery programme who are based at the University of Durham's, Queens Campus in Stockton.
[3] Figures are on a snapshot basis as at the 1 December.
[4] Figures are on a DfES whole year count basis which are not consistent with snapshot figures given for earlier years. The whole year count counts students at the end of the academic year and provides a more accurate representation of student numbers. Whole year count figures are not available for years before 2000–01.
*Source:*
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) Student record

The Department of Health and the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) will be considering the potential for further expansion of medical student numbers, and the expansion of dental education, through the separate forums of the Medical and Dental Joint Implementation Groups.

We are funding the biggest expansion of dental education since the inception of the NHS involving the creation of an additional 170 training places in dental schools. To support the clinical training costs of this 25 per cent. increase in capacity, the Department of Health has allocated revenue funds growing to £29 million recurring by 2010–11; and £20 million capital in each of the four years 2005–06 to 2008–09.

## Domestic Violence

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research she has commissioned into the relationship between domestic violence experienced by children and post traumatic stress disorder. [8405]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The Department with the National Institute for Mental Health for England has a major programme of research underway that will address the relationship between domestic violence experienced by children and post-traumatic stress disorder. This is being conducted as part of the victims of violence and abuse prevention programme launched by departmental Ministers in 2004. It includes an expert

advisory group on child victims of domestic violence. Research conducted as part of the programme will build on the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence's guidelines on post-traumatic stress disorder, which identified examples of violence and abuse in childhood as predisposing factors in post-traumatic stress disorder for children.

### Drug Rehabilitation Centres

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will list the drug rehabilitation *(a)* centres and *(b)* other facilities which are available to residents of Portsmouth. [8361]

**Caroline Flint:** I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave on Tuesday 28 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 1503W.

### Haringey Teaching Primary Care Trust

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients in the Haringey Teaching Primary Care Trust area referred urgently with suspected breast cancer waited for more than two weeks for an out-patient appointment in each reporting period since January 2002; and if she will make a statement. [7804]

**Jane Kennedy:** The information is not available in the format requested. However, information is available by hospital trusts local to Haringey Teaching Primary Care Trust and is shown in the table.

*Number of patients with an urgent referral for suspected breast cancer, by waiting times from referral to out-patients appointment, for hospitals in the Haringey Teaching PCT area.*

| | Number waiting 14 days or less | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | RAP North Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust | RAL Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust | RKE Whittington Hospital NHS Trust | Total |
| *Reporting period* | | | | |
| 2001–02 Q4 | 25 | 25 | 106 | 156 |
| 2002–03 Q1 | 34 | 22 | 98 | 154 |
| 2002–03 Q2 | 38 | 42 | 56 | 136 |
| 2002–03 Q3 | 25 | 44 | 67 | 136 |
| 2002–03 Q4 | 53 | 63 | 35 | 151 |
| 2003–04 Q1 | 41 | 53 | 38 | 132 |
| 2003–04 Q2 | 65 | 81 | 49 | 195 |
| 2003–04 Q3 | 59 | 82 | 67 | 208 |
| 2003–04 Q4 | 46 | 114 | 68 | 228 |
| 2004–05 Q1 | 57 | n/a | 55 | 112 |
| 2004–05 Q2 | 48 | 58 | 48 | 154 |
| 2004–05 Q3 | 52 | 25 | 69 | 146 |
| 2004–05 Q4 | 50 | 56 | 53 | 159 |

| | Number waiting more than 14 days | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | RAP North Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust | RAL Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust | RKE Whittington Hospital NHS Trust | Total |
| *Reporting period* | | | | |
| 2001–02 Q4 | 0 | 1 | 25 | 26 |
| 2002–03 Q1 | 3 | 0 | 24 | 27 |
| 2002–03 Q2 | 1 | 1 | 14 | 16 |
| 2002–03 Q3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2002–03 Q4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2003–04 Q1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2003–04 Q2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2003–04 Q3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 3 |
| 2003–04 Q4 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| 2004–05 Q1 | 0 | n/a | 0 | 0 |
| 2004–05 Q2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| 2004–05 Q3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2004–05 Q4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

n/a = not available
*Source:*
CWT-Db, Department of Health

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients in the Haringey Teaching Primary Care Trust area waited more than *(a)* three months, *(b)* six months, *(c)* nine months, *(d)* 12 months, *(e)* 15 months, *(f)* 18 months and *(g)* 24 months for (i) heart operations, (ii) cancer treatment and (iii) hip replacements in each year since 2000–01; and if she will make a statement. [7807]

**Jane Kennedy:** The finished in-year admission episodes for patients who waited more than three months, six months, nine months, 12 months, 15 months, 18 months and 24 months for heart operations, cancer treatment and hip replacements in each year since 2000–01 for Whittington hospital national health service trust, Royal Free Hampstead NHS trust and North Middlesex University hospital NHS trust are shown in the tables.

Royal Free Hampstead NHS trust is the only organisation with counts for heart operations in specified waiting time groupings, therefore the other trusts do not appear in table for heart operations.

The total finished in-year admission episodes for each organisation and years is shown at the bottom of each table. These totals are not equal to the total of the breakdown for waiting time groupings specified in the question because the breakdown excludes counts for up to three months waiting. There are also entries with not known waiting time values in the data which are also excluded from the waiting time grouping breakdown.

*Counts of finished in-year admission episodes*
*Main operative procedure heart operations (OPCS-4 = K01-K71)*
*NHS hospitals, England 2000–01 to 2003–04*

| | Finished in-year admission episodes | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Waiting time grouping* | *2000–01* | *2001–02* | *2002–03* | *2003–04* |
| *RAL Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust* | | | | |
| More than 3 up to 6 months | 283 | 269 | 255 | 297 |
| More than 6 up to 9 months | 67 | 152 | 204 | 215 |
| More than 9 up to 12 months | 39 | 37 | 65 | 35 |

*Counts of finished in-year admission episodes*
*Main operative procedure heart operations (OPCS-4 = K01-K71)*
*NHS hospitals, England 2000–01 to 2003–04*

| | Finished in-year admission episodes | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Waiting time grouping* | *2000–01* | *2001–02* | *2002–03* | *2003–04* |
| More than 12 up to 18 months | 25 | 13 | 6 | 11 |
| More than 18 up to 24 months | 7 | — | 1 | — |
| More than 24 months | — | — | — | 1 |
| Total finished in-year admission episodes | 1,114 | 1,169 | 1,096 | 1,042 |

*Counts of finished in-year admission episodes*
*Primary diagnosis cancer (ICD-10 = C00-D48)*
*NHS hospitals, England 2000–01 to 2003–04*

| | Finished in-year admission episodes | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Waiting time grouping* | *2000–01* | *2001–02* | *2002–03* | *2003–04* |
| *RAL Royal Free Hampstead NHS trust* | | | | |
| More than 3 up to 6 months | 288 | 235 | 312 | 252 |
| More than 6 up to 9 months | 89 | 82 | 51 | 64 |
| More than 9 up to 12 months | 22 | 45 | 41 | 46 |
| More than 12 up to 18 months | 16 | 27 | 33 | 21 |
| More than 18 up to 24 months | 9 | 8 | 6 | — |
| More than 24 months | 3 | 1 | — | 2 |
| Total finished in-year admission episodes | 6,676 | 4,846 | 3,441 | 2,726 |
| *RAP North Middlesex University hospital NHS trust* | | | | |
| More than 3 up to 6 months | 99 | 121 | 148 | 160 |
| More than 6 up to 9 months | 41 | 53 | 44 | 71 |
| More than 9 up to 12 months | 36 | 33 | 26 | 18 |
| More than 12 up to 18 months | 25 | 30 | 11 | 7 |
| More than 18 up to 24 months | 3 | 9 | 3 | 3 |
| More than 24 months | 4 | 2 | - | 1 |
| Total finished in-year admission episodes | 1,407 | 1,647 | 1,654 | 1,591 |
| *RKE Whittington hospital NHS trust* | | | | |
| More than 3 up to 6 months | 120 | 132 | 113 | 129 |
| More than 6 up to 9 months | 33 | 29 | 46 | 39 |
| More than 9 up to 12 months | 16 | 17 | 21 | 13 |
| More than 12 up to 18 months | 6 | 7 | 7 | 7 |
| More than 18 up to 24 months | 2 | — | 1 | 1 |
| More than 24 months | 2 | — | — | — |
| Total finished in-year admission episodes | 1,572 | 1,429 | 2,436 | 2,336 |

*Counts of finished in-year admission episodes*
*Main operative procedure hip replacement (OPCS-4 = W37-W39)*
*NHS hospitals, England 2000–01 to 2003–04*

| | Finished in-year admission episodes | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Waiting time grouping* | *2000–01* | *2001–02* | *2002–03* | *2003–04* |
| *RAL Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust* | | | | |
| More than 3 up to 6 months | 22 | 22 | 18 | 16 |
| More than 6 up to 9 months | 20 | 15 | 11 | 29 |
| More than 9 up to 12 months | 13 | 9 | 4 | 12 |
| More than 12 up to 18 months | 6 | 27 | 21 | 5 |
| More than 18 up to 24 months | — | 5 | — | 1 |
| More than 24 months | - | - | - | 1 |
| Total finished in-year admission episodes | 83 | 94 | 88 | 85 |
| *RAP North Middlesex University hospital NHS trust* | | | | |
| More than 3 up to 6 months | 10 | 12 | 21 | 27 |
| More than 6 up to 9 months | 6 | 11 | 14 | 17 |
| More than 9 up to 12 months | 13 | 12 | 9 | 4 |
| More than 12 up to 18 months | 9 | 19 | 14 | 6 |
| More than 18 up to 24 months | 2 | 4 | 2 | — |
| More than 24 months | 4 | — | 6 | 1 |
| Total finished in-year admission episodes | 52 | 68 | 77 | 65 |
| *RKE Whittington hospital NHS trust* | | | | |
| More than 3 up to 6 months | 36 | 37 | 43 | 22 |
| More than 6 up to 9 months | 19 | 24 | 20 | 15 |
| More than 9 up to 12 months | 18 | 10 | 25 | 47 |

*Counts of finished in-year admission episodes*
*Main operative procedure hip replacement (OPCS-4 = W37-W39)*
*NHS hospitals, England 2000–01 to 2003–04*

| | Finished in-year admission episodes | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Waiting time grouping* | *2000–01* | *2001–02* | *2002–03* | *2003–04* |
| More than 12 up to 18 months | 16 | 14 | 27 | 25 |
| More than 18 up to 24 months | 3 | 2 | 4 | 6 |
| More than 24 months | 1 | 1 | 3 | 4 |
| Total finished in-year admission episodes | 135 | 121 | 145 | 139 |

*Notes:*
*Finished in-year admissions*
A finished in-year admission is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one health care provider, excluding admissions beginning before 1 April at the start of the data year. Please note that admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.
*Diagnosis (Primary Diagnosis)*
The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 14 (7 prior to 2002–03) diagnosis fields in the Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) data set and provides the main reason why the patient was in hospital.
*Main Operation*
The main operation is the first recorded operation in the HES data set and is usually the most resource intensive procedure performed during the episode. It is appropriate to use main operation when looking at admission details, eg. time waited, but the figures for "all operations count of episodes" give a more complete count of episodes with an operation.
*Ungrossed Data*
Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are ungrossed).
*Time Waited (days)*
Time waited statistics from Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) are not the same as the published waiting list statistics. HES provides counts and time waited for all patients admitted to hospital within a given period whereas the published waiting list statistics count those waiting for treatment on a specific date and how long they have been on the waiting list. Also, HES calculates the time waited as the difference between the admission and decision to admit dates. Unlike published waiting list statistics, this is not adjusted for self-deferrals or periods of medical/social suspension.
*Source:*
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), Health and Social Care Information Centre

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many general practitioners there were in the Haringey Teaching Primary Care Trust area in *(a)* 2001–02, *(b)* 2002–03 and *(c)* 2003–04; and if she will make a statement. [7808]

**Jane Kennedy:** The information requested is shown in the table.

*General Medical Practitioners (excluding retainers and registrars)[1] for Haringey Teaching Primary Care Trust, 2001–04*

| *5C9 Haringey PCT* | *Number (headcount)* |
|---|---|
| 2001 | 151 |
| 2002 | 148 |
| 2003 | 144 |
| 2004 | 148 |
| December 2004 | 143 |

[1] General Medical Practitioners (excluding retainers and registrars) includes Contracted GPs, GMS Others and PMS Others. Prior to September 2004 this group included GMS Unrestricted Principals, PMS Contracted GPs, PMS Salaried GPs, Restricted Principals, Assistants, Salaried Doctors (Para. 52 SFA), PMS Other, Flexible Career Scheme GPs and GP Returners.

*Note:*
Data as at 30 September 2001–04 and 31 December 2004.
*Source:*
NHS Health and Social Care Information Centre General and Personal Medical Services Statistics.

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what targeted funding hospitals in the Haringey Teaching Primary Care Trust area have received for the provision of acute stroke care; and if she will make a statement. [7810]

**Jane Kennedy:** The information requested is not collected centrally. However, as a part of devolution to the frontline, funding for local health services has been made direct to primary care trusts (PCTs). It is for PCTs to determine how to use the funding allocated to them to commission services to meet the healthcare needs of their local populations.

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many nursing vacancies there are in the Haringey Teaching Primary Care Trust area; and if she will make a statement. [7811]

**Jane Kennedy:** The information requested is shown in the table.

*Department of Health Vacancies Survey, March 2004—NHS three month vacancies for qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff by specified organisation—three month vacancy rates, numbers and staff in post*

| | | *All qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff* | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | *March 2004* | | *September 2004* | |
| | | *Three month vacancy rate (percentage)* | *Three month vacancy (number)* | *Staff in post (full-time equivalent)* | *Staff in post (headcount)* |
| Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Mental Health NHS Trust | RRP | 2.8 | 21 | 888 | 1,003 |
| Haringey PCT | 5C9 | 0.0 | — | 252 | 324 |
| North Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust | RAP | 12.6 | 93 | 724 | 964 |

*Department of Health Vacancies Survey, March 2004—NHS three month vacancies for qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff by specified organisation—three month vacancy rates, numbers and staff in post*

| | | *All qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff* | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | *March 2004* | | *September 2004* | |
| | | *Three month vacancy rate (percentage)* | *Three month vacancy (number)* | *Staff in post (full-time equivalent)* | *Staff in post (headcount)* |
| Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust | RAL | 9.8 | 149 | 1,565 | 1,836 |
| Whittington Hospital NHS Trust | RKE | 6.6 | 45 | 735 | 823 |

*Sources:*
Health and Social Care Information Centre Vacancies Survey, March 2004
Health and Social Care Information Centre Non-Medical Workforce Census, September 2004

### Health Care Demand (London)

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she has made of projected population growth in each London strategic health authority area; what assessment she has made of the likely additional demands placed on the NHS as a result is expected to be; what resources she estimates will be needed to meet the projected increased demand; and if she will make a statement. [7065]

**Jane Kennedy:** The projected population growth for primary care trusts (PCTs) in each London strategic health authority (SHA) area is shown in the table.

Population projections, produced by the Office of National Statistics (ONS), were used to inform the latest round of revenue allocations to PCTs for 2006–07 and 2007–08. In addition, as population projections do not take account of changes in Government policy, such as the growth area initiative, the 2006–08 allocations include a growth area adjustment for PCTs in the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) growth areas. This adjustment is based on the additional increase in population, over and above ONS population projections, which is due to the growth area initiative.

PCT allocations reflect the demands of a growing population because the population figures used as the basis of PCT target allocations include the expected growth in population.

| *PCT* | *Growth area* | *2006 population projection plus growth area population* | *2007 population projection plus growth area population* |
|---|---|---|---|
| *North Central London SHA* | | | |
| Barnet | — | 332,126 | 335,256 |
| Camden | — | 227,563 | 230,965 |
| Enfield | [1]LSCP | 266,832 | 268,238 |
| Haringey Teaching | [1]LSCP | 235,198 | 235,281 |
| Islington | — | 184,704 | 186,091 |
| *North East London SHA* | | | |
| Barking and Dagenham | [2]TG | 171,478 | 173,322 |
| City and Hackney Teaching | [1]LSCP | 233,273 | 235,556 |
| Havering | [2]TG | 238,832 | 240,225 |
| Newham | [2]TG | 267,787 | 269,264 |
| Redbridge | [1]LSCP | 231,882 | 233,791 |
| Tower Hamlets | [2]TG | 215,902 | 218,725 |
| Waltham Forest | [1]LSCP | 228,998 | 229,531 |
| *North West London SHA* | | | |
| Brent Teaching | — | 271,401 | 270,065 |
| Haling | — | 317,289 | 317,475 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | — | 175,179 | 176,139 |
| Harrow | — | 197,506 | 197,867 |
| Hillingdon | — | 243,666 | 245,284 |
| Hounslow | — | 218,305 | 218,466 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | — | 205,709 | 211,514 |
| Westminster | — | 246,597 | 253,802 |
| *South East London SHA* | | | |
| Bexley Care Trust | [2]TG | 210,530 | 211,522 |
| Bromley | — | 307,030 | 309,108 |
| Greenwich Teaching | [2]TG | 241,019 | 243,389 |
| Lambeth | — | 279,036 | 278,814 |
| Lewisham | [2]TG | 248,546 | 248,479 |
| Southwark | — | 237,702 | 237,657 |
| *South West London SHA* | | | |
| Croydon | — | 335,901 | 337,404 |
| Kingston | — | 169,414 | 171,252 |
| Richmond and Twickenham | — | 188,266 | 190,768 |
| Sutton and Merton | — | 366,747 | 369,030 |
| Wandsworth | — | 271,773 | 273,170 |

[1] LSCP: London, Stansted, Cambridge and Peterborough
[2] TG: Thames Gateway

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she has made of the demands made by the transient population in London in the health service; and if she will make a statement. [7066]

**Jane Kennedy:** The funding of health care for English registered patients receiving health care in London remains with the primary care trust (PCT) where they are registered. The arrangements in place for the funding and reimbursement of the costs of treating patients away from their home are available on the Department's website at: http://www.dh.gov.uk/assetRoot/04/10/92/19/04109219.pdf

Under these arrangements, the treating trust invoices the patient's responsible PCT. We reimburse trusts for providing care for charge exempt overseas patients, and other overseas visitors that are not charge exempt should be charged by the trust.

### Health Services Administration (Birmingham)

**John Hemming:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what bodies for administering health services covering the Birmingham area have been *(a)* created and *(b)* abolished since 1985. [1837]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** In 1985, the Birmingham area was served by the Central Birmingham, East Birmingham, West Birmingham, South Birmingham and North Birmingham district health authorities (DHAs). In addition, Birmingham was also served by

the Birmingham family practitioner committee (FPC) until 1990 when FPCs were superseded by family health services authorities (FHSAs). The Birmingham FHSA was formed in 1990 and was subsequently abolished in 1995 following the merger of FHSAs with health authorities.

The Central Birmingham DHA was abolished in 1991. However, the East Birmingham, West Birmingham, South Birmingham and North Birmingham DHAs remained in existence until 1994 when the North and South Birmingham DHAs were formed. These two health authorities were merged in April 1996 to form the Birmingham Health Authority.

Primary care trusts (PCTs) were established in 2002 and took over the role of the former HAs, which were abolished with effect from 31 March 2002. Since that date the following PCTs have been responsible for commissioning health services for residents in the Birmingham area; Eastern Birmingham PCT, Heart of Birmingham Teaching PCT, North Birmingham PCT and South Birmingham PCT.

The West Midlands Regional Health Authority (RHA) was also in existence in 1985 until 31 March 1996 when the roles and functions of RHAs were transferred to the regional offices of the Department. The Regional Offices were subsequently abolished on 31 March 2003, prior to which strategic health authorities (SHA) had been set up on 1 April 2002. The Birmingham and the Black Country SHA is the local headquarters of the national health service for the Birmingham and surrounding areas.

## Healthcare and Social Care Commissions

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what changes to primary legislation are required to allow for the merging of the Healthcare and Social Care Commissions. [8243]

**Jane Kennedy:** The Healthcare Commission and Commission for Social Care Inspection were established by part two of the Health and Social Care (Community Health and Standards) Act 2003.

Merging the two organisations would require either an amendment or a replacement of this legislation and other consequential amendments, for example, to the Care Standards Act 2000.

## Hot Weather-related Conditions

**Steve Webb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to her answer of 14 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 306W, on hot weather-related conditions, how many hospital admissions in England were given a hot weather-related primary diagnosis, including sunburn, in each year since 1980, broken down by age. [6562]

**Caroline Flint:** The information requested is shown in the following tables.

*Count of discharges based on 10 per cent. samples from hospital inpatient enquiry (HIPE) data for the years 1980–85, ICD-9 primary diagnosis codes—692.7, 992*

| | *Total* |
|---|---|
| 1980 | 270 |
| 1981 | 460 |
| 1982 | 420 |
| 1983 | 460 |
| 1984 | 370 |
| 1985 | 270 |

*Note:*
HIPE is based on a 10 per cent, sample of all hospital admissions. Age-specific data is not available for the years 1989–2004.

*Count of all finished admission episodes (FAEs), and FAEs admitted via accident and emergency (ADMIMETH = 21, 28) where primary diagnosis is hot weather related illness including sunburn, split by age group 0 to 14, 15 to 64 and 65+. National health service hospitals in England 1989–90 to 2003–04*

| | *All finished admissions* | | | | | *Finished admissions admitted via A and E* | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Data year* | *Total* | *0 to 14* | *15 to 64* | *65+* | *Unknown* | *Total* | *0 to 14* | *15 to 64* | *65+* | *Unknown* |
| 1989–90 | 148 | 52 | 81 | 13 | 2 | 349 | 89 | 171 | 87 | 2 |
| 1990–91 | 163 | 77 | 67 | 19 | — | 365 | 116 | 155 | 94 | — |
| 1991–92 | 115 | 54 | 52 | 8 | 1 | 305 | 78 | 124 | 101 | 2 |
| 1992–93 | 125 | 50 | 63 | 11 | 1 | 371 | 82 | 162 | 126 | 1 |
| 1993–94 | 124 | 66 | 48 | 10 | — | 424 | 122 | 161 | 141 | — |
| 1994–95 | 129 | 43 | 68 | 17 | 1 | 426 | 82 | 191 | 152 | 1 |
| 1995–96 | 223 | 78 | 109 | 36 | — | 357 | 138 | 157 | 62 | — |
| 1996–97 | 127 | 39 | 63 | 25 | — | 231 | 86 | 100 | 45 | — |
| 1997–98 | 148 | 42 | 79 | 27 | — | 247 | 91 | 117 | 39 | — |
| 1998–99 | 121 | 44 | 67 | 9 | 1 | 184 | 68 | 100 | 15 | 1 |
| 1999–2000 | 171 | 50 | 101 | 20 | — | 276 | 104 | 139 | 33 | — |
| 2000–01 | 117 | 41 | 66 | 10 | — | 202 | 86 | 97 | 19 | — |
| 2001–02 | 144 | 51 | 76 | 17 | — | 222 | 90 | 109 | 23 | — |
| 2002–03 | 102 | 41 | 54 | 7 | — | 157 | 75 | 70 | 12 | — |
| 2003–04 | 188 | 62 | 95 | 31 | — | 257 | 96 | 120 | 41 | — |

*Note:*

Please be aware that there is a difference in diagnosis coding before 1995–96 as the ICD-10 diagnosis codes came into effect in that year. Therefore, the data between the two periods is not normalised exactly. ICD-10 primary diagnosis codes (1995–96 to 2003–04) = L55, L590, L740, T67, X30 X32, ICD-9 primary diagnosis codes (1989–90 to 1994–95) = 692.7, 992.

### Intermediate Care Beds

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many intermediate care beds there have been in each year since 1997; and in what health care settings these beds are provided. [7456]

**Mr. Byrne:** The available data is shown in the table.

It is not possible to identify separately which beds are provided in community or cottage hospitals, in specially designated wards in general hospitals, in purpose built new facilities, or in nursing homes.

| *Financial year* | *Number of intermediate care beds* |
|---|---|
| 2000 | 4,242 |
| 2001 | [1] |
| 2002 | 7,021 |
| 2003 | 7,493 |
| 2004 | 8,697 |
| 2005 | 8,928 |

[1] Not collected

*Source:*
Chief Executive's report to the national health service, 2005

### IVF Treatment

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if she will make it her policy to provide IVF treatment for all relevant NHS patients under 40 years, regardless of where they live; [8902]

(2) how many IVF treatments were performed by the NHS in each of the last five years, broken down by NHS trust area; and how many patients were involved in each case; [8903]

(3) what plans she has to ensure that women who would benefit from IVF treatment in the Portsmouth area are able to have up to three treatments. [8907]

**Caroline Flint:** The Department does not collect information centrally on the number of national health service funded invitro fertilization (IVF) treatments carried out. Following the publication in February 2004 of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence's (NICE) clinical guideline on the assessment and treatment for people with fertility problems, we advised all primary care trusts to offer a minimum of one cycle of IVF by April 2005 to those who meet the clinical criteria, giving priority to couples with no children living with them, and to make progress to full implementation of the guideline in the longer term. The primary responsibility for the implementation of NICE guidelines rests with the NHS at local level and compliance with NICE guidance by NHS organisations will be considered by the Healthcare Commission during their review and performance assessment processes.

### London Hospitals (Budgets)

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the budget was of the *(a)* Whittington hospital, *(b)* Royal Free hospital Hampstead, *(c)* North Middlesex university hospital and *(d)* Haringey teaching primary care trust St. Ann's hospital in each of the last five years; and whether each hospital was (i) in deficit and (ii) had a surplus at each year end. [7752]

**Jane Kennedy:** The latest year for which audited data on the financial position of national health service organisations is available is 2003–04. The budget and financial position for Whittington hospital, Royal Free hospital Hampstead, North Middlesex university hospital and Haringey teaching primary care trust St. Ann's hospital which is part of the Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Mental Health NHS Trust, in each of the last five years is shown in the table.

*Total income and retained surplus/(deficit) for 1999–2000 to 2003–04*

*£ thousands*

| *NHS Trust* | *1999–2000* | *2000–01* | *2001–02* | *2002–03* | *2003–04* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *The Whittington Hospital NHS Trust:* | | | | | |
| Income | 81,485 | 85,941 | 99,084 | 105,099 | 110,694 |
| Surplus/(deficit) | (1,433) | 0 | 8 | (988) | (3,400) |
| *Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust:* | | | | | |
| Income | 246,209 | 266,340 | 254,983 | 277,016 | 303,585 |
| Surplus/(deficit) | (4,613) | 1,866 | 5,216 | (1,447) | (961) |
| *North Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust:* | | | | | |
| Income | 71,898 | 86,050 | 90,451 | 103,409 | 112,928 |
| Surplus/(deficit) | (3,291) | 6,206 | 0 | 0 | (989) |
| *Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Mental Health NHS Trust* | | | | | |
| Income | n/a | n/a | 119,598 | 131,456 | 144,424 |
| Surplus/(deficit) | n/a | n/a | 4 | (686) | (924) |

*Note:*
Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Mental Health NHS Trust was not formed until 1 April 2001.
*Source:*
Audited summarisation schedules of the above NHS trusts, 1999–2000 to 2003–04.

### Mental Health

**Ms Abbott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what long-term funding for infrastructure is available to support voluntary organisations working to meet the mental health needs of black and minority ethnic communities. [8941]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** In January 2005, the Department published Delivering Race Equality in Mental Health Care (ORE), a five-year action plan for improving services for black and minority ethnic (BME) communities. An important component of the plan is bett engagement between mental health service

providers and their local communities. To that end the National Institute for Mental Health in England will invest around £2 million over the next two years in up to 80 local community engagement projects. An objective of each of the projects will be to secure longer-term funding. Applications from community organisations for funding to run projects in the current year will be invited shortly.

ORE is clear about the need for statutory national health service and local authority services to integrate the voluntary sector more fully and permanently into the planning and provision of mental health care for BME patients. As voluntary organisations take on that expanded role, we expect appropriate funding to follow from primary care trusts and local authorities.

In addition my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Health, through the section 64 general scheme of grants (section 64 of the Health Services and Public Health Act 1968), has the power to make grants to voluntary organisations whose activities support the Department's policy priorities. In the current financial year, £607,000 has been awarded to organisations working to meet the mental health needs of BME communities.

### Mixed Sex Wards

**Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she expects the use of mixed sex wards will cease. [8686]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The Government set a target for the elimination of mixed sex accommodation in 95 per Cent. of trusts by December 2002. This target was achieved. No further targets have been set for this area.

Guidance issued to the national health service requires the provision of single-sex accommodation, which can take a number of forms. NHS trusts may provide single rooms, single sex bays, single-sex wards or combinations of these types.

The provision of single-sex accommodation is measured by compliance with three specific objectives set by the Department. These are designed to deliver separate sleeping areas for men and women, separate bathrooms and toilet facilities for men and women, and for those trusts delivering mental health services, safe facilities for patients in hospital who are mentally ill.

Compliance with the objectives is measured at trust level. The position of each NHS Trust was published on 26 May 2005 and is available on the Department's website at: www.dh.gov.uk/assetRoot/04/11/21/41/04112141.pdf and is available in the Library.

### MRI Scans/Scanners

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will list hospitals which have MRI scanners; and if she will make a statement. [7803]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave the hon. Member for East Worthing and Shoreham (Tim Loughton) on 20 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 785W.

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many MRI scans have been carried out at the University hospital, North Durham since 2001. [8726]

**Mr. Byrne:** This information is not held centrally.

### NHS Circular 1999/176

**Mr. Havard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of NHS Circular 1999/176 in each year of its application; and if she will make a statement. [8515]

**Jane Kennedy:** I have not made such an assessment.

### NHS Healthcare Commission (Complaints)

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many complaints have been received by the NHS Healthcare Commission in each *(a)* London primary care trust and *(b)* London strategic health authority in the last 12 months. [7466]

**Jane Kennedy:** The Healthcare Commission took on responsibility for the independent review of national health service complaints not resolved at local level at the end of July 2004. Information from the Commission on the number of complaints about London primary care trusts (PCTs) and London strategic health authorities (SHAs) is shown in the tables.

*Independent review requests, complaints about London PCTs, received between 31 July 2004 and 23 June 2005*

| *Provider PCT* | *Number of complaints* |
|---|---|
| Barking and Dagenham | 5 |
| Barnet | 7 |
| Bexley | 1 |
| Brent Teaching | 2 |
| Bromley | 10 |
| Camden | 10 |
| City and Hackney Teaching | 8 |
| Croydon | 17 |
| Ealing | 12 |
| Enfield | 9 |
| Greenwich Teaching | 6 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 4 |
| Haringey Teaching | 8 |
| Harrow | 9 |
| Havering | 6 |
| Hillingdon | 10 |
| Hounslow | 4 |
| Islington | 2 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 4 |
| Kingston | 2 |
| Lambeth | 3 |
| Lewisham | 5 |
| Newham | 7 |
| Redbridge | 5 |
| Richmond and Twickenham | 2 |
| Southwark | 4 |
| Sutton and Merton | 7 |
| Tower Hamlets | 4 |
| Waltham Forest | 10 |
| Wandsworth | 6 |
| Westminster | 6 |
| Total | 195 |

*Independent review requests, complaints about London SHAs*

| *Provider SHA* | *Number of complaints* |
|---|---|
| North West London | 1 |
| North Central London | 2 |
| North East London | 6 |
| South West London | 1 |
| Total | 10 |

### Patientline Contract

**Annette Brooke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the forecast financial benefit to the NHS is of the contract with Patientline in the financial year ended March 2005. [8561]

**Jane Kennedy:** The national health service does not benefit financially by entering into contracts with Patientline for the provision of television (TV) and telephone services at the patient's bedside. Patientline is responsible for the cost of installing and maintaining the systems. Patients are charged directly for the services used. The provision of bedside TVs and telephones gives patients more control over their environment whilst in hospital, including the ability to watch a personal TV and remain in direct contact with relatives and friends.

### Prison Counsellors

**Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* psychotherapist and *(b)* psychodynamic counsellors are available to prisoners; what steps are being taken to increase the number available to prisoners; and if she will make a statement. [8101]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Information about the numbers of psychotherapists and psychodynamic counsellors available to prisoners is not collected centrally. Decisions about mental health services at individual prisons and the skill mixes necessary to deliver them are matters for the establishments concerned and their national health service partners. The commitment in the NHS plan (July 2000) that, by April 2004, some 300 additional staff would be employed on the delivery of such services has been met.

### Private Diagnostic and Treatment Centres

**Frank Dobson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether agency nurses, doctors or technicians who have worked in the NHS in the preceding six months can work for a private diagnostic and treatment centre; [7016]

(2) on how many occasions her Department has agreed to waive the requirement on private sector providers that they must not employ staff who have worked in the NHS in the previous six months. [7018]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answer 27 June 2005]:* Providers of independent sector treatment centres must not employ or engage doctors or health care professionals who have been employed or otherwise engaged in the national health service within the previous six months period. This restriction applies to staff employed by an agency who have been engaged in work for the NHS.

A process is in place by which an independent sector provider may apply for a waiver of the restriction in relation to a specified person. Such applications are considered individually and a waiver may be granted in exceptional circumstances. To date, nine waivers from the six months restriction have been granted.

### Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitors

**Mr. Walker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what research she has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated into whether selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors can increase the likelihood of suicide in certain patients; and if she will make a statement; [7481]

(2) what guidance her Department has issued to GPs regarding the prescription of selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors; and if she will make a statement; [7483]

(3) what measures are being taken to reduce the prescribing of selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors; and if she will make a statement; [7484]

(4) what research she has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated concerning the impact of selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors on (i) pregnant women and (ii) unborn foetuses; and if she will make a statement. [7485]

**Jane Kennedy:** On 6 December 2004, a letter was sent to all health professionals in the United Kingdom from the Chairman of the Committee on Safety of Medicines (CSM) announcing the results of the review of the safety of selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs) conducted by an expert working group of the CSM and providing prescribing advice for all SSRIs. A copy of the review is available in the Library.

On the same day, the then National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE), now the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence, published guidelines on the management of depression in primary care. These guidelines state that antidepressants are not recommended for the initial treatment of mild depression because the risk-benefit ratio is poor.

The expert working group of the CSM carefully considered the available data on a possible link between SSRIs and suicidal behaviour from published and unpublished trials, spontaneous reporting data from health professionals and patients, evidence from key stakeholders and data from the general practice research database (GPRD).

The expert working group concluded that from the available clinical trial data, a modest increase in the risk of suicidal thoughts and self-harm compared to placebo can not be ruled out. However, there is insufficient evidence to conclude that there is any marked difference between members of the class of SSRIs, or between SSRIs and other antidepressants, with respect to their influence on suicidal behaviour.

Evidence from non-experimental studies based on the GPRD indicated that there is no increased risk of suicidal behaviour with SSRIs compared with tricyclic antidepressants. One of the GPRD studies was commissioned by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA).

Information about the use of SSRIs during pregnancy is included in the prescribing information for healthcare professionals, the summary of product characteristics. This advice is based on pre-clinical studies, carried out prior to licensing, and continuous post-marketing surveillance of pregnancy outcomes.

### Sexual Health

**Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will take steps to ensure that every *(a)* sexual health clinic and *(b)* accident and emergency department offers post-exposure prophylaxis to its users. [7759]

**Caroline Flint:** Primary care trusts are responsible for providing sexual health services, which meet the needs of their local populations. To support them in this role, the Department has worked with leading professional bodies to produce the recommended standards for national health service HIV services (2003). These highlight the need to make post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) available to those who need it.

The decision on whether to offer PEP for the purposes of preventing HIV transmission should be taken by clinicians in consultation with the patient, and will depend upon the particular circumstances. The British Association for Sexual Health and HIV, and the Government's expert advisory group on AIDS (EAGA) have both published guidance to help clinicians and EAGA keep the evidence on the effectiveness of PEP under review.

The Department has also funded the Terrence Higgins Trust to undertake a campaign to raise awareness of PEP among those at risk of non-occupational HIV transmission. Following a successful evaluation, this campaign will be rolled-out across the country.

### Sterile Services Departments

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether inspection of sterile services departments forms part of the Healthcare Commission's performance ratings. [7506]

**Jane Kennedy:** In July 2004, the Department issued "Standards for Better Health", the first ever national standards for the national health service. The Healthcare Commission will be assessing and rating the NHS against these standards from 2005–06. Core standard four says that:

"Health care organisations keep patients, staff and visitors safe by having systems to ensure that:

the risk of health care acquired infection to patients is reduced, with particular emphasis on high standards of hygiene and cleanliness, achieving year on year reductions in methicillin resistant Staphylococcus aureus;

all risks associated with the acquisition and use of medical devices are minimised;

all reusable medical devices are properly decontaminated prior to use and that the risks associated with decontamination facilities and processes are well managed;

medicines are handled safely and securely; and

the prevention, segregation, handling, transport and disposal of waste is properly managed so as to minimise the risks to the health and safety of staff, patients, the public and the safety of the environment."

# Written Answers to Questions

*Tuesday 5 July 2005*

## HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

### House Stationery

35. **Mr. Dismore:** To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what plans the Commission has to relax the rules relating to the use of House stationery. [9204]

**Nick Harvey:** The Commission is currently considering the implications of rising levels of expenditure on House stationery and pre-paid envelopes, which falls on the Administration Estimate. The Commission will continue its deliberations on this issue at its next meeting later this month.

### Communal Hairbrushes/Combs

**Mr. Steen:** To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission (1) what the cost has been of undertaking the risk assessment of communal hairbrushes and combs in hon. Members' washrooms; [9413]

(2) how many cases of *(a)* communicable diseases and *(b)* infestations have been reported relating to the use of combs and hairbrushes in the hon. Members' washrooms in each of the last 10 years; [9414]

(3) what evidence the Health and Safety Executive provided to the Administration Committee of the risk of communicating *(a)* HIV and *(b)* hepatitis through the use of communal hairbrushes and combs. [9814]

**Nick Harvey:** The cost of conducting the risk assessment of communal hairbrushes and combs in Members' washrooms was staff time only. The assessment involved Serjeant at Arms staff and professionals from the Parliamentary Occupational Health, Safety and Welfare Service and was undertaken as part of their normal duties. Advice was sought from other professionals in relevant enforcement authorities (i.e. Westminster Council's Environmental Health Department and the Health and Safety Executive) at no cost to the House.

There have been no reported cases of communicable diseases or infestations relating to the use of communal combs and hairbrushes in Members washrooms over the last 10 years. However health, safety and hygiene standards now mean that the House has a duty of care properly to control health and safety risks to those working at or visiting the House of Commons. A risk assessment was undertaken resulting in the removal of communal combs and hairbrushes as a preventative health measure, following submission of the matter to the Administration Committee in the last Parliament. The risks of communicating disease or infection was one of a number of risk factors highlighted that contributed to the overall risk assessment and decision, though it is acknowledged in the risk assessment that the likelihood of contracting HIV or hepatitis is extremely low. A copy of the risk assessment as provided to the Administration Committee has been placed in the Library.

### Westminster Hall

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission (1) what arrangements will be put in place to allow Westminster Hall debates and Question Time to continue once Westminster Hall closes for major works at the end of 2005; [9053]

(2) what arrangements will be put in place to replace the Jubilee Room facilities, including the ability to use outside caterers for receptions when Westminster Hall closes for major works at the end of 2005; [9054]

(3) what plans there are to provide additional small meeting rooms when the W rooms, Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and Inter-Parliamentary Union rooms will cease to be available due to the major works in Westminster Hall at the end of 2005. [9055]

**Nick Harvey:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 27 June 2005, *Official Report*, columns 1179–80W.

## PRIME MINISTER

### Correspondence

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Prime Minister when he will reply to the letters from the hon. Member for Beaconsfield of *(a)* 14 June and *(b)* 15 June. [9827]

**The Prime Minister:** The request for information set out in the hon. Member's letter of 14 June is being handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. A reply will be issued within the statutory 20 working-day limit set out in the Act.

### Warwick Agreement

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Prime Minister what arrangements he is making for the implementation of the Warwick agreement with trade unions; and how much of the agreement has been implemented. [9652]

**The Prime Minister:** The policies agreed at the Warwick National Policy Forum, which range from the introduction of ID cards to the reform of public services and improving people's rights at work, are a programme for implementation over the life of this Parliament. We have already started making progress including, for example, consulting on a package of family-friendly proposals to be implemented by 2007, including an extra three months of maternity pay.

## LEADER OF THE HOUSE

### Legislative Scrutiny

34. **Mr. Allen:** To ask the Leader of the House which Bills the Government plan to submit for pre-legislative scrutiny in this parliamentary session. [9203]

**Nigel Griffiths:** The Government have announced that they intend to publish the following bills in draft this session for pre-legislative scrutiny:

Counter-Terrorism, Coroner Reform, Legal Services, Marine, Pensions (subject to the outcome of the Pensions Review) and Tourism (Wales).

The draft Corporate Manslaughter Bill has already been published in draft. Other bills may be published in draft as the session progresses. My right hon. Friend the Leader of the House will ensure that the Liaison Committee is kept informed of developments.

37. **Mark Lazarowicz:** To ask the Leader of the House if he will bring forward proposals to improve the effectiveness of House of Commons Committees in scrutinising legislation. [9206]

**Nigel Griffiths:** *This is certainly a matter which my* right hon. Friend the Leader of the House believes that the Modernisation Committee may wish to consider over the course of the Parliament.

### House of Lords Reform

36. **Bob Spink:** To ask the Leader of the House what recent discussions he has had on the timetable for House of Lords reform. [9205]

**Mr. Hoon:** I have had a number of recent discussions with ministerial colleagues on the Government's plans for House of Lords reform.

## CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

### Electoral Law

21. **Michael Fabricant:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs if she will make a statement on the Department's plans to reform the law on duress and undue influence on voters; and if she will make a statement. [9190]

**Ms Harman:** The Government plans to strengthen the laws against electoral offences. We are consulting on proposals to do so as set out in the Electoral Administration policy paper published in May 2005.

### Voter Participation

22. **Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what plans she has to take steps to increase voter participation. [9191]

**Ms Harman:** We have responded positively to recommendations made by the Electoral Commission for further improvements to the electoral system. We must recognise, however, the key role that politicians and political parties have to play in engaging the electorate to make them wish to turn out to vote at elections.

### Freedom of Information Act

23. **Norman Baker:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what plans she has to review the operation of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. [9192]

**Bridget Prentice:** The Freedom of Information Act has only been in operation for six months and represents a new way of working for public authorities. Already there is evidence of the beginnings of the long-term culture change that the Act was designed to drive forward. The Government will monitor the Act's progress on an on-going basis and take action as necessary.

### Electoral Registration

24. **Dr. Whitehead:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what steps she is taking to ensure that electoral registration officers have adequate resources. [9193]

**Ms Harman:** It is for individual local authorities when setting budgets for electoral registration to weigh up their spending priorities against the resources they have available to them. The Government considers that there needs to be more transparency in the information that is available about the funding of electoral registration, and we are looking into ways of achieving this.

25. **Mr. Rob Wilson:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what her policy is on use of national insurance numbers as an identifier in electoral registration. [9194]

**Ms Harman:** I refer the hon. Member for Reading East to the answer I gave earlier to the hon. Member for Ludlow.

28. **Mr. Leigh:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what her policy is on use of national insurance numbers as an identifier in electoral registration. [9197]

**Ms Harman:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Ludlow (Mr. Dunne) earlier.

### Judicial Appointments

26. **Keith Vaz:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs when the Lord Chancellor last met the Lord Chief Justice to discuss judicial appointments. [9195]

**Bridget Prentice:** The Lord Chancellor regularly meets the Lord Chief Justice and other senior judges to discuss a wide range of issues including judicial appointments. His most recent meeting with the Lord Chief Justice was on 4 July.

27. **Mr. David Jones:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what her policy is on the minimum legal qualifications necessary for a judicial appointment. [9196]

**Bridget Prentice:** I refer the hon. Member for Clwyd West to the answer I gave earlier to the hon. Member for North East Milton Keynes.

### Voter Registration (Service Personnel)

29. **Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what plans she has to change voter registration arrangements for military service personnel; and if she will make a statement. [9198]

**Ms Harman:** We are in discussion with the Ministry of Defence and are reviewing the voter registration arrangements for military service personnel.

### Cohabitation

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs whether the proposal for increased legal protection for cohabiters will apply to all forms of cohabitation. [9029]

**Bridget Prentice:** There are currently no proposals to give increased legal protection to cohabitants. However, the Law Commission published its ninth programme of law reform on 22 March, which includes a project on cohabitation. This project will focus on a review of the remedies available to opposite and same sex cohabiting couples on the termination of their relationship by separation or by death. This project is likely to focus on relationships of an intimate nature, rather than on cohabiting family members or friends.

### Community Legal Service Direct

**Mr. Djanogly:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs whether it is planned that all staff answering inquiries at Community Legal Service Direct will be qualified lawyers. [8909]

**Bridget Prentice:** All advisers working within the framework of Community Legal Service Direct meet the requirements of the Legal Services Commission's Specialist Quality Mark. This means that they must either have a professional legal qualification, or be able to evidence that they deliver at least 12 hours of legal casework per week. Advisers must also be subject to the supervision of a more experienced colleague, who must maintain a broad portfolio of recent experience.

**Mr. Djanogly:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what her plans are for Community Legal Service Direct. [8910]

**Bridget Prentice:** The plans for Community Legal Service Direct are to improve the service through the website, telephone service and information leaflets continuously, based on user feedback. It is also planned to increase the number of people helped by the service as follows:

| | *2004–05* | *2005–06* |
|---|---|---|
| New telephone advice matters | 23,000 | 60,000 |
| Website visits | 631,000 | 850,000 |
| Leaflets downloaded | 121,000 | 150,000 |
| Leaflets distributed | 1,700,000 | 2,400,000 |

These targets are included in Public Sector Agreement 5 for the Legal Services Commission and Department for Constitutional Affairs, which emerged following SR2004.

**Mr. Djanogly:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how much had been spent from the public purse on the Community Legal Service Direct project as at 28 June. [8911]

**Bridget Prentice:** Expenditure on Community Legal Service Direct and its predecessor services in the financial year 2004–05 was £6,927,000. This includes pre-launch costs for Community Legal Service Direct (launched 14 July 2004) and the costs of running its predecessor services from 1 April 2004 to 13 July 2004. The figure also includes costs associated with the Website, leaflet production and distribution, the telephone service, marketing activities and materials and the costs of staff working in the Community Legal Service Direct Team within the Legal Services Commission.

**Mr. Djanogly:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs if she will make a statement on the progress of Community Legal Service Direct. [8912]

**Bridget Prentice:** Since its launch in July 2004 Community Legal Service Direct has established itself as an important new element within the range of publicly funded legal services. The telephone service has received over 300,000 calls, and now regularly receives more than 30,000 calls per month. Many of these are for assistance in finding a local legal adviser, but more than 30,000 people have obtained direct assistance over the phone.

The website www.clsdirect.org.uk has received nearly 750,000 unique visits since its launch, with the average visitor looking at six pages. More than 1.7 million legal information leaflets have been distributed in the first year of operation as more and more are added to the range.

### Data Protection Act

**Mr. Marsden:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what steps her Department is taking to inform *(a)* other departments and *(b)* agencies of the position of hon. Members representing their constituencies in terms of the Data Protection Act 1998 [8509]

**Bridget Prentice:** The Cabinet Office provides relevant guidance on the Data Protection Act in Section 16 of the "Data Protection Act 1998: Standards and Best Practice Handbook for Government Departments". This is available on the Cabinet Office website.

The Information Commissioner also provides Guidance on the disclosure of sensitive data to Members of Parliament carrying out constituency casework.

### Election Pilots (Guidance)

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs whether the Department will issue guidance to local authorities on applying for *(a)* all-postal voting pilots and *(b)* other forms of election pilot in (i) forthcoming by-elections and (ii) the 2005 local elections. [9811]

**Ms Harman:** No decision has yet been taken about issuing a prospectus to local authorities on piloting in by-elections or the May 2006 local elections. If we are intending to encourage electoral pilots of innovative voting methods, a prospectus will be issued.

### Election Turnout

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what assessment the

Government have made of the effect of the systems of proportional representation as used in England on election turnout. [9768]

**Ms Harman:** An internal review of the experiences of the new UK voting systems introduced for the devolved Administrations, the European Parliament and London Assembly elections is being conducted by officials within my Department. It is at an early stage, and any decisions regarding the next steps for the review will be taken in due course.

## Legal Aid

**Mr. Djanogly:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what the average cost of a *(a)* public defender and *(b)* private legal aid lawyer was in the last period for which figures are available, broken down by region. [8270]

**Bridget Prentice:** Private solicitors firms and barristers carry out a wide variety of public funded work and are paid from different schemes within the Criminal Defence Service (CDS). It is therefore not possible to provide an average cost. However, an independent research programme has been continually evaluating the progress of the Public Defender Service(PDS) since its inception. The results of the research, including a full assessment of the cost of the scheme in comparison to private criminal defence practitioners, is due to be published in autumn 2005.

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how much was paid in legal aid fees for *(a)* civil work and *(b)* criminal work in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [9573]

**Bridget Prentice:** Payments made by the Legal Services Commission for civil and criminal work, in cash, since 2000–01 are shown in the table:

*£ million*

| | *Civil* | *Criminal (below Crown Court)* | *Criminal (Crown Court and above)* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2000–01 | 791.9 | 450.4 | 422.0 |
| 2001–02 | 734.5 | 508.3 | 474.1 |
| 2002–03 | 812.8 | 526.4 | 569.3 |
| 2003–04 | 897.9 | 533.5 | 645.0 |
| 2004–05 | 845.9 | 509.7 | 682.4 |

**Mr. Djanogly:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many law firms practised legal aid work in 1999 for *(a)* criminal law, *(b)* general civil law, *(c)* immigration law, *(d)* family law, *(e)* housing law and *(f)* mental health law, broken down by region. [9620]

**Bridget Prentice:** The figures for law firms, by region, who practised in criminal, family and other civil law in the 1999–2000 financial year are in the table. It has not been possible to break this down into the other categories requested in the time allowed.

*Number of providers paid by region and type of work 1999–2000*

| | *Crime* | *Family* | *Other civil* |
|---|---|---|---|
| No. 1 London | 1,329 | 1,674 | 2,009 |
| No. 2 South Eastern | 391 | 637 | 605 |
| No. 3 Southern | 458 | 672 | 625 |
| No. 4 South Western | 506 | 731 | 696 |
| No. 5 South Wales | 371 | 449 | 448 |
| No. 6 West Midland | 515 | 621 | 604 |
| No. 7 North Western | 512 | 670 | 692 |
| No. 8 Northern | 466 | 535 | 507 |
| No. 9 North Eastern | 507 | 626 | 618 |
| No. 10 East Midland | 478 | 614 | 599 |
| No. 11 Eastern | 509 | 725 | 669 |
| No. 12 Chester and North Wales | 381 | 497 | 483 |
| No. 15 Merseyside | 283 | 409 | 410 |
| All areas | 6,706 | 8,860 | 8,965 |

**Mr. Djanogly:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many law firms, have contracted for criminal legal aid work in each year since the Access to Justice Act 1999 came into force, broken down by region [9621]

**Bridget Prentice:** The number of law firms contracted for criminal legally aided work, by region, since the Legal Services Commission (LSC) began operating the General Criminal Contract in 2001 are set out in the table.

The figures shown in the answer are figures taken directly from the LSC's scrutiny and payment of criminal claims (SPOCC) system and include firms who, although may not still have a contract with the LSC, are still billing for work that was carried out under their contract.

| | *2001–02* | | *2002–03* | | *2003–04* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Start* | *End* | *Start* | *End* | *Start* | *End* |
| East Midlands | 209 | 214 | 214 | 211 | 212 | 200 |
| Eastern | 207 | 217 | 218 | 204 | 204 | 192 |
| London | 471 | 488 | 488 | 532 | 533 | 504 |
| Merseyside | 76 | 73 | 73 | 80 | 80 | 71 |
| North East | 197 | 199 | 200 | 197 | 198 | 182 |
| North West | 367 | 355 | 356 | 350 | 352 | 353 |
| South East | 334 | 330 | 333 | 337 | 338 | 302 |
| South West | 257 | 250 | 251 | 243 | 243 | 229 |
| Wales | 265 | 250 | 250 | 255 | 256 | 244 |
| West Midlands | 287 | 284 | 285 | 271 | 272 | 271 |
| Yorkshire Humberside | 255 | 268 | 268 | 267 | 268 | 249 |
| Total | 2,925 | 2,928 | 2,936 | 2,947 | 2,956 | 2,797 |

| | *2004–05* | | *2005–06* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Start* | *End* | *Start* | *Current* |
| East Midlands | 201 | 192 | 193 | 198 |
| Eastern | 193 | 181 | 181 | 183 |
| London | 505 | 497 | 498 | 510 |
| Merseyside | 72 | 65 | 65 | 65 |
| North East | 182 | 162 | 162 | 166 |
| North West | 354 | 331 | 333 | 324 |
| South East | 303 | 306 | 308 | 303 |
| South West | 230 | 200 | 201 | 199 |
| Wales | 245 | 225 | 225 | 220 |
| West Midlands | 271 | 265 | 266 | 268 |
| Yorkshire Humberside | 249 | 237 | 237 | 237 |
| Total | 2,805 | 2,661 | 2,669 | 2,673 |

**Mr. Djanogly:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many law

firms bid for civil legal aid contracts in each of the bid rounds that have taken place since the Access to Justice Act 1999 came into force, broken down by region. [9622]

**Bridget Prentice:** In June 1999, bids were invited for contracts from solicitors firms and not-for-profit organisations to undertake civil legal aid work. Over 6,000 bids for contracts were received. At the start of the new scheme on 1 January 2000, there were 5,156 contracts signed. Approximately 90 per cent. of existing contracted solicitors re-bid for their contract during the bid round in 2003, with the other 10 per cent. being let to solicitors firms moving into new categories of law or who were new to legal aid, and not-for-profit agencies. The present contract began on 1 April 2004. At the start of the 2004–05 financial year 6,242 solicitors firms had been awarded contracts. The number of contracts continues to change between bid rounds, with firms joining as well as withdrawing.

**Mr. Djanogly:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs pursuant to the answer of 27 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 1329W, on criminal cases, when she expects to announce the Government's vision for the future of legal aid. [10010]

**Bridget Prentice:** I refer the hon. Member to the Written Ministerial Statement made by my right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs and Lord Chancellor on 5 July 2005.

### Legal Aid (Northern Ireland)

**Mr. Dodds:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how much legal aid was paid to *(a)* solicitors, *(b)* junior counsel and *(c)* senior counsel in each year in Northern Ireland since 2000. [9486]

**Bridget Prentice:** The amount of criminal legal aid paid since the financial year 2000–01 is set out in the table:

*£ million*

| | *2000–01* | *2001–02* | *2002–03* | *2003–04* | *2004–05* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Solicitors | 11.7 | 13.3 | 12.8 | 14.2 | 16.6 |
| Senior Counsel | 4.2 | 5 | 6.8 | 6.9 | 6.9 |
| Junior Counsel | 6 | 6.3 | 7.3 | 8.2 | 9.1 |
| Total | 21.9 | 24.6 | 26.9 | 29.3 | 32.6 |

The amount of civil legal aid paid since the financial year 2000–01 is set out as follows:

*£ million*

| | *2000–01* | *2001–02* | *2002–03* | *2003–04* | *2004–05* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Solicitors | 14.7 | 15.1 | 15.5 | 16.1 | 21.7 |
| All counsel[1] | 1.9 | 2.5 | 3.3 | 4.8 | 4.7 |
| Total | 16.6 | 17.6 | 18.8 | 20.9 | 26.4 |

[1] As fees to counsel in civil cases are paid as a disbursement to the instructing solicitor details of the amount paid to senior and junior counsel is not retained in an accessible form.

### London Assembly/Scottish Parliament

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what plans the Government have to amend the electoral system for the *(a)* London Assembly and *(b)* Scottish Parliament to prevent party list candidates also running for constituency seats. [9812]

**Ms Harman:** An internal review of the experiences of the new UK voting systems introduced for the devolved Administrations, the European Parliament and London Assembly elections is being conducted by officials within my Department. It is at an early stage, and any decisions regarding the next steps for the review will be taken in due course.

With regards to the Scottish Parliament, the Secretary of State for Scotland, my right hon. Friend the Member for Edinburgh, South-West (Mr. Darling), set up the Commission on Boundary Differences and Voting Systems in July 2004 under the chairmanship of Professor Sir John Arbuthnott. The Commission has been asked to report by December 2005.

### Postal Voting

**Mr. Greenway:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs if she will make a statement on the arrangements for postal voting. [9189]

**Ms Harman:** We will improve the security of the postal voting process and are currently consulting on proposals.

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs whether the Department will accept applications for all-postal voting pilots from local authorities in *(a)* forthcoming by-elections and *(b)* the 2005 local elections. [9810]

**Ms Harman:** I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave on 15 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 464W. This answer also applies to any pilot applications received from local authorities for by-elections.

### Public Defender Service

**Mr. Djanogly:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what assessment she has made of the cost efficiency of the public defender scheme. [8269]

**Bridget Prentice:** : The Public Defender Service (PDS) has been undergoing continuous independent research and assessment since its inception. A full evaluation of the PDS pilot, including a full assessment of the cost efficiency of the scheme in comparison to private criminal defence practitioners, is due to be published in autumn 2005.

**Mr. Djanogly:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs if she will make a statement on progress of the public defender pilots. [8271]

**Bridget Prentice:** The Public Defender Service (PDS) has been undergoing continuous independent assessment since its inception in 2001.

An interim research report published in 2004 assessed the PDS as performing better than private criminal defence practitioners in terms of the overall level of service provided and results achieved at police stations. In addition, more than 97 per cent. of PDS clients surveyed were satisfied with the service they received and 98 per cent. were happy to recommend the PDS to a friend.

A final evaluation of the PDS pilot is due to be published in autumn 2005.

**Mr. Djanogly:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many defendants are being represented by public defenders in each area where pilots are taking place; and what plans she has to extend the scheme to other areas of the country. [8272]

**Bridget Prentice:** Data collection under the PDS does not specifically record the numbers of defendants helped, but rather the number of "matter starts." Each "matter start" refers to an act of help given by a PDS representative. The nature of the help can vary from advice and assistance at the police station to representation before the courts. On this basis, the number of matters started at each PDS office during 2004–05 is set out as follows:

*Matters started: 2004–05*

| *PDS office* | *Number* |
|---|---|
| Liverpool | 719 |
| Middlesbrough | 582 |
| Swansea | 508 |
| Birmingham | 427 |
| Cheltenham | 1,052 |
| Pontypridd | 421 |
| Chester | 385 |
| Darlington | 540 |
| Total | 4,634 |

At present any further expansion of the scheme is subject to the final evaluation of the PDS pilot, due to be published in autumn 2005. These findings will determine the future of the Public Defender Service.

### Work-related Stress

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many cases of work-related stress have been reported in her Department in each of the last three years; how much compensation was paid to employees in each year; how many work days were lost due to work-related stress in each year; at what cost; what procedures have been put in place to reduce work-related stress; at what cost; and if she will make a statement. [7857]

**Bridget Prentice:** Detailed sick absence statistics are derived from medical and self-certificates, which are completed by staff or their GPs. While certain illnesses, such as "depression", "anxiety", "general debility" and even "stress" may be indicated on certificates, it is not possible to determine levels of "work-related stress". Consequently, we have no details on the number of working days lost due to work-related stress or the cost to the Department.

Over the last year the Department has introduced a stress at work policy and a managers' toolkit to ensure that the policy is used effectively and at appropriate times. The Department has also introduced a stress helpline as part of its internal occupational welfare provision and enhanced its two existing courses for managers and individuals on managing stress in the workplace. All these new initiatives are based on best practice and on the Stress Management Standards issued by the Health and Safety Executive last year. It is not possible to estimate the costs associated with these activities since they were not accounted for separately. Similarly, we have no records of costs associated with compensation for work-related stress.

## SCOTLAND

### Aviation Policy

6. **John Barrett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what assessment he has made of the impact of the Government's aviation policy in Scotland. [8170]

**Mr. Darling:** We continue to work closely with the Scottish Executive on all aspects of policies from the Air Transport White Paper.

### Post Offices

7. **Jo Swinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had with his ministerial colleagues about the future of post offices in Scotland; and if he will make a statement. [8171]

**David Cairns:** My right hon. Friend and I regularly meet with ministerial colleagues and discuss a range of issues.

### Caledonian MacBrayne

8. **Mr. MacNeil:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he has held with the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Scottish Executive on off-shoring tax arrangements for crew of Caledonian MacBrayne. [8172]

**Mr. Darling:** I regularly meet my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer and Scottish Executive Ministers to discuss a wide range of issues.

### Devolution

9. **Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent devolution issues the Advocate-General has considered. [8173]

**Mr. Darling:** Since 7 June, the Advocate-General has had 55 devolution issues intimated to her. 43 of these were concerned with civil matters. Most of the civil cases concerned prison conditions. Of the 12 criminal matters raised, four concerned pre-trial delay. The Advocate-General has not considered it necessary or appropriate to intervene, at this stage, in any of the devolution issues intimated to her since 7 June.

### Integrated Energy Policy

10. **John Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he has had with the Scottish Executive regarding the development of an integrated energy policy for Scotland. [8174]

**David Cairns:** Scotland Office Ministers and officials are in regular contact with the Scottish Executive on a wide range of energy-related matters.

### Identity Cards

12. **Stewart Hosie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he has had with the Home Office and the Scottish Executive on the introduction of identity cards in Scotland. [8176]

**Mr. Darling:** I have regular discussions with my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary and the First Minister on a number of issues.

### Local Income Tax

13. **David Mundell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the implications for the rest of the UK of the introduction of a local income tax in Scotland. [8177]

**David Cairns:** Scotland Office Ministers have regular discussions on a range of issues with my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

### G8 Summit

**Pete Wishart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what plans he has to ensure lasting beneficial effects for Scotland following the G8 summit. [8175]

**Mr. Darling):** The G8 Summit is a real opportunity for Scotland to showcase its many attractions to a world audience and demonstrate our expertise in hosting major events. I am also confident that, by the end of the UK's presidency of the G8, Scotland will have given a significant boost to the drives to make poverty history and to secure our environment for future generations.

**Mark Lazarowicz:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what his assessment is of the implications for Scotland of the G8 summit to be held in Gleneagles. [8179]

**Mr. Darling:** Hosting the G8 Summit is a real opportunity for Scotland to showcase its many attractions to a world audience and to demonstrate our expertise in hosting major events. I am also confident that, by the end of the UK's presidency of the G8, Scotland will have given a significant boost to the drives to make poverty history and to secure our environment for future generations.

### Economic Performance

**Mr. Salmond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland when he last met the Chancellor of the Exchequer to discuss Scotland's economic performance. [8178]

**Mr. Darling:** I meet my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer regularly to discuss a range of issues. The Scottish economy continues to benefit from the economic stability delivered by this Government.

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### Antibiotics (Animals)

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will make a statement on the use in animals of antibiotic substances also used in human medicine, with particular reference to *(a)* amoxicillin, *(b)* tetracycline and *(c)* clindamycin. [9479]

**Mr. Bradshaw** *[holding answer 4 July 2005]:* In October 2003 VMD and the Department of Health prepared lists of all antimicrobial compounds authorised in the UK for use in humans and animals (species noted against each entry). The lists are available on the VMD website www.vmd.gov.uk.

With specific reference to the antimicrobial ingredients amoxicillin, and clindamycin, and the antimicrobial class of tetracyclines, the following table details the animal species in which these antimicrobials are also authorised for use.

| *Antibiotic substances* | |
|---|---|
| Amoxicillin | Dogs, Cats, Pigeons, Poultry, Cattle, Pigs, Sheep, Fish. |
| Tetracyclines | Pigs, Poultry, Cattle, Sheep, Horses, Deer, Pigeons, Cage Birds, Cats, Dogs, Small Animals, Fish. |
| Clindamycin | Dogs, Cats. |

The Government recognise that antimicrobials are essential medicines for ensuring the good health of both humans and animals. Controls are in place to safeguard the proper use of antimicrobials and to minimise the development of resistance that can make products less efficacious.

Antimicrobial veterinary medicinal products may only be used under the direction of a veterinary surgeon on animals in his care and this ensures they are used only when necessary and that advice on use is available to the animal owner to minimise the development of antimicrobial resistance.

A Code of Practice on the Responsible Use of Animal Medicines on the Farm has been produced by the Veterinary Medicines Directorate and is available at their website. There are also a number of guidelines available concerning the responsible use of antimicrobials in livestock that have been produced by the Responsible Use of Medicines in Agriculture Alliance (RUMA).

### Carbon Emissions

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much carbon was emitted by *(a)* aircraft and *(b)* cars in the UK in the last period for which figures are available. [9032]

**Mr. Morley:** The answer is as follows:

*(a)* Emissions from aircraft in the UK in 2003 are shown for (1) carbon dioxide ($CO_2$) in million tonnes carbon dioxide per year ($MtCO_2/yr$), and (2) the Kyoto basket of greenhouse gases (GHG) in million tonnes carbon dioxide equivalent per year ($MtCO_2eq/yr$). These figures are from the most recent official UK greenhouse gas inventory.

(1)$CO_2$:2.11 $MtCO_2/yr$

(2)GHG:2.14$MtCO_2eq/yr$

The data cover emissions from all civil domestic passenger and freight traffic movements inside the UK. Under guidelines agreed internationally, emissions from international aviation taking off and landing at UK

airports are not included in UK total emissions, but are estimated for information purposes. Emissions of $CO_2$ and all greenhouse gases from international aviation in 2003 are estimated to have been 29.7 and 30.0 $MtCO_2eq$/yr respectively.

*(b)* Similarly, $CO_2$ and GHG emissions for cars in 2003 are:

$CO_2$:71.1 $MtCO_2$/yr

GHG: 75.4 $MtCO_2eq$/yr

For all road transport the figures are:

$CO_2$: 119.5$MtCO_2$/yr

GHG: 124.6$MtCO_2eq$/yr

## Cetaceans

**Jeremy Corbyn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what representations the Government have made to the *(a)* EU Council and *(b)* EU member states for increased levels of protection for cetaceans; and if she will make a statement. [8642]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Following pressure from the UK for community wide action Council Regulation 812/2004 establishing measures to address the incidental bycatch of small cetaceans was adopted by the Agriculture and Fisheries Council in March 2004. Earlier this year I asked the European Commission to extend the UK prohibition on pair trawling within 12 miles of the south west coast to vessels from other member states with historic rights of access to the 6–12 mile zone. I sought support for these measures from the French Minister for fisheries. This request was subsequently rejected by the Commission.

At the Agriculture and Fisheries Council in March 2004 I secured a commitment from the Commission to conduct a review this year of existing bycatch data to determine whether further action is needed. ICES (The International Council for the Exploration of the Sea) has recently published its review of data at http://www.ices.dk, which will now be considered by the Commission.

I will continue to promote and support measures to protect cetaceans.

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research she has commissioned into marine noise pollution, with particular reference to the impact on cetaceans; and whether she plans to address this issue in forthcoming legislation. [8904]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The UK is a signatory to ASCOBANS (Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic, North East Atlantic, Irish and North Seas). At the 4th Meeting of Parties in 2003, Resolution 4.5 invited Parties and Range States to conduct research into the effects on small cetaceans of acoustic disturbances.

In October 2004, the Department let a contract to the Zoological Society of London to assess the feasibility of researching induced anthropogenic acoustic damage to cetaceans in British waters through the detailed examination of the auditory apparatus of stranded or by-caught animals.

As well as furthering the objectives of ASCOBANS, the work will also form a valuable contribution towards the UK's cetacean biodiversity action plans which call for studies into the effects of underwater sounds on cetacean species.

The Department also contributes to the Inter Agency Committee for Marine Science and Technology and a Crown Estate initiative which includes sound research and development in relation to piling noise for wind farms.

The Department would need to assess the results of research before considering whether legislation is the best mechanism to deal with any potential problems of marine noise pollution with regard to cetacean life forms.

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent research she has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the effects of marine noise pollution on (i) marine mammals and (ii) other marine life; and if she will make a statement. [9104]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The UK is a signatory to ASCOBANS (Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic, North East Atlantic, Irish and North Seas). At the 4th Meeting of Parties in 2003, Resolution 4.5 invited Parties and Range States to conduct research into the effects on small cetaceans of acoustic disturbances.

In October 2004, the Department let a contract to the Zoological Society of London to assess the feasibility of researching induced anthropogenic acoustic damage to cetaceans in British waters through the detailed examination of the auditory apparatus of stranded or by-caught animals.

As well as furthering the objectives of ASCOBANS, the work will also form a valuable contribution towards the UK's cetacean biodiversity action plans which call for studies into the effects of underwater sounds on cetacean species.

The Department also contributes to the Inter Agency Committee for Marine Science and Technology and a Crown Estate initiative which includes sound research and development in relation to piling noise for wind farms.

The Joint Nature Conservation Committee has produced guidelines for minimising acoustic disturbance to marine mammals for seismic surveys (available from www.jncc.gov.uk). It is a legal binding condition of the consent issued for seismic surveys under regulation 4 of the Petroleum Activities (Conservation of Habitats) Regulations 2001 by the Department of Trade and Industry that the JNCC guidelines must be followed at all times for all seismic surveys.

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent representations she has received on marine noise pollution in UK waters. [9105]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Department has recently received one representation on marine noise pollution in UK waters. The Department is involved in discussions on marine noise pollution at the international level through

the agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic, North East Atlantic, Irish and North Seas (ASCOBANS) and the Oslo Paris Convention (OSPAR).

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what action she plans to take through the International Whaling Commission to seek greater protection for cetaceans. [6825]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** We will continue to maintain our opposition to all forms of whaling other than some limited subsistence whaling. The UK strongly supports the IWC moratorium on commercial whaling and our major objective will be to resist any attempt to lift the moratorium.

The UK will support the creation of regional whale sanctuaries and the continuation of existing ones. We will also continue to oppose so called "scientific" whaling and seek to raise welfare issues at every suitable opportunity, highlighting the cruelty involved in whaling.

### Computer Crime

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many cases of computer *(a)* hacking, *(b)* fraud and *(c)* theft her Department recorded in each year since 2001–02; and for each year, on how many occasions computer systems have been illegally accessed by computer hackers (i) within and (ii) outside her Department. [7187]

**Jim Knight:** The Department is not aware of any successful hacking or fraud involving its IT systems during the period. The Department deploys anti-hacking measures on its IT network including firewalls, application firewalls, hardening of servers, intrusion detection systems and IT security health checks.

The following numbers of computer thefts are recorded for the period:

*Computer thefts*

| | *Number of items stolen* |
|---|---|
| 2001–02 | 13 |
| 2002–03 | 23 |
| 2003–04 | 2 |
| 2004–05 | 3 |

### Dormice

**Mark Tami:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps her Department is taking to protect and enhance *(a)* the habitats and *(b)* the number of the dormouse population in England; and what estimate she has made of the dormouse population in England in each of the last five years. [9212]

**Jim Knight:** The dormouse is a priority species with an individual Species Action Plan that is led jointly by English Nature and The Wildlife Trusts. It has also been the subject of an English Nature Species Recovery Programme since 1991. The main reasons for the decline of the dormouse appear to be the fragmentation of our woodlands coupled with inappropriate woodland management. The dormouse recovery programme has sought to address these issues. Guidance on woodland management to favour dormice was published in 1996 and has been followed by a series of training courses for woodland managers. Awareness of the needs of the dormouse is now very high. In addition, the Forestry Commission has a large programme to restore planted ancient woodland sites, which will favour the dormouse. An innovative research programme, carried out at Royal Holloway, University of London, showed the importance of hedgerows for dormice and guidance on hedgerow management was published by English Nature in 2002. 'Dormouse friendly' hedgerows are now an option in the Government's new Environmental Scheme. A greatly-expanded conservation handbook on dormice will be published later this year.

As well as efforts to improve the countryside for dormice, the species has been reintroduced into some parts of England from which it was lost. A partnership between English Nature and the People's Trust for Endangered Species, with veterinary support from the Institute of Zoology, has now carried out 14 reintroductions to 11 counties, using dormice supplied by the Common Dormouse Captive Breeders Group. Follow-up surveys have confirmed the success of this approach, with the first reintroduction now more than 10-years-old. The most recent reintroduction was to the Chatsworth Estate, Derbyshire in June this year.

Estimating the number of dormice is difficult as the species is very under-recorded. The first Great Nut Hunt in 1993 greatly increased the number of known sites for the species and a national inventory of more than 1,300 sites is now available through the National Biodiversity Network. More than 200 of these sites now contribute to the National Dormouse Monitoring Programme by counting the number of dormice in nest-boxes every summer. These data, summarised in the report of the Tracking Mammals Project, have shown that, nationally, the dormouse population has declined by 23 per cent. since 1993, though it has been relatively stable in recent years. However, there are indications that the species remains vulnerable at the edge of its range, particularly in the marginal uplands, so there is an on-going need for conservation work. A recent estimate of the national population suggested that there are in the region of 45,000 dormice in Britain.

### Emissions Trading Scheme

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will make a statement on the treatment of funds collected under the EU Emissions Trading Scheme. [8605]

**Mr. Morley** *[holding answer 30 June 2005]:* The EU Emissions Trading Scheme works at an installation rather than state-level, and therefore any potential profits or losses from the Scheme are accrued by the individual operator.

The two categories of payments from individual operators under the EU Emissions Trading Scheme are regulator fees and civil penalties. Fees are imposed by the regulator to cover the costs incurred in administering the scheme. The regulator also administers the collection of civil penalties, levied when regulations have been broken. Regulation 41 of the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Trading

Scheme Regulations 2005 requires the regulator to collect any civil penalties, and then to pass them to the "appropriate authority", before entering the Treasury's Consolidated Fund. The appropriate authority is the Secretary of State for installations in England and offshore installations, the Scottish Ministers for installations in Scotland, the Welsh Assembly for installations in Wales, and the Department of Environment for Northern Ireland.

Operators can avoid paying civil penalties by purchasing (and surrendering) additional allowances from other operators, in line with their obligations under the Scheme.

**Mr. Ian Austin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will assess the merits of including aircraft emissions in the European Emissions Trading Scheme. [8745]

**Mr. Morley:** Aviation accounted for approximately 3 per cent. of the EU's carbon dioxide emissions in 2001. While this is a relatively modest share, this represents an increase of 68 per cent. from 1990 levels. Furthermore, in their 1999 Special Report on Aviation and the Global Atmosphere, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) estimated that the total climate change effect from aviation is approximately two to four times larger than the effect of its $CO_2$ emissions alone. The EU has recognised the need to tackle this growing area of emissions in the absence of other international action.

The use of emissions trading allows the coverage of environmental costs through a mixture of emissions reductions within the sector and purchase of reductions that can be produced more cheaply by other sectors. The advantage of emissions trading is that, through the use of a defined emissions cap, it guarantees a desired environmental outcome in a way that other instruments, such as charges, do not. Furthermore, it ensures that the emissions reductions required to achieve a particular environmental outcome take place in as cost-effective a manner as possible.

For an international industry, an international trading regime is the best solution. The Government have made taking forward the work programme for the inclusion of aviation emissions into the EU Emissions Trading Scheme a priority for the UK presidency of the EU. While there are further instruments that may be appropriate, our focus is on emissions trading as the most cost effective way of delivering our environmental objective.

### Fish Merchants

**Mr. MacNeil:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs under what legislation the proposed buyers' licences for fish merchants were introduced; and if she will make a statement. [8877]

**Mr. Bradshaw** *[holding answer 4 July 2005]:* In England the registration of buyers and sellers of first sale fish was introduced by The Registration of Fish Buyers and Sellers and Designation of Fish Auction Sites Regulations 2005 (SI 2005 No. 1605). Similar legislation has been or will be introduced by the devolved administrations and the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development Northern Ireland.

### Flooding (North Yorkshire)

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will relax the three day notice period on movements given in North Yorkshire following the flooding. [9473]

**Mr. Morley:** It is a requirement under the Disease Control (England) Order 2003 that livestock movements are reported within three days of the movement taking place.

We have not been asked to relax this reporting period due to flooding in North Yorkshire, but we would treat any requests we receive to do so sympathetically, where the farmer concerned is suffering hardship.

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will provide funds to assist the clear-up of the countryside and carriageways following the floods in North Yorkshire. [9476]

**Mr. Morley:** The Bellwin Scheme, administered by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, is the means by which financial assistance can be made available to local authorities following an emergency. Funding from DEFRA is not available for this purpose.

### Foot and Mouth

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will list occasions referred to in Commission Decision 2005/436/EC, OJL151 of 14 June, where EU states were supported by the EU in emergency foot and mouth vaccination campaigns; what the cost was; what funding procedures were used; whether such procedures remain in place; what happened to stock following vaccination; and whether this facility was available to the UK during 2001. [8984]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Decision 2005/436/EC concerns the operation and European Community contributions to a Trust Fund established by the European Commission for the Control of Foot and Mouth Disease (EUFMD) aimed at emergency measures to be carried out in the Balkans, the main route of entry of FMD into Europe. EUFMD was founded under the auspices of the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations. It has over 30 member countries some of which are member states of the European Community; some are not.

The Trust Fund has been used to support foot and mouth disease emergency vaccination campaigns in Turkey and in Transcaucasia thereby protecting areas at risk within the European Community. No member state of the European Community has received funds from the Trust Fund to support foot and mouth disease emergency vaccination campaigns and this facility was not available to the UK in 2001.

### Forestry

**Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much central government financial support has been made available for private sector forestry in the East midlands region in the last 10 years; and whether her Department plans to change the allocation. [8915]

**Jim Knight:** With the introduction of the Forestry Commission's English Woodland Grant Scheme later this month we will, for the first time, be allocating forestry grant funding on a regional basis. Grants under the previous Woodland Grant Scheme were funded on a national basis. The following table gives details of payments in the East midlands for each year for the last 10 years.

*Forestry commission grant scheme payments*

| *Financial year* | *£000* |
|---|---|
| 2003–04 | 1,955 |
| 2002–03 | 1,774 |
| 2001–02 | 1,699 |
| 2000–01 | 2,018 |
| 1999–2000 | 1,957 |
| 1998–99 | 1,642 |
| 1997–98 | 2,164 |
| 1996–97 | [1]1,933 |
| 1995–96 | [1]1,079 |
| 1994–95 | [1]1,143 |

[1] This figure includes estimated payments of £133,000 that were made against old grant schemes and which are not recorded on the current financial management systems.

The allocation of funds for the current financial year is £2.0 million. This is for payments due under grant schemes agreed in previous years and for new applications that will be approved this year. Future years funding will depend on national and regional priorities.

In addition much of the National Forest lies within the east midlands region. Payments under their tender scheme, which is principally funded by DEFRA, are given in the following table. This excludes the woodland grant scheme element of the scheme, which is included in the above table.

*National forest company tender scheme payments*

| *Financial year* | *£000* |
|---|---|
| 2004–05 | 1,660 |
| 2003–04 | 1,926 |
| 2002–03 | 1,930 |
| 2001–02 | 1,899 |
| 2000–01 | 1,693 |
| 1999–2000 | 1,583 |
| 1998–99 | 1,158 |
| 1997–98 | 1,205 |
| 1996–97 | 795 |
| 1995–96 | 453 |

There are no plans to change the funding allocated to the National Forest in the current spending review period.

**Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will increase the level of maintenance grant available for tree planting schemes. [8914]

**Jim Knight:** The woodland creation element of the Forestry Commission's new English Woodland Grant Scheme, which will open for applications later this month, has payment rates that are broadly comparable to those available under the previous Woodland Grant Scheme.

The woodland creation grant provides a contribution to both the cost of woodland establishment and for maintenance in the 10 years following planting. There are no plans to change the rate of grant. However, changes may need to be made to the rate payable from 2007 onwards in order to reflect any requirements of the new Rural Development Regulation.

### GM Crops (EU Environment Council)

**Mr. Llwyd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will publish the full text of contributions made by UK representatives in the EU Council of Ministers discussion on 24 June on genetically modified crops and food. [9181]

**Mr. Morley:** At the Environment Council the Presidency asked member states to intervene only if their voting position on the GM proposals had changed. The UK had not changed its voting position (either on the question of whether to approve the GMO MON 863, or on the dossiers relating to other member states' safeguard actions) so no intervention was necessary.

### International Whaling Commission

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will list countries eligible to vote at the International Whaling Conference in South Korea. [6824]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Nine new members joined at this year's International Whaling Commission meeting, held in Ulsan, South Korea in June, bringing the total number of members to 66. However, Belize, Costa Rica, Kenya and Peru lack voting rights. Thus of the 66 member nations, only 62 contracting member governments were eligible to vote at the meeting.

These countries were Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Benin, Brazil, Cameroon, Chile, People's Republic of China, Cote d'Ivoire, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominica, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Germany, Grenada, Guinea, Hungary, Iceland, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kiribati, Republic of Korea, Luxembourg, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Nauru, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Oman, Republic of Palau, Panama, Portugal, Russian Federation, San Marino, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent & The Grenadines, Senegal, Slovak Republic, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Surinam, Sweden, Switzerland, Togo, Tuvalu, UK, and the USA.

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will make a statement on the latest meeting of the International Whaling Commission; and what the Government's position is on the hunting of whales. [7659]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The latest meeting of the International Whaling Commission (IWC) was a successful meeting for the UK. All key UK objectives were achieved, most notably: retention of the moratorium on commercial whaling and the Southern Ocean Sanctuary; rejection of secret ballots; adoption of a Resolution, criticising Japan's plans to significantly increase its scientific

whaling programme; and agreement by consensus to hold a Workshop on Whale Killing Methods and Associated Issues.

The UK is opposed to whaling and strongly supports the current IWC moratorium on commercial whaling. We do not believe there is any justification for whaling apart from some limited subsistence whaling by indigenous people. We believe that whaling does not serve any genuine need and involves unacceptable cruelty.

### Nuclear Waste

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to her answer of 22 June 2005, to the hon. Member for Lewes (Norman Baker), *Official Report*, column 1040W, what proportion of the waste relates to the Ministry of Defence. [9103]

**Mr. Morley:** The proportion of the wastes which relate to the Ministry of Defence is between 2 and 3 per cent. The figures are deduced from the 2001 UK Radioactive Waste Inventory. The 2004 inventory should be published this autumn.

### Parish Councils

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether the grant scheme available for parish councils to conduct consultation about parish plans extends to village residents associations in areas where there is no parish council. [8625]

**Jim Knight:** It is possible for parish plan grants funded by DEFRA to support the development of community plans in parts of the country where there is no parish council. Responsibility for administering the grant scheme now rests with individual Rural Community Councils.

### Pet Markets

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) if she will make it her policy to ban exotic pet markets; [8968]

(2) how many illegal pet markets have been discovered in England in each of the last five years; and what action was taken in each case. [8969]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The scope of the prohibition on pet markets and similar events in public places under the Pet Animals Act 1951 (as amended 1983) is in need of clarification. The Animal Welfare Bill will provide an opportunity to supply this clarification. We are currently in contact with parties with an interest in the sale of animals at pet markets. Once we have had an opportunity to consider the responses to this first consultation, it is our intention to prepare proposals which will be subject to a wider public consultation, before any legislation is introduced.

It is for local authorities to enforce the Pet Animals Act 1951, including the licensing of pet markets. Data on enforcement action taken under this Act are not collated by my Department.

### Rats

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate she has made of the level of rat infestation of sewers in each London borough. [8238]

**Mr. Morley:** My Department does not undertake assessments of the level of rat infestation of sewers.

### Rights of Way

**Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment she has made of the *(a)* targets and *(b)* funding mechanism for the maintenance and enhancement of rights of way networks in rural areas. [8917]

**Jim Knight:** The Government set a target in their Rural White Paper, published in 2000, of a 10 per cent. improvement in defining, maintaining and publicising the rights of way network by 2005. The Countryside Agency is currently carrying out research to evaluate whether this target has been met. Local highway authorities receive their rights of way funding through the unhypothecated Environment Protection and Cultural Services block in the Revenue Support Grant. The method of funding was agreed with the Local Government Association and all four leaders of the political groups on the Association.

### Rural Housing Commission

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what budget has been allocated to the proposed Rural Housing Commission; and if she will make a statement. [8919]

**Jim Knight:** Work to set up an Affordable Rural Affordable Housing Commission is under way and I hope to be able to make an announcement shortly. That work will include the Commission's terms of reference. The budget will be found from within existing departmental resources.

### Smog

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many smog warnings have been issued in London in each year since 1979. [8207]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Forecasts of high air pollution are issued when Defra estimates that concentrations of specific air pollutants are likely to exceed guideline values. The table shows the number of forecasts of high air pollution in London published by Defra from 1992 (the first year that forecasts were available) to the present time.

Defra warns of high air pollution through the Air Quality Information Archive at www.airquality.co.uk, Teletext, page 169 and the freephone service 0800 556677. On occasions when a notable air pollution episode is forecast, such as the first photochemical smog in any year, Defra may supplement these forecasts with a news release.

*Number of forecasts of high air pollution in London published by Defra*[1]

| | *Number of forecasts of high air pollution* |
|---|---|
| 1992 | 90 |
| 1993[2] | 94 |
| 1994 | 94 |
| 1995 | 118 |
| 1996 | 139 |
| 1997[3] | 12 |
| 1998 | 15 |
| 1999[2] | 8 |
| 2000 | 8 |
| 2001 | 13 |
| 2002 | 3 |
| 2003 | 13 |
| 2004 | 4 |
| 2005[4] | 2 |

[1] Number of days when a forecast for high air pollution was published for one or more of the pollutants included in the air quality banding and index system. Details of the air pollution banding and index system are available at http://www.airquality.co.uk/archive/standards.php#band

[2] There are no numbers available for the individual years 1993 and 1994. The numbers presented are the average for 1993 and 1994. The same applies to 1999 and 2000.

[3] The guideline values for some air pollutants were changed in 1997 following advice from the Committee on the Medical Effects of Air Pollutants (COMEAP) and a public consultation. A statement from COMEAP is available at http://www.advisorybodies.doh.gov.uk/comeap/statementsreports/airpol9.htm.
Before 1997 the air quality guidelines for "poor" air quality were: nitrogen dioxide, 191 microgrammes per metre cubed as an hourly average; sulphur dioxide, 333 microgrammes per metre cubed as an hourly average; and ozone, 180 microgrammes per metre cubed as an hourly average. From 1997 onwards, the thresholds for the definition of high pollution were defined as: nitrogen dioxide, 573 microgrammes per metre cubed as an hourly average; sulphur dioxide, 532 microgrammes per metre cubed as a 15 minute average; ozone was unchanged. In 1997 guideline values for particulate matter (PMio) and carbon monoxide were added. These are: $PM_{10}$, 97 microgrammes per metre cubed, gravimetric equivalent; carbon monoxide, 17.4 microgrammes per metre cubed.

[4] High forecasts up to 30 June 2005.

### Taxis

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much the Department has spent on taxis in each of the last five years. [6504]

**Jim Knight:** The Department does not hold information on travel by taxi centrally and this could be provided only at disproportionate cost

### Warm Homes and Energy Conservation Act

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress the Government have made in meeting the targets of the Warm Homes and Energy Conservation Act 2000. [9178]

**Mr. Morley:** A detailed update on progress against the targets outlined in the UK Fuel Poverty Strategy will be available in the third annual Fuel Poverty Strategy Progress Report, expected to be published later this month.

### Work-related Stress

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many cases of work-related stress have been reported in her Department in each of the last three years; how much compensation was paid to employees in each year; how many work days were lost due to work-related stress in each year; at what cost; what procedures have been put in place to reduce work-related stress; at what cost; and if she will make a statement. [7862]

**Jim Knight:** DEFRA's current sickness absence system does not differentiate between stress and work-related stress. So the number of reported cases of work-related stress and work days lost as a result cannot be calculated.

There are no records of compensation being paid out for work-related stress.

The Department has set a target to reduce the number of working days lost from work-related injury and ill-health by 30 per cent. by 2010. This mirrors the revitalising health and safety strategy target.

DEFRA was established in June 2001. Since then the management board has established a sub-committee on stress which recommended a number of actions. The Department has a stress policy and stress strategy and was one of the first organisations to pilot the Health and Safety Executive's Management Standards for Stress. The Department has several initiatives to help address stress such as assistance to aid managers when undertaking stress risk assessments. It regularly runs stress workshops and roadshows aimed at raising awareness in staff and managers.

It is not possible to quantify the cost of this strategy without detailed analysis of all work groups which is not practicable.

## DEFENCE

### American Missile Defence System

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions have taken place with the US administration concerning the use of RAF Menwith Hill in connection with the American Missile Defence System. [7812]

**Mr. Ingram:** There has been no request from the United States to use facilities at RAF Menwith Hill for missile defence purposes. The position remains as set out in my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State's response of 26 April 2004, *Official Report*, column 727W, to the hon. Member.

### Army Reviewing Authority

**Harry Cohen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) if he will list all cases heard by the Army Reviewing Authority in the last five years in respect of which no legal proceedings are ongoing; what the original sentence imposed was in each case; who the original sentencing authority was; what sentence was determined by the reviewing authority; whether the

sentence was subsequently altered further; and where the reviewing authority's decisions are publicly presented; [8685]

(2) who is eligible to sit on the Army Reviewing Authority; what the arrangements are for *(a)* the Crown prosecution and *(b)* the defence at a review authority hearing; whether each has been present in all cases heard in the last five years; what the arrangements are for the (i) Royal Navy and (ii) Royal Air Force; and if he will make a statement; [8717]

(3) under what statutory authority an Army Reviewing Authority can overrule a decision or sentence made by a *(a)* civil and *(b)* criminal court; [9354]

(4) whether a senior army officer in charge of an Army Reviewing Authority is required to attend for the full duration of the hearing. [9355]

**Mr. Touhig:** The Army Reviewing Authority has no authority over civil cases or cases heard in civilian courts. The Armed Forces Act 1996, under a revised Section 113 of the Army Act 1955, established the Army Reviewing Authority to deal with courts-martial proceedings and petitions.

The Army Act defines the reviewing authority as the Defence Council or any Officer to whom all or any powers of the Defence Council as reviewing authority may be delegated. In practice the Army Board of the Defence Council has delegated its powers of review to the following personnel—the Deputy Adjutant General, the Director Personal Services (Army) or any Colonel under the direct command of the Director Personal Services (Army).

When a case is reviewed by the Army Reviewing Authority there is no actual hearing, therefore it is not possible for anyone to attend. This system of review is similar for all three services and the Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force also have reviewing authorities.

All Army courts-martial proceedings are reviewed whether or not a petition by the accused or his/her legal representative has been presented. Legal advice is always provided by a judge from the office of the Judge Advocate General.

The reviewing authority may quash or substitute the finding or the sentence passed by the court-martial. When a reviewing authority substitutes a sentence it must be a sentence which could have been awarded by the court-martial and it must not be more severe than the original sentence. The accused and their representative are informed of the result of a review by the reviewing authority but the result is not otherwise publicly presented.

It will be proposed in the Armed Forces Bill, which is due to be introduced later this year, that the process of review is discontinued in all three services. The safeguards for service personnel can be provided in a modern system by full rights of appeal against both finding and sentence to the court martial appeal court, and by bail pending appeal.

The detail requested about cases reviewed in the last five years could be provided only at disproportionate cost. However the following information gives an overview of activity by the Army Reviewing Authority (ARA).

*Army reviewing authority*

| | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Number of individuals tried by court-martial | 455 | 630 | 505 | 470 | 521 |
| Number found guilty | 373 | 485 | 440 | 400 | 464 |
| Number acquitted | 82 | 145 | 65 | 70 | 57 |
| Number of petitions presented to ARA | 107 | 118 | 115 | 87 | 95 |
| Number mitigated by ARA | 22 | 28 | 18 | 15 | 23 |
| Number mitigated on review by ARA without a petition | 8 | 8 | 1 | 8 | 9 |

### Bowman Communications Equipment

**Mr. Havard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the performance of the Bowman communications equipment in theatre operations; and if he will make a statement. [7888]

**Mr. Ingram:** An initial Bowman operational capability has been achieved and it is having a direct and positive effect on the communications capability with UK Forces on Operation Telic 6 in Iraq.

The deployment of 12 Mechanised Brigade to Iraq in April 2005, with a core Bowman capability alongside some existing Clansman capability, marked a critical milestone in the incremental Bowman programme as this was the first operational use of the system. Overall, the feedback has been positive. In particular, the voice quality and coverage achieved over differing environments have vastly improved. It is being used in a range of modes, providing both secure and insecure communications, and interoperability with non-Bowman units.

The personal role radio with a 500m effective range, has significantly enhanced low level command and control wherever deployed, including on operations in Iraq. 50,000 radios have been issued to date.

Bowman is not a direct replacement for Clansman and there are still issues to be resolved. Problems encountered in fitting Bowman to complex warfighting platforms such as Challenger 2, Warrior and turreted armoured vehicles have introduced delays. The Ministry of Defence is working closely with the Bowman Prime Contractor and Design Authorities to resolve these issues. To date, over 2,600 vehicles have been converted.

### Correspondence

**Mr. Robathan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he will write to the hon. Member for Blaby with a full list of ships and equipment involved in the STOROB process of reused ships' fitted equipment or parts thereof and place a copy of that letter in the

Library, as he undertook to do in the answer of 17 March 2005, *Official Report*, column 414W, in the last session of Parliament. [7948]

**Mr. Ingram** *[holding answer 28 June 2005]:* I have written to the hon. Member, and a copy of my letter has been placed in the Library of the House.

### Defence Export Services Organisation

**Malcolm Bruce:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) on how many occasions in the last 12 months the Defence Export Services Organisation has provided information to UK companies about agents; if he will list the companies to which this information was given; and in which countries the agents were based; [7664]

(2) on how many occasions between April 2004 and December 2004 officials from the Defence Export Services Organisation met BAE Systems to discuss agents in relation to Export Credits Guarantee Department disclosure requirements; [7671]

(3) whether the Defence Export Services Organisation has provided information to BAE Systems on the selection of agents since April 2004. [7923]

**Mr. Ingram:** If the Defence Export Services Organisation (DESO) has information likely to assist UK companies including BAES, in selecting agents suitable to act for them overseas, our policy is to make this available. Provision of such advice is part of normal DESO business. DESO has staff in many countries overseas, and instances of such advice are not centrally recorded.

### Detainees (Treatment)

**Adam Price:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to his answer of 6 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 244W, on detainees (treatment), whether *(a)* detainees, *(b)* security internees and *(c)* enemy prisoners of war transferred by British forces to the United States military have been subject to the unlawful use of sensory deprivation techniques during interrogation. [3088]

**Mr. Ingram** *[holding answer 13 June 2005]:* I have received no reports to indicate that any persons taken into custody by UK forces in Iraq, and subsequently transferred to US custody, have been subject to the unlawful use of sensory deprivation techniques during interrogation.

### Diego Garcia (Terrorist Suspects)

**Mr. Ellwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the status of terrorist suspects held on military bases in Diego Garcia. [4827]

**Mr. Ingram:** Terrorist suspects are not being held on Diego Garcia.

### Discharged Service Personnel

**Mr. Moore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether personnel who have been discharged under Queen's Regulations 9.413 and 9.414 are eligible for the Veteran's Badge. [9625]

**Mr. Touhig:** Service personnel discharged under Queen's Regulations for the Army 1975 section 9.413 will be eligible to receive a HM Armed Forces Veteran's Badge if they have completed at least five years reckonable service. Those who leave under the terms of section 9.414 will not be eligible for a badge.

### Fleet Construction Plans

**Dr. Julian Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list *(a)* the categories and *(b)* the numbers in each category of vessels to be constructed by (i) 2012 and (ii) 2015 in support of the future carrier fleet. [5560]

**Mr. Ingram:** *[holding answer 23 June 2005]:* The future aircraft carriers (CVF) will be supported by a range of in-service and planned Royal Navy warships and Royal Fleet auxiliary vessels, including the Type 45 destroyers and the military afloat research and sustainability vessels. There are no plans to construct new vessels specifically to support the future carrier fleet by 2015.

### Gibraltar

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he next expects to visit Gibraltar. [6391]

**Mr. Ingram:** The Secretary of State for Defence has no plans to visit Gibraltar in the near future.

### Independent Nuclear Deterrent

**Dr. Julian Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to his answer of 20 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 666W, whether the Labour Party's 2005 manifesto commitment to retain the United Kingdom's independent deterrent refers to *(a)* the principle of continuing to possess a deterrent for the foreseeable future and *(b)* the retention of the current Trident fleet until the end of its life. [7290]

**John Reid** *[holding answer 29 June 2005]:* The Government made clear in the December 2003 Defence White Paper (Cm 6041–I) that, because of the continuing risk of the proliferation of nuclear weapons, and the certainty that a number of other countries will retain substantial nuclear arsenals, our minimum deterrent is likely to remain a necessary element of our security. We have also made clear that we intend to maintain the effectiveness of the Trident system.

### Iraq

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the time frame is for withdrawing UK troops from Iraq. [8712]

**Mr. Ingram:** The UK is committed to remaining in Iraq for as long as the Iraqi Government judge that the coalition is required to provide security and assist the Iraqi Security Forces (ISF). The prevailing security situation, progress on the political process and development of the ISF will be among the factors in determining eventual UK force level reductions.

**Adam Price:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 27 June 2005, *Official Report*, columns 1204–05W, on Iraq, whether the British

Deputy Senior Judge Advocate in Iraq had been informed of potential abuses and misconduct in violation of the Geneva conventions at Abu Ghraib prior to the announcement of the United States criminal investigation in January 2004. [9051]

**Mr. Ingram:** The British Officer was not aware of the specific allegations of abuse that subsequently led to the investigation and courts-martial of US personnel prior to the announcement of the US investigation in January 2004.

**Mr. Moore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 23 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 44WS, on call-out of reservists for Iraq, how many of the 600 reservists to be called up to serve in Iraq have been previously mobilised for service in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* other overseas postings since May 2002. [9628]

**Mr. Touhig:** We are currently in the process of identifying and calling-out those individuals we wish to select for mobilisation to support ongoing operations in Iraq, pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 23 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 44WS. Given that this process is not complete, it is not possible at this stage to identify how many have served previously in Iraq or other overseas locations.

### Joint Combat Aircraft

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answers of 23 June 2005, *Official Report*, columns 1141–42W, on aircraft carriers, what the reasons are for the different in-service dates for the Joint Combat Aircraft to which he refers; and if he will make a statement. [8613]

**Mr. Ingram:** The in-service date (ISD) is when the capability provided by the system is assessed as available for use. While ISDs for projects are not set until the main investment decision, our internal planning assumptions are based on an ISD of 2014 for the Joint Combat Aircraft. However, we expect to start taking delivery of the aircraft in 2011, and to be conducting flight trials in advance of the ISD.

### Lynx Helicopter

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the original *(a)* projected cost and *(b)* in-service date for the replacement for the Lynx Mk 3/8 helicopter were; and what the current estimates are. [9113]

**Mr. Ingram:** Prior to the inception of the Future Rotorcraft Capability (FRC) programme in July 2004, the Lynx Mk 3/8 replacement was in its assessment phase, so there were no approved costs or in-service dates. The replacement for Lynx Mk 3/8 has now been subsumed into the FRC programme. The parameters of the FRC programme are still under consideration, but we hope to make announcements later this year.

### Procurement Projects

**Mr. Moore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what completed procurement projects since 1997 have had an approved cost at main gate or equivalent approval exceeding £250 million; and in each case what the *(a)* approved cost, *(b)* actual final cost, *(c)* approved in-service date at main gate or equivalent approval and *(d)* actual in-service date were. [8618]

**Mr. Ingram:** I will write to the hon. Member and a copy of my letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

### Territorial Army

**Mr. Ancram:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much was spent on Territorial Army recruiting; and how many new Territorial Army soldiers were recruited in each year since 1997. [5605]

**Mr. Touhig:** The following table details the expenditure for Territorial Army (TA) recruiting and the number of TA recruits for each financial year since 2001; expenditure figures are not available prior to this date.

| *Financial year* | *Expenditure (approx £ million)* | *TA recruits* |
|---|---|---|
| 1997–98 | n/a | 10,400 |
| 1998–99 | n/a | 8,500 |
| 1999–2000 | n/a | 6,700 |
| 2000–01 | n/a | 7,500 |
| 2001–02 | 5 | 7,700 |
| 2002–03 | 5.5 | 7,300 |
| 2003–04 | 5 | 7,600 |
| 2004–05 | 10.5 | 6,900 |

### Typhoon

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether Typhoon aircraft have been used in theatre operations. [9577]

**Mr. Ingram:** To date the Typhoon has not been deployed to any operational theatres.

### Unmanned Aerial Vehicles

**Mr. Jack:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department is evaluating the benefits to the UK of producing in the UK unmanned aerial vehicles with *(a)* offensive, *(b)* defensive and *(c)* observational capabilities. [6832]

**Mr. Ingram:** The Ministry of Defence is pursuing a twin-track strategy to explore the conceptual thinking and underlying technology for unmanned combat air vehicles (UCAVs). The former involves participation in the US Joint Unmanned Combat Air System Programme concept work. The latter is focused on ensuring the UK is able to make intelligent choices with respect to UCAV design, technology development and manufacture, and is intended to enhance the UK's industrial position to undertake either an indigenous or collaborative programme should a firm military requirement for UCAVs emerge in the future. Under our Defence Industrial Policy we routinely consider the benefits of producing new defence equipment in the UK when taking procurement decisions.

In addition, we are considering a proposal from Thales UK as preferred bidder for a tactical unmanned air vehicles (UAV) system manufactured in the UK to meet the Watchkeeper requirement for an intelligence,

surveillance, target acquisition and reconnaissance capability. We will make an announcement on this as soon as possible.

## INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### Asian Tsunami

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much of the aid pledged by the Government to provide relief to countries that were affected by the Asian tsunami has so far been paid. [8782]

**Mr. Thomas:** Nearly £67 million out of the £75 million allocated to meet immediate relief needs has been programmed through United Nations agencies, the Red Cross movement and non-governmental organisations and DFID direct action. So far £60 million of this has been disbursed. A further detailed breakdown of this spending can be obtained in the document entitled "A breakdown of DFID's immediate relief response to the Indian ocean earthquake and tsunami" which has been placed in the libraries of the House. The balance of the £67 million will be drawn down by the recipient agencies as needed. The remaining monies out of the £75 million have been earmarked for disaster risk reduction initiatives in affected countries.

DFID has also allocated £65 million to meet reconstruction needs. From this allocation, £36 million has been committed to Indonesia, of which £6 million has so far been paid out to the Multi Donor Trust Fund. A further £2 million has been committed to Sri Lanka and £3 million to India to provide technical assistance aimed at ensuring effective, transparent and equitable programming of tsunami reconstruction efforts. The remaining £24 million of the £65 million allocation for reconstruction has not yet been programmed.

**Mark Simmonds:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of possible cases of misuse of tsunami relief funds in Malaysia; and if he will make a statement. [9244]

**Mr. Thomas:** DFID has not provided any direct assistance to Malaysia after the Asian tsunamis. The Government's support has focused on the worst affected and poorest countries in the region. Therefore, we have not been involved in investigating allegations of misuse of relief funds in Malaysia nor had any requests to do so. We urge accountability and transparency of all funding provided to the relief and reconstruction effort.

### Everything But Arms Agreement

**Mark Simmonds:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment has been made of the effectiveness of the Everything But Arms agreement in facilitating fairer trading conditions with developing countries; and if he will make a statement. [7233]

**Mr. Thomas:** I refer the hon. Member for Boston and Skegness to the response given by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for International Development (Hilary Benn), to my hon. Friend the Member for Leicester, East (Keith Vaz) on 30 June 2005, *Official Report*, columns 1678–79W.

### Haiti

**Ms Abbott:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what plans the EU has for development assistance to Haiti. [8943]

**Mr. Thomas:** The European Commission (EC) is one of the leading donors supporting Haiti's Interim Co-operation Framework (ICF), which sets out a comprehensive two-year plan for Haiti's development from September 2004 to 2006. The EC pledged a total of €294 million to the ICF, comprising primarily the remaining funds available to Haiti under the 8th European Development Fund (EOF) and Haiti's allocation under the 9th European Development Fund (EOF) (€167 million).

The Commission is utilising the remaining funds under the 8th EOF and €95.6 million from the 9th EOF to support programmes that directly benefit the Haitian people, strengthen civil society and the private sector, and support democratisation, the rule of law and the electoral process; and other short and medium term priorities identified through the ICF.

Discussions are underway between the Commission and the Haitian Interim Government to prepare an indicative programme for the balance of funds (€72 million) allocated to Haiti under the 9th EOF. The indicative programme will be signed and implemented once national elections deemed free and fair are held. National elections are scheduled for later this year.

The EC has taken measures to improve the disbursement rate of this substantial funding by reinforcing the Commission staff in Haiti and simplifying the procedures for implementing projects.

**Ms Abbott:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps the Government have taken to support poverty eradication in Haiti. [8944]

**Mr. Thomas:** The UK Government are currently supporting poverty eradication in Haiti through our contributions to, and engagement with, the international community working in Haiti, and through our support to civil society organisations operating in Haiti.

The Interim Cooperation Framework (ICF) in Haiti sets out a comprehensive plan for poverty eradication and stabilisation in Haiti. The UK Government are supporting the implementation of this plan through our contributions to the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), and the European Commission (EC). The UK share of the pledges these institutions have made to the ICF is approximately £35 million.

The UK is also currently engaged in the negotiation of the 6th Replenishment of the Caribbean Development Bank's (CDB)s concessional fund, the Special Development Fund (SDF). A major issue for this replenishment is Haiti's imminent accession to membership of the CDB, and the terms under which Haiti will access resources from the SDF.

Through its engagement with the international donor community, the UK Government have also been advocating for better donor co-ordination, reduction of implementation bottlenecks and greater poverty focus, in order to ensure positive impacts on the ground for poor Haitians. In light of the links between security and poverty eradication, the UK Government are also supporting the international efforts to improve the security situation and to follow up security operations with social, economic and humanitarian programmes. For example, the UK contributes 7.4 per cent. of the budget of the UN Stabilisation Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), likely to be £20 million in 2005–06. In 2004, DFID also provided some £4 million in humanitarian assistance to Haiti in response to the political unrest, the May floods, and Tropical Storm Jeanne. This too was channelled through international NGOs, the Red Cross Movement, United Nations humanitarian agencies, and our share of European Community humanitarian assistance.

The UK Government also supports NGOs in their poverty eradication efforts in Haiti. Currently, five of the British NGOs supported through DFID's Partnerships Programme Agreements for Latin America and the Caribbean include Haiti in their existing or planned country coverage. DFID has allocated a total of £6.2 million to these NGOs in 2005–06 (CARE—£1.5 million, OXFAM—£1.5 million, Christian Aid—£1.1 million, CAFOD—£1.1 million and the International HIV/AIDS Alliance—£1 million). The FCO also supports small-scale poverty-focused civil society projects in Haiti through its Small Grants Scheme. The 2005–06 allocation for this scheme is £100,000.

### Health Professionals (Migration)

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the impact on the health systems of developing countries of health care professionals migrating to the United Kingdom. [9822]

**Mr. Thomas:** Health care professionals are clearly a crucial element of any health system and the UK Government are concerned about the severe shortages of health workers in some developing countries, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa. Migration of health workers to the UK and elsewhere can contribute to these shortages, which is why the UK has a Code of Practice for International Recruitment of Healthcare Professionals available at http://www.dh.gov.uk. The Code of Practice prevents the NHS from actively recruiting health care professionals from low and middle-income countries unless there is a Government-to-Government agreement in place.

International migration is, however, just one of the factors contributing to the shortages of health workers in many developing countries. Other factors include lack of training capacity, workers leaving the health sector due to poor pay and working conditions, difficulties in deploying staff to rural areas, and the effects of HIV and AIDS.

DFID believes that addressing these shortages requires the development and implementation of comprehensive country-led plans, which increase the numbers of health workers trained, but also include measures to improve pay and incentives, working conditions, distribution, effective planning and management, and improving the performance of existing workers. An example of where DFID is supporting such a plan is Malawi where we are working with the Government to implement an emergency human resource programme, which aims to almost double the number of health workers in Malawi over the next six years.

### Africa (HIV/AIDS/Tuberculosis)

**Mark Simmonds:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what research his Department has evaluated on the effects of male circumcision on infection rates of HIV/AIDS in Africa; and if he will make a statement. [8411]

**Mr. Thomas:** A number of studies are providing increasing evidence to suggest male circumcision is a major variable explaining HIV infection patterns in sub-Saharan Africa. Research currently under way should provide conclusive evidence as to whether this would be an effective public health intervention for HIV prevention.

**Mr. Andrew Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what proportion of the UN Global Development Fund has been allocated to the treatment of *(a)* HIV/AIDS, *(b)* tuberculosis and *(c)* malaria in Malawi in each of the last two years. [8637]

**Mr. Thomas:** The total approved Global Fund Commitment to Malawi is $196,000,000. To date the disbursements are as follows:

*HIV and AIDS*

Grant start date: 1 June 2003

Approved funding: $41,751,500

Total funds disbursed: $36,253,844

*Malaria*

Grant agreement not yet signed

Approved funding: $20,872,000

Total funds disbursed: $0.00

*TB*

The proposal for TB is not yet ready for submission.

**Michael Connarty:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment his Department has made of the impact of tuberculosis on mortality rates in Africa; and if he will make a statement. [8934]

**Mr. Thomas:** In 2003, the global TB mortality rate was estimated as 1,747,000. 538,000 (about 30 per cent.) of these deaths are in Africa[1]. There are no reliable all-cause mortality data—so it is difficult to give a figure on the proportion of deaths in Africa that are accounted for by tuberculosis.

However, TB deaths are increasing in Africa after almost 40 years of decline. In particular, TB is a leading cause of death in patients with AIDS. In some countries in sub-Saharan Africa up to 70 per cent. of TB patients

are co-infected with HIV—70 per cent. of the 14 million people worldwide who have both HIV and TB are in Africa[2].

[1] http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs104/en/

[2] Report of the Commission for Africa—March 2005

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Benefit Fraud

**Mr. David Hamilton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was spent on public advertising for reporting benefit fraud in the UK in 2004. [6626]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The current Targeting Benefit Fraud advertising campaign aims to promote a climate of intolerance to benefit fraud and to reinforce the message that benefit fraud is socially unacceptable. In 2004–05 £6,017,250 was spent on campaign advertising. Where appropriate the National Benefit Fraud hotline number has been included in some campaign activity.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his latest estimate is of the value of fraud connected with each social security benefit; and if he will make a statement. [956]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The measurement of fraud and error is complex and expensive and therefore it is concentrated on benefits with the highest expenditure and risk of loss, such as income support, jobseeker's allowance and housing benefit.

Up-to-date estimates of fraud and error in disability living allowance (DLA) will become available later this month when the results of the current review of DLA are published.

The available information is as follows.

*£ million*

| *Benefit* | *Measurement period* | *Monetary value fraud (MVF) central estimate* | *95 per cent. confidence intervals*[1] |
|---|---|---|---|
| Income support | 2003–04 | 310 | 270–360 |
| Jobseeker's allowance | 2003–04 | 90 | 70–110 |
| Pension credit/MIG | 2003–04 | 70 | 40–90 |
| Incapacity benefit | 2000–01 | No estimate[2] | 0–19[3] |

[1] The estimates are derived from sampling exercises and are subject to sampling error. The impact of these statistical uncertainties is expressed by means of 95 per cent. confidence intervals.

[2] No cases of fraud were found so a central estimate could not be produced, only an upper limit.

[3] When making estimates using older figures, we calculate the fraud per unit benefit expenditure and uprate the monetary value estimate by applying this rate to current expenditure. In the case of IB, where expenditure on IB has barely changed since 2000–01, there has been no change in our best estimate of MVF.

*Note:*

Benefits measured prior to 1997 are not included because the measurement methodology was different previous to this and, thus, the results are not comparable.

For the year to March 2004, around £600 million was estimated to have been overpaid due to fraud and error in housing benefit (HB). Fraud is estimated to have accounted for between a quarter and a half of the £600 million, depending upon how much of the overpaid HB arising from "non residence" was due to fraud. Non-residence fraud and error is where the claimant is not resident at the property for which HB is being paid. In these circumstances, it is often hard for our investigators to ascertain whether there was fraudulent intent.

### Child Support Agency

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has to assist parents with care who are pursuing maintenance claims through the Child Support Agency against non-resident parents who work abroad. [4939]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** If a non resident parent lives and works abroad, the Child Support Agency only has jurisdiction if they are employed by the Crown or a UK based employer. In these cases, they are required to pay child support for children who are habitually resident in the UK.

If the non resident parent is not employed by the Crown or working for a UK based company, the parent with care can apply to the courts under the Reciprocal Enforcement of Maintenance Orders (REMO) scheme. The UK has arrangements with more than 100 countries and territories that allow a person living in one jurisdiction to claim maintenance from an ex-partner living in the other.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will set a timetable for the transfer of cases at the Child Support Agency from the old to the new scheme. [8590]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave the hon. Member for Bolton, South-East (Dr. Iddon), on 20 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 705W.

### Pension Protection Fund

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions at what level he expects the Pension Protection Fund to be set; and how much he expects will be funded through *(a)* employee contribution and *(b)* public funds. [6827]

**Mr. Timms:** During its first year, the Pension Protection Fund is expected to raise approximately £150 million through the initial levy. For subsequent years, the amounts will be determined by the Pension Protection Fund within the limits set by Secretary of State through setting a levy ceiling. The Pension Protection Fund expects to consult shortly on its proposed approach to setting the levy for future years.

It is the responsibility of the trustee or the pension scheme manager to pay the PPF levies. The levy is a charge in respect of each member, rather than a fee to be paid by each member. The trustees may choose to pass the costs onto the employer by way of increased employer contributions to the scheme. The employer may in turn pass the costs to employees who are active members of the scheme but they may not pass the cost to pensioners.

The Pension Protection Fund will not be funded with public funds. If the Government were to provide the funding the costs would ultimately fall on ordinary

taxpayers, the majority of whom do not have access to a defined benefit occupational pension scheme. Further we have designed the Pension Protection Fund to be financially self sufficient without recourse to the Government.

## Terminal Illness (Benefits)

**Dr. Gibson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) for how long on average awards of *(a)* disability living allowance and *(b)* attendance allowance under the special rules for terminal illness lasted in the last year for which figures are available from the date of award to the claimant's death or the termination of the claim; [7917]

(2) what the average duration of special rules awards for cancer patients was in the last year for which figures are available; [7918]

(3) what the duration of *(a)* disability living allowance and *(b)* attendance allowance special rules awards were for each of the last five years, from the date of award to the claimant's death or end of claim; and for how many claimants awards lasted up to (i) one month, (ii) one to two months, (iii) two to three months, (iv) three to four months, (v) four to five months, (vi) five to six months, (vii) six to seven months, (viii) seven to eight months, (i) eight to nine months, (ix) nine to 10 months, (x) 10 to 11 months, (xi) 11 to 12 months and (xii) more than 12 months; [7919]

(4) what the duration of *(a)* disability living allowance and *(b)* attendance allowance special rules awards made to cancer patients were in each of the last five years, from the date of award to the claimant's death or end of claim; and for how many claimants awards lasted up to (i) one month, (ii) one to two months, (iii) two to three months, (iv) three to four months, (v) four to five months, (vi) five to six months, (vii) six to seven months, (viii) seven to eight months, (ix) eight to nine months, (x) nine to 10 months, (xi) 10 to 11 months, (xii) 11 to 12 months and (xiii) more than 12 months. [7920]

**Mrs. McGuire:** The requested information is not available. The information that is available is in the tables.

*Disability living allowance and attendance allowance special rules awards. Estimated numbers of awards which terminated in each of the years from 2000–01 to 2004–05; estimated durations of those awards at the point at which they terminated; and estimated average duration of awards which terminated in 2004–05*

| | | *Duration of terminated awards* | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Total number of terminated awards* | *Over 3 months and up to 6 months* | *Over 6 months and up to 9 months* | *Over 9 months and up to 12 months* | *Over 12 months* | *Average duration of terminated awards (weeks)* |
| 2000–01 | 70,500 | 23,700 | 16,900 | 9,000 | 20,800 | — |
| 2001–02 | 75,600 | 23,500 | 19,800 | 9,900 | 22,400 | — |
| 2002–03 | 73,200 | 21,200 | 19,100 | 9,500 | 23,400 | — |
| 2003–04 | 71,100 | 19,600 | 19,000 | 9,700 | 22,800 | — |
| 2004–05 | 70,300 | 19,000 | 18,500 | 9,900 | 22,900 | 62 |

*Notes:*

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest hundred and may not sum due to rounding.
2. From November 2002, the methodology for producing DLA and AA figures was changed to allow statistics to be published much sooner. This has resulted in a small increase in the reported caseload. This is because some cases which have actually terminated but have not yet been updated on the computer system are now included.

*Source:*

DWP Information Directorate, 5 per cent. sample data.

*Disability living allowance and attendance allowance special rules awards. Estimated numbers of awards made to people whose main disabling condition was recorded as "Malignant Disease—including Cancer, Carcinoma and Leukaemia" which terminated in each of the years from 2001–02 to 2004–05; estimated durations of those awards at the point at which they terminated; and estimated average duration of awards which terminated in 2004–05*

| | | *Duration of terminated awards* | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Total number of terminated awards* | *Over 3 months and up to 6 months* | *Over 6 months and up to 9 months* | *Over 9 months and up to 12 months* | *Over 12 months* | *Average duration of terminated awards (weeks)* |
| 2000–01 | 20,000 | 5,900 | 4,900 | 2,800 | 6,400 | — |
| 2001–02 | 21,700 | 6,100 | 5,600 | 3,200 | 6,900 | — |
| 2002–03 | 20,600 | 5,200 | 5,100 | 3,000 | 7,200 | — |
| 2003–04 | 19,200 | 4,300 | 5,000 | 2,600 | 7,300 | — |
| 2004–05 | 20,200 | 4,500 | 5,000 | 3,100 | 7,600 | 65 |

*Notes:*

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest hundred and may not sum due to rounding.
2. Figures do not include awards in respect of people who may have had cancer, but whose main disabling condition was not recorded as "Malignant Disease—including Cancer, Carcinoma and Leukaemia'.
3. From November 2002, the methodology for producing DLA and AA figures was changed to allow statistics to be published much sooner. This has resulted in a small increase in the reported caseload. This is because some cases which have actually terminated but have not yet been updated on the computer system are now included.

*Source:*

DWP Information Directorate, 5 per cent. sample data.

## EDUCATION AND SKILLS

### Advertising Expenditure

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much the *(a)* Department and *(b)* non-departmental bodies for which the Department is responsible has spent on advertising type in the last three years, broken down by media type. [9499]

**Maria Eagle:** My Department's expenditure on advertising broken down by media type for the last three years is set out as follows:

£000

| | 2002–03 | 2003–04 | 2004–05 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Advertising spend | 11,261 | 16,948 | 11,825 |
| Press | 1,895 | 2,580 | 2,266 |
| Regional | 249 | 185 | 740 |
| TV | 5,966 | 10,110 | 4,177 |
| Radio | 1,362 | 2,923 | 3,897 |
| Poster | 960 | 543 | 744 |
| Cinema | 549 | — | — |
| Internet | 279 | 604 | — |

It is not possible, except at disproportionate cost, to provide a breakdown of spend on advertising from non-departmental bodies for which the Department is responsible.

All expenditure is exclusive of VAT.

### Child Care (VAT)

**Mr. Martyn Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what assessment she has made of the effects on the charity and voluntary sector's ability to provide welfare services of the decision to refund VAT incurred in the provision of child care and children's centres to local authorities. [8940]

**Beverley Hughes:** The decision to refund VAT incurred in the provision of childcare and children's centres by local authorities will have no adverse impact on the delivery of welfare services by the charity and voluntary sector organisations. Where the charity and voluntary sector provide child care and children's centres services under the Sure Start programme, funding is on the basis of full cost recovery, including any associated VAT costs providers incur.

### EU Students

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the answer of 21 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 1006W, on EU students, what estimate she has made of the likely value of deferred fee payments that will not be recovered from EU students who return to their home countries after graduation; and what the procedures are which will be put in place to minimise the risk of default. [8031]

**Bill Rammell:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 29 June 2005, *Official Report*, columns 1633–34W, which sets out the resource cost of loans to such students. As set out in the answers given on 21 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 1006W and 29 June 2005, *Official Report*, columns 1633–34W, we will not be able to collect payment through the UK tax system for EU borrowers who return to their home country: the Student Loans Company will establish a schedule of payments to be made and we anticipate relying on EU Council Regulation 44/2001 in the cases of defaulting students.

### Funding Gap

**Mr. Michael Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills when she will publish the Learning and Skills Development Agency's report on the funding gap between schools and further education colleges; and if she will make a statement. [6932]

**Bill Rammell:** *[holding answer 28 June 2005]:* As part of the Learning and Skills Council's (LSC) Agenda for Change, the Learning and Skills Development Agency was commissioned to investigate the relative funding of learning for full-time 16 to 18-year-olds in further education compared with school 6th forms.

I understand that the LSC will publish the report after its Agenda for Change roadshow events that will occur during the summer. Further details will be available on the LSC's website.

Government have shown their commitment to further education (FE) through the unprecedented investment they are now making. Total funding for FE will increase by over £1 billion in 2005/06 compared to 2002/03—a 25 per cent. cash increase.

### Mathematics

**Mr. Clappison:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many mathematics graduates who were not UK citizens have entered the teaching profession in each of the last 10 years. [8721]

**Jacqui Smith:** The information requested is not collected centrally.

### National Vocational Qualifications

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many people attained NVQ Level *(a)* 1, *(b)* 2, *(c)* 3, *(d)* 4 and *(e)* 5 in engineering in each year between 1997 and 2004. [3065]

**Phil Hope:** The following table shows UK estimates for the number of qualifications awarded in engineering in each year between 1997 and 2004. Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 100.

*NVQ attainment in engineering 1997 to 2004*

| Year of award | Level 1 | Level 2 | Level 3 | Level 4 | Level 5 | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1997/98 | 4,000 | 29,100 | 12,400 | 300 | 0 | 45,700 |
| 1998/99 | 2,200 | 29,100 | 14,406 | 400 | 0 | 46,100 |
| 1999/2000 | 1,600 | 26,800 | 17,800 | 300 | 0 | 46,500 |
| 2000/01 | 1,400 | 23,500 | 14,600 | 200 | 0 | 39,600 |

*NVQ attainment in engineering 1997 to 2004*

| *Year of award* | *Level 1* | *Level 2* | *Level 3* | *Level 4* | *Level 5* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2001/02 | 2,700 | 15,700 | 14,000 | 100 | 0 | 32,600 |
| 2002/03 | 3,900 | 16,100 | 12,200 | 100 | 0 | 32,300 |
| 2003/04 | 4,000 | 16,500 | 11,500 | 200 | 0 | 32,100 |

The engineering sector continues to be significantly involved with the Government's apprenticeship programmes and numbers entering engineering programmes are increasing with over 28,000 people currently in learning.

### School Meals

**Mr. Gibb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the answer of 7 June 2005, *Official Report*, columns 476–78W, on school meals, which public body is responsible for monitoring and enforcing the regulations to which she refers. [5018]

**Jacqui Smith:** In response to answer of 7 June 2005, *Official Report*, columns 476–78W, the regulations referred to are The Education (School Premises) Regulations 1999, which require schools to have a wholesome supply of water for domestic purposes, including drinking water. These regulations apply to schools maintained by local education authorities (LEAs). The LEAs together with the school governors are responsible for ensuring compliance with the regulations. The Secretary of State can, under section 497 of the Education Act 1996, take action to enforce compliance with The Education (School Premises) Regulations 1999.

Independent schools are subject to The Education (Independent School Standards) (England) Regulations 2003 which quote The Education School Premises Regulations 1999 in respect of water supplies. The Independent School Standards are the regulations to which independent schools are inspected under part 10 of the Education Act 2002. The Independent Schools Registration Authority will consider the inspectors report and can take enforcement action.

### Secondary Schools (Cricket Pitches)

**Mr. Michael Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many secondary schools have access to an artificial cricket pitch; and what proportion of schools this represents. [9240]

**Jacqui Smith:** While the school premises data that the Department collects from local education authorities include information on the suitability of sports provision, the data do not show numbers of schools with access to artificial cricket pitches.

### Training and Enterprise Council

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what discussions have taken place between her Department and the Department for Work and Pensions concerning the applicability of the *(a)* Pension Protection Fund and *(b)* Financial Assistance Scheme to the former Training and Enterprise Council pension schemes. [8738]

**Phil Hope:** No discussions have taken place between my Department and the Department for Work and Pensions concerning the applicability of the Pension Protection Fund (PPF) or the Financial Assistance Scheme (FAS) to the former Training and Enterprise Council (TEC/CCTE) pension schemes.

There has been only one case where issues relating to the PPF or Financial Assistance Scheme have been raised within my Department in relation to TEC/CCTE pension schemes. This case involves the one scheme which has not yet secured the bulk transfer terms on offer from the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme (PCSPS). The trustee for that scheme is now working to secure the bulk transfer terms offered by the Government Actuary's Department. This will enable those members who choose to do so, to secure their accrued benefits in the PCSPS.

In all cases it was found that neither the PPF nor the FAS was applicable.

## TREASURY

### Cervical Cancer

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of deaths from cervical cancer occurred in women *(a)* aged 60 and over, *(b)* between 30 and 59 and *(c)* under 30 years in each year since 1975. [8130]

**John Healey:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Colin Mowl to Lynne Featherstone, dated 5 July 2005:*

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent question on what proportion of deaths from cervical cancer occurred in women *(a)* aged 60 and over, *(b)* between 30 and 59, and *(c)* under 30 years in each year since 1975.1 am replying in his absence. (8130)

The latest year for which data are available is 2003. Figures for cervical cancer are shown in the attached table for the calendar years 1975 to 2003.

*Percentage of all cervical cancer[1] deaths by age-group in England and Wales 1975 to 2002[2]*

| | *(a) 60 and over* | *(b) 30–59* | *(c) Under 30* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1975 | 57.2 | 41.3 | 1.4 |
| 1976 | 57.0 | 41.7 | 1.3 |
| 1977 | 58.2 | 40.9 | 0.9 |
| 1978 | 57.2 | 41.2 | 1.6 |
| 1979 | 58.3 | 40.1 | 1.6 |
| 1980 | 58.5 | 39.6 | 1.9 |
| 1981 | 58.7 | 39.5 | 1.8 |
| 1982 | 60.4 | 37.9 | 1.7 |
| 1983 | 59.9 | 37.8 | 2.3 |
| 1984 | 60.3 | 36.9 | 2.7 |
| 1985 | 60.1 | 37.8 | 2.0 |
| 1986 | 56.7 | 40.7 | 2.6 |

*Percentage of all cervical cancer[1] deaths by age-group in England and Wales 1975 to 2002[2]*

| | *(a) 60 and over* | *(b) 30–59* | *(c) Under 30* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1987 | 58.1 | 39.3 | 2.7 |
| 1988 | 59.8 | 38.5 | 1.7 |
| 1989 | 59.7 | 38.5 | 1.8 |
| 1990 | 59.2 | 39.0 | 1.8 |
| 1991 | 58.7 | 38.8 | 2.5 |
| 1992 | 59.8 | 38.2 | 2.0 |
| 1993 | 57.5 | 40.7 | 1.7 |
| 1994 | 61.2 | 36.9 | 1.9 |
| 1995 | 57.4 | 40.2 | 2.5 |
| 1996 | 59.2 | 38.6 | 2.1 |
| 1997 | 57.6 | 40.3 | 2.0 |
| 1998 | 57.3 | 40.6 | 2.1 |
| 1999 | 59.8 | 38.0 | 2.2 |
| 2000 | 58.7 | 40.1 | 1.3 |
| 2001 | 58.7 | 39.2 | 2.1 |
| 2002 | 59.4 | 39.1 | 1.5 |
| 2003 | 60.8 | 36.7 | 2.5 |

[1] The cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Eight Revison (ICD-8) code 180 for the years 1975 to 1978, the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) code 180 for the years 1979 to 2000, and the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) code C53 from 2001 onwards.

[2] Figures are based on deaths registered in each calendar year from 1975 to 1992, and on deaths occurring in each calendar year from 1993 onwards.

### Correspondence

**Mr. Donohoe:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects to reply to the letter of 9 February from the hon. Member for Central Ayrshire, regarding the proposal for an African twin-town with Ayrshire. [9956]

**John Healey:** There is no record of this letter being received in the Treasury but a copy has been requested and a reply will be sent as soon as possible.

### Council Tax

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the Valuation Office Agency uses computer assisted mass appraisal for valuations of residential properties when they are sold. [9549]

**Dawn Primarolo:** As set out in the VGA's press notice of 10 September 2004, computer assisted mass appraisal will be used for the first time, to assist in the revaluation of domestic properties in England that will come into effect on 1 April 2007.

### Currency

**Mr. Greg Knight:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many £5 *(a)* coins and *(b)* notes are in circulation. [8715]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The value and number of £5 Bank of England banknotes in circulation on 22 June 2005 was £1,035,162,405 and 207,032,481, respectively.

As for £5 coins, these are issued only to commemorate special occasions of national importance and are not intended to be used in general circulation. Rather they are something which people wish to keep as souvenirs to mark a special occasion.

### Government Bonds

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average interest rate yield on 10-year Government bonds in the UK was in each year for each of the last 10 years. [9990]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The following table sets out the average yield on 10-year nominal UK Government bonds ("gilts") for each calendar year between 1994 and 2004.

*Percentage*

| | *Average yield on 10-year maturity gilts* |
|---|---|
| 1994 | 8.0 |
| 1995 | 8.2 |
| 1996 | 7.8 |
| 1997 | 7.0 |
| 1998 | 5.5 |
| 1999 | 5.0 |
| 2000 | 5.3 |
| 2001 | 4.9 |
| 2002 | 4.9 |
| 2003 | 4.5 |
| 2004 | 4.9 |

It is misleading to consider debt-servicing costs based on 10-year nominal gilts only, because this would not take account of the range of maturities and yields at which Governments issue bonds.

### Government Debt

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he is taking to reduce the level of long-term interest rates paid by the Government on their debt with a maturity of 10 years or more. [9892]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The Government's primary policy objective for managing Government debt is to minimise over the long-term the costs of meeting the Government's financing needs, taking into account risk, while ensuring that debt management policy is consistent with the aims of monetary policy. The Government's debt management policy is set out more fully in the Debt and Reserves Management Report 2005–06. The principles underpinning this policy are set out in the Code for Fiscal Stability.

### Income Tax

**Mr. Andrew Turner:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what level of standard rate of income tax he estimates would be required, assuming no other changes to behaviour, to recoup the revenue lost from *(a)* abolition of the lower rate of income tax and *(b)* plus raising the threshold to (i) £10,000 and (ii) £15,000. [9815]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The information for 2005–06 is given in the following table.

| Personal allowance (£) | Basic rate and higher rate required for approximate tax neutrality: Basic rate | Higher rate |
|---|---|---|
| 10,000 | 31 | [1]40 |
| 15,000 | 46 | [1]40 |
| 15,000 | 44 | [2]44 |

[1] This is the current higher tax rate.
[2] This costing assumes a flat (basic and higher) tax rate.

Estimates are based on the 2002–03 Survey of Personal Incomes projected forward in line with Budget 2005 assumptions.

The figures exclude any estimate of behavioural response, which could be significant given the scale of the changes.

These estimates have been obtained after increasing all personal allowances (i.e. the personal allowances and personal allowances for individuals aged 65 and above) to either £10,000 or £15,000.

These estimates assume abolishing the 10 per cent, starting rate of income tax only. This means no changes to basic rates in savings income and on dividends.

The costing also assumes the basic rate band has been extended to include the starting rate band.

### Insurance

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make representations to *(a)* the Association of British Insurers and *(b)* the wider insurance industry to ensure that (i) all domestic and commercial properties remain eligible for insurance policies and (ii) the excess on insurance is not put at a level that is out of the reach of householders and businesses. [9909]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The Government have regular discussions with the Association of British Insurers and the insurance industry on these issues. However, the availability and pricing of insurance is a matter for insurance companies themselves.

### Nervous System Diseases

**Mr. Flello:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the incidence of *(a)* brain tumours, *(b)* other cancers, *(c)* Parkinson's disease and *(d)* other diseases of the nervous system per 1,000 of the population was in (i) England and (ii) the ST3 postcode area in the last period for which figures are available. [9954]

**John Healey:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Colin Mowl to Mr. Robert Flello, dated 5 July 2005:*

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent question concerning the incidence of *(a)* brain tumours, *(b)* other cancers, *(c)* Parkinson's disease and *(d)* other diseases of the nervous system per 1,000 population in (i) England and (ii) the ST3 postcode area in the last period for which figures are available. I am replying in his absence. [9954]

The most recent available figures on newly diagnosed cases of cancer are for the year 2002. The number and rates of newly diagnosed cases of brain cancer and other cancers were published in "Cancer registrations in England, 2002". This publication shows the age-standardised incidence rates (directly standardised to the European standard population). For brain cancer these were 7.8 in males and 5.2 in females, per 100,000 population in England. The age-standardised incidence rates for other malignant cancers (excluding brain and non-melanoma skin cancer) were 385.7 in males and 326.0 in females, per 100,000 population in England.

Cancer incidence figures for the postcode sector ST3 can not be provided because of the risk to patient confidentially. The smallest areas for which cancer incidence figures are provided is primary care trusts. However, figures for brain cancer are not routinely available at this geographic level.

Rates of first diagnosis of Parkinsons disease in the fourth national study of Morbidity Statistics from General Practice, which covered England and Wales, were 36 per 100,000 population. Figures are not available from this study for smaller areas.

There is no information available centrally on the incidence of other diseases of the nervous system.

### Powered Wheelchairs (Insurance)

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make it his policy to allow electric powered wheelchair dealers to sell insurance policies. [9436]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis** *[holding answer 4 July 2005]:* Dealers of electric powered wheelchairs are currently free to sell insurance policies, subject to the requirement that they be authorised to do so by the Financial Services Authority.

### Public Borrowing

**Mr. George Osborne:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what he predicts the golden rule measure of net borrowing will be over the *(a)* current and *(b)* next economic cycle. [9850]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The latest assessment of progress against the golden rule is set out in the financial statement and Budget report 2005 (HC 372).

### Road Pricing

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) if he will make a statement on his policy on lorry road user charging; [5183]

(2) if he will make a statement on the progress of the lorry road user charging scheme; and what the timetable is for the implementation of the scheme. [5256]

**John Healey:** Our work on the LRUC has strengthened the Government's view that distance-based charging for using the UK's roads is technically achievable. In particular, our "proof of solution" work with prospective suppliers has enabled us to see the technology in action, and is confirming our expectations of its ability to deliver a distance-based charge.

Now that we are taking forward work on a national system of road pricing, so it is right for us to take forward the plans for distance based lorry charging as part of the wider work on national road pricing—to work for a single comprehensive, cost-effective system.

So although the current procurement for lorry road user charging will not continue, we will continue to work with industry and ensure that we carry the full

experience gained from the project into the wider work to develop a national road pricing system for cars and lorries.

And we will continue to work with the haulage industry to ensure that its needs are represented as we develop a national road pricing system.

### Smoking

**Mr. Sheerman:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what research he has evaluated on the cost to the economy of *(a)* loss of workforce through smoking-related illness and *(b)* loss of working hours through smoking breaks. [5639]

**Caroline Flint:** I have been asked to reply.

In view of the health risk from smoking, our policy is to prevent uptake of the habit and to assist smokers to stop. We evaluate impacts, on the economy in general and employers in particular, in the context of specific policies. On Monday 20 June, we launched a consultation on the smoke free elements of the Health Improvement and Protection Bill. Alongside the consultation, we published a partial regulatory impact assessment on smoke free enclosed public places and workplaces. This contains estimates of the costs and benefits, including the impact of smoking and smoking breaks on the economy. A copy is available in the Library.

### State Pensions

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will exempt state pensions from income tax and national insurance contributions. [9403]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** State pensions are not subject to national insurance contributions. Successive Governments have believed that a pension, whether State or occupational, is a form of income like earnings and as such should be taxable, subject to any age related personal allowances.

While state pensions are subject to income tax, the age related personal allowances for people aged 65 and over mean that in 2005–06 no pensioner aged 65 or over will be required to pay tax on income of less than £136 a week in 2005–06, considerably more than the basic state pension of £82.05.

This means that around half of all pensioners do not pay income tax. Exempting the state pension from income tax would therefore only benefit the better off pensioners; the Government instead continues to focus resources on the poorest pensioners.

### Tax Credits/Models

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans he has to contact recipients of tax credits who have had overpayments recovered prior to June to notify them of the rights of appeal under Code of Practice 26; and if he will make a statement. [9247]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Where a claimant's tax credit award is revised, following a change of circumstances, they are sent a revised award notice. Where entitlement has been reduced, the guidance notes sent out at the same time as the award notice, bring to the attention of the claimant HMRC's Code of Practice COP 26 "What happens if we have paid you too much tax credit?".

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which models used by other countries to estimate the tax gap his Department has studied. [9404]

**Dawn Primarolo:** HMRC has studied models used by Australia, Canada, France, Holland, Japan, New Zealand, Sweden and the United States.

The models used by other countries to estimate the tax gap split into two main types—models based on the results of enquiries, and models based on the results of surveys. HMRC is studying the use of both these types of models.

## CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

### Official Visits

**Mrs. Riordan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if the Minister for Sport will make an official visit to Halifax. [9320]

**Mr. Caborn:** I regularly make regional visits but at the moment have no current plans to visit Halifax.

### Olympics 2012

**Hugh Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will make a statement on the progress of plans for the new *(a)* aquatic centre, *(b)* velopark and *(c)* hockey pitches identified in the London 2012 bid; who will finance these facilities; and when they are expected to be completed. [9148]

**Mr. Lammy** *[holding answer 4 July 2005]:* Should London win the right to host the 2012 games we are planning to complete all the Olympic facilities well in advance of 2012. All the facilities will be funded from the public sector funding package for the games. Should London be unsuccessful we have committed to building an aquatics centre, velopark and hockey pitches in East London. These facilities will be funded from a combination of sources including Sport England and the London Development Agency.

**Hugh Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the budget was for the promotion of the London 2012 bid; and how much of that budget has been spent. [9149]

**Mr. Lammy** *[holding answer 4 July 2005]:* The Government budget for supporting the London Olympic bid was £10 million, financed in equal part by my Department and the London Development Agency (LDA). This budget has been fully committed. In addition, my Department and the LDA have contributed up to £20 million to the budget of the Bid company London 2012.

**Hugh Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions *(a)* she and *(b)* other Ministers in her Department have had with the Treasury concerning the tax take on the proposed Olympic lottery game. [9150]

**Mr. Lammy** *[holding answer 4 July 2005]:* DCMS Ministers regularly discuss a wide range of business with colleagues at the Treasury. However, no such discussions have been held on the taxation of the proposed Olympic lottery games as tax policy is a matter for the Chancellor and is considered as part of the Budget process.

## Places of Worship (VAT)

**Lady Hermon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 28 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 1431W, which listed places of worship in Northern Ireland have received grants covering the full amount of VAT paid on eligible works. [9114]

**Mr. Lammy:** There are 57 listed places of worship in Northern Ireland that have received grants covering the full amount of VAT paid on eligible works since the scheme was extended in April 2004. They are as follows:

| *Church* | *Address* | *Grant received (£)* |
|---|---|---|
| Presbyterian Church | Ebrington, Londonderry | 3,743.76 |
| St. Peters Cathedral | St. Peters Square, Belfast | 10,384.22 |
| St. Pauls Parish Church | Parish of Errigal, Main Street, Garvagh | 3,292.42 |
| St. Marys Church | Craigavole, Garvagh, Co. Londonderry | 14,620.66 |
| Dunluce Presbyterian Church | Priestland Road, Walk Mill, Bushmills | 628.61 |
| First Presbyterian Church | Meeting House St., Ballymoney | 32,679.50 |
| St. Johns Church | Bentra Road, Ballycarry, Larne, Carrickfergus | 2,008.98 |
| The Old Presbyterian Church | Meeting House Street, Larne, Co. Antrim | 305.28 |
| St. Saviours Church | Church Street, Connor, Ballymena, Co. Antrim | 1,628.73 |
| Moravian Church | 25 Church Road, Gracehill, Co. Antrim | 303.20 |
| Parish Church | The Square, Pomeroy, Dungannon, Co. Tyrone | 2,145.36 |
| Holy Trinity/Garvary Parish Church | Tempo Road, Garvary, Enniskillen, Co. Fermanagh | 261.09 |
| Inishmacsaint Parish Church | Binmore Glebe, Derrygonnelly, Enniskillen | 3,814.07 |
| Ardess | Kesh, Co. Fermanagh | 304.90 |
| Parish Church of Magheracross | Main St., Ballinamallard, Co. Fermanagh | 7,362.92 |
| Clonfeacle Parish Church of St. Patrick | Main St., Benburb, Co. Tyrone | 595.00 |
| St. Michaels Church | Castlecaulfield, Dungannon, Co. Tyrone | 10,663.36 |
| Armagh Road Presbyterian Church | Church St., Armagh Road, Portadown, Co. Armagh | 1,225.00 |
| Christ Church | Church Place, Lurgan, Craigavon, Co. Armagh | 2,927.16 |
| St. Francis Church | Burnt Island, Moss Road, Loughgall, Co. Armagh | 9,927.43 |
| Ballymore Parish Church | Church St., Tandragee, Co. Armagh | 459.13 |
| St. Mochlia | Derrynoose Road, Derrynoose, Co. Armagh | 29,631.13 |
| Presbyterian Church | Church Street, Middletown, Co. Armagh | 3,276.64 |
| St. Marks Church | The Mall East, Armagh, Co. Armagh | 793.75 |
| Mullartown House | 159 Glassdrumman Rd., Annalong, Newry | 2,941.68 |
| St. Patricks Church | Stream Street, Newry, Co. Down | 1,286.66 |
| Donaghmore Parish Church | 11 Donaghmore Road, Donaghmore, Newry | 1,316.65 |
| Ryans Presbyterian Church | Old Meury Road, Rathfriland, Co. Down | 8,851.81 |
| Presbyterian Church | Scarva St., Banbridge, Co. Down | 925.93 |
| St. Patricks | Saul Brae, Downpatrick, Co. Down | 3,625.00 |
| St. Malachys Church | 121 Dublin Road, Kilcod, Co. Down | 58,340.00 |
| Presbyterian Church | Stream St., Downpatrick, Co. Down | 5,093.10 |
| Hollymount Church | Drumcullen Road, Downpatrick, Co. Down | 6,324.43 |
| Ballinderry Presbyterian Church | Meetinghouse Street, Larne, Co. Antrim | 224.11 |
| St. Johns Church | St. John's Road, The Parish of Upper and Lower Kilwadun | 22,833.08 |
| First Lisburn Presbyterian Church | Market Square, Lisburn, Co. Antrim | 1,012.63 |
| Holy Trinity Church | Drumbo, Ballylesson, Lisburn, Co. Down | 29,859.38 |
| Drummaul Parish Church | Church Road, Randalstown, Co. Antrim | 7,257.61 |
| First Donegore | Presbyterian Church, Main Street, Parkgate, Co. Antrim | 3,658.92 |
| Killead Parish Church | Crumlin Road, Aldergrove, Co. Antrim | 10,881.21 |
| Church of St. Patricks | 113 Jordanstown Road, Newtown Abbey, Co. Antrim | 468.65 |
| St. Patricks Church | Victoria Avenue, Whitehead, Carrickfergus, Co. Antrim | 22,999.85 |
| Congregational Church | Albert Road, Carrickfergus, Co. Antrim | 2,780.94 |
| Parish Church | Donaghadee road, Groomsport, Co. Down | 353.23 |
| First Presbyterian Church | High St., Holywood, Co. Down | 1,686.69 |
| Balligan Church of St. Andrew | Balligan, Kircubbin, Newtownards, Co. Down | 10,515.25 |
| St. Patricks Church | Upper North St., Newtownards, Co. Down | 64,359.50 |
| St. Marks Parish Church | Church St., Newtownards, Co. Down | 2,064.28 |
| Fisherwick Presbyterian Church | 4 Chlorine Gardens, Belfast | 17,737.92 |
| McCracken Memorial Presbyterian Church | 161 Malone Road, Belfast | 2,374.13 |
| Crescent Church | University Road, Belfast | 385.00 |
| St. Thomas Church | Eglantine Avenue, Lisburn Road, Belfast | 472.88 |
| St. Aidans Church of Ireland | Blythe St., Belfast | 647.50 |
| St. Peters Cathedral | St. Peter's Square North, Belfast | 209,438.62 |
| St. Marys Church of Ireland | The Passionists, Crumlin Road, Belfast | 30,191.25 |
| Holy Cross Church of Ireland | Crumlin Road, Belfast | 53,889.10 |
| Fortwilliam Park Presbyterian Church | 557 Antrim Road, Belfast | 2,465.00 |

### Running Tracks

**Mrs. Riordan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which metropolitan borough councils have running tracks with associated changing facilities. [9305]

**Mr. Lammy:** There are 81 athletics tracks in the following 34 metropolitan borough councils: Barnsley, Birmingham, Bolton, Bradford, Bury, Coventry, Doncaster, Dudley, Gateshead, Kirklees, Knowsley, Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle upon Tyne, North Tyneside, Oldham, Rochdale, Rotherham, Salford, Sandwell, Sefton, Sheffield, Solihull, South Tyneside, St. Helens, Stockport, Tameside, Trafford, Wakefield, Walsall, Wigan, Wirral, Wolverhampton.

We do not hold details of whether the athletics tracks have associated changing facilities.

## TRADE AND INDUSTRY

### Consultancy Companies (Regulation)

**Mrs. Dean:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will take steps to establish a regulatory body for consultancy companies. [5773]

**Alan Johnson:** It is not fully clear to what my hon. Friend refers. If she would like to write to me with further details I will consider the points she raises.

### Economic Partnership Agreements

**Mr. Marsden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will seek to strengthen the European Commission's negotiating mandate on Economic Partnership Agreements as part of the UK presidency of the EU to ensure that countries are not subject to forced liberalisation of trade. [9179]

**Ian Pearson:** The Government do not believe that any changes to the European Commission's negotiating mandate are required. The Government stated in their EPA position paper published in March that

> "we will not force trade liberalisation on developing countries either through trade negotiations or aid conditionally"

and we will continue to work closely with the Commission and other member states to realise this.

### Employment Agency Standards Inspectorate

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will list *(a)* the budget and *(b)* staffing levels of the Employment Agency Standards Inspectorate for the (i) 2002–03, (ii) 2003–04 and (iii) 2004–05 financial years. [8781]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The budget expenditure and staffing complement of the Employment Agency Standards (EAS) Inspectorate for the financial years 2002–03, 2003–04 and 2004–05 are as follows:

*£000*

| | *(b) EAS Inspectorate* | *(a) Budget expenditure* |
|---|---|---|
| (i) 2002–03 | 12 regionally based Inspectors<br>3 Managers also with inspection powers<br>5 Helpline staff (to receive complaints, advise and answer worker and agency questions) | 659,000 |
| (ii) 2003–04 | 12 regionally based Inspectors<br>3 Managers also with inspection powers<br>4 Helpline staff (to receive complaints, advise and answer worker and agency questions) | 581,000 |
| (iii) 2004–05 | 12 regionally based Inspectors<br>3 Managers also with inspection powers<br>4 Helpline staff (to receive complaints, advise and answer worker and agency questions) | 566,000 |

### Energy Strategy

**Mr. Soames:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the aims and objectives of the Government's energy policy are. [9390]

**Malcolm Wicks** *[holding answer 4 July 2005]:* The aims and objectives of energy policy were set out in the Government's Energy White Paper, "Our Energy Future—creating a low carbon economy" in 2003. In particular, it set out the four goals of energy policy:

> To put ourselves on a path to cut the UK's carbon dioxide emissions by some 60 per cent. by about 2050, with real progress by 2020;
>
> To maintain the reliability of energy supplies;
>
> To promote competitive markets in the UK and beyond, helping to raise the rate of sustainable economic growth and to improve our productivity;
>
> To ensure that every home is adequately and affordably heated.

### EU Legislation (Compliance)

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what support his Department will give to the development of a working partnership between developers, investors and the commercial sector to encourage their compliance with EU legislation. [625]

**Ian Pearson:** It is not fully clear to what my hon. Friend refers. If he would like to write to me with further details I will consider the points he raises.

### Methane Gas

**Mr. Rob Wilson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what research he has commissioned into the viability of using methane gas to generate electricity. [5412]

**Alan Johnson:** It is not fully clear to what the hon. Member refers. If he would like to write to me with further details I will consider the points he raises.

### Research, Technology and Development

**Mr. Soames:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what steps he is taking to encourage industry to invest in research, technology and development. [9389]

**Malcolm Wicks** *[holding answer 4 July 2005]:* The Government have made clear their long-term ambition of raising R&D intensity in the UK from its current level of 1.9 per cent. of national income to 2.5 per cent. by 2014. To support business investment in research, technology and development, the DTI provides a range of solutions that offer practical support and encouragement to industry at different stages of the innovation process.

DTI established a business-led Technology Strategy Board in October 2004 to develop a national technology strategy to take a more strategic market-led approach to Government support for new and emerging technologies crucial to innovation.

The Board has oversight of the £370 million technology programme that provides grant funding for business-led projects. Over the period 2005–08, £320 million of DTI funding is available to businesses in the form of grants to support collaborative research and development in technology areas identified as critical to the growth of the UK economy. A further £50 million contribution has been agreed by DEFRA.

All businesses can take advantage of a range of business support products designed to help the transfer of knowledge from the research base to industry—collaborative R&D Grants and Knowledge Transfer Networks, through the technology programme, and knowledge transfer partnerships, that provide support for business R&D in kind.

Additional solutions for small businesses include the Grant for R&D, which provides grants to help individuals and small and medium-sized businesses research and develop technologically innovative products and processes.

Companies carrying out more than a minimum level of eligible R&D can claim R&D tax credits that are particularly generous for small firms and include a repayable element.

The DTI also supports UK businesses and HEIs as active participants in EU framework programmes.

In addition to these direct investment and incentives, a range of other policies influence overall R&D expenditure. For example UKTI efforts to secure inward investment, public procurement, regulation, innovation infrastructure including intellectual property, skills and standards, and national and regional activities to support enterprise and business growth more generally, such as the work of Business Links.

### Weights and Measures Directive

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what guidance the Government have given local authority trading standards departments regarding enforcement of the Weights and Measures Directive. [7509]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** There are a number of directives dealing with weights and measures including directives 75/106/EEC and 76/21 I/EEC which cover the average system of quantity control and quantity labelling for packaged goods.

Guidance for inspectors, who have the responsibility of enforcing the regulations made under these directives was issued in 1979. There is no other guidance specifically for local authority trading standards departments on weights and measures.

Guidance is however issued on new regulations, including weights and measures regulations, to assist all who are affected.

## TRANSPORT

### Air Services/Travellers

**John Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will issue guidelines to airline companies on levels of salt in in-flight meals. [6807]

**Caroline Flint:** I have been asked to reply.

The Food Standards Agency, in consultation with the Department and stakeholders, is in the process of setting target levels for salt in key product categories that contribute most to intakes. It is anticipated that all sectors of the food industry, including caterers, will work to meet these targets. We will ensure that suppliers of meals to airline passengers are included in this initiative and that airline companies are aware.

All adult consumers are advised to eat a balanced diet, but specific advice has not been issued to airline passengers about the salt content of in-flight meals.

I have not received any representations on the impact of in-flight meals on the health of passengers and have no plans to undertake a survey of such meals.

**Dr. Cable:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what assessment he has made of consumers' understanding of financial protection schemes for air travellers; and if he will make a statement; [8396]

(2) what assessment he has made of changes in the number of UK consumers buying unprotected air travel; and what steps he is taking to address the problem. [8398]

**Ms Buck:** I am advised by the Civil Aviation Authority that 66 per cent. of UK leisure air travellers are protected by the ATOL scheme compared to 98 per cent. in 1997, although some travellers are protected in other ways e.g. insurance or credit card purchasing. We are currently considering a range of options to address this situation.

### British Transport Police

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the pension and other benefits packages offered to new British Transport Police constables are in London. [8702]

**Derek Twigg:** New police constables to London and to any other location within the British Transport Police (BTP) are entitled to join the BTP Superannuation

Fund upon commencement of service. The Fund is a contributory final salary scheme and provides benefits at early or normal retirement dates depending upon eligibility within the scheme rules.

The main terms and conditions of service package for BTP covering pay, allowances, sickness and leave mirror those in Police Regulations for Home Department Forces.

BTP officers serving London are also entitled to:

London weighting: £1,938 p.a.

London allowance: £4,338 p.a.

They are further entitled to free or reduced rate rail travel facilities for work to home purposes only, in accordance with the current regulations.

### Crossrail

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what account has been taken of the likely effects on the *(a)* incremental net present value and *(b)* cost benefit ratio of the Crossrail plan if the planned additional trains services from Stansted and Hertford East stations do not proceed. [7495]

**Derek Twigg:** Cross London Rail Links have not carried out a separate cost-benefit analysis of the additional Lea Valley services into Liverpool Street.

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which part of the Crossrail network will become operational first. [8540]

**Derek Twigg:** Based on the currently proposed programme, Crossrail trains will initially replace those operating the existing service between Shenfield and Liverpool Street. The first part of the new Crossrail infrastructure that trains will operate over is the section between Farringdon and the Isle of Dogs.

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether the walkway in Romford know as Nursery Walk will remain open during construction of Crossrail. [8558]

**Derek Twigg:** The northern section of Nursery Walk passes in subway beneath the Great Eastern Main Line railway tracks. This section will be subject to occasional closures over a period of up to two years while Crossrail extends the subway beneath new tracks in the proposed Romford Depot.

**Mr. Michael Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the impact of Crossrail on the Cotswold Line service from Paddington to Worcester; and if he will make a statement. [8972]

**Derek Twigg:** During normal operations on the Great Western Main Line into Paddington, Crossrail will operate on the northern pair of tracks, known as the relief lines. This will not affect the southern pair of lines, known as the main lines, on which services to Worcester operate, as there is no intention of displacing existing traffic from the relief to the main lines.

### Cycling

**Jeremy Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what measures the Government are taking to encourage cycling. [8693]

**Derek Twigg:** The Walking and Cycling Action Plan published in June 2004 detailed more than over 40 initiatives from across Government to encourage walking and cycling through provision of improved facilities, training and promotion. The main DfT initiatives on cycling include:

1. £10 million investment in a "Links to Schools" programme of new routes from schools and residential areas to the National Cycle Network benefiting over 300 schools.

2. Funding for improved bike parking at over 130 rail stations previously identified in a survey as not having capacity to meet demand.

3. The development and roll-out of a new National Standard for child cycle training in co-operation with 20 road safety and cycling groups.

4. Improved training and technical guidance to local authority and other practitioners on the design of cycling infrastructure.

Local spend on cycle facilities through the Local Transport Plan system has increased from £29.5 million in 2001–02 to a projected £46 million in 2005–06, while Transport for London is projecting a spend of £19 million on cycling in London in 2005–06.

We also created in March this year a new body, "Cycling England", to plan and co-ordinate the development of cycling across the country. Cycling England will have a budget of at least £5 million a year for the next three years to allocate to cycling programmes. I expect its work plan to be published soon.

### Network Rail

**Dr. Pugh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which projects originally intended to be *(a)* completed and *(b)* commenced by Network Rail in the financial year 2004–05 have been deferred. [3985]

**Derek Twigg:** A number of projects were deferred by Network Rail in 2004–05 but the company expects all outputs to be delivered over the five year period to 2008–09. Network Rail's funding and delivery of outputs for the five year period from 2004–05 to 2008–09 were set by the Office of Rail Regulation (ORR) in its Final Conclusions to the Access Charges Review 2003.

### Railways

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the results of the *(a)* autumn 2004 and *(b)* autumn 2003 count were showing what the (i) passenger in excess of capacity and (ii) total number of passengers figures were (A) for each train operator providing commuter services into London and (B) in total, broken down into am peak and pm peak and (iii) the change between years. [8083]

**Derek Twigg:** The Strategic Rail Authority publishes the results of the autumn Passengers in Excess of Capacity counts for individual London train operators, in its National Rail Trends Yearbook. A copy of this document has been placed in the Library of the House.

**Alistair Burt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what representations he has received following the recent publication of the report from the Association of Train Operating Companies advocating rail peak pricing; and if he will make a statement; [7883]

(2) whether he plans to introduce further rail peak pricing. [7977]

**Derek Twigg:** My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State made it clear that pricing people off the railway is not the answer to capacity issues. There are no plans to introduce further rail peak pricing. The Department for Transport has to date received five representations from members of the public, following the publication of ATOC's report.

**Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects to announce the final decision on the reopening of the Kettering-Corby railway line to regular passenger traffic; and what the timetable is for the assessment of the project before then. [9335]

**Derek Twigg** *[holding answer 4 July 2005]:* Work is currently in hand to establish the costs and feasibility of providing a direct passenger service between Corby and London. If the outcome of this work demonstrates that such a service is feasible, the next Midland Main Line franchise specification will include a costed option for a Corby-London service to be introduced at some point during the life of the next franchise which is currently due to commence in 2008.

When the bids for the franchise are received, the Secretary Of State will need to determine whether the proposed service gives value for money and is affordable before deciding when or whether a service will be introduced.

**John Hemming:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for what reason the new platforms at Moor Street station are not being used; and when they will brought into use. [7736]

**Derek Twigg:** Network Rail decided at an early stage in the refurbishment of Moor Street station that economies could be found by linking the re-opening of the two terminal platforms with the longer term proposal of the major Saltley area re-signalling project. Network Rail's decision was endorsed by both the Strategic Rail Authority and Chiltern Railways.

Network Rail and Chiltern Railways have worked closely to accelerate the opening of platforms 3 and 4 prior to Saltley re-signalling, and currently the timing for their re-opening is in late 2006. This date is subject to the creation of a robust construction timetable and completion of the legal processes to allow the terminal platforms to be re-connected with the network.

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what improvements to Pitsea Station on the c2c line are planned; and what the timescale is. [9275]

**Derek Twigg:** Improvements are being made by c2c. These include a new booking hall with automatic sliding door access; a new waiting room, toilets and retail unit; installation of CCTV and automatic ticket gates; replacement of fencing and paving; and installation of night security gates. Work began on 21 February and is scheduled for completion by autumn 2005.

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions his Department has had with Network Rail on ensuring that necessary engineering work is carried out to enable commuter trains to use the platforms at Waterloo station which will be vacated by Eurostar in 2007; and if he will make a statement. [8217]

**Derek Twigg:** The Strategic Rail Authority has led a study for the Department into the future uses of Waterloo International after Eurostar vacate the station. Discussions with Network Rail on various matters, including engineering works, took place during the course of the study.

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many deaths there were on railway lines in London in each year since 1997. [8394]

**Derek Twigg:** The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) is only able to provide the following data for the number of fatalities on the railway in London from 1 April 2002 onwards. Prior to this date, rail fatality data was not broken down by region.

*Railway fatality data for London[1] from 1 April 2002 to 31 December 2004*

| | *Total fatalities* |
|---|---|
| 2002–03 | 78 |
| 2003–04 | 70 |
| 2004[2] | 40 |

[1] Data covers London Underground, Croydon Tramlink and Serco Docklands Light Railway, as well as the mainline railway network.

[2] These figures cover only the nine months April to December 2004, following a change from financial year to calendar year reporting.

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the timetable is for the South West Trains franchise renewal; and if he will make a statement. [8609]

**Derek Twigg:** The South Western franchise will comprise the existing franchises of South West Trains and Island Line. The new franchise is planned to commence in February 2007 on expiry of the existing South West Trains and Island Line contracts.

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions his Department has had with the Association of Train Operating Companies on overcrowding *(a)* in the south-east and *(b)* on the c2c line. [9280]

**Derek Twigg:** The Department for Transport has recently held discussions with Association of Train Operating Companies about crowding in future years in response to potential growth as a result of the Thames Gateway initiative. There have been no recent discussions on crowding on the c2c line.

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 28 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 1418W, on railways, if he will take steps to change the limits prescribed to control overcrowding to increase passenger capacity for those travelling for over 40 minutes on the c2c line. [9290]

**Derek Twigg:** The limits are the "Passengers in Excess of Capacity" (PiXC) limits and there are currently no plans to change them.

### Trams and Guided Buses

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will list the *(a)* tram and *(b)* guided bus systems that have been opened in each year since 1997. [8445]

**Derek Twigg:** The information is as follows.

*Schemes opened since 1997*

| *Light rail schemes* | |
|---|---|
| Midland Metro | 1999 |
| Docklands Light Railway (DLR) Lewisham extension | 1999 |
| Croydon Tramlink | 2000 |
| Manchester Metrolink Phase II (to Eccles) | 2000 |
| Tyne and Wear Metro Sunderland extension | 2002 |
| Nottingham Express Transit | 2004 |
| *Guided bus schemes* | |
| Leeds-East Leeds Quality Bus Initiative | 2001 |
| Bradford-Manchester Road Quality Bus Initiative | 2001 |
| Crawley Fastway: | |
| Phase 1 | 2003 |
| Phase 2 | 2004 |

## WALES

### Computer Crime

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many cases of computer *(a)* hacking, *(b)* fraud and *(c)* theft his Department recorded in each year since 2001–02; and for each year, on how many occasions computer systems have been illegally accessed by computer hackers (i) within and (ii) outside his Department. [7184]

**Mr. Hain:** During this period, there have been no recorded cases of computer hacking, fraud or theft.

There have been no recorded cases of computer systems being illegally accessed by computer hackers within or outside the Department.

### Consultants

**Mrs. Dean:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what plans he has to issue guidance on effective commissioning for those in the public and voluntary sectors who are commissioning work from external consultants. [7025]

**Mr. Hain:** The Wales Office has no plans to issue guidance on effective commissioning for public and voluntary sectors who are commissioning work from external consultants.

The Office of Government Commerce offers best practice advice to the public and voluntary sector through its web-based product, the Successful Delivery Toolkit.

### Council Tax Revaluation

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales whether transitional relief in the council tax revaluation in Wales was subsidised by central Government. [7437]

**Mr. Hain:** Following revaluation and re-banding of domestic properties in Wales, the Welsh Assembly Government have introduced a transitional relief scheme to ensure that no household's council tax bill will rise by more than one band in each of the first three years. This will be funded by the Welsh Assembly from within their departmental expenditure limit and has not been subsidised by central Government.

### M4 (Opening Dates)

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales if he will list the opening dates of sections of the M4 in Wales since 1975; and if he will list the opening dates of sections of the *(a)* A55 and *(b)* A470 in Wales between 1975 and 1998. [6688]

**Mr. Hain:** The available information is set out in the following table:

*Opening dates of sections of M4, A55 and A470*

| *Date* | *Section* |
|---|---|
| *M4* | |
| 29 April 1977 | Pontardulais By-Pass |
| 1977 | Morriston By-Pass |
| 21 October 1977 | Tredegar Park to St Meltons |
| 11 November 1977 | Stormy Down to Groes (Stage 1) |
| 22 December 1977 | Coryton to Miskin |
| 22 December 1977 | Miskin to Pencoed |
| 23 April 1980 | Tredegar Park to Malpas |
| 10 July 1980 | Castleton to Coryton |
| 18 September 1981 | Pencoed to Stormy Down |
| 30 April 1982 | Coldra to Caerleon |
| 26 February 1993 | Earlswood to Lonlas |
| 9 December 1994 | Baglan to Briton Ferry |
| 9 December 1994 | Briton Ferry to Earlswood |
| *A55* | |
| 1975 | Northop Hall Crossroads to East of Gables |
| 1976 | Coed-Cra to Chaingates |
| 1976 | Chester Southerly (Welsh Section) |
| December 1980 | Holywell By-Pass (Stage 1) |
| March 1981 | Diversion East of Abergele |
| December 1983 | Bangor By-Pass |
| September 1984 | Hawarden By-Pass |
| December 1984 | Llanddulas to Glan Conwy (Colwyn Bay By-Pass, Stage 1) |
| June 1985 | Llanddulas to Glan Conwy (Colwyn Bay By-Pass, Stage 2) |
| October 1986 | Holywell By-Pass (Stage 2) |
| December 1986 | Bodelwyddan By-Pass |
| June 1989 | Penmaenbach Tunnel |
| June 1989 | Northop By-Pass |
| October 1989 | Penmaenmawr and Llanfairfechan By-Passes |
| May 1990 | Travellers' Inn Improvement |
| 1991 | Conwy Crossing |
| May 1992 | Rhuallt Hill Improvement |
| October 1993 | Pen-y-Clip Tunnel |
| October 1994 | Abergwyngregyn Improvement |
| *A470* | |
| 4 November 1985 | Abercynon to Pentrebach |
| May 1988 | Minffordd to Dolwyddelan |
| 25 February 1991 | Llanidloes By-Pass |
| 8 November 1996 | Pentrebach to Cefn Coed (Section 1) |
| 18 July 1997 | Pentrebach to Cefn Coed (Section 2) |
| October 1997 | Cancoed to Minffordd (Lledr Valley Stage 1) |

### Taxis

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much the Department has spent on taxis in each of the last five years. [6490]

**Mr. Hain:** The cost to the Department for taxis was:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| | Cost of taxis |
| 2000–01 | 1,266 |
| 2001–02 | 2,851 |
| 2002–03 | 796 |
| 2003–04 | 1,154 |
| 2004–05 | 625 |

### Welsh Assembly Electoral System

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales if he will make a statement on the Government's plans to amend the electoral system for the Welsh Assembly to party list candidates also running for constituency seats. [9813]

**Mr. Hain:** I made an oral statement on 15 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 263, on the White Paper "Better Governance for Wales"

## DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

### Affordable Homes

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many affordable homes were provided in each London borough in each of the last five years. [8078]

**Yvette Cooper:** The number of affordable homes provided on behalf of each London borough in each of the last five financial years are shown as follows:

*London boroughs: affordable homes*

| | *2000–01* | *2001–02* | *2002–03* | *2003–04* | *2004–05* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Barking and Dagenham | 68 | 50 | 28 | 22 | 154 |
| Barnet | 116 | 138 | 99 | 132 | 174 |
| Bexley | 45 | 26 | 150 | 68 | 91 |
| Brent | 359 | 322 | 224 | 243 | 315 |
| Bromley | 127 | 75 | 146 | 66 | 157 |
| Camden | 124 | 146 | 150 | 165 | 336 |
| City of London | 0 | 4 | 0 | 8 | 30 |
| Croydon | 154 | 350 | 230 | 125 | 274 |
| Ealing | 148 | 156 | 179 | 244 | 402 |
| Enfield | 232 | 431 | 293 | 256 | 369 |
| Greenwich | 231 | 327 | 149 | 586 | 458 |
| Hackney | 306 | 257 | 373 | 482 | 359 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 177 | 149 | 103 | 488 | 376 |
| Haringey | 265 | 286 | 167 | 349 | 272 |
| Harrow | 103 | 123 | 121 | 111 | 141 |
| Havering | 20 | 197 | 45 | 56 | 126 |
| Hillingdon | 253 | 185 | 113 | 168 | 154 |
| Hounslow | 40 | 187 | 118 | 327 | 165 |
| Islington | 214 | 152 | 262 | 315 | 261 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 61 | 72 | 112 | 236 | 79 |
| Kingston upon Thames | 118 | 71 | 43 | 55 | 195 |
| Lambeth | 134 | 244 | 272 | 378 | 341 |
| Lewisham | 261 | 229 | 234 | 303 | 504 |
| Merton | 57 | 76 | 78 | 62 | 146 |
| Newham | 223 | 405 | 327 | 304 | 426 |
| Redbridge | 101 | 199 | 128 | 161 | 274 |
| Richmond upon Thames | 54 | 57 | 15 | 109 | 192 |
| Southwark | 258 | 223 | 256 | 340 | 639 |
| Sutton | 212 | 153 | 196 | 145 | 349 |
| Tower Hamlets | 205 | 296 | 404 | 336 | 153 |
| Waltham Forest | 241 | 224 | 196 | 115 | 162 |
| Wandsworth | 94 | 130 | 116 | 108 | 413 |
| Westminster | 394 | 349 | 180 | 210 | 280 |

*Source*:
Housing Corporation
(Includes new build dwellings, acquisitions and refurbishments)

The numbers include homes for both rent and low cost home ownership provided through new build dwellings, acquisitions and refurbishments via the Housing Corporation's Approved Development Programme including Key Worker Living in 2004–05 and exclude the Transitional Local Authority Social Housing Grant, the Starter Homes Initiative (not delivered through the Approved Development Programme) and S106 agreements where there was no Housing Corporation funding.

**Dr. Cable:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many of the new homes to be built under the first-time buyers initiative he expects will be available at a price of £60,000. [6452]

**Yvette Cooper:** The first-time buyers initiative is a proposal being developed by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and English Partnership with the aim of providing 15,000 affordable homes by 2010 across England on a shared equity basis. It is one element in our package of proposals for increasing access to low cost home ownership as set out in our consultation

paper "Homebuy—expanding the opportunity to own" published in April 2005. Half of the homes provided will be for key workers and the other half will be for individuals and families who would not be in a position to own their own homes without help. English Partnerships is now developing a delivery plan for the initiative.

The Design for Manufacture Competition was announced on 26 September 2004 by my right hon. Friend the Deputy Prime Minister and launched formally on 1 April 2005 to show how it is possible to build a high-quality home for £60,000. The figure of £60,000 relates to a target construction cost for building a two bedroom home and does not reflect the development cost or sale price.

English Partnerships is running the Design for Manufacture competition on behalf of the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister. The development sites for successful bidders will be provided by English Partnerships and other public bodies. English Partnerships anticipate that construction of homes will start in early 2006 with some completions by the end of 2006. The competition will aim to provide 1,000 homes all to eco-homes very good standard and will include a mix of housing types and tenures as defined by site specific design briefs. We anticipate that about 30 per cent. of the homes built will contribute to the first-time buyers initiative.

**Dr. Cable:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what additional funding he is making available in *(a)* 2006–07 and *(b)* 2007–08 to support (i) the social homebuy scheme, (ii) new build homebuy, (iii) open market homebuy, (iv) joint equity loans with mortgage lenders scheme and (v) the first-time buyers initiative. [6453]

**Yvette Cooper:** The proposals on which we are currently consulting—"Homebuy—expanding the opportunity to own" (April 2005) seek to provide simpler, fairer home ownership opportunities for more people, while protecting the supply of social housing. The consultation period closes on 24 June.

Resources will be found from within existing Spending Review 2004 budgets in order to fund the outcome of the consultation.

We announced in March the split between Regional Housing Boards of the £5 billion available over the two years 2006–07 and 2007–08. We are due to receive updated Regional Housing Strategies and advice on regional housing investment priorities including funding for low cost home ownership by the end of June.

**Mr. Denham:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what estimate he has made of the number of properties built for sale under the key worker housing scheme that have not yet been sold; and if he will make a statement. [5174]

**Yvette Cooper** *[holding answer 27 June 2005]:* The Key Worker Living programme was launched in March 2004 and the new build properties for sale are coming onto the market in phases. As at 31 May 2005, the number of properties completed and available for sale through shared ownership and new build homebuy under Key Worker Living (KWL) was 574. 41 of these have been sold. Monitoring information provided to the Housing Corporation by developing RSLs only details when a KWL property is sold. There is no information on how many of these units are currently under offer.

## Best Value

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what indicative targets the Government set for each of the 2005–06 best value performance indicators for local authorities. [9537]

**Mr. Woolas:** The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister has not set indicative targets for any of the 2005–06 best value performance indicators (BVPIs) for local authorities. However, minimum performance standards have been set in respect of waste and recycling and for some planning authorities. Local authorities set their own targets for all other BVPIs.

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether the best value regime applies to *(a)* fire authorities and *(b)* police authorities. [9538]

**Mr. Woolas:** In accordance with Part 1 of the Local Government Act 1999, Fire and Rescue Authorities and Police Authorities are subject to the duty of best value.

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what the residents' satisfaction rating was in each council, in each year in which that indicator has been part of the Best Value regime. [9539]

**Mr. Woolas:** Best Value User Satisfaction Surveys were carried out in 2000–01 and 2003–04. The results of the 2000–01 survey are available on the following website: www.bvpi.gov.uk. A report which summarised the results of the 2003–04 survey was published in June 2004. Detailed results of the 2003–04 survey will be published on the above website in due course.

## Compulsory Purchase Orders

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many compulsory purchase orders have been carried out in each local authority in London in each of the last five years. [8212]

**Yvette Cooper:** Details of which local authorities in London have used CPO powers are shown in the following tables.

*1 April 1999 to 31 December 1999*[1]

| | *Number of CPOs:* | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Local authority* | *Confirmed* | *Not confirmed* | *Withdrawn* |
| Barking and Dagenham | — | — | 1 |
| Brent | — | — | 1 |
| Harrow | 1 | — | — |
| Islington | 1 | — | — |
| Sutton | 1 | — | — |
| Tower Hamlets | 1 | — | — |

[1] Information 1 January 1999 to 31 March 1999 not available.

*1 January 2000 to 31 December 2000*

| | *Number of CPOs:* | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Local authority* | *Confirmed* | *Not confirmed* | *Withdrawn* |
| Bexley | 1 | — | — |
| Brent | 1 | — | — |
| Enfield | — | — | 1 |

*1 January 2000 to 31 December 2000*

| | Number of CPOs: | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Local authority* | *Confirmed* | *Not confirmed* | *Withdrawn* |
| Greenwich | 2 | — | — |
| Harrow | 1 | — | — |
| Islington | 1 | — | — |
| Merton | 1 | — | — |
| Newham | 1 | — | — |
| Redbridge | 1 | — | — |
| Sutton | 1 | — | — |
| Tower Hamlets | 1 | — | — |

*1 January 2001 to 31 December 2001*

| | Number of CPOs: | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Local authority* | *Confirmed* | *Not confirmed* | *Withdrawn* |
| Croydon | 1 | — | — |
| Greenwich | 2 | — | — |
| Waltham Forest | 1 | — | — |
| Westminster | 1 | — | — |

*1 January 2002 to 31 December 2002*

| | Number of CPOs: | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Local authority* | *Confirmed* | *Not confirmed* | *Withdrawn* |
| Enfield | 1 | 1 | — |
| Hackney | 2 | — | — |
| Newham | 9 | 2 | — |
| Southwark | — | — | 1 |
| Waltham Forest | 1 | — | — |
| Wandsworth | — | — | 1 |
| Westminster | 1 | — | — |

*1 January 2003 to 31 December 2003*

| | Number of CPOs: | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Local authority* | *Confirmed* | *Not confirmed* | *withdrawn* |
| Barking and Dagenham | — | — | 1 |
| Camden | 1 | — | — |
| Ealing | 1 | — | — |
| Enfield | 1 | — | — |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 1 | 1 | — |
| Kingston | — | — | 1 |
| Newham | 10 | — | — |
| Westminster | 2 | — | — |

*1 January 2004 to 31 December 2004*

| | Number of CPOs: | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Local authority* | *Confirmed* | *Not confirmed* | *Withdrawn* |
| Barnet | — | 1 | — |
| Bexley | 1 | — | — |
| Brent | 2 | — | — |
| Croydon | — | — | 2 |
| Harrow | — | — | 1 |
| Hounslow | 2 | — | — |
| Islington | 1 | — | — |
| Lambeth | 1 | — | 1 |
| Lewisham | 2 | — | — |
| Tower Hamlets | 1 | — | 1 |

*1 January 2004 to 31 December 2004*

| | Number of CPOs: | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Local authority* | *Confirmed* | *Not confirmed* | *Withdrawn* |
| Newham | 17 | — | — |
| Southwark | 1 | — | — |
| Wandsworth | 1 | — | — |

*Note:*
Housing CPOs are only included in the figures from 1 January 2002 as information before this date is not readily available.

*CPO's awaiting decision*

| *Local authority* | *Number* |
|---|---|
| Camden | 1 |
| Croydon | 1 |
| Ealing | 1 |
| Hackney | 1 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 1 |
| Lambeth | 1 |
| Newham | 6 |
| Wandsworth | 1 |
| Westminster | 5 |

## Consultants

**Mrs. Dean:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what plans he has to issue guidance on effective commissioning for those in the public and voluntary sectors who are commissioning work from external consultants. [7022]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Financial Secretary on 27 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 1286W.

## Council Tax

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether the Deputy Prime Minister pays council tax for his official residences. [4324]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** My right hon. Friend the Deputy Prime Minister occupies Admiralty House as his official residence assigned to him by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister. It is occupied as a second home used solely for the purpose of carrying out his job. The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister contributes a set proportion of the total maintenance, renovation and running costs of Admiralty House, which is managed by the Cabinet Office.

My right hon. Friend the Deputy Prime Minister also has the use of Dorneywood. Dorneywood is owned and operated by the Dorneywood Trust which is a registered charity, therefore there is no cost to public funds.

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what the estimated cost is of the council tax revaluation process in England. [4326]

**Mr. Woolas:** My hon. Friend the former Member for Shipley in a written reply to the hon. Member for Kingston and Surbiton (Mr. Davey) on 26 June 2003, *Official Report*, column 895W, indicated that the cost of council tax revaluation was in the region of £200 million including the cost of handling appeals. My hon. Friend explained that that was a very broad estimate because the cost would be affected by the methods used and that

decisions on those had not yet been taken. The cost of the Valuation Office Agency's work in preparing for and delivering the council tax revaluation in England on 1 April 2007 is currently estimated at £139.3 million, excluding any element of contingency. This includes expenditure on electronic capture and enhancement of hard copy records and in development of an automated valuation model capability that will also benefit future revaluations. Beyond 1 April 2007, the Valuation Office Agency are currently estimating additional costs above baseline of around £38 million in 2007–08 arising from an expected increase in workload arising from appeals. Final costs will however depend in part on the recommendations of Sir Michael Lyons' independent inquiry into local Government funding.

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what the anticipated cost of *(a)* the council tax revaluation process and *(b)* the Lyons review of local government finance is. [7171]

**Mr. Woolas:** On *(a)* I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) on 30 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 1653W and on *(b)* I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) on 30 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 1655W.

**Mr. Dodds:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what the average amount spent by each household in England on council tax was in the last year for which figures are available. [9001]

**Mr. Woolas:** The average council tax per dwelling in England for 2005–06 is estimated at £1,009.

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many households are liable for council tax in *(a)* England, *(b)* Wales and *(c)* Scotland. [9534]

**Mr. Woolas:** The number of chargeable dwellings liable for council tax in England in November 2004 was 21,129,000.

The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister do not hold data for Wales or Scotland; the data for the number of chargeable dwellings liable for council tax in Scotland and Wales are available from the Welsh Assembly Government and the Scottish Executive respectively.

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will list the *(a)* external advisers, *(b)* academics and *(c)* consultants that his Department have consulted over council tax revaluation. [9533]

**Mr. Woolas:** The Balance of Funding Review, which was chaired by my right hon. Friend the then Minister for Local and Regional Government, received evidence from the New Policy Institute on council tax reform which covered revaluation. The papers presented by the Institute are available on the website of the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister at:

http://www.local.odpm.gov.uk/finance/balance/bofl6.pdf and

http://www.local.odpm.gov.uk/finance/balance/bof24.pdf

The terms of reference for Sir Michael Lyons's independent inquiry into local finance require him to make recommendations on how best to reform council tax, taking into account the forthcoming revaluation of domestic property.

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister for how many years the Government expect they will provide transitional relief following the council tax revaluation in England. [9544]

**Mr. Woolas:** The Government will consider the appropriate length of time for which a transitional relief scheme should run in the light of the conclusions of the Lyons Inquiry and the responses to the subsequent consultation.

### Departmental Telecommunications

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many mobile phones his Department has *(a)* lost and *(b)* reported stolen since its establishment. [7439]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister was created on 29 May 2002. Information on mobile phones used by officials is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, the number of mobile phones reported by Ministers, special advisers and private office officials as *(a)* lost or *(b)* stolen are as follows:

| | *Number of mobile phones* | |
|---|---|---|
| | *Lost* | *Stolen* |
| 30 May 2002 to 31 March 2003 | 0 | 1 |
| 1 April 2003 to 31 March 2004 | 1 | 0 |
| 1 April 2004 to 31 March 2005 | 1 | 0 |
| 1 April 2005 to 27 June 2005 | 0 | 0 |

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister which telephone answering services for which his Department is responsible are *(a)* staffed by employees of the Department, *(b)* serviced by call centres in the UK and *(c)* serviced by overseas call centres. [8198]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister is responsible for two telephone answering services: the Social Exclusion Unit helpline and the main ODPM switchboard, neither of which are serviced by overseas call centres. The Social Exclusion Unit helpline is staffed by employees of the ODPM, while the main ODPM switchboard is serviced by contractors based within the ODPM's London offices.

### Freedom of Information

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many freedom of information requests his Department has received since the introduction of the Freedom of Information Act 2000; and how many have been refused. [7400]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** I refer the hon. Member to the Department for Constitutional Affairs' publication "Freedom of Information Act 2000—Statistics on Implementation in Central Government Q1: January-March 2005", which was published, and copies of which were placed in the Libraries of both Houses, on 23 June 2005. The information requested can be found in table 3 of the Report.

DCA will be publishing figures for Government Departments' performance under Freedom of Information, including volumes of requests handled by Departments and outcomes of requests, on an ongoing quarterly basis.

### Gershon Review

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what assessment he has made of the implementation of the Gershon Review by local authorities. [9540]

**Mr. Woolas:** Local authorities in England have to submit annual efficiency statements, which are comprised of two parts; the forward look is prepared at the start of a financial year and contains the council's strategy and planned actions for achieving efficiency gains, while the backward look, prepared at the end of the financial year, reports the gains that were actually achieved.

Local authorities submitted their first forward look statement (covering the year 2005–06) in April. Analysis of these statements indicates that local authorities expect to achieve nearly £1.2 billion efficiency gains during the year, which compares well against the target of £1.0 billion.

Local authorities submitted their first backward look statement (covering the year 2004–05) in June. Analysis of these statements is still in progress, but the initial indications are that local authorities achieved £0.7 billion efficiency gains in 2004–05. Together, the outcomes of these statements are very encouraging and suggest that authorities are well on their way towards meeting the target set in the Gershon Review. They demonstrate our belief that local authorities have a great deal of experience of successfully identifying opportunities for making efficiency gains.

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what savings the Government expect local authorities to make under the Gershon Review, broken down by main budget heading. [9541]

**Mr. Woolas:** The Government published the annual efficiency target for each local authority in England on 16 June to accompany the publication of the 2005–06 Forward Look Annual Efficiency Statements. The targets are set out in column AJ of the spreadsheet that may be found on the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister's website at http://www.odpm.gov.uk/stellent/groups/odpm_localgov/documents/page/odpm_locgov_038270.xls.

In total, the annual efficiency target for all local authorities is £1.023 billion. Thus, the expectation is for local authorities to deliver at least £3.07 billion efficiency gains by 2007–08, which contributes to the overall local Government total of £6.45 billion.

### Home Information Packs

**Mr. Love:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister (1) why the proposed Home Information Pack energy reports are currently confined to the internal costs of fuels; and if he will make a statement; [5253]

(2) if he will ensure that the proposed Home Information Pack energy reports reflect the external costs of fuels caused by the emission of *(a)* carbon and *(b)* other air quality pollutants. [5254]

**Yvette Cooper:** The purpose of providing the information in the proposed energy report is to encourage people to improve the energy performance of their homes. Consequently, the Energy Reports will contain a SAP rating along with information on energy consumption and carbon emissions. The SAP rating, which is based on fuel prices, is included because research indicates that people are most motivated to make energy efficiency investments by reductions in their fuel bills. The external costs of fuel use are reflected in the carbon emissions data. It is not possible to include information on other external costs from fuel use as these are insufficiently quantifiable.

### Homelessness

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister (1) what estimate he has made of the number of homeless households who were placed in self-contained temporary accommodation in 2004–05 which do not meet the minimum physical standards proposed in his Department's 2003 consultation paper; [6388]

(2) if he will undertake a survey of homeless households in temporary accommodation. [6389]

**Yvette Cooper:** It is for local authorities to ensure that all temporary accommodation meets statutory standards. ODPM does not collect and has not made any estimate of the number which would meet the standards set out in its 2003 consultation paper.

ODPM has recently commissioned nationally representative surveys of 2000 homeless families with children and 500 homeless 16–17 year olds.

These surveys will investigate the causes of homelessness and the impact of living in temporary accommodation, in particular on the health and well-being of these households, and on children's education. The surveys will also investigate the impact of living in temporary accommodation on access to education, training and employment.

The surveys will report early in the summer of 2006, and we anticipate the findings to be published in the autumn of 2006.

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will take steps to enable local authorities to discharge their duty to statutorily homeless households by providing an assured shorthold tenancy in the private rented sector. [6390]

**Yvette Cooper:** Local housing authorities can already discharge a duty to secure accommodation for a homeless household by arranging the provision of an assured shorthold tenancy in the private sector. The provision of such a tenancy can be used to provide temporary accommodation, pending the availability of settled accommodation. Moreover, where a main homelessness duty is owed to an applicant under section 193(2) of the Housing Act 1996, the offer of an assured shorthold tenancy will bring this duty to an end (as settled accommodation) if the offer is a qualifying offer and the applicant accepts the offer.

In March this year, we published "Sustainable Communities: settled homes; changing Lives", a strategy for tackling homelessness. This document set out our proposal to examine the options for making greater use of the private sector as a source of settled solutions for households accepted as homeless.

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what changes he plans to the definition of homelessness; and if he will make a statement. [6392]

**Yvette Cooper:** There are currently no plans to change the statutory definition of homelessness, provided in section 175 of the Housing Act 1996.

The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister is currently carrying out a review of homelessness statistics that it collects from local authorities, as announced in "Sustainable Communities: Homes for All. A Five Year Plan from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister". This has included revising the layout of the quarterly statistical release to more clearly present the information collected on statutory homelessness. The first revised release was published on 13 June, containing statistics for the first quarter of 2005.

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will make a statement on the support his Department gives to temporary to permanent housing initiatives. [6393]

**Yvette Cooper:** We have provided funding, support and advice to a number of London boroughs and housing associations seeking to develop a range of temporary to permanent housing initiatives to capture the revenue flow as a longer term social housing asset. Those supported to date include: Newham's Local Space proposal; Ealing's Safe Haven partnership; L&Q Housing Trust's HILS programme; as well as a range of other buy to let programmes delivered by housing associations including Acton, Wandle and East Thames Housing Associations.

We will continue to support innovative schemes which provide settled housing solutions for households in temporary accommodation. Where they offer value for money but require capital investment we will encourage regional housing boards to support bids for the Approved Development Programme funding.

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how much funding each local authority in London has received from the homelessness directorate in each of the last five years to support local homelessness strategies. [6402]

**Yvette Cooper:** The following table indicates the amount of homelessness funding allocated to each local authority in London since 2002–03.

| | *Homelessness grant paid* | | *Homelessness grant allocations* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *for 2002–03* | *for 2003–04* | *for 2004–05* | *2005–06* |
| Barking and Dagenham | 37,936 | 68,000 | 28,000 | 28,000 |
| Barnet | 420,000 | 416,787 | 165,000 | 160,000 |
| Bexley | 119,591 | 130,800 | 58,000 | 58,000 |
| Brent | 1,969,910 | 1,423,000 | 783,000 | 740,000 |
| Bromley | 242,000 | 183,500 | 100,000 | 100,000 |
| Camden | 1,004,100 | 1,834,192 | 1,808,000 | 1,700,000 |
| City of London | 18,000 | 656,000 | 515,000 | 265,000 |
| Croydon Council | 1,596,495 | 1,104,000 | 600,000 | 500,000 |
| Ealing | 1,535,156 | 1,224,608 | 600,000 | 600,000 |
| Enfield | 588,676 | 491,376 | 250,000 | 250,000 |
| Greenwich | 63,000 | 113,000 | 100,000 | 63,000 |
| Hackney | 289,800 | 646,000 | 690,000 | 550,000 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 1,815,500 | 1,300,500 | 1,970,000 | 2,360,000 |
| Haringey | 421,061 | 491,000 | 200,000 | 200,000 |
| Harrow | 191,000 | 181,001 | 183,000 | 190,000 |
| Havering | | 26,966 | 27,000 | 27,000 |
| Hillingdon | 920,226 | 779,712 | 80,000 | 80,000 |
| Hounslow | 494,361 | 459,000 | 180,000 | 165,000 |
| Islington | 306,000 | 162,091 | 357,000 | 325,000 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 1,252,118 | 1,565,511 | 943,000 | 875,000 |
| Kingston upon Thames | 151,000 | 121,000 | 90,000 | 90,000 |
| Lambeth | 1,082,631 | 1,119,293 | 2,100,000 | 2,000,000 |
| Lewisham | 79,000 | 102,395 | 400,000 | 100,000 |
| Merton | 116,500 | 75,000 | 80,000 | 80,000 |
| Newham | 1,803,220 | 1,257,000 | 250,000 | 212,000 |
| Redbridge | 458,245 | 292,000 | 105,000 | 100,000 |
| Richmond | 116,365 | 386,576 | 295,000 | 295,000 |
| Southwark | 518,040 | 996,508 | 1,453,000 | 1,050,000 |
| Sutton | 240,222 | 192,999 | 150,000 | 115,000 |
| Tower Hamlets | 1,173,800 | 838,950 | 800,000 | 1,735,000 |
| Waltham Forest | 825,723 | 383,000 | 200,000 | 200,000 |
| Wandsworth | 628,527 | 546,000 | 300,000 | 250,000 |
| Westminster | 2,902,500 | 4,434,374 | 16,846,000 | 7,260,000 |

*Notes:*

1. The allocation of homelessness grants to local authorities began in 2002–03, before this grants had been provided to voluntary sector agencies only.
2. The figures for 2002–03 and 2003–04 reflect actual grant payments made, those for 2004–05 and 2005–06 are the allocations.
3. The allocations for 2004–05 include capital grants.
4. The allocations for 2005–06 include capital grants where these have been agreed, further capital grants may be allocated during the year as part of the hostels capital.

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what changes the Government have made to the eligibility of homeless people for accommodation since May 1997. [7403]

**Yvette Cooper:** This Government have made a number of changes to improve eligibility for homelessness assistance in England since May 1997.

Under the homelessness legislation, eligible applicants must also be unintentionally homeless and have a priority need in order to be entitled to accommodation. In July 2002 we extended the priority need categories to include, broadly, young people aged 16 or 17, young people under 21 previously in care, applicants vulnerable as a result of time spent in care, in the armed forces, in prison or on remand, and applicants vulnerable as a result of fleeing their home because of violence. These changes have widened the homelessness safety net and ensure that more vulnerable homeless people are given the help they need.

In most cases, the main duty to secure accommodation under the homelessness legislation is ended with the offer of a long-term social tenancy. Local authorities' allocation schemes for social housing must be framed so as to give reasonable preference to certain categories of applicant. In July 1997, we extended the reasonable preference categories to include people owed the main homelessness duties. This effectively restored the long-standing rights of people owed the main homelessness duties that had been removed by the Housing Act 1996. In 2002, the reasonable preference categories were revised and broadened to include people owed other homelessness duties and people who were homeless, whether owed a duty or not.

A number of specific changes to the rules on eligibility have been made since 1997 in relation to people coming to England from abroad. These have included:

exemptions from the requirement to be habitually resident in the common travel area (CTA) for people who left Montserrat because of the effect on that territory of a volcanic eruption,

removal of eligibility for all asylum seekers who claimed asylum after 2 April 2000, when the National Asylum Support Service took on responsibility for providing asylum seekers with appropriate accommodation and support, and for nationals of countries that were signatories to, but which had not ratified, the European Convention on Social and Medical Assistance or the European Social Charter, and

a number of changes in relation to habitual residence and eligibility for nationals of states in the European economic area (EEA) when the European Union was enlarged in May 2004.

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what recent estimate the Government have made of the level of hidden homelessness in England. [7406]

**Yvette Cooper:** Hidden homelessness is a subjective definition, varying between different agencies and individuals. We have a number of objective measures to identify and assess levels of homelessness and a range of wider housing needs which can be used to inform housing and homelessness strategies.

PIE data records all decisions on households who apply to local housing authorities for homelessness assistance. This includes those who are found to be homeless (unintentionally or intentionally) and in priority need. It also includes those found not to be in priority need or not homeless. The data can be analysed, and are published quarterly, at national, regional and local authority levels. The total number of decisions on applications by authorities has been falling during 2004, indicating that fewer people are becoming homeless.

Additionally, annual returns from local authorities identify the number of people who are literally roofless and sleeping rough on a single night, from local head counts or estimates. The number of people sleeping out on a single night has fallen by more than 70 per cent. since 1998.

Through Supporting People we collect data on the number of people regarded by service providers as homeless or at risk of homelessness who are provided with housing related support.

The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister also collects a range of data on wider forms of housing need, including concealed households, overcrowding and households living in poor quality homes. These are reported in regular ODPM publications—the English House Condition Survey and the Survey of English Housing.

At the local level, local authorities homelessness reviews—required to be undertaken every five years by the Homelessness Act 2002—should identify levels of all forms of homelessness in the local district and be used to inform a local homelessness strategy.

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what changes the Government have made to the methodology for calculating *(a)* priority homelessness, *(b)* rough sleeping and *(c)* homeless in temporary accommodation since May 1997. [7410]

**Yvette Cooper:** We have improved the amount of detailed information we collect on households in priority need and those in temporary accommodation, and have widened the categories of people given priority.

We have made some minor technical changes to improve the accuracy of the regional and national estimates of households in priority need and households in temporary accommodation, to account for non-response and have taken further steps to improve the response rate, which now stands at over 95 per cent. each quarter.

We have made no changes since 1997 to the methodology for calculating the number of rough sleepers. The most recent national figure of around 508 people sleeping rough on any one night (70 per cent. down on 1998) is based on a higher number of recent counts and less reliance on estimates than any previous national estimate and is therefore likely to be even more accurate.

### Houses in Multiple Occupation

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what assessment the Government have made of the effect of the licensing of houses in multiple occupation on the buy to let housing market. [7440]

**Yvette Cooper:** The Government take the view that proportionate regulation of the private rented sector targeted at the properties most at risk will raise standards in the sector and lead to more investment. The Government have already undertaken to review the success of the licensing regime within the next three years. This will cover the effect on the buy to let market as well as other areas within the private rented sector.

Investment in the private rented sector is however principally determined by the markets long term judgment of the returns expected from residential property.

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what criteria will be used to decide which rental properties in the private sector are subject to licensing for houses in multiple occupation. [7441]

**Yvette Cooper:** The Housing Act 2004 requires the mandatory licensing of larger, higher-risk housing of multiple occupation (HMOs). Following consultation, the Government have decided that this will cover privately rented HMOs of three or more storeys and occupied by five or more people who form two or more households. This decision was announced in a statement made by my right hon. Friend the former Minister for Housing and Planning on 6 April 2005.

Local authorities will also have discretion to extend licensing to smaller privately rented HMOs in all, or part of their area, to address particular problems caused by the ineffective management of those HMOs. The use of this discretionary power is subject to consultation and requires confirmation or general approval by the Secretary of State.

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister (1) whether the timetable for publication of the final Code of Guidance on minimum standards in temporary accommodation has changed; and if he will make a statement; [6412]

(2) what the final date was for submissions to the consultation on the Code of Guidance on minimum standards in temporary accommodation; [6413]

(3) when he plans to publish the statutory Code of Guidance on standards in temporary accommodation for homeless households. [6414]

**Yvette Cooper:** In May 2003 the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister published a consultation paper on "Improving standards of accommodation for homeless households placed in temporary accommodation." The consultation period ended on 5 August 2003. In November 2003 we announced the outcome of the consultation and our intention to revise the statutory Homelessness Code of Guidance for Local Authorities to restate existing minimum standards for temporary accommodation and set out additional standards for bed and breakfast hotels used as temporary accommodation. We plan to publish the revised Homelessness Code of Guidance in the autumn.

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what recent representations his Department has received from *(a)* landlord and *(b)* tenants' organisations on houses in multiple occupation licensing fees; and what response his Department has made. [4872]

**Yvette Cooper:** Representations have been received from a number of landlord and managing agent bodies following Ministers' decision not to use the powers in the Housing Act 2004 to cap fees charged for licensing. Discussions have already been held with these and other bodies to explain the background to this decision and to explore the extent to which it might be possible to fast track applications from landlords or agents who are members of local accreditation schemes or who might otherwise demonstrate their capacity to manage properties efficiently and effectively.

In addition, there will be transitional arrangements that will allow landlords of properties registered under the Housing Act 1985 to be passported into licensing without charge for a period not exceeding the unexpired portion of their current registration. We expect these arrangements to lead to more constructive relations between landlords and local authorities as well as ensuring that fees are kept to an acceptable level.

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what estimate his Department made for regulatory impact assessment purposes of the amount which would be raised by houses in multiple occupation licensing fees; what his Department's latest estimate is of that figure; and how each figure was calculated. [4873]

**Yvette Cooper:** The Regulatory Impact Assessment indicated that around 540,000 units would be licensable under mandatory houses in multiple occupation (HMO) licensing and the consultation paper "Licensing in the Private Rented Sector: Consultation on the Implementation of HMO Licensing" had suggested that fee levels might be between £110 and £180 per unit but that the issue was still under consideration.

These estimates were compiled following consultation with local government, taking into account a range of factors including experience in registering HMO's under the Housing Act 1985, as amended by the Housing Act 1996.

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what arrangements his Department has planned for ensuring houses in multiple occupation licence fees set by local authorities only recover costs; and when such arrangements will be in place. [4874]

**Yvette Cooper:** Section 63(7) of the Housing Act 2004 enables local housing authorities to have regard to the costs in carrying out the administration of the licensing scheme when fixing fees.

We expect local authorities to establish a coherent and transparent fee structure that is set up in time for the commencement of the licensing provisions, intended for October 2005, which must operate within and in accordance with the CIPFA accountancy framework.

## Housing

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister pursuant to the answer of 27 June 2005, *Official Report*, columns 1306–07W, on housing, what the process will be for the Examination in Public of the East of England Regional Spatial Strategy; in which areas it will operate; and how the process will be publicised. [8899]

**Yvette Cooper:** The Examination in Public (EiP) provides an opportunity for discussion and testing of matters selected by the EiP panel in order to test the soundness of the Regional Spatial Strategy. The panel conducting the EiP has identified those matters which it considers need to be debated and those stakeholders that it intends to invite to take part in the debate. The list of matters and participants has been subject to public consultation and the panel are currently considering the results of that consultation. The panel will publish a revised list of matters and participants on or before the 19 July.

The EiP will be held, in public, at The Maltings, Ely, Cambridgeshire. The process has been publicised in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Regional Planning) (England) Regulations 2004.

Future information regarding the EiP will be published on panel's web pages, which are being hosted on the Go-East website:

http://www.goeast.gov.uk/goeast/planning/regional_planning/rss_eip_panel_sec/

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister pursuant to the answer of 27 June 2005, *Official Report*, columns 1306–07W, on housing, over what period the Examination in Public of the East of England Regional Spatial Strategy home building targets will take place; and when he expects the outcome of that examination to be published. [8900]

**Yvette Cooper:** The Examination in Public (EiP) is currently scheduled to commence on 14 September and run until 16 December 2005. The East of England regional assembly has recently requested a deferral of the opening of the EiP until 1 November. The panel is expected to report to my right hon. Friend the Deputy Prime Minister, the First Secretary of State within three to four months, depending upon the complexity of the issues.

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many *(a)* permanent tenancy and *(b)* introductory tenancy homes have been allocated to new tenants by (i) Birmingham city council and (ii) registered social landlords in Birmingham; and how many were allocated to households accepted as homeless and in (A) priority need and (B) non-priority need in each of the last 10 years. [6105]

**Yvette Cooper:** Information on the number of lettings to new tenants made by Birmingham city council on a *(a)* secure (permanent) and *(b)* introductory basis and the number of these lettings made to homeless households in priority need are given in table 1. Although local authorities have a discretionary housing duty to homeless households not in priority need information on these lettings is not held centrally.

Information on the number of lettings to new tenants made by registered social landlords (RSLs) in the Birmingham city council area; on a *(a)* secure (permanent) and *(b)* introductory basis and the number of these lettings made to homeless households both in priority need and not in priority need are given in table 2.

*Table 1: Lettings made by Birmingham city council to new tenants*

| | Total | | Of which: To homeless households in priority need | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Secure | Introductory | Secure | Introductory |
| 1995–96 | 9,251 | — | 3,553 | — |
| 1996–97 | 9,361 | 0 | 3,258 | 0 |
| 1997–98 | 9,329 | 0 | 4,450 | 0 |
| 1998–99 | 8,737 | 0 | 3,294 | 0 |
| 1999–2000 | 2,426 | 5,456 | 1,252 | 1,842 |
| 2000–01 | 0 | 7,729 | 0 | 3,297 |
| 2001–02 | 0 | 5,567 | 0 | 3,329 |
| 2002–03 | 0 | 5,383 | 0 | 3,702 |
| 2003–04 | 0 | 4,652 | 0 | 3,385 |
| 2004–05 | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— |

[1] Data not yet available

*Note:*
Introductory tenancies were established in late 1996–97, and usually lead to a secure tenancy after a trial period.

*Source:*
ODPM's Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix returns

*Table 2: Lettings to new tenants made by registered social landlords in the Birmingham city council area*

| | Total | | Of which: To homeless households | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | In priority need | | Not in priority need | |
| | Permanent | Starter | Permanent | Starter | Permanent | Starter |
| 1995–96 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| 1996–97 | 3,725 | 0 | 508 | 0 | 159 | 0 |
| 1997–98 | 4,133 | 0 | 291 | 0 | 220 | 0 |
| 1998–99 | 4,148 | 0 | 340 | 0 | 122 | 0 |
| 1999–2000 | 4,032 | 0 | 250 | 0 | 81 | 0 |
| 2000–01 | 3,844 | 33 | 183 | 2 | 90 | 0 |
| 2001–02 | 3,818 | 42 | 284 | 1 | 73 | 1 |

*Table 2: Lettings to new tenants made by registered social landlords in the Birmingham city council area*

| | Total | | Of which: To homeless households | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | In priority need | | Not in priority need | |
| | Permanent | Starter | Permanent | Starter | Permanent | Starter |
| 2002–03 | 3,656 | 122 | 275 | 12 | 98 | 6 |
| 2003–04 | 2,999 | 240 | 251 | 11 | 117 | 5 |
| 2004–05 | [1] | [1] | [1] | [1] | [1] | [1] |

[1] Data not yet available

*Notes:*

1. Permanent tenancies have been defined as "Fair rent or secure", "Assured" and "Assured shorthold"
2. In priority need are those homeless households owed a main duty and nominated by a local authority
3. Not in priority need are those homeless households not owed a main duty but nominated by a local authority

*Source:*

Housing Corporation's CORE returns

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what percentage of councils that have completed their stock options appraisal have decided in favour of council retention of homes. [6421]

**Yvette Cooper:** Of the 84 local authorities that have had their stock options appraisal signed off by the relevant Government Office, 27—or 32 per cent.—have opted to retain ownership and direct management of all or some of their homes.

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister which councils have not yet submitted a stock options appraisal; and whether he expects that all councils will meet the July deadline. [6422]

**Yvette Cooper:** A list of local authorities that have yet to have a stock options appraisal signed off by the relevant Government Office has been placed in the Libraries of the House. Four authorities have indicated to us that they will not meet the deadline of the end of July.

### Housing Corporation Approved Development Programme

**Ms Dari Taylor:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many affordable housing units built or procured through *(a)* the Housing Corporation Approved Development programme and *(b)* the Challenge Fund were (i) mixed funded social rented housing, (ii) temporary social rented housing, (iii) homebuy general market purchase, (iv) homebuy general new build, (v) mixed funded low cost home ownership for sale, (vi) miscellaneous works to registered social landlord (RSL) stock, (vii) reimprovements to rented RSL stock, (viii) works only rehabilitation of rented RSL stock, (ix) works only rehabilitation of RSL stock for sale, (x) intermediate rent for key workers, (xi) homebuy market purchase for key workers, (xii) homebuy new build for key workers, (xiii) mixed funded sale for key workers and (xiv) starter home initiative in the north-east region in each year since 1997–98; and how much was spent on each category in each year. [6441]

**Yvette Cooper:** The following tables show completions and expenditure through the Housing Corporation Approved Development Programme (ADP), for categories from (i) to (ix). The information in the tables does not include all programmes that the ADP is used for and therefore does not represent the total funding for the north-east region.

The Starter Home Initiative, the Challenge Fund and the Key Worker Living programme were limited to London and the wider south-east, therefore there are no completions or investment for these initiatives in the north-east region.

Funding and completions are not directly comparable, as funding will relate to projects running, not necessarily units completed, in any one year.

*Completions in units for the north-east region from 1997–98 to 2004–05*

*Units completed*

| | 1997–98 | 1998–99 | 1999–2000 | 2000–01 | 2001–02 | 2002–03 | 2003–04 | 2004–05 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| (i) Mixed funded Social Rent | 1,215 | 965 | 758 | 540 | 680 | 355 | 583 | 612 |
| (ii) Temporary Social Rented Housing | 39 | 9 | 2 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| (iii) Homebuy market purchase | 0 | 0 | 0 | 18 | 11 | 8 | 3 | 3 |
| (iv) Homebuy New Build | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 0 |
| (v) Mixed-funded Low Cost Home Ownership | 164 | 130 | 87 | 93 | 110 | 6 | 21 | 88 |
| (vi) Miscellaneous Works | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| (vii) Re-improvements to rented RSL stock | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| (viii) Works-only re-hab for rented RSL stock | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| (ix) Works only re-hab of RSL stock for sale | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |

*Note:*

Miscellaneous works, re-improvements to rented RSL stock, works only rehabilitation of rented RSL stock and works only rehabilitation of RSL stock for sale are not recorded as completed dwellings as they may have previously received funding and would therefore be double counted.

*Expenditure for the north-east region from 1997–98 to 2004–05*

*£ million*

| | *1997–98* | *1998–99* | *1999–2000* | *2000–01* | *2001–02* | *2002–03* | *2003–04* | *2004–05* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| (i) Mixed funded Social Rent | 17.08 | 15.55 | 15.72 | 16.14 | 18.65 | 19.60 | 34.94 | 35.37 |
| (ii) Temporary Social Housing | 0.20 | 0.08 | 0.89 | 0.07 | 0.02 | 0.06 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| (iii) Homebuy market purchase | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.10 | 0.24 | 0.13 | 0.12 | 0.52 | 0.74 |
| (iv) Homebuy New Build | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 0.00 |
| (v) Mixed-funded Low Cost Home Ownership | 2.03 | 1.69 | 1.27 | 1.07 | 0.83 | 0.32 | 1.47 | 1.16 |
| (vi) Miscellaneous Works | 0.82 | 0.63 | 0.48 | 1.22 | 1.50 | 1.43 | 1.28 | 0.17 |
| (vii) Re-improvements to rented RSL stock | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.51 | 0.63 | 0.87 | 0.42 | 2.93 | 2.79 |
| (viii) Works-only re-hab for rented RSL stock | 0.50 | 0.26 | 0.04 | 0.49 | 0.33 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| (ix) Works only re-hab of RSL stock for sale | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |

*Source:*
Housing Corporation

## Local Authorities

**Mr. Hands:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what the Government's policy is on call-in arrangements for executive decisions made by local authorities. [6759]

**Mr. Woolas:** The statutory guidance that the Government have issued under the Local Government Act 2000 includes guidance on the call-in of executive decisions, in particular that the arrangements for call-in should ensure that there is an appropriate balance between effectively holding the executive to account, being able to question decisions before they are implemented, and allowing effective and efficient decision making by the executive within the policy framework and budget agreed by the full council.

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will list the consent regimes for local authorities that are administered by the Government Offices for the Regions. [4288]

**Yvette Cooper:** Of the 196 consent regimes identified by the Efficiency Scrutiny of Central Consent Regimes for Local Authorities in 1997, those still in place that are administered by the Government Offices are tabled as follows.

Following the Efficiency Scrutiny, we announced in 2002 a programme to deregulate consent powers. We have so far deregulated 63 powers and have plans to deregulate a further 28.

| *Legislative reference* | *Description* |
|---|---|
| Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, ss.53–54 and Sch.14 | Confirming orders amending definitive maps. Consent administered by the GOs in certain circumstances. |
| Highways Act 1980, ss.26*(1)* 118, 118A, 119 and 119A. Town and Country Planning Act 1990, ss.257–258 and 261(2). | Confirming public path orders and orders to extinguish or divert footpaths or bridle-ways to enable development. Consent administered by the GOs in certain circumstances. |
| Third schedule of the model form of tree preservation order in Town and Country Planning (Tree Preservation Order) Regulations 1969 | Confirming orders revoking or modifying previous consents granted under tree preservation orders. Consent regime removed in relation to all tree preservation orders made by local authorities since August 1999. Power retained for orders that were made before that date. |
| Town and Country Planning Act 1990. ss59 et al, as amended by Planning and Compensation Act 1991. Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 (SI 1995 No. 418) Town and Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995 (SI 1995 No. 419) | A power ('Article 4 Direction') to consent to withdrawal of permitted development rights. |
| Town and County Planning Act 1990, ss 97 and 98 and 102 | Three powers to confirm various orders revoking, modifying or otherwise affecting existing planning permissions or existing uses of land or existing buildings or works. |
| Allotments Act 1925, s8 | A power to consent to the sale or appropriation of statutory allotment land, or its use for other purposes |
| City of London Various Powers Act 1963 s.33 | Restricting vehicle access in London. Administered by GOL only. |
| City of London Various Powers Act 1967 s.6 and Greater London Council (General Powers) Act 1969 s.11 | Provision and declaration of walkways in London. Administered by GOL only. |
| Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 s.65 (as amended by Sch. 8 of the New Roads and Street Works Act 1991) | Authorising traffic signs not specified in regulations. A minority of cases are delegated to GOs. The consent has been considerably deregulated through Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2002 which allow traffic authorities to use many signs without special authorisation. |
| Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990, ss 23 and 24 | Confirming orders revoking or modifying listed building consent |
| Highways Act 1980 s.106 and s.108–110 | Consent predominantly administered by the GOs. Construction of bridges/tunnels on navigable waters/ to divert a non-navigable watercourse. Consent administered by GOs in relation to local authority roads, but by DfT in relation to Highways Agency trunk roads. |
| Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, Sch.9 (13–14) Highways Act 1980, ss. 124–125 | Traffic Regulation Orders limiting vehicle access to premises and stopping up private access |

| Legislative reference | Description |
|---|---|
| Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, s.9 | Extending experimental Traffic Regulation Orders in London. Administered by GOL only. |
| Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, s.15 | Extension of temporary orders. |
| Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, S.16B (inserted by Road Traffic (Special Events) Act 1994) | Special events order. |
| Highways Act 1980, s. 14 and 18 | Confirming orders stopping up or diverting right of way for alterations to side roads (SROs); |
| Town and Country Planning Act 1990, s.247, 248 and 249 | Stopping or diverting highways in connection with development/ amenity improvement. |
| Local Government Act 1985, s.5 | Determining an inter-authority dispute over a permanent order. |
| Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, s.40(3) | Provision of off-street parking for over 12 months on land compulsorily acquired for another purpose. |

**Mr. Davey:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many councils voted against transferring their stock to a registered social landlord; and how much funding in the Housing Revenue Account subsidy was reallocated to other areas as a result. [8292]

**Yvette Cooper:** Since 1997, tenants in 26 authorities have voted against transfer to a registered social landlord.

Whether or not an individual authority transfers its stock to a registered social landlord has no impact on the Housing Revenue Account Subsidy entitlement of other authorities.

### Local Government Finance

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what the level of cash reserves is in each London borough. [8210]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The level of cash backed reserves split by revenue reserves and accumulated capital receipts in each London borough at 1 April 2005 is shown in the following table.

*Level of cash backed reserves split by revenue reserves and accumulated capital receipts in each London borough at 1 April 2005*

£000

| | Revenue reserves | Accumulated capital receipts | Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| Barking and Dagenham | 40,390 | 98,752 | 139,142 |
| Barnet | 16,525 | 0 | 16,525 |
| Bexley | 40,979 | 1,895 | 42,874 |
| Brent | 12,637 | 0 | 12,637 |
| Bromley | 62,016 | 2,890 | 64,906 |
| Camden | 83,196 | 0 | 83,196 |
| City of London | 125,369 | 59,460 | 184,829 |
| Croydon | 14,370 | 7,700 | 22,070 |
| Ealing | 15,129 | 0 | 15,129 |
| Enfield | 40,868 | 22,493 | 63,361 |
| Greenwich | 66,018 | 3,586 | 69,604 |
| Hackney | 71,587 | 33,220 | 104,807 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 46,803 | 2,959 | 49,762 |
| Haringey | 59,608 | 6,234 | 65,842 |
| Harrow | 17,703 | 0 | 17,703 |
| Havering | 23,277 | 35,879 | 59,156 |
| Hillingdon | 15,993 | 10,265 | 26,258 |
| Hounslow | 13,489 | 3,272 | 16,761 |
| Islington | 48,385 | 28,836 | 77,221 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 113,858 | 182 | 114,040 |
| Kingston upon Thames | 14,762 | 1,533 | 16,295 |
| Lambeth | 28,846 | 0 | 28,846 |
| Lewisham | 45,013 | 6,121 | 51,134 |
| Merton | 10,039 | 0 | 10,039 |
| Newham | 39,452 | 0 | 39,452 |
| Redbridge | 25,268 | 8,921 | 34,189 |
| Richmond upon Thames | 37,082 | 11,286 | 48,368 |
| Southwark | 34,275 | 44,522 | 78,797 |
| Sutton | 17,926 | 0 | 17,926 |
| Tower Hamlets | 76,000 | 9,000 | 85,000 |
| Waltham Forest | 28,628 | 7,040 | 35,668 |
| Wandsworth | 26,398 | 0 | 26,398 |
| Westminster | 41,297 | 172 | 41,469 |

*Sources:*
ODPM Revenue Account (RA) Budget returns 2005–06
ODPM Capital Estimates Return (CER) 2005–06

### Merseyside Market Renewals

**Mr. Frank Field:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what the cost has been in fees paid for assessing local views in the three market renewal areas of Merseyside; which firms were involved; in which areas they operated; and what fees have been paid to each. [7078]

**Yvette Cooper:** The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Mobile Phone Masts/Technology

**Dr. Kumar:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what restrictions there are on the erection of mobile phone masts in close proximity to schools. [6022]

**Yvette Cooper:** Mobile phone mast and base station developments near schools are subject to the normal planning regulations in place throughout England, unless exempted by the regulations set out in part 24 of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 (GPDO). The planning arrangements for telecommunications developments were significantly strengthened in 2001 and include improved requirements for consulting local people about mast proposals. The changes to the GPDO were underpinned by revised guidance, set out in Planning Policy Guidance Note 8, Telecommunications. The changes to the planning guidance also underlined that school governors must be consulted on all proposals for new masts on or near a school or college.

**Dr. Kumar:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will restrict the number of phone masts which are permitted to be erected in a particular area. [7300]

**Yvette Cooper:** Government policy, set out in planning policy guidance note 8 on telecommunications, states the importance of keeping the numbers of radio and telecommunications masts and of the sites for such installations to the minimum consistent with the efficient operation of the network.

Parliament has given local planning authorities the responsibility for development control in their areas. The Secretary of State does not seek to interfere with the jurisdiction of local planning authorities unless it is necessary to do so.

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what topics will be covered by the research commissioned by his Department into the future direction of mobile phone technology; what the timetable for the research is including *(a)* the date on which the research was commissioned, *(b)* when the research commenced, *(c)* what interim reports will be submitted, *(d)* when the research findings and recommendations will be submitted to Ministers and *(e)* when and how the research will be made public; what the estimated cost of research is; and who is conducting the research. [8082]

**Yvette Cooper:** On 4 April I announced the Government's intention to commission further research to identify the future direction of mobile phone technology and the future need for mast developments. Officials from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister have discussed these research proposals with other departments and research institutions and are currently preparing a specification. These studies form part of a wider programme of work around planning arrangements for telecommunication masts.

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what estimate the Government have made of the number of 3G mobile phone masts that will be erected to provide service for the new 3G licences. [5582]

**Yvette Cooper:** There are approximately 45,000 base stations across the country at present for all mobile phone network operators, this includes 2G and 3G networks. The licences to operate 3G networks require that 80 per cent. of the population will have access to the network by the end of 2007. The mobile phone operators have estimated that in total 50,000 base stations will be required.

### Planning Appeals (London)

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will set out for each of the last five years for each London borough the number of planning appeals *(a)* for non-determination by the planning authority and *(b)* against a refusal that were (i) determined by written representations and (ii) determined by public inquiry setting out how many in each case were (A) granted permission and (B) not granted permission. [8081]

**Yvette Cooper:** The tables which give the information requested have been made available in the Libraries of the House. Please note that any London borough not appearing in a table did not have any planning appeal decisions issued in that particular financial year determined by written representation or public inquiry procedure, as appropriate.

### Social Housing

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many social homes in each local authority in England did not meet the Decent Homes Standard *(a)* in 1997, *(b)* in 2001 and *(c)* on the latest date for which figures are available; how much has been spent on improvements; and what the estimated cost is of bringing all remaining social homes up to the standard. [7142]

**Yvette Cooper:** Local authorities have provided information about the number of homes they own that do not meet the standard as part of their Business Plan Statistical Appendix Annual Monitoring Form since 2001. These are available on the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister's website at:

http://www.odpm.gov.uk/stellent/groups/odpm_control/documents/contentservertemplate/odpm_index.hcst?n=1092&l=4.

Registered social landlords have provided information on the number of homes they own that do not meet the standard in Part Q of their annual Regulatory Survey Returns since 2002, although it was not mandatory to provide this information until 2003. These are available on the RSR website at:

http://www.rsrsurvey.co.uk/index.cfm?task=prevYearsData

Since 1997, £21 billion has been spent on improvements to social sector stock, and we estimate that this will have increased to £42 billion by 2010.

**Mr. Dodds:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what the average cost per household in England was of social housing rent in the last year for which figures are available. [8998]

**Yvette Cooper:** The average weekly social rent in England in April 2004 was £55.05.

### Special Advisers

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will list *(a)* the special advisers in his Department, *(b)* their specific areas of expertise and *(c)* the total cost of employing them in the latest year for which figures are available. [8819]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 4 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 36W.

### Statistical Datasets

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will list the statistical datasets his Department *(a)* holds and *(b)* collects containing data at local authority level. [7443]

**Mr. Woolas:** The regular data collection returns submitted by some or all local authorities to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister are as follows:

*Data collection returns*

| *Title* | *Description* |
|---|---|
| RA, SG BID | General Fund Revenue Accounts—Budgets and Grants 2005–06 Business Improvement District Revenue Account transactions - 2005–06 |
| RO | Revenue Outturn suite 2004–05 |

*Data collection returns*

| *Title* | *Description* |
|---|---|
| QRW | Quarterly Return of Wages and Salaries, Interest Receipts and Payments 2005–06 |
| MB | Monthly Borrowing and Lending 2005–06 (Authorities in monthly sample only) |
| QB | Quarterly Borrowing and Lending 2005–06 (All authorities not in the monthly sample) |
| CER | Capital Estimates 2005–06 |
| CPR | Capital Payments and Receipts 1–3 for 2005–06 But also CPR4 for 2005–06 |
| COR | Capital Outturn Suite 2004–05 |
| COR1/2 | Capital Expenditure and Receipts |
| COR3 | Supplementary Return—Personal Social Services |
| COR4 | Financing of Capital Payments and Capital Account Summary |
| COR5 | Supplementary Return |
| CFR | Capital Forecast 2005–06 |
| WGA | Whole of Government Accounts 2004–05 |
| SF3 | Pension Funds Account 2004–05 (Pension authorities only) |
| QRC 1–3 | Quarterly Council Tax and NDR collection 2005–06 |
| QRC4 | Quarterly Council Tax and NDR collection 2005–06 |
| BR1–3 | Budget Requirement 2005–06 |
| NNDR1 | Contributions to Non-Domestic Rates Pool—provisional 2005–06 |
| NNDR2 | Downward Recalculation to one Provisional Contribution to Pool 2005–06 |
| NNDR3 | Contributions to Non-Domestic Rates Pool—Outturn 2004–05 |
| CTB | Council Tax Base as at November 2005 |
| CTBIs | Council Tax Base Supplementary as at November 2005 |
| P1A/B | Quarterly Housing Monitoring return |
| P1E Quarterly | Households dealt with under the homelessness provisions of the 1996 Housing Act quarterly return. |
| P1E AS (Annual Supplement) | Households dealt with under the homelessness provisions of the 1996 Housing Act annual supplement return. |
| P1EQS (Quarterly Supplement) | Households dealt with under the homelessness provisions of the 1996 Housing Act quarterly supplement return. |
| P2Q | House building quarterly return. |
| HFR | Housing Flows Reconciliation return. |
| HSSA | Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix |
| BPSA (AM) | Business Plan Statistical Appendix Annual Monitoring |
| BPSA (FP) | Business Plan Statistical Appendix Future Plan |
| *Best value performance indicators:* | |
| BVPI3 | Overall satisfaction with the authority as a whole |
| BVPI4 | Satisfaction with complaints handling (of those making complaints) |
| BVPI89 | Satisfaction with cleanliness of public land |
| BVPI90a | Satisfaction with household waste collection |
| BVPI90b | Satisfaction with waste recycling (local facilities) |
| BVPI90c | Satisfaction with waste disposal (local tips) |
| BVPI103 | Satisfaction with transport information |
| BVPI104 | Satisfaction with bus services |
| BVPI119a | Satisfaction with sports and leisure facilities |
| BVPI119b | Satisfaction with libraries |
| BVPI119c | Satisfaction with museums/galleries |
| BVPI119d | Satisfaction with theatres/concert halls |
| BVPI119e | Satisfaction with parks and open spaces |
| FDR1 | Primary fires, incidents attended, detailed description |
| FDR3 | Secondary fires, monthly aggregate |

*Data collection returns*

| *Title* | *Description* |
|---|---|
| Fire and Rescue Service Operational Statistics | Staffing, vehicles inspections, health and safety |
| NLUD-PDL | Previously developed land |
| LUCS | Land use changes |
| NNDR3 | National Non-Domestic Rates Return 3—Appendix E |
| PS1 | Planning applications: received, withdrawn, determinations, enforcement |
| PS2 | Planning applications: refused/granted, speed of determination |
| CPS1/2 | Planning applications: waste disposal, mineral extraction |
| Survey of land for mineral working | Area of land with planning permission for mineral extraction or associated tipping |
| Minerals development plans | Progress in development plans by minerals and waste planning authorities |
| The Building Control Monitoring Charges | Total charges income received (excluding VAT), total cost/expenditure incurred and surplus/deficit |
| Monitoring Returns (LSVT) | Monitoring and evaluation information on large scale voluntary transfer of dwelling stock |
| Monitoring Returns (ALMO) | Monitoring and evaluation information on arms length management organisations set up by local authorities to manage their dwelling stock |
| Monitoring Returns (PFI) | Monitoring and evaluation of Public Finance Initiative (PFI) schemes |

The principal datasets held at local authority level are as follows:

General Fund Revenue Accounts—Budgets and Grants from 1990–91

Business Improvement District Revenue Account transactions—2005–06

Revenue Outturn from 1990–91:

Quarterly Wages and Salaries, Interest Receipts and Payments from 1993–94

Monthly Borrowing and Lending from 1990–91 (Authorities in monthly sample only)

Quarterly Borrowing and Lending from 1993–94 (All authorities not in the monthly sample)

Capital Estimates 2005–06

Capital Payments and Receipts 1–3 for 2005–06 and also CPR4 for 2005–06

Capital Outturn Suite 2004–05

Capital Expenditure and Receipts

Supplementary Return—Personal Social Services

Financing of Capital Payments and Capital Account Summary

Supplementary Return

Capital Forecast 2005–06

Pension Funds Account 2004–05 (Pension authorities only)

Quarterly Council Tax and NDR from 1990–91

Quarterly Council Tax and NDR from 1990–91

Budget Requirement from 1994–95

Contributions to Non-Domestic Rates Pool—provisional from 1990–91

Downward Recalculation to one Provisional Contribution to Pool from 1990–91

Contributions to Non-Domestic Rates Pool—Outturn from 1990–91

Council Tax Base as at November from 1993–94

Council Tax Base Supplementary as at November from 2001–02

Quarterly Housing Monitoring information

Local authority rents, by district, from 1996

RSL rents, by district, from 1997

Mean house prices based on Land Registry data, by district, from 1996(quarterly)

Median house prices based on Land Registry data, by district, from 1996 (quarterly)

Lower quartile house prices based on Land Registry data, by district, from 1996

Property sales based on Land Registry data, by district, from 1996

Permanent dwellings started and completed, by tenure and district, 2003–04

Local authorities' action under the homelessness provisions of the 1985 and 1996 Housing Acts, by district

Sales of dwellings owned by local authorities, by district, from 2002–03

RSL stock, by district, from 1997

Local authority stock, by district, from 1996

*Best Value Performance Indicators:*

Overall satisfaction with the authority as a whole

Satisfaction with complaints handling (of those making complaints)

Satisfaction with cleanliness of public land

Satisfaction with household waste collection

Satisfaction with waste recycling (local facilities)

Satisfaction with waste disposal (local tips)

Satisfaction with transport information

Satisfaction with bus services

Satisfaction with sports and leisure facilities

Satisfaction with libraries

Satisfaction with museums/galleries

Satisfaction with theatres/concert halls

Satisfaction with parks and open spaces

Fire and Rescue Services: Primary fires, incidents attended, detailed description

Fire and Rescue Services: Secondary fires, monthly aggregate

Fire and Rescue Services: Operational Statistics: staffing, vehicles, inspections, health and safety

National land use database of previously developed land

Land use changes

Floorspace statistics (industrial and commercial property)

Planning applications: received, withdrawn, determinations, enforcement

Planning applications: refused/granted, speed of determination by development type of application

Planning applications: waste disposal, mineral extraction

Area of land with planning permission for mineral extraction or associated tipping classified by type of mineral, the area of land being worked, restored or as yet unworked

Progress in development plans by minerals and waste planning authorities

Building control charges: total charges income received (excluding VAT), total cost/expenditure incurred and surplus/deficit

Monitoring and evaluation information on large scale voluntary transfer of dwelling stock

Monitoring and evaluation information on arms length management organisations set up by local authorities to manage their dwelling stock

Monitoring and evaluation information on Public Finance Initiative (PFI) schemes

ODPM also possess a range of Local Authority level data containing information collected by other Government Departments and Agencies (e.g. Census data).

### Telephone Boxes (London)

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many public telephone boxes have been removed in each London borough in each of the last five years; and what the most recent figures are for the total numbers of public telephone boxes in each borough. [9442]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister do not hold the information requested centrally and it could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost.

### Tenants' Rights

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what plans he has to promote methods for tenants to obtain equity stakes in their homes. [6447]

**Yvette Cooper:** We have set out proposals for a social homebuy scheme, which would provide new opportunities for social tenants to buy a share of their rented home, in our consultation document "Homebuy—Expanding the Opportunity to Own" (a copy of which is available from the Library of the House).

Under our proposals, participating social tenants would buy at least 50 per cent. (or as large a share as they could afford) of their home's discounted value using any savings they have and/or a mortgage. We are consulting on two options for applying a monthly charge, similar to social rent, on the outstanding share: under one, this rent would apply to the entire outstanding share; under the other, this rent would only apply to outstanding shares worth more than 25 per cent. of the equity.

Consultation will close on 24 June. We intend to announce decisions in the autumn after considering responses, and to put new arrangements in place by April 2006.

### Under-occupation (Brent)

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what assessment he has made of the impact of the London borough of Brent's policy of offering financial incentives to under-occupying tenants willing to move to smaller accommodation. [6394]

**Yvette Cooper:** Local authorities are responsible for developing a strategy for tackling housing issues in their area. Careful consideration needs to be given to the role provision of assistance to existing tenants to help them move to other accommodation, in either the social or private sector, might play.

In deciding their general policy on assistance, authorities need to be clear when giving financial support that it will be used in obtaining suitable

alternative long-term accommodation, that it represents good value for money and impacts on reducing housing pressures.

### University Accommodation

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what decision has been made on whether accommodation *(a)* owned, *(b)* managed and *(c)* leased on behalf of universities and further education institutions will be exempt from the provisions of the Housing Act 2004. [6315]

**Yvette Cooper:** Regulations may be made specifying that certain accommodation managed by universities or other higher education establishments are not houses in multiple occupation (HMOs) for any purposes of the Housing Act 2004 (except part 1), and therefore not subject to the HMO licensing requirements. When deciding whether to exempt such accommodation from the licensing requirements, regard may be had to the extent to which the establishment is in conformity with any approved code of management practice.

Discussions with Universities UK and the Accreditation Network UK are well advanced on finalising the provisions of such a code, and compliance with it, by the end of July. This will enable any exceptions from HMO licensing to be in place when, as expected, the licensing provisions come into force in October.

## CABINET OFFICE

### Special Advisers

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will list *(a)* the special advisers in his Department, *(b)* their specific areas of expertise and *(c)* the total cost of employing them in the latest year for which figures are available. [8833]

**Mr. Hutton:** I refer the hon. Member to the response given by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 4 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 36W.

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS

### Afghanistan

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the social and political situation in Afghanistan. [9313]

**Dr. Howells:** Everyday life for ordinary Afghans is continuing to improve. A nationwide development programme to support rural infrastructure has been established in over 3,500 communities across 31 provinces. 5.5 million children returned to school by March 2004 and over a third of Afghan schoolchildren are now girls. 72 hospitals, clinics and women's health care centres have been rebuilt. A vaccination campaign has almost eradicated polio and over 11 million children have been immunised against measles. A programme of water chlorination and well reconstruction is tackling water-borne diseases across the country.

Politically, the presidential election held in October 2004 was a tremendous success for the Afghan people. 70 per cent. of Afghans eligible to vote turned out, 40 per cent. of them women. Good progress is being made in preparations for the parliamentary and provincial elections scheduled for 18 September, with over 6,000 candidates and around 70 political parties registered to take part. A month-long voter registration programme launched on 25 June will update the electoral roll from the presidential election by some two million voters who were either not eligible or did not register in 2004.

### Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when the effectiveness of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention will next be reviewed. [8401]

**Dr. Howells:** States Party to the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention agreed at the Fifth Review Conference that the next review of the Convention would be before the end of 2006. No specific dates have yet been agreed by States Party.

### Correspondence

**Mr. Mullin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he will reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Sunderland, South of 13 May on behalf of a constituent, Cheryl Dennison. [9939]

**Ian Pearson:** I replied to my hon. Friend on 4 July.

### Departmental Expenditure

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what expenditure his Department has incurred in pursuit of its Objective 4: A strong role for the UK in a strong Europe, responsive to people's needs in each of the last five years, broken down by area of expenditure. [9041]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** Annual expenditure information, broken down by objective, is published annually in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's resource accounts and departmental report. Expenditure by objective is listed in Schedule 5 of the resource accounts and in the appendices of the departmental report.

Copies of both publications are available in the Library of the House.

### Embassies

**Mr. Hood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many staff are employed at each of the British embassies in the European Union; how many are employed at the British embassy in *(a)* Turkey, *(b)* Bulgaria and *(c)* Romania; and if he will make a statement. [8842]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** The number of staff employed at the British embassies in the EU and in Turkey, Bulgaria and Romania are as follows:

| | Number |
|---|---|
| Austria | 72 |
| Belgium | 72 |
| Cyprus | 74 |
| Czech Republic | 70 |
| Denmark | 64 |
| Estonia | 24 |
| Finland | 48 |
| France | 230 |
| Germany | 132 |
| Greece | 103 |
| Hungary | 83 |
| Ireland | 72 |
| Italy | 147 |
| Latvia | 34 |
| Lithuania | 33 |
| Luxembourg | 15 |
| Malta | 48 |
| Netherlands | 72 |
| Poland | 105 |
| Portugal | 64 |
| Slovakia | 31 |
| Slovenia | 26 |
| Spain | 138 |
| Sweden | 60 |

| | Number |
|---|---|
| Turkey | 98 |
| Bulgaria | 84 |
| Romania | 94 |

### English Wine

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will take steps to ensure that English wine is served *(a)* exclusively and *(b)* at the request of guests at receptions hosted by his Department during the EU presidency; and if he will make a statement. [8871]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** My officials have included in their planning the provision of British food and wine at presidency-related receptions hosted by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office during the six months of the presidency. We are aiming to serve British food and wine wherever possible

### EU Lobby Groups

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the Government's policy is on EU funding of lobby groups; and if he will make a statement. [8985]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** European Union institutions are responsible for their own activities. EU grants are awarded through a transparent call for proposals or through the EU budget which is available for public scrutiny. Further details can be obtained from the UK Representations of the European Union's Institutions, contact details of which can be found at www.europe.eu.int

### EU Presidency

**Mr. Redwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether there are plans to increase the *(a)* budget and *(b)* staff of the Office of the President of the EU in 2005–06. [8787]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** This is a matter for the Council Secretariat. The EU budget is available for public scrutiny at:

http://europa.eu.int/eur-ex/lex/JOHtml.do?uri=OJ:L:2005:060:SOM:EN:HTML

**Mr. Redwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which EU *(a)* directives and *(b)* regulations the UK will seek to repeal during its presidency. [8875]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** Advancing the Better Regulation Agenda is a priority during the UK presidency of the EU. We are committed to working with the Commission, European Parliament and member states, who have all pledged to reduce the volume and burden of EU legislation.

Last week, Commission President Barroso announced that the Commission is looking at over 200 pending proposals which may be amended or withdrawn if they are not consistent with Lisbon economic reform goals. During our presidency, we shall continue to contribute actively to both this initiative and the EU's ongoing programme for simplifying existing legislation.

**Mr. Redwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans there are under the UK presidency to develop the Dutch system of deregulation in the EU. [8880]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander** *[holding answer 4 July 2005]:* I refer the hon. Member to the White Paper on the UK's Presidency of the European Union (Cm 6611). We are committed to working with other member states and the EU institutions to develop and share best practice on implementing the Better Regulation Agenda, including work on measuring administrative burdens as developed by the Dutch Government. In May, 11 member states, including the UK, signed a joint letter to the Commission pressing for further EU-level action in this area.

**Mr. Redwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what proposals for deregulation in the EU he expects the UK to table under its presidency. [8881]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander** *[holding answer 4 July 2005]:* Progress on the Better Regulation Agenda is a priority for our EU presidency. I refer the hon. Member to the White Paper on the UK's Presidency of the European Union (Cm 6611) and to my reply to him today (UIN 8875).

**Mr. Redwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many directives he expects to be agreed during the UK's presidency of the EU. [8882]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander** *[holding answer 4 July 2005]:* As presidency we will seek to take forward the inherited legislative agenda and make progress on a number of dossiers. Where negotiations in the Council and Parliament indicate that consensus on a particular dossier is possible, we will seek agreement. It is not possible to predict how many dossiers will be agreed at this stage. We will want to ensure that the Union's legislative action is consistent with the Better Regulation Agenda.

### EU Summit (Sheffield)

**Mr. Greg Knight:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the total cost, including policing costs, was of the recent EU summit on Justice and Home Affairs held in Sheffield. [7426]

**Paul Goggins** *[holding answer 28 June 2005]:* I have been asked to reply.

It is not possible to provide final figures for those costs directly attributable to the Home Office as not all invoices have been received.

The current estimate is £880,000.With respect to policing costs, the force's current estimate of cost is £1.5 million.

### EU Travel Ban

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will list individuals subject to an EU travel ban who have been permitted entry into the EU in the last three years. [8974]

**Dr. Howells:** The Government are not able to provide such a list, as the EU does not maintain information on individuals subject to travel bans who have been permitted entry into the EU.

### European Constitution

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will list those countries that have declared that they will continue the ratification process for the EU constitution. [9039]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** Belgium, Luxembourg, Malta, Cyprus, Estonia and the Czech Republic intend to proceed with their ratification processes for the EU constitutional treaty. The Irish Government have announced that they will not set a date for their referendum. Poland have not decided how, if at all, to proceed with ratification and the Polish President has said that a referendum in 2005 looks "unrealistic". The Swedish Government have announced that it will seek to postpone its parliamentary ratification process and the Finnish Government have already postponed parliamentary ratification. The Danish and Portuguese Governments have postponed their referendums.

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the consequences under Article IV-443(4) of the proposed EU constitution of 20 countries ratifying the constitution. [9040]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** The operation of the article in question is explained in the commentary on the EU constitutional treaty published on 26 January (Cm 6459).

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on planned expenditure in support of the public information campaign in connection with the European constitution. [9049]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** In line with previous activity, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office leads the Government's campaign to provide public information in connection with the European Union. Apart from those relating to the UK's presidency of the EU, no final decisions have yet been made on general EU communications activities for financial year 2005–06.

### Haiti

**Ms Abbott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what role the Government will play in supporting efforts to hold free and fair elections in Haiti; and whether the Government are planning to send representatives with the EU election observing team to be present during the elections. [8942]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** We are contributing to the international community's efforts to assist the Transitional Government in providing the necessary conditions for free and fair elections in late 2005. The UK contributes 7.43 per cent. of the assessed budget for the UN Stabilisation Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH)—likely to be around £20 million in 2005–06. We supported the recent renewal and strengthening of MINUSTAH's mandate until February 2006, with an increase in troop numbers of approximately 750 over the election period. The European Commission plans to send an observation mission to Haiti in late 2005, but has yet to announce the make-up of that mission. The UK puts forward potential observers for all EU election observation missions.

### Iran

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he expects the UK, France and Germany to re-start negotiations with Iran on its use of nuclear technology. [8416]

**Dr. Howells:** Discussions continue between Iran and the UK, France and Germany (the "E3"), supported by the EU high representative, under the framework agreed in Paris in November 2004. The E3 have agreed to present further ideas, including on long-term arrangements for Iran's nuclear programme, at the end of July or the beginning of August. Officials are currently working on these ideas. Long-term arrangements must provide objective guarantees that Iran's nuclear programme is exclusively for peaceful purposes.

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the robustness of the electoral system in Iran following the recent presidential elections; and what discussions he has had with *(a)* the opposition in Iran and *(b)* the Iranian opposition in the UK on the implications of the election. [8417]

**Dr. Howells:** In his statement of 25 June, my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary expressed concern that there were serious deficiencies in the election process by international standards. A copy of the statement is available on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's website: www.fco.gov.uk/policy/news/press releases. He noted that an unelected body—the Guardians Council—excluded most candidates who registered, and many other potential candidates were deterred by the election procedures from even putting their names forward. For the Iranian people to have a fully free choice about their country's future, they should be able to vote for candidates who

hold the full range of political views, not just candidates selected for them. In addition, several candidates, senior figures in the Government and election officials complained of widespread interference and electoral malpractice by the security forces and other elements linked to the regime.

The Foreign Secretary has had no formal contact with Iranian opposition groups, either in Iran or the UK.

**Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is taking to improve relations with Iran. [8939]

**Dr. Howells:** Through a bilateral policy of critical engagement, the UK, France and Germany (the "E3') negotiation and the EU's dialogue with Iran, the Government seek to encourage Iran to address policies of concern, particularly regarding its nuclear and ballistic missile programmes; its approach to terrorism and opposition to the Middle East Peace Process; and its respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. Our engagement is conditional. Progress in these areas will open up new opportunities for Iran. But we and the EU have made clear that relations with Iran can move forward only if Iran takes action to address our political concerns.

### Iraq

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the *(a)* timetable and *(b)* scope is of the Court of Auditors' investigation into a possible breach of the embargo to the former Iraqi regime; which companies are being investigated; and if he will make a statement. [9023]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** This is a question for the Court of Auditors. They are an independent institution. We cannot answer on their behalf.

### Lithuania

**Mr. Keetch:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what ministerial visits to Lithuania *(a)* have taken place in the past 12 months and *(b)* are planned for the next 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [6167]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** There have been five ministerial visits to Lithuania over the last year. My hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, (Mr. Sutcliffe) lobbied on the Working Time Directive in June 2004, the former hon. Member for Hove (Ivor Caplin), the then Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at Ministry of Defence visited in January, my right hon. and noble Friend the former Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Baroness Symons of Vernham Dean) attended a NATO ministerial meeting in April (there was no bilateral programme) and my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, (Mr. Bradshaw) was in Lithuania recently (13–14 June) as part of a pre-Presidency tour. I visited Lithuania on 27 June, and held talks with the President, Prime Minister and Foreign Minister.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary had planned to visit all the Baltic States in 2004, but parliamentary business intervened and the visit was postponed. It is not our practice to announce visits until they are firm. Because of the unpredictable nature of world events, final decisions on overseas visits are often not possible until very shortly before the day of travel.

The Foreign Secretary and most UK Ministers meet with their Lithuanian and other EU colleagues in the course of regular EU business.

### Middle East

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to his answer of 28 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 1480W, on the Middle East, whether any of the UK's EU partners have raised the possibility of enforcing the human rights conditions of the EU-Israel Association Agreement with the UK. [9667]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** The EU has regularly raised issues of concern, including human rights, at EU/Israel Association Councils. We, with other member states, will consider in due course what issues to raise in advance of the EU/Israel Association Council scheduled to be held at the end of this year.

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to his answer of 28 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 1480W, on the Middle East, when the EU-Israel Association Committee is next due to meet. [9668]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** The next EU-Israel Association Committee is expected to take place during the Austrian EU Presidency in the first half of 2006.

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to his answer of 28 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 1480W, on the Middle East, if he will give an outline of Ariel Sharon's response to the UK's concerns on *(a)* the impact on human rights of barrier construction, *(b)* restrictions imposed on the freedom of movement of Palestinian people and *(c)* settlement expansion; and what assessment he has made of the response. [9669]

**Dr. Howells:** Prime Minister Sharon's stated position is that the barrier and restrictions on freedom of movement are defensive measures necessary to protect Israel against terrorism. On settlements, Prime Minister Sharon has stated that no new settlements are being built and has said that following the completion of disengagement, the Israeli Government will dismantle outposts built since March 2001.

The UK Government's consistent view is that, while Israel has the right to protect its citizens from terrorist attacks such as suicide bombings, which we condemn absolutely, Israel must act within international law. Settlement construction and the building of the barrier on occupied land are contrary to international law.

### Nepal

**Jeremy Corbyn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what system is

in place to check the end-use control of items of military assistance that have been gifted to Nepal as non-lethal. [8632]

**Dr. Howells:** All of the military equipment the UK has gifted to Nepal since 2001 as part of our conflict prevention strategy has been non-lethal and cannot easily be adapted for offensive purposes. The main items of hardware have been two transport helicopters and two unarmed Short Take-Off and Landing (STOL) surveillance aircraft. We have also provided land rovers, bomb disposal equipment and basic individual equipment.

Both the helicopters and the STOL aircraft were provided on the basis of a Memorandum of Understanding between the UK and the Government of Nepal, under which the Nepalese have committed themselves not to use or adapt the aircraft for attack purposes. The Defence Attaché at the British Embassy in Kathmandu and his staff make regular random visits to inspect the helicopters, only one of which survives owing to accident, and the STOL aircraft to ensure that they have not been fitted with offensive capabilities. In the case of the STOL aircraft such fixtures would involve considerable structural alteration. We have seen no evidence to suggest that these aircraft have been armed or used improperly. Periodically we remind the Nepalese of their obligations as set out in the Memorandum of Understanding governing the use of this equipment.

### Non-EU Students

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the likely effect of the decision to abolish the right of appeal against refused visa applications on the number of prospective non-EU students applying to higher education institutions in the UK. [8034]

**Mr. McNulty:** I have been asked to reply.

The Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Bill removes appeal rights for all students refused entry clearance, a policy that was announced in the Five Year Strategy Controlling our borders: Making migration work for Britain. Once the Act comes into effect genuine students will continue to be granted entry clearance to study in the United Kingdom. The majority of applications for entry clearance as a student are granted and data from 2003 indicates that only about one percent of students who gained entry into the UK did so as the result of a successful appeal. Since 2001–02 the number of people granted entry clearance to study has increased by over 20 per cent. from 121,466 to 146,538 in 2003–04. Entry into the UK to study should be a privilege and not a right and changes to the appeals system reflect this distinction. We will maintain appeal rights where fundamental issues are raised, such as when people are refused entry clearance to visit family members. Other countries, including Canada and Australia, confer no appeal rights on people who are refused entry clearance as students. Proposals are currently being developed to increase, in a manageable way, the number of people coming to the UK to study; to provide these people with a high quality education; and to ensure the integrity of the immigration control. The requirements of the new system will be as objective and verifiable as possible and for the system to be as quick and easy to operate. A formal consultation exercise will be undertaken.

### Russia

**Sir Menzies Campbell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the security of nuclear weapons and related materials in Russia; and if he will make a statement. [9022]

**Mr. Straw:** The Russian authorities have made clear that they accord the highest priority to security at nuclear weapons storage sites.

With regard to nuclear materials, the UK is currently implementing a series of projects under the Global Partnership to enhance security of materials across the Former Soviet Union. A number of projects are already under way. Discussions are on-going with the Russian authorities to identify potential future projects for UK support. Initial visits to sites confirm that in many cases significant security measures are already in place, funded both by the Russian Federation and the international community. However, we are looking to take forward a number of both bilateral and multilateral projects to assist in improvements to the physical protection of certain other facilities.

### Treaty Challenges

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will list the occasions since 1997 where the Government have formally challenged the legal treaty basis for legislative activity at European Community level. [8983]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** The UK Government have formally challenged the legal treaty basis for legislative activity on two occasions. They are as follows:

C-66/04 UK *v.* Parliament and Council (ongoing)

C-217/04 UK *v.* Parliament and Council (ongoing).

### Turkey

**Mrs. James:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on Turkey's proposed accession to the European Union. [9594]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** The Government strongly supports Turkey's bid to join the EU. We look forward to opening accession negotiations with Turkey on 3 October 2005 as agreed by the European Council in December 2004 and subsequently reaffirmed by the June European Council.

### Visas

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many applications for visitors visas were *(a)* received and *(b)* refused in each of the last five years in (i) Nigeria,

(ii) Guyana, (iii) Pakistan, (iv) China and (v) India; and what proportion of those granted were granted at Tier One. [8793]

**Dr. Howells:** The information on applications for visitors visas for the countries and categories required, is as follows:

*Visit visa applications (VVA) received*

| | 1999–2000 | 2000–01 | 2001–02 | 2002–03 | 2003–04 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Nigeria | 70,557 | 77,818 | 99,449 | 134,793 | 107,911 |
| Guyana | 1,448 | 1,659 | 1,841 | 1,961 | 1,342 |
| Pakistan | 70,262 | 82,099 | 100,106 | 53,665 | 83,566 |
| China | 47,231 | 48,673 | 60,021 | 76,232 | 77,765 |
| India | 170,051 | 154,081 | 160,612 | 176,364 | 232,519 |

*VVA refused*

| | 1999–2000 | 2000–01 | 2001–02 | 2002–03 | 2003–04 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Nigeria | 9,669 | 9,145 | 14,665 | 30,905 | 33,189 |
| Guyana | 197 | 141 | 168 | 239 | 303 |
| Pakistan | 12,571 | 13,770 | 23,382 | 6,124 | 9,032 |
| China | 3,690 | 1,626 | 1,867 | 4,425 | 6,226 |
| India | 17,069 | 18,284 | 19,496 | 27,373 | 36,631 |

*Percentage Tier One non-settlement applications*

| | 1999–2000 | 2000–01 | 2001–02 | 2002–03 | 2003–04 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Nigeria | 93 | 90 | 94 | 90 | 91 |
| Guyana | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| Pakistan | 81 | 87 | 100 | 82 | 96 |
| China | 86 | 90 | 246 | 78 | 82 |
| India | 98 | 98 | 98 | 99 | 100 |

Statistics for the proportion of visitor visas granted at Tier One, applications where decisions are made without the need for an interview, are not available. The figures provided represent the percentage of non-settlement visa applications, which include visit visas, that were dealt with at Tier One within 24-hours.

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many appeals there have been against a refusal of a visitor's visa in each of the past five years; how many were granted; and what the cost to public funds was of those successful appeals. [8794]

**Bridget Prentice:** I have been asked to reply.

The following table contains details about the number of appeals against a refusal of a visitor's visa received by the Immigration Appellate Authority (IAA) from 2000 to 2004. The table also gives the percentage of appeals decided by the IAA that were granted. The Asylum and Immigration Tribunal, which replaced the IAA on 4 April 2005 does not split cost by case type and therefore we cannot provide the cost to public funds of the successful appeals without incurring disproportionate costs.

| | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Family visit visa appeals received[1] | 137 | 4,366 | 7,997 | 15,778 | 28,803 |
| Family visit visa appeal decisions[1] | 66 | 4,283 | 7,091 | 14,214 | 22,707 |
| Family visit visa appeal percentage granted[1] | 31 | 54 | 53 | 48 | 48 |

[1] The table excludes appeals to the Immigration Appeal Tribunal

### Zimbabwe

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many UK nationals have reported to his officials criminal activity undertaken against them in Zimbabwe without redress from the Zimbabwean authorities. [9026]

**Ian Pearson:** Officials in Harare and London are not aware of any criminal cases in Zimbabwe where no action has been taken by the authorities. They have, however, received complaints about the slowness of the judicial system.

## NORTHERN IRELAND

### Charity Law

**Mr. Dodds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what representations he has received following the Government's proposals on charity law in Northern Ireland. [9520]

**Mr. Hanson:** Approximately 2,600 copies of the public consultation document on Charities Administration and Legislation in Northern Ireland were distributed by the Department for Social Development (DSD), and 106 responses were received

from a wide range of respondents. In addition officials attended 10 seminars across Northern Ireland presenting the key proposals.

The majority of respondents generally welcomed the key proposals to establish a Northern Ireland Charities Commission, a compulsory register for all charities operating in Northern Ireland and the submission of annual returns by charities; though some concerns were expressed about specific matters of operation.

DSD is presently reviewing the responses and monitoring progress of the draft Charities Bill in England. Final proposals will be submitted and considered shortly.

### Fast Response Team (DOE)

**Lady Hermon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will establish a fast response team within the Department of the Environment *(a)* at weekends and *(b)* during public holidays to prevent (i) the felling of trees and (ii) the demolition of historic buildings prior to a tree preservation order or listing. [9124]

**Angela E. Smith:** The planning service already has local contact and response arrangements in place at divisional offices and the infrequency of such incidents would not justify the establishment of fast response teams. There would also be legal and financial implications to consider.

It is felt that a better use of scarce resources would be to re-examine current arrangements with a view to improving response times should such incidents occur.

### Higher Education (Overseas Students)

**Mrs. Iris Robinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many students from the European Union have been accepted to attend higher educational facilities in Northern Ireland in the next three years. [8778]

**Angela E. Smith:** Students may apply to courses at higher education institutions through the Universities and Colleges Administration Service (UCAS) or directly to the institutions. The lastest data available from UCAS show that at 24 March 2005, 19,064 applications from the European Union has applied to Northern Ireland Higher Education Institutions for entry in 2005. Of the 19,064 applicants, 14,887 were from Northern Ireland, 1,386 from Great Britain, 2,672 from Republic of Ireland and 119 from other European Union countries. Information on applicants accepted will be published by UCAS on their website during August 2005 (http://www.ucas.ac.uk/new/press/index.html).

**Mrs. Iris Robinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many students from countries outside the EU have been accepted to attend higher educational facilities in Northern Ireland in the next three years. [8779]

**Angela E. Smith:** Students may apply to courses at higher education institutions through the Universities and Colleges Administration Service (UCAS) or directly to the institutions. The latest data available from UCAS show that at 24 March 2005, 587 applications from outside the European Union has applied to Northern Ireland Higher Education Institutions for entry in 2005. Information on applicants accepted will be published by UCAS on their website during August 2005 (http://www.ucas.ac.uk/new/press/index.html).

### Housing Benefit

**Mr. Dodds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people in Northern Ireland were in receipt of housing benefit in each year since 2001. [9521]

**Mr. Hanson:** The number of people in receipt of housing benefit in each year since 2001 is as follows:

| | *Total* |
|---|---|
| 2001–02 | 173,631 |
| 2002–03 | 175,868 |
| 2003–04 | 169,017 |
| 2004–05 | 176,740 |

**Mr. Dodds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many recipients of housing benefit there were in each district council area in Northern Ireland in the last year for which figures are available. [9523]

**Mr. Hanson:** The total number of recipients of housing benefit in each district council area in Northern Ireland in 2004–2005 is as follows:

| *Area* | *Tenants* | *Owner occupiers* |
|---|---|---|
| Antrim | 2,636 | 730 |
| Armagh | 2,991 | 1,754 |
| Ballycastle | 1,273 | 487 |
| Ballymena | 3,682 | 985 |
| Ballymoney | 1,866 | 690 |
| Banbridge | 2,210 | 927 |
| Bangor | 3,662 | 1,249 |
| Belfast | 33,773 | 8,676 |
| Carrickfergus | 2,277 | 630 |
| Castlereagh | 3,248 | 1,042 |
| Coleraine | 4,220 | 1,186 |
| Cookstown | 1,774 | 1,580 |
| Craigavon | 6,418 | 2,533 |
| Down | 3,810 | 1,552 |
| Dungannon | 2,943 | 2,226 |
| Fermanagh | 3,500 | 2,291 |
| Larne | 2,119 | 612 |
| Limavady | 2,193 | 1,040 |
| Lisburn | 6,487 | 2,199 |
| Londonderry | 12,861 | 3,911 |
| Magherafelt | 1,985 | 1,309 |
| Newry | 6,100 | 4,623 |
| Newtownabbey | 4,939 | 1,720 |
| Newtownards | 4,235 | 1,309 |
| Omagh | 3,400 | 1,604 |
| Strabane | 3,500 | 1,773 |
| Total | 128,102 | 48,638 |

**Mr. Dodds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what level of fraud in housing benefit payments has been discovered in each year since 2001. [9525]

**Mr. Hanson:** The estimated levels of fraud in housing benefit payments, administered by NI Housing Executive, for the rented sector for each year since 2001 taken from the housing benefit review (HBR) are shown as follows:

| | *Percentage of benefit expenditure affected by fraud* |
|---|---|
| 2001–02 | 2.1 |
| 2002–03 | 1.9 |
| 2003–04 | 0.0 |

*Note:*
The HBR also provides an estimate for the level of expenditure affected by error. When added to the fraud figures above the percentage figures increase to 3.8 per cent., 3.8 per cent. and 1.9 per cent. for the three years above.

The estimate for 2004–05 is not yet available.

The levels of fraud in housing benefit payments, administered by Rates Collection Agency (RCA), for the owner occupied sector for each year since 2001 measured through internal investigations by the RCA's housing benefit branch are shown as follows:

| | *Percentage of benefit expenditure affected by fraud* |
|---|---|
| 2001–02 | [1] |
| 2002–03 | [1] |
| 2003–04 | 0.42 |
| 2004–05 | 0.19 |

[1] Figure not available.

### Housing Executive Rents

**Mr. Dodds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the change in Housing Executive rents was in each year since 1997. [9524]

**Mr. Hanson:** Northern Ireland Housing Executive rent increases from 1997 are as follows:

| | *Percentage* |
|---|---|
| 1997–98 | 4 |
| 1998–99 | 4.8 |
| 1999–2000 | 4.5 |
| 2000–01 | 4.5 |
| 2001–02 | 3 |
| 2002–03 | 3 |
| 2003–04 | 3.25 |
| 2004–05 | 3 |
| 2005–06 | 3.1 |

### Off-road Vehicles

**Mr. Dodds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) what measures are in place to tackle the illegal use of quads and scrambler bikes in Northern Ireland; [7825]

(2) if he will introduce legislation to give the Police Service of Northern Ireland power of seizure in the case of illegal use of scramblers and quads in Northern Ireland. [7826]

**Mr. Woodward:** Police currently have enforcement powers under the relevant aspects of the Road Traffic (Northern Ireland) Order 1995 when incidents of illegal use of quads and scramblers occur on roads or public places. Where certain grounds are met, the PSNI will report a person for prosecution.

Some District Commands, in particular those where a habitual problem exists, have adopted a pro-active approach to tackle this issue producing information leaflets which are distributed both to officers and members of the public. These outline the responsibilities of people using these vehicles and the minimum legal requirements associated with their use. In addition to the owners of such vehicles and the parents of children who ride them, contact has also been made with motorcycle retailers, reminding them of the need to encourage a responsible and legal use of such vehicles by members of the public.

The Government are committed to ensuring that the police have the powers they need to tackle illegal use of scramblers and quads. The Draft Road Traffic (Amendment) (Northern Ireland) Order 2005 , which is soon to be published for public consultation, will contain a provision to give the Police Service of Northern Ireland the powers to seize motor vehicles, including quads and scramblers, being driven on public roads while uninsured.

### Phoenix Natural Gas

**Lady Hermon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether Phoenix Natural Gas (PNG) Ltd. and its parent company East Surrey Holdings have confirmed to the Government in advance of their proposed takeover by Terra Firma that PNG will continue to comply with the regulatory agreement it reached with the Northern Ireland Authority for Energy Regulation in August 2004. [9454]

**Angela E. Smith:** Phoenix Natural Gas (PNG) and East Surrey Holdings have both confirmed their commitment to fully implementing the terms of the 2004 regulatory agreement to Government. Terra Firma has also indicated its intention to ensure that PNG continues to operate in accordance with the terms of the agreement.

### Planning (Enforcement/Appeals)

**Mrs. Iris Robinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many enforcement officers are employed by the planning service in each divisional planning area; and how many posts are vacant. [8798]

**Angela E. Smith:** The total complement of enforcement officers within the planning service is 49. There are currently six vacancies. The following table provides a breakdown of the figures by division.

| *Division* | *Complement* | *Number of vacancies* |
|---|---|---|
| Ballymena | 7 | 1 |
| Belfast | 8.5 | 1 |
| Craigavon | 7.5 | 0 |
| Downpatrick | 7.5 | 0 |
| Coleraine/Londonderry | 7.5 | 1 |
| Omagh/Enniskillen | 7 | 3 |
| HQ Special Studies Section | 4 | 0 |

**Mrs. Iris Robinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many planning appeals on the grounds of non-determination have been pursued by applicants in the Province since 2000. [8797]

**Angela E. Smith:** From 1 January 2000 to 30 June 2005 there have been 613 planning appeals lodged on the grounds of non-determination.

### Police Stations

**Mr. Dodds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what plans he has for the outsourcing of cleaning services in police stations in Northern Ireland. [7828]

**Mr. Woodward:** In response to Recommendation 91 of the Patten Report, the Police Service of Northern Ireland carried out a review of the future arrangements for cleaning services. This review concluded in October 2004 and the project board concluded that the cleaning service to the PSNI Estate should be competitively tendered with a view to outsourcing.

The terms and conditions of service of cleaning staff is a matter for the Chief Constable. No decisions have yet been made. I understand that if any changes were made the standard of cleaning service would be maintained and any effects on staff would be managed within the TUPE framework.

### Schools

**Mrs. Iris Robinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much of the education budget has been set aside for breakfast and after-school clubs in the South East Education and Library Board area for the next three years; and if he will make a statement. [6682]

**Angela E. Smith:** The South Eastern Education and Library Board has not set aside funding from its budget allocation for either breakfast or after-school clubs and has, at the moment, no plans to do so for the next two years.

However, the South Eastern Education and Library Board is involved in a bid to the Integrated Development Fund for funds totalling £2 million over three years. The bid focuses on schools in the Colin area and envisages action in four key areas—counselling services; breakfast and after school clubs; early years and youth interventions.

**Mrs. Iris Robinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much he plans to allocate to improving the quality of school meals in the Province, broken down by Education and Library Board area. [6670]

**Angela E. Smith:** £2.5 million has been made available in 2005–06 to improve the quality of school meals in Northern Ireland, with further funding in subsequent years. The Department of Education is currently considering the results of the school meals pilot with individual school authorities in order to determine the best way forward and specific allocations for 2005–06.

Future years allocations will be determined nearer the time.

**Lady Hermon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the policy of the Education and Library Boards in Northern Ireland is in relation to the provision of school transport for disabled children, with particular reference to those children who are temporarily accommodated in overnight short break accommodation for respite care; and how this policy was formulated. [9125]

**Angela E. Smith:** The policy for transport assistance does not differentiate between pupils on the grounds of disability, except where the pupil is in receipt of a statement of special educational needs that includes a requirement for the provision of transport.

Responsibility for the provision of transport assistance in respect of pupils availing of respite care, facilities rests with the Health and Social Services Trusts, since the respite venue is not the child's normal home. However, Education and Library Boards work in partnership with the relevant trust to facilitate such transport provision. For example, where there is surplus capacity on a board vehicle a concessionary seat may be offered to a pupil on the understanding that the concession may have to be withdrawn at any time.

**Mrs. Iris Robinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many teachers are on long-term stress-related sick leave in each board area, broken down by *(a)* primary and *(b)* post-primary levels of education. [8780]

**Angela E. Smith:** The number of teachers in each board area who are currently on stress-related sick leave is as follows:

*Current number of teachers on stress-related sick leave*
*(20+ continuous days)*

| *Board area* | *Primary (including Nursery)* | *Post-primary* |
|---|---|---|
| Belfast | 7 | 2 |
| Western | 6 | 8 |
| North Eastern | 11 | 3 |
| South Eastern | 6 | 4 |
| Southern | 7 | 15 |
| Total | 37 | 32 |

## HEALTH

### Abortions

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health under which section of the Abortion Act 1967 the termination of pregnancy was performed for each of the maternal deaths associated with termination of pregnancy for the period 1981 to 1999; at what stage of gestation the pregnancy was in each case; and what the age of the mother was. [8121]

**Caroline Flint:** The following information has been taken from the relevant published triennial report on confidential inquiries into maternal deaths in the United Kingdom. This is the only information available as, after preparation of the report and before publication, all the maternal deaths report forms and related documents and files are destroyed. Between 1981 and 1999, there were 24 maternal deaths associated with termination of pregnancy.

Grounds for the abortion were only stated in the reports for one case, which said,

"fetal abnormalities incompatible with life."

The available information for gestation and age is shown in the following tables.

| *Gestation (weeks)* | *Number of cases* |
|---|---|
| Under 10 | 6 |
| 10 to 12 | 5 |
| 13 to 19 | 8 |
| 20 plus | 1 |
| "Early pregnancy" | 1 |
| "Mid trimester" | 3 |

| *Age (years)* | *Number of cases* |
|---|---|
| 16 | 1 |
| "20s" | 3 |
| "30s" | 4 |
| "Young woman" | 6 |
| Not stated | 3 |
| "Less than 35" | 4 |
| "More than 35" | 3 |

### Accident and Emergency Services

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the total number of accident and emergency attendances was for each NHS region for each of the last three years for which records were available. [7061]

**Mr. Byrne:** Data by strategic health authority is available on the Department's website at www.performance.doh.gov.uk/hospitalartivity/data_requests/a_and_e_attendances.htm.

### Adult Social Care

**Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans she has to produce a White Paper on adult social care; and if she will make a statement. [9075]

**Mr. Byrne:** The Green Paper, "Independence, Well-being and Choice: our vision for the future of social care for adults in England", was published for consultation on 21 March 2005. The consultation period closes on 28 July 2005. We will need to take account of the responses we have received from the public before making any decisions about next steps.

### Alcohol Abuse

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment her Department has made of the number of children admitted to hospital where the primary diagnosis is mental and behavioural disorders due to the use of alcohol. [8015]

**Caroline Flint:** The latest data that is available for people up to the age of 17 admitted to hospital where the primary diagnosis is mental and behavioural disorders due to the use of alcohol for 2003–04 in England is 3,934.

The Government published the Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy on 15 March 2004, which aims to prevent any increase in alcohol related harms in England.

**Steve Webb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many alcohol-related incidents required a response by ambulance services in *(a)* England and *(b)* each ambulance trust in each year since 1997. [8093]

**Mr. Byrne:** The information requested is not centrally collected.

### Alliance Medical Ltd.

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 16 June 2005, *Official Report*, columns 629–30W, to the hon. Member for North Durham (Mr. Jones), on Alliance Medical Ltd. what the nature was of the issues raised with Alliance Medical Ltd. and the strategic health authority. [8235]

**Mr. Byrne:** Representation was made regarding the utilisation of the existing national health service magnetic resonance imaging facility in the Durham and Tees Valley strategic health authority's area.

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many complaints have been made through the central negligence scheme by patients receiving treatment provided by Alliance Medical. [7556]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answer 27 June 2005]:* The NHS Litigation Authority's clinical negligence scheme for trusts has not received any claims in relation to Alliance Medical Ltd.

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what dates have been set for review of Alliance Medical's contract to provide scanning services in the NHS. [7557]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answer 27 June 2005]:* Performance is monitored weekly, quarterly and annually in accordance with the contract.

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health who is responsible for payment of utility bills incurred by Alliance Medical for the site it occupies in Middlesbrough. [8259]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answer 30 June 2005]:* The modest revenue costs incurred for utility bills are borne by the host national health service trust.

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many residents of Chester-le-Street have had scans provided by Alliance Medical; [8725]

(2) how many residents of Stanley have had scans carried out by Alliance Medical. [9394]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answer 4 July 2005]:* The information requested is not centrally collected.

### Alzheimer's Disease

**Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she has made of the number of Alzheimer's patients who are being treated with antipsychotic drugs. [7937]

**Mr. Byrne:** The data requested are not collected by the Department.

### Care Homes

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many care home beds in *(a)* Lancashire and *(b)* Chorley are operated (i) privately and (ii) by local authorities. [7624]

**Mr. Byrne:** At 31 March 2001, in Lancashire, 15,900 care home beds were provided by the private and voluntary sectors and 1,900 beds by the council. Data are not available for Chorley.

I understand from the Chair of the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) that figures for later years were collected by the National Care Standards Commission, now CSCI, but comparable details are not available.

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average cost per week is in of a care home bed in *(a)* Lancashire and *(b)* Chorley; and what the waiting time for a care bed is in (i) Chorley and (ii) Lancashire. [7625]

**Mr. Byrne:** Information is not held centrally on the average cost per week of care homes in Lancashire and Chorley.

Data on waiting times for care beds are not collected centrally. However, a list of residential vacancies at Lancashire County Council Quality Accredited Homes is distributed to the area social work teams on a weekly basis.

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what percentage of care homes for older people *(a)* exceeded, *(b)* met, *(c)* almost met and *(d)* did not meet the national minimum standard for medication in 2004–05. [6655]

**Mr. Byrne:** In 2004–05, 10,571 older peoples' care homes were inspected against standard nine, the medication standard, of the national minimum standards for care homes for older people.

34.4 per cent., of those homes inspected almost met the national minimum standard for medication. 54.3 per cent., met the standard and 1.2 per cent., exceeded it. 10.1 per cent., did not meet this requirement.

**Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the extent of social isolation of residents in the care home sector. [7936]

**Mr. Byrne:** Standards 12 and 13 of the National Minimum Standards for care homes for Older People refer specifically to social contact. These standards should be taken into account by the Commission for Social Care Inspection when inspecting a home in conjunction with regulation 16 of the care homes regulations.

### Carer Assessments

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many carer assessments and reviews made under the Carers and Disabled Children Act 2000 were undertaken in each year since 2000, in each London borough. [8428]

**Mr. Byrne:** Information on the number of carer assessments carried out, separately or jointly with the client, for the years 2000–01 to 2003–04 is shown in the table.

*Number of carer assessments by councils with social services responsibilities in London—2000–01 to 2003–04*

*Rounded number*

| *Councils with social services responsibilities* | *2000–01* | *2001–02* | *2002–03* | *2003–04*[1] |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| London[2] | 17,790 | 21,230 | 34,910 | 40,080 |
| *Inner London* | | | | |
| Camden | 520 | 1,330 | 1,110 | 1,040 |
| Greenwich | 320 | 350 | 150 | 260 |
| Hackney | 130 | 350 | 380 | 900 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 590 | 700 | 700 | 1,560 |
| Islington | 570 | 470 | [3]— | 60 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 150 | 300 | 680 | 780 |
| Lambeth | 210 | 400 | 300 | 850 |
| Lewisham | 200 | 1,150 | 2,050 | 1,870 |
| Southwark | 1,350 | 1,110 | 960 | 1,540 |
| Tower Hamlets | 620 | 320 | 150 | 2,190 |
| Wandsworth | 370 | 280 | 730 | 230 |
| Westminster | 1,060 | 840 | 1,140 | 1,520 |
| City of London | 10 | 30 | 40 | 40 |
| *Outer London* | | | | |
| Barking and Dagenham | 800 | 780 | 1,350 | 620 |
| Barnet | 1,760 | 1,730 | 3,050 | 700 |
| Bexley | 450 | 730 | 970 | 1,250 |
| Brent | 390 | 360 | 2,980 | 2,800 |
| Bromley | 500 | 410 | [3]— | 2,080 |
| Croydon | 2,100 | 1,730 | 1,980 | 2,450 |
| Ealing | 190 | 90 | 180 | 170 |
| Enfield | 30 | 50 | 340 | 2,210 |
| Haringey | 40 | 270 | 330 | 1,250 |
| Harrow | 1,590 | 480 | 550 | 1,540 |
| Havering | 550 | [3]— | 1,810 | 1,800 |
| Hillingdon | 330 | 810 | [3]— | [3]— |
| Hounslow | 780 | 590 | 490 | 1,080 |
| Kingston-upon-Thames | 190 | 260 | 400 | [3]— |
| Merton | 280 | 290 | 330 | 840 |
| Newham | 210 | 110 | 280 | 380 |
| Redbridge | 900 | 1,930 | 1,900 | 1,940 |
| Richmond upon Thames | 10 | 210 | 1,490 | 1,830 |
| Sutton | 320 | 260 | 320 | 930 |
| Waltham Forest | 300 | 480 | 1,570 | 700 |

[1] The carers return was redefined in 2003–04 to include carers assessed or reviewed. Data for previous years refers to assessments only. It is important to note this change when interpreting the data.

[2] Totals includes estimates for missing data.

[3] Missing data

*Note:*

Figures may not add up due to rounding.

*Source:*

RAP proforma A4.

### Community Equipment Services

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when the next wave of tenders for provision of community equipment services will be advertised. [9438]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answer 4 July 2005]:* It is the responsibility of local health and social care services to renew community equipment service contracts.

Therefore, there will neither be a wave of tenders nor a national tender exercise.

### Dentistry

**Mr. Steen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if the Government will provide vouchers to be used for private dental care to people in areas where there is no access to an NHS dentist; and if she will make a statement. [6648]

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will offer a refund equivalent to the standard cost of the appropriate NHS treatment to patients who pay for private dental treatment due to the unavailability of a local NHS dentist. [7431]

**Ms Rosie Winterton** *[holding answer 23 June 2005]:* Our objective is to ensure that people have a well-informed choice between private and readily accessible national health service dental treatment. In addition, we wish to ensure people on low incomes, who are particularly vulnerable to dental disease and are exempt from dental charges, continue to receive free treatment. This would not be guaranteed through the provision of either vouchers or refunds, because the dentist could require the voucher to be topped, while the refund might not meet the full cost of private dental treatment. We are, therefore, concentrating resources on the reform of NHS dentistry. In this financial year, funding for NHS dentistry in England is set to rise by £250 million—an increase of 19 per cent., compared with spending in 2003–04. People requiring NHS dental treatment may contact NHS Direct, who are able to respond, to 90 per cent. of inquiries with information on a dental practice accessible within locally agreed standards.

**Sir Paul Beresford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how long applicants for Personal Dental Service contracts have waited on average for approval from her Department's bids panel in each month since July 2004. [9647]

**Ms Rosie Winterton** *[holding answer 4 July 2005]:* The maximum time agreed for applications from primary care trusts (PCTs) for personal dental services pilot contracts is 12 weeks. The 12-week period applies once the Department receives the application from the PCT. No applications wait longer than this for a decision, although some applications may take longer if the information provided by the PCT is incomplete.

**Sir Paul Beresford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Christchurch (Mr. Chope) of 20 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 790W, on dentistry, if she will list the names of those higher education institutions which have expressed interest in having a new dental school; whether in each case this includes satellite school status; and what the timetable is for the stages involved in announcing the siting of a new dental school. [9648]

**Ms Rosie Winterton** *[holding answer 4 July 2005]:* It would not be appropriate to publish this information at this first stage of the work of the joint implementation group (JIG). JIG expects to reach its conclusions around the end of the year when the location of the additional training places will be published.

**Sir Paul Beresford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what studies have been commissioned by her Department to evaluate the personal dental service (PDS) contract; and what information her Department receives from *(a)* primary care trusts and *(b)* individual dentists concerning PDS contracts in operation. [9649]

**Ms Rosie Winterton** *[holding answer 4 July 2005]:* A study of early personal dental services (PDS) pilots was conducted by the University of Birmingham for the Department, and published in 2002. Individual studies of options for change field sites are also available on the Modernisation Agency's website at: www.modernisingdentistry.nhs.uk. PPD pilot contracts are agreements between local primary care trusts and dental practices, and it is the responsibility of local primary care trusts to monitor and collect data on their operation.

### Diagnostic Scans

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of diagnostic scans in the NHS were carried out by private healthcare companies in the last year for which figures are available. [8258]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answer 30 June 2005]:* This information is not centrally available, as the Department do not collect data on the total number of national health service scans carried out in the independent sector.

### Domiciliary Care

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* people and *(b)* households were receiving domiciliary care in each social service authority area in (i) 1992–93, (ii) 1997–98 and (iii) the most recent year for which figures are available. [5614]

**Mr. Byrne:** Information on the estimated number of households and clients receiving home help or home care during a sample week in September for the years 1992, 1997 and 2004, by council with social services responsibility has been placed in the Library. Figures for the number of clients receiving home care were not collected before September 2000.

**Mr. Blizzard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what public financial support was provided for the training of domiciliary carers in the last year for which figures are available; [6921]

(2) how many domiciliary carers have achieved NVQ Level 2 in care; and what percentage this represents of those required to achieve this under the Care Standards Act 2000. [6923]

**Mr. Byrne:** We will pay a national training strategy grant of £94,859 million to local councils in 2005–06. We intend this to be used to support training and qualification for all social care staff. Local councils can use this funding to train their own staff and those employed in private and voluntary sector organisations providing social care services on their behalf. We will give a further £15 million national training strategy implementation grant to Skills for Care to support national vocational qualification training for social care staff employed in the private and voluntary sectors.

Information is not available on qualifications held by the domiciliary care workforce. The requirement in the Care Standards Act 2000 relating to domiciliary care is expressed in terms of the percentage of care delivered, not the percentage of workers qualified.

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to her Answer of 9 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 628W, on domiciliary care, what the timescale is for *(a)* the work officials are undertaking with outside bodies to consider the recording of adverse events in domiciliary care settings and *(b)* the review of national minimum standards. [7196]

**Mr. Byrne:** We intend to complete the work on the recording of adverse events in domiciliary care in co-operation with the review of the national minimum standards (NMS). We plan to complete the review of the NMS in 2006.

### Foundation Trusts

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* governors and *(b)* public governors there are of each foundation hospital trust; and how many public governors of each trust declare in their personal manifesto a declaration of interest that they (i) have medical qualifications and (ii) have worked in health. [4064]

**Mr. Byrne:** This is a matter for Monitor, the statutory name of which is the independent regulator of national health service foundation trusts. The Chairman will write to the hon. Member and a copy of his reply will be placed in the Library. Declarations of interests for governors are maintained by individual NHS foundation trusts and can be obtained by directly approaching them.

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance she has issued to *(a)* foundation trusts and *(b)* Monitor on the funding trusts should make available (i) to encourage membership, recruitment and retention and (ii) to communicate with their electorates. [8114]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answer 30 June 2005]:* Schedule one of the "Health and Social Care (Community Health and Standards) Act 2003" sets out the minimum legislative requirements for the governance arrangements of national health service foundation trusts (NHSFTs). The Department provides a central programme of support to applicants preparing for foundation status, which includes guidance and direct financial assistance. Applicants are provided with guidance on developing governance arrangements, which gives information on the principles supporting the way NHSFTs are governed. This includes information on developing a representative membership base and communicating with the electorate.

It is for the independent regulator of NHSFTs, Monitor to consider authorisation as an NHSFT. As part of its assessment process, Monitor considers the suitability of an applicant by considering its governance plans, including the membership strategy and steps taken to ensure a representative membership. Once authorised, it is the responsibility of Monitor to oversee the operation of an NHSFT and ensure it remains with the terms of authorisation and legislative framework.

### General Practitioners

**Steve Webb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what mechanisms are in place to monitor the target for 48 hour access to a general practitioner. [8084]

**Mr. Byrne:** Data on access to general practitioner is collected monthly from primary care trusts via the primary care access survey.

Detailed information about the survey is published on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/PolicyAndGuidance/PatientChoice/WaitingBookingChoice/WaitingBookingChoiceArticle/fs/en?CONTENT_ID=4079186&chk=NIdfeQ.

### General Social Care Council

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she expects to make an announcement concerning the next groups to be registered with the General Social Care Council. [9069]

**Mr. Byrne:** The General Social Care Council is currently completing the task of registering all qualified social workers in England. In September, the register will be extended to include social work students. During 2004, the Council carried out a widespread consultation about the order in which the remaining groups of social care staff should be brought into registration. I am considering that their report of the outcome of this consultation in the context of the continuing development of our social care policies following the publication of the social care Green Papers, "Independence, well-being and choice" and "Every Child Matters." I expect to announce my decision shortly.

### Haringey Teaching Primary Care Trust

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment she has made of delayed discharge in hospitals located in the Haringey teaching primary care trust area; and if she will make a statement. [7809]

**Jane Kennedy:** The information requested is not available centrally.

### Health Direct

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether Health Direct will be established as a subsidiary of NHS Direct; whether NHS Direct and Health Direct will share the same access points; and if she will make a statement. [7477]

**Caroline Flint:** Health Direct will be set up from 2007. It will be developed as a telephone, internet and digital television service. The aim is to provide easily accessible information on health choices. It will include links to existing health improvement services, including diet, nutrition and support for parents.

A scoping study is being undertaken during 2005 to establish customer, operational and technical requirements for Health Direct. The decision to determine which are the most appropriate management and operational structures to deliver the Health Direct service will be taken in spring 2006, prior to commencement of a procurement phase, which we expect to complete by the end of 2006.

### Health Services (Contractors)

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will list the independent sector providers

with whom *(a)* her Department has contracts for the provision of health services and *(b)* primary care trusts have commissioned directly to provide services; what services are provided under each contract; and how many patients have been treated under each contract. [3434]

**Mr. Byrne:** The information on the independent sector providers with which the Department has contracts is shown in the table. Information on contracts with the independent sector agreed by local national health service commissioners is not collected centrally.

| *Name of provider* | *Services provided* | *Number of patients treated to date* |
|---|---|---|
| Nations Healthcare | Ophthalmology, general surgery, orthopaedics and trauma | 600 |
| Partnership Healthcare Group | Trauma and orthopaedics | 3,100 |
| Birkdale Clinic | Ophthalmology, minor orthopaedics, knee arthroscopies, minor plastics, upper gastrointestinal endoscopies, minor dental surgery | 3,900 |
| OR International | Orthopaedics, ophthalmology and general surgery | [1]0 |
| Netcare | General surgery, ear, nose and throat, orthopaedics | 190 |
| Care UK Afrox | Orthopaedics | 170 |
| Capio | Various procedures including ophthalmology, general surgery, orthopaedics, | 500 |
| Interhealth | Orthopaedics, joint replacement | 420 |
| Mercury | Orthopaedics, general surgery, ophthalmology | [1]0 |
| Netcare | Ophthalmology—cataract | 14,000 |
| Capio/Nuffield | Orthopaedic, casemix expanded to include a wide range of procedures | 30,000 |
| Nuffield/BMI/BUP A | Orthopaedics | [1]0 |
| Alliance Medical Limited | Diagnostics | 54,500 |

[1] Patients have been referred but are not yet treated.

## Hepatitis C

**Mr. Laxton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the level of access to specialist assessment and treatment for people with hepatitis C infection. [7817]

**Caroline Flint:** In line with "Shifting the Balance of Power", decisions about the provision of accessible specialist assessment and treatment for people with hepatitis C infection through managed clinical networks, are for local determination. We understand that managed clinical networks have so far either been established or are being considered in London, South West peninsula, East Anglia, West Midlands, Trent, Liverpool and North East England.

**Mr. Laxton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made in developing modelling techniques to assist in projecting numbers of patients needing specialist treatment and care for hepatitis C since the Action Plan for Hepatitis C was published. [7818]

**Caroline Flint:** The Department has funded the Health Protection Agency, working with the Medical Research Council's biostatistics unit, to provide estimates of the future burden of hepatitis C-related liver disease.

Results from this ongoing study will be submitted to a peer-reviewed journal for publication later this year.

**Mr. Laxton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what projections have been made for the incidence of hepatitis C in England. [7819]

**Caroline Flint:** Studies suggest that 0.5 per cent. of the general population in England, 250,000 people, has been infected with hepatitis C. As around 80 per cent. of people who have been exposed to the virus go on to develop chronic infection, it is estimated that 0.4 per cent. of the population, 200,000 people, are chronically infected with the hepatitis C virus.

There is no data available on the number of newly acquired hepatitis C infections in the general population (incidence). This is because acute hepatitis C infection does not usually cause symptoms and there are no laboratory tests that detect newly acquired hepatitis C infections.

## Hospital Workers (Drug Dependency)

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research she has evaluated on drug dependency in hospital workers. [6211]

**Mr. Byrne:** The Department's guidance, "Taking alcohol and other drugs out of the NHS workplace", was re-issued this year as part of the "Management of Health, Safety and Welfare Issues for NHS Staff" by NHS Employers, which provides support to employers. This guidance reflects good practice.

## Hospital-acquired Infections

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of *(a)* methicillin-resistant *Staphyloccus aureus*, *(b)* vancomycin-intermediate *Staphyloccus aureus*, *(c) Clostridium difficile* associated diarrhoea, *(d)* vancomycin-resistant *Staphyloccus aureus* and *(e)* glycopeptide-resistant enterococci have been recorded in each hospital in England in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [7765]

**Jane Kennedy** *[holding answer 30 June 2005]:* Information on meticillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) bloodstream infections is available in the Library and on the Department's website at

http://www.dh.gov.uk/PublicationsAndStatistics/Publications/PublicationsStatistics/PublicationsStatisticsArticle/fs/en?CONTENT_ID=4085951&chk=HBt2QD

This data has been collected since April 2001; the latest data covers the period to the end of March 2005.

The Health Protection Agency (HPA) antimicrobial resistance monitoring and reference laboratory is aware of only one confirmed case of vancomycin-intermediate *Staphylococcus aureus* in England to date.

Only three cases of vancomycin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (VRSA) have been seen worldwide; none in England.

Since 1 January 2004, all acute national health service trusts have been required to report all cases of diarrhoea associated with *Clostridium difficile*. The data for 2004 is being prepared for publication and will subsequently be published annually. The HPA also runs a voluntary reporting system, but does not provide data by trust or by hospital.

Since 1 October 2003, all acute NHS trusts have been required to report all blood stream infections caused by glycopeptide-resistant enterococci. The data is being prepared for publication and will subsequently be published annually.

### In-flight Meals

**John Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what representations she has received on the impact on the health of passengers of the salt and fat content of in-flight meals; [6804]

(2) if she will undertake a survey of the nutritional content of in-flight meals; [6805]

(3) what advice she gives to airline passengers on the salt content of in-flight meals. [6806]

**Caroline Flint:** The Food Standards Agency, in consultation with the Department and stakeholders, is in the process of setting target levels for salt in key product categories that contribute most to intakes. It is anticipated that all sectors of the food industry, including caterers, will work to meet these targets. We will ensure that suppliers of meals to airline passengers are included in this initiative and that airline companies are aware.

All adult consumers are advised to eat a balanced diet, but specific advice has not been issued to airline passengers about the salt content of in-flight meals.

I have not received any representations on the impact of in-flight meals on the health of passengers and have no plans to undertake a survey of such meals.

### Influenza Pandemic

**Patrick Mercer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what prioritisation system the Health Protection Agency has put in place for vaccinations in the event of an influenza pandemic. [8893]

**Caroline Flint:** The Government will make the decision for vaccination prioritisation based on advice from the joint committee on vaccination and immunisation (JCVI), an independent expert advisory committee, and the United Kingdom national influenza pandemic committee. The JCVI has provisionally advised the following order for vaccinating people:

Healthcare workers most at risk.

Essential service workers.

Clinical "high-risk" groups.

Closed communities such as nursing homes.

General population.

This list is contained in the UK pandemic influenza contingency plan.

### IVF Treatment

**Mrs. Dean:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many primary care trusts have fully implemented the recommendation that all eligible patients should receive one NHS-funded IVF treatment; [7651]

(2) what assessment she has made of the impact of the decision to allow each eligible patient one NHS-funded IVF treatment on the number of IVF procedures carried out by the NHS; [7652]

(3) how many NHS-funded IVF treatments have been carried out in each strategic health authority area in each of the last eight years. [7653]

**Caroline Flint:** The Department does not collect information centrally on the number of national health service-funded invitro fertilization (IVF) treatments carried out. A survey of primary care trusts carried out by All Party Group on Infertility and the National Infertility Awareness Campaign has shown that the majority have worked to provide of at least one cycle of IVF for those who are eligible according to the guideline published by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence.

### Kidney Transplants

**Mrs. Dean:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will provide ringfenced funding for kidney transplants; and if she will make a statement. [7648]

**Mr. Byrne:** Primary care trusts are responsible for renal transplant commissioning through specialised commissioning arrangements. They are best placed to determine local needs and priorities and to ensure that they have the staff and facilities required to deliver high quality care. Ring-fenced funding is not appropriate.

### Malarial Infections

**Mr. Ian Austin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement on the use of fungal spores in reducing malarial infections. [7738]

**Caroline Flint:** We welcome this new development in the fight against malaria, which continues to claim the lives of one to two million people world-wide each year. Reducing morbidity and mortality due to malaria depends on a coordinated attack on the mosquito vector by personal protective measures, for example, insecticide-impregnated bed nets, and community mosquito control programmes, on prompt diagnosis and treatment of malaria in individual patients with antimalarial drugs. Vaccines are under development but will not be available in the short to medium term.

Recent reports have shown that adult Anopheles mosquitoes can be infected and killed by several species of fungi. The fungi can be sprayed on surfaces, cloths or netting.

Recent laboratory studies have shown that exposing adult Anopheles Stephens! mosquitoes that have been infected with rodent malaria to the fungus reduces the number of mosquitoes that are able to transmit infection by a factor of 80[1].

A recent trial in houses in a rural area of Tanzania showed that the fungus killed wild adult Anopheles gambiae mosquitoes, which are the major vector of malaria in Africa, and suggests that this method could significantly reduce the intensity of malaria transmission[2].

Further studies are required to assess the potential of this method of controlling mosquitoes for inclusion in a coordinated programme against malaria.

*References:*

[1] Blanford S, Chan BH, Jenkins N, Sim D, Turner RJ, Read AF, Thomas MB. Fungal pathogen reduces potential for malaria transmission—Science 2005; 308:1638–1641.

[2] Scholte B, Ng'habi K, Kihonda J, Takken W, Paaijmans K, Abdulla S, Killeen GF, Knols BG. An entomopathogenic fungus for control of adult African malaria mosquitoes—Science 2005; 308: 1641–1642.

### Meat Inspectors

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans she has to encourage the employment of plant inspection assistants (PIAs) for the red meat industry; and when she is expecting to evaluate the effectiveness of the use of PIAs in the white meat industry; and if she will make a statement. [8594]

**Caroline Flint:** I am advised by the Food Standards Agency (FSA) that EU Regulation 854/2004 on the organisation of official controls on products of animal origin does not provide for the employment of plant inspection assistants (PIAs), except in slaughterhouses for poultry and lagomorphs. The employment of PIAs in red meat slaughterhouses could only be provided for by an amendment to that Regulation by the European Parliament and the Council using the codecision procedure on a proposal from the Commission.

Regulation 854/2004 requires the official veterinarian to carry out regular performance tests on the work of the PIAs. If these show that the work is unsatisfactory or affects the hygiene of the establishment, the PIAs must be replaced by official meat inspectors.

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many meat inspectors were in employment in each of the last three years for which figures are available; and what the establishment was for each year. [8595]

**Caroline Flint:** The table shows the numbers of staff employed as meat hygiene inspectors (MHIs) and senior MHIs in the Meat Hygiene Service in each of the last three years as at 1 April.

| | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Meat hygiene inspectors | 1,023 | 1,014 | 981 |
| Senior meat hygiene inspectors | 159 | 151 | 137 |
| Total | 1,182 | 1,165 | 1,118 |

*Notes:*

1. MHI figures include a total of 25 full-time equivalent casual employees at April 2003 and 2004 and 30 in 2005, who work on an ad hoc basis.

2. Senior MHIs include the old senior grades, the supernumerary senior grades and the enhanced senior grades.

3. Also included are 65 full-time equivalent contract staff at April 2003, 43 at April 2004 and 42 at April 2005.

The figures shown are actual numbers employed to meet fluctuating service requirements. There is no formal establishment figure and staff are recruited to address staff turnover and to meet additional service requirements where necessary.

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement on the future of the Meat Hygiene Service, with particular reference to training levels for *(a)* inspectors and *(b)* plant inspection assistants. [8596]

**Caroline Flint:** I am advised by the Food Standards Agency (FSA) that the training requirements which apply from 1 January 2006 for both meat inspectors and plant inspection assistants are set out in European Union Regulation 854/2004, subject to any transitional measures that the Commission may adopt. The FSA intends to ensure that these requirements are complied with.

The FSA has no plans to change the current role of the Meat Hygiene Service.

### Monsanto Maize

**Alan Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 26 May 2005, *Official Report*, column 633W, on Monsanto's maize, what the effects were on rats fed on Monsanto's GM corn MON 863 in respect of *(a)* kidney size, *(b)* blood cell levels and *(c)* lymphocytes. [8600]

**Caroline Flint:** Monsanto conducted a standard 90-day feeding study in rats given diets containing 11 per cent. or 33 per cent. of MON 863 maize grain, or equivalent amounts of non-genetically modified (GM) maize grain. The results revealed a small difference in the parameters mentioned in the question between the animals fed the highest amount of MON 863 maize, compared with those in one given one of the diets containing non-GM maize. Such findings are not unusual in studies of this type, where several dozen parameters are being evaluated across a number of treatment groups and interpretation of the results requires expert analysis of the statistical basis for the apparent differences and their biological significance. These data have been analysed independently by expert groups in the United Kingdom and at the European Food Safety Authority, who have concluded that the results of the study are not indicative of adverse effects due to the consumption of MON 863 maize.

### MRI Scans (Durham)

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the annual running cost is of the NHS scanner at the University Hospital North Durham was in 2004–05. [9396]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answer 4 July 2005]:* This information is not held centrally.

## NHS Acute Hospital Trusts

**Frank Dobson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether NHS acute hospital trusts can *(a)* close beds, *(b)* close wards and *(c)* withdraw services without her consent. [7013]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answer 27 June 2005]:* Guidance on service change, "Keeping the NHS Local—A New Direction of Travel", was published on 14 February 2003. It sets out core principles for service change that the national health service must follow.

## NHS Direct

**Steve Webb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the 10 most common reasons for calls to NHS Direct were during the last 12 months for which information is available. [8088]

**Mr. Byrne:** I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave to the hon. Member for Sutton and Cheam (Mr. Burstow) on 28 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 1521W.

## NHS Staff

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what proportion of people contracted to work within the NHS are not entitled to *(a)* sick pay and *(b)* holiday pay. [7601]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answer 27 June 2005]:* All staff working in the national health service are entitled to the statutory requirements for sick leave and holiday leave.

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the staff turnover is among *(a)* all medical staff, *(b)* all non-medical clinical staff and *(c)* all other staff in the NHS in the most recent period for which figures are available; and if she will estimate the current national average for staff turnover. [3433]

**Mr. Byrne:** The information requested is currently not held centrally.

## Obesity

**David Davis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she has made of the numbers of obese *(a)* adults and *(b)* children in (i) East Yorkshire and (ii) England; and how these figures compare with levels of obesity in other developed countries. [3659]

**Caroline Flint** *[holding answer 13 June 2005]:* The prevention and management of obesity are at the heart of many of the Government's priority areas and the foundation for all future work to tackle obesity has been laid out in the White Paper, "Choosing Health".

Information is not available in exactly the form requested. Figures from the Health Survey for England are shown in table 1.

*1: Obesity prevalence in England*

| *Adults[1] classed as obese as a proportion of the total sample* | *North and East Yorkshire and North East Lincolnshire strategic health authority* | *England* |
|---|---|---|
| Men (percentage) | 25.2 | 22.9 |
| Women (percentage) | 27.1 | 23.4 |
| *Number of adults surveyed* | | |
| Men | 486 | 5,966 |
| Women | 599 | 7,090 |

| *Children[2] classed as obese as a proportion of the total sample* | *Yorkshire and the Humber Government office region* | *England* |
|---|---|---|
| Boys *(percentage)* | 12.3 | 16.0 |
| Girls *(percentage)* | 12.5 | 15.9 |
| *Number of children surveyed* | | |
| Boys | 516 | 5,442 |
| Girls | 483 | 5,381 |

[1] Aged 16 and over with a body mass index (BMI) greater than 30.
[2] Aged 2–15 with a valid BMI measurement. United Kingdom national BMI percentile classification used to classify obesity in children.
*Note:*
Figures for adults are weighted to reduce bias from non-response to the survey.
*Source:*
Health Survey for England 2000–02 and 2003

Figures from other developed countries are shown in table 2.

*2: Obesity—percentage of adult population with a BMI greater than 30 kilogram/square metre*

| | *1960* | *1970* | *1980* | *1990* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Australia | — | — | 8.3 c | 10.8-[1]c | 21.7-[1]c | 21.7-[2]c | 21.7-[3]c | — |
| Austria | — | — | — | 8.5[1] | 9.1-[1] | 9.1-[2] | 9.1–3 | — |
| Belgium | — | — | — | — | 11.7 [1] | 11.7 | 11.7-[1] | 11.7-[2] |
| Canada | — | — | — | — | 14.1-[1] | 13.9 b | 13.9-[1]b | 14.3 |
| Czech Republic | — | — | — | 11.2[3] | 14.2-[1] | 14.8[1] | 14.8 | 14.8-[1] |
| Denmark | — | — | — | 5.5-[3] | 9.5 | 9.5-[1] | 9.5-[2] | 9.5-[3] |
| Finland | — | — | 7.4 | 8.4 | 11.2 | 11.4 | 11.8 | 12.8 |
| France | — | — | — | 5.8 | 9 | 9.0-[1] | 9.4 | 9.4-[1] |
| Germany | — | — | — | — | 11.5-[1] | 11.5-[2] | 12.9 [1] | 12.9 |
| Greece | — | — | — | — | 21.9[3] | 21.9[2] | 21.9 [1] | 21.9 |
| Hungary | — | — | — | — | 18.2 | 18.2-[1] | 18.8 [1] | 18.8 |
| Iceland | — | — | — | 7.5 | 12.4 [2] | 12.4 [1] | 12.4 | 12.4-[1] |
| Ireland | — | — | — | — | 10.0-[2] | 13.0[1] | 13 | 13.0-[1] |

*2: Obesity—percentage of adult population with a BMI greater than 30 kilogram/square metre*

| | 1960 | 1970 | 1980 | 1990 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Italy | — | — | — | — | 8.6 | 8.5 | 8.5 | 8.5-[1] |
| Japan | — | — | 2 | 2.3 | 2.9 | 3.2 | 3.6 | 3.2 |
| Korea | — | — | — | — | 3.2[1] | 3.2 | 3.2-[1] | 3.2-[2] |
| Luxembourg | — | — | — | — | 16.3 | 17.9 | 17.3 | 18.4 |
| Mexico | — | — | — | — | 24.2 | 24.2[1] | 24.2-[2] | 24.2-[3] |
| Netherlands | — | — | 5.1[1] | 6.1 | 9.8 | 9.3 | 10 | 10.0-[1] |
| New Zealand | — | — | — | 11.1-[1] | 17.0-[3] | 20.9[2] | 8.3 | 20.9 |
| Norway | — | — | — | — | 6.4-[2] | 8.3[1] | 8.3 | 8.3-[1] |
| Poland | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Portugal | — | — | — | — | 12.8-[1] | 12.8-[2] | 12.8-[3] | — |
| Slovak Republic | — | — | — | 18.9[3] | 16.2-[2] | 22.4[1] | 22.4 | 22.4-[1] |
| Spain | — | — | — | 6.8-[3] | 12.6[1] | 12.6 | 12.6-[1] | 13.1 |
| Sweden | — | — | — | 5.5-[1] | 9.2 | 9.2 | 10.2 | 9.7 |
| Switzerland | — | — | — | 5.4[2] | 7.7[2] | 7.7[1] | 7.7 | 7.7-[1] |
| Turkey | — | — | — | — | 12.0[3] | 12.0[2] | 12.0[1] | 12 |
| United Kingdom | — | — | 7.0 c | 14.0[1]c | 21.0 c | 22.0 c | 22.0 c | 23.0 c |
| United States | — | — | 15.0-[2]c | 23.3[1]c | 30.5 c | 30.5-[1]c | 30.6 c | 30.6-[1]c |

*Notes:*

*(a)* -1, -2, -3, 1, 2, 3 shows that data refers to 1, 2 or 3 previous or following year(s).

*(b)* Obesity rates are defined as the percentage of the population with a BMI over 30. The BMI is a single number that evaluates an individual's weight status in relation to height (weight/height$^2$ , with weight in kilograms and height in metres).

*(c)* For Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States, figures are based on health examinations, rather than self-reported information. Obesity estimates derived from health examinations are generally higher and more reliable than those coming from self-reports, because they preclude any misreporting of people's height and weight. However, health examinations are only conducted regularly in a few countries.

*Note:*

Definitions, sources and methods per country are available at www.irdes.fr/ecosante/OCDE/814010.html

*Source:*

OECD Health data 2005, June 2005

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people in the United Kingdom are obese; and what estimate has been made of the number of people who died as a result of obesity in each of the last five years. [3898]

**Caroline Flint:** The available information is given in the table. Although figures are requested for the United Kingdom, information in respect of obesity prevalence in Scotland and Wales is the responsibility of the devolved administrations. While the institutions in Northern Ireland are dissolved, responsibility rests with Ministers in the Northern Ireland office.

Obesity prevalence figures are taken from the results of the health survey for England for 2003, the latest year for which figures are available.

*Obesity prevalence in England*

| | |
|---|---|
| Adults classed as obese as a proportion of the total sample (percentage) | 22.6 |
| Number of adults surveyed[1] | 13,089 |
| Children classed as obese as a proportion of the total sample (percentage) | 16.6 |
| Number of children surveyed[2] | 2854 |

[1] Aged 16 and over with a body mass index (BMI) greater than 30.
[2] Aged 2–15 with a valid BMI measurement UK National BMI percentile classification used to classify obesity in children.

*Note:*

Adult figures are weighted to reduce bias arising from non-response to the survey.

*Source:*

Health survey for England 2003

With regard to how many obese people died in each of those years, whether a person was obese is not routinely recorded at death certification. However, data on deaths where the underlying cause was certified as obesity or where this condition contributed to the death are collected. The table shows the number of deaths in England and Wales where obesity was the underlying cause of death and where obesity contributed to the death, for the calendar years 1999 to 2003.

*Number of deaths where obesity (ICD-9 278.0; ICD-10 E66) was the underlying cause of death or contributed to the death, England and Wales, 1999–2003*

| | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Underlying cause | 165 | 161 | 183 | 182 | 219 |
| Contributed to death | 597 | 626 | 695 | 732 | 885 |
| Total number of deaths from all causes | 556,118 | 535,664 | 530,373 | 533,527 | 538,254 |

*Note:*

Data are for occurrences of death per calendar year.

*Source:*

Office for National Statistics

### Older People

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reasons a measure of mental health was not included in the milestone in the National Service Framework for Older People that by April 2004 local health systems should be able to demonstrate year on year improvements in measures of health and well-being among older people. [8014]

**Mr. Byrne:** The milestones accompanying standard eight of the National Service Framework for Older People focus primarily on the promotion of physical well being.

### Park Hill, Egginton

**Mr. Greg Knight:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the total cost was of the purchase and refurbishment of Park Hill, Egginton, Derbyshire by the local health authority. [8714]

**Mr. Byrne:** This information is not held centrally.

Funding for primary care premises is allocated by the Department to strategic health authorities, which, in turn, distribute this funding to individual primary care trusts (PCTs). PCTs are responsible for deciding how these resources are used and which projects are given priority locally.

### Physiotherapists

**Mr. Andrew Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many training places have been available for those wanting to become physiotherapists in each of the last four years; [8635]

(2) how many physiotherapists have been employed by the NHS in each of the last four years. [8636]

**Mr. Byrne:** The tables show the number of students entering training to become a physiotherapist in each year since 2001–02 and the number of physiotherapists employed in the national health service in each year since 2001.

*Training commissions in England*

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2001–02 | 1,780 |
| 2002–03 | 2,157 |
| 2003–04 | 2,343 |
| 2004–05 | 2,357 |

*Source:*
Strategic health authority quarterly monitoring returns

*NHS hospital and community health services: qualified physiotherapy staff in England as at 30 September each year*

| | *Headcount* | *Full-time equivalents* |
|---|---|---|
| 2001 | 16,212 | 12,992 |
| 2002 | 16,885 | 13,586 |
| 2003 | 17,922 | 14,455 |
| 2004 | 19,139 | 15,564 |

*Source:*
Health and Social Care Information Centre Non-Medical Workforce Census

**Mr. Rogerson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what measures her Department is taking to ensure there is an adequate number of posts available for newly-qualified physiotherapists. [8811]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answer 4 July 2005]:* Information collected by the Department does not break down physiotherapists by grade. As at September 2004, there were 19,139 physiotherapists employed in the national health service, which represents an increase of 4,896 or 34 per cent. since 1997.

The Department is working closely with the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy, the NHS workforce review team and NHS organisations to help junior physiotherapists to find first posts of employment. As a result of this collaborative work, there is an action plan in place to ensure local managers have access to a range of strategies across recruitment, commissioning and skill mix. It is the responsibility of local NHS employers and strategic health authorities to ensure there are sufficient numbers of physiotherapists to meet service needs.

**Greg Clark:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people studied physiotherapy at university each year since 2002. [7285]

**Mr. Byrne:** The table shows the number of students entering training to become a physiotherapist in each year since 2001–02.

*Training commissions in England*

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2001–02 | 1,780 |
| 2002–03 | 2,157 |
| 2003–04 | 2,343 |
| 2004–05 | 2,357 |

*Source:*
Strategic health authority quarterly monitoring returns.

### Primary Care Trusts

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions she has had with the Deputy Prime Minister on the merits of linking re-organisation of primary care trusts with that of local government re-organisation. [8115]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answer 30 June 2005]:* None, but the Government continue to seek ways for the national health service and local government to work closely together.

### Private Sector Providers

**Frank Dobson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will place in the Library the monthly reports she receives from private sector providers. [7017]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answer 27 June 2005]:* The monthly reports received from independent sector providers contain patient and/or commercially confidential information. Therefore, it would not be appropriate to place these documents in the Library. The Department does, however, plan to publish information on clinical outcomes later this year.

## Radiographers

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many radiographers have been employed in the NHS in each year since 1991. [7458]

**Mr. Byrne:** The information requested is shown in the table.

*National health service hospital and community health services: radiography staff in England by area and level as at 30 September each specified year*[1]

*Headcount*

| | *1991* | *1992* | *1993*[1] | *1994* | *1995* | *1996* | *1997* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| England | 10,945 | 11,372 | n/a | 11,945 | 12,844 | 12,882 | 13,108 |
| *Diagnostic Radiographers* | 9,702 | 10,105 | n/a | 10,622 | 11,524 | 11,525 | 11,646 |
| Qualified | 8,891 | 9,210 | n/a | 9,520 | 10,294 | 10,265 | 10,364 |
| Consultant Therapist/Scientist | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Manager | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 111 | 114 | 122 |
| Therapist | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 9,624 | 9,647 | 9,809 |
| Technician | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 481 | 487 | 416 |
| Tutor | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 78 | 17 | 17 |
| Unqualified | 811 | 895 | n/a | 1,102 | 1,230 | 1,260 | 1,282 |
| Assistant Practitioner | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Student/Trainee | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 91 | 47 | 41 |
| Helper/Assistant | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 1,139 | 1,213 | 1,241 |
| *Therapeutic Radiographers* | 1,243 | 1,267 | n/a | 1,323 | 1,320 | 1,357 | 1,462 |
| Qualified | 1,243 | 1,267 | n/a | 1,323 | 1,252 | 1,308 | 1,407 |
| Consultant Therapist/ Scientist | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Manager | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 10 | 13 | 11 |
| Therapist | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 1,242 | 1,295 | 1,396 |
| Unqualified | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 68 | 49 | 55 |
| Assistant Practitioner | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Student/Trainee | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 18 | 0 | 0 |
| Helper/Assistant | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 50 | 49 | 55 |

*Headcount*

| | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| England | 13,518 | 13,862 | 14,190 | 14,694 | 15,371 | 16,046 | 16,921 |
| Diagnostic Radiographers | 11,988 | 12,299 | 12,649 | 13,037 | 13,695 | 14,199 | 14,932 |
| Qualified | 10,645 | 10,839 | 11,036 | 11,163 | 11,489 | 11,687 | 12,147 |
| Consultant Therapist/Scientist | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 0 | 4 |
| Manager | 145 | 167 | 155 | 140 | 138 | 168 | 179 |
| Therapist | 10,032 | 10,161 | 10,271 | 10,516 | 10,860 | 11,293 | 11,954 |
| Technician | 452 | 494 | 595 | 495 | 481 | 214 | 0 |
| Tutor | 16 | 17 | 15 | 12 | 10 | 12 | 10 |
| Unqualified | 1,343 | 1,460 | 1,613 | 1,874 | 2,206 | 2,512 | 2,785 |
| Assistant Practitioner | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 75 |
| Student/Trainee | 33 | 21 | 19 | 18 | 31 | 78 | 80 |
| Helper/Assistant | 1,310 | 1,439 | 1,594 | 1,856 | 2,175 | 2,434 | 2,630 |
| Therapeutic Radiographers | 1,530 | 1,563 | 1,541 | 1,657 | 1,676 | 1,847 | 1,989 |
| Qualified | 1,473 | 1,491 | 1,453 | 1,543 | 1,542 | 1,657 | 1,753 |
| Consultant Therapist/ Scientist | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 0 | 1 |
| Manager | 17 | 20 | 19 | 25 | 28 | 42 | 30 |
| Therapist | 1,456 | 1,471 | 1,434 | 1,518 | 1,514 | 1,615 | 1,722 |

*Headcount*

| | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Unqualified | 57 | 72 | 88 | 114 | 134 | 190 | 236 |
| Assistant Practitioner | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 13 |
| Student/Trainee | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 9 | 6 | 4 |
| Helper/Assistant | 57 | 72 | 87 | 113 | 125 | 184 | 219 |

n/a = not applicable
[1] Figures for 1993 are unavailable.
*Note:*
A new system of classification for the non-medical work force was introduced in 1995. Figures for 1991–94 are not directly comparable with later years.
*Source:*
Health and Social Care Information Centre Non-Medical Workforce Census

### School Nurses

**Mrs. Dean:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many school nurses are employed in *(a)* East Staffordshire, *(b)* Staffordshire and *(c)* England. [7650]

**Mr. Byrne:** The number of school nurses in England, Shropshire and Staffordshire strategic health authority (SHA) and East Staffordshire primary care trust (PCT) is shown in the table.

*National health service hospital and community health services: Nurses working in school nursing in specified areas as at 30 September 2004*

*Headcount*

| | | *Total school nursing workforce* | *Qualified school nurses* | *Qualified nurses working in school nursing* | *Unqualified nurses working in school nursing* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| England | | 2,749 | 856 | 1,553 | 340 |
| Shropshire and Staffordshire SHA | Q26 | 62 | 35 | 27 | 0 |
| *Of which:* East Staffordshire PCT | 5ML | 12 | 0 | 12 | 0 |

*Source:*
NHS Health and Social Care Information Centre non-medical workforce census 2004.

### Select Committee Reports

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she will respond to the reports of the Health Select Committee from the previous Parliament to which she has not yet responded. [9439]

**Ms Hewitt:** Responses to these reports will be published in due course.

### Sexually-transmitted Diseases

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many new diagnoses of *(a)* syphilis, *(b)* gonorrhoea, *(c)* chlamydia, *(d)* herpes and *(e)* genital warts were recorded by the Health Protection Agency in 2004 for (i) England and (ii) England and Wales. [10080]

**Caroline Flint:** The numbers of new diagnoses of syphilis, gonorrhoea, chlamydia, herpes and genital warts seen in genitor-urinary medicine clinics in England and Wales are published by the Health Protection Agency (HPA) in its report, "Diagnoses and rates of selected STIs seen at GUM clinics, United Kingdom: 2000–04," which is available on the HPA website at www.hpa.org.uk/infections/topics_az/hiv_and_sti/epidemiology/dataresource.htm

**Mr. Burns:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what screening services are available for men with suspected Chlamydia infection; what plans she has to improve these services; and if she will make a statement; [5534]

(2) what strategies her Department *(a)* has employed and *(b)* plans to combat chlamydia in men; and if she will make a statement; [5535]

(3) how many chlamydia infections in *(a)* men and *(b)* women were reported in each of the last five years for which figures are available; and if she will make a statement. [5536]

**Caroline Flint** *[holding answer 20 June 2005]:* For men who suspect that they have chlamydia, diagnoses and treatment are provided through genitor-urinary medicine (GUM) clinics. The public health White Paper, "Choosing Health—making healthy choices easier" published in November 2004 sets out a number of measures to improve access to, and modernise, GUM services. These measures are backed by £130 million additional revenue and capital investment over three years, and will support clinics in moving towards the target of maximum 48 hour waiting times for clinic appointments.

In terms of detecting asymptomatic chlamydia infection, the Department's policy is to promote greater uptake of chlamydia testing and treatment through the national chlamydia screening programme. This opportunistic programme targets sexually active men and women under 25, who are most at risk of infection. We recognise that there are particular challenges in encouraging young men to access chlamydia screening as they do not attend health services as regularly as young women. We are, therefore, encouraging local programmes to evaluate which venues work best in terms of screening young men, for example colleges, workplaces and sports facilities.

Young men and women are also targeted with information about chlamydia through our national sexual health media campaigns, including a major new campaign to be launched later this year, as announced in the White Paper.

The White Paper, also included a commitment to accelerate the roll-out of the national chlamydia screening programme, with the goal of making this available across the country by March 2007, backed by investment of an extra £80 million to achieve this aim.

The data requested is shown in the following table.

*Number of cases of genital Chlamydial infection diagnosed in genitourinary medicine clinics by sex in England: 1999–2003*

| | Sex | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | *Male* | *Female* | *Total* |
| 1999 | 21,808 | 29,196 | 51,004 |
| 2000 | 26,632 | 34,815 | 61,447 |
| 2001 | 29,604 | 38,652 | 68,256 |
| 2002 | 34,509 | 43,980 | 78,489 |
| 2003 | 37,913 | 47,250 | 85,163 |

*Source:*
Health Protection Agency, KC60 Returns

## Smoking

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether the Government have commissioned research on the likely effects of allowing smoking in pubs where food is not prepared; [7128]

(2) what penalties the Government are planning to implement to enforce a future ban on smoking in public places. [7130]

**Caroline Flint:** We have launched a consultation on the smoke-free elements of the Health Improvement and Protection Bill. This includes proposals for offences and penalties. It also invites views on the proposals to exempt licensed premises, which do not prepare and serve food. We will be discussing the details of the proposals with key stakeholders during this time.

A copy of the consultation paper is available in the Library.

**Mrs. Ellman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what her assessment is of the extent of smoking-related illness in Liverpool. [6150]

**Mr. Byrne:** The estimated percentages of deaths attributable to smoking in primary care trusts (PCTs) in Liverpool is shown in the table.

*Estimated percentage of deaths attributable to smoking in Liverpool PCTs*

| | *Smoking deaths as a percentage of all deaths* | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| *PCT* | *Males* | *Females* | *All persons* |
| Central Liverpool | 22 | 11 | 16 |
| North Liverpool | 21 | 11 | 16 |
| South Liverpool | 24 | 14 | 19 |
| England | 22 | 12 | 17 |

*Notes:*
1. The "all persons" column represents the average for men and women.
2. The smoking attributable percentage data for PCTs provides figures relating to the percentage of deaths over 35 years of age from diseases related to smoking that are smoking attributable. Figures are provided for males, females and persons. The percentages are based on the estimate of smoking attributable mortality across the five years from 1998 to 2002 and the observed deaths, from those over 35, for 1998 to 2002.
3. The estimates of smoking attributable mortality as a percentage of all deaths are derived in the following way:
a) For London PCTs, the percentages are based on the estimate of smoking attributable mortality across five years of data from 1998 to 2002 and the observed number of deaths from all causes, all ages across these same five years.
b) For all other PCTs, the percentage is based on the annual average estimate of smoking attributable mortality across 1998 to 2002 and the observed number of deaths from all causes, all ages for 2002.The percentage is based on the annual average estimate of smoking attributable mortality across 1998–2002 and the observed number of deaths from all causes, all ages for 2002.
*Source:*
Data underlying the publication of The smoking epidemic in England, November 2004 —the Health Development Agency (HDA)—available on the HDA website at www.hda.nhs.uk/html/improving/smoking epidemic.html.

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funding the Government has provided for tobacco policy support to *(a)* local authorities, *(b)* Government Offices for the Regions and *(c)* regional chambers in each year since 1997. [7510]

**Caroline Flint:** The Government do not provide funding for tobacco policy support to local authorities or regional chambers.

From 2003–04, amounts were allocated to each Government Office for the Region for tobacco control and funding of alliance work, which is shown in the following table.

£

| *Region* | *2003–04* | *2004–05* | *2005–06* |
|---|---|---|---|
| North East | 194,000 | 194,000 | 194,000 |
| Yorkshire and Humber | 218,000 | 218,000 | 218,000 |
| North West | 242,000 | 242,000 | 242,000 |
| West Midlands | 221,000 | 221,000 | 221,000 |
| East Midlands | 206,000 | 206,000 | 206,000 |
| Eastern | 217,000 | 217,000 | 217,000 |
| South East | 241,000 | 241,000 | 241,000 |
| South West | 214,000 | 214,000 | 214,000 |
| London | 247,000 | 247,000 | 247,000 |
| Total | 2,000,000 | 2,000,000 | 2,000,000 |

*Note:*
The sums in the table are indicative. Regions have the discretion to vary spending within the allocation.

## Solvent Abuse

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research the Government have commissioned on the causes and effects of solvent abuse. [8332]

**Caroline Flint:** The Department has not commissioned any specific research into the causes and effects of volatile substance abuse (VSA).

The Department has, in partnership with the Home Office, the Department for Education and Skills and a wide range of external stakeholders, including the British Aerosol Manufacturers Association, St. George's University of London, ReSolv and the National Children's Bureau, produced a framework which sets out a strategic direction for addressing VSA. It is due to be published shortly.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many clinics in England provide services for the treatment of solvent abuse. [8376]

**Caroline Flint:** There are currently no clinics in England providing specific services for the treatment of volatile substance abuse (VSA).

However, young people treatment services work with young people with substance abuse issues including VSA.

The Department does not centrally collect information about service provisions for treatment of VSA for adults.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when and where the Government's strategy on volatile substance abuse will be announced. [8377]

**Caroline Flint:** The Department is aiming to publish the volatile substance abuse framework shortly.

### Speech Therapists

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many speech therapists there have been per 100,000 *(a)* adults and *(b)* children in each of the last 10 years. [8186]

**Mr. Byrne:** The table shows the ratio of speech and language therapists per 100,000 population under 18 years old and over 18 in each year since 1995.

The number of speech and language therapists per 100,000 population has increased from 8.96 in 1995 to 13.1 in 2004.

*National health service hospital and community health services: qualified speech and language therapeutic staff in England as at 30 September each year—by headcount and per 100,000 people in England*

*Headcount*

| | *1995* | *1996* | *1997* | *1998* | *1999* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total Speech and Language Therapists | 4,335 | 4,705 | 4,871 | 5,031 | 5,185 |
| Estimated England population | 48,383,500 | 48,519,100 | 48,664,800 | 48,820,600 | 49,032,900 |
| Estimated England population under 18 | 11,113,600 | 11,183,600 | 11,214,000 | 11,207,200 | 11,209,800 |
| Estimated England population 18 and over | 37,269,900 | 37,335,500 | 37,450,800 | 37,613,300 | 37,823,100 |
| Speech and Language Therapists per 100,000 people | 8.96 | 9.70 | 10.01 | 10.31 | 10.57 |
| Speech and Language Therapists per 100,000 people under 18 | 39.01 | 42.07 | 43.44 | 44.89 | 46.25 |
| Speech and Language Therapists per 100,000 people 18 and over | 11.63 | 12.60 | 13.01 | 13.38 | 13.71 |

*Headcount*

| | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total Speech and Language Therapists | 5,430 | 5,685 | 5,960 | 6,243 | 6,556 |
| Estimated England population | 49,233,300 | 49,449,700 | 49,646,900 | 49,855,700 | 50,056,900 |
| Estimated England population under 18 | 11,177,100 | 11,145,800 | 11,117,900 | 11,082,200 | n/a |
| Estimated England population 18 and over | 38,056,200 | 38,303,900 | 38,529,000 | 38,773,500 | n/a |
| Speech and Language Therapists per 100,000 people | 11.03 | 11.50 | 12.00 | 12.52 | 13.10 |
| Speech and Language Therapists per 100,000 people under 18 | 48.58 | 51.01 | 53.61 | 56.33 | n/a |
| Speech and Language Therapists per 100,000 people 18 and over | 14.27 | 14.84 | 15.47 | 16.10 | n/a |

n/a = not available.

*Notes:*

1. Population figures are rounded to the nearest 100 and totals may not equal sum of component parts
2. 2004 component data are not available

*Source:*

Health and Social Care Information Centre Non-Medical Workforce Census
Office for National Statistics

### Water Fluoridation

**Sir John Butterfill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement on the report of the World Health Organisation in 2002 concerning the findings of the US National Toxicology Programme relating to rates of osteosarcoma among young males living in fluoridated areas. [7280]

**Caroline Flint:** We are aware that, on 6 June, a research organisation in the United States, the Environmental Working Group, published a press release asking the National Toxicology Program of the National Institutes of Health to list fluoride in tap water in its report on carcinogens, "based on its ability to cause a rare form of childhood bone cancer, osteosarcoma". The request refers to a doctoral thesis completed in 2001 by a student at Harvard School of Dental Medicine.

The systematic review of water fluoridation undertaken by the University of York identified over 3,000 reports of research projects on fluoridation of which 735 met their criteria for inclusion in their study. The researchers did not find any evidence of an association between water fluoridation and bone cancer, but we are not complacent and are committed to strengthening the evidence base. In this context, we have been informed by the oral health division of the Centers for Disease Control that the author of the thesis has invited them to review her findings as part of the peer review process conducted before a research study is published. We have asked to be kept informed.

## HOME OFFICE

### Airguns

**Mr. Mallins:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prosecutions have taken place against persons who have sold an air weapon to a person under 17 years in each of the last five years. [5158]

**Hazel Blears:** The information contained on the Home Office Court Proceeding database shows that in England and Wales from 1999 to 2003, there was one prosecution (in 1999) for selling or letting on hire a firearm to a person under 17 (Firearms Act 1968, sec. 24(1) Group III air weapons). Statistics on court proceedings for 2004 will be published in the autumn.

### Alcohol (Crime/Disorder Zones)

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what research he has commissioned into the effects of designated alcohol disorder zones; and how these zones will be enforced. [4726]

**Hazel Blears:** We will monitor the use and impact of alcohol disorder zones once the Violent Crime Reduction Bill has completed its parliamentary passage, and come into force. We will be consulting stakeholders over the summer about the detail of how alcohol disorder zones would work in practice, including enforcement issues.

**Mr. Crabb:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was spent on police campaigns to tackle alcohol-related crime in each year from 1997. [7541]

**Hazel Blears:** The Home Office do not centrally collect information on how much is spent on police campaigns to tackle alcohol-related crime. Each force will have its own arrangements in place for resourcing alcohol-misuse enforcement activity.

### Antisocial Behaviour Orders

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many antisocial behaviour orders have been issued to people aged under *(a)* 10 years, *(b)* 11 years, *(c)* 12 years, *(d)* 13 years, *(e)* 14 years, *(f)* 15 years, *(g)* 16 years, *(h)* 17 years and *(i)* 18 years in each London borough since 1999. [5265]

**Hazel Blears:** The information is given in the following table.

*The number of ASBOs issued at all courts, as reported to the Home Office, where restrictions were imposed within Greater London local government authority areas, from 1 April 1999 to 30 September 2004 (latest available).*

| *Area* | *Total issued* | *Age at issue of ASBO* | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | *10*[1] | *11* | *12* | *13* | *14* | *15* | *16* | *17* |
| Greater London | 109 | — | — | 1 | 6 | 11 | 26 | 29 | 27 |
| *Of which:* | | | | | | | | | |
| From 1 April 1999 to 31 May 2000 by pfa[2] | 9 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| *From 1 June 2000 to 30 September 2004 by local government authority area:* | | | | | | | | | |
| Barnet | 3 | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | 2 |
| Bexley | 6 | 1 | — | 1 | — | — | 1 | 1 | 3 |
| Brent | 4 | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Bromley | 3 | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Camden | 7 | 1 | 1 | — | 1 | 1 | 4 | 1 | — |
| Croydon | 6 | — | — | — | — | — | 2 | 3 | 1 |
| Ealing | 9 | 1 | 2 | — | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Greenwich | 7 | — | 1 | — | — | 1 | 1 | 5 | — |
| Hackney | 5 | 1 | — | — | 1 | — | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 3 | 1 | 1 | — | 1 | 1 | — | — | 1 |
| Havering | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| Hillingdon | 2 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 2 |
| Hounslow | 3 | — | — | — | — | — | — | 2 | 1 |
| Islington | 2 | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | 1 | — |
| Kensington and Chelsea Royal Borough | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — |
| Kingston-on-Thames | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — |
| Lewisham | 5 | — | — | — | — | — | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| Merton | 5 | — | 1 | — | — | 1 | 1 | 3 | — |
| Newham | 2 | 1 | — | — | 1 | — | — | 1 | — |
| Richmond upon Thames | 5 | — | 2 | — | — | 2 | 2 | — | 1 |
| Southwark | 6 | 1 | 2 | — | 1 | 2 | 2 | — | 1 |
| Sutton | 4 | — | — | — | — | — | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Tower Hamlets | 2 | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | 1 |
| Waltham Forest | 4 | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Wandsworth | 2 | — | 1 | — | — | 1 | — | — | 1 |
| Westminster | 2 | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | 1 |

n/a = not available.

[1] ASBOs are available only to persons aged 10 years or over.

[2] Between 1 April 1999 and 31 May 2000 data were collected on aggregate numbers only by police force area.

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many antisocial behaviour orders were issued to *(a)* girls and *(b)* boys under 16 years in each London borough in each year since 1999. [5315]

**Hazel Blears:** The available information is given in the following table.

*The number of ASBOs issued at all courts to persons age 10 to 15 years, as reported to the Home Office, by sex and by period, where restrictions were imposed within Greater London local government authority areas, from 1 June 2000[1] to 30 September 2004 (latest available).*

| Area | 1 June 2000 to 31 December 2000 | | 2001 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Female | Male | Female | Male |
| Barnet | — | — | — | — |
| Bexley | — | 2 | — | — |
| Brent | — | — | — | — |
| Bromley | — | 1 | — | — |
| Camden | — | 3 | — | — |
| Croydon | — | — | — | — |
| Ealing | — | — | — | — |
| Greenwich | — | — | — | — |
| Hackney | — | — | — | 1 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | — | — | — | — |
| Islington | — | — | — | — |
| Kensington and Chelsea Royal Borough | — | — | — | — |
| Kingston-on-Thames | — | — | — | — |
| Lewisham | — | — | — | 2 |
| Merton | — | — | — | — |
| Newham | — | — | — | 1 |
| Richmond upon Thames | — | — | — | — |
| Southwark | — | — | — | — |
| Sutton | — | 2 | — | — |
| Waltham Forest | — | — | — | — |
| Wandsworth | — | — | — | — |
| Total | — | 8 | — | 4 |

| Area | 2002 | | 2003 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Female | Male | Female | Male |
| Barnet | — | — | — | — |
| Bexley | — | — | — | — |
| Brent | — | — | — | 1 |
| Bromley | — | — | — | — |
| Camden | — | — | 1 | 1 |
| Croydon | — | — | — | 1 |
| Ealing | — | — | — | — |
| Greenwich | — | — | 1 | 1 |
| Hackney | — | — | — | 1 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | — | — | — | — |
| Islington | — | — | — | 1 |
| Kensington and Chelsea Royal Borough | — | — | — | — |
| Kingston-on-Thames | — | — | — | 1 |
| Lewisham | — | — | — | — |
| Merton | — | — | — | — |
| Newham | — | — | — | — |
| Richmond upon Thames | — | — | — | — |
| Southwark | — | — | 1 | 3 |
| Sutton | — | — | — | — |
| Waltham Forest | — | — | — | — |
| Wandsworth | — | — | — | — |
| Total | — | — | 3 | 10 |

| Area | 1 January 2004 to 30 September 2004 | | Total issued |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Female | Male | |
| Barnet | — | 1 | 1 |
| Bexley | — | — | 2 |
| Brent | — | — | 1 |
| Bromley | — | 1 | |
| Camden | — | 1 | 6 |
| Croydon | — | 1 | 1 |
| Ealing | — | 4 | 4 |
| Greenwich | — | — | 2 |
| Hackney | — | — | 2 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | — | 2 | 2 |
| Islington | — | — | 1 |
| Kensington and Chelsea Royal Borough | — | 1 | 1 |
| Kingston-on-Thames | — | — | 1 |
| Lewisham | — | — | 2 |
| Merton | — | 2 | 2 |
| Newham | — | — | 1 |
| Richmond upon Thames | — | 4 | 4 |
| Southwark | — | 1 | 5 |
| Sutton | — | — | 2 |
| Waltham Forest | — | 1 | 1 |
| Wandsworth | — | 1 | 1 |
| Total | — | 19 | 44 |

[1] Between 1 April 1999 and 31 May 2000 data were collected on aggregate numbers only by police force area (pfa). During this period a total of nine ASBOs were issued within Greater London pfa.

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make a statement on the *(a)* number and *(b)* application of antisocial behaviour orders in Hemel Hempstead constituency. [5376]

**Hazel Blears:** Antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) have been available to the courts since one April 1999. From commencement up to 31 May 2000 data were collected, on aggregate numbers only, by police force area. From copies of the orders received, since 1 June 2000, we are able to determine the local government authority areas in which restrictions are imposed. The number of ASBOs issued, as notified to the Home Office, in the local government authority area of Dacorum borough council, in which the Hemel Hempstead constituency is situated, from 1 June 2000 to 30 September 2005 (latest available) is seven. It is for local agencies to decide upon the application of ASBOs across the Dacorum borough council area as part of their overall strategy to reduce antisocial behaviour.

**Mr. Clifton-Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many under 16-year-olds have breached the terms of their antisocial behaviour orders. [6220]

**Hazel Blears:** Of those antisocial behaviour orders reported to the Home Office as having been issued between 1 June 2000 and 31 December 2003, 199 were breached by persons aged under 16. Breach data for 2004 will be available towards the end of the year.

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of antisocial behaviour orders have been breached; and how many of those concerned were given a custodial sentence. [6460]

**Hazel Blears** *[holding answer 22 June 2005]:* Of the 1,892 antisocial behaviour orders reported to the Home Office as having been issued between 1 June 2000 and 31 December 2003, 793 or 42 per cent. were breached at least once in the same period. Of these, 437 or 55 per cent. resulted in a custodial sentence either on the first or later occasion. Breach data for 2004 will be available towards the end of the year.

**Mark Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many antisocial behaviour orders have been issued in *(a)* the Dyfed Powys Constabulary and *(b)* the Ceredigion constituency in each year since their introduction. [7269]

**Hazel Blears:** The available information is given in the table.

*Number of ASBOs issued at all courts, as reported to the Home Office, within the Dyfed Powys criminal justice system area, and where restrictions have been imposed in the local government authority area of Ceredigion county council, by period, from 1 April 1999 to 30 September 2004*[1]

| | *Dyfed Powys*[2] | *Ceredigion county council*[3] |
|---|---|---|
| 1 April 1999 to 31 May 2000[4] | — | — |
| 1 June to 31 December 2000 | — | — |
| 2001 | — | — |
| 2002 | — | — |
| 2003 | 11 | 8 |
| 1 January to 30 September 2004 | 7 | — |
| Total | 18 | 8 |

[1] Latest available.

[2] Dyfed Powys criminal justice system area is coterminous with Dyfed Powys police force area.

[3] Unitary authority area in which restrictions are imposed.

[4] Between 1 April 1999 and 31 May 2000 data were collected on aggregate numbers only by police force area.

### Asset Recovery Scheme

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many full-time equivalent officers have been engaged by each police authority area in asset recovery in each year since the introduction of asset recovery listed in descending order. [6165]

**Hazel Blears** *[holding answer 27 June 2005]:* The number of asset recovery financial investigators in each police authority area in 2003–04 is set out in the table. These are the latest data available. The Home Office is funding 88 financial investigator posts on asset recovery in police forces at a cost of £2.6 million a year from 2002–03 to 2005–06. The Home Office is also funding five Multi-Agency Regional Asset Recovery Teams at a cost of up to £12 million per year.

*Number of financial investigators in Police Financial Investigation Units (2003–04)*

| | *Number of financial investigators* |
|---|---|
| Metropolitan Police Service | 47 |
| Greater Manchester Police | 14.33 |
| Avon and Somerset | 13.4 |
| Merseyside | 12.75 |
| City of London Police | 11.6 |
| Thames Valley Police | 10 |
| West Midlands | 10 |
| West Yorkshire | 9 |
| Cambridgeshire | 8.5 |
| Hampshire | 8 |
| Norfolk | 8 |
| Staffordshire | 8 |
| Northumbria | 7 |
| South Wales | 7 |
| South Yorkshire | 7 |
| Devon and Cornwall | 6.7 |
| Bedfordshire | 6 |
| Essex | 6 |
| Gloucestershire | 6 |
| Hertfordshire | 6 |
| Kent | 6 |
| Lancashire | 6 |
| Nottinghamshire | 6 |
| Warwickshire | 6 |
| West Mercia | 6 |
| Wiltshire | 6 |
| Sussex | 5.5 |
| Derbyshire | 5 |
| Humberside | 5 |
| Leicestershire | 5 |
| North Yorkshire | 5 |
| Surrey | 5 |
| British Transport Police | 5 |
| Cheshire | 4.75 |
| Dorset | 4 |
| Dyfed-Powys | 4 |
| Gwent | 4 |
| North Wales | 4 |
| Lincolnshire | 3.3 |
| Cleveland | 3 |
| Northamptonshire | 3 |
| Suffolk | 3 |
| Durham | 2.5 |
| Cumbria | 2 |
| Ministry of Defence | 1 |
| Total | 321.33 |

### Asylum Seekers

**Mr. Malins:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the number of failed asylum seekers in the UK. [2849]

**Mr. McNulty:** Information on the total number of asylum seekers currently in the UK, including failed asylum seekers, is not available. This could be obtained only at disproportionate cost by examination of individual case records. In addition some applicants may leave the United Kingdom without informing the Immigration Service. E-borders and ID cards will enable us to monitor this more precisely in the future. The Home Office published on 30 June, the outcome of the assessment of the applicability to the UK of the methods used by researchers and Government agencies in other countries to estimate the size of the illegal population. The methods had been identified in the report by the Migration Research Unit (MRU) of University College London on "Sizing the Illegally Resident Population in the UK". A copy of the RDS On-line report 29/05—"Sizing the unauthorised (illegal) migrant population in the United Kingdom in

2001" can be found at: http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/notes/june_summaries.html. As in other countries, the number of "unauthorised" or "illegal" migrants—including failed asylum seekers—in the UK is unknown. The MRU report published last year reviewed the methods used in other countries and assessed their viability for use in the UK. That report suggested that a method which could be applied in the UK is the "residual method" used in the United States. The new report details how that method has been applied in the UK. It must be emphasised that, while this method is one that can be used with data available for the UK, over-reliance must not be placed on this result in the absence of the means to produce other estimates using different methods.

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what procedures are followed when an illegal asylum seeker is detected inside UK borders. [5404]

**Mr. McNulty:** The Immigration Nationality Directorate (IND) does not recognise the term "illegal asylum seeker". It is not illegal to seek asylum. However, a proportion of those who enter or remain in the United Kingdom illegally will subsequently seek asylum. IND will treat as an offender liable to be removed any person who has entered the United Kingdom without permission or who has obtained permission to enter the country by deception or who has overstayed. However, where a person states that they have a fear of return to their country of origin and claims asylum, the application is considered in the light of all the known circumstances before any action to remove is undertaken. Illegal entrants and overstayers are liable to detention or may be granted temporary admission with conditions to reside at a particular address and report regularly to an immigration reporting centre while their asylum claim is under consideration.

**Alistair Burt:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will list complaints made by asylum detainees against escort services to and from Yarl's Wood and Oakington in the last six months, broken down by *(a)* source and *(b)* date; and what the (i) outcomes and (ii) dates of the outcomes of the investigations into these complaints were. [8452]

**Mr. McNulty:** For reasons of confidentiality it is not possible to list by name the complaints received. In the last six months, 10 complaints were received from asylum detainees against escort services to and from Yarl's Wood and Oakington. Of these, three were received in January, one in March, two in April, and four in May. Eight of these cases have been referred to the police as the allegation was one of assault. In all of these eight cases the police investigation is still ongoing. In the remaining two cases the Escorting Contract Monitor for the UK Immigration Services carried out an internal investigation into the conduct of the escorts. Both complaints were found to be unsubstantiated.

**Alistair Burt:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many complaints have been made by detainees about their treatment by escort services to and from Yarl's Wood detention centre in the last six months. [8456]

**Mr. McNulty:** In the last six months, 11 complaints have been received from detainees about their treatment by escort services to and from Yarl's Wood.

**Alistair Burt:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for asylum were received from Zimbabwean nationals in *(a)* 2000, *(b)* 2001, *(c)* 2002, *(d)* 2003 and *(e)* 2004; and if he will make a statement. [8457]

**Mr. McNulty:** Information on asylum applications for nationals of Zimbabwe are published quarterly and annually. The information requested is published in the annual bulletin Asylum Statistics United Kingdom 2003, and (data for 2004) Asylum Statistics: 4th Quarter 2004 United Kingdom. Copies are available from the Library and on the Home Office Research Development and Statistics Directorate website at http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html

**Mr. Hood:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many failed asylum seekers have been sent back to Zimbabwe in the past 18 months. [8839]

**Mr. McNulty:** Information on the destination for the removal of failed asylum seekers have only been available since the beginning of 2004. The latest published information on removal of asylum seekers covers the first quarter of 2005.In the 15 months from January 2004 until March 2005 195 principal asylum applicants were removed to Zimbabwe. A further 15 dependants of asylum seekers were removed to Zimbabwe in the same time period. These figures include people departing voluntarily after enforcement action has been initiated against them and people leaving under Assisted Voluntary Returns programmes run by the International Organisation for Migration. Figures have been rounded to the nearest five. Information on removals of asylum seekers for the second quarter of 2005 will be published in August on the Home Office website at http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html

**Kate Hoey:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum seekers are on hunger strike in Harmondsworth detention centre. [7593]

**Mr. McNulty:** As of the evening of 3 July, there were 16 detainees who were refusing food at Harmondsworth removal centre.

### British Citizens/Subjects

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the differences are between a British citizen and a British subject; and if he will make a statement. [8965]

**Mr. McNulty:** All British citizens have the right of abode in the United Kingdom, and all are deemed to be "nationals of the United Kingdom" for the purposes of the Treaty Establishing the European Community. Most British subjects do not have the right of abode in the United Kingdom, but some do on the basis of a pre-1983 marital or ancestral connection with this country. British subjects who do have the right of abode here are deemed to be "nationals of the United Kingdom" for European Community purposes. Other distinctions

may stem from statutory or non-statutory rules for which the Home Office is not responsible, or from the laws of other countries.

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what travel regulations apply to British subjects married to British citizens. [8966]

**Mr. McNulty:** A British subject who is not expressed by the Immigration Act 1971 to have the right of abode in the United Kingdom is subject to control under the Act. The requirements applicable to such a person seeking to join a spouse who is present and settled in the United Kingdom are in part eight of Statement of Changes in Immigration Rules HC 395. Such travel regulations may be imposed on British subjects by any other state are, subject to any international agreements it may have entered into, a matter entirely for that state.

### Bus Drivers

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many bus drivers were charged with *(a)* drink driving, *(b)* speeding and *(c)* operating a mobile phone while driving in London in each of the last five years. [7462]

**Paul Goggins:** Information on the number of persons charged by the police by type of offence is not collected centrally.

### CCTV (Lancashire)

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make a statement on the funding for CCTV in Lancashire. [6610]

**Hazel Blears:** Lancashire will receive £3,189,361 from Home Office crime reduction funding streams in the financial year 2005–06. Crime reduction funding is allocated directly to the local Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs) through the Building Safer Communities Fund and to Basic Command Unit (BCU) Commanders through the BCU fund. These funding streams finance a variety of projects and interventions, including CCTV, to tackle local crime priorities. It is open to the CDRPs and BCU Commanders in Lancashire to decide whether to include CCTV projects in their spending plans and local crime reduction priorities.

### Community Support Officers

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of the extra community support officers that the Government have proposed to recruit by 2008 are to be posted in London; and if he will make a statement. [5988]

**Hazel Blears:** At the end of March 2005 there were 6,300 CSOs in England and Wales. Of these, 2,143 were deployed by the Metropolitan police. We are providing significant, additional resources through the Neighbourhood Policing Fund (NPF) to support an increase in the numbers of CSOs to 24,000 by 2008. This investment will help forces deliver the commitment that by 2008 every area of the country will benefit from dedicated neighbourhood policing teams. We will announce later in the year, following discussions with the Association of Chief Police Officers and the Association of Police Authorities, what NPF funding will be allocated for each police authority. It will be for the commissioner to determine the deployment of CSOs within the Metropolitan police.

**Mr. McFadden:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police community support officers there are in Wolverhampton; and how many there are in the constituencies of Wolverhampton *(a)* South East, *(b)* South West and *(c)* North East. [9081]

**Hazel Blears:** Information on community support officer strength is not collected at constituency level. The Home Office Police Service Strength Statistical Bulletin, which will be published later this month , will provide data on the number of community support officers (CSOs) in each force at 31 March 2005.

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many community support officers are *(a)* on duty, *(b)* being trained and *(c)* to be trained in 2005–06 in Lancashire. [9117]

**Hazel Blears:** This information is not collected centrally. The training and deployment of Community Support Officers (CSOs) is an operational matter for the Chief Constable. The Home Office Police Service Strength Statistical Bulletin, which will be published later this month, will provide data on the number of CSOs at 31 March 2005.

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the working structure is between police community support officers and local community wardens in Chorley. [9118]

**Hazel Blears:** This information is not held centrally. The deployment of community support officers, including joint working with community wardens and other members of the extended policing family, is an operational matter for the chief constable.

### Crime

**Mr. Malins:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of crime was *(a)* alcohol-related and *(b)* drug-related in each of the last three years. [2831]

**Hazel Blears:** Routine crime statistics used for monitoring overall crime trends do not contain information on the offender's drinking or drug habits. It is therefore not possible to provide an estimate of the proportion of all crime that is either alcohol-related or drug-related. However, there is some information available on this area.

*(a)* The 2003 Offending, Crime and Justice Survey (OCJS) is a large scale nationally representative self-report offending survey of 10 to 65-year-olds living in private household in England and Wales. In the 2003 OCJS one in 10 incidents reported (10 per cent.) were committed when the offender had taken alcohol. Across offences as a whole, 6 per cent. of offenders said what happened was at least partly due to being drunk, when asked for their motivation for offending. A much higher proportion of criminal damage incidents (26 per cent.) and vehicle related thefts (16 per cent.) were attributed to drunkenness than violent incidents (7 per cent).

*(b)* Most crime by drug users is acquisitive crime. The Home Office sponsored New English and Welsh Arrestee Drug Abuse Monitoring (NEW-ADAM) survey, which involved interviewing and drug testing those arrested by the police, provides an insight into the proportion of crimes that are drug related. In interviews carried out between 1999 and 2001, 31 per cent. of all arrestees included in the survey and 43 per cent. of those held for property offences tested positive for opiates, such as heroin. However, this survey is not nationally representative. A new Arrestee Survey is currently being undertaken which will provide nationally representative information on the proportion of crime that is drug-related in the future.

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many violent crimes there were in Hemel Hempstead constituency for each year since 1997. [5323]

**Hazel Blears:** The information requested is given in the tables. Hemel Hempstead comes within the Dacorum Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) area and data at CDRP level has only been collected from 1999–2000. Since 1997, there have been two major changes to the way in which crime is recorded. The effect of the change in counting rules in 1998 was to artificially increase recorded violent crime nationally by more than 80 per cent. while it is estimated that the effect of the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS) in April 2002 caused a further 20 per cent. increase in recorded violent crime in its first year.

*Table 1: Recorded offences of violent crime in the Dacorum Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership area 1999–2000 to 2001–02*

| | *Number of violent crimes* |
|---|---|
| 1999–2000 | 555 |
| 2000–01 | 607 |
| 2001–02 | 656 |

*Note:*
The data in this table is prior to the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard. These figures are not directly comparable with those for later years.

*Table 2: Recorded offences of violent crime in the Dacorum Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership area 2002–03 and 2003–04*

| | *Number of violent crimes* |
|---|---|
| 2002–03 | 927 |
| 2003–04 | 1,604 |

*Note:*
The data in this table takes account of the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002. These figures are not directly comparable with those for earlier years.

**Mr. Walker:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many violent crimes were reported in Hertfordshire in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [792]

**Hazel Blears:** The available information is given in the tables. Since 1997, there have been two major changes to the way in which crime is recorded. The effect of the change in counting rules in 1998 was to artificially increase recorded violent crime nationally by more than 80 per cent., while it is estimated that the effect of the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS) in April 2002 caused a further 20 per cent. increase in recorded violent crime in its first year.

*Table 1: Violent crimes[1] recorded by the police in Hertfordshire, 1997 to 2001–02*

| | *Number of offences* |
|---|---|
| 1997 | 2,890 |
| 1998–99[2] | 3,884 |
| 1999–2000 | 4,471 |
| 2000–01 | 5,390 |
| 2001–02 | 5,777 |

[1] Includes offences of violence against the person, sexual offences and robbery.
[2] Using the expanded coverage and revised counting rules which came into effect on 1 April1998.
*Note:*
The data in this table is prior to the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard. These figures are not directly comparable with those for later years

*Table 2: Violent crimes[1] recorded by the police in Hertfordshire, 2002–03 and 2003–04*

| | *Number of offences* |
|---|---|
| 2002–03 | 9,082 |
| 2003–04 | 13,972 |

[1] Includes offences of violence against the person, sexual offences and robbery.
*Note:*
The data in this table takes account of the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002. These figures are not directly comparable with those for earlier years

**Dr. Kumar:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of reported crimes in Middlesbrough, South and East Cleveland were classified as *(a)* violent crimes and *(b)* distraction burglaries in each year since 1997. [5842]

**Hazel Blears:** The available information relates to the Middlesbrough Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) area. The proportion of all recorded offences which were violent crimes was 8 per cent. in 2001–02, 13 per cent. in 2002–03 and 16 per cent. in 2003–04. Figures for earlier years are not available. Because of the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS) in April 2002, violent crime figures before and after that date are not directly comparable. It is estimated that the effect of the introduction nationally of the NCRS in April 2002 was a 20 per cent. increase in recorded violent crime in its first year. Distraction burglary figures are only available for 2003–04 and show that such offences accounted for 0.2 per cent. of all recorded crime in the Middlesbrough CDRP.

**Mr. Hands:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the clear-up rates for *(a)* burglary, *(b)* robbery, *(c)* violent crime, *(d)* car crime and *(e)* sexual offences were in the London borough of Hammersmith and Fulham in the last year for which figures are available. [848]

**Hazel Blears:** The available information relates to the Hammersmith and Fulham Basic Command Unit and is given in the table.

*Clear-up rates for selected offences in the Hammersmith and Fulham Basic Command Unit—2003–04*

| *Offence* | *Percentage cleared up* |
|---|---|
| Domestic burglary | 8 |
| Robbery | 11 |
| Violent crime[1] | 24 |
| Theft of a vehicle | 10 |
| Theft from a vehicle | 1 |
| Sexual offences | 22 |

[1] Comprises of violence against the person, sexual offences and robbery.

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will list the *(a)* agencies and *(b)* partnerships responsible for the reduction of crime in the Wycombe constituency. [6841]

**Hazel Blears** *[holding answer 23 June 2005]:* The partnership responsible for the reduction of crime and disorder under the provisions of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 as amended by the Police Reform Act 2002 in the Wycombe constituency is the Wycombe Community Safety Partnership. The partnership consists of the statutory agencies named as responsible authorities in the Act, namely Wycombe district council, Buckinghamshire county council, Thames Valley police, Thames Valley police authority, Wycombe primary care trust and Buckinghamshire fire and rescue service. In addition, the following agencies form part of the Wycombe Community Safety Partnership; Buckinghamshire Drug Action Team, Thames Valley Probation Service, Wycombe Youth Offending Service, Crimestoppers and The Priory Centre.

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what crime detection rates have been in Wales in each year since the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard, broken down by police force area. [1080]

**Hazel Blears:** The National Crime Recording Standard was introduced in April 2002 and the detection rates since that date are given in the following table.

*Detection rates for recorded crime in Wales*

| *Police force area* | *Percentage of offences detected*[1] *2002–03* | *2003–04* |
|---|---|---|
| Dyfed-Powys | 68 | 47 |
| Gwent | 48 | 45 |
| North Wales | 29 | 33 |
| South Wales | 29 | 29 |
| Wales | 36 | 35 |

[1] Changes in detection rates may have been influenced by ongoing effects of audits of the National Crime Recording Standard.

## Criminal Assets

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what criteria he used to decide the amount given to each police force from the extra £13 million in funding under the asset recovery incentive scheme. [5792]

**Hazel Blears:** As agreed with the Association of Chief Police Officers, incentive payments were based on the performance of each force in 2004–05 in the recovery of criminal assets. The amount given to each force was determined by their percentage contribution to the total value of cash forfeitures and confiscation orders obtained by the police service in 2004–05.

## Criminal Offences

**Mr. Allen:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many criminal offences have been created in legislation sponsored by his Department since May 1997; and how many have been abolished. [6725]

**Hazel Blears:** The Home Office does not keep a central record of all the criminal offences that it has created or abolished. The latest information available shows that between one May 1997 and January 2004, the Home Office created 357 new criminal offences. This figure includes offences which have been modified or re-enacted.

## Disorder Penalty Notices

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many penalty notices for disorder for throwing objects at trains have been issued by the *(a)* Metropolitan police and *(b)* British Transport police in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [5989]

**Paul Goggins:** In the period 1 January 2004 to 30 April 2005, the latest date for which figures are available, the number of penalty notices for disorder issued for throwing stones or things likely to cause damage or injury at trains is *(a)* six by the Metropolitan police and *(b)* two by the British Transport police. The British Transport police have yet to fully implement use of penalty notices nationally.

## DNA Records

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many DNA records were held by each police force in England in each of the last five years for which figures are available, broken down by *(a)* gender and *(b)* ethnicity; and if he will make a statement. [5727]

**Hazel Blears:** The information requested will be placed in the Library.

## Dog Theft

**Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps he is taking to reduce the incidence of dog theft; and if he will make a statement. [6137]

**Hazel Blears:** There is no national strategy to counter dog theft. Where this emerges as a pressing local crime issue, it would be for the police, in consultation with the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership, to take appropriate action.

## Domestic Violence

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* women and *(b)* men have been recorded as victims of domestic violence in each of the last five years, broken down by age. [5618]

**Hazel Blears:** Domestic violence is not separately identified in recorded crime statistics collected by the Home Office. Figures are available within the suite of Strategic Performance Indicators for the police, relating to domestic violence "incidents" notified by police forces in England and Wales, however this is whether or

not they are subsequently recorded as crimes. The British Crime Survey (BCS) routinely provides information on the number of incidents of domestic violence against men and women (but not on the actual number of victims), but this is not broken down by age (see the following table). The 2003–04 BCS estimated that there were, in total, 298,000 incidents of domestic violence against women in England and Wales, and 150,000 against men. The number of incidents of domestic violence as measured by the BCS has decreased by 42 per cent. from 1999 to 2003–04 BCS interviews. The BCS figures are estimates only. As they are derived from a sample they are subject to sampling error, also the context of the face-to-face BCS interview means the estimates are certain to be underestimates of the true extent due to the fact that some respondents may be unwilling to reveal experience of domestic violence to interviewers. To address this, self-completion components for those aged 16–59 on domestic violence have been included in the 1996, 2001, 2004–05, and 2005–06 BCS. Results from the 2001 BCS self-completion module on domestic violence were published in Home Office Research Study No. 276, deposited in the Library. This more confidential approach to measurement, revealed prevalence (percentage of population victim at least once) rates for last year domestic assault that were approximately five times higher than in the main face-to-face BCS. This report also provides the prevalence risk of domestic violence for men and women by age group (Table 5.12). This showed that risk of victimisation generally decreased with age, for both men and women.

*Number of BCS incidents of domestic violence, 1999 to 2003–04—England and Wales*

*Thousand*

| | *1999* | *2001–02* | *2002–03* | *2003–04* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Women | 560 | 514 | 366 | 298 |
| Men | 194 | 122 | 135 | 150 |

*Source:*
2000, 2001–02, 2002–03 and 2003–04 British Crime Surveys

**Mr. Malins:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women have been (i) charged with and (ii) convicted of assault involving domestic violence in each of the last five years for which figures are available; and what proportion were given a custodial sentence in each year. [6598]

**Hazel Blears** *[holding answer 23 June 2005]:* Statistics on the number of persons charged with an offence are not collected centrally. Offences involving domestic violence are not identifiable on the Home Office Court Proceedings database as no specific statute covers such offences. Prosecutions brought might range from common assault to homicide depending on the level of violence, and as the circumstances of the offences for which prosecutions are brought are not collected centrally, offences involving domestic violence cannot be distinguished from other offences within these categories. However, we have now developed a new Key Diagnostic Indicator with the Crown Prosecution Service that will complement the new Compass Case Management System, to track domestic violence cases. This new indicator was implemented in April 2005.

## Drugs

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps the Government are taking to tackle the sale of drugs *(a)* on streets and *(b)* in nightclubs. [8539]

**Paul Goggins:** The Government's strategy is to intervene at all points in the drug supply chain. To this end it—has established a framework within which the police and other enforcement agencies deal with drugs supply, through the National Drugs Strategy, the National Policing Plan and the Police Performance Assessment Framework—has provided record funding to police forces to enable them to carry out their responsibilities. Expenditure on policing supported by Government grant or spent centrally on services for the police has increased by 39 per cent. or over £3 billion between 2000–01 and 2005–06—plans to spend £1.5 billion in support of the National Drugs Strategy in 2005–06—has created the Serious Organised Crime Agency to tackle organised and sophisticated criminal gangs who supply street dealers, and has put in place, through the Drugs Act 2005, additional powers to make it even more difficult for street dealers to avoid justice. Additionally the Government, in partnership with ACPO and others, actively promote best practice in policing drugs markets including issuing guidance for club owners and local authority licensing departments on drugs and nightclubs.

## Engagements

**Richard Ottaway:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the Minister for Immigration's official engagements are for Thursday 30 June. [8336]

**Mr. McNulty:** I had several official engagements with ministerial colleagues and others on Thursday 30 June.

## Firearms Offences

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been convicted of offences under the Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003 for carrying a replica or imitation firearm, broken down by *(a)* year and *(b)* police authority; and what the average sentence given for this offence was. [6902]

**Hazel Blears** *[holding answer 30 June 2005]:* Offences under the Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003, section 37 came into force on 20 January 2004. Statistics of court proceedings for 2004 will be published in the autumn.

**Mr. Garnier:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) if he will introduce a statutory definition of lethality in firearms legislation in relation to the definition of a firearm as a lethal-barrelled weapon; [8677]

(2) if he will introduce a limit of one joule of muzzle energy as the statutory limit to which firearms legislation should apply; [8678]

(3) when the Government's response to the Home Office Firearms Consultation 2004 will be published; and if he will ensure that future firearms legislation is based on its findings. [8679]

**Hazel Blears:** We received around 4,500 responses to the consultation paper on firearms controls. These have all been read and analysed and we are considering how we want to proceed. A summary of responses will be published. The need for a statutory definition of lethality linked to one joule of muzzle energy, or any other changes, will be considered in this context.

### Gun and Drug Crime

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what research he has commissioned into the link between gun and drug crime. [3702]

**Hazel Blears:** The Home Office sponsored New English and Welsh Arrestee Drug Abuse Monitoring (NEW-ADAM) survey, which involved interviewing and drug testing those arrested by the police, included questions on carrying guns. A paper based on the data has been published by T H Bennett and K Holloway, "Possession and use of illegal guns among criminals in England and Wales" (Howard Journal of Criminal Justice, Vol 43, No three, pp 237–252). The Home Office has also conducted an arrestee survey which may highlight this issue. The results of this survey will be published later this year. There have also been discussions in the context of the Home Secretary's round table on gun crime, which has looked at possible links and appropriate interventions. This research is used to inform policy and legislative proposals. The Violent Crime Reduction Bill includes a number of measures designed to further tighten the firearms legislation, including a ban on the manufacture, import or sale of realistic imitation firearms, an increase from a maximum of six to 12 months sentence for carrying an imitation firearm in a public place without lawful authority or reasonable excuse, and an increase in the minimum age for possession of an air weapon to 18. The Bill also includes a new offence of using another person to look after, hide or transport a dangerous weapon. These measures complement existing legislation and demonstrate our determination to tackle gun crime.

### Happy Slapping

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many incidents of the practice known as 'happy slapping' were reported to the police in each of the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [6357]

**Hazel Blears:** The information requested is not collected centrally. An offence captured by the practice known as 'happy slapping' would be recorded according to how it is defined in law i.e. common assault, actual bodily harm etc.

### Illegal Immigration

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many illegal immigrants found within UK borders since 1997 have been convicted under the terrorism laws. [8532]

**Mr. McNulty:** The information requested is not available. It would be disproportionate to require the police and courts to obtain, verify and record this information in all cases. Information on nationality and immigration status can be a key part of the investigation of terrorist offences and the police and immigration service work closely together in these cases. The available evidence suggests that only a small number of foreign nationals, asylum seekers or refugees commit serious crimes. Statistics on the operation of the Prevention of Terrorism legislation from 1979 to 2001 are available on the Research and Statistics section of the Home Office website. Statistics since 11 September 2001, under the Terrorism Act 2000 are also available. These can be found in the terrorism section of the Home Office website.

### Indefinite Leave to Remain

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects all families who have applied for indefinite leave to remain under the one-off exercise to allow families who have been in the UK for at least three years to stay to be informed of the decision. [7469]

**Mr. McNulty:** It is not possible to provide a precise time scale of when all those currently being considered under the exercise will have had a decision made on their case. The time it takes to reach a decision depends both on individual circumstances and on the number of cases in the consideration process. Sometimes people do not complete the Family ILR Exercise Questionnaire properly, or fail to provide the documentation requested. The checks we conduct on potentially eligible applicants can also take some time to complete, depending on individual circumstances. We also encounter a number of complex cases that can take some time to resolve. The main factor, though, which makes providing a meaningful completion date for the exercise difficult, is the substantial number of cases we still have to consider. In addition, cases we had not previously identified for consideration under the exercise continue to come to light which we are also required to respond to. We are hoping to have completed consideration of the majority of cases by the end of April 2006. Key statistics relating to the Family ILR Exercise were published as part of the quarterly asylum statistics on 17 May. These show the current status of the exercise up to and including 31 March 2005 and are available to the public on the Home Office (HO) Research Development and Statistics (RDS) website. The full web address is:www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html. These statistics will be updated in August to cover the second quarter of 2005.

### Knives in School

**Mr. Willis:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many incidents of school age children bringing knives or other offensive weapons into schools were *(a)* reported to the police and *(b)* resulted in prosecution or caution in each year between 1997 and 2005. [4260]

**Hazel Blears:** The Home Office collects recorded crime data on offences of possession of offensive weapons. Within that offence classification, there are two offences relating to possession of a blade or other offensive weapon on school premises. However, these

offences cannot be separately identified from other possession of weapons offences. The Court Proceedings Database holds details of number of defendants proceeded against and cautioned and these figures are given in the table. Figures for 2004 and 2005 are not yet available.

*Number of persons cautioned and proceeded against at magistrates courts for certain offences relating to knives on school premises—England and Wales 1997 to 20031*

| Statute | Offence description | Persons cautioned | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 20002 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 |
| Criminal Justice Act 1988 Sec 139A(1)(5)(a) added by Offensive Weapons Act 1996 Sec 4(1) | Having an article with blade or point on school premises[3] | 11 | 30 | 22 | 36 | 48 | 46 | 40 |
| Criminal Justice Act 1988 Sec 139A(2)(5)(b) added by Offensive Weapons Act 1996 Sec 4(1) | Possession of offensive weapons without lawful authority or reasonable excuse on school premises | 19 | 31 | 28 | 40 | 46 | 29 | 60 |

| Statute | Offence description | Persons proceeded against | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 20002 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 |
| Criminal Justice Act 1988 Sec 139A(1)(5)(a) added by Offensive Weapons Act 1996 Sec 4(1) | Having an article with blade or point on school premises[3] | 23 | 21 | 10 | 19 | 25 | 22 | 25 |
| Criminal Justice Act 1988 Sec 139A(2)(5)(b) added by Offensive Weapons Act 1996 Sec 4(1) | Possession of offensive weapons without lawful authority or reasonable excuse on school premises | 8 | 15 | 18 | 13 | 18 | 21 | 20 |

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Staffordshire police were only able to submit sample data for persons proceeded against and convicted in the magistrates courts in 2000. Although sufficient to estimate higher orders of data, these data are not robust enough at a detailed level and have been excluded from the table.
[3] Data excluded for West Mercia PFA, until clarification of these cases is obtained.

## Licensing Act

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people in each *(a)* petty sessional division area and *(b)* police authority area have been (i) prosecuted and (ii) convicted under (A) section 172, (B) section 172A and (C) section 173 of the Licensing Act 1964 in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [3248]

**Hazel Blears:** Statistics from the Home Office Court Proceedings Database on the number of people prosecuted and convicted under sections 172, 172A and 173 of the Licensing Act 1964, England and Wales, 1997–2003 are contained in the tables, broken down by police force area and petty sessional area. Statistics for 2004 will be available in the autumn. From 4 April 2005 the offence under section 172(3) of the Licensing Act 1964 (selling alcohol to a drunken person) became one for which penalty notices for disorder (PND) are available. Provisional data reported to the Home Office in April, latest available, shows that four PNDs were issued for this offence.

*Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and convicted at all courts for certain offences under the Licensing Act 1964, by petty sessional area, 1997–2003[1]*

| Offence description | Principal statute | Petty sessional area | 1997 | | 1998 | | 1999 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | Proceeded against | Found guilty | Proceeded against | Found guilty | Proceeded against | Found guilty |
| Permitting drunkenness or riotous conduct on the premises or selling liquor to a drunken person | Licensing Act 1964 S.172 | West Berkshire | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| | | Beaconsfield and High Wycombe | — | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| | | Cambridge | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| | | Huntingdonshire | 1 | — | — | — | — | — |
| | | Plymouth District | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| | | Central Devon | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| | | Carlisle and District | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| | | Whitehaven | 1 | — | — | — | — | — |
| | | Manchester | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| | | Oldham | — | — | 1 | 1 | — | — |
| | | Southampton | — | — | 6 | 2 | — | — |
| | | New Forest | — | — | — | — | 1 | 1 |
| | | South East Hampshire | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| | | South Hampshire | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| | | Severnminster | 2 | 2 | — | — | — | — |
| | | Central Hertfordshire | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| | | Isle of Wight | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| | | Medway | — | — | — | — | 1 | 1 |
| | | Knowsley | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| | | Harrogate | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| | | Bow Street | — | — | 4 | 4 | — | — |
| | | Greenwich | — | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| | | South Central | 1 | — | — | — | 1 | 1 |
| | | Horseferry Road | — | — | 7 | 3 | — | — |
| | | Ealing | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| | | Haringey | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| | | Harrow | — | — | — | — | — | — |

*Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and convicted at all courts for certain offences under the Licensing Act 1964, by petty sessional area, 1997–2003*[1]

| Offence description | Principal statute | Petty sessional area | 1997 Proceeded against | 1997 Found guilty | 1998 Proceeded against | 1998 Found guilty | 1999 Proceeded against | 1999 Found guilty |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Brent | – | – | – | – | 4 | 3 |
| | | Rotherham | – | – | – | – | 1 | 1 |
| | | Mid-Staffordshire and Rugeley | – | – | – | – | – | – |
| | | North and East Surrey | – | – | – | – | 1 | 1 |
| | | North West Surrey | 2 | – | 2 | 1 | – | – |
| | | South West Surrey | – | – | 1 | – | – | – |
| | | West Bromwich | – | – | – | – | – | – |
| | | Wolverhampton | – | – | 1 | – | – | – |
| | | Sussex (Western) | – | – | – | – | – | – |
| | | Wrexham Maelor | – | – | – | – | 2 | 2 |
| | | England and Wales | 9 | 4 | 22 | 11 | 13 | 10 |

| Offence description | Principal statute | Petty sessional area | 1997 Proceeded against | 1997 Found guilty | 1998 Proceeded against | 1998 Found guilty | 1999 Proceeded against | 1999 Found guilty |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Relevant person working in licensed premises to permit drunkenness or violent behaviour etc. | Licensing Act 1964 S.172A as added by Criminal Justice & Police Act 2001 S. 32 | Horseferry Road | – | – | – | – | – | – |
| | | England and Wales | – | – | – | – | – | – |
| Person in licensed premises procuring intoxicating liquor for a drunken person or aiding a drunken person to obtain drink in licensed premises | Licensing Act 1964 Sec 173 Licensing (Occasional Permissions) Act 1983 S.3 Sch para 7 | Rochdale, Middleton and Heywood | 2 | 2 | – | – | – | – |
| | | Bow Street | – | – | 1 | 1 | – | – |
| | | South Central | – | – | – | – | 1 | 1 |
| | | West London | – | – | – | – | 1 | – |
| | | Horseferry Road | 1 | – | 3 | 2 | – | – |
| | | Stoke-on-Trent | – | – | 1 | – | – | – |
| | | Warwickshire | – | – | – | – | – | – |
| | | England and Wales | 3 | 2 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 1 |

| Offence description | Principal statute | Petty sessional area | 2000 Proceeded against | 2000 Found guilty | 2001 Proceeded against | 2001 Found guilty | 2002 Proceeded against | 2002 Found guilty |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Permitting drunkenness or riotous conduct on the premises or selling liquor to a drunken person | Licensing Act 1964 S.172 | West Berkshire | 1 | – | – | – | – | – |
| | | Beaconsfield and High Wycombe | – | – | – | – | – | – |
| | | Cambridge | – | – | 1 | 1 | – | – |
| | | Huntingdonshire | – | – | – | – | – | – |
| | | Plymouth District | – | – | – | – | 1 | 1 |
| | | Central Devon | – | – | – | – | 2 | 2 |
| | | Carlisle and District | – | – | 1 | – | – | – |
| | | Whitehaven | – | – | – | – | – | – |
| | | Manchester | 2 | – | – | – | – | – |
| | | Oldham | – | – | – | – | – | – |
| | | Southampton | – | – | – | – | – | – |
| | | New Forest | – | – | – | – | – | – |
| | | South East Hampshire | 1 | – | – | – | – | – |
| | | South Hampshire | – | – | – | – | – | – |
| | | Severnminster | – | – | – | – | – | – |
| | | Central Hertfordshire | – | – | 2 | – | – | – |
| | | Isle of Wight | – | – | – | – | – | – |
| | | Medway | – | – | – | – | – | – |
| | | Knowsley | – | – | 1 | 1 | – | – |
| | | Harrogate | – | – | – | – | – | – |
| | | Bow Street | – | – | 5 | 3 | 1 | 1 |
| | | Greenwich | – | – | – | – | – | – |
| | | South Central | – | – | – | – | – | – |
| | | Horseferry Road | 1 | 1 | – | – | 2 | – |
| | | Ealing | 1 | – | – | – | – | – |
| | | Haringey | 1 | – | – | – | – | – |
| | | Harrow | – | – | – | – | – | – |
| | | Brent | – | – | – | – | – | – |
| | | Rotherham | – | – | – | – | – | – |
| | | Mid-Staffordshire and Rugeley | – | – | – | – | 1 | – |
| | | North and East Surrey | – | – | – | – | – | – |
| | | North West Surrey | – | – | – | – | – | – |
| | | South West Surrey | 1 | – | – | – | – | – |
| | | West Bromwich | 2 | 1 | – | – | – | – |
| | | Wolverhampton | – | – | – | – | – | – |
| | | Sussex (Western) | – | – | – | – | – | – |
| | | Wrexham Maelor | – | – | – | – | – | – |
| | | England and Wales | 10 | 2 | 10 | 5 | 7 | 4 |

| Offence description | Principal statute | Petty sessional area | 2000 Proceeded against | 2000 Found guilty | 2001 Proceeded against | 2001 Found guilty | 2002 Proceeded against | 2002 Found guilty |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Relevant person working in licensed premises to permit drunkenness or violent behaviour etc. | Licensing Act 1964 S.172A as added by Criminal Justice & Police Act 2001 S. 32 | Horseferry Road | — | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| | | England and Wales | — | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| Person in licensed premises procuring intoxicating liquor for a drunken person or aiding a drunken person to obtain drink in licensed premises | Licensing Act 1964 Sec 173 Licensing (Occasional Permissions) Act 1983 S.3 Sch para 7 | Rochdale, Middleton and Heywood | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| | | Bow Street | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| | | South Central | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| | | West London | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| | | Horseferry Road | — | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| | | Stoke-on-Trent | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| | | Warwickshire | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| | | England and Wales | — | — | — | — | 1 | — |

| Offence description | Principal statute | Petty sessional area | 2003 Proceeded against | 2003 Found guilty |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Permitting drunkenness or riotous conduct on the premises or selling liquor to a drunken person | Licensing Act 1964 S.172 | West Berkshire | — | — |
| | | Beaconsfield and High Wycombe | — | — |
| | | Cambridge | 1 | 1 |
| | | Huntingdonshire | — | — |
| | | Plymouth District | — | — |
| | | Central Devon | — | — |
| | | Carlisle and District | — | — |
| | | Whitehaven | — | — |
| | | Manchester | — | — |
| | | Oldham | — | — |
| | | Southampton | — | — |
| | | New Forest | — | — |
| | | South East Hampshire | — | — |
| | | South Hampshire | 2 | — |
| | | Severnminster | — | — |
| | | Central Hertfordshire | — | — |
| | | Isle of Wight | — | — |
| | | Medway | — | — |
| | | Knowsley | — | — |
| | | Harrogate | 1 | 1 |
| | | Bow Street | 2 | 2 |
| | | Greenwich | — | — |
| | | South Central | — | — |
| | | Horseferry Road | — | — |
| | | Ealing | — | — |
| | | Haringey | — | — |
| | | Harrow | — | — |
| | | Brent | — | — |
| | | Rotherham | — | — |
| | | Mid-Staffordshire and Rugeley | — | — |
| | | North and East Surrey | — | — |
| | | North West Surrey | — | — |
| | | South West Surrey | — | — |
| | | West Bromwich | — | — |
| | | Wolverhampton | — | — |
| | | Sussex (Western) | 1 | 1 |
| | | Wrexham Maelor | — | — |
| | | England and Wales | 8 | 6 |

| Offence description | Principal statute | Petty sessional area | 2003 Proceeded against | 2003 Found guilty |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Relevant person working in licensed premises to permit drunkenness or violent behaviour etc. | Licensing Act 1964 S.172A as added by Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 S.32 | Horseferry Road | — | — |
| | | England and Wales | — | — |

| Offence description | Principal statute | Petty sessional area | 2003 Proceeded against | 2003 Found guilty |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Person in licensed premises procuring intoxicating liquor for a drunken person or aiding a drunken person to obtain drink in licensed premises | Licensing Act 1964 Sec 173 Licensing (Occasional Permissions) Act 1983 S.3 Sch para 7 | Rochdale, Middleton and Heywood | — | — |
| | | Bow Street | — | — |
| | | South Central | — | — |
| | | West London | — | — |
| | | Horseferry Road | — | — |
| | | Stoke-on-Trent | — | — |
| | | Warwickshire | 1 | — |
| | | England and Wales | 1 | — |

[1] These data are on a principal offence basis

*Source:*

RDS—Office for Criminal Justice Reform

## Lunar House

**Richard Ottaway:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) whether the Minister for Immigration will attend the South London Citizens' Inquiry into Lunar house; [8337]

(2) for what reasons the Minister for Immigration decided not to give evidence to the South London Citizens' Inquiry into Lunar house. [8338]

**Mr. McNulty:** The Inquiry is focusing on how the Immigration and Nationality Directorate (IND) provides its services at Lunar house. In the light of this it was more appropriate for officials to attend rather than the Minister. Joanna Place and Jeremy Oppenheim, two of the senior directors in IND attended the Inquiry on 30 June.

## Methadone

**Mr. Fabian Hamilton:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the sources of methadone traded illegally. [6991]

**Hazel Blears** *[holding answer 28 June 2005]:* The Home Office have not conducted any systematic assessment of "black market" trading in methadone.

## Motoring Offences (London)

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many people have been prosecuted for driving *(a)* without a licence, *(b)* without insurance and *(c)* without an MOT in each London borough in each of the last five years; [5451]

(2) how many people were prosecuted for having an untaxed vehicle in London in each of the last five years. [5450]

**Paul Goggins:** The following table shows (by London borough) the number of persons proceeded against for failure to produce a driving licence and for using a vehicle uninsured against third party risks. From the Home Office Court Proceedings Database it is not possible to separately identify the specific offence of driving a vehicle without a valid MOT certificate from other vehicle test offences, nor the offence of having an untaxed vehicle from other registration and licence offences.

*Number of persons[1] proceeded against for failing to produce a driving-licence[2] in Greater London by magistrates court/London borough, 1999–2003[3]*

| London boroughs/magistrates courts | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Inner London magistrates courts*[4] | | | | | |
| City of London Police | | | | | |
| Guildhall Justice Rooms | 20 | 38 | 31 | 34 | 53 |
| Total City of London Police | 20 | 38 | 31 | 34 | 53 |
| *Metropolitan police* | | | | | |
| Bow Street | .. | .. | .. | .. | 3 |
| Camberwell Green/Tower Bridge | 2 | 1 | 1 | 3 | .. |
| Greenwich and Woolwich | 2 | .. | .. | 4 | 1 |
| Highbury Corner | 5 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 9 |
| Horseferry Road | 16 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 9 |
| Marylebone | 15 | 2 | .. | .. | .. |
| South Western | 12 | 3 | 1 | .. | 2 |
| Thames | 21 | 18 | 12 | 9 | 12 |
| West London | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| *Outer London boroughs* | | | | | |
| Metropolitan police | | | | | |
| Barking and Dagenham | 2 | 1 | 4 | 6 | 6 |
| Barnet | .. | .. | .. | 5 | 4 |
| Bexley | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Brent | 3 | 14 | 7 | 3 | .. |
| Bromley | 2 | 5 | 2 | 6 | 4 |
| Croydon | 3 | 1 | 4 | 2 | .. |
| Ealing | 11 | 100 | 6 | 3 | .. |
| Enfield | 9 | 14 | 21 | 14 | 8 |
| Haringey | 5 | 10 | 3 | 1 | 1 |
| Harrow | 15 | 9 | 10 | 17 | 52 |
| Havering | 1 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 7 |
| Hillingdon | 10 | 12 | 11 | 5 | 6 |
| Hounslow | 20 | 21 | 17 | 2 | .. |
| Kingston-upon-Thames | 8 | 9 | 8 | 2 | 3 |
| Merton | 3 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 1 |
| Redbridge | 1 | 3 | 10 | 5 | 5 |
| Richmond upon Thames | 8 | 12 | 8 | 7 | 13 |
| Sutton | 1 | 4 | .. | 5 | 2 |
| Waltham Forest | 4 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 5 |
| Total Metropolitan police | 182 | 259 | 147 | 123 | 157 |
| Total Greater London | 202 | 297 | 178 | 157 | 210 |

[1] Excludes companies, local authorities etc.

[2] An offence under the Road Traffic Act 1988 S.164(1)

[3] These data are on a principal offence basis

[4] Information held centrally does not allow a breakdown of cases by borough in the Inner London area

## Offensive Weapons

**Mr. Malins:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many persons have been *(a)* charged with, and *(b)* convicted of offences relating to unlawful (i) marketing of knives and (ii) publications in connection with the marketing of knives under sections 1 and 2 of the Knives Act 1997 in each of the last four years; and what proportion received a custodial sentence in each year; [6595]

(2) how many persons have been *(a)* charged with and *(b)* convicted of an offence under section 6 of the Offensive Weapons Act 1996 in each of the last five years for which figures are available; and what proportion received a custodial sentence in each year. [6596]

**Hazel Blears:** Statistics on the number of persons charged with a crime are not collected centrally. The information contained in the table gives the number of defendants proceeded against at the magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for the offences requested, England and Wales 1999 to 2003. No sentences of immediate custody were given for these offences; the sentence breakdown for each offence has been provided. Statistics on court proceedings for 2004 will be published in the autumn.

*Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty and sentenced at all courts for certain knife offences[1]—England and Wales 1999 to 2003*

| Offence description | Statute | Year | Proceeded against | Found guilty | Sentenced |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Unlawful marketing of knives | Knives Act 1997, sec. 1 | 1999 | 5 | .. | .. |
| | | 2000 | 3 | 2 | 2 |
| | | 2001 | 2 | .. | .. |
| | | 2002 | 5 | 3 | 2 |
| | | 2003 | 3 | .. | .. |
| Publication of any written, pictorial or other material in connection with the marketing of knives—suggesting the knife is suitable for combat | Knives Act 1997, sec. 2 | 1999 | 1 | .. | .. |
| | | 2000 | .. | .. | .. |
| | | 2001 | .. | .. | .. |
| | | 2002 | .. | .. | .. |
| | | 2003 | .. | .. | .. |
| Any person who sells to a person under age of 16 yrs a knife, knife blade, razor blade, axe and any other article which has a blade, that is sharply pointed and which is made or adapted for use for causing injury to the person | Criminal Justice Act 1988, sec. 141A(1) added by Offensive Weapons Act 1996 sec.6(1) | 1999 | 3 | 2 | 2 |
| | | 2000 | .. | .. | .. |
| | | 2001 | 9 | 8 | 8 |
| | | 2002 | 11 | 10 | 10 |
| | | 2003 | 17 | 17 | 17 |

| Offence description | Statute | Year | Sentence breakdown: Conditional discharge | Fine | Otherwise dealt with |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Unlawful marketing of Knives | Knives Act 1997, sec. 1 | 1999 | .. | .. | .. |
| | | 2000 | .. | 2 | .. |
| | | 2001 | .. | .. | .. |
| | | 2002 | 1 | 1 | .. |
| | | 2003 | .. | .. | .. |
| Publication of any written, pictorial or other material in connection with the marketing of knives—suggesting the knife is suitable for combat | Knives Act 1997, sec. 2 | 1999 | .. | .. | .. |
| | | 2000 | .. | .. | .. |
| | | 2001 | .. | .. | .. |
| | | 2002 | .. | .. | .. |
| | | 2003 | .. | .. | .. |
| Any person who sells to a person under age of 16 yrs a knife; knife blade, razor blade, axe and any other article which has a blade, that is sharply pointed and which is made or adapted for use for causing injury to the person | Criminal Justice Act 1988, sec. 141A(1) added by Offensive Weapons Act 1996 sec.6(1) | 1999 | .. | 1 | 1 |
| | | 2000 | .. | .. | .. |
| | | 2001 | .. | 8 | .. |
| | | 2002 | .. | 10 | .. |
| | | 2003 | 2 | 14 | 1 |

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis

## Passports

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been convicted for fraudulently using a UK passport in London in each of the last five years. [8201]

**Hazel Blears:** Data from the Home Office Court Proceedings database on the number of people found guilty of fraudulently using a UK passport under S.26(1)*(d)* Immigration Act 1971 in London, 1999 to 2003 is contained in the table.

*Number of offenders found guilty for offences under S.26 (1)(d) Immigration Act 1971 in London, 1999–2003*[1,2]

| | Number |
|---|---|
| 1999 | 4 |
| 2000 | 1 |
| 2001 | 2 |
| 2002 | 1 |
| 2003 | 2 |

[1] These data are on the principal immigration offence basis.

[2] Includes Metropolitan and City of London police force areas.

*Note:*

Statistics for 2004 court proceedings will be available in the autumn.

## Police

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for each London borough police officers, what the *(a)* establishment, *(b)* current number in post and *(c)* number on sickness absence and recuperative duties is; and if he will make a statement. [7069]

**Hazel Blears:** Data provided by the Metropolitan police on police officer numbers and budgeted workforce totals for each London Operational Command Unit at 31 March 2005, is shown in the following table. We do not hold comparable data on the number of officers in each operational command unit on sick leave or on recuperative duties.

*Police officer strength for London borough operational command units as at 31 March 2005*

| Territorial policing | Boroughs | Budgeted workforce total | Strength |
|---|---|---|---|
| BS | Kensington and Chelsea | 553.00 | 555.59 |
| CW | Westminster | 1,562.00 | 1,589.24 |
| EK | Camden | 817.00 | 845.41 |
| FH | Hammersmith and Fulham | 523.00 | 522.15 |
| GD | Hackney | 792.00 | 783.12 |
| HT | Tower Hamlets | 751.00 | 755.40 |
| JC | Waltham Forest | 536.00 | 542.84 |
| JI | Redbridge | 437.00 | 453.64 |
| KD | Havering | 360.00 | 381.32 |
| KF | Newham | 776.00 | 774.33 |
| KG | Barking and Dagenham | 413.00 | 418.48 |
| LX | Lambeth | 991.00 | 974.66 |
| MD | Southwark | 867.00 | 884.42 |
| NI | Islington | 675.00 | 679.95 |
| PL | Lewisham | 625.00 | 642.94 |
| PY | Bromley | 458.00 | 485.39 |
| QA | Harrow | 334.00 | 339.24 |
| QK | Brent | 678.00 | 675.40 |
| RG | Greenwich | 592.80 | 601.23 |
| RY | Bexley | 364.00 | 380.15 |
| SX | Barnet | 544.00 | 553.93 |
| TW | Richmond upon Thames | 285.00 | 284.00 |
| TX | Hounslow | 493.00 | 501.35 |
| VK | Kingston upon Thames | 276.00 | 292.79 |
| VW | Merton | 338.00 | 349.70 |
| WW | Wandsworth | 580.00 | 574.25 |
| XB | Ealing | 675.00 | 679.12 |
| XH | Hillingdon | 483.00 | 494.55 |
| YE | Enfield | 552.00 | 572.66 |
| YR | Haringey | 680.00 | 679.81 |
| ZD | Croydon | 660.00 | 689.01 |
| ZT | Sutton | 285.00 | 288.23 |
| | Borough total | 18,955.80 | 19,243.70 |

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) for each London borough by each rank up to chief inspector, *(a)* how many and *(b)* what percentage of police officers are aged (i) over 40, (ii) over 45 and (iii) over 50; and if he will make a statement; [7070]

(2) how many detectives in each London borough Metropolitan Police Service are in post; at what rank; how many hold *(a)* temporary, *(b)* acting and *(c)* trainees positions; how many have held that rank for less than two years; what the establishment is for each detective rank; and if he will make a statement. [7074]

**Hazel Blears:** The information requested is not centrally collected. The deployment of officers and police staff to borough operational command units is a matter for the commissioner of Police of the Metropolis.

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions he has had with the *(a)* Chief Constable and *(b)* Police Authority in Gloucestershire regarding structural re-organisation. [6386]

**Hazel Blears:** At the Association of Chief Police Officers' conference on 19 May, my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary made it clear that he did not believe that the current structure of 43 forces was the most efficient and effective arrangement for organising policing in England and Wales. He also made clear that he had no blueprint for force amalgamations, but that the initiative for such amalgamations should ideally be driven locally. To inform the way forward, the Home Secretary has commissioned Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary to examine the issue of force structures. As well as looking at the case for structural changes, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary will also be examining the case for greater collaboration and co-operation between forces. Following the Home Secretary's speech, the chairman of the Gloucestershire

Police Authority raised the matter of force amalgamations with the Home Office Director of Policing Policy who relayed to the Chairman the position as set out above.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many complaints have been made against police officers in each year since 1997 in *(a)* Southend and *(b)* Essex; and what action has been taken against the officers concerned. [4583]

**Hazel Blears:** The chief constable has responsibility for the day to day operational management of the force. I will ensure that he receives a copy of the question and replies to you directly in response to your concerns.

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will take steps to ensure that performance related pay for superintendents and chief superintendents reflects the *(a)* demands on, and *(b)* resources available to, the officer concerned; and if he will make a statement. [7071]

**Hazel Blears:** Performance-related pay for superintending ranks was introduced in September 2004 by mutual agreement. Both the official and staff sides are committed to its success and ensuring it is applied fairly and consistently. The operation of the scheme is being reviewed through the Police Negotiating Board.

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to his answer of 7 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 518W, on police precepts, if he will provide figures per capita of the population for each police authority in each year from 1997–98 to 2005–06. [5246]

**Hazel Blears** *[holding answer 21 June 2005]:* The information is set out in the following table.

£

| | *Precept per head of population* | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Police authority* | *1997–98* | *1998–99* | *1999–2000* | *2000–01* | *2001–02* | *2002–03* | *2003–04* | *2004–05* | *2005–06* |
| Avon and Somerset | 17.47 | 18.56 | 20.68 | 23.12 | 24.93 | 28.73 | 39.52 | 44.51 | 46.62 |
| Bedfordshire | 17.41 | 18.64 | 20.54 | 22.46 | 23.64 | 26.58 | 31.84 | 36.63 | 38.52 |
| Cambridgeshire | 16.87 | 15.96 | 17.27 | 20.72 | 22.73 | 31.63 | 39.48 | 45.46 | 47.40 |
| Cheshire | 17.51 | 18.68 | 19.71 | 21.55 | 23.04 | 26.32 | 31.84 | 35.48 | 37.38 |
| Cleveland | 15.37 | 13.66 | 17.73 | 18.68 | 20.09 | 27.90 | 36.11 | 41.35 | 42.97 |
| Cumbria | 18.82 | 23.61 | 25.61 | 27.79 | 30.29 | 33.87 | 44.77 | 52.70 | 54.69 |
| Derbyshire | 15.76 | 17.68 | 20.46 | 22.24 | 23.81 | 29.12 | 36.46 | 40.20 | 41.89 |
| Devon and Cornwall | 17.06 | 16.73 | 18.61 | 20.64 | 21.76 | 25.97 | 36.89 | 41.35 | 43.77 |
| Dorset | 24.47 | 27.35 | 30.07 | 32.87 | 35.98 | 40.25 | 48.75 | 54.43 | 57.96 |
| Durham | 14.62 | 13.68 | 14.26 | 15.02 | 16.24 | 18.75 | 23.90 | 27.73 | 29.35 |
| Dyfed-Powys | 17.33 | 21.43 | 26.45 | 31.18 | 33.41 | 36.22 | 45.88 | 52.87 | 56.23 |
| Essex | 19.44 | 22.55 | 23.72 | 25.03 | 26.26 | 28.76 | 34.96 | 37.49 | 39.74 |
| Gloucestershire | 18.18 | 20.54 | 24.72 | 28.27 | 29.89 | 34.38 | 52.45 | 58.25 | 60.92 |
| Greater Manchester | 15.58 | 16.32 | 17.50 | 18.26 | 18.97 | 20.21 | 28.10 | 30.03 | 32.04 |
| Gwent | 15.58 | 17.41 | 19.30 | 24.52 | 27.75 | 31.71 | 40.58 | 47.61 | 51.34 |
| Hampshire | 18.23 | 17.72 | 19.09 | 19.60 | 21.05 | 26.97 | 35.31 | 39.59 | 41.73 |
| Hertfordshire | 20.48 | 23.44 | 25.26 | 27.16 | 28.92 | 32.29 | 39.96 | 46.00 | 48.35 |
| Humberside | 15.11 | 15.34 | 16.14 | 17.95 | 25.79 | 28.90 | 35.28 | 41.18 | 42.88 |
| Kent | 18.50 | 17.47 | 19.03 | 20.27 | 21.92 | 26.80 | 35.35 | 39.66 | 41.85 |
| Lancashire | 16.03 | 16.23 | 17.67 | 19.31 | 21.17 | 23.18 | 27.95 | 32.28 | 34.60 |
| Leicestershire | 15.71 | 18.47 | 19.44 | 20.91 | 23.38 | 29.71 | 33.55 | 38.42 | 40.68 |
| Lincolnshire | 21.90 | 25.18 | 26.33 | 28.08 | 29.70 | 31.43 | 34.46 | 36.96 | 39.45 |
| Merseyside | 18.94 | 20.47 | 22.22 | 23.53 | 25.17 | 28.02 | 31.03 | 33.98 | 35.84 |
| Metropolitan | 24.26 | 29.38 | 31.69 | 34.56 | 44.59 | 49.04 | 61.80 | 70.95 | 75.95 |
| Norfolk | 16.87 | 18.04 | 21.73 | 24.42 | 28.38 | 34.14 | 42.23 | 48.56 | 50.89 |
| North Wales | 17.11 | 20.75 | 23.96 | 28.59 | 30.47 | 35.78 | 47.19 | 56.80 | 63.25 |
| North Yorkshire | 17.78 | 17.47 | 18.99 | 20.80 | 22.97 | 32.58 | 57.99 | 64.81 | 66.60 |
| Northamptonshire | 22.40 | 22.20 | 24.69 | 25.99 | 27.42 | 35.22 | 43.99 | 50.51 | 52.44 |
| Northumbria | 14.77 | 13.49 | 14.21 | 14.88 | 16.12 | 17.02 | 19.20 | 20.36 | 21.25 |
| Nottinghamshire | 14.46 | 15.88 | 18.13 | 19.36 | 20.97 | 25.71 | 33.83 | 37.27 | 39.23 |
| South Wales | 15.88 | 18.17 | 21.17 | 26.24 | 28.02 | 29.49 | 35.66 | 40.25 | 43.60 |
| South Yorkshire | 14.47 | 14.79 | 15.48 | 16.23 | 17.37 | 20.65 | 27.15 | 29.96 | 31.47 |
| Staffordshire | 16.77 | 22.34 | 24.36 | 25.92 | 29.66 | 32.08 | 41.11 | 45.36 | 47.99 |
| Suffolk | 17.20 | 17.63 | 18.94 | 20.71 | 22.92 | 28.05 | 38.35 | 42.64 | 44.58 |
| Surrey | 19.40 | 28.94 | 32.78 | 34.81 | 36.09 | 42.05 | 60.17 | 65.84 | 69.33 |
| Sussex | 19.87 | 19.69 | 20.58 | 21.51 | 22.83 | 27.00 | 38.71 | 42.29 | 44.56 |
| Thames Valley | 19.84 | 19.13 | 21.31 | 22.81 | 24.41 | 27.81 | 41.15 | 46.97 | 49.32 |
| Warwickshire | 18.39 | 22.00 | 25.38 | 27.71 | 30.88 | 37.22 | 43.60 | 47.01 | 49.13 |
| West Mercia | 17.64 | 18.83 | 20.79 | 26.21 | 28.09 | 37.48 | 42.85 | 49.54 | 51.76 |
| West Midlands | 15.00 | 13.87 | 14.62 | 15.71 | 16.49 | 18.01 | 21.35 | 23.81 | 25.04 |
| West Yorkshire | 15.12 | 15.09 | 15.86 | 17.13 | 17.90 | 22.53 | 26.96 | 30.98 | 32.90 |
| Wiltshire | 19.94 | 22.85 | 25.11 | 27.80 | 30.65 | 33.79 | 41.04 | 45.14 | 47.63 |

*Source:*

Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and the National Assembly for Wales.

**Mr. Ian Austin:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many vehicles were purchased by police forces in England and Wales in the financial years 2001 to 2005; and how many, and what proportion of those were assembled in the UK. [6958]

**Hazel Blears:** This information is not held centrally. Decisions regarding procurement are operational matters for the Chief Constable and Police Authority.

## Project Iris

**Mr. Wallace:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost is of the contract with SAGEM to supply the Iris based immigration system as part of Project Iris. [9028]

**Mr. McNulty:** The cost of the five year contract awarded to SAGEM to deliver the Iris biometric automated border entry system for pre-registered travellers at 10 airport terminals in the United Kingdom is £2.86 million.

## Public Order Act

**Mr. Malins:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people *(a)* over 18 years and *(b)* under 18 years were prosecuted for offences under section (i) 1, (ii) 2, (iii) 3, (iv) 4, (v) 4*(a)* and (vi) 5.5 of the Public Order Act 1986 in each of the last three years; and how many were convicted in each case. [5159]

**Hazel Blears:** The information contained in the following table gives the number of defendants proceeded against at the magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for offences under the Public Order Act 1986, Secs one, two, three, four, 4A and five, in England and Wales from 2001 to 2003. Statistics on court proceedings for 2004 will be published in the autumn.

*Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for certain offences under the Public Order Act 1986[1], England and Wales 2001 to 2003*

| Offence description | Statute | Year | Aged 10 to 17 Proceeded against | Found guilty |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Riot | Public Order Act 1986, Sec 1 | 2001 | 9 | 7 |
| | | 2002 | 37 | 34 |
| | | 2003 | 3 | 2 |
| Violent disorder | Public Order Act 1986, Sec 2 | 2001 | 1,214 | 155 |
| | | 2002 | 996 | 182 |
| | | 2003 | 897 | 194 |
| Affray | Public Order Act 1986, Sec 3 | 2001 | 3,169 | 1,236 |
| | | 2002 | 3,026 | 1,233 |
| | | 2003 | 2,821 | 1,152 |
| Fear or provocation of violence[2] | Public Order Act 1986, Sec 4 as amended by Crime and Disorder Act 1998 Sec31(1)*(a)* and (4) | 2001 | 2,597 | 1,532 |
| | | 2002 | 2,519 | 1,527 |
| | | 2003 | 2,529 | 1,535 |
| Causing intentional harassment, alarm or distress[3] | Public Order Act 1986, Sec 4A as amended by Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, Sec 154 | 2001 | 526 | 224 |
| | | 2002 | 453 | 214 |
| | | 2003 | 466 | 238 |
| Harassment, alarm or distress[4] | Public Order Act 1986, Sec 5 as amended by Crime and Disorder Act 1998, Sec 31 (1)*(c)* and (5) | 2001 | 4,763 | 2,819 |
| | | 2002 | 4,442 | 2,685 |
| | | 2003 | 4,846 | 2,984 |

| Offence description | Statute | Year | Aged 18 and over Proceeded against | Found guilty |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Riot | Public Order Act 1986, Sec 1 | 2001 | 71 | 3 |
| | | 2002 | 124 | 99 |
| | | 2003 | 34 | 43 |
| Violent disorder | Public Order Act 1986, Sec 2 | 2001 | 3,373 | 513 |
| | | 2002 | 2,720 | 704 |
| | | 2003 | 2,380 | 625 |
| Affray | Public Order Act 1986, Sec 3 | 2001 | 13,641 | 5,965 |
| | | 2002 | 13,392 | 5,949 |
| | | 2003 | 12,970 | 5,893 |
| Fear or provocation of violence[2] | Public Order Act 1986, Sec 4 as amended by Crime and Disorder Act 1998 Sec31(1)*(a)* and (4) | 2001 | 14,826 | 10,043 |
| | | 2002 | 14,883 | 10,106 |
| | | 2003 | 14,962 | 10,314 |
| Causing intentional harassment, alarm or distress[3] | Public Order Act 1986, Sec 4A as amended by Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, Sec 154 | 2001 | 1873 | 972 |
| | | 2002 | 1817 | 976 |
| | | 2003 | 2028 | 1113 |
| Harassment, alarm or distress[4] | Public Order Act 1986, Sec 5 as amended by Crime and Disorder Act 1998, Sec 31 (1)*(c)* and (5) | 2001 | 19,621 | 13,394 |
| | | 2002 | 20,235 | 13,987 |
| | | 2003 | 21,852 | 15,416 |

| Offence description | Statute | Year | All ages Proceeded against | Found guilty |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Riot | Public Order Act 1986, Sec 1 | 2001 | 80 | 10 |
| | | 2002 | 161 | 133 |
| | | 2003 | 37 | 45 |
| Violent disorder | Public Order Act 1986, Sec 2 | 2001 | 4,587 | 668 |
| | | 2002 | 3,716 | 886 |
| | | 2003 | 3,277 | 819 |
| Affray | Public Order Act 1986, Sec 3 | 2001 | 16,810 | 7,201 |
| | | 2002 | 16,418 | 7,182 |
| | | 2003 | 15,791 | 7,045 |
| Fear or provocation of violence[2] | Public Order Act 1986, Sec 4 as amended by Crime and Disorder Act 1998 Sec31(1)*(a)* and (4) | 2001 | 17,423 | 11,575 |
| | | 2002 | 17,402 | 11,633 |
| | | 2003 | 17,491 | 11,849 |
| Causing intentional harassment, alarm or distress[3] | Public Order Act 1986, Sec as amended by Criminal Justice 4A and Public Order Act 1994, Sec 154 | 2001 | 2,399 | 1,196 |
| | | 2002 | 2,270 | 1,190 |
| | | 2003 | 2,494 | 1,351 |
| Harassment, alarm or distress[4] | Public Order Act 1986, Sec 5 as amended by Crime and Disorder Act 1998, Sec 31 (1)*(c)* and (5) | 2001 | 24,384 | 16,213 |
| | | 2002 | 24,677 | 16,672 |
| | | 2003 | 26,698 | 18,400 |

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Includes offences: Racially aggravated fear or provocation of violence, Religiously aggravated fear or provocation of violence and Racially or religiously aggravated fear or provocation of violence.

[3] Includes offences: Racially aggravated causing intentional harassment, alarm or distress, Religiously aggravated causing intentional harassment, alarm or distress and Racially or religiously aggravated causing intentional harassment, alarm or distress.

[4] Includes offences: Racially aggravated harassment, alarm or distress, Religiously aggravated harassment, alarm or distress and Racially or religiously aggravated harassment, alarm or distress.

### Right of Abode

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of British nationals have the right of abode in the UK; and if he will make a statement. [8967]

**Mr. McNulty:** The expression "British national" is not used or defined in our nationality legislation, but is commonly understood to refer to the following:

British citizens;

British overseas territories citizens;

British overseas citizens;

British subjects;

British nationals (overseas); and

British protected persons.

Because these statuses are in most cases acquired through the automatic operation of law it is not possible to say precisely how many people fall into each category and, thus, what proportion have the right of abode in the United Kingdom.

### Shoplifting

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of shoplifters brought to police attention were *(a)* taken into custody, *(b)* charged, *(c)* prosecuted and *(d)* convicted in each year from 1997 to 2004. [5373]

**Hazel Blears:** Statistics on the number of people brought to the attention of the police for shoplifting who were taken into custody or charged are not centrally collected. Available information from the Home Office Court Proceeding database giving the number of persons prosecuted and found guilty for the offence "stealing from shops and stalls" England and Wales for the years 1997 to 2003 is shown in the table. Statistics on court proceedings for 2004 will be available in the autumn.

*Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for offences under S1 Theft Act 1968, England and Wales, 1997 to 2003[1]—Offence: Stealing from shops and stalls*

| | *Proceeded against* | *Found guilty* |
|---|---|---|
| 1997 | 69,666 | 58,401 |
| 1998 | 77,915 | 66,690 |
| 1999 | 85,491 | 74,350 |
| 2000 | 89,050 | 77,542 |
| 2001 | 92,233 | 79,933 |
| 2002 | 92,664 | 80,167 |
| 2003 | 86,089 | 74,928 |

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

### Student Visas

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the likely effect on the number of non-EU students studying in the UK of increasing the charges for student visas. [8035]

**Dr. Howells:** I have been asked to reply.

UKvisas is committed to working with the education sector through the newly formed Joint Education Task Force to examine any relationship between fees and student visa application numbers. Visa fees are generally a relatively small part of the overall students costs and there are many other factors; course costs, cost of living, exchange rates that influence the decision of where to study. Following the fee increase in 2002, the number of student applications during 2003–04 increased by approximately 24 per cent.

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what representations he has received from the higher education sector on the likely impact of increased charges for student visas on future revenue for UK universities. [8041]

**Dr. Howells:** I have been asked to reply.

UKvisas wrote to stakeholders on 15 April about the proposed fee increases. UKvisas subsequently received a number of representations from individual higher and further educational establishments and from representative bodies including UKCOSA (the Council for International Education), Universities UK (UUK), Association of Colleges (AoC) Association of Independent Higher Education Providers (AIHEP), EnglishUK, National Union of Students (NUS). UKvisas wrote again to education stakeholders on 16 May, including with details of the costing methodology for the fee increase and details of the kinds of abuse being perpetrated in the student visa sector by bogus applicants.

My noble Friend the Foreign and Commonwealth Office Minister responsible for entry clearance (Lord Triesman of Tottenham), and my hon. Friend the Home Office Minister for Citizenship, Immigration and Nationality (Mr. McNulty), held a meeting with the education sector on 24 May to discuss stakeholder concerns and to explain the rationale for the fee increases. UKvisas is working to develop further the dialogue on visa matters with the education sector through the Home Office-chaired Joint Education task Force.

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the effects of increasing the charges for student visas on future revenue for UK universities from fees paid by non-EU students. [8042]

**Dr. Howells:** I have been asked to reply.

There is no direct evidence of a causal relationship between visa fee levels and UK University income affecting one or the other. However UK visas is committed, including through its participation in the Joint Education Task Force, to developing further the dialogue with the education sector and improving the evidence base on all aspects of the impact of the visa operation on that sector.

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the likely revenue from increasing charges for non-EU student visas. [8043]

**Dr. Howells:** I have been asked to reply.

In financial year 2005–06, estimated revenue from all student visa fees globally will be £24,430,815.

### Telecommunications Masts

**Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether there have been preliminary results from the survey into the health effects of Tetra Systems being carried out by Imperial College announced in May 2003; and if he will make a statement. [8118]

**Hazel Blears:** The Health Monitoring Study being carried out by Imperial College will last for 15 years. Preliminary results are not expected for some time yet.

### Thames Valley Police

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers were allocated to each local force within the Thames Valley police area in each year since 1997. [7041]

**Hazel Blears** *[holding answer 27 June 2005]:* Information on the number of officers in Basic Command Units has only been collected since 2002 and is set out in the table. Data for the position on 31 March 2005 will be published shortly on the Home Office website. The Basic Command Units have access to the force's additional centrally provided operational units, such as tactical support and crime support. The deployment of officers to Basic Command Units is an operational matter for the Chief Constable (Mr. Peter Neyroud).

*Basic Command Unit police officer strength—March 2001 to March 2004*

| *Basic Command Unit* | *March 2002* | *March 2003* | *March 2004* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Aylesbury Vale | 177 | 194 | 196 |
| Chiltern Vale | 298 | 293 | 321 |
| Milton Keynes | 343 | 346 | 371 |
| Northern Oxfordshire | 281 | 301 | 296 |
| Oxford | 316 | 317 | 336 |
| Reading and Wokingham | 369 | 387 | 434 |
| Slough and District | 254 | 264 | 297 |
| Southern Oxfordshire | 253 | 255 | 267 |
| Thames Forest | 309 | 307 | 339 |
| West Berkshire | 160 | 159 | 185 |

*Notes:*
1. March 2002 data provided to HM Inspectorate of Constabulary.
2. Subsequent years provided to Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate.
3. All figures are full-time equivalent strength.

### Underage Drinking

**Alison Seabeck:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will seek to change the legislation relating to the drinking of alcohol to make it an offence to drink in public if a person is under the age of 18. [3892]

**Hazel Blears:** The Government carried out a fundamental review of the alcohol licensing regime which resulted in the Licensing Act 2003. The suggestion that a change to the legislation relating to the drinking of alcohol to make it an offence to drink in public if a person is under the age of 18 did not feature in the responses to the public consultation on those proposals, nor during the passage of the Bill through Parliament. The Confiscation of Alcohol (Young Persons) Act 1997, as amended by the Licensing Act 2003 to allow the confiscation of sealed containers, already provides the police with a power of confiscation where young people are drinking on the street. The 1997 Act was designed to allow the police to deal with situations where drinking causes a nuisance to others or may lead to further bad behaviour. It does not create an offence for a young person to have an alcoholic drink in a public place and the police are not under a duty to confiscate alcohol from underage drinkers. During the course of the legislation, Parliament made it clear that it did not wish the power to be used where young people's drinking was not perceived to be a problem, for instance at a family picnic.

### Violent Crime Reduction Bill

**Janet Anderson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether restaurants and hotels with publicly accessible bars will be exempt from the alcohol disorder zone proposals in the Violent Crime Reduction Bill. [5948]

**Hazel Blears:** The Violent Crime Reduction Bill provides for exemptions to be made from the charge in Alcohol Disorder Zones, where the principal use to which the premises is put do not include alcohol, and the availability of alcohol is not the main reason why individuals enter or remain on the premises. The intention is to exclude restaurants from the charge. Providing that a hotel also met the above criteria, then the establishment would be exempt from the charge.

### Zimbabwe

**Kate Hoey:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what his policy is on whether Zimbabwe is a safe country in which to return asylum seekers. [7591]

**Mr. McNulty:** I refer my hon. Friend to the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary on 27 June 2005, *Official Report*, columns 1023–24W.

# Written Answers to Questions

*Wednesday 6 July 2005*

## LEADER OF THE HOUSE

### English Wine

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Leader of the House if he will ensure that English wine is made available at dinners, receptions and parties he hosts at which hospitality involving wine is appropriate *(a)* during the EU presidency and *(b)* generally; and if he will make a statement. [9153]

**Mr. Hoon:** I have no plans to host any dinners, receptions or parties specifically for the EU presidency, but—subject to value for money and where possible—British products are used.

### Special Advisers

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Leader of the House if he will list *(a)* the special advisers in his Department, *(b)* their specific areas of expertise and *(c)* the total cost of employing them in the latest year for which figures are available. [8828]

**Nigel Griffiths:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 4 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 36W.

## DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

### First-time Buyers

9. **Ian Lucas:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will make a statement on the recent proposals announced to help first-time buyers. [9721]

**Mr. David Miliband:** The Government want to offer everyone the opportunity of a decent home at a price they can afford. We set out our overarching proposals earlier this year in "Sustainable Communities: Homes for All." We published a consultation document, "HomeBuy—Expanding the Opportunity to Own," in April. We are currently considering the responses received. Copies of both of these documents can be found in the Library of the House.

### House Building Targets

10. **Bob Spink:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what mechanisms he will use to test the East of England Regional Spatial Strategy house building targets. [9722]

**Yvette Cooper:** An examination in public, before an independent panel, will test the proposed house building targets contained in the draft Regional Spatial Strategy for the East of England.

### Milton Keynes (Grid Road System)

11. **Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Transport regarding the future of Milton Keynes's grid road system in relation to his sustainable communities plan for the city. [9723]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** Both the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and Department for Transport are aware of the local debate in Milton Keynes about whether to extend the grid road system in the city, although my right hon. Friend the Deputy Prime Minister has not met my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Transport to discuss it. I look forward to the local partners resolving this matter.

### Telecommunications Masts

13. **Annette Brooke:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what plans he has to review planning policy relating to telecommunications masts; and if he will make a statement. [9725]

**Yvette Cooper:** The Government's will be commissioning further research to identify the future direction of mobile phone technology and the need for mast developments. This forms part of a wider review the Government is undertaking of all the planning arrangements for telecommunication masts.

### Regional Fire Control Rooms

14. **Mike Penning:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what the timetable is for the establishment of regional fire control rooms. [9726]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The timetable for the control centre project is contingent upon a final decision being made on how best to take forward plans for modernisation of control centres.

We expect to make an announcement about locations shortly. Once this has been made we will then have a clearer view on what the overall timetable will be for their completion.

**Tony Baldry:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister when he expects to announce the location of the regional control centre for the fire service in the south-east of England. [9281]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** Discussions with developers in the south-east are taking slightly longer than in other regions. I expect to make an announcement on the location for the south-east regional control centre shortly after the announcements for the other centres.

### Planning Gain

15. **Keith Vaz:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what plans he has to review the law on planning gain. [9727]

**Yvette Cooper:** As set out in the March 2005 Budget report, the Government will respond to the recommendations in the Barker Review of Housing Supply, including a proposed Planning-gain Supplement, later this year.

The Government are also shortly due to publish a new circular on planning obligations which seeks to improve the operation of the system under the current legislative framework.

### Best Value

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many Best Value performance indicators each tier of local council were required to compile, *(a)* in each year since the introduction of Best Value and *(b)* in 2005–06. [9535]

**Mr. Woolas:** The information is set out in the following table:

| | *BVPIs and ACPIs* | *BVPIs* | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *2000–01*[1] | *2001–02* | *2002–03* | *2003–04* | *2004–05* | *2005–06* |
| Unitaries/ Met. boroughs | 189 | 123 | 95 | 97 | 98 | 94 |
| London | 189 | 121 | 94 | 95 | 95 | 93 |
| County councils | 134 | 105 | 76 | 75 | 76 | 59 |
| District councils | 91 | 65 | 51 | 53 | 51 | 57 |

[1] Includes Audit Commission Performance Indicators which were replaced entirely in 2001–02 by Best Value Performance Indicators.

### Correspondence

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister when he will reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Beaconsfield of 15 June. [10100]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** I replied to the hon. Member on 5 July.

### Doorways (Height)

**Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will take steps to raise the required height of doorways in new buildings from 6 ft 8 in to 7 ft. [9724]

**Yvette Cooper:** There are no proposals, nor has there been any consideration of proposals, to amend the Building Regulations to require doors to be built to any specific height.

### e-Government Regional Partnership Group

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will make a statement on the role of his Department in the proposed e-Government Regional Partnership Group. [9532]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) currently funds nine local e-Government Partnerships representing each of the English regions to the tune of £300,000 for the period April 2004 to March 2006 to develop local e-Gov solutions that can then be made available to all authorities in each region as well as throughout the country.

The local e-Gov programme is to conclude on 31 March 2006. This is as originally planned and reflects the support necessary to deliver my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister's pledge that 100 per cent. of services would be available on-line by December 2005. We are migrating the outputs from the programme to ownership largely within the local authority community. The Regional e-Government Network—consisting of the nine regionally based partnerships, is part of that community. The network has come together as a way to collaborate and share knowledge and experience and reduce duplication of effort. The ODPM continues to be responsible for leading on local e-Government and related issues and has no plans to transfer this responsibility to any other body.

### Emergency Calls

**Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many *(a)* genuine and *(b)* malicious false alarm fire emergency calls have been received in Hampshire in each year since 1997. [9797]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The number of false fire alarms attended by Hampshire fire and rescue service since 1997 is set out in the following table. Genuine false alarms are those generated by automatic equipment (due to apparatus) and by people believing that there was a fire (good intent).

*False fire alarms, by type, attended by Hampshire FRS. 1997–2004*

| | *Total false fire alarms* | *Good intent calls* | *Malicious calls* | *Due to apparatus* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1997 | 10,027 | 2,619 | 662 | 6,746 |
| 1998 | 9,494 | 2,358 | 579 | 6,557 |
| 1999 | 9,351 | 2,371 | 640 | 6,340 |
| 2000 | 9,266 | 2,315 | 699 | 6,252 |
| 2001 | 10,035 | 2,627 | 826 | 6,582 |
| 2002[1] | 10,531 | 2,756 | 795 | 6,980 |
| 2003[1] | 10,333 | 2,945 | 788 | 6,600 |
| 2004[2] | 9,827 | 2,431 | 666 | 6,730 |

[1] Includes estimates for incidents not recorded during periods of industrial action in 2002 and 2003.
[2] Provisional
*Source:*
Fire and Rescue Service FDR3 returns to ODPM.

### Fire Service

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many fire crews have trained for Essex fire brigade in each of the last five years; and how many are on the waiting list for training. [9971]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** This is a matter for the local fire and rescue service. The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Flooding (North Yorkshire)

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will provide funds under the Bellwin Formula for the funding of repairs and clear-up following the recent floods in North Yorkshire; if he will ensure that payments are made swiftly; and if he will relax the deadline for applications. [9459]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** Emergency financial assistance is available to the affected local authorities under the Bellwin scheme to help with their costs incurred in taking immediate action to safeguard life or property or to prevent severe inconvenience to the inhabitants of the area. Local authorities have one month from the end date of an incident in which to notify OPDM of an

intention to make a claim. This deadline is fixed but we are prepared to consider extending the usual two month eligible spending limit, subject to the relevant local authorities providing a reasonable case for this. To date one local authority in the North Yorkshire area has been in touch to register a possible Bellwin claim.

Once a valid claim is received, we will make payment as swiftly as possible. This is usually within 15 working days.

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will reconsider the restrictions on Bellwin Formula payments excluding claims for personal items. [9460]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** Emergency financial assistance is available to the affected local authorities under the Bellwin scheme to help with their costs incurred in taking immediate action to safeguard life or property or to prevent severe inconvenience to the inhabitants of the area. It has been the policy of successive Governments not to pay compensation to householders or businesses for any losses suffered as a result of flooding as this is an insurable risk. If the Government were to underwrite insurable costs, it would remove the incentive for people to take out appropriate insurance cover with considerable dissatisfaction on the part of those who had chosen to take out cover. However, in cases of genuine hardship, help may be available from the social fund; details are available from Benefits Agency offices.

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will make available emergency funds to repair the damage to roads following the recent floods under the Bellwin formula in North Yorkshire county council area. [9466]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** Emergency financial assistance is available to the affected local authorities under the Bellwin scheme to help with their costs incurred in taking immediate action to safeguard life or property or to prevent severe inconvenience to the inhabitants of the area. Such costs can include the immediate repairs to highways, pavements and footpaths but longer term repairs are deemed ineligible under Bellwin. The Department for Transport operate a scheme which specifically deals with emergency road repairs.

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will allocate emergency funds under the Bellwin formula to be made available for the clear-up of the countryside and carriageways of people's possessions and debris in North Yorkshire following the recent floods. [9468]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** Emergency financial assistance is available to the affected local authorities under the Bellwin scheme to help with their costs incurred in taking immediate action to safeguard life or property or to prevent severe inconvenience to the inhabitants of the area. It has been the policy of successive Governments not to pay compensation to householders or businesses for any losses suffered as a result of flooding as this is an insurable risk. If the Government were to underwrite insurable costs, it would remove the incentive for people to take out appropriate insurance cover. However, in cases of genuine hardship, help may be available from the social fund; details are available from Benefits Agency offices.

## HMOs (Licence Fees)

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what recent representations he has received from *(a)* landlord and *(b)* tenant organisations on houses in multiple occupation licensing fees; and what response he has made. [6420]

**Yvette Cooper:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) on 5 July 2005 (ref. 4872).

## Homeless (Hornsey and Wood Green)

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will estimate the number of homeless people in Hornsey and Wood Green in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [8402]

**Yvette Cooper:** Information about local authorities' actions under homelessness legislation is collected quarterly at local authority level and is in respect of households rather than persons. Hornsey and Wood Green are within the London borough of Haringey.

The number of households accepted by the borough as eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and in priority need for each year since 2000–01, and the number of households in temporary accommodation arranged by the borough under homelessness legislation as at 31 March in each year is tabled as follows. Information is also collected on the number of people who sleep rough—that is, those who are literally roofless on a single night—and these are also presented in the table.

The duty owed to a person accepted as eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and in priority need is to secure suitable accommodation. If a settled home is not immediately available, the authority may secure temporary accommodation until a settled home becomes available. As an alternative to the provision of temporary accommodation some authorities arrange for households to remain in their current accommodation (homeless at home), until a settled solution becomes available.

*London borough of Haringey reported activity on homelessness*

| | *Decisions[1] during the year* | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | *Accepted[2] as owed a main duty* | *In temporary[3] accommodation as on 31 March* | *Rough sleepers (persons)* |
| 2000–01 | 1,436 | 3,709 | 2 |
| 2001–02 | 1,138 | 3,520 | 2 |
| 2002–03 | — | — | 8 |
| 2003–04 | — | 4,774 | 6 |
| 2004–05 | 1,175 | 5,309 | 4 |

'—'denotes an authority failed to provide a return for 1 or more quarters.

[1] Data shown where 4 quarterly returns were received.

[2] All households eligible under homelessness legislation, found to be unintentionally homeless and in a priority need category and consequently owed a main homelessness duty during the year.

[3] Households in accommodation either pending a decision on their homelessness application or awaiting allocation of a settled home following acceptance.

*Sources:*

ODPM: Homelessness returns (quarterly)

HOUSING Strategy Statistical Appendix (annual)

### Independent Tenant Advisers

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will establish a register for independent tenant advisers; and if he will make a statement. [9959]

**Yvette Cooper:** The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister has no plans to establish a register for independent tenant advisers.

### Pensions

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what the cost will be to local authorities of revoking the changes to the Local Government Pension Scheme in the Local Government Pension Scheme (Amendment) (No.2) Regulations 2004. [4282]

**Mr. Woolas:** A full statement on the outcome of the recently concluded statutory consultation exercise to amend the Local Government Pension Scheme (Amendment) (No.2) Regulations 2004 in England and Wales will be made shortly.

### Referendums

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister pursuant to his answer of 7 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 497W, on referendums, what the expenses limit for *(a)* political parties and *(b)* registered third parties in mayoral referendums. [5562]

**Mr. Woolas:** The expenses limit specified by The Local Authorities (Conduct of Referendums) (England) Regulations 2001 of 2,000, plus 5p per elector on the relevant register of local government electors, applies to expenses incurred by or on behalf of an individual or body for the purpose of promoting a particular result in a referendum. The same limit applies to all individuals and bodies, including political parties.

### Vehicle Fires

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister pursuant to the Answer of 20 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 822W, on vehicle fires, what the figures are for 2004. [9527]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The information requested for 2004 is contained in the following table.

*Deliberate road vehicle primary fires, by fire and rescue service area, 2004*

| *FRS area* | *2004*[1] |
|---|---|
| Avon | 1,478 |
| Bedfordshire | 474 |
| Berkshire | 566 |
| Buckinghamshire | 667 |
| Cambridgeshire | 721 |
| Cheshire | 887 |
| Cleveland | 1,085 |
| Cornwall | 263 |
| Cumbria | 359 |
| Derbyshire | 574 |
| Devon | 582 |
| Dorset | 345 |
| Durham | 583 |
| East Sussex | 499 |
| Essex | 1,081 |
| Gloucestershire | 530 |
| Greater London | 3,791 |
| Greater Manchester | 4,001 |
| Hampshire | 643 |
| Hereford and Worcester | 407 |
| Hertfordshire | 621 |
| Humberside | 1,582 |
| Isle of Wight | 16 |
| Isles of Scilly | 0 |
| Kent | 1,458 |
| Lancashire | 1,040 |
| Leicestershire | 657 |
| Lincolnshire | 463 |
| Merseyside | 2,787 |
| Norfolk | 482 |
| North Yorkshire | 344 |
| Northamptonshire | 804 |
| Northumberland | 270 |
| Nottinghamshire | 1,701 |
| Oxfordshire | 459 |
| Shropshire | 322 |
| Somerset | 285 |
| South Yorkshire | 2,280 |
| Staffordshire | 908 |
| Suffolk | 336 |
| Surrey | 536 |
| Tyne and Wear | 1,514 |
| Warwickshire | 549 |
| West Midlands | 3,300 |
| West Sussex | 363 |
| West Yorkshire | 3,620 |
| Wiltshire | 205 |

[1] provisional

*Source:*

Fire and Rescue Service FDR1 returns to ODPM.

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### Abandoned Vehicles

**Mark Tami:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what guidance her Department provides to local authorities on the removal of abandoned vehicles. [9214]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** There is currently no central guidance supplied to local authorities on the removal of abandoned vehicles.

However, as part of the implementation of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005, the government is in the process of drafting statutory guidance to local authorities on the discharge of their duty on abandoned vehicles. This guidance will be fully consulted on later in the year.

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many abandoned vehicles were reported in each year for which figures are available in *(a)* England, *(b)* each government office region and *(c)* each local authority area. [9545]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Local authorities are not asked to supply figures on how many reports of abandoned vehicles they receive, rather the number that they remove and destroy.

Numbers of abandoned vehicles reported does not give an accurate picture of the problem as a report of a vehicle being abandoned does not necessarily mean it will turn out to be abandoned. Also, reports can be malicious and single vehicles reported by more than one person.

### Bees

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for what reason the annual budget of the bee health progamme is being reduced by 20 per cent. [8347]

**Jim Knight** *[holding answer 30 June 2005]:* The decision to reduce expenditure on the bee health programme by around £250,000 per annum from 2008 was taken last year as part of a package of decisions on the future allocation of Defra's financial resources.

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the threat of the varroa mite and other parasites to the UK bee population; and if she will make a statement. [8348]

**Jim Knight** *[holding answer 30 June 2005]:* Controlling varroa is still an important challenge to beekeeping today, but one which we believe beekeepers can manage through the application of good bee husbandry. The pest is now endemic across much of the UK and has become so despite its notifiable status. Defra has concluded that maintaining a statutory enforcement role for this pest is no longer appropriate and we plan to remove Varroosis from the list of notifiable diseases.

In terms of other bee parasites, the National Bee Unit has made an assessment of the exotic parasitic mite, tropilaelaps, and considers that its introduction could have a serious impact on UK beekeeping. We are developing contingency measures accordingly.

### Bovine Tuberculosis

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much has been paid for cattle slaughtered because of bovine tuberculosis since 2000; and to how many farmers. [9661]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The following table provides details for compensation paid against cattle slaughtered since 2000 in Great Britain. Information about the numbers of farmers receiving compensation is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

*Compensation paid against cattle slaughtered*

| *Calendar year* | *Cattle slaughtered*[1,2] | *Compensation expenditure (£)*[3] |
|---|---|---|
| 2004 | 22,566 | [4]33,785,023 |
| 2003 | 23,177 | 38,215,285 |
| 2002 [5] | 23,013 | 28,898,623 |
| 2001 [5] | 6,320 | 7,074,125 |
| 2000 | 8,400 | 7,307,797 |

[1] TB Reactors plus Direct Contacts
[2] Data downloaded from State Veterinary Service database on 19 May 2005. All data provisional and subject to change as more data become available.
[3] TB Compensation data taken from the Animal Health 2004, Report of the Chief Veterinary Officer, page 161.
[4] provisional figures data taken from the Animal Health 2004, Report of the Chief Veterinary Officer, page 161.
[5] In 2001, the TB testing and control programme was largely suspended due to the foot and mouth disease (FMD) outbreak. When testing resumed in 2002, resources were concentrated on herds with overdue TB tests which would have had a longer period in which to contract the disease. Also the proportion of high risk herds tested immediately after the FMD outbreak was greater than that prior to the outbreak. As a result, data for 2001 and 2002 are not comparable with other years.

### BSE

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what monitoring the UK Government have put in place following the discovery of BSE in a French goat; what discussions she has had with the French government; and if she will make a statement. [8986]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** In line with EU legislation agreed following the discovery of BSE in a French goat slaughtered in 2002 and the announcement of a possible UK case slaughtered in 1990 which is subject to further investigations, the UK has arranged for all goats aged over 18 months that die or are put down on farms to be tested for BSE. In addition all goats aged over 18 months slaughtered in abattoirs handling significant numbers of older goats will be tested.

The Veterinary Laboratories Agency (VLA) in its role as Community Reference Laboratory for TSEs is in regular contact with counterparts in France. The Food Standards Agency and Defra, including VLA, met the French Food Safety Agency in June and briefly discussed testing arrangements for goats.

### Cattle Restriction Orders

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many cattle herds are under restriction orders. [9660]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** On 30 April 2005, 4,164 cattle herds were under bovine TB restriction in England. This includes herds under restriction due to a TB breakdown and herds restricted due to an overdue TB test.

In addition, there are currently 36 cattle herds in Great Britain under restriction for cattle identification irregularities. These restrictions will be lifted once the correct identification requirements have been met.

### Cod Beck

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will take steps to speed up the proposed en-maining of the Cod Beck and bring it under the Main Rivers category. [9470]

**Mr. Morley:** Hambledon district council, have recently completed a feasibility study for a flood risk improvement scheme for Thirsk. The Environment Agency is working with my officials and the council to determine the most appropriate way of promoting such works.

Cod Beck is one of the watercourses for which we plan to transfer responsibility to the Environment Agency on 1 April 2006. If the current classification of the

watercourse creates difficulties in proceeding with a possible scheme we shall be prepared to consider bringing forward the proposed transfer date.

### Endangered Species

**Mark Tami:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps her Department is taking to reverse declines in the numbers of each most endangered species in England. [9210]

**Jim Knight:** The Department is taking action in many ways. The three key measures are:

(i) Our work under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan which sets out targeted plans for 391 endangered species and 45 habitats across the UK. These plans are delivered by partnerships with the public, voluntary and private sectors. A review of the Action Plan in 2006 will ensure that the list of priority species and habitats remains relevant, and will revise targets for the individual action plans. This will include setting targets at the individual country level.

Under Section 74 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, the Department prepared a list of habitats and species of principal importance in England. The England Biodiversity Strategy, launched by the Secretary of State in 2002, sets out the means by which the Government will comply with its duty under Section 74 to further the conservation of the listed species and habitats, including through the continued implementation of the Action Plans. The Strategy is one of Defra's key programmes;

(ii) Ensuring robust legal protection for endangered species and their habitats thorough legislation such as the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. The Department is currently reviewing Part I of the 1981 Act. This part of the 1981 Act is the principal piece of national legislation protecting our native birds, animals and plants. A consultation on the review was completed in March this year and a number of wildlife measures from the consultation have been included in the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Bill;

(iii) Delivery of our PSA targets to bring into favourable condition by 2010 95 per cent. of all nationally important wildlife sites; and to reverse the long term decline in the number of farmland birds by 2020. This is being facilitated through our extensive network of protected sites and the agri-environment schemes.

### EU Tobacco Subsidies

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much EU financial support is available for growing low grade tobacco in 2005–06; what quantities of such tobacco are exported; to which countries; what discussions are taking place on reform of such practices; and if she will make a statement. [9027]

**Jim Knight:** The EU budget provision for tobacco premiums in 2005 is €916 million. Higher grade tobacco attracts a higher premium than tobacco which is of lower quality. The main destinations for export of EU grown tobacco in its raw state are Russia, the United States, the Ukraine, and Egypt. The quantities exported to these and other destinations in 2004 are set out in the following table.

The practice of supporting raw tobacco production is one the UK has consistently opposed and I am pleased to say that from 2006 it is to be phased out. Under the agreement reached by the Council of Ministers in Luxembourg in April 2004, direct support for tobacco will be brought to an end by 2010. Between 2006 and 2010 producer member states will have the option of retaining up to 60 per cent. of the tobacco premium as a coupled payment. From 2010, support will be completely decoupled from production, with 50 per cent. being transferred to the single payment and the remaining 50 per cent. to be used for restructuring programmes under the rural development programme.

*EU 15/25[1] exports of raw tobacco in 2004*

| *Metric tonnes* | |
|---|---|
| Russia | 38,881 |
| USA | 23,466 |
| Ukraine | 20,542 |
| Egypt | 14,853 |
| Switzerland | 7,751 |
| Romania | 7,389 |
| Japan | 6,875 |
| Algeria | 5,405 |
| South Korea | 4,748 |
| South Africa | 4,586 |
| Turkey | 4,365 |
| Tunisia | 4,105 |
| Other destinations | 22,274 |
| Total | 165,240 |

[1] EU 15 before 1 May 2004 and EU 25 after 1 May 2004.

*Source:*

Comext—Eurostat

### Flooding

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will expedite the flood alleviation scheme for *(a)* Thirsk and *(b)* other suggested flood defence projects in the area; and if she will relax the point scoring system on the project. [9471]

**Mr. Morley:** Defra has overall policy responsibility for flood and coastal erosion risk in England. We fund most of the Environment Agency's activities in this area and provide grant aid on a project-by-project basis to the other flood and coastal defence operating authorities (local authorities and internal drainage boards) to support their investment in improvement works. Improvement projects funded by Defra, including those of the Environment Agency, must meet specified economic, technical and environmental criteria and achieve an appropriate "priority score" to be eligible for funding. Defra does not build defences, nor direct the authorities on what specific projects to undertake. The works programme to manage risk is driven by the operating authorities.

Defra operates a priority scoring system to ensure that taxpayers' money is spent to best effect and to maximise the benefits achieved from a finite budget available for flood and coastal erosion risk management. The system is designed to be as logical, transparent and equitable as possible, with criteria published on our website. Prioritisation has to be based on risk and while I understand the desire for defences when areas flood, it is not, however, a defensible reason for allowing them to jump the queue ahead of areas where risks of future floods might be greater. Making an

exception for Thirsk would clearly depart from the principles of objectivity, fairness and a risk based approach.

A feasibility study has been carried out by Hambleton district council to examine the possibility of a flood alleviation scheme for Thirsk. The best way to take this forward will be explored jointly by Hambleton DC and the Environment Agency, with Defra advice as required.

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the reasons were for the delays in flood warning to be made public in connection with the recent floods in North Yorkshire. [9472]

**Mr. Morley:** Responsibility for flood warning arrangements rests with the Environment Agency.

I understand that on Friday 17 June 2005, Met Office forecasts to the Environment Agency indicated the likelihood of thunderstorms across North East Region over the weekend. However, due to the nature of the weather system, the Met Office were unable, even by Sunday lunchtime, to be more specific than to warn that most of the region was at continued risk of thunderstorms from the afternoon into the evening, and they had particular concern about the Pennines.

Three Flash Warnings of heavy rain were issued to the Environment Agency on Sunday 19 June at 13:57, 18:22 and 20:41 BST, but all the information related to "scattered heavy thunderstorms", "localised torrential downpours" and "localised flooding" with no direct time or location given to them.

The Environment Agency was alerted to the onset of property flooding at Thirsk and surrounding areas between 17:30 and 18:00 on 19 June;. While I understand that flooding at this stage was confined to surface water runoff, the Environment Agency nevertheless deployed operational staff to the area to report back on the situation.

At 20:00 on 19 June, alarm levels were received from the Environment Agency's instrumentation on Cod Beck upstream of Thirsk and consequently the Flood Watch for the area was issued at 20:10.

By 21:30, Environment Agency patrol staff on site reported a rapid rise of water levels in Cod Beck and the decision was therefore taken to issue the Flood Warning for Thirsk. The warning for flooding from Cod Beck itself was issued at 21:38 to 184 recipients. By this time there had been some flooding to property as a result of surface water and drainage problems but not from Cod Beck.

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will make provision for the collection of animal carcasses to be free of cost to farmers following the flooding in North Yorkshire. [9474]

**Mr. Morley:** The Department does not have any provision for the free collection of animals lost in the recent flooding. However, although not compulsory, I understand that many farmers already insure their livestock against such eventualities and it is likely that the cost of collection and disposal of dead stock will be met by the insurance companies concerned.

## Fly-tipping

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 16 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 552W, on fly-tipping, if she will break the figures down by *(a)* location and *(b)* type for (i) each region and (ii) each London borough. [8420]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The following data are from the Flycapture database which was established in April 2004 to record all fly-tips reported to and dealt with by waste collection authorities and the Environment Agency.

It is important to note that the data are probably an underestimate and will increase as more authorities submit returns and get better at collecting and reporting the data.

*Table 1: Number of fly-tipping incidents in each English region by land type*

| *Region* | *Highway* | *Footpath bridleway* | *Back alleyway* | *Railway* | *Council land* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| East Midlands | 19,327 | 7,861 | 1,654 | 40 | 8,765 |
| East of England | 30,287 | 4,837 | 6,043 | 46 | 19,931 |
| Greater London | 193,016 | 21,836 | 3,341 | 232 | 11,155 |
| North East | 15,713 | 8,059 | 35,170 | 78 | 15,884 |
| North West | 17,953 | 7,073 | 37,305 | 231 | 8,035 |
| South East | 38,411 | 5,518 | 4,635 | 68 | 25,052 |
| South West | 16,736 | 1,575 | 1,800 | 10 | 5,099 |
| West Midlands | 28,484 | 8,501 | 2,833 | 62 | 13,416 |
| Yorkshire and Humber | 20,839 | 14,816 | 4,465 | 41 | 152,326 |

| *Region* | *Agricultural* | *Private residential* | *Commercial industrial* | *Watercourse* | *Other* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| East Midlands | 716 | 1,521 | 757 | 231 | 486 |
| East of England | 323 | 1,886 | 647 | 356 | 3,580 |
| Greater London | 223 | 1,894 | 870 | 16 | 25,821 |
| North East | 640 | 2,111 | 1,605 | 403 | 2,219 |
| North West | 404 | 2,801 | 1,184 | 224 | 1,777 |

| Region | Agricultural | Private residential | Commercial industrial | Watercourse | Other |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| South East | 212 | 2,537 | 1,305 | 255 | 909 |
| South West | 140 | 714 | 287 | 174 | 188 |
| West Midlands | 108 | 2,595 | 1,337 | 120 | 1,337 |
| Yorkshire and Humber | 796 | 2,070 | 1,128 | 165 | 3,539 |

*Notes:*
1. Fly-tipping data based on returns reported to the Flycapture database between April 2004 and March 2005.
2. No data are shown where an authority has failed to submit returns.

*Table 2: Number of fly-tipping incidents in each English region by waste type*

| | Animal carcass | Green | Vehicle parts | White goods | Other electrical |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| East Midlands | 893 | 3,109 | 1,277 | 3,399 | 973 |
| East of England | 762 | 5,747 | 2,139 | 4,424 | 1,812 |
| Greater London | 976 | 7,330 | 3,370 | 16,852 | 5,413 |
| North East | 324 | 4,680 | 1,456 | 5,237 | 1,730 |
| North West | 616 | 2,795 | 1,080 | 5,014 | 1,988 |
| South East | 985 | 4,328 | 1,863 | 5,249 | 1,905 |
| South West | 710 | 1,712 | 989 | 2,516 | 1,250 |
| West Midlands | 1,719 | 3,672 | 996 | 2,836 | 1,149 |
| Yorkshire and Humber | 496 | 5,327 | 1,481 | 7,406 | 1,444 |

| | Tyres | Asbestos | Clinical | Construction/ demolition/ excavation | Black bags— commercial |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| East Midlands | 2,352 | 373 | 405 | 2,884 | 1,210 |
| East of England | 2,138 | 352 | 99 | 4,683 | 2,282 |
| Greater London | 3,640 | 114 | 87 | 11,312 | 18,916 |
| North East | 1,823 | 248 | 102 | 9,041 | 2,079 |
| North West | 1,585 | 282 | 273 | 5,822 | 1,740 |
| South East | 2,341 | 356 | 183 | 4,458 | 1,638 |
| South West | 1,029 | 116 | 133 | 1,996 | 424 |
| West Midlands | 1,245 | 357 | 177 | 3,069 | 1,940 |
| Yorkshire and Humber | 5,875 | 429 | 594 | 3,218 | 6,036 |

| | Black bags— household | Chemical drums/ oil fuel | Other household | Other commercial | Other |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| East Midlands | 8,149 | 275 | 12,524 | 1,493 | 2,043 |
| East of England | 9,529 | 429 | 25,406 | 1,952 | 5,880 |
| Greater London | 39,043 | 355 | 52,329 | 8,254 | 90,414 |
| North East | 13,817 | 413 | 32,291 | 2,932 | 5,723 |
| North West | 15,366 | 843 | 32,672 | 2,686 | 3,993 |
| South East | 18,007 | 366 | 30,810 | 2,152 | 4,270 |
| South West | 4,573 | 193 | 9,219 | 721 | 1,143 |
| West Midlands | 14,036 | 562 | 21,844 | 1,891 | 3,300 |
| Yorkshire and Humber | 111,624 | 300 | 39,828 | 2,448 | 13,679 |

*Notes:*
1. Fly-tipping data based on returns reported to the Flycapture database between April 2004 and March 2005.
2. No data are shown where an authority has failed to submit returns.

*Table 3: Number of fly-tipping incidents in each London borough by land type*

| | Highway | Footpath bridleway | Back alleyway | Railway | Council land |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Corporation of London | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Barking and Dagenham | — | — | — | — | — |
| Barnet | 564 | 4,336 | 86 | 1 | 27 |
| Bexley Council | 131 | 22 | 0 | 0 | 9 |
| Brent | 969 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Bromley | 1,651 | 27 | 55 | 0 | 159 |
| Camden | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Croydon | 6,182 | 0 | 60 | 0 | 490 |
| Ealing | 1,179 | 576 | 12 | 0 | 0 |
| Enfield | 142 | 8 | 32 | 0 | 20 |
| Greenwich | 124 | 28 | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| Hackney | 63 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 1,009 | 6,996 | 0 | 0 | 42 |
| Haringey | 51,999 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 |

*Table 3: Number of fly-tipping incidents in each London borough by land type*

| | Highway | Footpath bridleway | Back alleyway | Railway | Council land |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Harrow | 17 | 177 | 37 | 0 | 9 |
| Havering | 1,339 | 281 | 134 | 0 | 3,007 |
| Hillingdon | 446 | 244 | 261 | 3 | 413 |
| Hounslow | 5,607 | 31 | 55 | 2 | 81 |
| Islington | 5,175 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 17 |
| Lambeth | 13,783 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Lewisham | 16,706 | 469 | 1,375 | 139 | 11,248 |
| Merton | 3,195 | 1,228 | 166 | 9 | 211 |
| Newham | 4,330 | 3,908 | 154 | 0 | 264 |
| Redbridge | 5,494 | 0 | 370 | 0 | 0 |
| Richmond upon Thames | 176 | 576 | 59 | 3 | 30 |
| Southwark | 17,721 | 410 | 122 | 0 | 4,428 |
| Sutton | 62 | 4 | 21 | 1 | 134 |
| Tower Hamlets | 2,102 | 745 | 42 | 0 | 196 |
| Waltham Forest | 7,095 | 35 | 417 | 74 | 361 |
| Wandsworth | — | — | — | — | — |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 39,665 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| Kingston upon Thames | — | — | — | — | — |
| Westminster City Council | 6,086 | 1,729 | 52 | 0 | 1 |

| | Agricultural | Private residential | Commercial industrial | Watercourse | Other |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Corporation of London | 166 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Barking and Dagenham | — | — | — | — | — |
| Barnet | 0 | 13 | 0 | 0 | 699 |
| Bexley Council | 0 | 8 | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Brent | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Bromley | 6 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 7 |
| Camden | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 24,287 |
| Croydon | 0 | 18 | 8 | 0 | 43 |
| Ealing | 0 | 81 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Enfield | 0 | 38 | 12 | 0 | 10 |
| Greenwich | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Hackney | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 0 | 0 | 8 | 0 | 44 |
| Haringey | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Harrow | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| Havering | 10 | 86 | 42 | 6 | 38 |
| Hillingdon | 5 | 355 | 243 | 0 | 158 |
| Hounslow | 7 | 14 | 22 | 3 | 2 |
| Islington | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| Lambeth | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Lewisham | 0 | 387 | 5 | 0 | 12 |
| Merton | 9 | 304 | 39 | 0 | 24 |
| Newham | 0 | 208 | 205 | 0 | 0 |
| Redbridge | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Richmond upon Thames | 16 | 17 | 18 | 1 | 3 |
| Southwark | 0 | 122 | 163 | 0 | 40 |
| Sutton | 0 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| Tower Hamlets | 0 | 8 | 3 | 0 | 13 |
| Waltham Forest | 3 | 222 | 88 | 4 | 5 |
| Wandsworth | — | — | — | — | — |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 |
| Kingston upon Thames | — | — | — | — | — |
| Westminster City Council | 0 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 423 |

*Notes:*

1. Fly-tipping data based on returns reported to the Flycapture database between April 2004 and March 2005.
2. No data are shown where an authority has failed to submit returns.

*Table 4: Number of fly-tipping incidents in each London borough by waste type*

| | Animal carcass | Green | Vehicle parts | White goods | Other electrical |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Corporation of London | 0 | 33 | 6 | 13 | 1 |
| Barking and Dagenham | — | — | — | — | — |
| Barnet | 0 | 389 | 220 | 495 | 198 |
| Bexley Council | 0 | 6 | 11 | 5 | 18 |
| Brent | 0 | 0 | 0 | 164 | 0 |
| Bromley | 0 | 209 | 47 | 112 | 31 |
| Camden | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

*Table 4: Number of fly-tipping incidents in each London borough by waste type*

| | *Animal carcass* | *Green* | *Vehicle parts* | *White goods* | *Other electrical* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Croydon | 0 | 250 | 10 | 897 | 213 |
| Ealing | 105 | 55 | 6 | 211 | 30 |
| Enfield | 0 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 8 |
| Greenwich | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Hackney Hammersmith | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| and Fulham | 0 | 181 | 14 | 690 | 99 |
| Haringey | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Harrow | 4 | 4 | 18 | 20 | 24 |
| Havering | 7 | 435 | 87 | 374 | 95 |
| Hillingdon | 0 | 111 | 0 | 72 | 0 |
| Hounslow | 13 | 293 | 40 | 180 | 113 |
| Islington | 4 | 104 | 62 | 459 | 125 |
| Lambeth | 5 | 280 | 18 | 672 | 214 |
| Lewisham | 102 | 682 | 1,026 | 4,641 | 151 |
| Merton | 37 | 457 | 84 | 440 | 180 |
| Newham | 135 | 336 | 241 | 1434 | 0 |
| Redbridge | 159 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Richmond upon Thames | 0 | 128 | 3 | 93 | 13 |
| Southwark | 0 | 93 | 664 | 1,346 | 1,708 |
| Sutton | 19 | 11 | 1 | 18 | 5 |
| Tower Hamlets | 3 | 70 | 109 | 172 | 74 |
| Waltham Forest | 336 | 281 | 214 | 730 | 542 |
| Wandsworth | — | — | — | — | — |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 40 | 1,428 | 388 | 3,235 | 1,462 |
| Kingston upon Thames | — | — | — | — | — |
| Westminster City Council | 7 | 69 | 100 | 368 | 108 |

| | *Tyres* | *Asbestos* | *Clinical* | *Construction/ demolition/ excavation* | *Black bags— commercial* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Corporation of London | 2 | 0 | 0 | 43 | 3 |
| Barking and Dagenham | — | — | — | — | — |
| Barnet | 63 | 1 | 0 | 486 | 205 |
| Bexley Council | 13 | 0 | 0 | 31 | 4 |
| Brent | 0 | 0 | 0 | 200 | 205 |
| Bromley | 89 | 0 | 0 | 405 | 80 |
| Camden | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Croydon | 308 | 0 | 0 | 594 | 2,649 |
| Ealing | 7 | 8 | 0 | 24 | 150 |
| Enfield | 8 | 0 | 0 | 40 | 14 |
| Greenwich | 10 | 14 | 0 | 88 | 10 |
| Hackney Hammersmith | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 50 |
| and Fulham | 19 | 0 | 0 | 282 | 114 |
| Haringey | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Harrow | 6 | 2 | 0 | 12 | 16 |
| Havering | 39 | 6 | 4 | 386 | 87 |
| Hillingdon | 0 | 0 | 0 | 114 | 227 |
| Hounslow | 59 | 16 | 7 | 182 | 1,436 |
| Islington | 39 | 1 | 0 | 316 | 1,700 |
| Lambeth | 850 | 15 | 11 | 1,048 | 74 |
| Lewisham | 817 | 0 | 21 | 938 | 480 |
| Merton | 124 | 1 | 1 | 631 | 186 |
| Newham | 191 | 34 | 1 | 698 | 2,035 |
| Redbridge | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Richmond upon Thames | 10 | 0 | 0 | 87 | 87 |
| Southwark | 251 | 0 | 4 | 1,066 | 585 |
| Sutton | 4 | 7 | 1 | 5 | 4 |
| Tower Hamlets | 278 | 0 | 0 | 252 | 281 |
| Waltham Forest | 242 | 6 | 13 | 717 | 286 |
| Wandsworth | — | — | — | — | — |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 204 | 1 | 16 | 2,308 | 7,313 |
| Kingston upon Thames | — | — | — | — | — |
| Westminster City Council | 6 | 2 | 8 | 358 | 634 |

| | *Black bags— household* | *Chemical drums/ oil fuel* | *Other household* | *Other commercial* | *Other* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Corporation of London | 14 | 2 | 49 | 5 | 0 |
| Barking and Dagenham | — | — | — | — | — |
| Barnet | 676 | 20 | 1,791 | 510 | 672 |

| | Black bags—household | Chemical drums/oil fuel | Other household | Other commercial | Other |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Bexley Council | 22 | 7 | 45 | 7 | 6 |
| Brent | 200 | 20 | 20 | 150 | 10 |
| Bromley | 293 | 1 | 547 | 50 | 49 |
| Camden | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 24,287 |
| Croydon | 1,220 | 0 | 397 | 23 | 240 |
| Ealing | 460 | 2 | 160 | 90 | 740 |
| Enfield | 82 | 0 | 20 | 26 | 56 |
| Greenwich | 22 | 0 | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| Hackney Hammersmith | 13 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| and Fulham | 962 | 17 | 3,891 | 160 | 1,670 |
| Haringey | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 51,998 |
| Harrow | 63 | 0 | 19 | 7 | 53 |
| Havering | 1,762 | 21 | 1,342 | 113 | 185 |
| Hillingdon | 519 | 9 | 156 | 19 | 901 |
| Hounslow | 1,962 | 7 | 695 | 261 | 560 |
| Islington | 162 | 44 | 1,581 | 170 | 429 |
| Lambeth | 1,967 | 47 | 3,258 | 3,349 | 4,975 |
| Lewisham | 1,535 | 0 | 8,726 | 600 | 452 |
| Merton | 1,196 | 6 | 1,204 | 249 | 390 |
| Newham | 2,125 | 0 | 587 | 1,252 | 0 |
| Redbridge | 908 | 0 | 4,797 | 0 | 0 |
| Richmond upon Thames | 133 | 6 | 211 | 83 | 45 |
| Southwark | 4,438 | 65 | 10,492 | 697 | 173 |
| Sutton | 11 | 0 | 31 | 78 | 32 |
| Tower Hamlets | 915 | 0 | 637 | 210 | 108 |
| Waltham Forest | 857 | 12 | 3,223 | 787 | 58 |
| Wandsworth | — | — | — | — | — |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 15,449 | 54 | 6,289 | 1,115 | 377 |
| Kingston upon Thames | — | — | — | — | — |
| Westminster City Council | 1,276 | 15 | 2,153 | 1,243 | 1,948 |

*Notes:*
1. Fly-tipping data based on returns reported to the Flycapture database between April 2004 and March 2005.
2. No data are shown where an authority has failed to submit returns.

### Fruit Growing

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the *(a)* value and *(b)* weight of fruit grown in the UK was in the last year for which figures are available, broken down by type of fruit. [9599]

**Jim Knight:** Information on the value and weight of fruit grown in the UK for the calendar year 2004 is presented in the following table.

*Value and weight of UK produced fruit for 2004*

| 2004 | Output (000 tonnes) | Value (£ million) |
|---|---|---|
| Dessert apples | 96.3 | 36.7 |
| Culinary apples | 108.3 | 40.9 |
| Pears | 22.7 | 7.9 |
| Plums | 13.6 | 9.4 |
| Cherries | 1.0 | 1.9 |
| Strawberries | 47.9 | 95.9 |
| Raspberries | 10.7 | 48.4 |
| Blackcurrants | 19.3 | 12.7 |
| Other soft fruit [1] | 5.1 | 19.9 |

[1] includes gooseberries, red and blackcurrants, loganberries and blackberries

### Gangmasters (Licensing) Act

**Jim Sheridan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment has been made of the extent of *(a)* exploitation and *(b)* criminal activity by labour providers operating in second stage processing. [9571]

**Jim Knight:** As indicated in the Consultation Document on the draft Gangmasters (Exclusions) Regulations 2005 published on 28 February 2005, Defra has commissioned research to assess the extent of worker exploitation or illegal activity involving labour providers who supply workers to undertake second stage processing. A draft report has been received and we intend to publish this once it has been finalised.

**Jim Sheridan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what financial resources her Department plans to invest in enforcing the criminal offences of the Gangmasters (Licensing) Act 2004 *(a)* in the present financial year and *(b)* in the next three financial years; how many officers in her Department will have responsibilities for enforcing the criminal offences of the Act; how many of these enforcement officers will be existing staff; how many will be additional recruits; and what proportion of their time she estimates will be spent on enforcing the Act. [9572]

**Jim Knight:** The Gangmasters (Licensing) Act 2004 makes the Secretary of State responsible for appointing officers to enforce the criminal offences that the Act establishes. It is currently our intention to appoint officers of the Gangmasters Licensing Authority to undertake enforcement activities on behalf of Defra. The Regulatory Impact assessment that accompanied the Act indicated that the cost of enforcing the new legislation would be £2 million in a full year. This would enable the creation of an enforcement team of some 20 staff plus associated legal support. It is envisaged that the enforcement team will be additional to existing Government funded enforcement resources.

Gangmaster Licensing Authority staff involved in enforcement work may have other duties. However in aggregate the resource available to undertake enforcement work should equate to some 20 full-time equivalents in a full year.

It is anticipated that the offences of operating as a gangmaster without a licence and using an unlicensed gangmaster will be triggered in summer 2006. Enforcement capabilities will be built up gradually over the intervening period with the intention that the enforcement team will be at full strength when the offences come into effect. A programme for recruiting and training enforcement officers is being developed and funding will be made available in the current and next financial year to support this programme. We anticipate that the enforcement team's first full year of operation will be 2007–08 and that from that year onwards, expenditure on enforcement activities will be some £2 million per annum. It is not intended to seek to recover the cost of enforcement activities through licence fee income.

### GM Crops

**Alan Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what position the Government took on each of the votes at the recent meeting of EU environment ministers on Commission proposals to require countries to lift national bans on specified GM crops. [8735]

**Mr. Morley:** The UK voted to support the Commission decisions calling for the member states to withdraw their safeguard actions invoked under Article 23 of Directive 2001/18 because the scientific evidence provided does not justify taking such action. While the UK is very willing to consider any evidence that restrictions on specified GM crops could be justified, no new evidence was submitted to back such a case.

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how each EU country voted at the Environment Council in respect of the Commission proposal to rescind national bans on GM crops; and for what reasons the UK voted as it did. [9477]

**Mr. Morley** *[holding answer 4 July 2005]:* The majority of member states either voted against the Commission proposals to rescind national bans on certain specified GM crops, or abstained. The formal record of the Council meeting has not yet been published, so I cannot yet confirm how each member state voted. However once this information is available, I shall place a copy in the Library.

While the UK is always ready to consider new information relating to the risk assessment of approved GMOs, the UK voted to support the Commission decisions because in our view the actions taken by the member states to invoke safeguard actions are not justified by the scientific evidence and are not in compliance with the terms of Directive 2001/18. Under the terms of the Deliberate Release Directive safeguard action may only be taken if adequate scientific evidence is provided to justify the claim. In these cases the UK Advisory Committee on Releases to the Environment agree with the European Food Safety Authority that no new evidence has been brought forward for consideration.

### Household Water

**Mr. Dodds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the average amount spent by each household in England on water supplies was in the last period for which figures are available. [8996]

**Mr. Morley:** Average household bills are only available for England and Wales combined as the boundaries of water and sewerage companies do not follow national boundaries. In 2005–06 households will spend on average £134 on water supplies and the average amount households will spend on sewerage is £144. The total average household bill for water and sewerage in England and Wales is £278.

### Nuclear Waste (Portsmouth)

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the Answer to the hon. Member for Leyton and Wanstead of 21 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 887W, on nuclear waste, what the location is of the radioactive waste in Portsmouth; how much material is stored; how long it has been stored in this location; from where the material originated; who is responsible for the security of the site; and if she will make a statement. [8630]

**Mr. Morley:** Information about the amount of intermediate (ILW) and low level (LLW) radioactive waste held in the UK, including that held at HM Naval Base Portsmouth, is regularly published in the UK Kingdom Radioactive Waste Inventory which provides periodic snapshots of waste stocks. The latest edition for 2001 was published in 2002. However, MOD has provided additional information to answer some of the hon. Member's questions.

At HM Naval Base Portsmouth solid LLW, very low-level (VLLW) and small quantities of ILW, are securely stored in a radioactive storehouse facility under the radiological control of the MOD Naval Base Radiation Safety Officer. The Inventory indicates that 3 cubic meters of LLW and less than 0.1 cubic meters of ILW are stored. ILW and LLW is stored for a maximum of three years before it is removal from the site, while VLLW is either disposed of immediately or stored for a period not exceeding 14 days.

The wastes primarily consists of naval equipment, such as dials, gauges, compasses and gaseous tritium light sources, which have been removed from naval vessels that have left service and are in the process of disposal. In addition, small quantities of LLW are also stored at the Naval Base on behalf of the Institute of Naval Medicine.

Security of the stored radioactive waste is maintained through the Captain of the Base.

### Primates as Pets

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the timetable is for the consultation on primates as pets. [10601]

**Jim Knight:** The question of keeping primates as pets will be considered as part of a wider consultation on the proposed use of the Government's powers under Article 8.2 of Council Regulation 338/97, which is planned for the end of July.

Under this power EU member states may take measures to prohibit the keeping of endangered species, including primates, although such action must be broadly consistent with the conservation objectives of the Regulation as a whole.

### Radioactive Waste Disposal

**Paul Flynn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs following the release by NIREX on 10 June of the list drawn up by its consultants of 537 sites across the country deemed potentially geologically suitable to locate a nuclear waste disposal repository, if she will make it her policy to postpone for three months the deadline of 27 June set by the Committee on Radioactive Waste Management prior to the release of the list, for responses to its current second stage public consultation on radioactive waste management options. [9450]

**Mr. Morley** *[holding answer 5 July 2005]:* No. This previous site selection exercise was abandoned in 1997. UK Government and the devolved administrations subsequently established the independent Committee on Radioactive Waste Management (CoRWM), under the "Managing Radioactive Waste Safely" programme, to provide recommendation on the best option, or combination of options, for the long-term management of the UK's higher activity radioactive waste. CoRWM will deliver its recommendation by July 2006, in light of which future policy will be decided. Government have said that once the requirements for any future facility, or facilities, is known, in light of that policy decision, there will be an open and transparent discussion of the process and criteria to be adopted for site selection. The old Nirex list will not be the starting point for any future site selection process. There is no site selection process currently on-going. Hence there is no need or justification for extending the deadline for CoRWM's latest round of consultation.

### Seal products

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent representations she has received about the Canadian seal hunt. [6587]

**Jim Knight:** We have no record of representations received about the Canadian seal hunt as Defra officials forward any such correspondence or queries to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office who deal with this issue.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office advise me that during the past 12 months (July 2004 to July 2005), they have received the following representations in relation to the seal hunt in Canada:

Letters from members of the public: 20

Letters from Members of Parliament: 24

Meetings with Foreign Office Ministers: 1

### Sugar Beet Growers

**Dr. Gibson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether compensation payments to sugar beet growers will be paid at the same rate as to other EU growers; and whether the proposed mechanism for payment includes mandatory decoupling. [8363]

**Jim Knight:** Proposals published by the European Commission on 22 June as part of a package of sugar reform measures include an amendment to Council Regulation 1782/2003 which provides the legal framework for the Single Payment Scheme (SPS). That amendment would provide for new decoupled income support for beet growers which would be integrated into the model of the SPS that member state have already adopted. National financial ceilings for the SPS will be raised accordingly, by amounts calculated with reference to member states' sugar production quota levels. It follows that payment rates for sugar beet growers will not be uniform across the EU any more than they are in the SPS at the moment.

### Water Metering (Essex)

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her estimate is of the number of households in Essex which have water meters. [9257]

**Mr. Morley:** Information on the number of households with water meters is not available by county. The Office of Water Services (Ofwat) collects the information for each water company. In 2005–06 there are expected to be 258,000 households that have water meters in Essex and Suffolk Water's supply area.

These figures are published in Ofwat's "Tariff structure and charges 2005–06 report'.

### Whaling

**Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will press Norway to stop commercial whaling. [7905]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** We will continue to press Norway to desist from commercial whaling, which we believe contrary to the spirit of the International Whaling Commission moratorium. We made our objections very clear with regard to Norwegian whaling at the recent annual International Whaling Commission meeting in Korea. I also raised the matter with the Norwegian Fisheries Minister during a visit to Norway in November 2004.

### Yorkshire Water

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will make representations to Yorkshire Water to ensure that regular maintenance is carried out on all pipes, drains and waterways. [9475]

**Mr. Morley:** Under section 94 of the Water Industry Act 1991, which is enforced by the Office of Water Services, it is the duty of every sewerage undertaker to provide, improve and extend a system of public sewers and to cleanse and maintain those sewers and lateral

drains which belong to or are vested in the undertaker to ensure that an area is and continues to be effectually drained.

## TREASURY

### Child Care Vouchers

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had concerning extending eligibility for childcare vouchers to the self-employed; and what estimates he has made of the costs of doing so. [9858]

**Dawn Primarolo:** It is a general principle of the tax system that relief is not given for private expenditure incurred to enable an employee to go out to work, but only for expenses incurred in the performance of his or her duties of employment. This means that the expense must be one that any other employee doing the same job would have to incur whatever his or her personal circumstances.

Allowing a tax deduction for the cost of childcare for all working parents, rather than through a targeted exemption, would be expensive and poorly targeted. We believe that financial help for parents towards childcare costs should be provided through the tax credits system. Self employed people can receive help with the cost of formal childcare through the childcare element of the working tax credit.

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what projections he has made of the take-up of the *(a)* electronic elements and *(b)* paper elements of the salary-sacrifice childcare voucher scheme. [9859]

**Dawn Primarolo:** In the Regulatory Impact Assessment published in April 2004, HMRC estimated that the number of employees using childcare vouchers for under-fives will increase from 30,000 in 2003 to 90,000 by 2009–10. There is no breakdown between electronic and paper vouchers.

Additionally, other forms of employer-provided childcare were expected to grow over the same period from 30,000 (the number of users of workplace nurseries) to 85,000 (including holiday play schemes and out of school clubs).

The Regulatory Impact Assessment can be accessed via www.hmrc.gov.uk/ria/emp-supp-childcare.pdf

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimates he has made of the cost to business of introducing childcare vouchers, with particular reference to small and medium sized companies. [9860]

**Dawn Primarolo:** This information can be found in the Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) at Paragraphs 15–21. The RIA can be assessed on the HMRC Website at www.hmrc.gov.uk/ria/emp-supp-childcare.pdf

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the cost to the Treasury of introducing childcare vouchers over the next three years; and from what budget this cost is to be met. [9861]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Estimated Exchequer costs to 2009–10 were included in paragraph 14 of the Regulatory Impact Assessments which can be accessed at the HMRC'S website at, www.hmrc.gov.uk/ria/emp-supp-childcare.pdf

Costings up to 2006–07 were included in the Pre-Budget Report and this can be accessed at www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/media/28B/c3/pbr03annexb227.pdf

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will assess the merits of allowing self-employed people to present a certificate from an Ofsted-registered child carer at the end of each tax year in order to claim a rebate on their tax return, in lieu of their ability to claim salary-sacrifice childcare vouchers. [9862]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Allowing a tax rebate for the cost of childcare for all self-employed parents would be expensive and poorly targeted. However, self-employed people can receive help with the cost of formal childcare through the childcare element of the working tax credit.

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which company administers the electronic vouchers element of the salary-sacrifice childcare vouchers scheme; and which computer systems are used for that administration. [9863]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The Government provides a tax and National Insurance contributions exemption on employer-provided childcare vouchers to encourage employers to help their employees with childcare costs.

It is up to employers whether the vouchers they provide are paper or electronic and also whether they administer schemes themselves or outsource to voucher provider companies.

A number of these companies offer employers an electronic facility for handling their employee childcare voucher schemes.

### Council Tax

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which *(a)* external advisers, *(b)* academics and *(c)* consultants (i) his Department and (ii) the Valuation Office Agency have consulted on council tax revaluation. [9548]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The independent inquiry into local Government funding, led by Sir Michael Lyons, is considering the case for reforms to council tax, taking into account the forthcoming revaluation of domestic property. The inquiry has undertaken a wide programme of consultation.

Further to this, the Valuation Office Agency have consulted with relevant experts to develop their appraisal methodology. They have taken advice from Cole Layer Trumble (CLT) in respect of computer modelling and mass appraisal techniques; the International Association of Assessing Officers (IAAO), the International Property Tax Institute (IPTI), the Institute of Revenues, Rating and Valuation (IRRV) and the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RIGS) in respect of academic advice and input to international valuation standards and KPMG as business advisers.

### Departmental Advertising

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much the *(a)* Department and *(b)* non-departmental bodies for which the Department is responsible has spent on advertising, in the last three years broken down by media type. [9502]

### Advertising

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much the Department spent on advertising in each of the last five years. [10238]

**John Healey:** I refer to the answers given to the hon. Member for North-West Norfolk (Mr. Bellingham) on 21 February 2005, *Official Report*, column 810W, and to the hon. Member for Buckingham (Mr. Bercow) on 7 May 2002, *Official Report*, column 36W. The only type of advertising undertaken by the Treasury in the last five years has been advertising for the purpose of staff recruitment. The amounts spent on recruitment advertising, separate from other recruitment costs, are not available for years prior to 2002–03. The Treasury's estimated spending on staff recruitment advertising in 2004–05 was £151,000.

Expenditure on advertising by the Statistics Commission, the Treasury's only non-departmental public body, was £13,000 in 2002–03, £22,000 in 2003–04, and £12,000 in 2004–05.

Media used included both print and the internet.

### Hospital-acquired Infections

**Mr. Swire:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many reported deaths in hospital there were from clostridium difficile O27 in each of the past five years. [9458]

**John Healey:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Colin Mowl to Mr. Hugo Swire, dated 6 July 2005:*

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many reported deaths in hospital there were from Clostridium difficile O27 in each of the last five years. I am replying in his absence. (9458)

It is not possible to distinguish between deaths associated with Clostridium difficile O27 and other strains of C. difficile. The vast majority of cases are diagnosed by the detection of specific toxins, and not the growth of C. difficile. However, typing, which is required to distinguish cases associated with C- difficile O27 from cases associated with other strains of C. difficile, requires growth of C. difficile. It is unlikely that the strain of C. difficile a patient had would be reported on their death certificate.

In the Tenth Revision of the International Classification of Diseases (ICD-10), deaths involving enterocolitis due to Clostridium difficile can all be identified from the code A04.7. Enterocolitis is the commonest illness caused by C. difficile infection. For causes other than enterocolitis that are also known to be associated with C. difficile, it is not possible to identify from ICD codes alone the number of deaths where C. difficile actually contributed to the death. For this reason, the only routinely available mortality statistics on C. difficile are those where it was associated with enterocolitis. These figures were provided in answer to a question from Mr. David Lidington MP, Hansard Written Answer 3764, page 49W.

### Hypothermia

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the excess winter mortality rates were in terms of *(a)* numbers and *(b)* percentages in (i) the United Kingdom, (ii) England, (iii) Scotland, (iv) Wales, (v) Greater London and (vi) the Southend area for (A) those aged (1) 60 to 64 years, (2) 65 to 79 years and (3) over 80 years and (B) all ages in each of the last five years. [9911]

**John Healey:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician. I have asked him to reply.

*Letter from Colin Mowl to Mr. David Amess, dated 6 July 2005:*

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the excess winter mortality rates were in terms of *(a)* numbers, and *(b)* percentages in (i) the United Kingdom, (ii) England , (iii) Scotland, (iv) Wales, (v) Greater London, and (vi) the Southend area of those aged (A) 60 to 64 years, (B) 65 to 79 years, (C) over 80 years, and (D) all ages in each of the last five years. I am replying in his absence. (9911)

Estimates of excess winter mortality are not routinely calculated for the United Kingdom. However, figures for England and Wales and Government Office Regions in England are published. Estimates for winters to 2002/03 (with provisional figures for 2003/2004) can be found in the report, "Excess Winter Mortality—By Age Group and Region" on the National Statistics website at: http://www.statistics.gov.uk/STATBASE/ssdataset.asp?vlnk=7089

The most recent available excess winter mortality estimates for local authorities are for the winter 2002/03. Figures requested for Southend-on-Sea local authority are given in the table below for the years 1998/99 to 2002/03. An age-breakdown has not been provided because of the small numbers involved.

*Excess winter deaths[1] for the local authority of Southend-on-Sea, 1998–99 to 2002–03*

| *Winter* | *(a) Number of excess winter deaths[2]* | *(b) Percentage of excess winter mortality[3]* |
|---|---|---|
| 1998–99 | 160 | 23.8 |
| 1999–2000 | 200 | 29.7 |
| 2000–01 | 160 | 23.6 |
| 2001–02 | 110 | 16.8 |
| 2002–03 | 160 | 25.4 |

[1] Excess winter deaths are defined by the Office for National Statistics as the difference between the number of deaths during the four winter months (December to March) and the average number of deaths during the preceding four months (August to November) and the following four months (April to July).

[2] Rounded to the nearest 10.

[3] The percentage of excess winter mortality is calculated as the excess number of winter deaths divided by the average number of non-winter deaths, expressed as a percentage.

### Private Finance Initiative

**Alan Simpson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much the Government have so far committed to private finance initiative schemes; and what the future financial projections for PFI initiatives are for each of the next five years. [9613]

**John Healey:** The most recent published estimate of payments to be made under signed PFI contracts in future years can be found in table C19 of Budget 2005

available online at www.hm-treasury.gov.uk. Estimates for previous years can be found in previous Budget publications.

### Rural Banking Services

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what measures the Government is taking to encourage banks to maintain banking services in small rural communities. [6943]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** All of the main high street banks and building societies are signed up to the Banking Codes, which has been recently independently reviewed. Out of the five recommendations made by the independent reviewer on bank closures, four were accepted outright. Through the Banking Codes there is now an obligation for subscribers to:

give customers extended notice of branch closure if the road distance of the nearest alternative branch is more than one mile in urban areas or more than four miles in rural areas;

explain how they continue to provide services after the branch has been closed in a way that is specific to local provision;

give notice of a substantial reduction in opening hours; and,

explain to small businesses how they continue to provide banking services, including any inter-bank agency arrangement, if they exist.

Our approach to improving services in rural areas is to work with communities to help them understand and articulate their needs to those who deliver services.

This sort of collaborative working, based on the principles in our strategy for rural areas, will ensure that communities benefit from our programmes to modernise, improve and support services and will enable communities to help themselves to meet the needs of local people.

### Ryscar House, Blackpool

**Mr. Frank Field:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the likely effects of the closure of Ryscar House, Blackpool will have on the number and accuracy of working tax and child tax credit awards. [8498]

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what assessment has been made of the impact on *(a)* costs and *(b)* service to the public, of the closure of Ryscar House, Blackpool; [9170]

(2) if he will make it his policy to reverse the decision to close Ryscar House, Blackpool; [9171]

(3) what assessment he has made of the number of staff at Ryscar House who will opt for redundancy rather than moving to another part of the country as a result of the planned closure; what assessment he has made of the likely effects on benefit claimants; and if he will make a statement; [9172]

(4) if he will make available to trade unions the business case for the closure of Ryscar House, Blackpool. [9173]

**Dawn Primarolo** *[holding answer 30 June 2005]:* No decision has been taken to close the HM Revenue and Customs office at Ryscar House.

HMRC is preparing business plans to meet its efficiency savings for 2005–08, but no decision have yet been made in this process. It is therefore too early to say how any particular office might be affected. All proposals that are drawn up as part of this work will be subject to a comprehensive social, economic and service delivery impact assessment.

HMRC is committed to good industrial relations. It has established a programme of regular consultations with the trade unions to discuss major changes across the Department's businesses.

### Tax Avoidance Schemes

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will introduce legislation to ban accountancy, law and other firms from charging contingency fees for selling tax avoidance schemes. [9405]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The Government are committed to protecting the tax system against tax avoidance. Since 1997 the Government have taken a series of steps to prevent abuse of the tax system through structural reforms that made the system less vulnerable, closing loopholes in the law and improving the way that HM Revenue and Customs delivers its compliance function. In his 2004 Budget Statement, the Chancellor announced the introduction of disclosure rules for direct tax and VAT, to require notification of avoidance schemes. Contingency fees are one of the features of both direct tax and VAT avoidance that can trigger a disclosure requirement.

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will investigate the role of KPMG, PwC, Ernst and Young and Deloitte in devising and selling tax avoidance schemes. [9407]

**Dawn Primarolo:** As part of the Government's commitment to protect the tax system against tax avoidance, the Chancellor announced the introduction of disclosure rules for direct tax in his 2004 Budget Statement. These rules require all promoters to disclose certain tax avoidance schemes to HMRC. HMRC reviews each scheme.

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will introduce a general anti-avoidance rule to curb tax avoidance. [9409]

**Dawn Primarolo:** In his 2004 Budget Statement, the Chancellor announced that he did not intend to introduce a general anti-avoidance rule at this stage. The Government continue to keep under review a range of options to deter non-compliance and encourage voluntary compliance, ensuring fairness of the tax system.

### Tax Credits

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people are employed in HM Revenue and Customs to handle *(a)* tax credit complaints, *(b)* telephone calls about tax credits and *(c)* compensation for HM Revenue and Custom's errors relating to tax credits; and if he will make a statement. [8566]

**Dawn Primarolo:** At 28 May 2005 HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) had nearly 400 full-time equivalent staff working in the Tax Credit Office handling tax credit complaints. These staff also deal with compensation in accordance with complaints and redress procedures explained in the Department's code of practice 1: "Putting things right".

The number of full-time equivalent staff employed to work on dedicated tax credits helplines at 28 May 2005 was around 3,200. In addition, HMRC can use another 500 staff to answer tax credit calls at peak times.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what proportion of tax credit appeals against overpayment have been upheld to date; and if he will make a statement; [8577]

(2) how many appeals against overpaid tax credits have been received by HM Revenue and Customs for each quarter since 2003 Q1; and if he will make a statement. [8582]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Taxpayers have a right of appeal against decisions about their tax credit entitlement and they are able to pursue with HMRC any disagreement concerning the recovery of an overpayment.

The Department's code of practice 26, "What happens if we have paid you too much tax credit?" describes their approach to overpayments and is available on the internet at: http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/leaflets/cop26.pdf

The code explains that the Department will not expect customers to pay back an overpayment if it arose because of their mistake and the customer could reasonably have thought their award was correct.

To 31 May 2005 the Tax Credit Office had dealt with around 151,000 disputed overpayment requests and written off the overpayment in around 36,000 cases (approximately 24 per cent.).

The Department began recording intake of disputed overpayment requests in May 2004. Intake each quarter from May 2004 is as follows:

| *Quarter* | *Disputes received* |
|---|---|
| April to June 2004 | 14,000 |
| July to September 2004 | 54,000 |
| October to December 2004 | 63,000 |
| January to March 2005 | 84,000 |
| April to 31 May 2005 | 56,000 |

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what representations he received from the *(a)* Inland Revenue and *(b)* external IT suppliers about the timescale for the introduction of the new tax credits prior to April 2003; and if he will make a statement. [8599]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The development of Government policy on tax credits involved extensive discussions between Treasury Ministers and Inland Revenue Officials. I am not aware that Ministers received representations directly from external IT suppliers.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many people had in-year recovery of excess tax credits in *(a)* 2003–04 and *(b)* 2004–05; and what the total value of excess payments was in each year; [8813]

(2) what his estimate is of the number of excess payments of tax credit in the 2003–04 year which had been recovered by the end of the financial year; and if he will make a statement. [9248]

**Dawn Primarolo:** I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answers I gave him on 4 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 98W (8580) and column 102W (8022).

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the statement of 22 June 2005, *Official Report*, columns 801–14, by the Paymaster General, on tax credits, whether he has accepted in full the recommendations in paragraph *(a)* 5.41, *(b)* 5.51, *(c)* 5.65 and *(d)* 7.14 of the Parliamentary Ombudsman's report. [8021]

**Dawn Primarolo:** I refer the hon. Member to the written statement I made in the House on 26 May 2005, *Official Report*, columns 22–23WA and the oral statement I made to the House on 22 June 2005, *Official Report*, columns 801–14.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the statement of 22 June 2005, *Official Report*, columns 801–14, by the Paymaster General, on tax credits, whether changes to the tax credit IT system are required to ensure that an in-year excess tax credit payment that is recoverable in accordance with COP 26 will be recovered at the same rate as those for previous year overpayments. [8024]

**Dawn Primarolo:** I refer the hon. Member to the statement I made to the House on 26 May 2005, *Official Report*, column 22WS.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the statement of 22 June 2005, *Official Report*, columns 801–14, by the Paymaster General, on tax credits, whether changes to the tax credit IT system are required in order to comply with the recommendation in paragraph 5.17 of the Parliamentary Ombudsman's report; and whether he accepts the recommendation. [8025]

**Dawn Primarolo:** I refer the hon. Member to the statement I made on 26 May 2005, *Official Report*, column 22WS.

HMRC will urgently ensure that in cases of genuine hardship where the recovery of an overpayment is disputed, recovery can be suspended while the dispute is resolved.

### Tesco (VAT Avoidance)

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will take action against Tesco for selling CDs and DVDs on the internet in relation to VAT avoidance. [9406]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The Government do not intend to prevent businesses from using the internet to market sales of CDs and DVDs. However, we are aware that

some businesses are restructuring their operations in order to achieve VAT-free sales of certain goods to UK consumers. The Government are keeping this issue under close review.

### VAT (Condoms)

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the annual cost of exempting VAT on condoms; and if he will make a statement. [9252]

**Dawn Primarolo:** HM Revenue and Customs does not collect data on VAT from individual goods and services. The Government keeps all taxes under review and any assessments and subsequent changes are announced as part of the normal Budget process.

## EDUCATION AND SKILLS

### Arson Attacks

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many arson attacks there were on schools in *(a)* Southend, *(b)* Essex and *(c)* each London borough in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [9935]

**Jacqui Smith:** Because the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) has overall policy lead for fire safety and arson reduction across Government Departments, it is ODPM rather than this Department that compiles statistics on fires in schools.

The latest data we have on school fires from ODPM cover the years 2000 to 2004. They are not able to provide figures for sub-fire brigade areas, such as Southend or the London boroughs. These are figures for Essex and Greater London.

*Deliberate fires in schools by year*

| *Area* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| England | 752 | 852 | 664 | 753 | 664 |
| Essex | 16 | 15 | 5 | 22 | 13 |
| Greater London | 59 | 90 | 22 | 54 | 49 |

Figures for 2004 are provisional, and those for 2002 and 2003 exclude incidents not recorded during periods of industrial action.

### Behaviour Improvement Programme

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if she will list the local education authorities that have received funds under the Behaviour Improvement Programme; and how much each has received to enable them to tackle pupil behaviour in each year since 1997. [7703]

**Jacqui Smith:** The information requested has been placed in the Libraries.

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what targets have been set for the Behaviour Improvement Programme. [7704]

**Jacqui Smith:** The Behaviour Improvement Programme is intended to be tailored to local circumstances. Schools and measures are identified locally, and partnerships are monitored against the key objectives of improved behaviour, improved attendance, reduced unauthorised absence and reduced exclusions. Specific performance targets are agreed locally between the Excellence in Cities partnership and schools and are set for both individual terms and academic years, covering attendance, unauthorised absence and exclusions.

### Bullying

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what requirement there is for schools to make their anti-bullying policy available to *(a)* parents and *(b)* prospective parents. [9994]

**Jacqui Smith:** Under section S61 of the School Standards Framework Act 1998, all schools are required to publicise the school's anti-bullying policy in written form to the parents of those pupils registered at the school, as well as all members of the school community.

In addition the law requires that the policy is brought to the attention of pupils, parents, those employed by the school and those who provide their services to the school at least once a year. Our guidance also states that not only should the information be available to parents, but that they should be actively involved in its preparation and review.

At present there is no legal requirement to make the policy available to the parents of prospective pupils, but guidance states that all new pupils are provided with the policy.

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what guidance she has issued to schools on appropriate sanctions to deal with bullying. [9995]

**Jacqui Smith:** The "Bullying: Don't Suffer in Silence" packs issued by the Department contain clear guidance on appropriate sanctions to deal with bullying.

Where pupils do not respond to preventive strategies, we recommend that schools have a clear and sufficient range of sanctions in place to tackle the issue, and that these sanctions are publicised to the whole school community.

Suggested sanctions include, removal from the group/class, withdrawal from break and lunchtime privileges, completion of extra written work, carrying out a useful task in the school, detention, withholding participation in school trips and events not essential to the curriculum, and fixed period exclusion.

Where serious real or threatened violence is involved, the head teacher can permanently exclude the pupil. To further enforce this appeal panels and governing bodies have been advised that they should not normally seek to overrule such a decision on appeal.

In addition we advise that punishments that are humiliating or degrading should not be used, and that sanctions should be applied fairly and consistently to all pupils.

For further information, please visit http://www.dfes.gov.uk/bullying/ and view the "Bullying: Don't Suffer in Silence" pack.

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to her answer of 21 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 990W, on bullying, if she will place in the Library a copy of the work commissioned by the Youth Crime Programme Board on the onset of offending and the impact of her Department's policies. [9997]

**Jacqui Smith:** The work undertaken by officials on the Youth Crime Programme Board was policy advice within Government, which would not be appropriate to place in the Library. This work drew on published research—in particular "Support from the Start," a review commissioned by my Department of the evidence on preventing youth offending, which is available in the Library.

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to her Answer of 21 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 993W, on bullying, if she will place in the Library a copy of the effective practice digest that accompanies the anti-bullying Charter for Action. [9998]

**Jacqui Smith:** The information requested has now been placed in the House Libraries.

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how the Anti-Bullying Alliance is accountable to the Department for its use of its Government grant. [10004]

**Jacqui Smith:** Expenditure by the ABA is subject to formal and informal monitoring to confirm that the grant awarded has been spent in accordance with the project plan agreed by the ABA and the Department.

The grant is payable under Regulation 15 of the Education (Grant) Regulations 1990 and is subject to Regulations 18(2) of those regulations.

We will be looking for auditors' confirmation that the grant has been claimed and used in compliance with the terms and conditions as set out in the grant allocation in year end accounts.

In addition, officials hold regular meetings with the ABA to monitor activity and review progress.

### Drug Awareness and Prevention (Southend)

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many teachers who specialise in drug awareness and prevention are employed in schools in Southend West constituency. [9932]

**Jacqui Smith:** The information requested is not collected centrally.

### Education Maintenance Allowance

**Harry Cohen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if she will make extra provision available for 16 to 19-year-olds claiming the education maintenance allowance who live in London to reflect the higher cost of living. [9504]

**Maria Eagle:** We do not currently have any plans to make extra payments to young people claiming EMA who live in London. EMA is intended as a contribution towards the cost of staying on in further education rather than as part of family support.

Evidence from EMA pilots would not support the case for more generous arrangements in London. We piloted a less generous version of the scheme in London, using an income threshold of £20,000 rather than the standard £30,000 piloted elsewhere and now adopted nationally. This was done with the agreement of the London LEAs, in order to allow us to fund EMA across a larger area of inner London. The evidence indicated that this variant of EMA also increased participation among eligible young people.

### Educational Buildings (Sprinkler Systems)

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if she will make it her policy to make the fitting of sprinkler systems in educational buildings mandatory. [9641]

**Jacqui Smith:** Since April 2001, all new building work at schools has been subject to the Building Regulations, which are the responsibility of the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM). These regulations do not currently require the installation of sprinklers in schools, but that does not prohibit local education authorities from specifying their use.

We believe that the decision on whether to install sprinklers is best taken locally. For example, in our Managing School Facilities guide 6, "Fire Safety", we give the example of a school in an area of high arson risk as being a suitable candidate for having sprinklers installed. However, we are mindful of the need to provide more detailed advice than before. Liaising with ODPM, we have therefore produced new draft guidance on fire safety—Building Bulletin (BB) 100, "Designing and Managing Against the Risk of Fire in Schools". It stresses the value of using risk assessments to determine what sort of fire detection and alarm systems should be used in each school, and whether or not sprinklers should be installed. The draft of BB 100 will be going out to public consultation shortly and should be published by the end of 2005.

Concurrently ODPM is carrying out a review of the fire safety aspects of the Building Regulations and its accompanying guidance Approved Document B (AD B). We understand that this should be completed in the early part of 2006.

### Essex Schoolchildren

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many children of school age in Essex are not attending either a state school or a private school. [8836]

**Jacqui Smith:** The information requested is shown in the table.

*Pupils educated otherwise than at school under arrangements made by the local education authority[1]—January 2005*

| | England | Essex local education authority |
|---|---|---|
| Pupils in hospital[2] | 243 | 0 |
| Other pupils not in school[3] | 16,741 | 333 |
| Total pupils not in school | 16,984 | 333 |

[1] Pupils of compulsory school age (5–15) as at 31 August 2004.
[2] Includes non-statemented pupils in hospital excluding pupils in maintained general hospital or special hospital schools.
[3] Includes other pupils not in school e.g. pupils taught at home, Traveller children, asylum seekers at FE colleges or with voluntary sector providers.
*Source:*
8B Survey

### Food Procurement

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much was spent by her Department on public procurement of food in the most recent year for which figures are available; and what proportion of that expenditure was covered under Crown immunity on food safety matters. [5784]

**Maria Eagle:** The Department for Education and Skills spent on public procurement of food a total of £619,332.85 in the most recent year figures. The Crown is not "immune" from the requirements of health and safety legislation generally. No proportion of the Department's expenditure on food and catering is therefore covered under Crown immunity.

### Foster Care

**John Hemming:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the answer of 29 June 2005, *Official Report*, columns 1623–24W, on foster care, what assessment she has made of the reasons for the change in the amount spent on external foster care. [10008]

**Maria Eagle:** Changes in the amount spent on external foster care reflect decisions made by individual local authorities about how best to provide care for the children for whom they are responsible. Over 40,000 looked after children (out of approximately 61,000 children who are looked after by local authorities at any one time) are placed with foster carers. Decisions about spending on specific categories of foster care are made at local level, in the light of children's individual circumstances and needs. However, the emergence in recent years of a market in foster care, comprising statutory sector, voluntary sector and independent sector providers, has contributed to the development of greater choice in placements for looked after children and helps ensure that specialised needs can be met. The Government have taken forward a number of strands of work to encourage more strategic approaches, at local level, to the commissioning of placements and services, and to encourage greater awareness and understanding among commissioners of the cost implications of placement decisions.

### Further Education Funding

**Annette Brooke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many local education authorities in England have received a reduced further education funding allocation in the 2005–06 settlement. [8500]

**Bill Rammell** *[holding answer 30 June 2005]:* Based upon current Learning and Skills Council records, 40 local education authorities in England have received a reduced further education funding allocation in the 2005–06 settlement in comparison with 2004–05.

### Key Stage 4

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what proportion of work related learning at Key Stage 4 takes place *(a)* in the classroom and *(b)* in work placements. [10038]

**Jacqui Smith:** Schools are not required to maintain records on how work related learning is delivered at Key Stage 4. It is taught across the curriculum, using work contexts to enrich subject teaching. For example, visitors to the classroom and the use of business-related materials provide good opportunities for work related learning, so out of school experiences are not the only way to acquire work related learning.

Work experience is an essential element of the statutory requirement, and reaches over 90 pr cent. of students for between one and two weeks at Key Stage 4.

### New Schools

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) how many competitions have been held by local education authorities to find alternative providers for new schools; and what the outcome was of each; [10005]

(2) what guidance has been issued to local education authorities on holding competitions for new and replacement schools. [10006]

**Jacqui Smith:** There have been no competitions held by local authorities to find alternative providers for new schools. The current requirement for local authorities to hold a competition applies only where a local authority intends to publish proposals for a new school that does not replace an existing secondary school. Provisions in the Education Act 2005 will require a competition whenever proposals are required for a new secondary school, including one replacing an existing school as a result of reorganisation, unless the Secretary of State agrees that in a particular case individual proposals are more appropriate.

Existing guidance on holding competitions for new schools is contained in the "Information pack for Promoters and LEAs" issued in May 2003, and there is also information in the guidance for Decision Makers, which deals with statutory proposals of all kinds. Updated guidance on the new arrangements for school competitions will be issued, after consultation, when the extended provisions on school competitions are commenced.

### Parliamentary Government

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what steps her Department is taking to promote *(a)* knowledge of and *(b)* interest in parliamentary Government through schools. [9931]

**Jacqui Smith:** Understanding the role and operation of Parliament and Government in our democracy is an important part of citizenship education. Pupils learn about the institutions, issues, and practices of our democracy and how citizens can become involved in their community. The Department has supported a range of projects to engage pupils in this learning. These include working with the Hansard Society to run "Y Vote mock elections", giving pupils the opportunity to stand as party candidates, speech writers and canvassers in a mock election.

### Parliamentary Questions

**Mr. Gibb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills when she expects to answer the Question reference 5018 tabled by the hon. Member for Bognor Regis and Littlehampton on 13 June. [10323]

**Jacqui Smith:** A response was issued on 5 July.

### Post-16 Education

**Vera Baird:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills when she will announce the funding regime for 16–19 years capital projects. [10091]

**Jacqui Smith:** The Learning and Skills Council plans to issue guidance on the operation of the new 16–19 capital fund later in the summer.

### School Fees

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills in what circumstances a local education authority may pay fees on behalf of a pupil attending an independent school. [10007]

**Jacqui Smith:** Local authorities have powers under section 517 of the Education Act 1996 to purchase places in independent schools. Under this provision a local authority may purchase places at an independent school if it is satisfied that there are insufficient places in all of its maintained schools or in those schools maintained by neighbouring authorities to enable the authority to provide education suitable to a pupil's age, ability and aptitude or to any special educational needs the pupil may have.

Section 128 of the Schools Standards and Framework Act 1998 provides for local authorities powers to purchase places at mainstream independent schools to be limited to circumstances prescribed in regulations. No regulations have been made under this section.

Section 348 of the 1996 Act also allows local authorities to pay fees on behalf of a child attending an independent school when the school is specified in a statement in respect of the child under section 324 of the act. Under this provision the local authority has to be satisfied:

(a) that his interests require the necessary special educational provision to be made for him at a school which is not a maintained school, and

(b) that it is appropriate for the child to be provided with education at the particular school.

### School Meals

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if she will make it her policy to fund the full cost of meeting the recommendations of the School Meals Review Panel. [8061]

**Jacqui Smith:** The Panel will submit its recommendations to the Secretary of State in September. The recommendations will then go out to public consultation, and at this point an appraisal of implementation costs will be carried out. The Department has already pledged £220 million over three years, which is intended to supplement the income derived from, and offset the additional costs of improving school meals. At this point we do not anticipate providing any further funding.

### Student Numbers

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the Answer of 14 June 2005, *Official Report,* column 370W, on student numbers, what plans her Department has to produce projections of student numbers for subjects identified as significant for the competitiveness of the UK economy. [8183]

**Bill Rammell:** Although the Department collects data on number of students by subject of study for monitoring purposes, it does not and could not produce robust projections under the current system in which Higher Education Institutions are entirely free to decide for themselves which students should be admitted to individual subject courses on the basis of student demand and their own strategic priorities. However, we will review the position in the light of the advice we have recently received from the Higher Education Funding Council for England on subjects which are strategically important and will listen to the views of institutions, employers, and others with an interest before responding later in the year.

### Taxis

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much the Department has spent on taxis in each of the last five years. [6497]

**Maria Eagle:** The Department of Education and Skills was established in 2001 and the detailed information requested is not held centrally and can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

All travel and subsistence is conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Ministerial Code, Travel by Ministers and the Civil Service Management Code.

### University Graduates

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what research she has undertaken into *(a)* the length of time graduates take to find employment following graduation and *(b)* the starting salaries of new graduates. [8837]

**Bill Rammell:** From the Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education (DLHE) survey, we know that nearly three-quarters (71 per cent.) of full-time 2002/03 graduates were in employment six months after leaving (with a further 16 per cent. in further study alone and 7 per cent. assumed unemployed).

However, we also know that destinations at the six month point are not representative of longer-term outcomes. Therefore the Department also commissions and monitors wider research to investigate later transitions in and out of the labour market. A survey of 1995 graduates, tracked up to seven years after graduation, shows a significant rise in employment rates over time. After two years post-graduation, 84 per cent. of graduates were in work rising further still to 95 per cent. seven years after leaving[1].

Data on starting salaries is also available from the DLHE survey, showing that the median salary for 2002/03 leavers in full-time work was £17,000. Other sources include the Graduate Prospects annual survey of vacancies advertised in university careers centres; the most recent estimate showed a median starting salary of £18,000 for 2003/04. This is more representative of the salaries enjoyed by those entering graduate-level jobs (and over 80 per cent. of graduates enter these types of jobs within 3/4 years of graduation).

DfES also estimates that graduates earn, on average, around £120,000 more over their lifetime—in present value terms—than 2+A level holders.

This evidence is continually being updated. The statistical release for the 2003/04 DLHE will be published in July, and research commissioned by DfES tracking a cohort of 1999 graduates up to four years after leaving university will be published in the next few months. Further, the Department continues to monitor labour market data and new research as it emerges.

[1] Bias, P & K. Purcell (2004) "Seven Years On: Graduate Careers in a Changing Labour Market", HECSU and also Elias, P & K. Purcell (forthcoming) "Graduate Careers in a Changing Global Market: seven years on". London: Palgrave Macmillan

## HEALTH

### Adverse Incidents

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many medical device-related adverse incidents in 2004 were reported to have *(a)* 2, *(b)* 3 and *(c)* 4 causes. [8425]

**Jane Kennedy:** The information shown in the following table is derived from initial assessments of the causes of device failures based on incident reports submitted to the Medical Healthcare products Regulatory Agency. Different or additional causes may be confirmed following conclusion of incident investigations.

*Number of medical device related adverse incidents reported to have:*

| | |
|---|---|
| *(a)* two causes | 1,059 |
| *(b)* three causes | 301 |
| *(c)* four causes | 31 |
| Total number of incidents received in 2004 | 9,000 |

### Alliance Medical

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what representations have been made to her Department by *(a)* chief executives and *(b)* chairs of strategic health authorities on the role of Alliance Medical in the NHS; [8261]

(2) what representations have been made to her Department by primary care trusts on the role of Alliance Medical in the NHS. [8262]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answer 30 June 2005]:* Some representations have been received about services which Alliance Medical Limited is contracted to provide, but detailed information on representations made is not disclosed, as they may be commercially sensitive and could be detrimental to the provision of free and frank advice.

### Antibiotics

**John Hemming:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research she has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* undertaken on the prevalence of the prescription of antibiotics for viral infections. [7720]

**Jane Kennedy:** No specific research has been commissioned but we run education campaigns to convey the message that antibiotics do not work on most coughs and colds.

### Cancer Treatment

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent estimate she has made of the cost to the NHS in England in a year of treating *(a)* prostate, *(b)* mouth and *(c)* facial skin cancer. [9953]

**Ms Rosie Winterton** *[holding answer 5 July 2005]:* Information on the costs of treating individual tumours is not collected centrally. Latest information indicates that nearly £3.4 billion was spent by primary care trusts in financial year 2003–04 in treating all cancers.

### Consultants

**Mrs. Dean:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans she has to issue guidance on effective commissioning for those in the public and voluntary sectors who are commissioning work from external consultants. [7020]

**Jane Kennedy:** The Department provides detailed procurement guidance to its staff, with a direct link to the successful delivery toolkit, as explained by my hon. Friend the Financial Secretary to the Treasury (John Healey), in his reply of 27 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 1286W.

The National Health Service Purchasing and Supply Agency, together with the Office of Government Commerce, has awarded a series of framework agreements to provide specialist business, professional and information technology consultancy and services to the NHS. This can allow trusts to streamline certain elements of the procurement process.

### Cytology

**Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will list the hospitals which *(a)* have

introduced liquid-based cytology and *(b)* are scheduled to introduce liquid-based cytology over the next year. [9898]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Since the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence published its appraisal of liquid based cytology (LBC) in October 2003, the following hospitals have introduced LBC for cervical screening:

Royal Hallamshire hospital (Sheffield)
Royal Victoria infirmary (Newcastle)
North Tyneside district general
Birmingham Women's Healthcare
County hospital Hereford
Northwick Park hospital (Middlesex)
Partnership Pathology Services—Guildford
Southmead hospital (Bristol)
Musgrove Park hospital (Taunton)
Norfolk and Norwich hospital
Addenbrookes hospital (Cambridge)
West Suffolk hospital (Bury St Edmunds)
Royal Liverpool hospital
University hospital Aintree
Warrington hospital
Arrowe Park hospital (Wirral)
Countess of Chester hospital
Victoria hospital (Blackpool)

The following hospitals intend to introduce LBC by March 2006:

Scunthorpe general hospital
York district hospital
Diana, Princess of Wales hospital (Grimsby)
Doncaster Royal infirmary
Leeds teaching hospitals
Calderdale Royal (Halifax)
Chesterfield and North Derby Royal
Derbyshire Royal infirmary
Kings Mill hospital (Mansfield)
Nottingham city hospital
Pilgrim hospital (Boston)
Lincoln county hospital
Good Hope hospital (Sutton Coldfield)
Princess Royal trust (Telford)
Chase Farm hospital (Enfield)
University college hospital (London)
Ealing hospital
Hammersmith hospitals
Queen Mary's hospital (Sidcup)
St Thomas's hospital (London)
Kingston hospital
St Hellier hospital (Surrey)
Darent Valley hospital (Dartford)
Medway Maritime
Pembury hospital (Tunbridge Wells)
Preston Hall (Mid-Kent Healthcare)
William Harvey hospital (Ashford)
Cheltenham general hospital
Gloucestershire Royal hospital
Derriford hospital (Plymouth)
Royal Cornwall hospital (Treliske)
Royal Devon and Exeter hospital
Torbay hospital
Bedford general hospital
Luton and Dunstable hospital
Queen Elizabeth II hospital (Welwyn Garden City)
Watford general hospital
Queen Elizabeth hospital (King's Lynn)
James Paget hospital (Great Yarmouth)
Whiston hospital (Merseyside)
Leighton hospital (Crewe)
Macclesfield district hospital
Blackburn Royal infirmary
Burnley general hospital
Chorley and district hospital
Royal Lancaster infirmary
Southport general infirmary
Birch Hill hospital (Rochdale)
Bury general hospital
Manchester Cytology Centre
Royal Bolton hospital
Royal Oldham hospital
Stepping Hill hospital (Stockport)
Tameside general hospital (Lancashire)

*Source:*
NHS cancer screening programmes

## Dentistry

**Steve Webb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will estimate the percentage of the population with no decayed, missing or filled teeth, broken down by *(a)* age and *(b)* social class, in each year since 1990. [6566]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Dental health surveys are carried out every 10 years. For adults—those aged 16 and over—the last survey was for 1998 and the results are published in "Adult Dental Health Survey. Oral Health in the United Kingdom 1998" ISBN 0-11-621268-3. That report contains analyses by age and by social class of the head of household, which includes the percentage of adults who are dentate and the percentage of dentate adults who have 24 or more sound and untreated teeth. The results are shown in Tables 1 and 2.

*Table 1: Dental status and number of teeth by age group, 1998, England*

*Percentage*

| *Age* | *Adults who are dentate* | *Dentate adults with 24 or more sound and untreated teeth* |
|---|---|---|
| 16–24 | 100 | 59 |
| 25–34 | 100 | 25 |
| 35–44 | 99 | 9 |
| 45–54 | 95 | 1 |
| 55–64 | 82 | 1 |
| 65 and over | 56 | 1 |

*Source:*
Adult Dental Heath Survey, 1998, tables 7.1.1 and 7.1.10.

*Table 2: Dental status and number of teeth by social class, 1998, England*

*Percentage*

| *Social class of head of household* | *Adults who are dentate* | *Dentate adults with 24 or more sound and untreated teeth* |
|---|---|---|
| I, II, III NM | 93 | 18 |
| III M | 86 | 13 |
| IV, V | 79 | 18 |

Source:
Adult Dental Heath Survey, 1998, tables 7.1.1 and 7.1.14.

For children, the dental health surveys were carried out in 1993 and 2003. The report for the year 2003, which, like the adult survey, records encouraging improvements in oral health, is available on the website of the Office for National Statistics at www.statistics.gov.uk/children/dentalhealth/. The report includes a separate report entitled, "Social factors and oral health in children", which shows decay experience results for 1993 and 2003 for 12 and 15-year-old children. The percentages of children with obvious decay experience in those years are shown in Tables 3 and 4.

*Table 3: Proportions of five, eight, 12 and 15-year-olds with obvious decay experience in permanent teeth, 1993 and 2003, England*

*Percentage*

| *Age* | *1993* | *2003* |
|---|---|---|
| Primary teeth | | |
| 5 | 43 | 41 |
| 8 | 59 | 54 |
| Permanent teeth | | |
| 8 | 17 | 12 |
| 12 | 50 | 31 |
| 15 | 60 | 46 |

*Note:*
Obvious decay experience includes decay into dentine, filled teeth and missing teeth due to decay.
*Source:*
Children's Dental Health in England, 2003, tables 1.1 and 1.7.

*Table 4: Proportions of 12 and 15-year olds with obvious decay experience in permanent teeth by social class, 1993 and 2003, United Kingdom*

*Percentage*

| *Household social class* | *12-year-olds in 1993* | *12-year-olds in 2003* | *15-year-olds in 1993* | *15-year-olds in 2003* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| I,II,III non-manual | 45 | 28 | 58 | 47 |
| III manual | 51 | 40 | 68 | 44 |
| IV,V | 68 | 27 | 72 | 46 |

*Note:*
Obvious decay experience includes decay into dentine, filled teeth and missing teeth due to decay.
*Source:*
Social factors and oral health in children, tables 5 and 6.

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people are on waiting lists for NHS dentists in Milton Keynes. [6975]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The information requested is not collected centrally.

**Sir Paul Beresford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps her Department is taking to recruit dentists in *(a)* Greece, *(b)* Portugal, *(c)* Germany, *(d)* Spain and *(e)* India; and what intermediary organisations are being used. [5837]

**Ms Rosie Winterton** *[holding answer 20 June 2005]:* In Greece, Portugal, Germany and Spain and India smaller numbers of dentists, typically between five and 15 at a time, are being recruited compared with those from Poland (230). No contracts have been set with a recruitment company for activity in Greece, Portugal, Germany, Spain or India.

In Germany and Spain, a desk officer in the British Consulate advises interested dentists of the recruitment process. In India, a desk officer based in the British High Commission advises dentists who passed the International Qualifying Exam Part A in India this year of the recruitment process. In Greece and Portugal, recruitment events have been held by the Department.

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been spent on general dental practitioners in Milton Keynes over the last three years. [8389]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Primary care provided by independent general dental practitioners (GDPs) forms the major element of national health service dental services. Most GDPs operate within the national terms of the general dental service (GDS), although some have opted to provide similar patient services under local contracts agreed with their primary care trust (PCT) as part of the recently introduced personal dental service (PDS). Under the GDS, the main costs are the individual treatment fees, including patient registration payments, payable to dentists; under the PDS, dentists are usually paid a regular contract value for a defined level of NHS commitment. The gross cost of GDS fees and PDS contract payments in the area of the Milton Keynes PCT are shown in the table.

Expenditure on community and hospital dental services is determined by the relevant local NHS body and expenditure on services in the Milton Keynes area alone is not identifiable from data available centrally.

*Gross cost of General Dental and Personal Dental Services within the area of the Milton Keynes PCT*

*£ million*

| | *2002–03* | *2003–04* | *2004–5* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Gross GDS dental fees [1] | 6.484 | 6.867 | 6.572 |
| Gross PDS payments | 0 | 0 | [2]0.097 |
| Total | 6.484 | 6.867 | 6.669 |

*Notes:*
[1] Gross GDS fees include all adult and child treatment fees, continuing care and capitation payments, and commitment payments. Certain allowances and costs, such as reimbursement of business rates, seniority payments, and employers' superannuation contributions, are excluded.
[2] The PDS scheme in Milton Keynes PCT started on 28 January 2005 and this figure therefore represents approximately two months of payments.
*Notes:*
1. All costs are shown gross of any income contributed by dental charges payable by patients.
2. Figures extracted from payment data held by the Dental Practice Board.

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what has been the cost of running the Milton Keynes dental access centres in the last three years; and how much capital expenditure there was on setting up these centres. [8390]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The dental access centres in Milton Keynes are commissioned by the primary care trust and full cost information is not held centrally. However, the Department has made the following central contributions to the cost of this service over the last three years, which is shown in the table.

£

| | *Revenue* | *Capital* |
|---|---|---|
| 2002–03 | 373,000 | 160,000 |
| 2003–04 | 670,000 | 0 |
| 2004–05 | 779,000 | 0 |

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients have been treated *(a)* by NHS general dental practitioners and *(b)* at dental access centres in Milton Keynes in each of the last three years. [8391]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The information requested is shown in the table.

*General dental services (GDS) and personal dental services (PDS)—number of patients who have been treated within the Milton Keynes Primary Care Trust (PCT) area*

| *Year (ending March)* | *GDS and PDS patients* | *Dental access centre patients* | *Patients who attended both* | *Total patients* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2005 | 75,830 | 5,030 | 907 | 79,953 |
| 2004 | 82,119 | 3,744 | 1,046 | 84,817 |
| 2003 | 80,328 | 4,087 | 856 | 83,559 |

*Notes:*
1. GDS and PDS patients—patients who have been treated under GDS and PDS, excluding dental access centres during the year
2. Dental access centre patients—patients who have been treated in the dental access centre during the year
3. Patients who attended both—patients who have been treated in both of the above during the year
4. Total patients—number of individual patients treated in Milton Keynes PCT area during the year.

*Source:*
Dental Practice Board

**Mr. Prisk:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many dentists in the Hertford and Stortford constituency had live Personal Dental Services contracts by 1 June. [8413]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** As at 31 May 2005, there were three registered dentists within Hertford and Stortford parliamentary constituency with a personal dental services contract. Hertford and Stortford parliamentary constituency is covered by South East Hertfordshire Primary Care Trust (PCT) and Royston, Buntingford and Bishops Stortford PCT.

### Diabetes

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* adults and *(b)* children were diagnosed with diabetes in London was in each of the last five years. [8322]

**Jane Kennedy:** The information requested is not collected centrally.

### Domestic Violence

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS trusts provide psychotherapy support for those affected by domestic violence. [8406]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The information is not centrally available.

### Edgware Hospital

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 28 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 1503W, what further work is necessary; when she expects a decision to be taken; and if she will make a statement. [9110]

**Jane Kennedy:** The Department continues to support the North Central London Strategic Health Authority (SHA) in this area with regard to the use of Alliance Medical Ltd. mobile magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) unit at Edgware Hospital. Further work is required to provide the necessary infrastructure to support the mobile MRI unit at Edgware Hospital and the time scale for this will be lead by the SHA.

### Health Care Acquired Infections

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health which health care acquired infections are subject to mandatory reporting; when that reporting commenced; which are not subject to mandatory reporting; and for what reasons. [7222]

**Jane Kennedy:** The components of the mandatory surveillance system for health care associated infection and the dates when reporting started are:

Bloodstream infections caused by *Staphylococcus aureus*, including susceptibility to methicillin (MRSA)—from 1 April 2001

Bloodstream infections caused by glycopeptide resistant enterococci—from 1 October 2003

Diarrhoea associated with *Clostridium difficile*—from 1 January 2004

Orthopaedic surgical site infections—from 1 April 2004

Serious untoward incidents—from September 2003.

The above were selected for mandatory surveillance because information on them has national relevance and they act as markers of infection control. Virtually all micro-organisms can cause health care associated infections and prioritisation is essential to ensure that only significant infections are included in the mandatory systems. We expect that new infections will be added in the future in line with scientific advice.

Information on infections not included in the mandatory system is available from the Heath Protection Agency's voluntary reporting systems and there are local surveillance systems.

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether she plans to include acinetobacter bacteraemia within the mandatory surveillance systems for hospital acquired infection; and if she will make a statement. [7451]

**Jane Kennedy:** There are no plans to include bacteraemias due to acinetobactor in the mandatory surveillance system at present. Decisions on extending surveillance will be made in the light of any advice from the Health Protection Agency's steering group on health care associated infections.

**Anne Main:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* wards and *(b)* beds in (i) East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust and (ii) West Hertfordshire NHS Trust were isolated owing to hospital-acquired infection incidence during (A) 2001–02, (B) 2002–03, (C) 2003–04 and (D) 2004–05; and if she will make a statement. [8732]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The information requested is not held centrally.

**Anne Main:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people died as a result of *(a)* MRSA and *(b)* other hospital-acquired infections in hospitals in (i) East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust and (ii) West Hertfordshire NHS Trust in (A) 2001–02, (B) 2002–03, (C) 2003–04 and (D) 2004–05; and if she will make a statement. [8733]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The information requested is not held centrally. However, the numbers of meticillin resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* bacteraemia reports for East and North Hertfordshire National Health Service Trust and West Hertfordshire NHS Trust are shown in the table.

| | *East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust* | *West Hertfordshire NHS Trust* |
|---|---|---|
| 2001–02 | 72 | 77 |
| 2002–03 | 86 | 40 |
| 2003–04 | 56 | 45 |
| 2004–05 | 50 | 53 |

### MRI Scans

**Mr. Davey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps she is taking to reduce waiting times for routine MRI scans; [8341]

(2) what representations she has received on waiting times for routine MRI scans; [8342]

(3) what assessment she has made of the effects of delayed MRI scans. [8343]

**Mr. Byrne:** To address concerns expressed from various sources about waits for magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scans, we have introduced a target that, by 2008, no patient will have to wait more than 18 weeks from referral to start of hospital treatment. This will include any diagnostics tests or procedures leading up to the start of treatment. To support this, in addition to investing in additional capacity in the national health service, 40,000 additional MRI scans per annum have been procured from the independent sector through the use of state-of-the-art mobile scanning units. We are also in the process of procuring a further £200 million worth of diagnostic capacity from the independent sector, as announced by my right hon. Friend, the Prime Minister, in September 2004.

As part of their local delivery plans, strategic health authorities (SHAs) have been asked to produce trajectories showing planned reductions in maximum waiting times for such tests. New data systems will allow assessment of performance against the SHAs' trajectories.

### MRSA

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will list all known strains of MRSA; and if she will make a statement. [7802]

**Jane Kennedy:** The total number of strains is not known, but the Health Protection Agency receives around 7,000 methicillin resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) strains a year for typing on a voluntary basis to assist in the investigation of serious disease and outbreak investigation and control. Most hospital outbreaks in the United Kingdom are due to epidemic strains of MRSA, which can readily spread from person to person and affect more than one ward in more than two hospitals. A total of 17 epidemic strains have been identified in the United Kingdom to date and two strains, EMRSA 15 and EMRSA 16, predominate.

### NHS (Charges to Overseas Visitors)

**Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans she has to amend the NHS (Charges to Overseas Visitors) Regulations 1989 to include HIV in those conditions exempted from charging. [9072]

**Jane Kennedy:** The NHS (Charges to Overseas Visitors) Regulations 1989, as amended, already state that diagnostic testing for HIV and any associated counselling is free of charge to all irrespective of their residency status. Overseas visitors not eligible for free hospital treatment are required to pay the full costs of any HIV treatment beyond the initial test and counselling. There are no plans at present to amend the regulations to change this.

### NHS Patients (Overseas Treatment)

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS patients have been treated in hospitals overseas in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [9239]

**Jane Kennedy:** I refer the hon. Member to the reply my hon. Friend the Minister of State, Department of Health, (Ms Winterton) gave to the hon. Member for East Worthing and Shoreham (Tim Loughton) on 29 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 1612W.

### NHS Staff (Assault)

**Mr. Clappison:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* doctors, *(b)* nurses and *(c)* other NHS staff have been the victims of offences of violence suffered in the course of their employment in each of the last 20 years. [7561]

**Jane Kennedy:** Information on assaults against national health staff by occupational grouping has not been collated centrally.

In April 2003, the NHS Security Management Service was created and assumed responsibility for the issue of tackling violence against NHS staff. In November 2003, a new national reporting system for physical assaults against NHS staff was introduced. Information concerning physical assaults against NHS staff is expected to be available from summer 2005.

### Patients Forums

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the total budget for supporting patients' forums is for the current financial year; and what the total budget for supporting community health councils was for the last financial year of their existence. [5600]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The total budget for supporting patients' forums for the current financial year is £25.9 million, comprising of £19.8 million for direct programme expenditure for forums, plus £6.1 million for regional support, as provided through the regional centres.

The total budget for supporting community health councils (CHCs) from 1 April to 1 December 2003, when CHCs were abolished, was £13.98 million.

### West Hertfordshire NHS Trust (Budget)

**Anne Main:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what advice has been given by her Department to the West Hertfordshire NHS Trust concerning measures to alleviate its budgetary deficit; and if she will make a statement. [8734]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** National health service organisations are expected to plan for and achieve financial balance each and every year. Any deficits of NHS trusts need to be matched by underspends by other NHS bodies each year. In the next year, NHS trusts which overspent should make a surplus in order to ensure that other bodies can utilise the underspends from the previous year.

It is the responsibility of strategic health authorities (SHAs) to deliver both overall financial balance for their local health communities and to ensure each and every body achieves financial balance. However, there is a degree of flexibility in how this is managed at a local level. In circumstances where a surplus cannot be generated in the following year, SHAs can agree a recovery plan which phases the recovery of deficits over a number of years. This would require other NHS organisations within the health economy to underspend over the same period. Clearly, any such arrangements would have to be subject to the agreement of local providers, commissioners and the managing SHA.

West Hertfordshire Hospital NHS Trust is working with primary care trusts to agree a recovery plan to ensure that it delivers national targets, meets the national standards for high quality health care and meets its statutory duties. Decisions on how this is best delivered within the West Hertfordshire health and social care system is a local decision and thus Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire SHA is working with the local NHS to support them in this process and ensure that there is the management capacity to produce and deliver the recovery plan.

## CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

### English Wine

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will ensure that English wine is made available at dinners, receptions and parties she hosts at which hospitality involving wine is appropriate *(a)* during the EU presidency and *(b)* generally; and if she will make a statement. [9159]

**Mr. Lammy:** The choice of wines at receptions and other occasions—where it is appropriate for wine to be served—is primarily an operational matter for the chosen supplier of catering services. My officials liaise with the organisers of such events and encourage the serving of British wines, wherever that would also ensure appropriate value for money.

### Olympics 2012

**Hugh Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what financial estimate has been made of the total economic benefit to the UK of hosting the 2012 Olympics. [9147]

**Mr. Lammy** *[holding answer 4 July 2005]:* We expect a London Olympics to deliver significant economic benefits. The Games will attract investment, offer UK companies the opportunity to compete for billions of pounds worth of contracts, and provide a welcome boost to the UK tourism industry.

## TRADE AND INDUSTRY

### Car Servicing and Repair

**Charles Hendry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (1) what recent surveys have been carried out by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies into car servicing and repair; and what the findings were of those surveys; [9345]

(2) what discussions the Office of Fair Trading has had with the Retail Motor Industry Federation concerning standards of servicing and repair for the car industry; [9346]

(3) what estimate he has made of the number of garages servicing cars in England and Wales; what assessment he has made of the quality of servicing and repair work done by such garages; and if he will make a statement; [9347]

(4) what recent estimate he has made of the number of cars serviced in a year in England; how many cars were examined in the recent survey into car servicing and repair conducted by the Trading Standards Institute for his Department; and what proportion of the total this represents. [9530]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The most recent survey carried out by my Department (Car Servicing and Repair: Mystery Shopping Research—available at www.dti.gov.uk) was published in September 2002. The OFT published their Report (Car Servicing and Repairs—available at www.oft.gov.uk) in August 2000. This pulled together survey results from a number of sources. The findings of

the surveys detailed in the OFT report were echoed substantially in the DTI survey. The findings are summarised as follows:

Five per cent. of garages were rated very good, indicating they had carried out a thorough service, according to the manufacturer's service schedule; about half were rated either poor or very poor. There was evidence that women were subject to greater exposure to detrimental practices: overall 40 per cent.. of garages missed one or more items on the service schedule, this rose to 51 per cent.. if the customer was female (33 per cent.. if male). Performance was generally poor on providing accurate information, for example proper quotes for servicing. 61 per cent.. missed at least one of the faults found by the project's inspectors, which should have been picked up in service. 71 per cent. did not show customers replaced parts. Exposure to detriment seemed endemic and there was no significant difference in ratings between types of garage: 53 per cent.. of independent garages and 50 per cent. of franchise dealers were rated either poor or very poor. Only 6 per cent. of independents and 4 per cent. of dealers achieved a very good rating and there was no significant difference between members of trade associations and non-members. "Fast-fit" centres faired a little better with 28 per cent. rated poor or very poor for overall quality of work; however, only 3 per cent.. carried out a thorough check and rectified both simple introduced faults.

Until September last year, when they withdrew their application, the Retail Motor Industry Federation was pursuing OFT approval for its code of practice. Since that time I understand that the Federation and the OFT have met several times to discuss the possibility of applying for approval for a revised code scheme.

The Retail Motor Industry Federation estimate that there are some 26,000 garages servicing cars in England and Wales. I have no doubt that there are very many garages in England and Wales which provide, or are capable of providing, very good quality servicing and repair work.

However, random mystery shopping research carried out over recent years by trading standards officers, *Which?* and the Department has produced results that show consistently that a high proportion of garages from across the industry does not provide consumers with the standard of service delivery to which I believe they are entitled. Regrettably, the industry has failed to produce evidence of a similar quality which shows otherwise.

The Retail Motor Industry Federation estimate that there are some 24 million cars serviced each year in the UK. The recent survey carried out by the Trading Standards Institute was not carried out on behalf of the Department. The Trading Standards Institute reported that they examined 88 cars in the course of their survey. This is clearly a very low proportion of the annual total of services. However, the poor results for the industry from that survey are entirely consistent with similar poor results in the similar surveys referenced above. Regrettably, there appears to be no sign of improvement in customer service delivery in this sector over the period since the OFT Report in 2000.

## Coal Reserves (South Wales)

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what estimate he has made of the size of the remaining coal reserves in South Wales; and what assessment he has made of the economic viability of their extraction. [6622]

**Malcolm Wicks:** In 2002, the Department commissioned a study into coal reserves at existing deep mines in the UK. This was carried out by consultant mining engineers on behalf of the Department.

It concluded that as at December 2002 the three remaining deep mines had 3.65 million tonnes of reserves, which could be extracted under then current economic conditions, and a further 11.50 million tonnes of potential economic interest which had not been fully investigated or evaluated, and which would require major access development. Further details can be found at: www.dti.gov.uk/energy/coal/mine_reviews/remaining_reserves.shtml.

An earlier study, "Prospects for coal production in England, Scotland and Wales", published in 1999, also identified 20–25 million tonnes of recoverable coal at the Margam prospect.

Total deep mine production in South Wales since 2002 has been approximately 1.25 million tonnes.

## Colitis/Crohn's Disease

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what funding has been provided for research into *(a)* ulcerative colitis and *(b)* Crohn's disease by the Medical Research Council. [9511]

**Malcolm Wicks:** The Medical Research Council (MRC) spent £1.6 million in 2003–04 on research relevant to inflammatory bowel diseases, which include both ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease.

It is for individual Research Councils to determine the research they wish to fund. Research excellence and importance to health are the primary considerations in MRC's funding decisions. Research proposals received by MRC undergo full peer review and assessment by one of the MRC's Research Boards.

## Colliery Spoil Heaps

**Mr. Neil Turner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many fires have occurred on former colliery spoil heaps since 1980, broken down by *(a)* former National Coal Board and *(b)* private tips. [7287]

**Malcolm Wicks** *[holding answer 27 June 2005]:* Given the varied ownership of both former National Coal Board/British Coal Corporation and private colliery tips, no such information is centrally available.

**Mr. Neil Turner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry who is responsible for monitoring the condition of *(a)* former National Coal Board and *(b)* private colliery spoil heap. [7288]

**Malcolm Wicks** *[holding answer 27 June 2005]:* In respect of any disused colliery tip, the primary responsibility for ensuring safety rests with the tip owner, although local authorities have certain powers to act where there may be a threat to public safety. Any active or closed tip continues to be the responsibility of the mine owner. The enforcement authority in respect of such tips is the Mines Inspectorate of the Health and Safety Executive.

### Corporate Social Responsibility

**Mr. Arbuthnot:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will introduce guidelines on corporate social responsibility for business similar to the guidelines introduced recently by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on business impact on the environment; and if he will make a statement. [8976]

**Alun Michael:** I have no plans to introduce guidelines on corporate social responsibility (CSR) for business. CSR covers the social, environmental and economic impacts of business activities and a range of standards and guidelines already exist. DEFRA's consultation on revised guidelines for environmental reporting is part of the Government's approach of encouraging good practice. The Department was consulted on the guidelines and I added my support to the launch.

### Exports

**Malcolm Bruce:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry whether it would require primary legislation to privatise the authority for issuing export licences. [8700]

**Malcolm Wicks:** No decisions have been taken on the XNP Services Review. If, we decided to outsource some, or all, of our export control services, we do not anticipate the need for any primary legislation.

**Mr. Arbuthnot:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what his Department's strategy is for helping UK exporters to penetrate new markets in *(a)* India and *(b)* China. [8810]

**Ian Pearson** *[holding answer 4 July 2005]:* Government have a well-defined strategy to help UK business succeed in China and India. Joint statements have been made by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister and his counterparts in India and China establishing a framework for strategic partnership agreements aimed at enhancing our bilateral relations in a number of key areas, including trade and investment. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry sits on the Joint Economic Trade Forum for China (JETC) and Joint Economic Trade Committee for India (JETCO), which are pivotal in bringing business issues to the attention of our relevant Ministries. Among other things, they explore the scope for co-operation across a number of key sectors, including energy and ICT. The Chancellor recently announced that the Asia Task Force will build on this work by identifying generic problems that British companies face in these markets. Ensuring that barriers are tackled where possible, and helping business overcome those that remain. Sector programmes have been developed in collaboration with industry, the Regional Development Agencies and devolved Administrations. These have been fed into UKTI's Business Plans for both China and India. They aim to develop our individual sector and wider market shares through a range of proactive activities and initiatives. We support a range of business to business led initiatives and support packages through our key delivery partners. In China these are the China British Business Council, and in India the Indo-British Partnership. In addition, UKTI directly supports numerous trade missions, seminars and trade show events to assist companies in penetrating these markets for the first time. For example, currently over 100 UKTI supported missions, seminars and trade show events are scheduled in China for 2005–06—a 25 per cent.. increase on the 2004–05 programme.

### Gas Reserves

**Mr. Jenkin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (1) how many days' supply of *(a)* long range, *(b)* medium range and *(c)* short range strategic gas reserves there is; and how this figure is calculated; [7898]

(2) what the minimum *(a)* long range, *(b)* medium range and *(c)* short range strategic gas reserves available during (i) February and (ii) March were, expressed as (A) a percentage of total potential storage of that type and (B) the number of days' supply at peak demand. [7899]

**Malcolm Wicks:** While there are no specifically defined "strategic gas reserves" in the UK, there are levels of storage stocks known as Safety Monitors. These are determined as the minimum storage requirements to protect loads that can not be isolated from the network and also to support the process of isolating large loads from the network. The resultant storage stocks or monitors are designed to ensure that sufficient gas is held in storage to underpin the safe operation of the gas transportation system under severe conditions. There are separate safety monitors for each storage facility type (long, medium and short duration storage) each determined by National Grid Transco (NGT) to meet its Network Code requirements and under the terms of its Safety Case. Total shipper gas stocks should not fall below the relevant monitor level (which declines as the winter progresses). NGT is required to take action (which may include use of emergency procedures) in order to prevent a breach of these monitors. These monitors are calculated from:

(a) an assessment of the level of supply availability (beach supplies, Interconnector imports and storage) against severe winter demands of those loads that can not be isolated from the network, for example domestic loads and priority customers (ie hospitals)

(b) to provide network support while the larger loads where physically isolated.

For next winter NGT's current assessment of the storage monitors are.

| Storage type | Assumed storage capacity (GWh) | Safety Monitor requirement | Safety Monitor requirement (percentage) | Days supply (at peak deliverability) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Long duration storage (Rough) | 34,126 | 6,059 | 17.8 | 13.3 |
| Medium duration storage (MRS) | 7,322 | 954 | 13.0 | 3.2 |
| Short duration storage (LNG) | 1,817 | 988 | 54.4 | 1.9 |
| Total | 44,051 | 8,001 | 18.2 | |

According to the latest data, as of 29 June 2005, the Rough Storage Facility (long-range) is just over 70 per cent.. full. This is around 53 days deliverability at maximum withdrawal rates. Medium and short (LNG) duration storage is estimated to be around 60 per cent. and 70 per cent. full respectively. Transco publish updates on the levels of stocks in storage on their website: http://www.transco.co.uk/services/summops/storage.htm.

Statistics for February and March, as provided by NGT, are:

| Storage type | Assumed storage capacity (GWh) | Actual storage stock levels (GWh) | Percentage of assumed storage capacity | Days supply (at peak deliverability) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *February* | | | | |
| Long duration storage (Rough) | 34,126 | 11,973 | 35 | 26.3 |
| Medium duration storage (MRS) | 4,962 | 1,654 | 33 | 6.6 |
| Short duration storage (LNG) | 1,838 | 1,264 | 69 | 1.8 |
| Total | 40,926 | 14,891 | 36 | |
| *March* | | | | |
| Long duration storage (Rough) | 34,126 | 8,991 | 26 | 19.8 |
| Medium duration storage (MRS) | 4,962 | 1,878 | 38 | 7.5 |
| Short duration storage (LNG) | 1,838 | 938 | 52 | 1.3 |
| Total | 40,926 | 11,807 | 29 | |

### Mines Rescue Services

**Mr. Meale:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (1) what *(a)* financial support and *(b)* technical assistance his Department has given to Mines Rescue Services Ltd. in respect of (i) overseas trade missions and promotions and (ii) other activities in each of the last five years; [8860]

(2) what Government fiscal support has been provided to Mines Rescue Services Ltd. in each of the last five years; [8861]

(3) what his Department's relationship with Mines Rescue Services Ltd. is; [8862]

(4) what contracts his Department has entered into with Mines Rescue Services Ltd. in each of the last five years. [8863]

**Malcolm Wicks:** Mines Rescue Services Ltd. is a private sector company with which the Department has no direct relationship, contractual or otherwise.

The Department has provided no financial support or technical assistance to the company in respect of trade missions or promotions. However, as part of a package of measures established in 2003 to support the UK coal mining industry, the Department agreed to use best endeavours to identify and make available funding to Mines Rescue Services Ltd. (in its role as the provider of the statutory Mines Rescue Scheme) in the three year period 2003–04 to 2005–06. In respect of that commitment, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State directed the Coal Authority, a DTI sponsored non-departmental public body, to pay £2.5million to Mines Rescue Services Ltd. in each of the years 2003–04 and 2004–05. This funding enabled Mines Rescue Services Ltd. to reimburse to UK deep-mine operators the production-related levy sums which the latter had paid to the company throughout that period.

As entirely separate arrangements, the Coal Authority has, over the period since its establishment in 1994, held a number of contracts with Mines Rescue Services Ltd. variously for the provision of training services, and services in respect of mines in the Authority's ownership. In April 2004 the Coal Authority let a contract to Mines Rescue Services Ltd. for the provision of an emergency response service to attend incidents such as ground collapses throughout the coalfields.

### Official Receiver

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry to whom the Official Receiver in his role as an Officer of the Court is accountable. [9565]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** When acting as an officer of the court in the conduct of insolvency proceedings, the official receiver is subject to the control of the court in which the proceedings are based and is accountable to it.

### Post Office, Bank and Retail Closures

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many *(a)* local post offices, *(b)* local bank branches and *(c)* independent retail shops have closed in the last 10 years in (i) Birmingham, (ii) the West Midlands and (iii) England. [9507]

**Barry Gardiner:** Information on the number of local post offices that have closed is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. The Chief Executive has been asked to reply direct to the hon. Member.

The number of local bank branch closures is not available.

DTI figures based solely on VAT de-registrations in the retail sector for Birmingham local authority, West Midlands Government Office Region and England are shown in the table for 1994 to 2003. These data are not available for 2004.

*VAT de-registrations in the retail sector, 1994–2003*

| | *Birmingham* | *West Midlands* | *England* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1994 | 525 | 2,690 | 24,710 |
| 1995 | 470 | 2,390 | 22,495 |
| 1996 | 405 | 2,095 | 19,975 |
| 1997 | 440 | 2,000 | 18,920 |
| 1998 | 415 | 1,950 | 18,900 |
| 1999 | 380 | 1,825 | 18,305 |
| 2000 | 390 | 1,825 | 18,125 |
| 2001 | 360 | 1,755 | 17,045 |
| 2002 | 405 | 1,780 | 17,200 |
| 2003 | 355 | 1,785 | 17,435 |

*Source:*

Small Business Service analysis of ONS Inter Departmental Business Register data

VAT de-registrations do not give a complete picture of business closures. Businesses that de-register will not necessarily have closed. For example, they might continue to trade but at a turnover level below the VAT threshold. Only 1.8 million out of four million enterprises were registered for VAT at the start of 2003.

### Renewable Energy

**Mr. Hood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what measures are being taken to encourage the use of renewable energy in Lanark and Hamilton East constituency. [8851]

**Malcolm Wicks:** Recent trends in renewable energy development have been highly encouraging. More new capacity has been constructed in the last few years than in the previous decade, and a significant amount is currently in the pipeline. This covers a wide range of technologies including onshore and offshore wind, solar and biomass. This has been a result of the Government's Renewables Obligation Order 2002, which established a market-based mechanism for the support and development of this sector.

The Government are also spending £500 million over the 2002–08 period to support emerging renewable energy technologies, such as wave and tidal.

I understand that within Lanarkshire itself there are two existing hydropower stations as well as some small-scale renewables, with a number of onshore wind projects currently in the planning stage.

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment he has made of the potential for energy generation from tidal power. [9478]

**Alun Michael** *[holding answer 4 July 2005]:* The Department has carried out a study called ATLAS that looks at the marine resource around the UK including tidal power. A copy of the study can be found at www.dti.gov.uk/renewables/renew_atlaspages.htm.

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what measures are being taken to *(a)* promote and *(b)* encourage the use of renewable energy in Lancashire. [9519]

**Malcolm Wicks:** Recent trends in renewable energy development have been highly encouraging. More new capacity has been constructed in the last few years than in the previous decade, and a significant amount is currently in the pipeline. This covers a wide range of technologies including onshore and offshore wind, solar and biomass. This has been a result of the Government's Renewables Obligation Order 2002, which established a market-based mechanism for the support and development of this sector.

The Government are also spending £500 million over the 2002–08 period to support emerging renewable energy technologies, such as wave and tidal.

Whilst this investment has not translated into capacity within Lancashire itself, there are onshore wind farm developments in planning and I recently approved the Scout Moor wind farm development in May. Furthermore, Renewables Northwest, a joint venture between the Regional Development Agency and United Utilities, has been working with local businesses companies on identifying opportunities and promoting the use of renewable energy in the area.

### Science Budget

**Dr. Iddon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what real-terms percentage increase he expects in the science budget in each of the next three years. [9837]

**Malcolm Wicks:** Funding of the public science base, through DTI and DfES, is increasing at an average annual rate of 5.8 per cent in real terms over the Spending Review 2004 period. The Science Budget allocations through DTI for 2004–05 to 2007–08, including real-terms percentage increases, are set out in the table below:

*£ million*

| *Science budget* | *2004–05* | *2005–06* | *2006–07* | *2007–08* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total | 2,734 | 3,087 | 3,235 | 3,452 |
| Annual increase | — | 353 | 148 | 217 |
| Percentage cash increase | — | 12.9 | 4.8 | 6.7 |
| Total (real terms at 2004–05 prices) | 2,734 | 3,011 | 3,078 | 3,203 |
| Annual increase | — | 277 | 67 | 125 |
| Percentage real increase | — | 10.1 | 2.2 | 4.1 |

### State Aid

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what current level of state aid has been authorised by the European Commission for each country. [8987]

**Ian Pearson:** There is no ceiling of aid but each member state is responsible for ensuring that the rules set out in the state aid frameworks are respected.

The Commission's State Aid Scoreboard reports on the aid given in eachmember state and can be found at http://europa.eu.int/comm/competition/state_aid/scoreboard.

### Textile Imports

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment he has made of the effect of imports from textile companies from China on the future of the textile industry in England. [9123]

**Alun Michael:** No specific assessment has been made of the effect of textile companies in China on the textile industry in this country but the likely impact of the ending of the Multi-Fibre Arrangement has been known for 10 years with a four stage phase out of quotas agreed as part of the GATT Uruguay Round. The UK cannot compete on low wages and the focus of UK manufacturing, including textiles, depends on raising investment, and applying science and innovation, best practice and skills to create better and more competitive products.

We are working in partnership with industry, trade unions, regional development agencies, and other stakeholders to deliver the Government's Manufacturing Strategy launched in May 2002, and reviewed in 2004. It sets out the actions needed to create a high value, high skill manufacturing sector capable of introducing new products and processes into our economy and creating new markets to deliver a boost to our prosperity.

### Work-related Stress

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many cases of work-related stress have been reported in his Department in each of the last three years; how much compensation was paid to employees in each year; how many work days were lost due to work-related stress in each year; at what cost; what procedures have been put in place to reduce work-related stress; at what cost; and if he will make a statement. [7872]

**Alan Johnson:** Data on absences relating to work-related stress is not collected separately in my Department. However, our counselling service provide detailed monitoring of the cases they deal with and since September 2003 25 staff have approached them for advice on work-related stress.

We are committed to maintaining a safe working environment for staff and reducing absences caused by any sickness or injury. The Department provides advice, including medical advice, and counselling services and training events that help both managers and staff tackle stress. These services are provided to help deal with a wide range of concerns and it is not possible to disaggregate the cost of those helping to alleviate work-related stress.

## INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### Africa

**Mark Simmonds:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will make a statement on UK involvement in the creation of the new Infrastructure Consortium for Africa. [9262]

**Hilary Benn:** DFID convened a meeting in London on 5 May to discuss the creation of an Infrastructure Consortium for Africa. Senior level representatives attended from the G8, the African Union, The New Partnership for Africa's Development, the African Development Bank, The Economic Community for West African States, the World Bank, and the European Commission.

They recognised that infrastructure in Africa is key to accelerating growth, reducing poverty and promoting regional integration, and agreed the proposal for the establishment of an Infrastructure Consortium. DFID is working closely with other agencies on plans for a Consortium secretariat. Further details will be discussed at the inaugural meeting of the Consortium, with possible additional participants, to be held on 6 October 2005.

### Asian Tsunami

**Mr. Rob Wilson:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will make a statement on the *(a)* progress and *(b)* impact of his Department's aid to countries affected by the tsunami. [9983]

**Mr. Thomas:** Progress with the humanitarian relief effort following the Asian tsunami last December has gone well. A detailed breakdown of DFID's humanitarian relief spending can be obtained in the document entitled "A breakdown of DFID's Immediate Relief Response to the Indian Ocean Earthquake and Tsunami" which has been placed in the Libraries of the House.

The reconstruction phase of recovery is under way and progress is now being made, although it will take several years to complete. DFID has allocated £65 million to meet reconstruction needs. From this allocation I recently announced that £31 million has been committed to the Multi Donor Trust Fund in Indonesia, of which £6 million has so far been paid out. A further £5 million has been committed for technical assistance in Indonesia to help ensure timely, accountable and equitable provision of reconstruction assistance and rebuilding of livelihoods. A total of £2 million has been committed to Sri Lanka to help speed up implementation of reconstruction programmes and to ensure equitable distribution of assistance, and £3 million to India to provide technical assistance aimed at ensuring effective, transparent and equitable programming of tsunami reconstruction efforts. The remaining £24 million of the £65 million allocation for reconstruction has not yet been committed.

To assess the impact of this assistance, DFID humanitarian advisers will be undertaking a series of monitoring missions to affected countries during the summer to evaluate the effectiveness of the support provided with UK Government funds. The fact that much of DFID's relief and recovery assistance is being channelled through traditional partner organisations, including NGOs, should further ensure the funds are spent effectively. The National Audit Office is also undertaking a tracking study of DFID's relief and reconstruction response.

The impact of reconstruction spending will be assessed once the £65 million of allocated money is fully programmed and spending has commenced.

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps the Government is taking to assist non-governmental organisations, with particular reference to Oxfam, who have been charged customs duties to import four-wheel drive vehicles, necessary to carry supplies to victims of the December tsunami. [7731]

**Mr. Thomas:** DFID officials in Sri Lanka have been working closely with Oxfam to help them clarify the tax liability for vehicles imported to support their tsunami relief programmes. Oxfam subsequently discussed the issue with the Minister of Finance in Sri Lanka and I am pleased to say have received a refund of the duty paid.

The Oxfam case is not unique. A number of other NGOs face similar demands. While we recognise the Government of Sri Lanka's wish to maintain the integrity of its tax system, and to maximise revenue, we are concerned that the current regulations are not clearly articulated to importers, and nor are they consistently applied. As a result there are delays in getting goods and materials to needy communities. DFID and the international community have been working with the Government of Sri Lanka and NGOs to improve this situation. During my visit to Sri Lanka in June I specifically raised the import tax issue with the Secretary to the Treasury and asked that he issue comprehensive guidance. DFID staff in Colombo will continue to monitor.

## BBC Journalists

**Mark Simmonds:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what funding has been awarded to BBC journalists through the Commonwealth Broadcasting Association Department for International Development travel bursary fund in each year since 2000. [9269]

**Mr. Thomas:** Since 2000, BBC journalists have been awarded a total of £45,584 in funding through the Commonwealth Broadcasting Association/DFID travel bursary scheme.

| | £ |
|---|---|
| | *Amount* |
| 2000 | [1]— |
| 2001 | [1]— |
| 2002 | 29,260 |
| 2003 | 10,000 |
| 2004 | 6,324 |

[1] No funding.

## Iraq

**Andrew George:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department takes to employ Iraqis in development work in that country. [8430]

**Hilary Benn:** DIFD recognises the importance of the involvement of Iraqi individuals, private sector companies and civil society organisations in the reconstruction of their country. We employ Iraqi people wherever appropriate, and stress to other donors and contractors the importance of employing Iraqis on their reconstruction work.

DFID's offices in Baghdad and Basra employ local staff to help manage our programmes, and Iraqi advisers assist in the implementation our Political Participation and Civil Society Funds. Through these funds, DFID helps to finance the work of Iraqi civil society organisations.

DFID's reconstruction programme in southern Iraq also employs Iraqi nationals. For example the Emergency Infrastructure Programme employed 3,000 workers on water supply projects in Basra. DFID consultants have established a database of southern Iraqi companies and experts, which is used by DFID and other donors to identify local capacity to undertake development work. DFID's new £40 million infrastructure project will offer sub-contracting opportunities for Iraqi engineers and construction workers. A DFID-funded employment programme has contracted 1.6 million days for work on local improvement projects.

United Nations agencies working in Iraq, to which DFID is contributing financially, largely employ Iraqi individuals, companies and non-governmental organisations to implement their reconstruction projects.

**Andrew George:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what progress has been made in the reconstruction of *(a)* schools and *(b)* hospitals in Iraq. [8432]

**Hilary Benn:** A number of donors are assisting the Iraqi Ministry of Education in school reconstruction projects in Iraq and considerable progress has been made. The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is undertaking a countrywide programme which has so far rehabilitated over 2,510 schools. United Nations agencies are also carrying out school rehabilitation projects in Baghdad and southern Iraq. The World Bank has agreed an emergency school construction and rehabilitation project to finance the rehabilitation of about 140 schools and the construction of new buildings for about 110 schools which currently have unsafe or overcrowded facilities. The UN and World Bank projects are being financed through the International Reconstruction Fund Facility for Iraq, to which DFID has contributed £70 million. The UN, the World Bank, and USAID are also assisting with the provision of essential educational supplies, including textbooks and furniture.

The Iraqi Ministry of Health is leading on the rehabilitation of health services in Iraq, working closely with international agencies including the World Health Organisation (WHO). The Ministry of Health reports

that more than 75 hospitals and nearly all the primary care clinics which were damaged or looted during and after the 2003 conflict have been rehabilitated. Further work to construct and rehabilitate hospitals in Iraq is under way, and health services are gradually improving. More than $1 billion has been pledged by donors in support to the health sector. United States agencies are renovating 20 hospitals and constructing a new Paediatric Hospital in Basra, and the Japanese Government is funding the rehabilitation of 11 general hospitals. The World Bank has agreed a $25 million emergency health and rehabilitation project to finance the rehabilitation of emergency services in 12 hospitals. This is being funded from the International reconstruction Fund Facility for Iraq, managed jointly by the UN and World Bank, to which DFID has contributed £70 million.

Despite this considerable investment, it will still take several years for Iraq's education and health sectors to recover fully from the underinvestment and poor management of Saddam Hussein's regime, and approach the standards of service expected in developed countries.

**Andrew George:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will list the multilateral organisations providing aid and assistance to Iraq to which the UK Government have contributed since January; and how much was contributed to each organisation. [8433]

**Hilary Benn:** Since January 2005, the Government have contributed £358,573 to the United Nations Environment Programme and £10,000,000 to the Red Cross and Red Crescent movement for assistance in Iraq.

**Andrew George:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will list the contracts won by UK firms since January for reconstruction work in Iraq, broken down by value. [8436]

**Hilary Benn:** DFID-funded contracts for reconstruction in Iraq which have been won by UK firms since January 2005 are as follows:

£

| *Contract title and name of company* | *Current contract value* |
|---|---|
| World Bank Co-ordination Adviser (Enterplan Ltd.) | 142,938 |
| Emergency Public Administration Programme (Adam Smith International Ltd.) | 677,175 |
| Interim Iraq Security Sector Support—Ministry of the Interior (The Crown Agents for Overseas Government and Administrations Ltd.) | 2,260,800 |
| Deputy Security Manager, Baghdad (The Crown Agents for Overseas Government and Administrations Ltd.) | 107,440 |
| Southern Iraq Employment and Services Programme (MOTT Macdonald Ltd.) | 529,544 |
| Procurement of Accommodation Units for DFID projects (The Crown Agents for Overseas Government and Administrations Ltd.) | 99,535 |
| Emergency Response Fund (PA Infrastructure and Development Services (UK) Ltd.) | 427,548 |
| Iraq Infrastructure Services Programme—Procurement Specialist (The Crown Agents for Overseas Government and Administrations Ltd.) | 182,132 |
| Iraq Infrastructure Services Programme (PA Infrastructure and Development Services (UK) Ltd.) | 2,200,380 |
| Iraq Infrastructure Services Programme (Enterplan Ltd.) | 3,251,010 |
| Iraq Infrastructure Services Programme Preparation (Enterplan Ltd.) | 151,032 |
| Public Financial Management Reform (Adam Smith International Ltd.) | 1,038,568 |
| Project Manager—Installation of Accommodation Units (The Crown Agents for Overseas Government and Administrations Ltd.) | 30,880 |
| Iraq Infrastructure Services Programme—Senior Adviser to Ministry of Electricity (The Crown Agents for Overseas Government and Administrations Ltd.) | 301,990 |
| Total | 11,400,972 |

Many UK firms have won contracts for reconstruction work in Iraq which have not been funded by the UK Government. British companies are not required to report details to the Government of such work.

### Middle East

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will list the joint Israeli-Palestinian development projects that have received UK Government funding in the past five years. [9833]

**Dr. Howells:** I have been asked to reply.

Joint Israel-Palestinian development projects that have received UK Government funding since 2000 are:

Financial year 2003–04: Parents circle project (a series of peace/reconciliation lectures)

Financial year 2005–06: Peres Peace Centre project to train Palestinian school teachers

Financial year 2005–06 (funded until 2008): Management of water resources to reduce pollution risks (joint Israel/Palestinian/Jordanian project)

We have also supported projects with each individual party to promote development and Peace Process objectives.

### Sierra Leone

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will make a statement on the progress of debt relief to Sierra Leone. [8276]

**Hilary Benn:** Sierra Leone qualifies for debt relief under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) initiative. In March 2002 Sierra Leone reached HIPC Decision Point, following production of an interim Poverty Reduction Strategy, which made it eligible for debt relief equivalent to US$600 million in net present value terms, or 80 per cent. of the country's outstanding (foreign) external debt as at the end of 2000.

Under the HIPC initiative, 10 out of 11 Paris club creditors (official bilateral creditors) agreed to provide debt relief to Sierra Leone. This was on Naples terms (equivalent to 65 per cent. debt cancellation/debt stock reduction), although France has agreed to extend relief on Cologne terms (equivalent to 90 per cent. debt cancellation/debt stock reduction). Comparable relief has been provided by non-official commercial creditors.

Additionally, the UK has gone beyond the requirements of the HIPC initiative and has written off 100 per cent. of all bilateral debts owed to it by HIPC countries. In the case of Sierra Leone, this means that debt repayments were suspended at HIPC Decision Point; the stock of debt will be written off at HIPC Completion Point.

The recent agreement by G8 Finance Ministers proposes a further significant reduction in debt payments for HIPC countries. It provides for all HIPC countries to have their International Monetary Fund, World Bank and African Development Fund debts written off after they reach HIPC Completion Point. Decisions on Completion Point are made following a period of implementation of a full Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS). Sierra Leone's PRS was agreed earlier this year. It is likely that Completion Point will be reached in 2006. The agreement between G8 Finance Ministers will then apply to Sierra Leone.

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will make a statement on aid to Sierra Leone. [8277]

**Hilary Benn:** The UK is the largest bilateral donor to Sierra Leone. Our programme of support is set out in a 10-year Agreement with the Government of Sierra Leone (GoSL), signed in November 2002, under which we have committed up to £120 million over its first three years. The main areas of our programme are security sector reform; governance reform including public administration, decentralisation and public financial management; diamond sector reform; anti corruption measures; private sector development and budgetary support.

A particular feature of the Agreement is the inclusion of performance benchmarks, agreed annually between the UK Government and the GoSL, which commit the GoSL to reforms in the areas of focus referred to, in exchange for our support. Quarterly reviews of progress against the performance benchmarks are held with the Sierra Leone authorities.

Earlier this year, the GoSL and the donor community agreed a first full Poverty Reduction Strategy. This will guide future allocation of domestic resources and is the strategy against which donors, including the UK, will re-assess their programmes. The Poverty Reduction Strategy will be discussed between the GoSL and the international community at a Consultative Group meeting to be held later this year.

### Sub-Saharan Africa

**Mr. Clappison:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will rank EU member states by size of aid to *(a)* sub-Saharan Africa and *(b)* the 15 poorest sub-Saharan countries, expressed in terms of per head of population of donor country. [9771]

**Mr. Thomas:** The table shows that in 2003 (the latest date for which data are available) France, Germany and the UK were the three largest EU donors to sub-Saharan Africa in terms of total official development assistance (ODA). However Luxembourg, Belgium and Denmark gave the greatest amounts of ODA per head of their populations. The UK was the eighth largest donor in the EU on this measure, with £14.95 spent on ODA to sub-Saharan Africa for each person in the UK.

Considering only the 15 poorest countries in sub-Saharan Africa (based on GNI per capita)[1], the largest EU donors in terms of ODA per capita of the donor country were Belgium, Sweden and Luxembourg. The UK ranked ninth.

[1] The 15 poorest countries were: Sierra Leone, Malawi, Tanzania, Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Guinea-Bissau, Ethiopia, Republic of Congo, Madagascar, Niger, Zambia, Nigeria, Mali, Eritrea and Kenya. (nb—no data available for Zimbabwe for 2003.)

*2003*

| | *Total net ODA to sub-Saharan Africa* | | | | *Total net ODA to poorest 15 sub-Saharan African countries* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Total* | | *Per head of population* | | *Total* | *Per head of population* | |
| *EU member state* | *£ million* | *Rank* | *£ sterling* | *Rank* | *£ million* | *£ sterling* | *Rank* |
| Austria | 41.9 | 13 | 5.20 | 13 | 18.46 | 2.29 | 12 |
| Belgium | 627.6 | 4 | 60.52 | 2 | 529.34 | 51.05 | 1 |
| Denmark | 262.4 | 8 | 48.60 | 3 | 95.11 | 17.61 | 5 |
| Finland | 62.8 | 12 | 12.05 | 10 | 24.42 | 4.69 | 11 |
| France | 1,821.8 | 1 | 30.48 | 7 | 1,045.59 | 17.49 | 6 |
| Germany | 1,160.2 | 2 | 14.06 | 9 | 658.37 | 7.98 | 8 |
| Greece | 1.9 | 15 | 0.17 | 15 | 0.90 | 0.08 | 15 |
| Ireland | 151.0 | 9 | 37.76 | 5 | 64.23 | 16.06 | 7 |
| Italy | 424.2 | 6 | 7.38 | 11 | 360.32 | 6.27 | 10 |
| Luxembourg | 34.0 | 14 | 75.62 | 1 | 8.97 | 19.92 | 3 |
| Netherlands | 597.5 | 5 | 36.77 | 6 | 322.54 | 19.85 | 4 |
| Portugal | 69.1 | 11 | 6.69 | 12 | 10.25 | 0.99 | 13 |
| Spain | 96.7 | 10 | 2.26 | 14 | 13.23 | 0.31 | 14 |
| Sweden | 375.1 | 7 | 41.77 | 4 | 217.47 | 24.22 | 2 |
| United Kingdom | 885.3 | 3 | 14.95 | 8 | 454.70 | 7.68 | 9 |
| EU members, total | 6611.5 | — | 17.32 | — | 3,823.91 | 10.02 | — |

### Zimbabwe

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his assessment is of the consequences of famine for the Zimbabwean economy. [8542]

**Hilary Benn:** The large food production shortfall this year will result in even faster contraction of the economy in 2005, as well as increased pressure on very limited foreign exchange to pay for food imports.

High food prices and, in some places, lack of food supplies is likely to lead to widespread hunger but is unlikely to result in a famine. Recent assessments by organisations working at community level suggest that malnutrition is not presently high by emergency standards, but could become worse as many more people run out of food in coming months. By far the highest cause of death in Zimbabwe is HIV/AIDS, which kills more than 3,200 people per week.

Food shortages and HIV/AIDS will sadly affect the medium and longer-term capacity for economic growth in Zimbabwe in a range of ways. These include higher levels of school drop-outs, lack of funds to purchase inputs for the next planting season, nutritional impact on children affecting their future capacity to be productive, and women being forced into trading sex for food with the risk of further HIV transmission. DFID will continue to work with vulnerable groups to mitigate these negative consequences.

## DEFENCE

### Armed Forces Personnel

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the manpower levels of the *(a)* Royal Navy and *(b)* Royal Air Force are; and if he will make a statement. [9297]

**Mr. Touhig:** On 1 May 2005, the trained strength of the Regular Naval Service was 35,280. This represents a deficit of 2,770. In a briefing on the restructuring of the armed forces on 13 May this year, it was announced that RN trained requirement will reduce by some 1,500 to 36,000 by 2008.

On 1 May 2005, the trained strength of the Regular RAF was 48,760. This represented a surplus of 360 against the requirement. As part of the restructuring of the armed forces announced in this House on 21 July last year, it is planned to reduce RAF trained manpower to around 41,000 by April 2008.

UK regular forces includes Nursing Services and excludes Full Time Reserve Service personnel, mobilised reservists and Naval Activated reservists.

### Combat Vehicles (Manufacturing Capabilities)

**Mr. Jack:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what capabilities the UK has to manufacture *(a)* manned and *(b)* unmanned vehicles with stealth characteristics. [6831]

**Mr. Ingram:** The UK aerospace industry has a developing capability to incorporate stealthy techniques into the development and manufacture of manned and unmanned air vehicles. For security reasons we would not wish to comment on the detail of these techniques.

### Iraq

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the security situation in Iraq. [9570]

**John Reid:** Insurgents continue in their efforts to destabilise progress in Iraq. Although attacks continue, the numbers of these attacks have declined since the elections in January, with the majority confined to four out of 18 provinces in Iraq. The Iraqi Security Forces are conducting, both independently and with coalition support, an increasing number of counter-insurgency operations.

### Marine Noise Pollution

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what recent representations he has received on the effects of marine noise pollution in UK waters generated by the activities of UK defence forces, with particular reference to Sonar 2087, on *(a)* marine mammals and *(b)* other marine life; and if he will make a statement; [9101]

(2) what recent research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the effects of marine noise pollution in UK waters generated by the activities of UK defence forces on (i) marine mammals and (ii) other marine life, with particular reference to Sonar 2087; and if he will make a statement. [9102]

**Mr. Touhig:** The Ministry of Defence has an ongoing dialogue with non-governmental organisations (NGOs), members of the public and the media concerning Sonar 2087 and the potential for its effect on the environment. On 29 June 2005, the leader of the team responsible for the development of the Sonar 2087 system met with representatives of various NGOs in order to listen to and address their concerns.

As stated in the answer given by my predecessor to the hon. Member on 1 September 2004, *Official Report*, column 724W, the Ministry of Defence has a sustained programme of research into the effects of active sonar generally. This work is used to inform Environmental Impact Assessments on marine environments in which sonar might be used by the Royal Navy, rather than in the specific context of United Kingdom territorial waters. The environmental assessment reports relating to the Sonar 2087 sea trials conducted in 2002 and 2004 are now available for release and copies will be placed in the Library of the House.

### Meteorological Office

**Malcolm Bruce:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* estimated cost and *(b)* outturn cost of building and furnishing the Meteorological Office's Headquarters in Exeter was. [9233]

**Mr. Touhig:** The baseline cost of the Meteorological Office's relocation project (including the move from Bracknell and the relocation of staff) was set at

£98.3 million. The out turn cost was £106.2 million, which included an increase of £6.6 million to cover necessary additions to the original specification, and £1.3 million primarily related to staff relocation costs caused by the very high percentage of staff choosing to relocate.

**Malcolm Bruce:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much the Meteorological Office has *(a)* sought and *(b)* received in (i) loans and (ii) one-off financial support from his Department in each of the last 10 years. [9234]

**Mr. Touhig:** The Meteorological Office became a Trading Fund in 1996. Initial loans provided from the Ministry of Defence to enable the Met Office to vest totalled £37.7 million. This loan was repaid by 2001. No further loans or financial support have been sought by the Met Office since.

**Malcolm Bruce:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much revenue was generated from customers in the public and private sectors by *(a)* the weather centres in (i) Aberdeen, (ii) Belfast, (iii) Birmingham, (iv) Cardiff, (v) London and (vi) Manchester and *(b)* the Meteorological Office headquarters in Exeter in each year since 2000. [9235]

**Mr. Touhig:** The Meteorological Office civil centres are not stand alone business units. They are primarily forecasting production units drawing on, and contributing to, other parts of the Met Office in order to deliver outputs. It is not therefore possible to provide information on revenue generation by individual civil centres.

**Malcolm Bruce:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much money has been provided by the Government to fund the Meteorological Office's National Programme in each year since 2000. [9238]

**Mr. Touhig:** The Meteorological Office is a Trading Fund, and accordingly no voted funds are provided to it by the Government. The Met Office earns revenue by providing customers with products and services they require. The revenue earned from central Government Departments in support of National Programmes (comprising the National Met Programme, Public Weather Services, Climate Research and Defence Services) is as follows:

| *Financial Year* | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| 2004–05 | 118 |
| 2003–04 | 113 |
| 2002–03 | 109 |
| 2001–02 | 107 |
| 2000–01 | 104 |

*Source:*
Met Office Annual Report and Accounts

## TRANSPORT

### A21

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what representations he has received regarding the issuing of draft orders for the proposed upgrade of the A21. [8441]

**Dr. Ladyman:** The Highways Agency has not received any representations about the issuing of draft orders for the proposed A21 improvement schemes as none have yet been published. The priorities for the A21 improvement schemes are subject to advice by regional stakeholders.

### EU Working Hours Restrictions

**Mr. Todd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what representations he has made to the EU on ensuring that the implementation of working hours restrictions in the transport sector is monitored in each EU member state. [3869]

**Dr. Ladyman:** We are aware that a number of member states have not yet implemented Directive 2002/15/EC on the organisation of the working time of persons performing mobile road transport activities. My Department has raised this with the Commission and understand that proceedings have been started against those member states.

### HGV Lanes

**Mr. Greg Knight:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will assess the merits of constructing heavy goods vehicles (HGV) crawler lanes along appropriate stretches of the M1 motorway coupled with restricting HGV's using lanes other than the crawler lane and the inside one as a means of reducing motorway congestion; and if he will make a statement. [9319]

**Dr. Ladyman:** The Highways Agency currently have no plans to construct heavy good vehicle (HGV) crawler lanes on the M1 motorway. However, they are intending to run a trial on the M42 in the West Midlands between junctions 10 and 11 northbound, that will restrict HGVs over 7.5 tonnes from using the outer lane of this two lane stretch of the motorway. The results from the trial will determine whether this measure should be deployed more widely.

The agency does have plans to construct crawler lanes at four locations elsewhere on the motorway network. These are at M27 junction 11 to 12, M5 junction 17 to 18A Northbound, M5 junction 19 to 20 southbound and M5 junction 19 to 20 northbound. However, at present there are no plans to restrict HGVs from using lanes other than the crawler lanes.

### Large Vehicle Tests

**Annette Brooke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what representations he has received on the effectiveness of the Large Goods Vehicle and Passenger Carrying Vehicle Hazard Perception Test; and if he will make a statement. [8562]

**Dr. Ladyman:** We have recently received a representation from an instructor questioning the Hazard Perception assessment which learner lorry and bus drivers must satisfy to a suitable standard as part of their driving test.

The Hazard Perception Test was introduced in November 2002 for all categories of learner driver. It assesses competence at recognising hazards as they develop on the road. Research has identified this as a

key road safety skill linked to accident liability. Acknowledging their greater responsibilities, the pass mark for lorry and bus drivers is set higher than that for car drivers.

Hazard perception testing was introduced with the support of bodies representing the road freight and passenger transport industries, as well as road safety and driving instruction interests.

### Light Rail

**Mr. Duncan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 29 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 1554W, if he will estimate the amount of public sector finance spent on construction of light rail schemes in *(a)* Manchester, *(b)* Liverpool, *(c)* Leeds and *(d)* Portsmouth. [9505]

**Mr. Darling:** Around £150 million of public sector finance funded Manchester Metrolink phase I. Around £160 million of public sector finance funded Manchester Metrolink phase II. Around £199 million of public sector finance has been spent on Manchester Metrolink Phase III. Of this, £42 million was used for advance works, and £38 million was used for land purchase.

Around £36 million of public sector finance has been spent on Merseytram. Of this, around £16 million has been spent on utilities and construction work.

Around £39 million of public sector finance has been spent on Leeds Supertram. Of this, around £5 million has been spent on construction costs with around a further £14 million on land and property purchase.

Around £10 million of public sector finance has been spent on the South Hampshire Rapid Transit scheme. Of this, around £1.5 million spent on land purchase.

### Motorcycle Parking (London)

**Mr. Swire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions he has had with the Mayor of London on increasing the number of parking bays in London for motorcycles. [9880]

**Ms Buck:** The Mayor now has overall responsibility for traffic management in London. However, responsibility for parking in London generally rests with the relevant borough. It is a matter for individual boroughs to decide on the nature and scope of parking provision and control and to balance the needs of residents, emergency services, local business and those who work in and visit the area. Ministers have regular meetings with the Mayor at which a wide range of transport matters are discussed.

### Out-of-town Shopping Centres

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the impact on traffic levels of the *(a)* expansion of out-of-town shopping centres and *(b)* reduction of local post offices, local bank branches and independent retail shops over the last 10 years. [9506]

**Ms Buck:** As set out in the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister's Planning Policy Statement 6: Planning for Town Centres, published in 2005 it is for local planning authorities, when selecting appropriate sites for allocation, to have regard to whether a new site is or will be accessible and well served by a choice of means of transport, especially public transport, walking and cycling, as well as by car; and the level of impact on car use, traffic and congestion.

My Department has made no assessment of the impact on traffic levels of the expansion of out-of-town shopping centres, reduction of local post offices, local bank branches and independent retail shops over the last 10 years. However, all applications for development are subject to the provisions set out in DTLR Circular 04/2001, "Control of Development Affecting Trunk Roads and Agreements with Developers under Section 278 of the Highways Act 1980". Under these provisions the Highways Agency requires detailed assessments of the traffic impacts of planning applications, including applications for new retail developments, which potentially impact on the trunk road network. In addition, Planning Policy Guidance Note 13: Transport, published in 2001 requires that, where developments will have significant transport implications, transport assessments should be prepared and submitted alongside the relevant planning application so that planning authorities can better assess the application.

### Press Officers

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many press officers the Department and its predecessors employed in each year since 1997; and what the cost was in each year. [8132]

**Ms Buck:** The average number of full-time equivalent press officers employed by DfT and their cost for the years 2002–03 to 2004–05 broken down between the central department and the agencies is:

*Press officers*

| | *2002–03* | *2003–04* | *2004–05* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Transport (Central) | 12.71 | 13.8 | 13.8 |
| Driving Standards Agency | 2.0 | 2.0 | 2.0 |
| Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency | 7.0 | 7.0 | 7.5 |
| Highways Agency | 6.0 | 6.0 | 6.0 |
| Maritime and Coastguard Agency | 2.0 | 2.0 | 2.0 |
| Vehicle Certification Agency | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Vehicle and Operator Services Agency | 1.0 | 1.0 | 2.0 |

*£ million*

| | *2002–03* | *2003–04* | *2004–05* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Transport (Central) | [1]0.51 | 0.70 | 0.70 |
| Driving Standards Agency | 0.04 | 0.06 | 0.06 |
| Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency | 0.14 | 0.15 | 0.18 |
| Highways Agency | 0.21 | 0.22 | 0.23 |
| Maritime and Coastguard Agency | 0.08 | 0.09 | 0.11 |
| Vehicle Certification Agency | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Vehicle and Operator Services Agency | 0.02 | 0.02 | 0.04 |

[1] Covers the 10-month period from the creation of the department in late May 2002.

*Note:*

Agency figures are for the full year.

Information for each of the financial years between 1997 and 2002, when transport policy formed part of the remit of the former Department of Environment, Transport and the Regions and Department for Transport, Local Government and the Regions, is not available in a comparable format.

Detailed information on the numbers of permanent press officers employed in central departmental press offices, including the former Department of Transport (DoT) for the financial year 1996–97, was provided in a memorandum dated 16 June 1998 to the Select Committee on Public Administration and published in its report on the Government Information and Communication Service (HC 770) in July 1998 (http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm199798/cmselect/cmpubadm/770/77002.htm).

Staff numbers and costs for press officers in the Department's agencies in 1997–98 can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

## Roads

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps have been taken by the Highways Agency to evaluate the environmental impacts of route improvements to the A21. [8443]

**Dr. Ladyman:** The environmental impact of all motorway and trunk road improvement schemes is evaluated and assessed as required under of the Highways (Assessment of Environmental Effects) Regulations 1999 and in accordance with the Highways Agency's Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB) Volume 5 "Assessment and Preparation of Road Schemes", Volume 10 "Environmental Design", and Volume 11 "Environmental Assessment". Improvements to the A21 are subject to these procedures, and includes consultation with the statutory environmental bodies, whose comments and concerns are taken on board where possible.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make a statement on the effect of his recent announcement on road pricing on existing schemes in place on toll *(a)* roads, *(b)* bridges and *(c)* tunnels with particular reference to the planned extension of the M6 toll road to Manchester. [8589]

**Dr. Ladyman:** In line with its manifesto commitment, the Government are examining the potential of moving away from the current system of motoring taxation towards a national system of road pricing. The issue of how this would interact with tolling concessions would need careful consideration in any scheme design.

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what guidance he gives to the Highways Agency on assessing road improvement schemes associated with accident block spots. [8451]

**Dr. Ladyman:** All Highways Agency improvement schemes are assessed against the five criteria outlined in the Government's New Approach To Appraisal (NATA): safety, economy, environment, accessibility and integration.

The safety and economic benefits of a scheme are calculated according to the methodology given in the Cost Benefit Analysis (COBA) manual (Design Manual for Roads and Bridges Vol. 13). This takes account of the latest data on accident rates, and their costs. The methodology estimates the reduction in number of personal injury accidents due to the proposed road improvement.

The COBA manual is published by The Stationary Office. Advice regarding the application of NATA is included in "Applying the New Multi-modal Approach to Appraisal to Highway Schemes" (known as "The Bridging Document") published by the Department for Transport and available on their Transport Analysis Guidance website, WebTAG www.webtag.org.uk.

## Safety Cameras

**Mr. Michael Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many personal injury collisions, including collisions involving fatalities, occurred at the site of each fixed speed camera in the Worcester constituency in the year *(a)* before and *(b)* after installation of each. [8971]

**Dr. Ladyman:** The Department does not hold or record this information on a constituency basis. The information requested will be available from the West Mercia Safety Camera Partnership. They can be contacted via their website at www.speedaware.org.uk.

## Seafarers

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many UK citizens are employed as seafarers on UK registered ships, broken down by *(a)* officers and *(b)* crew. [8611]

**Dr. Ladyman:** We do not keep separate records of the numbers of UK seafarers by the flag state of the ship on which they are employed. The estimated numbers of UK merchant navy officer and ratings are as follows.

| | *2004* |
|---|---|
| Officers | 15,800 |
| Ratings | 9,600 |
| Total | 25,400 |

*Notes:*

1. Officer and ratings estimates comprise deck, engine, technical and hotel/catering grades. Cadets are excluded.

2. Estimates for 2004 are taken from "UK Seafarer Statistics", published by DfT.

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many seafarer officers *(a)* have been trained and *(b)* are in training, since the introduction of the tonnage tax. [8612]

**Dr. Ladyman:** A tonnage tax company is required to recruit and train one officer trainee each year for every 15 officer posts in its fleet. The approved cumulative training commitment for each year that the scheme has operated is in the following table.

| | Approved CTC |
|---|---|
| 2000–01 | 70 |
| 2001–02 | 365 |
| 2002–03 | 762 |
| 2003–04 | 1,094 |
| 2004–05 | [1]1,275 |

[1] with one return outstanding

### Tonnage Tax Scheme

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the minimum requirements are for a company to take part in the tonnage tax scheme; what the mechanisms are for checking compliance; and if he will make a statement. [8615]

**Dr. Ladyman:** A company can take part in tonnage tax if:

it is within the charge to corporation tax,

it operates qualifying ships, and

those ships are strategically and commercially managed in the United Kingdom.

HM Revenue and Customs apply the same compliance standards to tonnage tax as they do to the rest of the tax regime.

A unique feature of the UK's tonnage tax system is the minimum training obligation, which requires each tonnage tax company to recruit and train one officer trainee each year for every 15 officer posts in its fleet. Before electing to enter tonnage tax, each company or group must first obtain approval from the Department for Transport for a Core Training Commitment (CTC) which shows how they intend to meet the minimum training obligation. Achievement of the CTC is monitored from reports submitted to DfT every four months.

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Child Support Agency

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when people paying 34 per cent. of their income to the Child Support Agency for the upkeep of two children will have their contributions reduced to the 20 per cent. stipulated under new Child Support Agency guidelines; and if he will make a statement. [5234]

**Mr. Plaskitt** *[holding answer 20 June 2005]:* A new Chief Executive of the Agency has recently taken up post. He will be reporting to Ministers over the summer on proposals to improve the agency's performance.

Changes to the levels of contributions in old scheme cases as a result of conversion to the new scheme will only be made once we are sure both the system and business processes are robust.

### Sign Language and Lip-speakers

**Malcolm Bruce:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much financial support the Government have provided for *(a)* sign language interpreters and *(b)* lip-speakers in each year since 1997. [928]

**Mrs. McGuire:** This information is not held centrally.

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS

### Departmental Antiques

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will list the non-furniture antiques classified by his Department as an asset. [9044]

**Mr. Straw:** This information is not readily available without a disproportionate amount of data analysis.

### European Union

**Kate Hoey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the projected *(a)* gross and *(b)* net UK contributions to the EU budget for each year are in the period 2006 to 2013 with (i) the UK abatement calculated on the existing formula and (ii) the UK abatement calculated according to the method proposed by the Luxembourg presidency during the European Council summit. [9908]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** I have been asked to reply.

As the Prime Minister explained in his statement to the House on 20 June 2005, the final Luxembourg proposal on Own Resources tabled at the June 2005 European Council would have cost the UK an estimated €25 billion over the next Financial Perspective (2007–13). This would have been the effect on both the UK net contribution and gross contribution post abatement, in commitment terms at 2004 prices compared to the current Own Resources system. These estimates are based on Treasury calculations.

### Iran

**Mark Simmonds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of reports of ballot rigging in the Iranian election; and if he will make a statement. [9267]

**Dr. Howells:** Senior members of the Iranian Government and election officials, as well as several of the candidates, have complained of widespread interference, including by the security forces. We have made clear our concern, which is widely shared in the EU and elsewhere. The EU has also expressed regret that a large majority of candidates, including many reformists and all the women, were excluded from the elections, making a genuine democratic choice difficult. We continue to urge the Iranian Government to allow its citizens to benefit from the full range of democratic freedoms and human rights.

### Israel

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what consideration his Department has given to providing support to the Hand in Hand Centre for Jewish and Arab Education in Israel. [9851]

**Dr. Howells:** We are impressed by the proposed projects for expanding the impact of bilingual, multicultural Arab-Jewish education in Israel run by the Hand in Hand Centre for Jewish and Arab Education. We are currently considering providing support.

### Middle East

**Mark Lazarowicz:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the cost of damage caused to projects funded by the European Union in Gaza and the West Bank as a result of actions by *(a)* the Israeli security services and *(b)* other groups active in the area. [9783]

**Dr. Howells:** Volume 2 of the International Development Committee report on Development Assistance and the Occupied Palestinian Territories, published in February 2004, gives the estimated figure for "physical damages inflicted by Israel Defence Force attacks to EU funded development projects" as just under £25 million. This covers the period May 2001 to February 2004. We are not aware of any estimates made since February 2004.

We are not aware of any estimate being made for damage to EU funded projects caused by the actions of other groups in the area.

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his assessment is of the contribution of joint Jewish-Arab educational projects to peace-making between Israeli and Palestinians. [9852]

**Dr. Howells:** Any initiatives which encourage Israelis and Palestinians to work together as partners for peace, and encourage mutual respect and understanding, are welcome. We therefore welcome the contribution of joint Jewish-Arab educational projects to peace-making between Israelis and Palestinians.

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his assessment is of the threat posed by Hezbollah to the relationship between Israel and the Palestinian Authority. [9854]

**Dr. Howells:** Terrorist attacks by Hezbollah, and the Palestinian rejectionist groups it supports, risk disrupting relations between the Palestinian Authority and Israel and cause many innocent casualties. These groups must cease terrorist attacks forthwith.

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his latest assessment is of the compliance with Security Council Resolution 1559 of *(a)* Hezbollah and *(b)* Syria. [9855]

**Dr. Howells:** The UK supports full implementation of UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1559, including the disarmament of Hezbollah. We acknowledge that this is a complex issue and one that must be a Lebanese-led process. We stand ready to support the new Lebanese Government with the implementation of UNSCR 1559.

As required by UNSCR 1559, Syria has withdrawn its troops from Lebanon and we await the report of the UN Secretary-General's UN verification team to Lebanon to assess the presence of Syrian troops and intelligence personnel. The UK believes that Syria can play a more positive role in the full implementation of UNSCR 1559.

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his assessment is of the threat posed by Hamas to the prospects for Abu Mazen fulfilling commitments on security, economic and political reform made at the London Meeting in March. [9856]

**Dr. Howells:** Hamas's involvement in terrorism disrupts relations between the Palestinian Authority and Israel and causes many innocent casualties. Such actions undermine Palestinian President Abbas' authority and the Palestinian Authority's ability to meet its commitments on security, and economic and political reform made at the London meeting.

The UK notes the commitment made by Hamas, and other Palestinian groups, to President Abbas in Cairo in March to adopt a conditional cease-fire until the end of 2005. The UK calls for Hamas to go further and renounce violence for good, and choose participatory politics as the only means of working towards a lasting peace in the Middle East.

### Moldova

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make it his policy to facilitate a British Council presence in Moldova. [9434]

**Mr. Straw:** The British Council currently covers Moldova from its office in Romania, from where, among other things, it manages scholarship programmes for Moldavians, conducts English language testing and arranges arts events for Moldova in conjunction with the British embassy. In addition the Council has a library close to the Moldovan border which serves around 500 Moldovan students.

If a British Council presence in Moldova became desirable, taking into account demand, resources and competing pressures, the Foreign and Commonwealth office would assist as appropriate.

### Morocco

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will intercede in the cases of the Saharawi activists held in Moroccan jails. [9769]

**Dr. Howells:** We are aware of recent reports regarding the arrest and subsequent detention of Saharawi activists following demonstrations in Western Sahara. In our capacity as EU President, the UK will discuss this issue with EU partners and agree appropriate action.

### Organisation for the Prevention of Chemical Weapons

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 22 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 1081W, what assessment he has made of the reasons that damages were awarded to the former Director General of the Organisation for the Prevention of Chemical Weapons, other than for loss of earnings. [9642]

**Dr. Howells:** Following the original judgment of the International Labour Organisation Administrative Tribunal (ILOAT) and the subsequent review of the level of damages awarded, requested by the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) with the support of States Party, which resulted in a reduced award to Mr. Bustani for material damages, the UK and other States Party accepted the judgment and supported OPCW's payment of the award, since ILOAT judgments are final.

### Palestine

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the postponement of Palestinian elections. [9853]

**Dr. Howells:** We support the efforts of Palestinian President Abbas to ensure that a credible election system is in place, and encourage the Palestinian Authority to complete the implementation of the remaining recommendations from the European Commission's Observation Mission. That said, we hope that the elections will take place as soon as possible with minimum slippage from the original time frame. We look forward to free, fair and credible Palestinian elections.

### Shell

**Mr. Llwyd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will meet representatives of overseas community organisations to discuss concerns about the social and environmental consequences of Shell's operations in *(a)* Nigeria, *(b)* South Africa, *(c)* the Philippines, *(d)* Brazil and *(e)* Russia. [9182]

**Ian Pearson:** There are no plans for my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary to meet any such overseas representatives. Questions about Shell's operations in other countries are for the company to answer.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office is however in regular contact with Shell and other energy companies across all aspects of their corporate performance, including corporate social responsibility. This includes the UN Global Compact, the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative and the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights.

### UN Convention Against Corruption

**Alan Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when the UK expects to ratify the United Nations Convention Against Corruption. [9243]

**Ian Pearson:** The Government hope to be in a position to ratify the UN Convention against Corruption by the end of this year.

### United Nations

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many members of the United Nations are full or partial democracies; and how many there were *(a)* 10 years ago and *(b)* 20 years ago. [9894]

**Dr. Howells:** There is no commonly agreed, objective means of measuring whether a country is a full or partial democracy. However, certain NGOs, such as Freedom House, and academic institutions, such as the University of Maryland, assess annually the performance of countries against a range of indicators, which together provide some measure of how well a country's democracy is functioning. We draw on these and other resources to assess trends and estimate that from 1975 to 2005, the number of democracies in the world has increased from around 40 to over 140. These countries are not all full democracies, but exhibit at least some characteristics of a democracy. We welcome this trend.

### Visa Applications

**Mike Gapes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many visit visa applications made in July 2004 have yet to be finally concluded, including appeal proceedings; and if he will make a statement. [9670]

**Dr. Howells:** UKvisas hold no statistics on the number of visit visa applications made in July 2004 that have yet to be concluded because of an outstanding appeal.

**Mike Gapes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the length of time taken by the British high commission, Islamabad to process a visa application from the time the application is received by Gerry's/FedEx until the person receives a visa or a refusal. [9447]

**Dr. Howells:** Gerry's/FedEx aims to deliver visa applications submitted to their offices to the visa section of the British high commission, Islamabad on the following day.

Once in receipt of the applications, the British high commission in Islamabad aims to decide all straightforward non-settlement visa applications within seven working days and all straightforward settlement applications within 12 weeks of receiving the application there.

## CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

### Administration of Estates (Small Payments) Act

**Mr. Vaizey:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs if she will raise the current threshold of £5,000, set under the Administration of Estates (Small Payments) Act 1965, for the repayment of investments to personal representatives of the deceased without a grant of probate. [9680]

**Bridget Prentice:** Currently, there are no plans to raise the threshold.

### Asylum Seekers (Legal Aid)

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs if she will make a statement on the review which the Legal Service Commission has announced on legal aid services provided to asylum seekers. [9757]

**Bridget Prentice:** In most areas of the country there are an adequate number of suppliers and the LSC acts to ensure that any local gaps in supply are addressed as quickly as possible. The LSC is undertaking a needs analysis exercise to further match supply to demand. Since the changes were introduced, the number of firms and organisations undertaking this work has fallen, but during 2004–05 the net reduction was less than 10 per cent. This is in the context of a significant fall in asylum numbers from a peak of over 84,000 to 32,000 in 2004–05.

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what plans her Department has to evaluate the new funding arrangements for legal aid services on asylum and immigration issues which came into effect in April 2004. [9758]

**Bridget Prentice:** There is now sufficient information available to commence an analysis of the impact of the changes made to the asylum and immigration legal aid arrangements in April 2004. DCA officials will be working with the Legal Services Commission (LSC), Home Office and the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal to look at the impact on the asylum and immigration system as a whole. The operation of the new cost controls was subject to a review involving key stakeholders from the legal professions in July 2004.

**David Davis:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what the cost was of legal aid for asylum and immigration cases in each year since 1997. [9593]

**Bridget Prentice:** The legal aid expenditure[1] for asylum and immigration cases in each year since 1997 are as follows:

| | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| 1996–97 | 26.1 |
| 1997–98 | 35.2 |
| 1998–99 | 53.3 |
| 1999–2000 | 61.4 |
| 2000–01 | 81.1 |
| 2001–02 | 129.4 |
| 2002–03 | 176.2 |
| 2003–04 | 203.0 |

[1] It is now practice to quote expenditure/budgets in resource terms. However, since the question covers years prior to the adoption of resource accounting the answer has been given in cash terms for the purpose of continuity.

Before April 2003 there was no separate, specific budget set for expenditure on immigration and asylum matters. In co-operation with the Home Office, we set up a Single Asylum Fund (SAF) to improve overall control of immigration spend. The figures given above for expenditure in that year form part of the SAF budget.

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### Court Apparel

**Mr. Purchase:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs if she will issue guidance to the courts regarding acceptable dress for barristers appearing in court in order to discourage barristers from wearing wigs and gowns. [9371]

**Ms Harman:** The wearing of wigs and gowns in court by barristers is already governed by guidance in the form of Practice Directions made by the Lord Chancellor.

The Lord Chancellor has no immediate plans to make further directions, prior to the implementation of Constitutional Reform Act 2005 and the Concordat planned for April of next year.

### Legal Aid

**Mr. Djanogly:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs whether it is her intention that decisions on means-testing for criminal legal aid can be made on the day of the relevant court appearance, under the provisions of the Criminal Defence Service Bill. [9774]

**Bridget Prentice:** Under the proposed scheme empowered by the Criminal Defence Service Bill, a decision on means testing may be made at any time from the commencement of the case onwards, including on the day of appearance in court.

**Mr. Djanogly:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs whether she plans to introduce a test for compliance with means-testing for criminal legal aid similar to that used for civil legal aid. [9775]

**Bridget Prentice:** Along with the means test for civil legal aid, the criminal means test proposed under the Criminal Defence Service Bill would be subject to a declaration that the evidence supplied is true and complete. Claims may be investigated by the Legal Services Commission that given information is indeed

truthful, complete and accurate. This investigation would take a similar form to that of the investigation for claims for civil legal aid.

**Mr. Djanogly:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs whether she plans to give solicitors responsibility for *(a)* processing claims for legal aid and *(b)* obtaining documentary evidence under the means-testing provisions in the Criminal Defence Service Bill. [9776]

**Bridget Prentice:** Under the new scheme proposed by the Criminal Defence Service Bill, solicitors would not be responsible for processing claims for legal aid. This will be the responsibility of the Legal Services Commission. In practice however, the Commission would delegate this authority to grant teams within the courts who will carry out this function under a service level agreement between Her Majesty's Court Service and the Legal Services Commission. Solicitors may wish to assist their clients in completing the application forms, as defendants will be covered for this under the Advice and Assistance scheme.

Evidentiary requirements would be simplified under the proposed scheme. It would be the responsibility of the defendant to produce no more than a single wage slip or bank statement confirming their income. The new scheme will be transparent and administratively simple.

## NORTHERN IRELAND

### Child Support Agency

**Mr. Dodds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will make a statement on the operation of the Child Support Agency in Northern Ireland. [9526]

**Mr. Hanson:** The agency produces an annual report and accounts, which provides detailed information on its performance against both ministerial and internal targets. The agency's report for 2004–05 will be laid in both the House of Commons and the Northern Ireland Assembly on 14 July 2005. Following this, the report will be available in the public domain.

### Driving Standards

**Mr. Dodds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what qualifications are required to be an examiner of those who are approved driving examiners; and what plans he has to review those requirements. [9829]

**Angela E. Smith:** Initial assessment of driving examiners is carried out by the Driver and Vehicle Testing Agency's (DVTA) Supervising Examiners (SEs). This is followed by training and assessment by the Driving Standards Agency's (DSA) trainers at Cardington.

DVTA SEs are selected through internal promotion procedures. Candidates undergo initial screening, followed by a seven-week course in Cardington, which includes learning, coaching and assessment techniques. The selection process for Cardington trainers includes assessment of presentation skills, in-car instruction and classroom sessions and is followed by a three-week training course.

The agency's process for assessing driving examiners and SEs is based on the DSA model. There are currently no plans to review these requirements.

**Mr. Dodds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the driving test pass rate for each test centre in Northern Ireland was in each of the last five years. [9828]

**Angela E. Smith:** The driving test pass rate for tests carried out at each of the Driver and Vehicle Testing Agency's centres is provided in the following table.

*Percentage*

| *Centre* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005 to date* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Armagh | 54 | 48 | 52 | 54 | 57 | 54 |
| Ballymena | 49 | 49 | 46 | 44 | 40 | 43 |
| Belfast Balmoral | 39 | 41 | 34 | 37 | 32 | 36 |
| Belfast Castlereagh | 35 | 46 | 42 | 41 | 37 | 39 |
| Coleraine | 53 | 49 | 52 | 48 | 47 | 49 |
| Cookstown | 58 | 46 | 50 | 47 | 52 | 54 |
| Craigavon | 51 | 44 | 45 | 45 | 52 | 54 |
| Downpatrick | 62 | 60 | 60 | 59 | 65 | 58 |
| Enniskillen | 68 | 66 | 64 | 67 | 57 | 59 |
| Larne | 56 | 45 | 42 | 42 | 38 | 41 |
| Lisburn | 56 | 49 | 44 | 45 | 38 | 37 |
| Londonderry | 56 | 45 | 46 | 46 | 42 | 40 |
| Newry | 58 | 51 | 51 | 55 | 56 | 57 |
| Newtownards | 60 | 56 | 53 | 54 | 52 | 53 |
| Omagh | 56 | 50 | 50 | 56 | 55 | 57 |
| Overall Pass Rate | 53 | 48 | 47 | 47 | 47 | 38 |

### Housing Benefit

**Mr. Dodds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what is the average time taken by the Northern Ireland Housing Executive to process housing benefit applications in Northern Ireland was in 2004–05. [9522]

**Mr. Hanson:** The average time taken by the Northern Ireland Housing Executive to process housing benefit applications in Northern Ireland at May 2005 is as follows:

37.61 days for a new application

5.18 days for a change in circumstances in an existing case

91.4 per cent. of claims were processed within 14 days of receipt of all necessary evidence/information.

### Police Service

**Mr. Dodds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many civilians are employed by the Police Service of Northern Ireland, and in what categories of employment. [7827]

**Mr. Woodward:** In June the Police Service of Northern Ireland employed the equivalent of 3,475 civilians. These can be broken down as follows.

| Category | Main grant | Main grant agency | Patten funded | Patten funded agency | Other funded | Other funded agency |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Accident Investigator | — | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| Accounting Technician | 5 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Admin Assistant | 493.25 | 125.5 | — | — | 2 | 1 |
| Admin Officer | 464.25 | 28.75 | 1 | — | 3 | 1 |
| Ancillary | 22.5 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Architectural Liaison Officer | — | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| Armourer Technical Grade 2 | 4 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Assistant Secretary Grade 5 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Assistant Crime Controller | — | 1.75 | — | — | — | — |
| Assistant Emergency Planner | — | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| Ass. Investigating Officer | — | 53 | — | — | — | — |
| Ass. Solicitor Grade 5 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Ass. System Developer | 2 | — | 2 | — | — | — |
| Boilerman | 3 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Business Liaison | — | 8 | — | — | — | — |
| Business Manager | 23.75 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Chief H&S Officer | 1 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Chief Medical Officer | 1 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Chief Nursing Adviser | 1 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Chief Pilot | 1 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Clinical Psychologist | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| Crime Prevention Adviser | 1 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Crime Scene Investigator | 47 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Catering Manager | 1.75 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Curator | 1 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Deputy Chief Medical Adviser | 1 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Deputy Dir. Human Resources | 1 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Deputy Head of Media | 1 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Director of Finance and Support Services | 1 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Director of Human Resources | 1 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Director of Physical Education | 1 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Diversity Manager | 1 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Diversity Officer | 2 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Deputy Principal (DP) | 18 | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| DP of Accounts | 1 | — | — | — | — | — |
| DP Force Supplies Officer | 1 | — | — | — | — | — |
| DP Management Accounts | — | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| DP Project Sponsor | 4 | — | — | — | 3 | 4 |
| Driving Instructor | 21 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Education Adviser | — | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| Employee Support | 5 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Executive Officer I | 54.5 | 8 | — | — | — | — |
| Executive Officer II | 198.75 | 10 | — | — | 1 | 1 |
| Explosives Inspector | — | 3 | — | — | — | — |
| First Aid Instructor | 3 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Fingerprint Investigator | — | — | — | — | 4 | 4 |
| Fingerprint Officer | 14 | 6 | — | — | — | — |
| Fingerprint Assistant | 9 | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| Fire Officer | 1 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Fingerprint Technician | 2.75 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Fingerprint Photographer | 1 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Garment Technician | 1 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Graph Officer | 3 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Groundsman | 25 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Photographic Officer | 1 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Higher Scientific Officer | 1 | — | — | — | — | — |
| H&S Administration | 1 | — | — | — | — | — |
| H&S Adviser | 4 | — | — | — | — | — |
| HCS Grade 7 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — |
| HCS Senior Principal | 1 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Head Financial Accounting | 1 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Head Management Accounting | 1 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Head Info Comp Technology | 1 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Head of Media | 1 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Head of Simulated Learning | 1 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Head of Transport | 1 | — | — | — | — | — |
| HOLMES | — | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| HOLMES Index | — | 1 | 46 | — | — | — |
| HPTO | 4 | — | — | — | — | — |
| HR Project Analyst | 1 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Instructional Officer | 1 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Investigation Officer | — | 2.75 | — | — | — | — |
| Jnr Occupational Psychologist | 3 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Kennel Assistant | 2 | 3 | — | — | — | — |
| Legal Adviser | — | — | 1 | — | — | — |
| Mapping Officer | 10.75 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Medical Adviser | 1 | — | — | — | — | — |

| Category | Main grant | Main grant agency | Patten funded | Patten funded agency | Other funded | Other funded agency |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Management Accountant | 1 | — | 1.75 | — | — | — |
| Nursing Adviser | 3 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Occupational Health Nurse | 2.5 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Occupational Health Adviser | 1 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Personnel Manager | 5 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Personnel Officer | 18 | 6 | — | — | — | — |
| Personal Secretary | 23.75 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Photographic Officer | 26 | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| Physical Education Co-ordinator | 1 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Physical Education Instructor | 8 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Physiotherapist | 1 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Pilot | 3 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Analyst | 28 | — | 15 | — | — | — |
| Porter/Driver | 8 | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| Porter/Labourer | 10.5 | 8 | — | — | — | — |
| Grade 7 | 6 | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| Prin. Crime Scene Investigator | 8 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Telecommunication Engineer | 1 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Accountant | 2 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Occupational Psychologist | 2 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Principal Grade | 3 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Practice Nurse | 2 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Press Officer | 11.5 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Programmer | 9 | 4 | — | — | — | — |
| Programmer Assistant | 23.75 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Project Manager | 6 | 4 | — | — | 5 | 5 |
| Principal Technical Officer | 5 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Public Affairs | 1 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Range Warden | 1 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Recruiting | — | 0.25 | — | — | — | — |
| Research | — | 3 | — | — | — | — |
| Research Assistant | — | 2 | — | — | — | — |
| Risk Assessor | — | 3 | — | — | — | — |
| Systems Analyst | 17 | 2 | — | — | — | — |
| Support Management | 1 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Scientific Officer | 2 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Senior Armourer | 1 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Senior Graphic Officer | 1 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Senior Legal Assistant | 1 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Senior Project Manager | 4 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Senior Systems Analyst | 5 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Senior Store Person | 1 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Support Grade Band 1 | — | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| SGB1 Comms Assistant | 118.5 | 13 | — | — | — | — |
| SGB1 Messenger/Driver | 2 | 13 | — | — | — | — |
| SGB1 Reprographics Officer | 6 | — | — | — | — | — |
| SGB1 Security Guard | 32 | 6 | — | — | — | — |
| SGB2 Armoury Officer | 3 | — | — | — | — | — |
| SGB2 Day Cleaner | 198.2 | 41.5 | — | — | — | — |
| SGB2 Messenger | 6. | — | — | — | — | — |
| SGB2 Paper Keeper | | — | — | — | — | — |
| SGB2 Range Warden | | — | — | — | — | — |
| SGB2 Reprographics Officer 2 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — |
| SGB2 Section House Warden | 1 | — | — | — | — | — |
| SGB2 Section House Store Person | 1 | — | — | — | — | — |
| SGB2 Split Duty Cleaner | 13.25 | 2 | — | — | — | — |
| SGB2 Station Staff | 15 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Security Guards | 2 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Building Administration | 1 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Snr Crime Scene Officers | 1 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Snr Fingerprint Officers | 11 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Snr H&S Adviser | 1 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Snr Imaging Officer | 4 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Snr Personal Secretary | 1 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Snr Press Officer | 5 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Snr Scientific Officer | 1 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Snr Traffic Warden | 23 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Staff Officer | 26.5 | 2.75 | 2 | — | — | — |
| SO Accountant | 2 | — | — | — | — | — |
| SO Results Analyst | 1 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Personal Assistant | 1 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Quality of Services Officers | 2 | — | — | — | — | — |
| SPTO | 5 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Snr First Aid Instructor | 1 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Engineer SPTO | 2 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Station Receptionist | — | — | 74 | — | — | — |
| Store Person | 2 | — | — | — | — | — |

| Category | Main grant | Main grant agency | Patten funded | Patten funded agency | Other funded | Other funded agency |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Store Officer Grade C | 3 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Store Officer Grade D | 1 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Snr Telecommunications Man | 1 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Supervisor | 19 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Support Grade 1 | 8.5 | 3 | — | — | — | — |
| Support Grade 2 | 2 | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| Support Manager 3 | 4.5 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Systems Integration Architect | 1 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Systems Support Officer | 2 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Training Police Analyst | 11 | — | 4 | — | — | — |
| Tailor Assistant | 1 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Technical Grade 1 | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| Technical Research Officer | 1 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Telecommunication Engineer | 73 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Telecoms Engineer 1 | 9 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Telecoms Engineer 2 | 20 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Telecoms Mechanic | 14 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Ten Print Administrator | 5 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Tradesperson | 57 | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| Traffic Warden | 74 | 3 | — | — | — | — |
| Trainee Accountant | 1 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Trainer | — | 7 | — | 6 | — | — |
| Transport Assistant | — | 4 | — | — | — | — |
| Transport Co-ordinator | 59 | 4 | — | — | — | — |
| Training Support Officer | — | 2 | — | — | — | — |
| Typing Manager | 27.5 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Typist | 281 | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| Total | 2,886.5 | 401.25 | 146.75 | 6 | 19 | 16 |

## Pupil Exclusions

**Lady Hermon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many pupils were excluded from schools in each education and library board area as a result of violence or threatening behaviour in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [9127]

**Angela E. Smith:** The reasons for suspension were first collected in 2002/03 school year and relate to the number of individual suspensions not the number of pupils suspended. The reason for a suspension is categorised by a school into one often possibilities.

The information on relevant individual suspensions for 2002/03 school year is as follows:

| | BELB | WELB | NEELB | SEELB | SELB | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Physical attack on staff | 75 | 99 | 91 | 64 | 36 | 365 |
| Verbal abuse of staff | 385 | 382 | 459 | 366 | 434 | 2,026 |
| Physical attack on pupil | 293 | 392 | 434 | 347 | 387 | 1,853 |
| Verbal abuse of pupil | 17 | 14 | 42 | 49 | 29 | 151 |
| Bullying of pupil | 53 | 52 | 66 | 57 | 61 | 289 |

The detailed suspension data for 2003/04 submitted by the Southern Education and Library Board (SELB) has still to be fully analysed. When this has been done in the near future, I will write to the hon. Member and provide the SELB statistics. The 4-Board information for 2003/04 school year is as follows:

| | BELB | WELB | NEELB | SEELB | SELB | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Physical attack on staff | 73 | 72 | 49 | 79 | n/a | 273 |
| Verbal abuse of staff | 473 | 486 | 534 | 352 | n/a | 1,845 |
| Physical attack on pupil | 400 | 353 | 521 | 345 | n/a | 1,619 |
| Verbal abuse of pupil | 22 | 46 | 43 | 23 | n/a | 134 |
| Bullying of pupil | 73 | 64 | 84 | 49 | n/a | 270 |

The reasons for expulsion were first collected in 2003/04 and are available on the Department's website at: www.deni.gov.uk/facts_figures/education_stats/index_other.htm.

The numbers involved are relatively small and are not disaggregated between education and library boards because of the risk that a school/pupil may be identifiable.

## School Buses

**Mrs. Iris Robinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps are being taken to improve safety on school buses in Northern Ireland. [9747]

**Angela E. Smith:** Compared to other modes, travelling to school by bus is already a safe means of transport. However, the issue of safety on school buses is currently under consideration by the Department of the Environment in its assessment of the four key recommendations of the Northern Ireland Assembly's inquiry into home to school transport. It is expected that the findings of this work, which is being carried out in partnership with the Department for Regional Development and the Department of Education, will be published later this year.

Furthermore, Education and Library Boards (ELBs) have been working towards the goal of providing seat belts on all new ELB vehicles in accordance with legislative requirements. At current rates this will take at least six years. To date, seat belts have been fitted on 63 per cent. of ELB vehicles.

**Mrs. Iris Robinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many children use education and library board buses on average each day. [9748]

**Angela E. Smith:** In 2004/05 a total of 27,880 pupils were eligible to use Education and Library Board buses each day.

**Mrs. Iris Robinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many accidents involving children on education and library board buses occurred in each of the last five years. [9749]

**Angela E. Smith:** The number of accidents reported to the PSNI, involving pupils on Education and Library Board vehicles in the last five years, is as follows:

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2000 | 4 |
| 2001 | 8 |
| 2002 | 6 |
| 2003 | 8 |
| 2004 | 4 |
| 2005 | [1]4 |

[1] To date

**Mrs. Iris Robinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what estimate he has made of the cost of the removal of the policy of three for two seating on school buses by education and library boards. [9750]

**Angela E. Smith:** Three Education and Library Boards no longer apply the three-for-two seating arrangement. The estimated capital cost in the remaining Western and South Eastern Boards is some £1.2 million for the purchase of an additional 16 new vehicles (eight per board).

The phasing out of three-for-two seating will proceed as part of the process to introduce seat belts in all board vehicles.

**Mrs. Iris Robinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what estimate he has made of the cost of a no-standing on school buses policy by education and library boards. [9751]

**Angela E. Smith:** The introduction of a "no standing" policy in relation to school bus transport is one of the issues currently under consideration by the Department of the Environment in its assessment of the four key recommendations of the Northern Ireland Assembly's inquiry into home to school transport. This assessment, which also investigates the abolition of "3 for 2", the fitting of seat belts and the provision of improved signage and lighting, will include a detailed analysis of the costs of implementing these recommendations.

It is expected that the findings of this work, which is being carried out in partnership with the Department for Regional Development and the Department of Education, will be published later this year.

### Sign Language

**Mr. Dodds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what his policy is on the use of sign language in schools in Northern Ireland. [7634]

**Angela E. Smith:** The general aim of local deaf education is to teach deaf and hearing impaired children to speak wherever possible. This happens with hearing impaired children in mainstream schools and special education units for the hearing impaired, attached to those schools. Occasionally, a child attending a unit needs to be taught, at least partly, through the medium of sign language and this would be provided by the teacher and classroom assistant, where appropriate.

The only local school to use sign language on a regular basis is Jordanstown Special School, which employs "Total Communication" methods ie a mixture of speech, lip reading and signing.

The Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment, addresses deafness as a disability in a number of ways in the revised curriculum. It will be more holistic and flexible, with greater emphasis on real-world skills, such as communication, and a specific element of Learning for Life and Work. Legislation will be in place by September 2006 and the revised curriculum will be introduced on a phased basis stretching to 2009/10.

**Mr. Dodds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what resources have been allocated to help schools and colleges in Northern Ireland employ tutors in the use of sign language. [7822]

**Angela E. Smith:** The Department provides £1 million under the Additional Support Fund in further education which, among other things, can be used to provide assistance towards the cost of sign language interpreters. It is impossible, however, to disaggregate the actual amount spent specifically for this facility.

## HOME OFFICE

### Advisory Council for the Misuse of Drugs

**Mrs. Gillan:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which members of the Advisory Council for the Misuse of Drugs have an expertise in *(a)* schizophrenia, *(b)* neurology and *(c)* toxicology; and what the extent of that expertise is in each case. [4043]

**Paul Goggins:** The following members of the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs have an expertise in one or more of the following areas of schizophrenia/mental health, neurology and toxicology:

Professor Sir Michael Rawlins, Professor of Pharmacology, University of Newcastle.

Dr. Margaret Birtwistle, Specialist General Practitioner in Substance Misuse.

Carmel Clancy, Principal Lecturer, Mental Health and Addictions, Middlesex University.

Professor Ilana Crome, Professor of Addiction Psychiatry, Keel University Medical School.

Robyn Doran, Mental Health Nurse specialising in Substance Misuse.

Professor Robin Ganellin, Emeritus Professor of Medicinal Chemistry.

Dr. Clare Gerada, General Practitioner, London Practise and Primary Care lead for Drug Misuse.

Professor Leslie Iversen, Professor of Pharmacology, University of Oxford.

Dr. John Marsden, Research Psychologist, Institute of Psychiatry.

Professor David Nutt, Professor of Psychopharmacology, University of Bristol.

Dr. Richard Pates, Consultant Clinical Psychologist.

Dr. Roy Robertson, General Practitioner.

Dr. Mary Rowlands, Consultant Psychiatrist in Substance Misuse.

Members are appointed on the basis of their individual qualities, expertise and knowledge. The extent of this expertise and knowledge is reflected in the fact that they are leading experts in their respective fields.

**Mrs. Gillan:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for what reasons he has restricted the investigation of the Advisory Council for the Misuse of Drugs into only the stronger varieties of cannabis. [4867]

**Paul Goggins:** The Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD) has been asked by the Home Secretary to consider the recent studies into links and associations between taking any strength of cannabis and the development of mental health problems. The ACMD will consider these studies in terms of its overall assessment of the classification of cannabis. The ACMD has also been directed to consider the reports of increased prevalence of cannabis with high levels of Tetrahydrocannabinol(THC).

### African Children

**Mr. Hands:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many African boys he estimates have disappeared in the United Kingdom since September 2001. [6764]

**Hazel Blears:** This data is not collected centrally.

### Airguns

**Mr. Malins:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes involving the firing of *(a)* an air pistol and *(b)* an air rifle were recorded in each of the last five years. [5157]

**Hazel Blears:** The available information relates to crimes recorded by the police in which firearms are reported to have been used. Statistics are available for air weapons, but air pistols and air rifles cannot be separately identified within this category. The available statistics for air weapons are published in Table 2.03 of Home Office Statistical Bulletin 02/05, "Crime in England and Wales 2003/04: Supplementary Volume 1: Homicide and Gun Crime". A copy is available in the Library.

It should be noted that for an offence in which a firearm is reported to be used, the firearm does not have necessarily have to be fired. It could be used as a blunt instrument against a person or used as a threat.

### Antisocial Behaviour

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps the Government is taking to tackle anti-social behaviour. [8550]

**Hazel Blears:** The TOGETHER campaign was set up to ensure that anti-social behaviour is dealt with swiftly and effectively by local services. The first phase was about equipping practitioners with the tools and the know-how. We have seen some good results: Over 4,500 Anti-Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs), over 150 crack house closure orders and over 400 dispersal orders have been issued.

As part of the next phase on the campaign, we will ensure we give the right help and support to communities so they know what they can do to tackle problems of anti-social behaviour and what they can expect from local services. As announced on the 29th June 2005, from 1st July 2005 provisions from the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005, will give vulnerable witnesses in ASBO cases the protection and support they need in court.

There will also be the lifting of automatic reporting restrictions to allow the local media to give details of those who breach their ASBOs.

Funding for Individual Support Orders (ISOs) for young people between the ages of 10 and 17 years of age will be increased by £500,000. ISOs can be attached to an ASBO and direct the young person to activities and support to address the underlying causes of their anti-social behaviour. This can include anger management courses and alcohol and drug misuse programmes.

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many anti-social behaviour orders have been issued in the Essex Police Authority Area; and how many have been breached; [9488]

(2) how many people have received a custodial sentence for breach of an anti-social behaviour order in Essex; [9489]

(3) how many people have been taken to court for breach of an anti-social behaviour order in Essex; and how many have been found guilty. [9490]

**Hazel Blears:** The Court Proceedings Database held by my Department holds breach proceedings only where there has been a conviction. Data on convictions for breach of an Anti-Social Behaviour Order (ASBO) are currently available from one June 2000 to 31 December 2003. During this period my Department received notification of 15 persons receiving ASBOs in the Essex criminal justice system area which is coterminous with the police authority area. Of these, two were convicted of breaching their ASBO on one or more occasions. Both received a custodial sentence for at least one of the breaches.

Breach data for 2004 will be available towards the end of the year.

### Antisocial Behaviour Orders

**Mrs. Gillan:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what guidance his Department has issued to magistrates in England and Wales in respect of applications for antisocial behaviour orders; [7944]

(2) what guidance his Department has issued to local authorities in England and Wales in respect of applications for antisocial behaviour orders; [7945]

(3) what guidance his Department has issued to police authorities in England and Wales in respect of applications for anti-social behaviour orders. [7946]

**Hazel Blears:** Our publications "A Guide to Antisocial Behaviour Orders and Acceptable Behaviour Contracts" and "Guidance on Publicising Antisocial Behaviour Orders" together with information provided by our TOGETHER website and Action Line, provides comprehensive guidance for all practitioners, including police authorities, magistrates and local authorities. Joint guidance issued by the Home Office, Youth Justice Board and the Association of Chief Police Officers provides Youth Offending Teams with advice on their role in preventing and reducing antisocial behaviour. The Justices' Clerks' Society and the Judicial Studies Board have both published specific guidance and training material for magistrates on the use of ASBOs. In addition, Her Majesty's Courts Service has recently issued new guidance on ASBOs for judges sitting in the magistrates, crown and county courts.

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many anti-social behaviour orders have been issued in each London borough; and if he will make a statement. [8127]

**Hazel Blears:** The available information is given in the table.

*The number of ASBOs issued at all courts, as reported to the Home Office, where restrictions are imposed within local authority areas in Greater London, 1 June 2000[1] to 30 September 2004 (latest available)*

| *Area* | *Number issued* |
|---|---|
| Barking and Dagenham | 1 |
| Barnet | 10 |
| Bexley | 16 |
| Brent | 10 |
| Bromley | 7 |
| Camden | 65 |
| City of London | 4 |
| Croydon | 14 |
| Ealing | 12 |
| Enfield | 4 |
| Greenwich | 11 |
| Hackney | 7 |
| Hammersmith & Fulham | 8 |
| Haringey | 9 |
| Harrow | 5 |
| Havering | 5 |
| Hillingdon | 8 |
| Hounslow | 18 |
| Islington | 8 |
| Kensington and Chelsea Royal Borough | 8 |
| Kingston-on-Thames | 3 |
| Lambeth | 14 |
| Lewisham | 13 |
| Merton | 10 |
| Newham | 5 |
| Richmond upon Thames | 8 |
| Southwark | 11 |
| Sutton | 7 |
| Tower Hamlets | 9 |
| Waltham Forest | 7 |
| Wandsworth | 12 |
| Westminster | 24 |
| Total | 355 |

[1] Between 1 April 1999 and 31 May 2000 data were collected on aggregate numbers only by police force area (pfa). During this period a total of nine ASBOs were reported within the Greater London pfa.

**Assaults (Race/Religion)**

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* Muslims, *(b)* Sikhs, *(c)* Jews, *(d)* Christians and *(e)* Hindus who were victims of an unprovoked assault in which race or religion was assessed as a factor in the last year for which figures were available. [8069]

**Paul Goggins:** The information requested is not collected centrally.

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many victims of assaults, in which race was assessed as a factor, were of *(a)* white European, *(b)* white British, *(c)* African-Caribbean and *(d)* gipsy traveller extraction in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [8070]

**Paul Goggins:** The information requested is not collected centrally.

**Asset Recovery Scheme**

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was recovered under the asset recovery scheme in each police authority area for *(a)* each year since inception and *(b)* as a cumulative total by descending value. [6155]

**Hazel Blears** *[holding answer 27 June 2005]*: The police asset recovery incentivisation scheme came into operation in 2004–05. Police force performance on recovering the proceeds of crime is measured by the value of cash forfeitures and confiscation orders obtained by a force. The value of orders obtained by each police force in 2004–05 is shown in the table.

| *Police force* | *Total value of cash forfeitures and confiscation orders obtained by the police service in 2004–05 (£)* |
|---|---|
| Metropolitan Police Service | 26,426,648.39 |
| National Crime Squad | 11,940,373.79 |
| Lancashire Constabulary | 3,743,146.94 |
| Greater Manchester Police | 3,453,431.70 |
| Merseyside Police | 2,908,711.21 |
| Cambridgeshire Constabulary | 2,695,434.41 |
| Derbyshire Constabulary | 2,540,453.70 |
| West Yorkshire Police | 2,265,457.57 |
| City of London Police | 2,211,123.08 |
| West Midlands Police | 2,053,433.63 |
| Avon and Somerset Constabulary | 1,959,930.23 |
| Kent Police | 1,926,936.62 |
| Police Service of Northern Ireland | 1,769,094.32 |
| Nottinghamshire Police | 1,336,612.41 |
| South Yorkshire Police | 1,330,077.48 |
| Devon and Cornwall Constabulary | 1,182,881.95 |
| Cumbria Constabulary | 1,124,156.05 |
| Northamptonshire Police | 1,063,417.47 |
| Dorset Police | 1,050,401.06 |
| Sussex Police | 1,002,181.72 |
| West Mercia Constabulary | 999,467.06 |
| Norfolk Constabulary | 911,868.06 |
| Northumbria Police | 909,645.62 |
| Leicestershire Constabulary | 891,588.29 |
| Thames Valley Police | 750,663.61 |
| Surrey Police | 648,947.84 |
| Cheshire Constabulary | 541,557.19 |
| Wiltshire Constabulary | 482,559.71 |

| Police force | Total value of cash forfeitures and confiscation orders obtained by the police service in 2004–05 (£) |
|---|---|
| Durham Constabulary | 477,399.45 |
| Gwent Police | 442,673.90 |
| Hertfordshire Constabulary | 440,353.93 |
| Suffolk Constabulary | 430,715.69 |
| South Wales Police | 400,577.52 |
| Gloucestershire Constabulary | 390,468.23 |
| Hampshire Constabulary | 333,792.86 |
| Lincolnshire Police | 307,912.23 |
| British Transport Police | 281,376.94 |
| Staffordshire Police | 260,405.82 |
| Humberside Police | 255,656.67 |
| Cleveland Police | 230,220.07 |
| North Yorkshire Police | 205,081.94 |
| Dyfed-Powys Police | 201,061.20 |
| Essex Police | 192,804.57 |
| Bedfordshire Police | 154,828.69 |
| North Wales Police | 109,758.12 |
| Warwickshire Police | 57,357.29 |
| Total value of orders | 85,292,646.23 |

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was recovered in criminal assets by the Metropolitan Police in each year since 1997; and how much was distributed to the Metropolitan Police from criminal assets recovered in each year. [7476]

**Hazel Blears:** The information is not available in the format requested. The total value of cash forfeitures and confiscation orders obtained by the Metropolitan Police Service was £5,868,992 in 2003–04 and £26,426,648 in 2004–05. Money from recovered assets is distributed to the police service under the police incentivisation scheme which came into operation in 2004–05. Under the scheme the Metropolitan Police Service received £4,027,855 on the basis of its performance in 2004–05 .

## Asylum Seekers

**Alistair Burt:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on how many occasions in the last six months escorted detainees from Yarl's Wood Detention Centre have refused to board aircraft in pursuance of a deportation order and been returned to Yarl's Wood; and if he will make a statement. [8506]

**Mr. McNulty** *holding answer 29 June 2005]:* From December 2004—May 2005, 114 escorted detainees from Yarl's Wood have refused to board an aircraft in pursuance of a deportation or following refusal of leave to enter or remain in the United Kingdom and been returned to Yarl's Wood.

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum seekers have been accepted into the UK since 1997; and how many of these were *(a)* Nigerian, *(b)* Algerian, *(c)* Iraqi, *(d)* Chinese, *(e)* Bangladeshi, *(f)* Pakistani, *(g)* Turkish, *(h)* Albanian, *(i)* Bosnian, *(j)* Mexican, *(k)* Sudanese, *(l)* Zimbabwean and *(m)* Palestinian. [8535]

**Mr. McNulty:** The requested information on when asylum seekers arrive in the UK is not available. Data on applications by asylum seekers, by nationality, are based on the date when an application is made. Data on applications, and on initial decision outcomes and appeal outcomes are published in the annual bulletin Asylum Statistics United Kingdom 2003, and (data for 2004) Asylum Statistics: 4th Quarter 2004 United Kingdom. Copies are available in the Library of the House and on the Home Office Research Development and Statistics Directorate website at http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html.

The tables show application, initial decision and appeal outcome data, where available, for Bosnia-Herzegovina, Mexico and Palestine that are currently not available on the website.

*Asylum applications received in the United Kingdom, excluding dependants, and initial decisions[1] on applications, 1997–2004[2], nationals of Bosnia-Herzegovina*

*Principal applicants*

| | *Applications* | | | *Decisions* | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Total* | *Port* | *In country* | *Total decisions* | *Grants of asylum* | *Grants of ELR* | *Grants of HP*[3] | *Grants of DL*[3] |
| 1997 | 170 | 25 | 145 | 385 | 235 | 120 | n/a | n/a |
| 1998 | 160 | 55 | 110 | 95 | 45 | 20 | n/a | n/a |
| 1999 | 175 | 50 | 125 | 65 | 30 | 5 | n/a | n/a |
| 2000 | 105 | 25 | 80 | 310 | 45 | 25 | n/a | n/a |
| 2001 | 50 | 15 | 35 | 190 | 10 | 20 | n/a | n/a |
| 2002 | 50 | 5 | 45 | 75 | 5 | 5 | n/a | n/a |
| 2003 | 35 | 5 | 30 | 65 | • | • | — | • |
| 2004[4] | 15 | • | 15 | 25 | — | n/a | — | • |

| | *Decisions* | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Total refusals* | *Certified refusals* | *Other refusals* | *Third city refusals*[5] | *Non-compliance refusals*[6] | *Grants of ELR under backlog criteria*[7,8] | *Non compliance refusals under backlog criteria*[7,8] |
| 1997 | 25 | 0 | 10 | 10 | 5 | [9]— | [9]— |
| 1998 | 30 | 5 | 20 | 5 | • | [9]— | [9]— |
| 1999 | 5 | 5 | — | 5 | • | 15 | 10 |
| 2000 | 185 | [9]— | 110 | • | 70 | 35 | 20 |
| 2001 | 160 | 25 | 70 | — | 65 | [9]— | [9]— |
| 2002 | 65 | 10 | 30 | — | 25 | [9]— | [9]— |
| 2003 | 60 | • | 35 | — | 20 | [9]— | [9]— |
| 2004[4] | 20 | • | 15 | — | 5 | [9]— | [9]— |

n/a = not applicable

[1] Information is of initial determination decisions, excluding the outcome of appeals or other subsequent decisions.
[2] Figures rounded to nearest 5, with "*" = 1 or 2.
[3] Humanitarian protection and discretionary leave replaced exceptional leave to remain from 1 April 2003.
[4] Provisional figures
[5] Refused on the grounds that the applicant had arrived from a safe third country.
[6] Paragraph 340 of Immigration Rules. For failure to provide evidence to support the asylum claim within a reasonable period, including failure to respond to invitation to interview.
[7] Cases decided under pragmatic measures aimed at reducing the pre 1996 asylum backlog.
[8] May include a small number of cases where asylum has been granted.
[9] May include a small number of cases where the application has been refused on substantive grounds.
[10] Not available.

*Outcome of appeals[1] determined by adjudicators of the Immigration Appellate Authority, excluding dependants, nationals of Bosnia-Herzegovina, 1997–2004*

*Number of principal appellants*

| | *Appeals determined by adjudicators[2]* | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | *Allowed* | | *Dismissed* | | *Withdrawn* | |
| | *Total* | *Total* | *As percentage of determined* | *Total* | *As percentage of determined* | *Total* | *As percentage of determined* |
| 1997 | n/a | n/a | | n/a | | n/a | |
| 1998 | n/a | n/a | | n/a | | n/a | |
| 1999 | n/a | n/a | | n/a | | n/a | |
| 2000 | n/a | n/a | | n/a | | n/a | |
| 2001 | 65 | 15 | 25 | 40 | 65 | 5 | 10 |
| 2002 | 65 | 25 | 34 | 35 | 51 | 10 | 15 |
| 2003 | 65 | 15 | 22 | 40 | 64 | 10 | 14 |
| 2004[3] | 40 | 10 | 27 | 25 | 66 | 5 | 6 |

n/a = not available.
[1] Figures rounded to nearest 5 (except percentages), with "*" = 1 or 2.
Data on appeal outcomes by nationality in this table are derived from electronic sources.
[2] Figures include cases withdrawn by the Home Office, as well as the appellant.
[3] Provisional figures.

*Asylum applications received in the United Kingdom, excluding dependants, and initial decisions[1] on applications, 1997–2004[2], nationals of Mexico*

*Principal applicants*

| | *Applications* | | | *Decisions* | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Total* | *Port* | *In country* | *Total decisions* | *Grants of asylum* | *Grants of ELR* | *Grants of HP[3]* | *Grants of DL[3]* |
| 1997 | 5 | — | 5 | — | — | — | n/a | n/a |
| 1998 | * | — | * | * | — | — | n/a | n/a |
| 1999 | — | — | — | — | — | — | n/a | n/a |
| 2000 | * | * | — | 5 | * | — | n/a | n/a |
| 2001 | 5 | — | 5 | * | — | — | n/a | n/a |
| 2002 | 5 | — | 5 | * | — | — | n/a | n/a |
| 2003 | * | * | — | 5 | — | — | — | — |
| 2004[4] | * | — | * | — | — | n/a | — | — |

| | *Decisions* | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Total refusals* | *Certified refusals* | *Other refusals* | *Third city refusals[5]* | *Non-compliance refusals[6]* | *Grants of ELR under backlog criteria[7,8]* | *Non compliance refusals under backlog criteria[7,9]* |
| 1997 | — | — | — | — | — | [10]__ | [10]__ |
| 1998 | * | * | — | — | — | [10]__ | [10]__ |
| 1999 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 2000 | * | [10]__ | * | — | * | — | — |
| 2001 | * | — | * | — | — | [10]__ | [10]__ |
| 2002 | * | * | — | — | * | [10]__ | [10]__ |
| 2003 | 5 | — | * | — | * | [10]__ | [10]__ |
| 2004[4] | — | — | — | — | — | [10]__ | [10]__ |

n/a = not applicable
[1] Information is of initial determination decisions, excluding the outcome of appeals or other subsequent decisions.
[2] Figures rounded to nearest 5, with "*" = 1 or 2.
[3] Humanitarian protection and discretionary leave replaced exceptional leave to remain from 1 April 2003.
[4] Provisional figures
[5] Refused on the grounds that the applicant had arrived from a safe third country.
[6] Paragraph 340 of Immigration Rules. For failure to provide evidence to support the asylum claim within a reasonable period, including failure to respond to invitation to interview.
[7] Cases decided under pragmatic measures aimed at reducing the pre 1996 asylum backlog.
[8] May include a small number of cases where asylum has been granted.
[9] May include a small number of cases where the application has been refused on substantive grounds.
[10] Not available.

*Outcome of appeals[1] determined by adjudicators of the Immigration Appellate Authority, excluding dependants, nationals of Mexico, 1997–2004*

*Number of principal appellants*

| | *Appeals determined by adjudicators[2]* | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | *Allowed* | | *Dismissed* | | *Withdrawn* | |
| | *Total* | *Total* | *As percentage of determined* | *Total* | *As percentage of determined* | *Total* | *As percentage of determined* |
| 1997 | n/a | n/a | | n/a | | n/a | |
| 1998 | n/a | n/a | | n/a | | n/a | |
| 1999 | n/a | n/a | | n/a | | n/a | |
| 2000 | n/a | n/a | | n/a | | n/a | |
| 2001 | — | — | 0 | — | 100 | — | 0 |
| 2002 | * | — | 0 | * | 100 | — | 0 |
| 2003 | 5 | — | 0 | 5 | 100 | — | 0 |
| 2004[3] | * | — | 0 | * | 100 | — | 0 |

n/a = not available.
[1] Figures rounded to nearest 5 (except percentages), with "*" = 1 or 2.
Data on appeal outcomes by nationality in this table are derived from electronic sources.
[2] Figures include cases withdrawn by the Home Office, as well as the appellant.
[3] Provisional figures.

*Asylum applications received in the United Kingdom, excluding dependants, and initial decisions[1] on applications, 1997–2004[2], Palestine*

*Principal applicants*

| | *Applications* | | | *Decisions* | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Total* | *Port* | *In country* | *Total decisions* | *Grants of asylum* | *Grants of ELR* | *Grants of HP[3]* | *Grants of DL[3]* |
| 1997 | 110 | 100 | 10 | 45 | 15 | 15 | n/a | n/a |
| 1998 | 105 | 65 | 35 | 20 | 10 | — | n/a | n/a |
| 1999 | 280 | 175 | 105 | 40 | 15 | 5 | n/a | n/a |
| 2000 | 350 | 195 | 155 | 300 | 15 | 15 | n/a | n/a |
| 2001 | 375 | 155 | 215 | 70 | * | * | n/a | n/a |
| 2002 | 365 | 105 | 255 | 240 | 10 | 10 | n/a | n/a |
| 2003 | 345 | 95 | 250 | 1,240 | 10 | 10 | * | 20 |
| 2004[4] | 465 | 55 | 415 | 550 | 10 | n/a | — | 20 |

| | *Decisions* | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Total refusals* | *Certified refusals* | *Other refusals* | *Third city refusals[5]* | *Non-compliance refusals[6]* | *Grants of ELR under backlog criteria[7,8]* | *Non compliance refusals under backlog criteria[7,9]* |
| 1997 | 15 | * | 10 | — | 5 | [10]— | [10]— |
| 1998 | 10 | — | 5 | 5 | — | [10]— | [10]— |
| 1999 | 15 | * | 5 | 10 | * | 5 | — |
| 2000 | 240 | [10]— | 150 | 10 | 85 | 30 | * |
| 2001 | 70 | 10 | 30 | 5 | 25 | [10]— | [10]— |
| 2002 | 225 | * | 170 | 5 | 50 | [10]— | [10]— |
| 2003 | 1,200 | 5 | 1,035 | 5 | 155 | [10]— | [10]— |
| 2004[4] | 520 | — | 410 | 30 | 80 | [10]— | [10]— |

n/a = not applicable
[1] Information is of initial determination decisions, excluding the outcome of appeals or other subsequent decisions.
[2] Figures rounded to nearest 5, with "*" = 1 or 2.
[3] Humanitarian protection and discretionary leave replaced exceptional leave to remain from 1 April 2003.
[4] Provisional figures
[5] Refused on the grounds that the applicant had arrived from a safe third country.
[6] Paragraph 340 of Immigration Rules. For failure to provide evidence to support the asylum claim within a reasonable period, including failure to respond to invitation to interview.
[7] Cases decided under pragmatic measures aimed at reducing the pre 1996 asylum backlog.
[8] May include a small number of cases where asylum has been granted.
[9] May include a small number of cases where the application has been refused on substantive grounds.
[10] Not available.

*Outcome of appeals[1] determined by adjudicators of the Immigration Appellate Authority, excluding dependants, Palestine, 1997–2004*

*Number of principal appellants*

| | *Appeals determined by adjudicators[2]* | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | *Allowed* | | *Dismissed* | | *Withdrawn* | |
| | *Total* | *Total* | *As percentage of determined* | *Total* | *As percentage of determined* | *Total* | *As percentage of determined* |
| 1997 | n/a | n/a | | n/a | | n/a | |
| 1998 | n/a | n/a | | n/a | | n/a | |
| 1999 | n/a | n/a | | n/a | | n/a | |

*Outcome of appeals[1] determined by adjudicators of the Immigration Appellate Authority, excluding dependants, Palestine, 1997–2004*

*Number of principal appellants*

| | *Appeals determined by adjudicators[2]* | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | *Allowed* | | *Dismissed* | | *Withdrawn* | |
| | *Total* | *Total* | *As percentage of determined* | *Total* | *As percentage of determined* | *Total* | *As percentage of determined* |
| 2000 | n/a | n/a | | n/a | | n/a | |
| 2001 | 65 | 20 | 31 | 40 | 61 | 5 | 7 |
| 2002 | 50 | 15 | 33 | 30 | 64 | * | 2 |
| 2003 | 735 | 155 | 21 | 545 | 74 | 35 | 5 |
| 2004[3] | 1,010 | 180 | 18 | 805 | 79 | 30 | 3 |

n/a = not available.

[1] Figures rounded to nearest 5 (except percentages), with "*" = 1 or 2.

Data on appeal outcomes by nationality in this table are derived from electronic sources.

[2] Figures include cases withdrawn by the Home Office, as well as the appellant.

[3] Provisional figures.

**Mrs. James:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make a statement on UK immigration policy on Kurdish asylum seekers and refugees from Turkey. [9595]

**Mr. McNulty:** Asylum and human rights claims by Kurdish asylum seekers from Turkey are, like those of all claimants, from all countries, considered on their individual merits in accordance with our obligations under the 1951 UN Refugee Convention and the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR). If the claimant meets the definition of a refugee in the 1951 Refugee Convention, they are granted asylum. If they do not qualify for asylum, but there are other circumstances that make them particularly vulnerable and engage our obligations under the ECHR, they are granted humanitarian protection or discretionary leave. If an application is refused, and any appeal is unsuccessful, then we expect the individual concerned to leave the UK voluntarily. If they do not, we consider that it is entirely reasonable for us to enforce the return of that individual

### Ball Bearing Guns

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prosecutions there were for the illegal use of ball bearing guns in public places in *(a)* North Yorkshire and *(b)* in England and Wales in the last year for which figures are available. [7725]

**Hazel Blears:** It is not possible for the statistics collected centrally on the Home Office Court Proceedings Database to distinguish ball bearing guns or more accurately, airsoft weapons from other imitation firearms.

### Burglary

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many house burglaries there have been since 1996; and if he will make a statement. [8464]

**Hazel Blears:** The information requested is published in Table 2.04 of Home Office Statistical Bulletin 10/04 entitled "Crime in England and Wales 2003–04". A copy of this publication is available in the Library.

### Child Trafficking

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* his EU counterparts and *(b)* senior police officers on tackling (i) child prostitution and (ii) child trafficking; what proposals were examined; and if he will make a statement. [2900]

**Paul Goggins:** Child prostitution and trafficking are abhorrent crimes, and the Government have acted swiftly to set tough penalties for these offences. There have been no recent discussions with EU officials or senior police officers on tackling child prostitution. However, guidance on Safeguarding Children Involved in Prostitution was circulated to the police and other agencies in May 2000 as supplementary to the wider Working Together to Safeguard Children. The guidance stresses the need to treat children involved in prostitution primarily as victims of abuse, provides advice to agencies on ways to work together to safeguard and promote the child's welfare and encourages proactive policing so that, wherever possible, action is taken against the exploiters through the criminal justice system. New offences with severe penalties were introduced in the Sexual Offences Act 2003 to enable the police to take firm action against anyone paying for the sexual services of a child, causing or inciting child prostitution, arranging or facilitating child prostitution, controlling a child prostitute, or trafficking a child into or within the UK for sexual exploitation. The Government are currently conducting a review of prostitution which includes consideration of action on child abuse through prostitution and people trafficking for the purposes of sexual exploitation. The Association of Chief Police Officers has contributed to the review and will continue to be involved in discussions on how to tackle these issues. In the case of child trafficking, despite a few high profile instances of children being trafficked into and through the UK, there is insufficient information to say if this is a growing problem. However, the nature of the crime demands that is treated very seriously. Government have introduced criminal sanctions covering child traffickers. In addition to the Sexual Offences Act 2003, measures in the new Asylum and Immigration Act 2004 make it an offence to traffic for other purposes, for example, domestic servitude or benefit fraud. The Government have also tasked Reflex, the government's multi-agency response to organised immigration crime, with co-ordinating intelligence on the problem of trafficking. The Metropolitan Police led an Operation (Paladin) to profile unaccompanied children arriving at Heathrow. This threw up a number of child protection issues that

might not otherwise have come to light. Officials from the Immigration and Nationality Directorate met the Metropolitan Police on 15 June 2005 and have agreed to take forward the creation of a permanent multi-agency partnership team based at Heathrow. The team will address the specific safeguarding needs of unaccompanied minors. We have made people trafficking a priority for our presidency of the EU. During our presidency we aim to improve co-operation among member states so that we achieve operational results and prosecutions, making it impossible for organised immigration crime businesses to operate within the EU. We want to encourage greater police co-operation through EUROPOL and the sharing of best practice on investigations and prosecutions by raising awareness of the role of Eurojust. We will also be working closely with our EU partners to ensure that the Hague Programme commitment for the EU Commission and EU Council to draw up an action plan on trafficking is met. In addition to discussions within the EU, trafficking is an important issue for the G8. Tackling trafficking and smuggling was discussed at the recent G8 ministerial meeting in Sheffield on 15–17 June. Ministers considered progress with existing G8 initiatives which impact on trafficking, including tackling document fraud, information sharing and co-operation through Interpol.

### Cigarette/Alcohol Sales

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what measures are in place to prevent the sale of *(a)* cigarettes and *(b)* alcohol to underage consumers, with particular reference to enforcement; and if he will make a statement. [6487]

**Hazel Blears:** The sale of tobacco to children under 16 is prohibited by the Children and Young People (Protection from Tobacco) Act 1933 and the law is enforced by Trading Standards Officers. The sale of alcohol to people under the age of 18 is regulated by the Licensing Act 1964 (to be replaced by Licensing Act 2003 from November 2005), and the law is enforced by Trading Standards Officers and the Police.

In the "Choosing Health" White Paper, the Government set out proposals for new powers to ban retailers from selling tobacco products, on a temporary or permanent basis, if they repeatedly flout the law. The Violent Crime Reduction Bill includes proposals for a new power for the Police and Trading Standards Officers to ban the sale of alcohol at licensed premises for up to 48 hours if they persistently sell to under-18s.

### City of London Police

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers there were in the City of London Police in each year since 1994; and what projections there are for numbers of officers in the next 10 years. [8119]

**Hazel Blears:** The table sets out police officer and police (support) staff strength for the 10 years to September 2004. The Home Office does not collect projections of police officer strength. It is for the Commissioner of the City of London Police to determine the number of officers, subject to the budget agreed by the City of London Corporation.

*City of London Police—Strength March 1994 to September 2004*

| *Year (as at 31 March)* | *Police Office Numbers* | *Police (Support) Staff* |
|---|---|---|
| 1994 | 893 | 332 |
| 1995 | 885 | 345 |
| 1996 | 870 | 324 |
| 1997 | 859 | 347 |
| 1998 | 825 | 334 |
| 1999 | 778 | 314 |
| 2000 | 732 | 285 |
| 2001 | 703 | 233 |
| 2002 | 764 | 247 |
| 2003 | 808 | 268 |
| 2004 | 853 | 291 |
| 2004 (30 Sept) | 875 | 284 |

*Note:*
All figures are full-time equivalents

### Clear-up Rates

**Mr. Dodds:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average clear-up rate for *(a)* murder, *(b)* assault and *(c)* burglary in *(i)* England and *(ii)* Wales has been in each year since 2001. [7513]

**Hazel Blears:** The information requested is given in the table.

*Detection rates for recorded crime in England*
*Percentage of offences detected*[1, 2]

| *Year* | *Murder* | *Common assault*[3] | *Burglary* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2001/02 | 83 | 79 | 20 |
| 2002/03 | 89 | 66 | 20 |
| 2003/04 | 92 | 64 | 20 |

[1] Changes in detection rates may have been influenced by ongoing effects of audits of the National Crime Recording Standard.
[2] Offences detected in the current year may have been initially recorded in an earlier year and for this reason some percentages may exceed 100.
[3] Includes offences of common assault and racially aggravated common assault.

*Detection rates for recorded crime in Wales*
*Percentage of offences detected*[1, 2]

| *Year* | *Murder* | *Common assault*[3] | *Burglary* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2001/02 | 120 | 44 | 11 |
| 2002/03 | 91 | 40 | 12 |
| 2003/04 | 120 | 37 | 12 |

[1] Changes in detection rates may have been influenced by ongoing effects of audits of the National Crime Recording Standard.
[2] Offences detected in the current year may have been initially recorded in an earlier year and for this reason some percentages may exceed 100.
[3] Includes racially aggravated common assault.

### Community Support Officers

**Mr. McFadden:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police community support officers there are, broken down by police force area; and what the expected number in each area will be when the expansion in numbers is complete. [9082]

**Hazel Blears:** Figures provided by police forces indicate that there were around 6,300 community support officers (CSO)s in England and Wales at 31March 2005. Audited figures, including a breakdown

of CSO numbers by police force area, will be included in the next police strength statistical bulletin to be published later this month. The Neighbourhood Policing Fund (NPF) will provide significant additional resource to help forces recruit 24,000 CSOs by 2008. This investment will help deliver our commitment that every community will have access to a dedicated neighbourhood policing team by 2008. We will announce later in the year the funding allocated to each police authority under the NPF.

### Convention Against Trafficking

**Andrew George:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the Government intends to sign and ratify the Council of Europe Convention Against Trafficking. [8560]

**Paul Goggins:** The UK has not yet taken the decision on whether or not to sign the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings and has no timetable for adoption at present. There are certain provisions in the Convention which present concerns for the UK and which remain under active consideration. We want to resolve these issues before taking a decision on signature. We support fully all of the aims of the Convention and we too want to see widespread action to tackle this abhorrent trade at source, to protect and support the victims and bring those responsible to justice.

We will be gathering evidence about how the Convention measures are operating in other European transit or destination countries where they have been introduced. We also want to work with non-Government organisations (NGOs) and others working in the field of human trafficking to ensure that we explore thoroughly with them the potential benefits and disadvantages of the approach set out in the Convention.

During the UK's Presidency of the EU the Government intends to treat combating trafficking in human beings as one of its Justice and Home Affairs priorities. We are committed to agreeing a wide-ranging EU action plan before the end of 2005 and will jointly host with Eurojust a conference focusing on investigating and prosecuting traffickers. We are considering other ways of highlighting this issue during our Presidencies of the G8 and EU, both at Ministerial and official levels.

The Government is committed to tackling trafficking in human beings, domestically and internationally, and is determined that the measures we take bring the criminals responsible for it to justice, protect the victims of trafficking, but do not undermine our ability to control our borders.

### Correspondence

**Mr. Mullin:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will ask Mr Ken Sutton to inform him when he will reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Sunderland, South of 13th May regarding Mr Mahdi Hosseini, reference M1077781. [9940]

**Mr. McNulty:** Mr Ken Sutton replied on 4 July 2005.

### Crack Houses

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crack houses in Lancashire have been closed in the last five years. [9115]

**Hazel Blears:** No information is held for the full period in question but Lancashire Constabulary has used powers under the Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003 to close down 25 premises since commencement of the Act on 20 January 2004.

### Crime

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes were committed in each London borough in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2004, listed in descending order of number of crimes. [8278]

**Hazel Blears:** Data for all recorded crime in 2003–04 by Basic Command Unit (BCD) are provided in the table. Figures for all crime at BCU level were not collected centrally prior to 2001–02.

*Number of recorded offences in London Basic Command Units (BCUs), 2003–04*

| *Basic Command Unit* | *Number of offences* |
|---|---|
| City of Westminster | 79,296 |
| Camden | 51,016 |
| Lambeth | 49,937 |
| Southwark | 46,276 |
| Islington | 40,816 |
| Newham | 40,615 |
| Tower Hamlets | 39,188 |
| Hackney | 39,035 |
| Ealing | 37,927 |
| Croydon | 37,043 |
| Haringey | 36,807 |
| Barnet | 36,288 |
| Brent | 35,837 |
| Wandsworth | 33,567 |
| Lewisham | 31,577 |
| Greenwich | 31,347 |
| Bromley | 30,918 |
| Waltham Forest | 30,912 |
| Hounslow | 30,416 |
| Enfield | 29,998 |
| Kensington & Chelsea | 29,873 |
| Hillingdon | 39,349 |
| Hammersmith & Fulham | 28,650 |
| Redbridge | 28,438 |
| Havering | 22165 |
| Barking & Dagenham | 22,144 |
| Bexley | 20,344 |
| Merton | 18,378 |
| Harrow | 18,430 |
| Kingston upon Thames | 16,309 |
| Sutton | 16,154 |
| Richmond upon Thames | 15,446 |
| Heathrow | 6,071 |
| Bishopsgate * | 5,200 |
| Snowhill* | 4,050 |
| Total | 1,070,177 |

Bishopsgate and Snowhill are City of London Police BCUs

**Mr. Hepburn:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the most common form of crime committed by young people of school age was in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England and Wales in the latest year for which figures are available. [8354]

**Hazel Blears:** Statistics on the age of persons committing crimes are not available from the recorded crime series.

**Mr. Hepburn:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many young people of school age have been the victims of crime in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England and Wales, in each year since 1997. [8364]

**Hazel Blears:** The information requested is not collected centrally. Apart from specific sexual offences, it is not possible to identify the age of the victim in the recorded crime statistics.

**Mr. Hands:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many areas have been designated under section 30 of the Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003 in *(a)* each London borough, *(b)* England and *(c)* England and Wales in the past 12 months. [3425]

**Hazel Blears:** It is estimated that dispersal powers have been authorised in over 400 areas in England and Wales between January 2004, when the powers came into force and September 2004. The Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police tells me that, between January and December 2004, the Metropolitan Police authorised 63 dispersal areas under section 30 of the Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003. A breakdown by London borough is shown in the following table.

*London boroughs: Dispersal areas—January to December 2005*

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| Barnet | 1 |
| Brent | 2 |
| Bromley | 6 |
| Camden | 2 |
| Croydon | 4 |
| Dagenham | 2 |
| Ealing | 5 |
| Enfield | 4 |
| Greenwich | 1 |
| Hackney | 1 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 3 |
| Haringey | 1 |
| Hillingdon | 5 |
| Hounslow | 3 |
| Islington | 4 |
| Lambeth | 2 |
| Lewisham | 1 |
| Merton | 2 |
| Newham | 1 |
| Redbridge | 2 |
| Richmond | 3 |
| Romford | 1 |
| Tower Hamlets | 2 |
| Waltham Forest | 1 |
| Wandsworth | 1 |
| Westminster | 3 |
| Total | 63 |

## Criminal Assets

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much each police force retained from the recovery of proceeds of crime in the last year for which figures are available. [5794]

**Hazel Blears:** The amount of money each police force will receive from £13 million available under the police incentivisation scheme in 2004–05 is shown in the table.

| *Police force* | *Police force share of £13 million (£)* |
|---|---|
| Metropolitan Police Service | 4,027,855.00 |
| National Crime Squad | 1,819,909.00 |
| Lancashire Constabulary | 570,517.00 |
| Greater Manchester Police | 526,360.00 |
| Merseyside Police | 443,335.00 |
| Cambridgeshire Constabulary | 410,828.00 |
| Derbyshire Constabulary | 387,207.00 |
| West Yorkshire Police | 345,293.00 |
| City of London Police | 337,011.00 |
| West Midlands Police | 312,977.00 |
| Avon and Somerset Constabulary | 298,726.00 |
| Kent Police | 293,697.00 |
| Police Service of Northern Ireland | 269,639.00 |
| Nottinghamshire Police | 203,722.00 |
| South Yorkshire Police | 202,726.00 |
| Devon and Cornwall Constabulary | 180,291.00 |
| Cumbria Constabulary | 171,340.00 |
| Northamptonshire Police | 162,082.00 |
| Dorset Police | 160,098.00 |
| Sussex Police | 152,749.00 |
| West Mercia Constabulary | 152,335.00 |
| Norfolk Constabulary | 138,984.00 |
| Northumbria Police | 138,645.00 |
| Leicestershire Constabulary | 135,893.00 |
| Thames Valley Police | 114,413.00 |
| Surrey Police | 98,910.00 |
| Cheshire Constabulary | 82,542.00 |
| Wiltshire Constabulary | 73,550.00 |
| Durham Constabulary | 72,764.00 |
| Gwent Police | 67,471.00 |
| Hertfordshire Constabulary | 67,117.00 |
| Suffolk Constabulary | 65,648.00 |
| South Wales Police | 61,055.00 |
| Gloucestershire Constabulary | 59,514.00 |
| Hampshire Constabulary | 50,876.00 |
| Lincolnshire Police | 46,931.00 |
| British Transport Police | 42,886.00 |
| Staffordshire Police | 39,690.00 |
| Humberside Police | 38,966.00 |
| Cleveland Police | 35,089.00 |
| North Yorkshire Police | 31,258.00 |
| Dyfed-Powys Police | 30,645.00 |
| Essex Police | 29,387.00 |
| Bedfordshire Police | 23,598.00 |
| North Wales Police | 16,729.00 |
| Warwickshire Police | 8,742.00 |
| Total available for incentive payments | 13,000,000.00 |

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what advice and support his Department has given to police forces that have underperformed in recovering the proceeds of crime. [9261]

**Hazel Blears:** The then Home Secretary wrote to all Chief Constables last November following publication of the Joint Criminal Justice Inspectorates' Thematic report on the implementation of the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 (POCA). His letter encouraged forces to adopt the report's recommendations on improving performance on asset recovery. I am pleased to say that a number of the recommendations have been implemented. In particular, a senior officer has been appointed as POCA champion in all forces. Local Criminal Justice Boards have been set asset recovery

targets for 2005–06, agreed with the Association of Chief Police Officers and others, as part of the drive to improve performance at local level.

Last month we issued to police forces and others a new National Best Practice Guide to the enforcement of confiscation orders. It covers the criminal confiscation process from financial investigation and prosecution to the making and enforcing of a confiscation order.

I have recently written to all Chief Constables notifying them of their force's share of recovered receipts under the police asset recovery incentive scheme. I encouraged them to make maximum use of POCA powers to recover more criminal assets so that each force gets back more in incentive payments, and to invest the money in financial investigation which is the gateway to asset recovery. We have also introduced an assessment incorporating asset recovery targets which will compare force performance. These new measures and the additional incentive funding will help encourage Chief Constables to make asset recovery an integral part of criminal investigation.

In addition , the Association of Chief Police Officers has issued guidance to all forces on improving performance on asset recovery.

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of reasons for difference in performance of police forces in recovering the proceeds of crime. [9277]

**Hazel Blears:** The difference in performance of police forces in the recovery of the proceeds of crime is largely attributable to the use made by each force of the powers in the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 to seize and confiscate criminal assets. The Joint Criminal Justice Inspectorates' Thematic report on the implementation of the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 published last November made a number of recommendations for improving police force performance in this area of work. The report acknowledged the effectiveness of the new powers when they are actually used but concluded that asset recovery is not yet a mainstream enforcement tool for police forces. I am pleased to say that a number of the report's recommendations have been implemented, and we are encouraging forces to make financial investigation and asset recovery an integral part of criminal investigation.

## Criminal Cases Review Commission

**Mrs. Curtis-Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many judicial review actions against the Criminal Cases Review Commission have been resolved without a final decision in court. [4489]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** There have been 104 judicial review actions against the Commission which have been resolved without a final decision in court. These include cases where there has been a pre-action protocol letter but no further proceedings were taken once the Commission replied, where the applicant has withdrawn the application, where leave has been refused by a single judge, and where leave has been refused by the full court on oral renewal.

**Mrs. Curtis-Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many judicial reviews against the Criminal Cases Review Commission have been upheld by the court. [4490]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** There have been two judicial reviews against the Commission which have been upheld in court.

**Mrs. Curtis-Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what percentage of cases referred to the Court of Appeal by the Criminal Cases Review Commission, result in acquittal. [4491]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** At 31 May 2005 the Commission had referred 274 cases to the appeal courts. Of these, 223 had been heard. Appeals were allowed in 155 cases, dismissed in 65 cases, and judgment had been reserved in the remaining three. That was 70 per cent. allowed and 30 per cent. dismissed.

## Criminal Justice Act 1988

**Mr. Malins:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* prosecutions and *(b)* convictions under section 139 of the Criminal Justice Act 1988 have taken place in each of the last five years; and what proportion of defendants convicted under this section were given custodial sentences. [4782]

**Fiona Mactaggart** *[holding answer 16 June 2005]:* The information contained in the table gives the number of defendants proceeded against at the magistrates courts and found guilty and sentenced at all courts for offences under the Criminal Justice Act 1988, Sec 139, England and Wales 1999 to 2003. Statistics on court proceedings for 2004 will be published in the autumn.

*Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty and sentenced to immediate custody at all courts under Criminal Justice Act 1988, Sec 139[1], England and Wales 1999 to 2003*

| *Offence description* | *Statute* | *Year* | *Proceeded against* | *Found guilty* | *Sentenced* | *Immediate custody* | *Percentage sentenced to immediate custody* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Having an article with blade or point in public place | Criminal Justice Act 1988, Sec 139 as amended by Offensive Weapons Act 1996, Sec 3 | 1999 | 4,549 | 3,532 | 3,548 | 534 | 15 |
| | | 2000 | 4,616 | 3,511 | 3,518 | 499 | 14 |
| | | 2001 | 5,752 | 4,299 | 4,303 | 589 | 14 |
| | | 2002 | 6,889 | 5,281 | 5,269 | 766 | 15 |
| | | 2003 | 6,839 | 5,308 | 5,311 | 755 | 14 |
| Having an article with blade or point on school premises[2] | Criminal Justice Act 1988, Sec 139A(1)(5)*(a)* added by Offensive Weapons Act 1996, Sec 4(1) | 1999 | 10 | 9 | 9 | 1 | (11) |
| | | 2000 | 19 | 17 | 17 | 3 | (18) |
| | | 2001 | 25 | 23 | 23 | 1 | (4) |
| | | 2002 | 22 | 19 | 19 | 1 | (5) |
| | | 2003 | 25 | 29 | 29 | 3 | (10) |

*Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty and sentenced to immediate custody at all courts under Criminal Justice Act 1988, Sec 139[1], England and Wales 1999 to 2003*

| Offence description | Statute | Year | Proceeded against | Found guilty | Sentenced | Immediate custody | Percentage sentenced to immediate custody |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Possession of offensive weapons without lawful authority or reasonable excuse on school premises | Criminal Justice Act 1988, Sec 139A(2)(5)*(b)* added by Offensive Weapons Act 1996, Sec 4(1) | 1999 | 18 | 20 | 20 | 3 | (15) |
| | | 2000 | 13 | 11 | 18 | 6 | (33) |
| | | 2001 | 18 | 18 | 19 | 3 | (16) |
| | | 2002 | 21 | 17 | 21 | 5 | (24) |
| | | 2003 | 20 | 14 | 21 | 4 | (19) |
| | Total | 1999 | 4,577 | 3,561 | 3,577 | 538 | 15 |
| | | 2000 | 4,648 | 3,539 | 3,553 | 508 | 14 |
| | | 2001 | 5,795 | 4,340 | 4,345 | 593 | 14 |
| | | 2002 | 6,932 | 5,317 | 5,309 | 772 | 15 |
| | | 2003 | 6,884 | 5,351 | 5,361 | 762 | 14 |

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Data excludes prosecutions and convictions for West Mercia PFA, until clarification of these cases is obtained.
*Note:*
Figures in brackets are based on totals of less than 100.

### Deepcut Barracks

**Lembit Öpik:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects the Devon and Cornwall constabulary to conclude its investigation into the inquiry by Surrey Police into the four deaths at the Deepcut army barracks between 1995 and 2002; and if he will make a statement. [7132]

**Hazel Blears:** The Inquiry Team had hoped to complete the report by June of this year. However, that deadline is likely to be extended by a few months. It will be discussing with Surrey Police and the IPCC recent disclosures from the Army and once those discussions have been concluded it will be better placed to give a final date for completion.

### Dispersal Orders

**Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of dispersal orders; and if he will make a statement. [8050]

**Hazel Blears:** I refer my hon. Friend to the reply I gave him on 20 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 754W.

### Drink-driving

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 20 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 755W, on drink-driving, how many *(a)* arrests and *(b)* convictions for drink-driving resulted in custodial sentences in each of the last 10 years, broken down by police authority. [7942]

**Hazel Blears:** The information requested on arrests is not collected centrally.

Information taken from the Home Office Court Proceedings Database on convictions and custodial sentences for drink-driving offences by police force area 1997 to 2003 (latest available) is given in the table. Data for 2004 will be available early in 2006.

*Findings of guilt and immediate custodial sentences at all courts for offences of driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs by police force area, England and Wales 1997–2003*

*Number of offences*

| | 1997 | | 1998 | | 1999 | | 2000 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Police force area | Findings of guilt | Immediate custody[1] | Findings of guilt | Immediate custody[1] | Findings of guilt | Immediate custody[1] | Findings of guilt | Immediate custody[1] |
| Avon and Somerset | 2,812 | 163 | 2,566 | 157 | 2,728 | 165 | 2,462 | 152 |
| Bedfordshire | 1,146 | 119 | 1,060 | 96 | 869 | 87 | 797 | 89 |
| Cambridgeshire | 1,092 | 56 | 1,060 | 62 | 941 | 43 | 793 | 41 |
| Cheshire | 1,969 | 97 | 1,903 | 119 | 1,827 | 133 | 1,652 | 122 |
| Cleveland | 926 | 61 | 870 | 63 | 811 | 57 | 777 | 56 |
| Cumbria | 931 | 49 | 856 | 51 | 871 | 37 | 806 | 50 |
| Derbyshire | 1,612 | 147 | 1,547 | 202 | 1,463 | 181 | 1,417 | 126 |
| Devon and Cornwall | 2,342 | 91 | 2,265 | 127 | 2,277 | 112 | 2,199 | 104 |
| Dorset | 1,214 | 93 | 1,186 | 88 | 1,120 | 96 | 1,115 | 84 |
| Durham | 1,044 | 66 | 1,035 | 53 | 1,137 | 81 | 1,124 | 76 |
| Essex | 2,736 | 228 | 2,438 | 233 | 2,528 | 261 | 2,462 | 237 |
| Gloucestershire | 1,067 | 48 | 985 | 36 | 889 | 51 | 804 | 37 |
| Greater Manchester | 4,806 | 440 | 4,715 | 453 | 4,850 | 464 | 4,801 | 428 |
| Hampshire | 3,774 | 243 | 3,597 | 231 | 3,725 | 213 | 3,472 | 244 |
| Hertfordshire | 1,670 | 90 | 1,672 | 91 | 1,679 | 90 | 1,552 | 98 |
| Humberside | 1,274 | 76 | 1,358 | 87 | 1,323 | 97 | 1,371 | 128 |
| Kent | 2,321 | 97 | 2,627 | 155 | 2,633 | 133 | 2,592 | 134 |
| Lancashire | 3,389 | 224 | 2,945 | 178 | 3,010 | 184 | 2,584 | 163 |
| Leicestershire | 1,648 | 183 | 1,485 | 140 | 1,624 | 188 | 1,531 | 152 |
| Lincolnshire | 1,088 | 47 | 979 | 36 | 941 | 44 | 816 | 48 |

*Findings of guilt and immediate custodial sentences at all courts for offences of driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs by police force area, England and Wales 1997–2003*

*Number of offences*

| Police force area | 1997 | | 1998 | | 1999 | | 2000 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Findings of guilt | Immediate custody[1] | Findings of guilt | Immediate custody[1] | Findings of guilt | Immediate custody[1] | Findings of guilt | Immediate custody[1] |
| London, City of | 436 | 8 | 301 | 9 | 236 | 5 | 162 | 4 |
| Merseyside | 2,719 | 304 | 2,451 | 326 | 2,137 | 296 | 2,128 | 286 |
| Met Police | 16,165 | 1,270 | 13,889 | 1,050 | 12,414 | 838 | 11,801 | 891 |
| Norfolk | 1,116 | 49 | 1,118 | 43 | 1,010 | 64 | 935 | 45 |
| Northamptonshire | 1,107 | 109 | 1,062 | 73 | 1,058 | 91 | 782 | 90 |
| Northumbria | 2,625 | 184 | 2,457 | 194 | 2,463 | 229 | 2,621 | 215 |
| North Yorkshire | 1,365 | 77 | 1,205 | 77 | 1,124 | 60 | 1,073 | 67 |
| Nottinghamshire | 2,031 | 255 | 1,804 | 247 | 1,802 | 262 | 1,722 | 210 |
| South Yorkshire | 2,296 | 204 | 2,002 | 178 | 1,927 | 149 | 2,122 | 170 |
| Staffordshire[2] | 2,036 | 132 | 1,955 | 140 | 1,711 | 143 | n/a | n/a |
| Suffolk | 1,050 | 53 | 1,042 | 60 | 1,089 | 71 | 902 | 74 |
| Surrey | 1,380 | 64 | 1,328 | 58 | 1,417 | 47 | 1,539 | 61 |
| Sussex | 2,373 | 110 | 2,113 | 113 | 2,224 | 120 | 2,112 | 136 |
| Thames Valley | 4,070 | 215 | 3,896 | 195 | 3,725 | 216 | 3,496 | 212 |
| Warwickshire | 837 | 44 | 784 | 53 | 856 | 38 | 786 | 42 |
| West Mercia | 1,947 | 87 | 1,794 | 97 | 1,747 | 114 | 1,631 | 101 |
| West Midlands | 6,351 | 598 | 5,582 | 532 | 4,775 | 532 | 4,559 | 451 |
| West Yorkshire | 3,953 | 394 | 3,669 | 329 | 3,597 | 358 | 3,375 | 287 |
| Wiltshire | 1,043 | 27 | 1,108 | 39 | 1,009 | 45 | 930 | 28 |
| England | 93,761 | 6,802 | 86,709 | 6,471 | 83,567 | 6,395 | 79,671 | 6,076 |
| Dyfed Powys | 1,029 | 44 | 995 | 38 | 944 | 48 | 858 | 45 |
| Gwent | 1,166 | 61 | 1,203 | 84 | 1,079 | 78 | 1,211 | 99 |
| North Wales | 1,354 | 96 | 1,306 | 95 | 1,248 | 94 | 1,332 | 92 |
| South Wales | 2,892 | 257 | 2,903 | 239 | 2,526 | 282 | 2,757 | 255 |
| Wales | 6,441 | 458 | 6,407 | 456 | 5,797 | 502 | 6,158 | 491 |
| England and Wales | 100,202 | 7,260 | 93,116 | 6,927 | 89,364 | 6,897 | 85,829 | 6,567 |

*Number of offences*

| Police force area | 2001 | | 2002 | | 2003 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Findings of guilt | Immediate custody[1] | Findings of guilt | Immediate custody[1] | Findings of guilt | Immediate custody[1] |
| Avon and Somerset | 2,197 | 129 | 2,401 | 124 | 2,666 | 167 |
| Bedfordshire | 914 | 79 | 955 | 82 | 1,072 | 72 |
| Cambridgeshire | 813 | 51 | 852 | 41 | 933 | 56 |
| Cheshire | 1,529 | 96 | 1,993 | 103 | 1,905 | 110 |
| Cleveland | 887 | 77 | 921 | 71 | 981 | 61 |
| Cumbria | 761 | 51 | 768 | 37 | 843 | 37 |
| Derbyshire | 1,411 | 140 | 1,465 | 164 | 1,617 | 168 |
| Devon and Cornwall | 2,369 | 128 | 2,441 | 95 | 2,667 | 121 |
| Dorset | 1,150 | 91 | 1,199 | 83 | 1,264 | 73 |
| Durham | 1,097 | 86 | 1,136 | 68 | 1,170 | 77 |
| Essex | 2,456 | 264 | 2,522 | 267 | 2,622 | 311 |
| Gloucestershire | 865 | 39 | 926 | 44 | 890 | 37 |
| Greater Manchester | 4,715 | 454 | 4,720 | 474 | 4,743 | 437 |
| Hampshire | 3,464 | 235 | 3,846 | 243 | 3,663 | 234 |
| Hertfordshire | 1,666 | 94 | 1,894 | 90 | 1,904 | 78 |
| Humberside | 1,259 | 126 | 1,395 | 113 | 1,445 | 150 |
| Kent | 2,575 | 165 | 2,745 | 152 | 2,811 | 179 |
| Lancashire | 2,304 | 148 | 2,599 | 159 | 2,652 | 146 |
| Leicestershire | 1,546 | 140 | 1,659 | 140 | 1,725 | 143 |
| Lincolnshire | 877 | 60 | 847 | 56 | 1,111 | 42 |
| London, City of | 162 | 10 | 221 | 12 | 235 | 4 |
| Merseyside | 2,195 | 217 | 2,293 | 216 | 2,687 | 215 |
| Met Police | 11,260 | 928 | 12,905 | 927 | 12,621 | 922 |
| Norfolk | 1,143 | 75 | 1,220 | 55 | 1,274 | 59 |
| Northamptonshire | 399 | 65 | 236 | 35 | 799 | 65 |
| Northumbria | 2,529 | 217 | 2,588 | 188 | 2,747 | 187 |
| North Yorkshire | 1,066 | 55 | 1,119 | 63 | 1,194 | 51 |
| Nottinghamshire | 1,598 | 187 | 1,420 | 129 | 1,644 | 149 |
| South Yorkshire | 2,020 | 159 | 1,945 | 165 | 2,089 | 125 |
| Staffordshire[2] | 1,513 | 136 | 1,704 | 143 | 1,733 | 141 |
| Suffolk | 920 | 43 | 1,105 | 79 | 1,213 | 66 |
| Surrey | 1,592 | 65 | 1,614 | 68 | 1,464 | 44 |
| Sussex | 2,358 | 128 | 2,306 | 149 | 2,430 | 120 |
| Thames Valley | 3,275 | 210 | 4,317 | 219 | 3,884 | 159 |
| Warwickshire | 880 | 33 | 841 | 40 | 918 | 33 |
| West Mercia | 1,740 | 91 | 1,719 | 93 | 1,797 | 100 |

*Number of offences*

| Police force area | 2001 Findings of guilt | 2001 Immediate custody[1] | 2002 Findings of guilt | 2002 Immediate custody[1] | 2003 Findings of guilt | 2003 Immediate custody[1] |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| West Midlands | 4,914 | 471 | 5,050 | 438 | 5,233 | 420 |
| West Yorkshire | 3,220 | 331 | 3,564 | 268 | 3,720 | 260 |
| Wiltshire | 1,045 | 53 | 1,005 | 54 | 1,031 | 62 |
| England | 78,684 | 6,127 | 84,456 | 5,947 | 87,397 | 5,881 |
| Dyfed Powys | 867 | 36 | 927 | 47 | 995 | 46 |
| Gwent | 1,152 | 76 | 1,074 | 74 | 1,149 | 94 |
| North Wales | 1,227 | 87 | 1,270 | 71 | 1,326 | 76 |
| South Wales | 2,812 | 295 | 2,761 | 236 | 2,840 | 211 |
| Wales | 6,058 | 494 | 6,032 | 428 | 6,310 | 427 |
| England and Wales | 84,742 | 6,621 | 90,488 | 6,375 | 93,707 | 6,308 |

n/a = Not available.

[1] Immediate custody includes sentences of Secure Training Order, Detention and Training Order, Young Offender Institution and Unsuspended sentence of imprisonment.

[2] Staffordshire police force were only able to submit sample data for persons proceeded against and convicted in the magistrates courts for the year 2000. Although sufficient to estimate higher orders of data, these data are not robust enough at detailed level and have been excluded from the table.

### Driving Offences

**Mr. Kidney:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the responses to his consultation on proposed offences for drivers causing deaths. [6171]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** The consultation paper on the Review of Road Traffic Offences involving Bad Driving was published on 3 February and put forward a radical set of proposals to create an effective framework of offences to deal with bad driving and to help create safer roads for everyone. The consultation exercise ended on 6 May and we are currently analysing the responses received. A number of different views have been expressed and we are considering all comments very carefully. A summary and proposals for next steps will be published in due course.

### Emergency Call Response Times

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average response time was to an emergency call to the police in each London borough in each year since 1997. [7472]

**Paul Goggins:** The information requested is not collected centrally. Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Constabulary (HMCIC) publishes statistics of the percentage of 999 calls answered within local target time. The latest available statistics relate to 2002–03 and 2003–04 and are published in Table 5 of HMCIC's Annual Report. The publication is available via the Home Office website at: http://www.official-documents.co.uk/document/deps/hc/hc171/171.pdf The equivalent figures for earlier years are available from previous annual reports, copies of which should be in the Library. These statistics are only available at police force area level and figures are not available for the London boroughs.

### Employees (Assault)

**Mr. Clappison:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many employees in the railway industry have been the victims of offences of violence suffered in the course of their employment in each of the last 20 years. [7589]

**Hazel Blears:** The requested information cannot be supplied as there is no specific offence of assault on a railway industry worker defined by statute. Such incidents are recorded by the police depending on the severity of the violence used and in accordance with the relevant legislation, for example more or less serious wounding or common assault, and cannot be separately identified from recorded crime series data. The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) records data relating to physical assaults on railway staff that are reportable under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995 (RIDDOR). The most recently published information is provided in the table.

*Assaults reported under RIDDOR. 1997/98 to 2003/04*

| Year | Number of assaults |
|---|---|
| 1997/98 | 335 |
| 1998/99 | 382 |
| 1999/00 | 379 |
| 2000/01 | 462 |
| 2001/02 | 352 |
| 2002/03 | 354 |
| 2003/04 | 263 |

### Firearms

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many illegal firearms have been confiscated since 1997. [8521]

**Hazel Blears:** Statistics are not collected centrally on the number of illegal firearms confiscated.

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what steps the Government are taking to stop vigilante groups selling illegal firearms; [8523]

(2) what steps the Government are taking to tackle organised drug gangs buying illegal firearms; [8547]

(3) what plans the Government have to hold a further national firearms amnesty. [8517]

**Hazel Blears:** It is already an offence to buy, sell or possess a prohibited firearm and, on conviction, an offender can expect to receive a minimum sentence of five years. We are working closely with the Association of Chief Police Officers, the National Criminal Intelligence Service, Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs and other agencies to ensure that these laws are enforced.

The legislation is being further tightened by measures in the Violent Crime Reduction Bill, which received its Second Reading on 20 June. These measures include:

tougher manufacturing standards to prevent imitation firearms being converted to fire live ammunition;

tougher sentences for carrying imitation firearms;

a ban on the sale of primers without valid firearms certificates;

a ban on the manufacture or sale of imitation firearms other than those which would not be mistaken for real firearms; and

a new offence of using another person to hide or carry a gun or knife.

We are also working closely with community groups to tackle gun crime, particularly among young people who may be drawn into drug and gun crime through becoming involved in a street gang.

We have no plans at present for a further national amnesty but this is something which we will keep under review in consultation with the police.

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* automatic weapons, *(b)* shot guns, *(c)* revolvers and *(d)* rifles have been confiscated in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [8548]

**Hazel Blears:** Statistics are not collected centrally on the number of illegal firearms confiscated.

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what plans the Government has to introduce a statutory definition of lethality in relation to the definition of a firearm as a lethal-barrelled weapon; [9423]

(2) if he will make one joule of muzzle energy the statutory limit to which firearms legislation applies; [9424]

(3) when the Government's response to the Firearms Consultation 2004 will be published. [9425]

**Hazel Blears:** We received around 4,500 responses to the consultation paper on firearms controls. These have all been read and analysed and we are considering how we want to proceed. A summary of responses will be published. The need for a statutory definition of lethality linked to one joule of muzzle energy will be considered in this context.

### Firearms Amnesty

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many firearms were handed in to the police during the last amnesty. [8559]

**Hazel Blears:** The last firearms amnesty was from 31 March 2002 to 30 April 2003. A total of 43,908 guns were handed in during that time. This compares to 22,939 guns during the previous amnesty in June 1996.

### Fresh Talent: Working in Scotland Scheme

**Stewart Hosie:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what support his Department will make available to migrants under the Fresh Talent: Working in Scotland scheme who wish to apply for more permanent visa status. [9451]

**Mr. McNulty** *[holding answer 5 July 2005]*: The Scottish Executive's Relocation Advisory Service will have a continuing role in supporting those migrants who wish to extend their stay beyond that granted under the scheme. The Home Office is advising participants to contact the Relocation Advisory Service.

**Stewart Hosie:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will extend the Fresh Talent: Working in Scotland scheme to include students at universities overseas taking courses conducted in partnership with Scottish universities. [9453]

**Mr. McNulty** *[holding answer 5 July 2005]*: Eligibility for the scheme is based on the institution which awards the qualification and not where the student starts their course or spends the majority of their time studying. All participants must have been awarded their qualification by a relevant Scottish institution and have lived in Scotland for an appropriate period during their studies but they can have spent some time studying overseas.

### G8 (Scotland)

**Mr. Gale:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will list, by county force for England and Wales, the number of police officers that will be seconded to cover the G8 conference in Scotland. [8253]

**Hazel Blears:** The deployment of police officers from English and Welsh police authorities is on a mutual aid basis. The arrangements relating to mutual aid between police forces in Scotland and elsewhere in the United Kingdom are contained in section 98 of the Police Act 1996.

The chief officer in each police authority is responsible for determining the number of police personnel that can be released for G8 duties. In making that decision the chief officers will ensure that there will be no significant impact on local police services.

| *Police Authority Area* | *Police Personnel to be deployed in Scotland* |
|---|---|
| Avon and Somerset | 149 |
| Bedfordshire | 66 |
| Cambridgeshire | 74 |
| Cheshire | 116 |
| City of London | 57 |
| Cleveland | 77 |
| Cumbria | 64 |
| Derbyshire | 132 |
| Devon and Cornwall | 173 |
| Dorset | 76 |
| Durham | 90 |
| Dyfed Powys | 62 |
| Essex | 167 |

| Police Authority Area | Police Personnel to be deployed in Scotland |
|---|---|
| Gloucestershire | 57 |
| G.M.P | 337 |
| Gwent | 102 |
| Hampshire | 3 |
| Hertfordshire | 109 |
| Humberside | 87 |
| Kent | 124 |
| Lancashire | 164 |
| Leicestershire | 121 |
| Lincolnshire | 68 |
| Merseyside | 215 |
| Metropolitan | 1,433 |
| Norfolk | 69 |
| North Wales Police | 73 |
| North Yorkshire | 44 |
| Northamptonshire | 41 |
| Nottinghamshire | 85 |
| Northumbria | 179 |
| South Wales | 115 |
| South Yorkshire | 197 |
| Staffordshire | 109 |
| Suffolk | 66 |
| Surrey | 91 |
| Sussex | 160 |
| Thames Valley | 168 |
| Warwickshire | 45 |
| West Mercia | 122 |
| West Midlands | 317 |
| West Yorkshire | 360 |
| Wiltshire | 66 |
| Total | 6,430 |

**Anne Milton:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers from *(a)* England and Wales and *(b)* Surrey he expects will provide support at the G8 Summit at Gleneagles; and what plans have been made to cover police duties where police officers are seconded to the G8 summit. [8874]

**Hazel Blears:** The deployment of police officers from English and Welsh police authorities is on a mutual aid basis. The arrangements relating to mutual aid between police forces in Scotland and elsewhere in the United Kingdom are contained in section 98 of the Police Act 1996.

The chief officer in each police authority is responsible for determining the number of police personnel that can be released for G8 duties. In making that decision the chief officers will ensure that there will be no significant impact on local police services.

| Police Authority Area | Police Personnel to be deployed in Scotland |
|---|---|
| Avon and Somerset | 149 |
| Bedfordshire | 66 |
| Cambridgeshire | 74 |
| Cheshire | 116 |
| City of London | 57 |
| Cleveland | 77 |
| Cumbria | 64 |
| Derbyshire | 132 |
| Devon and Cornwall | 173 |
| Dorset | 76 |
| Durham | 90 |
| Dyfed Powys | 62 |
| Essex | 167 |
| Gloucestershire | 57 |
| G.M.P | 337 |
| Gwent | 102 |
| Hampshire | 3 |
| Hertfordshire | 109 |
| Humberside | 87 |
| Kent | 124 |
| Lancashire | 164 |
| Leicestershire | 121 |
| Lincolnshire | 68 |
| Merseyside | 215 |
| Metropolitan | 1,433 |
| Norfolk | 69 |
| North Wales Police | 73 |
| North Yorkshire | 44 |
| Northamptonshire | 41 |
| Nottinghamshire | 85 |
| Northumbria | 179 |
| South Wales | 115 |
| South Yorkshire | 197 |
| Staffordshire | 109 |
| Suffolk | 66 |
| Surrey | 91 |
| Sussex | 160 |
| Thames Valley | 168 |
| Warwickshire | 45 |
| West Mercia | 122 |
| West Midlands | 317 |
| West Yorkshire | 360 |
| Wiltshire | 66 |
| Total | 6,430 |

## Gating Orders

**Dr. Whitehead:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects to lay an order before Parliament implementing section 2 gating orders under the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005. [7283]

**Hazel Blears:** The Home Office are currently drafting the regulations required under Section two of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005. Before this section is commenced, relevant agencies will be given an opportunity to comment on the content of the draft regulations. Following the completion of the regulations, this provision will be commenced at the earliest opportunity.

## Gun Crime

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many deaths were caused by gun crime in each London borough in each of the last five years. [8301]

**Hazel Blears:** The information requested is not collected centrally. Statistics on deaths caused by firearms is only available at police force area level.

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of Operation Trident; and if he will make a statement. [8324]

**Hazel Blears:** Operation Trident, established London-wide in 1999, has had a significant effect in reducing gun-enabled crime in London. In the 12 months to May 2005, there was a 6 per cent. reduction in such crimes in the Metropolitan Police Service area. Community support for Trident is a vital component of

its success and has been developed via the Independent Advisory Group (IAG), which remains at the heart of Trident strategy. We encourage the development of similar IAGs in other areas as a model of good practice in community engagement.

### Human Trafficking (Ministerial Meeting)

**Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make a statement on the outcome of the inter-ministerial meeting on human trafficking which took place in February; and when he expects the next meeting to take place. [7820]

**Paul Goggins:** At the inter-ministerial meeting on trafficking in February Ministers considered a wide range of issues. These included the legislative framework on trafficking; support for victims, including the scope of the evaluation of the POPPY Scheme; and plans for the UK presidency of the EU. Ministers agreed that trafficking should be a priority for the UK presidency of the EU, and at the next meeting, which is arranged for the 7 July 2005, Ministers will consider the programme of work on trafficking which is planned for our presidency.

### Identity Cards

**Alan Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions he has had with the US Administration regarding its plans to include radio frequency identification chips in its requirements for passports and identity cards for foreign nationals visiting the US. [8602]

**Andy Burnham:** The UK Passport Service has had regular technical discussions at senior official level with the US State Department on biometric passports and the incorporation of RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) chips into these passports. Both countries will be observing the International Civil Aviation Standards for the use of RFID chips in travel documents. The US Government in their recent announcement extending the Visa Waiver deadline to October 2006 indicated that they would be holding several technical conferences later this year to ensure workable technical standards for biometric passports. The UK Passport service will be represented at these conferences. There have been no discussions with the US Administration on radio frequency chips in Identity Cards.

**Dr. Cable:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the latest estimate is of costs of *(a)* processing applications and enrolment, *(b)* producing cards, *(c)* database design, *(d)* producing identification numbers, *(e)* application checks, *(f)* updating the register and *(g)* operating costs for the identity card scheme in the starting and operating phases under the different scenarios of a voluntary and compulsory card, indicating expected margins of error. [9253]

**Andy Burnham** *[holding answer 7 July 2005]:* The latest cost estimates were published in the Regulatory Impact Assessment which was published on 25 May 2005 alongside the Identity Cards Bill. The current best estimate is that the total average running costs for issuing passports and ID cards to UK nationals is estimated at £584 million. This includes the costs of processing applications and enrolments, producing cards, producing identification numbers, application checks, updating the Register and operating costs. It does not include the cost of database design which is a resource set up cost. It would not be appropriate to disclose either the breakdown of the current best estimate of running costs or any set up costs at this stage, as this would hinder the Department's ability to obtain value for money in the forthcoming procurement process.

A large part of [illegible] costs cover the issuing of ID cards alongside passports and voluntary applications for ID cards. Estimating the costs of issuing cards on a compulsory basis would depend on the timing of the move to compulsion and the nature of any compulsion order approved by Parliament. It is therefore not possible to provide such a scenario.

**Dr. Cable:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will estimate *(a)* the revenue from the expected fees from cardholders, *(b)* the revenue from fees charged for data access, *(c)* financial support from the Home Office budget and *(d)* additional support from the Treasury for the identity card scheme, indicating margins of error and distinguishing set up and operating stages of the project. [9254]

**Andy Burnham** *[holding answer 4 July 2005]:* The latest cost estimates were published in the Regulatory Impact Assessment which was published on 25 May 2005 alongside the Identity Cards Bill. The current best estimate is that the total average running costs for issuing passports and ID cards to UK nationals is estimated at £584 million. It would not be appropriate at this stage to disclose details of the estimate of the balance of funding which will come from the different types of fee which may be set under the powers in clause 37 of the Bill. Disclosing this information would hinder the Department's ability to obtain value for money in the forthcoming procurement process.

**Dr. Cable:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the *(a)* revised global figure and *(b)* estimated margin of error is for the cost of the identity card scheme under the different scenarios of a voluntary and compulsory card distinguishing between *(i)* start-up and *(ii)* continuing costs. [9255]

**Andy Burnham** *[holding answer 4 July 2005]:* The latest cost estimates were published in the Regulatory Impact Assessment which was published on 25 May 2005 alongside the Identity Cards Bill. It would not be appropriate at this time to publish an estimate of set-up costs as this may hinder the Department's ability to obtain value for money in the forthcoming procurement phase.

The current best estimate for the total average annual running costs for issuing passports and ID cards to UK nationals is estimated at £584 million. This estimate does include appropriate allowances for the running cost impact of some set-up costs, for example the cost of capital. As for the "margin of error" the estimates of both set-up costs and running costs include allowances for contingency and optimism bias. It would not be

appropriate to disaggregate the running cost estimate at this stage for the same reason as it would not be appropriate to publish the set-up cost estimate.

A large part of the running costs cover the issuing of ID cards alongside passports and voluntary applications for ID cards. Estimating the costs of issuing cards on a compulsory basis would depend on the timing of the move to compulsion and the nature of any compulsion order approved by Parliament. It is therefore not possible to provide such a scenario.

### Illegal Alcohol Sales

**Mr. Crabb:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the total amount of fines imposed on those convicted of selling alcohol to minors was in *(a)* 1984, *(b)* 1997 and *(c)* 2004. [7542]

**Hazel Blears:** The total amount of fines imposed on those convicted of selling alcohol to minors is as follows: 1984, £4,950 and for 1997, £25,381. The data for 2004 is expected to be available towards the end of the year.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many prosecutions there have been in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Southend under the Intoxicating Substances (Supply) Act 1985 in each year since 1997; [8331]

(2) how many prosecutions there have been under the *(a)* Cigarette Lighter Refill (Safety) Regulations 1999 and *(b)* Intoxicating Substances (Supply) Act 1985 in each year since 1997. [8375]

**Paul Goggins:** The information contained in the table gives the number of defendants proceeded against under the Intoxicating Substances (Supply) Act 1985, England and Wales 1997 to 2003. There were no prosecutions as notified to the Home Office Court Proceedings database in the Essex police force area or South-East Essex petty sessional area.

Information collected centrally by the Home Office does not separately identify offences under the Cigarette Lighter Refill (Safety) Regulations 1999.

Statistics on court proceedings for 2004 will be published in the autumn.

*Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts under the Intoxicating Substances (Supply) Act 1985[1], England and Wales 1997 to 2003*

| | Proceeded against |
|---|---|
| 1997 | 11 |
| 1998 | 4 |
| 1999 | 9 |
| 2000 | — |
| 2001 | 1 |
| 2002 | — |
| 2003 | 2 |

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

### Jamaican Gangs

**Mark Simmonds:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate has been made of the number of Jamaican criminal gangs operating in the UK; what discussions have taken place with the Jamaican authorities regarding this matter; and what steps are being taken to tackle crimes perpetrated by such gangs. [8289]

**Hazel Blears:** There are no official estimates of the number of organised crime groups, by nationality or other categorisation, operating in the UK. The varying degrees of cohesiveness and difficulty in establishing nationality makes such estimates impractical.

The Government are in close and regular contact with Jamaican authorities about criminal activities which have implications for our two countries. We have provided assistance to the Government of Jamaica's Operation Kingfish which was launched last October and is targeting criminals on the island some of whom have UK connections. In addition there are UK liaison officers in Kingston providing links between the relevant law enforcement authorities of the two countries. Operation Airbridge which started in June 2002 has been very successful in reducing the number of cocaine couriers travelling by air from Jamaica to the UK.

Some forces such as the Metropolitan Police Service and Avon and Somerset Constabulary have set up operations (Trident and Atrium) which deal with particular crime difficulties in their areas in which there are links to Jamaican nationals or persons of Jamaican origin.

### London Probation Service

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the *(a)* budget and *(b)* expenditure of the London Probation Service was in each year since 1995; and if he will make a statement. [2864]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** The budget for the London Probation Service from 1995 is set out in the attached table and gives information relating to the London Probation Service prior to the establishment of the London Probation Board on one April 2001. Prior to 2001, the Home Office did not collect this information. Both the budget and expenditure for 2001–02 onwards are as set out in the table.

*Budgetary Information for London Probation Service 1994–2005*

| Financial Year | Budget £m | Expenditure £m |
|---|---|---|
| 1994/95 | 72.0 | |
| 1995/96 | 72.1 | |
| 1996/97 | 78.9 | |
| 1997/98 | 77.8 | |
| 1998/99 | 77.1 | |
| 1999/2000 | 80.4 | |
| 2001/02 | 97.3 | 100.3 |
| 2002/03 | 106.6 | 107.8 |
| 2003/04 | 110.4 | 112.1 |
| 2004/05 | 107.1 | |
| 2005/06 | 121.7 | |

### Metropolitan Police (Compensation Payments)

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was paid in compensation by the Metropolitan Police Authority in each year since 1997. [8325]

**Hazel Blears:** The Commissioner of Police for the Metropolis is responsible for the operational management of, and allocation of funding by, the force. I will ensure that he receives a copy of the question and replies to the hon. Lady directly in response to her concerns.

### Mr. Thomas Maguire

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the enhanced disclosure application for Mr Thomas Maguire will be completed. [8263]

**Andy Burnham:** *[holding answer 30 June 2005]*: The Enhanced Disclosure for Mr Thomas Maguire was issued on 29June.

### North Wales Police Authority

**Mr. David Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make a statement on the employment status of Mr Peter Bolton, Assistant Clerk to the North Wales Police Authority. [8248]

**Hazel Blears:** Mr Bolton remains an employee of the North Wales Police Authority.

### Offensive Weapons

**Harry Cohen:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance his Department has given on the standard of evidence that would be required to initiate a prosecution for an offence of using another person to hide or carry a gun or a knife; and if he will make a statement. [9348]

**Hazel Blears:** The Code for Crown Prosecutors provides for a two stage test before a criminal prosecution can be commenced. A case must firstly pass the evidential test. This requires that a crown prosecutor (or police officer) must be satisfied that there is enough evidence to provide a realistic prospect of a conviction. This is an objective test and means that a jury, or bench of magistrates or judge hearing a case alone, and properly directed in accordance with the law, is more likely than not to convict the defendant of the charge alleged.

If the case passes the evidential test, crown prosecutors or (police officers) must decide if a prosecution is in the public interest. It would be very unusual indeed for there not to be a strong public interest in prosecuting a case involving firearms or weapons.

### Passports

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate his Department has made of *(a)* the number of fraudulent applications for passports and *(b)* the number detected in each of the last five years. [6946]

**Andy Burnham:** It is widely recognised that the very nature of identity fraud makes it difficult to be precise when estimating the scale of the problem in terms of the number of fraudulent passport applications. Based on the results of an exercise involving the detailed scrutiny of some 10,000 passport applications, extrapolated across a whole year, the UK Passport Service (UKPS) estimate that the level of fraud may run at around 0.18 per cent. of applications received. Approximately half of the cases identified in this exercise involved false declarations but the individual was otherwise entitled to a passport. The remaining cases featured identity fraud.

With around 6.5 million passports applications per year this suggests the possibility of around 11,700 fraudulent applications per year. Of these, half, around 5,850, might involve identity fraud with a similar number of cases in which deception has been practised but the individual would otherwise be entitled to a passport.

This exercise was run during a peak period of passport demand and represented a snap shot of the possible level of fraud at one particular time of year. UKPS is currently developing a more flexible and robust system for estimating the level of fraud which will take account of the seasonally of passport demand and other variables.

As regards the number of fraudulent applications detected, UKPS has recently introduced a new and comprehensive fraud casework and management information system. This system was rolled out and operational in all Passport Offices by the beginning of March 2005. It is now used for the progression of cases of suspected fraud and the collection, collation and analysis of information relating to passport fraud. Prior to the introduction of this system information relating to frauds detected was collated through manual processes. The figures which are available for the last five years are derived from those manual processes and are given as follows:

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2000–2001 | 1,484 |
| 2001–2002 | 2,419 |
| 2002–2003 | 1,973 |
| 2003–2004 | [1]2,651 |
| 2004–2005 | 1,497 |

[1] Figure incorporates cases from major investigations not previously published

UKPS is committed to strengthening its fraud detection capability while maintaining an excellent standard of service to the public. As set out in the UKPS, Corporate and Business Plan for 2005–2010, the Agency is engaged in a range of initiatives to improve identity authentication and to increase its effectiveness in preventing and detecting fraud. These initiatives include:

Strengthening identity authentication arrangements through access to public/private databases, and the interviewing of all first-time applicants from October 2006.

Developing the use of Omnibase, which provides secure access to passport information to other Government Departments to detect and prevent fraudulent applications and abuse of issued passports;

Continued strengthening of staff capability to fight fraud through professional development, improved training, and better systems, and equipment;

Piloting the use of facial recognition technology in the passport application process to complement existing automatic checks.

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate his Department has made of the number of *(a)* lost, *(b)* stolen and *(c)* unavailable passports in circulation in the UK in each of the last five years. [6947]

**Andy Burnham:** The UK Passport Service is not in a position to provide information on the number of lost, stolen and unavailable passports in circulation in the last five years. The UK Passport Service can provide information on the number of passports reported lost, stolen and unavailable in those years, and this is shown in the following table. In December 2003 new more comprehensive arrangements for the reporting and recording of lost, stolen, and recovered passports were introduced. Prior to then information was not routinely collected.

*UK passports lost, stolen and unavailable*

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2000 | 125,073 |
| 2001 | 148,230 |
| 2002 | 166,358 |
| 2003 | 221,445 |
| 2004 | 238,216 |

Since 2000, 53,685 passports have been reported as found.

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many claims for lost passports the Passport Agency has received in each of the last five years. [6959]

**Andy Burnham:** The UKPS does not routinely collect specific information on compensation claims for lost passports, where losses are due to failures by the UKPS and its contractors. The UKPS does keep information on passports lost to en route to customers. These figures are shown in the table.

*Passport lost en route to customers*

| *Year* | *Passport lost* |
|---|---|
| 2000 | 3,851 |
| 2001 | 2,541 |
| 2002 | 2,982 |
| 2003 | 3,593 |
| Feb 2004—31 March 2005 | 683 |

The Royal Mail delivered passports until February 2004 when Special Mail Services commenced the secure delivery of passports.

**Mr. Gregory Campbell:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 13 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 167W, on passports, if he will waive the fee for nationality payable by those born in the Republic of Ireland and now residing in Northern Ireland before they may obtain a British passport. [9293]

**Andy Burnham:** To qualify for a British Passport, citizens of the Republic of Ireland now living in Northern Ireland, who do not have a claim to British subject status through birth prior to 1949, must apply to naturalise. The British Nationality Act 1981 requires that a certificate of naturalisation shall not be granted unless the fee payable has been paid. There is no discretion to waive the fee.

## People Trafficking

**Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans he has to raise people trafficking with his EU counterparts during the UK presidency. [9074]

**Paul Goggins:** We have made human trafficking a priority for the UK presidency of the EU. We are in the process of planning agendas and discussion papers for both formal and informal ministerial meetings and other ministerial discussions. We are looking at the options for a high level discussion on trafficking. Tackling trafficking was discussed at the recent G8 ministerial meeting in Sheffield on 15–17 June.

In addition, the Hague Programme commits the EU Commission and EU Council to drawing up an action plan on trafficking, and we are currently discussing with the Commission and EU partners the best way to focus discussion on this during our presidency at a working level. We want to deliver an action plan which is evidence-based, action-orientated, takes an end-to-end approach and provides a basis for positive action against trafficking.

We are committed to improving operational co-operation and will hold a joint seminar with Eurojust in October on organised immigration crime which will open a dialogue with EU partners on the investigation and prosecution of trafficking cases. Council working groups will also be considering a range of relevant initiatives.

## Police

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps the Government is taking to tackle institutional racism in the Metropolitan Police. [8551]

**Hazel Blears:** The Government is working with the Metropolitan Police Service, (MPS) and with all other forces, to eliminate racism from policing.

The Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000, places a positive duty on all public authorities, including the MPS, to promote race equality. In the MPS this duty is driven by its Race Equality Scheme, which was republished on 31 May 2005. Training, procurement activities and access to information and services are also included within the Race Equality Scheme. All corporate policies have been assessed for their impact on diverse groups and are published together with arrangements for ongoing monitoring, consultation and review.

In addition, the MPS was one of the first forces to adopt the new national assessment procedures for police recruitment. The assessment centre tests candidates' attitudes to race and diversity. Those who do not score sufficiently highly are not offered a job — irrespective of how well they do in the rest of the selection process. I understand that the MPS has also produced guidance

for potential recruits and training school staff on appropriate behaviour, tolerance, respect and politeness. This puts a responsibility on new recruits and training school staff to eliminate and not tolerate racist behaviour.

In December 2003, the Metropolitan Police Authority commissioned Sir Bill Morris to review professional standards and employment matters in the Metropolitan Police Service. The Inquiry was launched in January 2004 and its report was published in December 2004. Taking forward the recommendations of the Inquiry will form part of the MPS's continued to commitment to tackle institutional racism.

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions his Department has held with local authorities regarding the Police Reform II White Paper, Building Communities, Beating Crime, on *(a)* increasing accountability and *(b)* community and locally elected officials determining policing priorities; and if he will make a statement. [8096]

**Hazel Blears:** We had responses from, amongst others, the Association of Police Authorities (APA), Local Government Association, the Welsh LGA, the County Councils Network and 14 local authorities to the White Paper. Both ministers and officials have regular discussions with the APA and local government representatives on a variety of issues, including ways of strengthening the accountability of the police service. We will be consulting both police and local authorities over the details of the Government's plans to confer powers on local people to trigger action by community safety partners in response to persistent local problems. The community and locally elected representatives already have a significant say in determining policing priorities through Police Authorities, whose membership includes a majority of elected councillors. Police Authorities have a central duty to determine the policing priorities for the area in consultation with the local community.

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what his Department's contingent liability is for the potential cost of failure of the Airwave contract; what assessment he has made of the level of risk of failure of the Airwave contract; and if he will list the factors that he has identified could lead to a failure of the Airwave contract. [6343]

**Hazel Blears:** There are no contingent liabilities with regard to the Airwave contract. Roll-out of the Airwave network is now complete, with no operational, technological or health and safety issues to be resolved.

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* deaths and *(b)* serious injuries occurred in police custody in London in each of the last five years. [8302]

**Hazel Blears:** The number of deaths during or following police contact in London for each of the last five years is as follows. All deaths relate to the Metropolitan Police area. There have been no deaths within the City of London Police area. The Home Office does not collate statistics on the number of injuries in police custody.

| | |
|---|---|
| 1999–2000 | 16 deaths, 10 in police custody |
| 2000–2001 | seven deaths, two in police custody |
| 2001–2002 | nine deaths, three in police custody |
| 2002–2003 | 17 deaths, nine in police custody |
| 2003–2004 | 15 deaths, six in police custody |

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average cost to public funds, including national insurance contributions and pension contributions, of employing a *(a)* community warden or neighbourhood warden, *(b)* police community support officer and *(c)* police constable in England is expected to be in 2005–06. [5609]

**Hazel Blears:** The information requested is not collected centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was contributed to the Metropolitan Police by each London borough through the Metropolitan Police precept in each of the last three years; how much each borough is expected to contribute in the 2005–06 financial year; what these figures represent as a percentage of the overall budget of *(a)* the authority concerned and *(b)* the Metropolitan Police in each year; what the ratio of contribution to the precept by borough to number of police officers in post in the borough (i) was in respect of each borough in each year and (ii) is in respect of each borough in 2005–06; and if he will make a statement. [8280]

**Hazel Blears:** These are matters for the Metropolitan Police Authority and the Greater London Authority which determines the police precept. I will ensure that they receive a copy of the question and reply to my hon Friend directly in response to your concerns.

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make a statement on the level of efficiency savings his Department has required Hertfordshire constabulary to find in each year since 1997. [5374]

**Hazel Blears:** An efficiency target for the police service was introduced in 1999–2000. From that year until 2004–05 each Police authority was required to make efficiency gains each year of 2 per cent. of net revenue expenditure. A new target was set in Spending Review 2004. For the period from 2005–06 to 2007–08 authorities are required to make cumulative efficiency gains of 3 per cent. per year, half of the total to consist of cashable gains. Details of Hertfordshire's performance from 1999–2000 to 2004–05 (estimated) and the value of the target for 2005–06 are set out in the table.

*Efficiency targets and performance: Hertfordshire constabulary, 1999–2000 to 2007–08*

| | 1999–2000 | 2000–01 | 2001–02 | 2002–03 | 2003–04 | 2004–05 | 2005–06 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Net revenue expenditure (£ million) | 102.4 | 121.1 | 131.8 | 133.0 | 143.0 | 152.7 | 161.1 |
| Efficiency target (percentage) | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 |
| Efficiency target (value £ million) | 2.0 | 2.4 | 2.6 | 2.7 | 2.9 | 3.1 | 4.8 |
| Gains achieved (percentage)[1] | 2.39 | 2.03 | 2.50 | 2.30 | 2.27 | 2.00 | — |
| Gains achieved (£ million)[1] | 2.45 | 2.46 | 3.30 | 3.06 | 3.25 | 3.1 | — |

[1] For 2004–05 the achievement figure is an estimate by HM Inspectorate of Constabulary based on the position at 31 December 2004. A final figure will be available later this year.

*Note:*

Net Revenue expenditure for 2006–07 and 2007–08, and the value of the efficiency target will be determined when a budget is set for those years.

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the Government's definition is of a police officer. [8097]

**Hazel Blears:** The term "police officer" is not defined in primary legislation, but it was used in the police conduct regulations 2004 (SI 2004/645), where it is defined in regulation 3(1) as a member of a police force or special constable.

**Mr. Bacon:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make a statement on the powers of the police in relation to illegal raves on private land. [5136]

**Hazel Blears:** Section 63 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 allows police in certain circumstances to direct rave goers to leave an event. If they refuse, police are provided with a power of arrest and they also have powers to seize sound equipment in certain circumstances. The Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003 extended powers in relation to illegal raves taking place indoors and to make it an offence for a person given a direction under section 63 to attend any other trespassory rave within 24hours.

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* police patrol vehicles, *(b)* police vans, *(c)* unmarked police vehicles and *(d)* other police vehicles are available in Greater London; and if he will make a statement. [8116]

**Hazel Blears** *[holding answer 4 July 2005]:* This information requested is not collected centrally.

## Prisons

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the projected funding for prison education for *(a)* male young offenders, *(b)* male adult offenders, *(c)* female young offenders and *(d)* female adult offenders is for each year between 2005 and 2010, broken down by subject. [3244]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** The needs of offender learners are individual and vary considerably depending on the particular cohort in a particular prison establishment at a particular time. For the financial year 2005–06, the following table shows learning and skills funding, for offenders in custody, that can be assigned to a particular category and gender of offender as appropriate. The changing needs of offender learners means that this information cannot be projected beyond 2005–06, and information on subjects could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

| *Young offenders* | *2005–06 funding (£)* |
|---|---|
| Male | 18,443,567.00 |
| Female | n/a |
| Total male and female | 18,443,567.00 |
| *Juveniles* | |
| Male | 9,832,187.00 |
| Female | 534,246.00 |
| Total male and female | 10,366,433.00 |
| *Adult* | |
| Male | 73,856,880.00 |
| Female | 10,044,734.00 |
| Total male and female | 83,901,614.00 |
| *Total* | |
| Male | 102,132,634.00 |
| Female | 10,578,980.00 |
| Total male and female | 112,711,614.00 |

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many designated education hours were lost in the Prison Service in 2003–04 due to staff shortages. [3246]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** The Prison Service does not collect this information centrally and could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

**Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the answer of 13 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 170W, on prisons, on what grounds the Prison Service is appealing the Employment Tribunal decision; and if he will make a statement. [6203]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** The employment tribunal decision to which this question refers remains the subject of litigation and it would therefore not be appropriate to comment.

**Steve Webb:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will list the private finance initiative contracts that exist between prisons and Jarvis plc. [5937]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** There are no private finance initiative contracts between Jarvis plc and prisons in England and Wales.

**Colin Burgon:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many inmates there are in each *(a)* prison and *(b)* young offender institution in England and Wales, broken down by *(i)* parliamentary constituency and *(ii)* local authority area. [5820]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** The information requested, as recorded on the Prison Service IT system on 31 May 2005, is provided in the table. Information is not available by local authority area. A breakdown by constituency has therefore been provided.

*Population of prison establishment, by establishment and parliamentary constituency England and Wales, 31 May 2005*

| Constituency | Establishment | Population |
|---|---|---|
| Arundel and South Downs | Ford | 530 |
| Aylesbury | Aylesbury | 379 |
| Banbury | Bullingdon | 974 |
| Bedford | Bedford | 463 |
| Berwick-upon-Tweed | Acklington | 866 |
| Berwick-upon-tweed | Castington | 383 |
| Birmingham Ladywood | Birmingham | 1,413 |
| Bishop Auckland | Deerbolt | 435 |
| Blaby | Glen Parva | 769 |
| Boston and Skegness | North Sea Camp | 292 |
| Bridgend | Parc | 959 |
| Bristol West | Bristol | 600 |
| Bromsgrove | Blakenhurst | 1,060 |
| Bromsgrove | Brockhill | 116 |
| Bromsgrove | Hewell Grange | 169 |
| Buckingham | Grendon/Spring Hill | 525 |
| Burton | Dovegate | 786 |
| Cambridgeshire North east | Whitemoor | 438 |
| Canterbury | Canterbury | 304 |
| Cardiff Central | Cardiff | 736 |
| Chelmsford West | Chelmsford | 575 |
| Chorley | Garth | 640 |
| Chorley | Wymott | 1,042 |
| City of Durham | Durham | 643 |
| City of Durham | Frankland | 715 |
| City of Durham | Low Newton | 272 |
| Copeland | Haverigg | 545 |
| Daventry | Onley | 504 |
| Derbyshire South | Foston Hall | 210 |
| Derbyshire West | Sudbury | 540 |
| Devizes | Erlestoke | 421 |
| Devon West and Torridge | Dartmoor | 618 |
| Don Valley | Lindholme | 817 |
| Don Valley | Moorland Open | 217 |
| Don Valley | Moorland | 730 |
| Doncaster Central | Doncaster | 1,044 |
| Dorset North | Guys Marsh | 565 |
| Dorset South | Portland | 392 |
| Dorset South | The Verne | 585 |
| Dorset South | The Weare | 324 |
| Dorset West | Dorchester | 253 |
| Dover | Dover | 305 |
| Ealing, Acton and Shepherd's Bush | Wormwood Scrubs | 1,247 |
| Eccles | Forest Bank | 1,037 |
| Elmet | Wealstun | 787 |
| Elmet | Wetherby | 349 |
| Erith and Thamesmead | Belmarsh | 917 |
| Exeter | Exeter | 532 |
| Faversham and Kent Mid | East Sutton Park | 97 |
| Feltham and Heston | Feltham | 596 |
| Fylde | Kirkham | 530 |
| Gloucester | Gloucester | 281 |
| Gosport | Haslar | 122 |
| Haltemprice and Howden | Everthorpe | 462 |
| Haltemprice and Howden | The Wolds | 293 |
| Harborough | Gartree | 411 |
| Henley | Huntercombe | 351 |
| Hertfordshire and South West | The Mount | 702 |
| Hull East | Hull | 1,058 |
| Huntingdon | Littlehey | 695 |
| Isle of Wight | Albany | 519 |
| Isle of Wight | Camp Hill | 569 |
| Isle of Wight | Parkhurst | 507 |
| Islington North | Holloway | 444 |
| Islington South and Finsbury | Pentonville | 1,190 |
| Lancaster and Wyre | Lancaster | 239 |
| Lancaster and Wyre | Lancaster Farms | 514 |
| eeds West | Leeds | 1,208 |
| Leicester South | Leicester | 343 |
| Leigh | Hindley | 402 |
| Lewes | Lewes | 528 |
| Lincoln | Lincoln | 478 |
| Liverpool Walton | Altcourse | 903 |
| Liverpool Walton | Liverpool | 1,392 |
| Maidstone and the Weald | Maidstone | 545 |
| Manchester Blackley | Manchester | 1,247 |
| Medway | Cookham Wood | 164 |
| Medway | Rochester | 388 |
| Milton Keynes South West | Woodhill | 766 |
| Mole Valley | Send | 217 |
| Monmouth | Usk/Prescoed | 417 |
| Newark | Ranby | 1,026 |
| Norfolk South West | Wayland | 705 |
| Northavon | Ashfield | 280 |
| Northavon | Eastwood Park | 280 |
| Northavon | Leyhill | 495 |
| Norwich North | Norwich | 793 |
| Nottingham East | Nottingham | 509 |
| Peterborough | Peterborough | 338 |
| Portsmouth South | Kingston | 172 |
| Preston | Preston | 604 |
| Rayleigh | Bullwood Hall | 142 |
| Reading East | Reading | 280 |
| Reigate | Downview | 235 |
| Reigate | Highdown | 743 |
| Richmond | Northallerton | 164 |
| Richmond Park | Latchmere House | 204 |
| Rochdale | Buckley Hall | 341 |
| Rugby and Kenilworth | Rye Hill | 586 |
| Rushcliffe | Whatton | 354 |
| Rutland and Melton | Ashwell | 545 |
| Rutland and Melton | Stocken | 618 |
| Selby | Askham Grange | 98 |
| Sherwood | Lowdham Grange | 501 |
| Shrewsbury and Atcham | Shrewsbury | 259 |
| Shropshire North | Stoke Heath | 649 |
| Sittingbourne and Sheppey | Elmley | 986 |
| Sittingbourne and Sheppey | Standford Hill | 450 |
| Sittingbourne and Sheppey | Swaleside | 777 |
| Sleaford and North Hykeham | Morton Hall | 317 |
| Spelthorne | Bronzefield | 431 |
| Stafford | Stafford | 678 |
| Staffordshire Moorlands | Werrington | 127 |
| Staffordshire South | Brinsford | 469 |
| Staffordshire South | Featherstone | 602 |
| Stockton North | Holme House | 987 |
| Stockton South | Kirklevington Grange | 217 |
| Stone | Drake Hall | 286 |
| Streatham | Brixton | 798 |
| Suffolk Coastal | Hollesley Bay | 309 |
| Suffolk Coastal | Warren Hill | 206 |
| Suffolk West | Edmunds Hill | 154 |
| Suffolk West | Highpoint | 795 |
| Surrey Heath | Coldingley | 385 |
| Swansea West | Swansea | 409 |
| Tamworth | Swinfen Hall | 551 |
| Tatton | Styal | 397 |
| Tooting | Wandsworth | 1,428 |
| Totnes | Channings Wood | 656 |
| Tunbridge Wells | Blantyre House | 113 |
| Wakefield | New Hall | 325 |
| Wakefield | Wakefield | 553 |
| Warrington North | Risley | 1,060 |
| Warrington North | Thorn Cross | 235 |
| Waveney | Blundeston | 462 |
| Wellingborough | Wellingborough | 544 |
| Wells | Shepton Mallet | 180 |
| Winchester | Winchester | 690 |
| Worchestershire Mid | Long Lartin | 442 |
| Yorkshire East | Full Sutton | 600 |
| Total | | 76,141 |

**Mrs. Dean:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans he has to increase the number of work opportunities in prisons. [5778]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** Work for prisoners in prison can largely be divided into three main areas. These include activities that take place within prison industry workshops; work to service and maintain prisons, for

example, working in kitchens and laundries; and, various land based activities such as market garden work, ground maintenance and landscaping.

There are ongoing plans to increase both work opportunities and the relevance of such activities for prisoners in all these areas. These plans include additional workshops at a number of prisons; increasing the number of prisoners employed in land based activities; and, increased training and qualifications across a large number of work activities. The plans recognise that providing work opportunities for prisoners in prison is important in a number of ways. Such opportunities can introduce and maintain the work ethic; help occupy prisoners' time in custody constructively and can make a significant contribution to the resettlement agenda.

### Public Protection Panels

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Multi-agency Public Protection Panel Arrangements; and if he will make a statement. [4789]

**Fiona Mactaggart** *[holding answer 16 June 2005]:* Multi-agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) are regularly reviewed at a local level by Strategic Management Boards (SMB), formed of senior staff from the Police, Probation and Prison Service. Since 2001–02, each SMB has produced an annual report on the MAPPA arrangements. These reports show that the arrangements have made a significant difference to the way the public is protected from the risks posed by sexual and violent offenders. I have also commissioned an independent study of MAPPA by De Montfort University, due to be published later this year, and a joint inspection by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons and Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary, starting in September. All of these reports will be made available in the Library once they are published.

### Shooting

**Mr. Swire:** To ask the Secretary of State (1) for the Home Department whether he plans to review the guidelines on the shooting of foxes and ground game at night; [6051]

(2) whether he plans to introduce an age limit for the shooting of foxes and ground game at night; [6054]

(3) what discussions he has had with the *(a)* British Association for Shooting and Conservation and *(b)* other shooting organisations about the guidelines relating to the shooting of foxes and ground game at night. [6052]

**Hazel Blears:** I understand that Defra has no plans to review the current policy on shooting of foxes and ground game at night. Consequently there has been no need to consult stakeholders. Under the provisions of the Firearms Act 1968 a person under 14 may not be granted a firearm certificate in any circumstances. A person between 14 and 17 may be granted a certificate in order to possess a firearm provided that the police are satisfied that the individual concerned is fit to possess the gun without being a danger to the public safety and has a good reason for possessing it. We are currently considering the many responses to the consultation paper we issued last year on how our firearms controls and laws might be revised.

### South Wales Police

**Mrs. James:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many community support officers there are in South Wales Police H Division; and if he will make a statement. [9596]

**Hazel Blears:** The deployment of Community Support Officers (CSOs) is an operational matter for the Chief Constable (Barbara Wilding). The Home Office Police Service Strength Statistical Bulletin, which will be published later this month , will provide data on the number of (CSOs) in each police force at 31 March 2005. Information on Community Support Officer (CSO) strength is not collected at Basic Command Unit level.

**Mrs. James:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what changes there have been in police numbers in South Wales Police H Division since 1997. [9597]

**Hazel Blears:** Information on strength at basic Command Unit (BCU) level is collected annually and reflects the position at the end of March for each year. Information on BCU strength is only available from 2002 and is set out in the table. The deployment of officers to BCUs is a matter for the Chief Constable (Barbara Wilding) and within the "H" Swansea Divison deployment of officers is a matter for the Divisional Commander.

Information on the number of police officers in BCUs for 31 March 2005 will be published later this month.

*"H" Swansea Division—Police Numbers 2002 to 2004*

| *Year (as at 31 March)* | *Number of Police Officers* |
|---|---|
| 2002[1] | 464 |
| 2003[2] | 500 |
| 2004[2] | 498 |

[1] HM Inspectorate of constabulary database
[2] Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate, Police Statistics

### Stolen Cars

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the number of cars stolen in England and Wales for sale in foreign countries since 1990. [8463]

**Hazel Blears:** The recorded crime statistics do not have details of the number of cars stolen for sale in foreign countries.

### Tetra

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which police authorities are not using Tetra. [9116]

**Hazel Blears:** Airwave, the new police radio system, is now available to all 51 police forces in England, Wales and Scotland. Airwave currently has over 125,000 users, and is expected to be fully operational in most forces by the summer of 2006.

### Transsexual Prisoners

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when his Department will publish guidelines on the treatment of transsexual prisoners. [4695]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** The Prison Service now hopes to publish these guidelines later this year.

### Vehicle Registration/Taxation

**Mark Tami:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what range of penalties is available for conviction of individuals who fail to register their vehicles in their name. [9207]

**Paul Goggins:** Following summary conviction for failure to supply the correct details for registration, there is a possible maximum fine at level three on the standard scale (currently £1,000). Community rehabilitation and curfew orders are also available under the Criminal Justice Act 2003.

Using an incorrectly registered vehicle became a separate offence on 1 July, likewise with a maximum level three fine on summary conviction. A fixed penalty of £30 may also be offered.

### Violent Crime Bill

**Nia Griffith:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the provisions of the Violent Crime Bill relating to replica guns include the sale of *(a)* such guns and *(b)* plastic ammunition from catalogues from companies based (i) in the UK and (ii) abroad. [6032]

**Hazel Blears:** Clause 30 of the Violent Crime Reduction Bill makes it an offence to manufacture, sell or import a realistic imitation firearm whose appearance makes it indistinguishable, for all practical purposes, from a particular make or model of firearm or from a firearm falling within an existing category of firearm. The ban does not cover plastic ammunition. It will apply to all methods of sale. People who buy from companies based abroad will not be able to import their purchases.

### Volunteering

**Mr. Andrew Turner:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many volunteers have been *(a)* recruited and *(b)* identified by the Experience Corps since its inception; and of those how many *(a)* have been actively volunteering as a result of being identified and *(b)* were already actively volunteering. [8710]

**Paul Goggins** *[holding answer 4 July 2005]*: The Experience Corps explicitly targeted individuals with little or no previous experience of volunteering. Whilst the Home Office has not continued to monitor volunteers within the Experience Corps, the organisation states that a significant number of these volunteers are still engaged in a range of volunteering opportunities.

### Weapons (Possession/Amnesty)

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many people have been convicted of the possession of an illegal weapon in each London borough since 1996; [8516]

(2) how many people have been convicted of gun crimes in each year since 1997; [8520]

(3) how many people aged 14 to 24 years old have been convicted of carrying an illegal knife since 1997. [8546]

**Hazel Blears:** The information contained in the first table gives the number of offenders found guilty of "Possession of offensive weapons without lawful authority or reasonable excuse", by London borough, 1996 to 2003.

It is not possible to identify the number of offenders found guilty of gun crime as the individual circumstances of the offence are not collected.

The information contained in the second table gives the number of offenders aged 14 to 24, found guilty of "having an article with a blade or point in a public place", England and Wales 1997 to 2003.

Statistics on court proceedings for 2004 will be published in the autumn.

*Number of offenders[1] found guilty of "possession of offensive weapons without lawful authority or reasonable excuse"[2], by police force area and magistrates court/London borough, 1996 to 2003*

| *Magistrates courts/borough* | *1996* | *1997* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Inner London magistrates courts*[3] | | | | | | | | |
| City of London Police | | | | | | | | |
| Guildhall Justice Rooms | 15 | 8 | 3 | 5 | 2 | 6 | 15 | 10 |
| *Metropolitan Police* | | | | | | | | |
| Bow Street | 50 | 45 | 40 | 23 | 26 | 25 | 41 | 28 |
| Camberwell Green/Tower Bridge | 64 | 84 | 81 | 89 | 88 | 123 | 155 | 118 |
| Greenwich and Woolwich | 54 | 58 | 69 | 44 | 57 | 67 | 69 | 63 |
| Highbury Corner | 115 | 113 | 89 | 49 | 71 | 52 | 103 | 83 |
| Horseferry Road | 37 | 31 | 49 | 21 | 37 | 37 | 55 | 40 |
| Marylebone | 40 | 39 | 28 | 22 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| South Western | 31 | 44 | 33 | 22 | 28 | 51 | 50 | 48 |
| Thames | 37 | 39 | 9 | 48 | 79 | 130 | 141 | 148 |
| West London | 15 | 39 | 24 | 28 | 39 | 39 | 63 | 50 |
| Inner London Juvenile Courts[4] | 72 | 4 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| *Outer London boroughs* | | | | | | | | |
| Metropolitan Police | | | | | | | | |
| Barking and Dagenham | 15 | 16 | 22 | 10 | 21 | 33 | 47 | 49 |
| Barnet | 18 | 13 | 10 | 14 | 18 | 24 | 26 | 27 |

*Number of offenders[1] found guilty of "possession of offensive weapons without lawful authority or reasonable excuse"[2], by police force area and magistrates court/London borough, 1996 to 2003*

| *Magistrates courts/borough* | *1996* | *1997* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Bexley | 14 | 14 | 21 | 13 | 17 | 10 | 22 | 14 |
| Brent | 27 | 39 | 26 | 41 | 41 | 50 | 52 | 37 |
| Bromley | 8 | 13 | 14 | 13 | 12 | 25 | 31 | 15 |
| Croydon | 32 | 58 | 49 | 33 | 38 | 48 | 66 | 45 |
| Ealing | 32 | 29 | 27 | 26 | 29 | 39 | 47 | 30 |
| Enfield | 12 | 24 | 26 | 13 | 15 | 24 | 42 | 45 |
| Haringey | 34 | 44 | 36 | 24 | 40 | 50 | 77 | 70 |
| Harrow | 13 | 14 | 7 | 5 | 8 | 30 | 18 | 18 |
| Havering | 8 | 15 | 9 | 15 | 17 | 21 | 33 | 31 |
| Hillingdon | 26 | 20 | 26 | 20 | 18 | 25 | 41 | 29 |
| Hounslow | 9 | 26 | 23 | 23 | 25 | 23 | 23 | 21 |
| Kingston-upon-Thames | 12 | 20 | 16 | 15 | 14 | 19 | 18 | 18 |
| Merton | 16 | 29 | 19 | 11 | 12 | 19 | 15 | 12 |
| Newham | 36 | 31 | 32 | 41 | 37 | 71 | 86 | 89 |
| Redbridge | 18 | 22 | 29 | 15 | 17 | 28 | 37 | 44 |
| Richmond upon Thames | 11 | 7 | 3 | 7 | 7 | 18 | 13 | 10 |
| Sutton | 9 | 12 | 12 | 11 | 12 | 15 | 13 | 18 |
| Waltham Forest | 43 | 33 | 30 | 17 | 30 | 48 | 69 | 34 |
| Total Metropolitan Police | 908 | 975 | 859 | 713 | 855 | 1,145 | 1,455 | 1,236 |
| Total Greater London | 923 | 983 | 862 | 718 | 857 | 1,151 | 1,470 | 1,246 |

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Includes "possession of offensive weapons without lawful authority or reasonable excuse on school premises".
[3] Information held centrally does not allow a breakdown of cases by borough in the inner London area.
[4] Cases included with adult courts from 1998.

*Number of offenders[1] aged 14 to 24 years found guilty at all courts for "having an article with a blade or point in a public place"[2], England and Wales 1997 to 2003*

| | *Found guilty* |
|---|---|
| 1997 | 1,607 |
| 1998 | 1,752 |
| 1999 | 1,622 |
| 2000 | 1,799 |
| 2001 | 2,388 |
| 2002 | 2,606 |
| 2003 | 2,552 |

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Includes: "having an article with a blade or point on school premises"

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many weapons have been handed in to police in the High Wycombe area under the recent amnesty; and if he will make a statement. [7602]

**Hazel Blears** *[holding answer 27 June 2005]:* The information requested is not collected centrally.

## Young Offenders

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of provision for young offenders; and if he will make a statement. [4788]

**Fiona Mactaggart** *[holding answer 16 June 2005]:* The key measure of the effectiveness of the youth justice system is a reduction in the rate of re-offending. To measure the extent to which offenders re-offend we measure whether or not they are reconvicted within one year. Our target is to reduce juvenile re-offending rates by 5 per cent. by 2004.The latest results, published in February 2005, show that the rate of juvenile reconvictions has reduced by 4.9 per cent. between 1997 and 2003. This is good progress towards our target and evidence that this Government's policies are making an impact.

**Mrs. Dean:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* men, *(b)* women and *(c)* young offenders are in prison; and how many on average were in prison in each category in each of the last 10 years. [5779]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** On 31 May 2005 there were 61,416 adult males aged 21 years and over, 4,017 adult females aged 21 years and over, and 10,708 young persons aged under 21 held in prison establishments in England and Wales, as recorded on the Prison Service IT system. Averages for each of the last 10 years, as recorded on the Prison Service IT system, are provided in the following table. Figures for young persons include some 21-year-olds who have not been reclassified as adults, and includes both male and female inmates.

*Average population in prison establishments[1], by age group and sex*

*England and Wales*

| | *Adult males* | *Adult females* | *Young persons* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1995 | 40,628 | 1,702 | 8,630 |
| 1996 | 43,649 | 1,935 | 9,696 |
| 1997 | 47,979 | 2,297 | 10,838 |
| 1998 | 51,191 | 2,650 | 11,456 |
| 1999 | 50,700 | 2,781 | 11,289 |
| 2000 | 50,685 | 2,851 | 11,065 |
| 2001 | 52,142 | 3,216 | 10,942 |
| 2002 | 55,708 | 3,681 | 11,396 |
| 2003 | 58,221 | 3,869 | 10,947 |
| 2004 | 59,897 | 3,950 | 10,809 |

[1] Excluding police cells

# Written Answers to Questions

*Thursday 7 July 2005*

## CABINET OFFICE

### Civil Contingencies

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will make a statement on the work of the Civil Contingencies Secretariat. [9575]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** The Civil Contingencies Secretariat (CCS) was set up in 2001 to improve the UK's resilience against disruptive challenges, working in partnership with others at the national, regional and local levels to enhance arrangements for anticipating, assessing, preventing, preparing for, responding to and recovering from all types of disruptive challenge.

The CCS drives the delivery of improved resilience across the government and the public sector by making sure that the Government can continue to function and deliver public services during a crisis. It achieves this through risk assessment and horizon-scanning activity to identify and assess potential and imminent disruptive challenges to the domestic UK, and by working with others to improve the capability of all levels of government, the wider public sector and the private and voluntary sectors to manage potential challenges.

A key focus of the CCS's work over the last year has been the Civil Contingencies Act which received Royal Assent in November 2004. The Act and supporting regulations, guidance and non-legislative measures will deliver a single framework for civil protection in the United Kingdom. Part 1 of the Act establishes a clear set of roles and responsibilities for organisations with a role in emergency planning and response at the local level. As enabling legislation, this part of the Act is heavily reliant on supporting regulations and guidance, which are currently under development. Part 2 of the Act modernises the United Kingdom's emergency powers framework and is already in force.

### EU Presidency

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will take steps to ensure that English wine is served *(a)* exclusively and *(b)* at the request of guests at meals, parties and receptions hosted by his Department during the EU presidency; and if he will make a statement. [8872]

**Mr. Hutton:** In planning presidency events, the Cabinet Office's principal objective is to source the most suitable venue for each event in terms of facilities, accessibility and overall value for money. Wherever possible, conference organisers will make arrangements to serve British produce, including English wine.

## CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

### British Board of Film Classification

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will list the examiners at the British Board of Film Classification; what the professional background of each is; and if she will make a statement. [10386]

**James Purnell:** The British Board of Film Classification (BBFC) is an independent company and my right hon. Friend has no locus to provide the information the hon. Member requests. Examiners employed by the BBFC make recommendations on film classification to the BBFC's director, David Cooke, who has the responsibility for all such decisions. Ultimately, it is for local authorities to decide whether to accept the classification awarded by the BBFC to films for cinema release or to impose their own.

### Digital Television

**Mrs. James:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assistance will be given to *(a)* pensioners and *(b)* people on low incomes to switch to digital television. [9780]

**James Purnell:** The Government are committed to ensuring that the interests of the most vulnerable consumers are protected during digital switchover and have proposed that the BBC help establish and fund appropriate support. We will announce details of the scope of this assistance in due course.

As part of the process of detailed scheme design, we and the BBC will run a trial later this year in the Bolton ward of Hulton, in association with SwitchCo and Bolton metropolitan borough council. The aim of the trial is to assess the effectiveness of various forms of assistance, with leaflets, telephone helplines and support from carers and social workers among the methods being piloted.

### Licensing Act 2003

**Mr. Moss:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent representations she has received from sports clubs about the impact on them of the Licensing Act 2003. [9455]

**James Purnell:** Since 16 May, my Department has received 22 letters from sports clubs via their constituent MPs, one letter from the National Golf Clubs Advisory Association and another from the English Golf Union, and two letters from individual sports clubs. Most of the letters have concerned the impact of the 2003 Act's fee structure on the running of sports club bars. My Department recently announced the Independent Review Panel, chaired by Sir Les Elton, which will review fee levels and associated costs, including those payable by amateur sports clubs.

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate her Department has made of the number of premises licence applications for variations to include live music that will be made under the transitional provisions for the Licensing Act 2003 by *(a)* 6 August and *(b)* 24 November; and if she will make a statement. [10191]

**James Purnell:** The Government estimate that during the transitional period, 65 per cent. of all applications to convert existing licences into new premises licences will include some form of variation. We have no estimate on what proportion of variations would involve live music. The Government established the Live Music Forum to promote the take-up of reforms in the Licensing Act 2003 relating to the performance of live music.

### Ofcom

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what means her Department uses to assess the effectiveness of Ofcom in upholding its duties to citizens and consumers; and if she will make a statement. [10043]

**James Purnell:** The Office of Communications (Ofcom) is a public corporation, operating independently from Government, principally under the terms of the Communications Act 2003 and the Office of Communications Act 2002. The Office of Communications Act requires Ofcom to report annually to the Secretary of State on the carrying out of their functions during the financial year and a copy of this report is laid before each House. In addition, DCMS and DTI Ministers and their departmental officials meet regularly with the Ofcom chairman and senior officials to discuss issues relating to the exercise of Ofcom's statutory functions.

### Radio Station Licences

**Mr. Rob Wilson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many applications there were for local radio station licences in *(a)* 2004 and *(b)* to date in 2005. [9982]

**James Purnell:** The matter raised is the responsibility of the Office of Communications (Ofcom) independent regulator. Accordingly, my officials have asked the Chief Executive of Ofcom to respond directly to the hon. Member. Copies of the Chief Executive's letter will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

## DEFENCE

### Gibraltar

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the future of RAF Gibraltar; and how many and what types of aircraft use the base. [7207]

**Mr. Ingram:** The Ministry of Defenee is committed to the future of Gibraltar and its defence outputs, including the airport.

There are no permanently based aircraft at RAF Gibraltar but the base is available for use by all the United Kingdom military aircraft except Tri-Star, VC10 and E3 due to runway length performance restrictions.

The following aircraft have used the base in the last year:

*UK military*

C130
C17
Tornado F3
Tornado GR4
Jaguar
Nimrod
BA 146
BA 125
Hawk
Puma
Merlin
Chinook
Sea Harrier
Falcon DA 20
Lynx

*Foreign military*

C130
CP140
C12
Fokker 50
C560
C26
P3
Learjet
C160
Lynx
Sea King
Sea Hawk
CN235
C40

In 2004 there were 1,358 military movements.

Details of civil flights are not held. The largest civil aircraft regularly handled is the B757. Schedules are flown by B757 and A320 but numerous types, from light aircraft/powered gliders upwards, are regular visitors.

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many other nations' air forces have used RAF Gibraltar in the last three years; and how many and what type of aircraft were involved. [7208]

**Mr. Ingram:** Aircraft from the eight other nations' air forces have used Gibraltar in the last three years. 61 aircraft of the following types were involved: C130, C26, C12, P3, C40, Learjet, Sea Hawk, CP140, C160, C560, CN235, Fokker 50, Lynx, and Sea King.

### Maritime Forces

**Dr. Julian Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list the *(a)* Royal Navy and *(b)* Royal Fleet Auxiliary vessels which are not at full operational readiness in consequence of the STOROB process of cannibalisation. [9696]

**Mr. Ingram:** No units are at a reduced state of readiness as a result of the STOROB process.

### Prisoners of War

**Mr. Tyrie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the report made to Multi-National Division (South East) by the *(a)* Prisoner of War Registration

Unit and *(b)* Prisoner Monitoring Team at Camp Bucca has been forwarded to his Department; and if he will make a statement. [7900]

**Mr. Ingram:** To the best of our knowledge, no reports made by the Prisoner of War Registration Unit or Prisoner of War Monitoring Team were forwarded to the Ministry of Defence.

### RN Patrol Boats

**Dr. Julian Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the current whereabouts of the three Royal Naval patrol boats seized by Iran in June 2004; what representations he has made to the government of Iran since their seizure; and what his assessment is of the date of their likely return to the UK. [9765]

**John Reid:** Current information indicates that the three patrol boats are being held in South West Iran. We have maintained a dialogue with the Iranian authorities since June 2004 and, at every opportunity, continue to press for their return.

## DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

### Advertisements

**Mark Tami:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what definition his Department uses of a *(a)* fixed and *(b)* mobile site for posters and advertisements. [9223]

**Yvette Cooper:** There is no definition of a fixed or mobile site. The definition of "site" is in the Town and Country Planning (Control of Advertisements) Regulations 1992. Sites are not characterised as fixed or mobile. The extent of the site is a matter for the local planning authority to decide bearing in mind all the circumstances of the case.

### Affordable Housing

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many *(a)* affordable homes and *(b)* homes for rent were provided with public funds in Lancashire in each of the last five years, broken down by district council area. [8895]

**Yvette Cooper:** The following table shows the number of low-cost home ownership units for sale, and units for rent, provided with public funds through the Housing Corporation in local authorities in Lancashire from 2000–01 to 2004–05.

| | *2000–01* | | *2001–02* | | *2002–03* | | *2003–04* | | *2004–05* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *(a) Sale* | *(b) Rent* | *(a) Sale* | *(b) Rent* | *(a) Sale* | *(b) Rent* | *(a) Sale* | *(b) Rent* | *(a) Sale* | *(b) Rent* |
| Burnley | 16 | 16 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| Chorley | 0 | 15 | 0 | 18 | 0 | 14 | 4 | 12 | 13 | 9 |
| Fylde | 0 | 2 | 0 | 45 | 7 | 36 | 7 | 20 | 0 | 29 |
| Hyndburn | 0 | 44 | 0 | 35 | 0 | 10 | 0 | 13 | 0 | 6 |
| Lancaster | 16 | 61 | 0 | 20 | 28 | 41 | 2 | 7 | 6 | 36 |
| Pendle | 0 | 30 | 0 | 63 | 0 | 38 | 0 | 19 | 0 | 1 |
| Preston | 13 | 170 | 0 | 68 | 9 | 71 | 8 | 91 | 17 | 13 |
| Ribble Valley | 19 | 15 | 5 | 11 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 8 |
| Rossendale | 17 | 3 | 0 | 20 | 0 | 8 | 0 | 13 | 0 | 0 |
| South Ribble | 2 | 41 | 8 | 37 | 10 | 59 | 10 | 2 | 22 | 16 |
| Wyre | 3 | 152 | 12 | 36 | 0 | 68 | 48 | 33 | 0 | 23 |
| Total Lancashire | 86 | 549 | 25 | 357 | 45 | 345 | 79 | 210 | 58 | 147 |

The figures include properties provided through the Housing Corporation Approved Development Programme, the Local Authority Social Housing Grant (LASHG) and Transitional LASHG; and the Safer Communities Social Housing Fund.

Figures do not include Right to Acquire or Voluntary Purchase Grant sales, as these are losses to social housing stock.

### Council Tax

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will reconsider the proposed capping of Hambleton district council's tax. [9461]

**Mr. Woolas:** The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister has been giving careful consideration to the challenges which the designated authorities have made to the caps proposed by my right hon. Friend the Deputy Prime Minister, the Secretary of State and we aim to announce decisions before the summer recess. Any in year capping will be subject to approval of an order by the House of Commons.

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what expenditure in total has been incurred so far on the council tax revaluation in England by *(a)* his Department, *(b)* the Valuation Office Agency and *(c)* other Government Departments and agencies. [9529]

**Mr. Woolas:** The information is as follows:

(a) The cost of council tax revaluation for the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister is not separately identified.

(b) The Valuation Office Agency incurred costs of £31.8 million up to 31 March 2005.

(c) The cost for the Valuation Tribunal Service is not separately identified.

### English Partnerships

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how much land English Partnerships owns in each Lancashire district. [8897]

**Yvette Cooper:** English Partnerships currently owns around 800 hectares of land in Lancashire, including two recently acquired former hospital sites at

Whittingham, Preston (81 ha) and Lancaster Moor (18.5 ha), which can be broken down by district as follows:

| *District* | *Hectares* |
|---|---|
| Preston | 567.2 |
| South Kibble | 59.4 |
| Chorley | 54.6 |
| Skelmersdale | 99.5 |
| Lancaster | 18.5 |

**Mr. Sheerman:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what recent discussions he has had with English Partnerships on securing a better return on resources under its ownership. [9803]

**Yvette Cooper:** English Partnerships seeks to ensure that its resources and assets are utilised efficiently and effectively in support of Government's objectives for sustainable communities.

The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister has regular meetings with English Partnerships at all levels to discuss its programme and utilisation of resources. One of the key elements of this is the annual corporate planning process where English Partnerships' Corporate plan is discussed and agreed by ODPM officials and Ministers.

Effective use of resources and value for money are primary considerations and English Partnerships' project appraisal and approvals processes are kept under regular review.

### Fire Service (Essex)

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many attacks have taken place on fire crews in *(a)* Southend and *(b)* Essex in each of the last five years. [9970]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** I understand from the Essex County Fire and Rescue Service that information on attacks has been collected for the last two months, and that during this period they have recorded two attacks. It is not known whether either was in Southend.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what the average response time was to an emergency call to the Fire Brigade in each Essex borough in each of the last eight years for which figures are available. [9972]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Flooding (North Yorkshire)

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will propose a moratorium on planning applications for construction of buildings on *(a)* functional flood plains and *(b)* areas that have recently experienced flooding problems. [9467]

**Yvette Cooper:** Owners and developers of land cannot be prevented from submitting applications, but Planning Policy Guidance note (PPG) 25 advises that permissions for built development should be wholly exceptional in the functional floodplains, where water has to flow or be stored in times of flood. The exceptions are limited to essential transport and utilities infrastructure that has to be there, or recreational and amenity facilities suitable for a waterside location. PPG25 applies a sequential test to new development in all areas considered to be at risk of flooding, so as to direct development to areas of lower risk. It requires a flood risk assessment to accompany applications for planning permission in all areas at risk of flooding.

### Housing Market Renewal Pathfinder

**Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what assessment he has made of the merits of establishing urban development corporations in the Housing Market Renewal Pathfinder areas in England; and if he will make a statement. [9387]

**Yvette Cooper:** Housing market renewal pathfinder intervention areas are tightly defined to encompass largely residential areas with the greatest concentrations of housing in low demand. The pathfinder partnerships of local authorities, the private sector and others are working well together to renew housing markets. Urban Regeneration Companies or other regeneration vehicles are active in the areas of many pathfinders and co-operation between the two brings a strong economic development dimension into pathfinder strategies and programmes.

### London Housing Board

**Clive Efford:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister (1) when he expects to receive the London Housing Board's recommendations on funding allocations for 2006 to 2008; [9399]

(2) if he will place a copy of the London Housing Board's recommendations on funding allocations for 2006 to 2008 in the Library; [9400]

(3) when he expects to reach a decision on the London Housing Board's recommendations on funding allocations for 2006 to 2008. [9401]

**Yvette Cooper:** The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister has recently received the London Housing Board's submission setting its recommendations on the allocation of Regional Housing Pot funds for 2006–07 and 2007–08. The submission and the associated London Housing Strategy are being placed on the Government Office for London's website (www.gos.gov.uk/gol). We will be announcing decisions on their, and other regions, recommendations shortly.

### Mobile Phone Masts

**Mr. Mates:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of planning procedures for mobile phone masts. [9697]

**Yvette Cooper:** Current planning guidance for all electronic communication developments is set out in planning policy guidance note 8 (revised) (PPG8). The

Office of the Deputy Prime Minister has also issued a Code of Best Practice on Mobile Phone Network Development. It provides more detailed advice than is contained in planning policy guidance note 8.

In September last year the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister commissioned the University of Reading and Arup to undertake an independent study to assess the impact that the code of best practice on mobile phone network development has had since its introduction. The report will be published in due course. On 4 April I announced the Government will be commissioning further research to identify the future direction of mobile phone technology and the future need for mast developments.

### Motorway Advertisements

**Mark Tami:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what his policy is on the siting of advertisements on land adjacent to motorways. [9225]

**Yvette Cooper:** Outdoor advertisements are controlled by local planning authorities under the Town and Country Planning (Control of Advertisements) Regulations 1992.

Most advertisements on land directly facing motorways and major roads require the express consent from the relevant local planning authority as well as prior permission from the landowner before they may be displayed lawfully. When considering whether an advertisement should be allowed to be displayed, the local planning authority must consider amenity and public safety aspects on a site-specific basis.

Local planning authorities have enforcement powers to deal with advertisements displayed unlawfully.

### Neighbourhood Renewal Support Fund

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what the floor targets for Neighbourhood Renewal Support Fund are; what the performance of Newcastle upon Tyne against those targets was; and what the average performance against those targets in *(a)* the North East and *(b)* England was. [9872]

**Mr. Woolas:** Floor targets are an advance in how Government tackles disadvantage. They are delivered by Government Departments and contribute to the overarching Office of the Deputy Prime Minister's Public Service Agreement, (PSA) 1 target, on neighbourhood renewal and social exclusion.

Floor targets for neighbourhood renewal:

Help reduce the gap between the poorest areas and the rest of the country.

Show what the priorities should be at a local level.

Make sure that where public services are failing, they get better.

Areas in receipt of Neighbourhood Renewal Fund resources focus on delivering floor targets and targets agreed locally.

The latest floor target performance data we hold centrally have been made available in the Library of the House, although more up to date data may be available locally. These graphs show the performance of Newcastle upon Tyne, the North East average, the average performance of all areas in receipt of Neighbourhood Renewal Fund, and the England average for each of the key outcome areas (health, education, crime, worklessness, and liveability). We do not have a graph for housing, as centrally we only have data on council-owned dwellings.

Further floor target performance data can be found at Floor Targets Interactive http://www.neighbourhood.gov.uk/page.asp?id=21

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will place in the Library *(a)* the assessment of each (i) output and (ii) super output area of the city of Newcastle upon Tyne against the factors in the matrix of deprivation and *(b)* the rating of each post-2004 electoral ward in the city of Newcastle against (A) each factor and (B) the combined indicator in the index of deprivation. [9873]

**Mr. Woolas:** The Indices of Deprivation 2004 (ID 2004) was created only at lower layer Super Output Area level (SOA), with summaries of the SOA level data at local authority and county council levels. It is therefore only possible to provide ranks for each SOA in Newcastle upon Tyne against the seven individual domains and the overall Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD 2004) and this information has been made available in the Library of the House.

### New Build (Lancashire)

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many homes have been built in Lancashire in each of the last five years, broken down by district council area. [8896]

**Yvette Cooper:** The annual numbers of new build completions reported for each of the housing authorities in Lancashire since 2000–01 are tabled as follows.

*Numbers of new build completions*

| | *2000–01* | *2001–02* | *2002–03* | *2003–04* | *2004–05* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Blackburn and Darwen | 524 | 400 | 407 | 347 | 221 |
| Blackpool | 227 | 521 | 206 | 141 | 290 |
| Burnley | 260 | 96 | 77 | 132 | 81 |
| Chorley | 412 | 404 | 464 | 385 | 229 |
| Fylde | 241 | 184 | 248 | 327 | 215 |
| Hyndburn | 178 | 143 | 164 | 169 | 170 |
| Lancaster | 284 | 172 | 459 | 500 | 192 |
| Pendle | 207 | 272 | 159 | 158 | 177 |
| Preston | 360 | 401 | 82 | 289 | 718 |
| Ribble Valley | 198 | 172 | 187 | 226 | 157 |

*Numbers of new build completions*

| | 2000–01 | 2001–02 | 2002–03 | 2003–04 | 2004–05 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Rossendale | 59 | 148 | 158 | 208 | 318 |
| South Kibble | 237 | 330 | 523 | 269 | 345 |
| West Lancashire | 340 | 274 | 411 | 256 | 422 |
| Wyre | 493 | 398 | 368 | 381 | 208 |

*Source:*
Returns (P2/NHBC) to ODPM on building control completions.

## Planning (London)

**Mr. Buritow:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister on how many occasions the Mayor of London exercised his power to direct a refusal of a planning application in each of the last five years for each London borough; and how many were subsequently subject to an appeal where permission was *(a)* granted and *(b)* not granted. [9443]

**Yvette Cooper:** The information is in the following tables.

*2001*

| Borough | Direct Refusal | Direction withdrawn | Appeal SofS Granted | Appeal SofS Refused |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Barking and Dagenham | 1 | — | — | 1 |
| Brent | 1 | — | — | 1 |
| Bromley | 1 | 1 | — | — |
| Greenwich | 1 | 1 | — | — |
| Harrow | 1 | 1 | — | — |
| Lambeth | [1]1 | — | — | — |
| Merton | 1 | 1 | — | — |
| Tower Hamlets | 1 | 1 | — | — |
| Westminster | 1 | 1 | — | — |

*2002*

| Borough | Direct refusal | Direction withdrawn | Appeal SofS Granted | Appeal SofS Refused |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Brent | 2([1]1) | 1 | — | — |
| Bromley | 2 | — | 1 | 1 |
| Havering | [1]1 | — | — | — |
| Hillingdon | 1 | — | 1 | — |
| Lewisham | [1]1 | — | — | — |
| Southwark | 1 | 1 | — | — |

*2003*

| Borough | Direct refusal | Direction withdrawn | Appeal SofS Granted | Appeal SofS Refused |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| City | 1 | 1 | — | — |
| Lambeth | 1 | 1 | — | — |

*2004*

| Borough | Direct refusal | Direction withdrawn | Appeal SofS Granted | Appeal SofS Refused |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Richmond | 1 | 1 | — | — |
| Southwark | [2]1 | — | — | — |
| Sutton | 2 | 2 | — | — |

*2005*

| Borough | Direct refusal | Direction withdrawn | Appeal SofS Granted | Appeal SofS Refused |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Havering | [3]1 | — | — | — |
| Lewisham | 1 | 1 | — | — |
| Newham | [3]1 | — | — | — |
| Southwark | 1 | 1 | — | — |

[1] No appeal.
[2] Awaiting appeal decision.
[3] Still considering whether to appeal.

## Safer Stronger Communities Fund

**John Hemming:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what the allocation for Birmingham local authority is from the Safer Stronger Communities fund for 2005–06; and what the population of Birmingham local authority area is. [9175]

**Mr. Woolas:** The Safer Stronger Communities fund (SSCF) allocation from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) for Birmingham in 2005–06 and the population of Birmingham local authority area are detailed in the table:

*Safer Stronger Communities Fund*

| | |
|---|---|
| Region | West Midlands |
| Unitary/district/CDRP | Birmingham |
| Community Empowerment Networks (CENs) | £1,314,023 |
| Neighbourhood Management Pathfinders (NMPs) | — |
| Street crime wardens (SCW) | £229,343 |
| 2005–06 ODPM total | £1,543,366 |
| Population estimate | 992,100 |

**John Hemming:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what the allocation for Walsall local authority is from the Safer Stronger Communities fund for 2005–06; and what the population of Walsall local authority area is. [9176]

**Mr. Woolas:** The Safer Stronger Communities fund (SSCF) allocation from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) for Walsall in 2005–06 and the population of Walsall local authority area are detailed in the table:

*Safer Stronger Communities Fund*

| | |
|---|---|
| Region | West Midlands |
| Unitary/district/CDRP | Walsall |
| Community Empowerment Networks (CENs) | £562,142 |
| Neighbourhood Management Pathfinders (NMPs) | — |

*Safer Stronger Communities Fund*

| | |
|---|---|
| Street crime wardens (SCW) | — |
| 2005–06 ODPM total | £562,142 |
| Population estimate | 252,400 |

**John Hemming:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what the allocation for Wolverhampton local authority is from the Safer Stronger Communities fund for 2005–06; and what the population of Wolverhampton local authority area is. [9177]

**Mr. Woolas:** The Safer Stronger Communities fund (SSCF) allocation from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) for Wolverhampton in 2005–06 and the population of Wolverhampton local authority area are detailed in the table:

*Safer Stronger Communities Fund*

| Region | West Midlands |
|---|---|
| Unitary/district/CDRP | Wolverhampton |
| Community Empowerment Networks (CENs) | £602,392 |
| Neighbourhood Management Pathfinders (NMPs) | — |
| Street crime wardens (SCW) | £225,466 |
| 2005–06 ODPM total | £827,858 |
| Population estimate | 238,900 |

### Social Housing

**Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will provide additional support for Shrewsbury and Atcham borough council for the provision of social housing. [8696]

**Yvette Cooper:** Decisions on the overall funding for provision of additional social and other affordable housing in 2006–07 and 2007–08 through the Housing Corporation's Affordable Housing Programme will be taken over the summer. Detailed allocations to individual local authority areas will be made early next year in the light of priorities identified in Regional Housing Strategies and the quality and value for money of bids made to the Housing Corporation.

### Standards Board for England

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what the running costs were of the Standards Board for England in each of the last five years. [8296]

**Mr. Woolas:** Information on the amount of grant provided to the Standards Board for England each year is given as follows.

| | *Grant (£ million)* |
|---|---|
| 2001–02 | 2.646 |
| 2002–03 | 6.514 |
| 2003–04 | 8.944 |
| 2004–05 | 8.94 |
| 2005–06 (expected) | 9.181 |

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many cases were reported to the Standards Board for England in each of the last five years; and in how many cases standards were found to have been breached. [8297]

**Mr. Woolas:** Information on the total number of cases received each year by the Standards Board for England since its establishment, and the number of determinations where breaches of the code of conduct for members were confirmed, is given as follows.

| | *2002–03* | *2003–04* | *2004–05* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Total cases received by the Standards Board | 2,948 | 3,566 | 3,861 |
| Determinations made by the Adjudication Panel or local Standards Committees confirming a breach of the code | 29 | 162 | 119 |

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what the average cost of an investigation by the Standards Board for England was in 2004–05. [8303]

**Mr. Woolas:** The Standards Board for England estimates that the current average cost of an investigation into allegations of a breach of the code of conduct is around £5,000 per case.

### Surgery Car Parking

**Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what guidance he gives planning authorities concerning car parking requirements for *(a)* dental surgeries and *(b)* general practitioners surgeries in residential areas; and if he will make a statement. [9384]

**Yvette Cooper:** The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister has not given guidance on this specific topic. General guidance on parking in planning policy guidance note (PPG) 13 "Transport" stresses the need to restrict the amount of parking in new developments as part of a package of planning and transport measures, to promote sustainable travel choices. Local authorities should in development plan documents set maximum levels of parking for broad classes of development which may include surgeries, and parking for disabled people should be additional to these maximum parking standards.

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### Bovine TB

**Mr. Leigh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many cattle were slaughtered in the last recorded month as a result of bovine TB. [10116]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Latest provisional TB statistics for Great Britain indicate that 1,964 cattle were slaughtered as bovine tuberculosis reactors or direct contacts in May 2005.

### Environmental Policies

**Mark Lazarowicz:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will make a statement on her environmental priorities for the UK presidency of the European Union. [10114]

**Margaret Beckett:** A key priority is climate change action, working with EU partners and internationally, prior to the Kyoto convention meeting in Montreal. Also, progress on the "REACH" chemicals regulation and the EU Sustainable Development Strategy.

### EU Sugar Regime

14. **Mr. Dunne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will make a statement on the implications for the British sugar industry of the European Commission's proposals for reform of the EU sugar regime. [10121]

**Margaret Beckett:** The Commission's proposals are a step change towards removing the market distortions which stop UK processors and growers benefiting from their relative efficiency and comparative advantage. The package includes a voluntary restructuring scheme and decoupled support payments to help in the adjustment process.

### Fisheries

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many fatalities of UK fishermen she estimates were caused by fishing vessels operated by other EU states in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [9024]

**Dr. Ladyman:** I have been asked to reply.

The information requested is not held by the Department for Transport (DfT).

The Marine Accident Investigation Branch (MAIB) of DfT record details of fatalities aboard UK registered fishing vessels. From 1999 to 2004 there were 80 fatalities to crew of UK registered fishing vessels. The nationalities of these are not recorded, but are likely to be predominantly UK. None of these fatalities has been recorded by MAIB as involving a fishing vessel registered in another EU state.

### Fly-tipping

**Mark Tami:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what advice her Department gives to local authorities on measures to combat fly-tipping. [9208]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Guidance was issued to local authorities, and others, on the new powers to tackle fly-tipping that were included in the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 and which were commenced with effect from 7 June. The 2005 Act contains further powers for local authorities to issue fixed penalty notices for some offences. The Department is funding ENCAMS to provide training for local authorities on how to use these powers later in 2005, in advance of the powers being commenced in April 2006.

We are funding the Environment Agency through a project known as Flycapture Enforcement to provide additional training for local authority enforcement officers and local authority lawyers on how to successfully build cases against those responsible for fly-tipping offences and on hew to use the full range of enforcement powers that are now available to them. It is hoped that this training will be available from September.

Finally, we have commissioned the Jill Dando Institute of Crime Science to carry out research into the causes and incentives of fly-tipping. One of the outputs of this work will be a good practice guide for local authorities on effective strategies for reducing fly tipping levels in their area. This should be available in the spring of 2006.

### Newcastle Brown Ale

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what *(a)* product specification, *(b)* production and *(c)* content disclosures were required as a result of the granting of protected geographical indicator status to Newcastle Brown Ale in 1998; and in what form such disclosures were made. [9875]

**Jim Knight:** Newcastle Brown Ale was registered as a Protected Geographical Indication (PGI) under Article 17 of EC Regulation 2081/92 on the protection of geographical indications and designations of origin for agricultural products and foodstuffs. Article 17, which no longer applies, required the applicant to send the full product specification, including a list of raw materials and the method of production, to the competent authority in their member state. Article 17 did not require the publication of a summary specification in the *Official Journal* of the European Union. However, a copy of the, summary specification is available at www.defra.gov.uk/foodnn/foodname/UKingdom/newbrown.htm.

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what consultations were carried out on the proposed removal of protected geographical indicator status from Newcastle Brown Ale; in what form comments were sought; and how many replies were received. [9876]

**Jim Knight:** Defra wrote to the relevant industry organisations on 9 July 2004 and invited written comments from them. In addition, officials were already in correspondence with CAMRA (Campaign for Real Ale) about the application by the producers for cancellation of the registration of protected geographical indication status for Newcastle Brown Ale. The Department has, to date, received two replies, including the correspondence from CAMRA.

### Pet Cemeteries

**Mr. Andrew Turner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when the hon. Member for Wight will receive the substantive reply promised in the Prime Minister's letter of 2 June concerning his response of 25 May 2005, *Official Report*, column 699, about pet cemeteries. [10089]

**Mr. Bradshaw** *[holding answer 6 July 2005]:* I wrote to the hon. Member on 4 July and explained that I was taking up the issue with the Environment Agency on the subject of fees for the regulation of pet cemeteries. I will write to the hon. Member substantively in due course and place a copy of my letter in the Library.

## Press Officers

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many press officers the Department and its predecessors employed in each year since 1997; and what the cost was in each year. [8137]

**Jim Knight:** Defra was set up in June 2001. Figures relating to the number of press officers by the Departments subsumed into the new Department would not correspond accurately to the scope of the current press office.

Year on year comparisons since that date are as follows:

| *As at June* | *Press officers* |
|---|---|
| 2001 | 22 |
| 2002 | 22 |
| 2003 | 22 |
| 2004 | 18 |
| 2005 | 24 |

The numbers vary within the course of any one year.

The information on costs of press officers could be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, the salary and directly related costs for all permanent and temporary staff for both press officers and support staff were as follows:

| *Financial year* | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| 2001–02 | 1.3 |
| 2002–03 | 1.2 |
| 2003–04 | 1.1 |
| 2004–05 | 1.3 |

## Rural Pathfinders

**Charlotte Atkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will list the Rural Pathfinders in England; on what date each was established; and what outcomes they have achieved since inception. [10385]

**Jim Knight:** There are eight rural delivery pathfinders, one in each of the Government Office regions (outside London):

Dorset;

Fens area of Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Peterborough;

Hampshire;

Humber sub-region (covering East Riding of Yorkshire Council, North Lincolnshire and North East Lincolnshire);

Lancashire;

Peak District Rural Action Zone (covering the Derbyshire High Peak and Dales, Staffordshire Moorlands and East Staffordshire areas of the Peak District National Park);

Shropshire; and

West Durham (covering Teesdale and Wear Valley).

Announced as part of the Government's Rural Strategy in July 2004, the pathfinders were formally-launched on 14 March 2005 and will run through to April 2007. It is too early to expect outcomes from the work to date but the pathfinders have been working closely with their local and regional partners to develop a shared agreed business plan to tackle local priorities and identify practical solutions to gaps, blockages or failures in service delivery to rural customers.

**Charlotte Atkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the terms of reference of the Rural Pathfinder for the Peak District are; which other agencies are involved in its work; and if she will make a statement. [10416]

**Jim Knight:** As set out in the "pathfinders prospectus" published in March 2005, a copy of which has been made available in the Library of the House, the overall aim of the rural delivery pathfinders is to explore and test opportunities for more joined up, flexible and effective approaches to rural delivery at a local level. This includes innovation in rural development and delivery of services in rural areas, and better prioritisation of existing resources, in line with local priorities, towards areas, communities and people with the greatest needs. The prospectus sets out in more detail the overarching framework within which all pathfinders, including the one in the Peak District Rural Action Zone, are operating.

In the Peak District RAZ pathfinder, the focus is on access to services with particular emphasis on access to support a sustainable rural economy and community regeneration. Local priorities for action include affordable housing, sustainable tourism, promoting local distinctiveness, learning and skills, and enhancing and sustaining a high quality environment. More detail can be found in the outline business plan published at the pathfinders launch on 14 March 2005 (and to be found at http://wwwdefra.gov.uk/rural/ruraldelivery/pathfinders/default.htm)

From the outset the pathfinder has aimed for an inclusive approach; the cross-border nature of the area makes this imperative. The steering group formed to oversee the preparatory work for the pathfinder involves two Local Strategic Partnerships (Derbyshire and Staffordshire), six local authorities, a National Park Authority, a sub-regional Strategic Partnership, the voluntary and community sector, representation from the Natural England confederation, a Rural Community Council, a Government Office and RDA. further linkages are being developed with other partners within the East and West Midlands.

The pathfinders represent a key element of DEFRA's agenda to ensure that decisions on service delivery can be taken closer to the customer. We have allowed local areas to set the agenda for what they tackle. This is critical because we are embarked on a radical process of improving the way in which we support rural delivery, as outlined in Rural Strategy 2004. The pathfinders provide us and our delivery partners with an opportunity to recognise and respond to difficulties and opportunities and better meet rural needs.

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS

### Guinea-Bissau

**Mark Simmonds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment has been made of the *(a)* transparency and *(b)* legitimacy of the recent election in Guinea-Bissau. [9251]

**Ian Pearson:** The European Union Election Observation Mission, along with other international observers, considered the first round of presidential elections to have been peaceful and generally well administered in line with international principles for democratic elections. On 23 June the UN Security Council expressed its satisfaction with the peaceful and orderly manner in which the polls took place. We welcome the fact that all candidates have now accepted the results of the poll and encourage all parties in Guinea-Bissau to continue to respect the democratic process when the second round of elections takes place on 24 July.

### Liberia

**Mr. Rob Wilson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he has taken to facilitate the trial of former Liberian President Charles Taylor for violation of international humanitarian law. [9984]

**Ian Pearson:** The UK Government believe that Charles Taylor should face justice at the Special Court for Sierra Leone. We have made this clear to the Nigerian Government and will continue to do so. We remain in discussion with Nigeria and our international partners over the next steps.

### Witchcraft

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has passed to the Home Office information the Department has gathered on the impact on children of being accused of witchcraft, with particular reference to countries in Africa. [9119]

**Ian Pearson:** We have not to date passed any information on this subject to the Home Office because we do not hold anything relevant. We do, however, forward information from our overseas posts to home Departments where relevant.

## HEALTH

### Advertising Campaigns

**Mr. Andrew Turner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will list the health-related advertising campaigns commissioned since February 2002, indicating the *(a)* objectives, *(b)* start and end dates, *(c)* media used, *(d)* criteria used to assess the effectiveness, *(e)* extent to which effectiveness criteria were met, *(f)* agency used and *(g)* cost of each. [6726]

**Jane Kennedy** *[holding answer 23 June 2005]:* The Department's advertising is commissioned through the Central Office of Information. Expenditure from 2001–02 to 2004–05 is shown in the following table. Information on objectives, start and end dates, media used criteria used to assess the effectiveness, extent to which effectiveness criteria were met and agency used can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

£ million

| | Advertising expenditure | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Campaign | 2002–03 | 2003–04 | 2004–05 | 2005–06[1] |
| Antibiotics | 0.44 | 0.42 | — | — |
| Campaign against living miserably (CALM) | 0.10 | — | — | — |
| Drugs | 1.5 | 1.5 | 0.91 | 0.9 |
| Influenza | 2.0 | 1.6 | 1.5 | — |
| Hepatitis C | — | — | — | — |
| Immunisation | 1.0 | 2.0 | — | 0.01 |
| "Mind Out for Mental Health" | 0.15 | — | — | — |
| National health service, including nurse recruitment | 4.225 | 4.9 | 5.80 | .002 |
| NHS Direct | 0.58 | 0.75 | — | — |
| Organ donation | 0.21 | — | — | — |
| Prescription fraud | 0.30 | — | — | — |
| Sexwise/teenage pregnancy | 1.6 | 2.0 | — | — |
| Sexual health | 1.5 | 1.5 | 1.12 | — |
| NHS dentistry recruitment | — | — | 0.12 | — |
| Social/care worker recruitment | 1.23 | 4.62 | 1.80 | — |
| Smoking | 7.87 | 17.76 | 20.36 | 0.24 |
| Tuberculosis awareness | 0.09 | — | — | — |
| Winter—"Get the Right Treatment", "Ask about Medicines" day | 0.25 | 1.75 | 0.54 | — |
| E111 | — | — | 0.32 | 0.483 |
| Total | 23.045 | 38.8 | 32.4 | 1.635 |

[1] To date.

### Alcohol Abuse (Children)

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many children were admitted to hospital in each London strategic health authority owing to alcohol-related problems in 2004–05. [8205]

**Jane Kennedy:** The table shows the latest figures available for finished admission episodes and alcohol-related problems for under 18 age group in London strategic health authorities in 2003–04. Please note that "alcohol related" is not a clearly defined condition and there may be some differences in the diagnostic codes used for different cases. The table includes diagnosis codes for alcohol-related diseases, which are defined by a primary diagnosis of mental and behavioural disorders due to alcohol, alcoholic liver disease or toxic effect of alcohol.

*Counts of finished admission episodes for selected alcohol-related diseases[1] by London SHA of residence— Age at admission between 0–17 years*

| | | Finished admission episodes |
|---|---|---|
| Q04 | North West London | 86 |
| Q05 | North Central London | 62 |
| Q06 | North East London | 86 |
| Q07 | South East London | 88 |
| Q08 | South West London | 135 |
| | Total | 457 |

[1] Alcohol-related diseases defined as following ICD-10 codes recorded in primary diagnosis

F10 Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol

K70 Alcoholic liver disease

T51 Toxic effect of alcohol

Notes:

1. A finished admission episode is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. Please note that admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.

2. The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 14 (7 prior to 2002–03) diagnosis fields in the Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) data set and provides the main reason why the patient was in hospital.

3. Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are ungrossed).

*Source:*

Hospital episode statistics, Health and Social Care Information Centre.

### Asthma

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* adults and *(b)* children per 100 population diagnosed with asthma there are in each London borough. [8208]

**Jane Kennedy:** The Department does not collect figures on adults and children per 100 population diagnosed with asthma.

The table shows the count of finished admission episodes and counts per 100 population for admitted care episodes in national health service hospitals where asthma was the primary diagnosis, in each London local authority district of residence in 2003–04.

*Primary diagnosis asthma (ICD-10 codes 345–346). Finished admission episodes. London local authority of residence National health service hospitals, England 2003–04*

| | Finished admission episodes, 2003–04 | | | [1]Mid-2003 resident population estimates for all London boroughs | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Local authority of residence* | *Children (0–17)* | *Adults (18+)* | *All ages* | *Children (0–17)* | *Adults (18+)* | *All ages* |
| Barking and Dagenham | 84 | 139 | 223 | 42,769 | 123,093 | 165,862 |
| Barnet | 145 | 238 | 383 | 72,319 | 252,051 | 324,370 |
| Bexley | 115 | 156 | 271 | 51,028 | 168,051 | 219,079 |
| Brent | 122 | 207 | 329 | 58,128 | 209,638 | 267,766 |
| Bromley | 148 | 157 | 305 | 65,986 | 232,353 | 298,339 |
| Camden | 110 | 143 | 253 | 37,960 | 172,701 | 210,661 |
| City of London | * | * | — | 841 | 7,202 | 8,043 |
| Croydon | 196 | 242 | 438 | 80,205 | 256,483 | 336,688 |
| Ealing | 160 | 367 | 527 | 65,819 | 239,200 | 305,019 |
| Enfield | 106 | 122 | 228 | 65,288 | 215,061 | 280,349 |
| Greenwich | 127 | 245 | 372 | 52,233 | 171,453 | 223,686 |
| Hackney | 230 | 230 | 460 | 52,552 | 155,813 | 208,365 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 78 | 131 | 209 | 31,180 | 143,024 | 174,204 |
| Haringey | 111 | 126 | 237 | 50,045 | 174,683 | 224,728 |
| Harrow | 83 | 144 | 227 | 47,706 | 163,039 | 210,745 |
| Havering | 91 | 145 | 236 | 49,664 | 174,918 | 224,582 |
| Hillingdon | 79 | 178 | 257 | 57,282 | 190,367 | 247,649 |
| Hounslow | 98 | 240 | 338 | 47,918 | 164,993 | 212,911 |
| Islington | 91 | 137 | 228 | 35,223 | 144,890 | 180,113 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 45 | 74 | 119 | 29,339 | 145,020 | 174,359 |
| Kingston upon Thames | 80 | 98 | 178 | 31,135 | 119,272 | 150,407 |
| Lambeth | 165 | 234 | 399 | 55,463 | 213,083 | 268,546 |
| Lewisham | 186 | 173 | 359 | 56,596 | 191,733 | 248,329 |
| Merton | 103 | 106 | 209 | 40,128 | 151,270 | 191,398 |
| Newham | 148 | 237 | 385 | 69,702 | 180,947 | 250,649 |
| Redbridge | 112 | 178 | 290 | 58,062 | 187,063 | 245,125 |
| Richmond upon Thames | 54 | 135 | 189 | 36,718 | 142,493 | 179,211 |
| Southwark | 178 | 261 | 439 | 55,470 | 198,344 | 253,814 |
| Sutton | 116 | 90 | 206 | 41,258 | 137,281 | 178,539 |

*Primary diagnosis asthma (ICD-10 codes 345–346). Finished admission episodes. London local authority of residence National health service hospitals, England 2003–04*

| Local authority of residence | Finished admission episodes, 2003–04 | | | [1]Mid-2003 resident population estimates for all London boroughs | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Children (0–17) | Adults (18+) | All ages | Children (0–17) | Adults (18+) | All ages |
| Tower Hamlets | 88 | 192 | 280 | 50,323 | 156,266 | 206,589 |
| Waltham Forest | 123 | 192 | 315 | 51,742 | 169,835 | 221,577 |
| Wandsworth | 106 | 211 | 317 | 46,028 | 228,120 | 274,148 |
| Westminster, City of | 73 | 104 | 177 | 32,621 | 189,397 | 222,018 |
| London total | 3,751 | 5,632 | 9,383 | 1,618,731 | 5,769,137 | 7,387,868 |

| Local authority of residence | Percentage of finished admission episodes in resident population | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Children (0–17) | Adults (18+) | All ages |
| Barking and Dagenham | 0.20 | 0.11 | 0.13 |
| Barnet | 0.20 | 0.09 | 0.12 |
| Bexley | 0.23 | 0.09 | 0.12 |
| Brent | 0.21 | 0.10 | 0.12 |
| Bromley | 0.22 | 0.07 | 0.10 |
| Camden | 0.29 | 0.08 | 0.12 |
| City of London | — | — | — |
| Croydon | 0.24 | 0.09 | 0.13 |
| Ealing | 0.24 | 0.15 | 0.17 |
| Enfield | 0.16 | 0.06 | 0.08 |
| Greenwich | 0.24 | 0.14 | 0.17 |
| Hackney | 0.44 | 0.15 | 0.22 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 0.25 | 0.09 | 0.12 |
| Haringey | 0.22 | 0.07 | 0.11 |
| Harrow | 0.17 | 0.09 | 0.11 |
| Havering | 0.18 | 0.08 | 0.11 |
| Hillingdon | 0.14 | 0.09 | 0.10 |
| Hounslow | 0.20 | 0.15 | 0.16 |
| Islington | 0.26 | 0.09 | 0.13 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 0.15 | 0.05 | 0.07 |
| Kingston upon Thames | 0.26 | 0.08 | 0.12 |
| Lambeth | 0.30 | 0.11 | 0.15 |
| Lewisham | 0.33 | 0.09 | 0.14 |
| Merton | 0.26 | 0.07 | 0.11 |
| Newham | 0.21 | 0.13 | 0.15 |
| Redbridge | 0.19 | 0.10 | 0.12 |
| Richmond upon Thames | 0.15 | 0.09 | 0.11 |
| Southwark | 0.32 | 0.13 | 0.17 |
| Sutton | 0.28 | 0.07 | 0.12 |
| Tower Hamlets | 0.17 | 0.12 | 0.14 |
| Waltham Forest | 0.24 | 0.11 | 0.14 |
| Wandsworth | 0.23 | 0.09 | 0.12 |
| Westminster, City of | 0.22 | 0.05 | 0.08 |
| London total | 0.23 | 0.10 | 0.13 |

[1] Mid-2003 Resident Population Estimates for all London boroughs is provided by Demography and Geography, Health and Social Care Information Centre

*Notes:*

*Finished admission episodes*

A finished admission episode is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. Please note that admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.

*Diagnosis (Primary Diagnosis)*

The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 14 (7 prior to 2002–03) diagnosis fields in the Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) data set and provides the main reason why the patient was in hospital.

*Ungrossed Data*

Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are ungrossed).

*Low Numbers*

Due to reasons of confidentiality, figures between 1 and 5 have been suppressed and replaced with "*".

*Source:*

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), Health and Social Care Information Centre

### Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she has made of the number of children diagnosed with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder in each year since 1997. [9912]

**Mr. Byrne:** This information is not collected centrally. The National Institute for Clinical Excellence appraisal of the use of Methylphenidate in treating attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), published in October 2000, estimated the prevalence of all types of

ADHD at around 5 per cent., of school-aged children, or approximately 345,000 six to 16-year-olds in England.

### Bacteriophages

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the suitability of bacteriophage in methods to reduce MRSA infection; and what representations she has received on such suitability. [3360]

**Jane Kennedy:** The available evidence suggests that bacteriophages may have a role in helping to control health care acquired infections, such as methicillin-resistant "Staphylococcus aureus" (MRSA). It is for any company or individual, who believes they have a product that has an effective role to play in combating health care acquired infections to refer to the rapid review panel, when appropriate.

### Blood Donations

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people have given blood in London in each of the last five years. [8312]

**Jane Kennedy:** Information on the number of donors and donations of blood collected in the Greater London area between 2000 and 2005 is shown in the table.

*Thousand*

| | *Active donors* | *Collections* |
|---|---|---|
| 2000–01 | 188.5 | —[1] |
| 2001–02 | 176.8 | 238.6 |
| 2002–03 | 172.5 | 226.3 |
| 2003–04 | 164.8 | 216.7 |
| 2004–05 | 152.9 | 196.0 |

[1] The National Blood Service (NBS) collects such information in a different geographical format, so it is unable to provide information on the number of collections in the Greater London area for 2000–01.

*Source:*
NBS

### Children's Hospices

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will list children's hospices, broken down by region; and if she will make a statement. [8045]

**Mr. Byrne:** There are now 35 registered children's hospices in England. In addition, a small number are at the planning stage. A full list of the current hospices is shown in the following table.

*Registered children's hospices in England*

| *Hospice* | |
|---|---|
| *South East* | |
| Chestnut Tree House | Arundel |
| Christopher's (Children's Hospice) | Guildford |
| Demelza House Children's Hospice | Sittingbourne |
| Helen House and Douglas House | Oxfordshire |
| Naomi House Children's Hospice | Winchester |
| *London* | |
| Richard House Children's Hospice | Beckton, London |
| Haven House | Woodford Green, London |
| *South West* | |
| Children's Hospice South West | Barnstaple |
| *East of England* | |
| East Anglia Children's Hospice | Ipswich |
| East Anglia Children's Hospice | Milton, Cambridge |
| East Anglia Children's Hospice | Quidenham, Norwich |
| Pasque Hospice | Luton |
| Little Haven Children's Hospice | Benfleet, Essex |
| *West Midlands* | |
| Acorns Children's Hospice | Birmingham |
| Acorns Children's Hospice | Walsall |
| Hope House Children's Respite Hospice | Oswestry |
| The Donna Louise Trust | Stoke on Trent |
| *East Midlands* | |
| The Leicestershire and Rutland Hospice | Leicester Loughborough |
| Rainbow Children's Hospice | |
| *North West* | |
| Zoe's Place (baby hospice) | Liverpool |
| Claire House Children's Hospice | Bebington, Wirral |
| Derian House Children's Hospice | Chorley |
| Life Health Centre | Liverpool |
| Trinity—The Hospice In The Fylde | Bispham |
| Francis House | Manchester |
| Eden Valley Hospice | Carlisle |
| *North East* | |
| Butterwick Hospice Children's Unit | Stockton on Tees |
| Butterwick Hospice Stockton | Stockton on Tees |
| St. Oswald's Children's Hospice | Newcastle upon Tyne |
| St. Oswald's Hospice | Newcastle upon Tyne |
| Zoe's Place | Normanby, Middlesbrough |
| *Yorkshire and The Humber* | |
| Martin House | Wetherby |
| St. Andrew's Children's Hospice | Grimsby |
| St. Andrew's Hospice | Grimsby |
| St. Hugh's Hospital | Grimsby |

### Departmental Advertising Expenditure

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much *(a)* the Department and *(b)* non-departmental bodies for which the Department is responsible spent on advertising in 2004–05, broken down by media type. [8019]

**Jane Kennedy:** Media spend on advertising for the Department for 2004–05 was £32.7 million. The breakdown is shown in the following table.

*£ million*

| *Media type* | *Amount* |
|---|---|
| Press | 6.8 |
| Regional press | 2.1 |
| Television | 17.8 |
| Radio | 3.5 |
| Outdoor posters | 2.3 |
| Online | 0.2 |

We have no central record of advertising spend by non-departmental bodies, and could not obtain these without incurring disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Advice

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when her Department's advice "Clostridium Difficile:

Infection Prevention and Management" was last reviewed; and what plans she has to audit compliance with it. [8017]

**Jane Kennedy:** "Clostridium Difficile: Infection Prevention and Management" has not been formally reviewed, but we will be discussing options for this with the Health Protection Agency, in light of the lessons we have learned since its publication and any recommendations that may arise from the Healthcare Commission inquiry into the recent *Clostridium Difficile* outbreak. The guidance is still relevant in its current form. There are no plans for an audit for compliance with this guidance.

### Diagnostic and Treatment Centres

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will list diagnostic and treatment centres, broken down by *(a)* location and *(b)* specialism. [6810]

**Mr. Byrne:** The information requested has been placed in the Library.

### Diversity Training

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether *(a)* medical students and *(b)* student nurses receive diversity training; and what research the Government have commissioned on the effects of diversity training for (i) medical students and (ii) student nurses. [9615]

**Mr. Byrne:** The Department does not set the curriculums for health professional training. This is a matter for the statutory and professional bodies. However, we do share a commitment with them that all health professionals are trained to acquire, the skills and knowledge to deliver a high quality health service to the diverse range of individuals, cultures and groups with whom they have contact.

### East Sussex Hospitals Trust

**Mr. Waterson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health on what dates the Department's Recovery and Support Unit visited East Sussex Hospitals Trust; whether it has reported to Ministers; and what actions she plans to take as a result of their intervention. [9782]

**Caroline Flint:** The Department's recovery and support unit (RSU) has not visited the East Sussex Hospitals National Health Service Trust.

In line with "Shifting the Balance of Power", the RSU addresses all performance issues, including performance at the East Sussex Trust, through the Surrey and Sussex Strategic Health Authority (SHA). It is not standard practice for the RSU to intervene directly with trusts.

The RSU continues to discuss specific performance issues relating to East Sussex Hospitals NHS Trust with the SHA.

### Ethical Recruitment

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of recruiting agencies used by the NHS were signed up to the Department's Code of Practice on ethical recruitment in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [9823]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answer 5 July 2005]:* Compliance with the code is recorded on the NHS Employers' website at: www.nhsemployers.org/doc/recruitment_code_of_practice.pdf.

115 recruitment agencies were invited to sign up to the code via the website at the end of 2002. By February 2003, 64 agencies had replied with confirmation that they complied with the provisions of the code. By August 2004, the number had increased to 164.

A revised code was published in December 2004, which tightened arrangements for locum recruitment and the private sector.

As at June 2005, the number of agencies currently named on the Code of Practice website is 237.

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what measures are in place to ensure that the NHS abides by its Code of Practice on ethical recruitment. [9824]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answer 5 July 2005]:* A list of commercial recruitment agencies compliant with the Code of Practice is kept on the NHS Employers' website at www.nhsemployers.org/workforce/list_of_agencies.asp

NHS Employers monitors the use of agencies by the national health service and checks that the agency used is on the website list.

NHS Employers checks that agencies are compliant with the code and makes inquiries if there is evidence an NHS employer or an agency is in breach of the code.

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what measures are in place to ensure that the NHS does not recruit from the private sector health care workers who have migrated to the UK from countries which would be excluded under her Department's Code of Practice on ethical recruitment had they been recruited directly into the NHS. [9825]

**Mr. Byrne:** *[holding answer 5 July 2005]:* A person given leave to remain in the United Kingdom enjoys the same protection from racial discrimination and access to equal opportunities as other UK nationals when seeking employment.

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what measures are in place to ensure that the NHS does not contract out services to private sector organisations which have not signed up to the Department's Code of Practice on ethical recruitment. [9826]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answer 5 July 2005]:* The Code of Practice covers the recruitment and employment of health care professionals. Compliance with the Code of Practice is a contractual obligation for all independent sector providers and recruitment agencies working with the national health service.

### General Practitioner Cover

**Mr. Willis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was allocated by her Department in each primary care trust in England for out-of-hours general practitioner services in *(a)* 2003–04, *(b)* 2004–05 and *(c)* 2005–06; and if she will make a statement. [6231]

**Mr. Byrne:** Information showing the amount of money allocated by the Department to each primary care trust in England for out-of-hours general practitioner services in 2003–04, 2004–05 and 2005–06 has been placed in the Library.

### Healthcare-associated Infections

**Mr. Hendrick:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she will introduce legislation to combat healthcare-associated infection; and if she will make a statement. [10922]

**Jane Kennedy:** I will be publishing tomorrow a consultation document that sets out detailed proposals for tackling health care associated infections, as outlined in the Gracious Speech. Copies will be available in the Library, and on the Department's website at: www.dh.gov.uk/Consultations/LiveConsultations/fs/en.

### Hospital Admissions (Accidents)

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the rate of hospital admission for serious accidental injury has been per 100,000 population in each year since 1995. [9515]

**Caroline Flint:** The available trend data for rate of hospital admission for serious accidental injury are shown in the table.

*Age standardized hospital admission rate for serious accidental injury per 100,000 population*

| *Financial year* | *Number of persons, all ages, England* |
|---|---|
| 1995–96 | 315.9 |
| 1996–97 | 319.3 |
| 1997–98 | 314.3 |
| 1998–99 | 319.1 |
| 1999–2000 | 324.9 |
| 2000–01 | 313.4 |
| 2001–02 | 312.7 |
| 2002–03 | 327.8 |

Notes:
1. Serious accidental injury is defined as an accidental injury resulting in a hospital in-patient stay exceeding three days. The data are estimates derived from information held in the hospital episode statistics system, which contains details of patients admitted to and treated in national health service hospitals in England.
2. Rates are directly age-standardised rates per 100,000 population, standardised against the European standard population.

### Influenza Pandemic

**Patrick Mercer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what plans the Government has for emergency assistance to the national infrastructure in the event of an influenza pandemic; [8892]

(2) whether the Health Protection Agency has carried out an assessment of the economic impact of an influenza pandemic; [8894]

(3) what plans the Health Protection Agency has for mortuary facilities in the event of an influenza pandemic; and whether the plans have been rehearsed. [8898]

**Caroline Flint:** The Department, as lead Department, is working with the Civil Contingencies Secretariat (CCS) and with other Departments on cross-Government preparations for an influenza pandemic. One of the issues being covered in this work is the possible economic impact of a influenza pandemic on the United Kingdom as a whole, taking into account the uncertainty about the nature and scale of a pandemic and its impact. This work is being informed by the Health Protection Agency (HPA) which supports the Department through the provision of expert advice and some operational capacity.

Good business continuity planning will reduce the impact of an influenza pandemic and Government Departments are working closely with key national industries to ensure they are as prepared as possible. The Home Office is assessing whether existing public and national health service mortuaries can cope with excess deaths during an influenza pandemic—in order to identify what extraordinary arrangements might be required to enhance current arrangements, including the provision of additional temporary facilities for the storage of bodies ahead of funerals taking place.

**Patrick Mercer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans the Health Protection Agency has for the provision of hospital beds in the event of an influenza pandemic. [8901]

**Caroline Flint:** The provision of hospital beds in the event of an influenza pandemic is the responsibility of local national health service trusts, and is not a matter for the Health Protection Agency. The NHS is experienced in managing demand for hospitals beds, and local trusts will have plans in place to deal with increased demand.

In order to assist the NHS in planning for an influenza pandemic, the Department has published the United Kingdom influenza pandemic contingency plan and also the operational guidance for NHS planners. Both these documents make clear that NHS organisations will need to prepare for significant demand for services, and the UK plan gives guidance on the level of demand that the NHS might expect.

### London SHAs (Staff)

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people are directly employed as *(a)* medical and dental staff and *(b)* non-medical staff in each London strategic health authority. [8016]

**Jane Kennedy:** The information requested is shown in the table.

*National health service hospital and community health services: total non-medical staff employed by specified organisations by main staff group as at 30 September 2004*

*Headcount*

| | *London SHAs North Central* | *North East* | *North West* | *South East* | *South West* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| All staff | 161 | 191 | 131 | 148 | 106 |
| Medical and dental staff | 8 | 11 | 5 | 6 | 4 |
| All non-medical staff | 153 | 180 | 126 | 142 | 102 |
| *of which:* | | | | | |
| Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting | 5 | 11 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Central functions | 44 | 125 | 45 | 57 | 9 |
| Managers and senior managers | 104 | 44 | 81 | 83 | 93 |

*Source:*
Health and Social Care Information Centre Non-Medical Workforce Census 2004
Health and Social Care Information Centre Medical and Dental Workforce Census 2004

### Lung Disease

**John Cummings:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people in the Easington primary care trust area suffer from *(a)* chronic bronchitis and emphysema and *(b)* pneumoconiosis. [8938]

**Mr. Byrne:** Data on the incidence of chronic bronchitis and emphysemia and pneumoconiosis are not available centrally.

These conditions are all very closely related and represent one of the most important conditions in the United Kingdom and one of the commonest reasons for admission to hospital. The principle cause is smoking. The national service framework (NSF) for coronary heart disease already has a reduction in cigarette smoking as one of its major targets. We have also banned tobacco advertising and made smoking reduction aids available on national health service prescription. Less important contributory factors are atmospheric pollution and recurrent chest infections.

Strategic health authorities and primary care trusts have all received the NSF for long-term conditions. While the NSF is principally concerned with improving health and social care services for people with a long-term neurological condition, it will address some of the generic issues that are important to people living with a disability that is not necessarily neurological in origin. The principles in the NSF apply equally to improving quality of life and promoting independent living for anyone living with a long-term condition.

### Lutein/Zeaxanthin

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will take steps to enable the drugs *(a)* Lutein and *(b)* Zeaxanthin to be made available on prescription; and if she will make a statement. [1986]

**Jane Kennedy:** We have no plans to make Lutein and Zeaxanthin available on prescription on the national health service.

### NHS Direct

**Julia Goldsworthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many complaints have been made by members of the public regarding the service they received from NHS Direct; and how many were upheld. [6289]

**Mr. Byrne:** I understand from the chair of NHS Direct that during the year April 2004 to March 2005 NHS Direct answered 6,584,000 calls. From these calls, NHS Direct received 1,469 complaints. Of these complaints, 1,128 were able to be resolved locally and 341 required further escalation.

Following investigation, 153 of the complaints were upheld, approximately 0.002 per cent., of the total calls answered.

**Frank Dobson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reasons she is proposing to change the status of NHS Direct. [9093]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answer 4 July 2005]:* The proposed change in the status of NHS Direct is a natural progression of its development to provide and develop responsive health information and advice to the public. It is part of the wider review of arm's length bodies (ALBs) by the Department, which was published in July 2004 by the then Secretary of State for Health. The review set out an overall strategy to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the ALB sector, resulting in a reduction in their number. In the ALB review, a commitment was made to work with NHS Direct to change its governance arrangements.

### NHS Professionals

**Anne Milton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what percentage of NHS trusts implemented NHS professionals by the end of April; [8785]

(2) what NHS professionals' budget *(a)* was in 2004–05 and *(b)* is in 2005–06. [8786]

**Mr. Byrne:** In April 2005, NHS professionals was providing services to 43 per cent. (102) of the 236 national health service trusts in England.

NHS professionals' central budget allocation from the Department was £30.5 million in 2004–05 and is £23 million in 2005–06.

### NHS Trust Deficits

**Frank Dobson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the Bradford Acute Trust was in deficit before it became a Foundation Trust. [10012]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answer 5 July 2005]:* The Bradford Teaching Hospitals National Health Service Trust moved to Foundation Trust status on 1 April

2004. The retained surplus or deficit of the Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust for the year 1 April 2003 to 31 March 2004 was zero, as reported by the audited summarisation schedules for the trust.

### NHS Trusts (Financial Consultants)

**Anne Main:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much each NHS trust spent on external financial consultants during the financial period *(a)* 2001–02, *(b)* 2002–03, *(c)* 2003–04 and *(d)* 2004–05. [8731]

**Mr. Byrne:** The information requested is not collected centrally.

### Nurses

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many nursing vacancies there were on 31 May, broken down by primary care trust; and if she will make a statement. [8233]

**Mr. Byrne:** The information requested is not available centrally for 31 May 2005.

### Scanning Services

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting time for a scan in County Durham and Tees Valley Strategic Health Authority area was in the last period for which figures are available. [9760]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answer 5 July 2005]:* This data are not collected centrally.

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many residents of Sacriston have had scans carried out by Alliance Medical; [9761]

(2) how many residents of Great Lumley have had scans carried out by Alliance Medical. [10382]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answer 5 July 2005]:* The information requested is not centrally available.

**Mr. Davey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she has made of waiting times for routine MRI scans in *(a)* Kingston and Surbiton, *(b)* South West London, *(c)* London and *(d)* England. [8340]

**Mr. Byrne:** No estimate has been made, as the Department has not previously collected data on diagnostic waits.

### Sexual Health

**John Cummings:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many young people between the ages of 16 and 18 years have been diagnosed with a sexually transmitted disease in the Easington Primary Care Trust area in the last three years; [8936]

(2) how many cases of sexually transmitted diseases have been diagnosed in the Easington Primary Care Trust area in each of the last three years, broken down by disease. [8937]

**Mr. Byrne:** This information is not collected centrally. However, the information can be obtained from the Health Protection Agency at genito urinary medicine (GUM) clinic level. There is no GUM clinic in the Easington Primary Care Trust area.

### Sickness Absence

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the rate of sickness absence for *(a)* medical staff, *(b)* non-medical clinical staff and *(c)* all other staff has been in each (i) primary care trust and (ii) strategic health authority in London in each year since 1997. [8245]

**Jane Kennedy:** Sickness absence rates are not collected for different groups of staff. However, the table shows a single sickness absence figure for each London national health service organisation between 1999 and 2004.

*Sickness and absence rates for London organisations: 1999–2004*

| | *Organisation* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5H1 | Hammersmith and Fulham Primary Care Trust (PCT) | — | — | — | 7.5 | 4.2 | 3.2 |
| 5HX | Ealing PCT | — | — | — | 3.6 | 3.4 | 3.9 |
| 5HY | Hounslow PCT | — | — | — | 8.8 | 4.3 | 3.2 |
| 5K5 | Brent PCT | — | — | — | 2.6 | 5.0 | 4.5 |
| 5K6 | Harrow PCT | — | — | — | 3.8 | 4.7 | 5.4 |
| 5K7 | Camden PCT | — | — | — | 4.9 | 5.3 | 4.7 |
| 5K8 | Islington PCT | — | — | — | 3.9 | 3.9 | 4.0 |
| 5K9 | Croydon PCT | — | — | — | 5.8 | 5.1 | 4.0 |
| 5LA | Kensington and Chelsea PCT | — | — | — | 4.8 | 4.4 | 4.5 |
| 5LC | Westminster PCT | — | — | — | 2.3 | 4.4 | 3.7 |
| 5LD | Lambeth PCT | — | — | — | 4.1 | 7.6 | 4.3 |
| 5LE | Southwark PCT | — | — | — | 5.3 | 5.5 | 3.5 |
| 5LF | Lewisham PCT | — | — | — | 4.4 | 6.8 | 3.4 |
| 5LG | Wandsworth PCT | — | — | — | 3.9 | 4.1 | 4.4 |
| 5M6 | Richmond and Twickenham PCT | — | — | — | 4.2 | 3.4 | 3.7 |
| 5M7 | Sutton and Merton PCT | — | — | — | 3.6 | 5.1 | 5.1 |
| 5NA | Redbridge PCT | — | — | — | — | 6.4 | 6.0 |
| 5NC | Waltham Forest PCT | — | — | — | — | 4.8 | 5.9 |
| Q04 | North West London Strategic Health Authority (SHA) | — | — | — | 1.1 | 1.5 | 2.2 |
| Q05 | North Central London SHA | — | — | — | — | 1.7 | 1.5 |
| Q06 | North East London SHA | — | — | — | 2.2 | 1.8 | 2.1 |
| Q07 | South East London SHA | — | — | — | 0.1 | 0.6 | 1.1 |
| Q08 | South West London SHA | — | — | — | 3.2 | 1.0 | 2.0 |
| RAL | Royal Free NHS Trust | — | 4.5 | 3.5 | 4.5 | 3.5 | 3.9 |
| RAN | Royal National Orthopaedic NHS Trust | 5.1 | 3.9 | 2.9 | 4.6 | 4.7 | 4.0 |

*Sickness and absence rates for London organisations: 1999–2004*

| | Organisation | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| RAP | North Middlesex Hospital NHS Trust | 4.0 | 5.9 | — | 5.3 | 6.5 | 5.4 |
| RAS | Hillingdon Hospital NHS Trust | 4.6 | 4.1 | 4.1 | 4.5 | 5.4 | 5.2 |
| RAT | North East London Mental Health NHS Trust | — | — | 4.1 | 4.9 | 4.6 | 4.0 |
| RAX | Kingston Hospital NHS Trust | 5.6 | 3.2 | — | 4.8 | 4.0 | 3.7 |
| RC3 | Ealing Hospital NHS Trust | 3.0 | 4.4 | 4.2 | 4.0 | 3.9 | 3.7 |
| RF4 | Barking, Havering and Redbridge Hospitals NHS Trust | — | — | 3.8 | 3.9 | 4.1 | 4.4 |
| RFW | West Middlesex University NHS Trust | 3.7 | 4.2 | — | 4.1 | 4.0 | 3.4 |
| RG2 | Greenwich Healthcare NHS Trust | 3.6 | — | — | 4.5 | 4.0 | 3.9 |
| RG3 | Bromley Hospitals NHS Trust | 5.2 | 5.4 | — | 6.4 | 5.3 | 4.3 |
| RGC | Whipps Cross University Hospital NHS Trust | — | — | — | 4.8 | 2.7 | 3.5 |
| RGZ | Queen Mary's, Sidcup NHS Trust | 4.5 | 4.6 | 4.8 | 5.0 | 4.9 | 4.6 |
| RJ1 | Guys and St. Thomas's NHS Trust | — | 3.6 | 3.6 | 3.4 | 3.7 | 3.6 |
| RJ2 | Lewisham Hospital NHS Trust | 3.8 | 3.3 | 4.5 | 5.2 | 5.2 | 5.1 |
| RJ5 | St. Mary's Hospital NHS Trust | — | 3.9 | — | — | 2.3 | 4.1 |
| RJ6 | Mayday Health Care NHS Trust | 4.5 | — | — | 4.4 | 4.0 | 4.0 |
| RJ7 | St. George's Group NHS Trust | 4.8 | 3.4 | 4.0 | 3.6 | 4.2 | 4.2 |
| RJZ | King's Healthcare NHS Trust | 4.7 | 4.6 | 4.2 | 3.9 | 3.9 | 3.7 |
| RKE | Whittington Hospital NHS Trust | — | 5.5 | 3.8 | 3.8 | 4.8 | 6.0 |
| RKL | West London Mental Health NHS Trust | — | — | 6.8 | 5.7 | 6.1 | 5.7 |
| RNH | Newham Healthcare NHS Trust | 4.2 | 5.0 | 4.9 | 4.8 | 4.7 | 4.6 |
| RNJ | Royal Hospital of St. Bartholomew, The Royal London Hospital and London Chest Hospital NHS Trust | — | 3.5 | 3.7 | 3.6 | 3.5 | 3.3 |
| RNK | Tavistock and Portman NHS Trust | — | 2.9 | 1.5 | 2.5 | 1.9 | 1.9 |
| RP4 | Great Ormond Street Hospital For Sick Children NHS Trust | — | 3.6 | 3.5 | 3.9 | 3.2 | 3.3 |
| RP6 | Moorfields Eye Hospital NHS Trust | — | 3.1 | 4.1 | 4.5 | 5.4 | 3.6 |
| RPG | Oxleas NHS Trust | 4.7 | 5.4 | 5.8 | 6.1 | 5.2 | 5.2 |
| RPY | Royal Marsden Hospital NHS Trust | 2.5 | — | 4.4 | 4.7 | 3.9 | 4.3 |
| RQM | Chelsea and Westminster Healthcare NHS Trust | 3.7 | 2.0 | 3.7 | 3.5 | 3.7 | 3.8 |
| RQN | Hammersmith Hospitals NHS Trust | — | 3.7 | 3.9 | 4.0 | 3.7 | 3.6 |
| RQX | Homerton Hospital NHS Trust | 4.0 | 4.9 | 4.3 | 4.8 | 4.1 | 4.3 |
| RQY | South West London and St. George's Mental Health NHS Trust | 7.1 | 4.7 | 5.7 | 3.9 | 4.4 | 4.8 |
| RRP | Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Mental Health NHS Trust | — | — | 4.8 | 3.2 | 4.1 | 4.2 |
| RRU | London Ambulance Service NHS Trust | 7.8 | — | 7.5 | 6.7 | 6.6 | 6.4 |
| RRV | University College London Hospitals NHS Trust | — | 3.9 | 4.4 | 3.7 | 3.9 | 3.3 |
| RT3 | Royal Brompton and Harefield NHS Trust | — | — | 5.4 | 3.4 | 3.4 | 3.4 |
| RV3 | Brent, Kensington, Chelsea and Westminster Mental Health NHS Trust | 4.6 | 5.2 | — | 4.5 | 4.3 | 4.0 |
| RV5 | South London and Maudsley NHS Trust | — | 2.9 | 3.8 | 5.1 | 6.2 | 5.0 |
| RV8 | North West London Hospitals NHS Trust | 3.1 | 2.4 | 3.4 | 3.4 | 3.7 | 3.4 |
| RVL | Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust | 3.2 | 3.7 | — | 3.9 | 3.2 | 3.1 |
| RVR | Epsom and St. Helier NHS Trust | 3.5 | 2.7 | 3.5 | 5.5 | 4.5 | 3.6 |
| RWK | East London and the City Mental Health NHS Trust | — | 6.5 | 4.8 | 5.0 | 4.6 | 5.0 |
| TAF | Camden and Islington Mental Health and Social Care Trust | — | — | — | 4.9 | 5.1 | 4.8 |
| TAK | Bexley Care Trust | — | — | — | — | 3.7 | 3.8 |
| 5A4 | Havering PCT | — | — | 5.5 | 5.2 | 5.3 | 6.0 |
| 5A5 | Kingston PCT | — | — | — | 4.0 | 4.1 | 4.2 |
| 5A7 | Bromley PCT | — | — | 5.8 | 5.3 | 5.6 | 5.3 |
| 5A8 | Greenwich PCT | — | — | — | 4.2 | 4.1 | 3.7 |
| 5A9 | Barnet PCT | — | — | — | — | 4.7 | 4.3 |
| 5AT | Hillingdon PCT | — | — | 3.5 | 7.1 | 4.5 | 5.1 |
| 5C1 | Enfield PCT | — | — | 3.4 | 3.0 | 3.5 | 3.7 |
| 5C2 | Barking and Dagenham PCT | — | — | 3.0 | 3.5 | 2.6 | 4.7 |
| 5C3 | City and Hackney PCT | — | — | 4.9 | 4.5 | 4.9 | 5.6 |
| 5C4 | Tower Hamlets PCT | — | — | 3.4 | 6.6 | 6.2 | 5.7 |
| 5C5 | Newham PCT | — | — | — | 4.3 | 4.2 | 4.4 |
| 5C9 | Haringey PCT | — | — | 3.9 | 2.4 | 3.6 | 3.9 |

*Notes:*

1. Sickness absence rate is defined as the amount of time lost through absences as a percentage of staff time available. This does not cover maternity leave, carers' leave or any periods of absence agreed under family friendly/flexible working policies.
2. General practitioners and their staff are not included in the above figures.
3. "—" values indicate that either no response was made by the organisation or the organisation did not yet exist in that year.

*Source:*

Department of Health sickness absence surveys 1999–2003.
NHS Health and Social Care Information Centre sickness absence survey 2004.

### Social Care

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how pilot areas will be chosen to test the proposals for individual budgets for social care. [9441]

**Mr. Byrne:** The programme of individual budget pilots is still in the early stages of development. We are working closely with older people, disabled people, other users and stakeholders to establish an appropriate mechanism to test the individual budget model and select local authority areas for piloting. We anticipate that pilot areas will cover a range of geographical locations and local authority types. "Improving the Life Chances of Disabled People" also recommended working with organisations that are already making progress in this area.

### South West London and St. George's Mental Health Trust

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many staff have been killed by residents of in-patient wards in South West London and St. George's Mental Health Trust in each of the last 10 years; [8633]

(2) what steps are being taken to ensure the safety of staff working in psychiatric hospitals in South West London and St. George's Mental Health Trust; [8634]

(3) which categories of staff within the South West London and St. George's Mental Health Trust have access to risk assessments of mental health in-patients. [8639]

**Jane Kennedy:** The South West London Strategic Health Authority has reported that one member of staff was killed by an in-patient of the trust in 2003. The trust has a number of measures in place to protect its staff, which include:

Reports of all incidents of violence to staff to the national health service security management service and active pursuit of prosecution. It has secured five convictions to date.

Staff are supported by a police liaison officer, an ex-policeman, who ensures prompt police response to trust concerns.

A zero tolerance policy for drugs and alcohol, as these are elements that contribute to violence and aggression.

Regular drug dog searches are conducted on all trust sites, in conjunction with Wandsworth Prison.

Risk assessments are conducted on all patients.

All staff have risk assessment training.

All working areas have completed lone working assessments and have action plans in place to reduce the risk of working alone, both on trust sites and in the community.

There is a programme of new build to ensure that the buildings are fit for purpose and are safe for both patients and staff.

A leadership and development programme is under way for all ward managers, which includes improving the therapeutic environment of the wards; a poor therapeutic environment contributes to violence.

The trust took part in the Healthcare Commission national audit of violence and is implementing learning points from this work.

Robust inquiries are conducted into all serious incidents. Learning points are identified and where necessary support is given to particular wards where there may be patients with challenging behaviour.

Risk assessments are shared with members of the multidisciplinary team who directly care for the patient. They may also be shared on a need-to-know basis with other agencies, such as social care, the police and other trusts, following NHS information governance principles. In certain circumstances, risk assessments will also be shared with the patient's carers.

## HOME OFFICE

### Abandoned Vehicles

**Mark Tami:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* prosecutions and *(b)* convictions have resulted from proceedings against the individuals believed to have abandoned vehicles in each of the last five years, broken down by police authority area in England and Wales. [9242]

**Paul Goggins:** It is not possible, from the information held on the Home Office court proceedings database, to identify prosecutions for abandoning vehicles separately from other types of unauthorised dumping under the Refuse Disposal (Amenity) Act 1978.

### Domestic Violence

**Mr. Rob Wilson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many calls have been received by the National Domestic Violence Helpline since its introduction; and what the cost of its operation has been. [9989]

**Yvette Cooper:** I have been asked to reply.

Statistics provided to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister by Refuge and Women's Aid show that between its launch on 15 December 2003 and 31 May 2005, there have been 336,835 calls to the National Domestic Violence Helpline (0808 2000 247).

The Helpline is run in partnership between Refuge and Women's Aid. Figures on the cost of its operation are not centrally held.

### Mobile Phones

**Jim Dowd:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what measures he is taking to encourage compliance with the ban on the use of hand-held mobile phones while driving a motor vehicle on the public highway. [10451]

**Paul Goggins:** Enforcement of this new offence is an operational matter for chief officers of police. The likelihood of police detection is increased by the introduction of intercept teams linked to the operation of Automatic Number Plate Recognition systems, for which we announced funding of £15 million in November last year. A clause in the Road Safety Bill, currently before Parliament, aims to increase penalties by making the offence subject to endorsement of three penalty points and a £60 fixed penalty.

### Passports

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will list for each of the last

12 months the average time a passport application took to be processed by the UK Passport Agency; and if he will make a statement. [6954]

**Andy Burnham:** The average processing times provided in the table relate to the time taken to issue single, straightforward, properly completed applications by the UK Passport Service for the last 12 months.

| *Month* | *Average processing time* |
|---|---|
| June | 5.5 |
| July | 5.5 |
| August | 6.0 |
| September | 5.0 |
| October | 4.0 |
| November | 3.0 |
| December | 3.5 |
| January | 3.5 |
| February | 4.5 |
| March | 4.5 |
| April | 4.5 |
| May | 5.0 |

### Racial and Religious Hatred Bill

**Anne Snelgrove:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the likely effects on freedom of speech of the Racial and Religious Hatred Bill. [8071]

**Paul Goggins:** The only limitation placed on free speech by the Racial and Religious Hatred Bill is the prevention of words or material that stir up racial or religious hatred. The Government believe this is a proportionate measure, a view shared by the Joint Committee on Human Rights who, in their report on the proposed measures published in March 2005, accepted the existence of a serious, albeit limited, problem of incitement to hatred on religious grounds. The report considered that the measures proposed in the Bill were unlikely to give rise to any violation of the right to freedom of expression under Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights.

The Government are determined to preserve the right to engage in free and vigorous debate about religion, including the right to criticise religious beliefs and practices. This is an entirely different matter from inciting hatred of people because they belong to a particular religious group.

### Sexual Offences Act

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what data his Department is collecting to evaluate the effectiveness of sections 15 and 123 to 129 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003; and when the first full year of data will be available. [8077]

**Paul Goggins:** In order to evaluate the effectiveness of sections 15 and 123 to 129 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003, we are collecting statistical data relating to recorded crime, prosecutions and convictions, as well as evidence from statutory and non-statutory bodies who work within the field of sexual offending.

The recorded crime data relating to section 15 will be available from 21 July 2005, covering the period from 1 May 2004 until 31 March 2005. Information on the number of risk of sexual harm orders (sections 123 to 129) will be collected from the courts annually and the figures for 2004 will be available in the autumn of 2005.

## LEADER OF THE HOUSE

### Government Bills (Explanatory Notes)

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Leader of the House if he will list the occasions, in each of the last three sessions, when Explanatory Notes to Government Bills have not been made available *(a)* on the same day that a Bill is published and *(b)* within three sitting days. [9684]

**Nigel Griffiths:** This information is not recorded and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. Guidance to Departments emphasises that every effort should be made to publish Explanatory Notes at the same time as the Bill.

### Parliamentary Education (Schools)

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Leader of the House what steps he is taking to promote knowledge of, and interest in, both Houses of Parliament through schools. [9683]

**Nigel Griffiths:** My right hon. Friend is keen to work with Members to promote a better understanding of Parliament through schools. Following the report of the Select Committee on the Modernisation of the House on "Connecting Parliament with the Public" last year, the House of Commons Commission agreed to a significant expansion of the services of the Parliamentary Education Unit. Two Communications and Outreach Officers have now been appointed in order to further promote the work of Parliament in schools and through local education authorities. Two additional Visits Officers will be recruited shortly to increase the range and number of visits programmes available to schools wanting to visit Parliament.

### Sitting Hours

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Leader of the House if he will list the occasions when the House has sat later than 2.00 am in each session since 1976. [9681]

**Nigel Griffiths:** I have placed the information requested in the Library of the House.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Leader of the House if he will list the occasions when a Standing Committee has sat later than 2.30 am in each session since 1976. [9682]

**Nigel Griffiths:** The information requested is a matter of public record, available in Standing Committee Hansard, but could be collated only at disproportionate cost.

## SCOTLAND

### Proceeds of Crime Act

**Mr. David Hamilton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much has been seized in Midlothian as a consequence of prosecutions under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002. [8196]

**David Cairns:** My hon. Friend may be aware that this is a devolved matter and the information requested is not broken down by constituency or local authority area. However, since the commencement of the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 in March 2003, the Financial Crime Unit of the Crown Office has successfully obtained confiscation orders for over £3,300,000 worth of assets gained from criminal activity for the whole of Scotland to date. In addition, restraint orders have been granted for over £47,224,000 worth of assets in the period to March 2005.

### Work-related Stress

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many cases of work-related stress have been reported in his Department in each of the last three years; how much compensation was paid to employees in each year; how many work days were lost due to work-related stress in each year; at what cost; what procedures have been put in place to reduce work-related stress; at what cost; and if he will make a statement. [7871]

**David Cairns:** The staff in the Scotland Office are on loan from either the Scottish Executive or the Department for Constitutional Affairs but neither Department maintains central records of absences due to work-related stress. The Scotland Office has not paid any compensation for work-related stress.

Both Departments have a range of stress-related initiatives that staff in the Scotland Office can access ranging from employee assistance programme which offer a free, confidential 24-hour support hotline for all staff, providing the opportunity to discuss any issues (including work-related stress) with a trained counsellor to training for staff in helping with stress to Welfare Services. These initiatives are available to all staff in these Departments and it is not possible to attribute the costs involved to the Scotland Office.

## TRADE AND INDUSTRY

### Advantage West Midlands

**Paul Farrelly:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how much has been spent by Advantage West Midlands in each relevant *(a)* parliamentary constituency and *(b)* local authority area since 1997. [7619]

**Alun Michael:** When the Agency was formed in 1999, the sponsoring departments required expenditure to be monitored on a programme budget basis, and there was no geographical analysis. This changed in 2002–03 as a result of changes in the way the Government requires Regional Developed Agencies to report on their spending. After 2002–03 a record was kept on the basis of Regeneration Zones but was not disaggregated to local authority or parliamentary constituency levels.

Advantage West Midlands has recently introduced a new reporting mechanism that will allow projects to be defined by local authority and parliamentary constituency. This information will cover current and future expenditure and will not provide a similar analysis of past projects.

### Directorate Staff

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many members of each Directorate have taken early retirement since October 2003; and for what reasons. [10519]

**Alan Johnson:** The following table shows the number of staff in each Directorate who have taken voluntary early severance and voluntary early retirement since October 2003.

Their reasons for doing so are not recorded.

| *Directorate* | *Voluntary early severance* | *Voluntary early retirement* |
|---|---|---|
| Business Relations | 51 | 84 |
| Business Support | 3 | 0 |
| Consumer and Competition Policy Directorate | 7 | 19 |
| Corporate Law and Governance | 4 | 16 |
| Energy Industries and Technology Unit | 8 | 23 |
| Energy Markets Unit | 3 | 9 |
| Employment Relations | 8 | 15 |
| Energy Resources and Development Unit | 4 | 8 |
| Energy Strategy Unit | 2 | 2 |
| Europe and World Trade | 7 | 10 |
| Finance and Resource Management | 5 | 13 |
| Human Resources and Change Management | 3 | 15 |
| Industry Economics and Statistics | 2 | 3 |
| Innovation Group | 14 | 23 |
| Information and Workplace Services | 8 | 22 |
| Legal | 16 | 12 |
| Ministerial and Parliamentary Support Team | 8 | 13 |
| Office of Manpower Economics | 2 | 5 |
| Office of Science and Technology | 6 | 8 |
| Project Work Team | 6 | 6 |
| Regions | 3 | 9 |
| Small Business Service | 13 | 23 |
| Strategy Communications Unit | 7 | 6 |
| Shareholder Executive | 2 | 3 |
| UK Trade and Investment | 35 | 28 |
| Women and Equality Unit | 5 | 3 |
| Export Control and Non-Proliferation | 4 | 9 |
| Other small directorates[1] | 2 | 9 |

[1] This represents British National Space Centre, Internal Audit, Low Pay Commission and the Strategic Policy Analysis Unit where the numbers are small and there is a risk staff could be identified.

### Internal Market Services Directive

**Mr. Davidson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (1) what assessment he has made of regulations which might be considered a barrier to trade under the terms of the EU Directive on Services in the Internal Market; [9332]

(2) what his definition of remote provision of services is in relation to the EU Directive on Services in the Internal Market; [9562]

(3) what his definition of *(a)* Services of General Economic Interest and *(b)* Services of General interest is with reference to the EU Directive on Services in the Internal Market; [9563]

(4) what the process will be by which national governments justify regulation in the public interest under the terms of the EU Directive on Services in the Internal Market; [9564]

(5) how the EU Directive on Services in the Internal Market differentiates between services in the public and private sectors; [9567]

(6) pursuant to the answer of 15 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 437W, on EU Directives, what his definition of temporary is in relation to the EU Directive on Services in the Internal Market; [9568]

(7) which service sectors would be excluded from the scope of the EU Directive on Services in the Internal Market under the provisions of paragraphs 15 and 16 of the Directive. [9569]

**Ian Pearson:** The draft EU Directive on Services in the Internal Market is currently under negotiation in both the Council of the European Union and the European Parliament. The Government see this dossier as a priority and wishes to progress negotiations during their Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

*Barriers to trade*

Since the publication of the Commission's proposal in 2004, the Government have been identifying areas of regulation to which the Directive would apply and those which might be considered to constitute a barrier to trade of services. Although this work is ongoing its current status is reflected in the partial Regulatory Impact Assessment published on the DTI's website www.dti.gov.uk/ccp/topics2/pdf2/servicesria/pdf

*Definition of remote provision of* services

The Directive does not define "remote" provision of a service, however, the Treaty itself does make clear the freedom to provide services applies both to a situation where a provider physically moves to another member state and where he remains in a member state and provides his service cross-border. Remote provision of a service then is where the provider remains in one member state while providing his service to a recipient in another member state; it would include services provided over the internet or telephone and also mail order services.

Definition of Services of General Economic Interest and Services of General Interest. The term "Services of General Interest" is not found in the Treaty (which only refers to services of general economic interest), but it is often used to mean both economic services and non-economic services in which there is a public service element. While the term "Service of General Economic Interest" is referred to in the EC Treaty it is not defined. The Services Directive only covers economic services where there is economic consideration provided by or on behalf of the recipient.

*Process for justifying regulation in the public interest*

The Directive obliges member states to report on their authorisation schemes. They will have to justify their schemes as being non-discriminatory, based on a strong public interest reason, and proportionate. The reports will go to the Commission and to other member states. There will be a peer review of member states' regulations. Following that the Commission will prepare a summary report.

What is a strong public interest reason? The Directive refers to

"overriding reasons relating to the public interest"

these are strong reasons recognised by the European Court of Justice, and its definition has been, and may continue to be, developed by the ECJ. The protection of workers and protection of consumers are two reasons that have been recognised by the ECJ as constituting overriding reasons relating to the public interest.

*Public and private sector services*

Only services which are economic in nature are covered by the Services Directive. Economic services in this sense can be provided by either the private or public sectors. Many public sector services are not economic in nature, for example, the ECJ held there was no economic consideration in relation to state education which is therefore not economic in nature. The Directive does not apply the country of origin principle to certain services which in some countries will be provided by the public sector, namely, gas, electricity, post and water services.

*Definition of temporary*

The Directive does not have a definition of "temporary", which is also the case for a number of other European Directives; instead it uses the case-law of the European Court of Justice to define "establishment" as

"the actual pursuit of an economic activity, as referred to in Article 43 of the Treaty, through a fixed establishment of the provider for an indefinite period".

Whether a provider is temporary or not defends on looking at the circumstances of each case. The ECJ has said that the criteria to be applied to this assessment are not limited to the duration of the provision of services, but should also include its regularity, periodical nature and continuity.

*Service sectors excluded from the Directive*

The service sectors that are excluded from the scope of the Directive are listed in Article 2. The country of origin principle has derogations listed in Article 17 for specific service sectors, namely, postal services and the distribution of electricity, gas and water.

## TRANSPORT

### A102

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for what reasons the speed limit on the A102 between the A11 and the A13 has been reduced from 50 mph to 40 mph. [10400]

**Dr. Ladyman:** This length of road is now classified as the A12 and forms part of the Greater London Authority Road Network—now known as the Transport for London Road Network—and is the responsibility of the Mayor and Transport for London. This includes the setting of speed limits. Further

information concerning the speed limits on the road may be obtained from:

Keith Ollier
Director of Street Management
Transport for London
Windsor House
42–50 Victoria Street
London SW1H 0TL

## A11/A13

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* minor and *(b)* serious accidents occurred on the A102 between the A11 and the A13 in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available. [10401]

**Dr. Ladyman:** The information requested is in the table.

*Minor and serious accidents on the A102[1] between the A11 and the A13*

| | *Serious accidents* | *Slight accidents* |
|---|---|---|
| 1995 | 6 | 23 |
| 1996 | 3 | 16 |
| 1997 | 4 | 17 |
| 1998 | 4 | 15 |
| 1999 | 0 | 26 |
| 2000 | 6 | 24 |
| 2001 | 4 | 35 |
| 2002 | 3 | 21 |
| 2003 | 3 | 30 |
| 2004 | 1 | 18 |

[1] The section of the A102 between the A11 and A13 was renamed as the A12 in 2000.

## A21 Upgrade

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what representations he has received regarding funding for the proposed A21 upgrade between Flimwell and Robertsbridge. [10619]

**Dr. Ladyman:** No representations have been received regarding funding for the proposed A21 upgrade between Flimwell and Robertsbridge.

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what representations he has received opposing the proposed A21 upgrade; and if he will make a statement. [10622]

**Dr. Ladyman:** Following the 2002–03 public consultation for the sections of the A21 from Tonbridge to Pembury, Kippings Cross to Lamberhurst and Flimwell to Robertsbridge, 221 representations were received opposing the proposed improvements and 1,028 representations were received supporting the improvements. The improvements have been classified as having regional importance and will be progressed subject to regional priorities.

## A38

**Mr. Robathan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 28 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 1412W on the A38, how many households at *(a)* each location referred to and *(b)* the M1 in the Narborough/Enderby area are affected by noise; and at what decibel count. [10135]

**Dr. Ladyman:** The information requested is as follows:

| | *Number of properties/noise level dB* | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Road* | *68 to 72* | *72 to 75* | *Greater than 75* |
| A38 Shobnall Road | 520 | 294 | 71 |
| A38 Wyggeston Street | 88 | 55 | 6 |
| M6 Western Downs | 277 | 105 | 61 |
| A38 Branston and Ashmole—Branston B—Near A38 Junction | 15 | 9 | 2 |
| A38 Branston and Ashmole—Branston A —Lichfield Road | 0 | 0 | 19 |

For the Enderby/Narborough area:

| | *Number of properties/noise level dB* | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Locality/street name* | *68 to 72* | *72 to 75* | *Greater than 75* |
| *Enderby* | | | |
| Blaby Road | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Queens Drive | 5 | 6 | 0 |
| Packhorse Drive | 25 | 1 | 0 |
| Cumberwell Drive | 0 | 2 | 22 |
| Leicester Road | 9 | 10 | 4 |
| Total | 40 | 20 | 26 |
| *Narborough* | | | |
| Roy Close | 12 | 7 | 14 |
| Leicester Road | 5 | 3 | 1 |
| Alexandra Street | 8 | 11 | 1 |
| Princess Street | 4 | 1 | 0 |
| Carlton Avenue | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 30 | 22 | 16 |

## A40

**Mr. Crabb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many fatal accidents occurred in each year between 1984 and 2004 on the A40 road between *(a)* Carmarthen and St. Clears and *(b)* St. Clears and Haverfordwest. [9034]

**Dr. Ladyman:** The information requested is shown in the table.

*Number of fatal accidents on the A40: 1984 to 2004*

| | *Section between Carmarthen and St. Clears* | *Section between St. Clears and Haverfordwest* |
|---|---|---|
| 1984 | 3 | 0 |
| 1985 | 0 | 0 |
| 1986 | 1 | 4 |
| 1987 | 2 | 2 |
| 1988 | 0 | 1 |
| 1989 | 1 | 0 |
| 1990 | 0 | 1 |
| 1991 | 2 | 1 |
| 1992 | 1 | 3 |
| 1993 | 2 | 1 |
| 1994 | 1 | 0 |
| 1995 | 2 | 0 |
| 1996 | 0 | 2 |
| 1997 | 1 | 1 |

*Number of fatal accidents on the A40: 1984 to 2004*

| | *Section between Carmarthen and St. Clears* | *Section between St. Clears and Haverfordwest* |
|---|---|---|
| 1998 | 1 | 3 |
| 1999 | 2 | 2 |
| 2000 | 0 | 0 |
| 2001 | 0 | 3 |
| 2002 | 0 | 1 |
| 2003 | 1 | 2 |
| 2004 | 0 | 0 |

## Advertising Hoardings

**Jim Dowd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the implications for road safety of the unregulated use of advertising hoardings in the immediate proximity of motorways and other major trunk routes. [10438]

**Dr. Ladyman:** Although there is anecdotal evidence to suggest that advertising hoardings in the immediate proximity of motorways, and other major trunk routes, can have a detrimental effect on road safety, the results of studies carried out to date have been inconclusive.

## Blue Badges

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how many disabled person's Blue Badges were issued in each local authority in each of the last two years; [10388]

(2) how many people were refused a disabled person's Blue Badge in the last five years. [10390]

**Ms Buck:** I will place information on the numbers of badges issued by local authorities in England for the year up to 31 March 2003 and the year up to 31 March 2004 in the House Library.

The Department for Transport does not keep information on the numbers of badges that are refused. Local authorities are not legally required to provide this information to the Department.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the current criteria are to receive a disabled person's Blue Badge. [10389]

**Ms Buck:** The information is as follows.

To qualify for a blue badge the applicant must:

receive the higher rate of the mobility component of the disability living allowance; or

receive a war pensioners' mobility supplement; or

use a motor vehicle supplied for disabled people by a Government Health Department; or

be registered blind; or

have a severe disability in both upper limbs, regularly drive a motor vehicle but cannot turn the steering wheel of a motor vehicle by hand even if that wheel is fitted with a turning knob; or

have a permanent and substantial disability which means they are unable to walk or have very considerable difficulty in walking.

## Civil Aviation (Missile Defence)

**Mr. Ian Austin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make a statement on the use of anti-missile technologies in the UK civil aviation industry. [8747]

**Ms Buck:** There are a number of technologies capable of defeating shoulder-fired missiles. The Government are keeping under consideration whether such systems could be realistically applied to civil aviation.

## Cyclists

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he is taking to raise awareness amongst cyclists of the need to stop at red traffic lights. [9688]

**Dr. Ladyman:** The Highway Code and road traffic law apply to cyclists as much as to anyone else. It is common knowledge among road users that there is a requirement to stop at red traffic lights. The Department has run frequent publicity campaigns educating cyclists to cycle safely and one third of children receive some form of cycle training, which teaches the rules of the road.

It is an offence under section 36 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 to fail to comply with a traffic sign and the maximum fine is £1,000. The police can also prosecute cyclists who ride carelessly or dangerously and these offences carry maximum fines of £1,000 and £2,500 respectively. Enforcement of the law is a matter for the police.

We disapprove strongly of the behaviour of those cyclists who ride through red lights. It is a danger to others, who might be vulnerable pedestrians such as the elderly or children, and it brings cycling into disrepute with other road users.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many cyclists were *(a)* injured and *(b)* killed in road traffic accidents in *(i)* the Metropolitan Police area of London, *(ii)* Southend, *(iii)* Essex and *(iv)* England and Wales in 2004–05; and how many were killed in each of the preceding nine years. [10473]

**Dr. Ladyman:** The information requested is as follows.

*Number of cyclists killed and injured*

| *Year* | *Killed* | *Injured* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Metropolitan Police* | | | |
| 1995 | 18 | 4,672 | 4,690 |
| 1996 | 19 | 4,478 | 4,497 |
| 1997 | 12 | 4,543 | 4,555 |
| 1998 | 13 | 4,437 | 4,450 |
| 1999 | 12 | 4,253 | 4,265 |
| 2000 | 15 | 3,458 | 3,473 |
| 2001 | 21 | 3,225 | 3,246 |
| 2002 | 18 | 2,971 | 2,989 |
| 2003 | 18 | 2,970 | 2,988 |
| 2004 | 6 | 2,874 | 2,880 |

*Note:*
Excludes the City of London

*Number of cyclists killed and injured*

| *Year* | *Killed* | *Injured* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Southend* | | | |
| 1995 | 1 | 120 | 121 |
| 1996 | 0 | 114 | 114 |
| 1997 | 0 | 114 | 114 |
| 1998 | 0 | 95 | 95 |
| 1999 | 1 | 93 | 94 |
| 2000 | 0 | 101 | 101 |
| 2001 | 0 | 82 | 82 |
| 2002 | 1 | 71 | 72 |
| 2003 | 0 | 74 | 74 |
| 2004 | 0 | 60 | 60 |

*Number of cyclists killed and injured*

| *Year* | *Killed* | *Injured* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Thurrock* | | | |
| 1995 | 1 | 45 | 46 |
| 1996 | 1 | 49 | 50 |
| 1997 | 1 | 64 | 65 |
| 1998 | 1 | 51 | 52 |
| 1999 | 0 | 43 | 43 |
| 2000 | 0 | 48 | 48 |
| 2001 | 1 | 56 | 57 |
| 2002 | 1 | 35 | 36 |
| 2003 | 0 | 30 | 30 |
| 2004 | 1 | 31 | 32 |

*Number of cyclists killed and injured*

| *Year* | *Killed* | *Injured* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Essex County (excluding the Unitary Authorities of Southend and Thurrock)* | | | |
| 1995 | 2 | 520 | 522 |
| 1996 | 6 | 516 | 522 |
| 1997 | 2 | 525 | 527 |
| 1998 | 1 | 542 | 543 |
| 1999 | 1 | 473 | 474 |
| 2000 | 5 | 437 | 442 |
| 2001 | 5 | 394 | 399 |
| 2002 | 5 | 344 | 349 |
| 2003 | 4 | 348 | 352 |
| 2004 | 4 | 356 | 360 |

*Number of cyclists killed and injured*

| *Year* | *Killed* | *Injured* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|
| *England and Wales* | | | |
| 1995 | 202 | 23,421 | 23,623 |
| 1996 | 188 | 23,100 | 23,288 |
| 1997 | 174 | 23,191 | 23,365 |
| 1998 | 145 | 21,639 | 21,784 |
| 1999 | 164 | 21,657 | 21,821 |
| 2000 | 115 | 19,617 | 19,732 |
| 2001 | 128 | 18,070 | 18,198 |
| 2002 | 122 | 16,156 | 16,278 |
| 2003 | 100 | 16,133 | 16,233 |
| 2004 | 127 | 15,749 | 15,876 |

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many cyclists have been *(a)* injured and *(b)* killed in each of the last 10 years in road traffic accidents caused by passing a red traffic light. [10474]

**Dr. Ladyman:** The information requested is not available.

## Driver Vision

**Mrs. Gillan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will take steps to introduce a lesser sanction than removal of a driving licence for an individual who marginally fails the minimum standard of at least 120 degrees horizontal width in the visual field. [10360]

**Dr. Ladyman:** Where the prescribed standard for visual field is not met, there is already provision for the issue of a licence in exceptional cases supported by a favourable medical opinion.

## Four-wheel Drive Cars

**Mr. Davey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the number of cars owned in *(a)* Kingston and Surbiton, *(b)* South West London, *(c)* London and *(d)* England; and what percentage of these cars he estimates are four-wheel drive. [9221]

**Dr. Ladyman:** The numbers of cars licensed at the end of December 2004 in the areas for which information is available are:

(a) Kingston and Surbiton—46,000

(b) London—2,523,000

(c) Great Britain—27,028,000

Local figures are not available but, of new cars registered in 2004, 6.99 per cent. were 4-wheel drive (figures derived from SMMT data).

## Learner Drivers

**John Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many refunds have been given to purchasers of the Complete Official Learner Driver packs; how many more he expects to issue; and what the total cost has been. [9416]

**Dr. Ladyman:** We have provided one refund, and sent replacement DVDs to three people free of charge.

We do not expect demand for refunds to be significant, given that we are offering a replacement disc. DSA's publishing activities are commercially self-funding. Providing refunds and replacement DVDs represents no direct cost to the public.

**John Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many Complete Official Learner Driver packs have been withdrawn from sale; and at what cost. [9417]

**Dr. Ladyman:** All sales of the Learning to Drive DVD to retail outlets were suspended following the discovery of the error. DSA's publishing activities are commercially self-funding. Replacing stock represents no direct cost to the public.

## Maximum Driving Times

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the adherence of foreign drivers in the UK to EU regulations on maximum driving times. [9740]

**Dr. Ladyman:** The enforcement of drivers hours legislation is carried out by the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA). The outcomes of VOSA's enforcement activities are included in an annual Effectiveness Report which is available on their internet site.

### Mini-Motos

**Jim Dowd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what measures he intends to introduce to prevent the use of miniature motorcycles (mini-motos) on public highways. [10452]

**Dr. Ladyman:** New measures are not necessary. It is for the courts to provide an authoritative interpretation of the law, but the Department's view is that it is already illegal to use vehicles which are not compliant with road traffic law on public highways. Powered vehicles (whether internal combustion or electric) are motor vehicles within the meaning of the Road Traffic Act 1988 as amended. Any powered vehicle used on the public highway must comply with all aspects of road traffic law, including construction requirements, registration, road tax, insurance etc. The rider/driver should hold an appropriate licence and, where required, wear a suitable helmet.

Enforcement is a matter for individual Chief Officers of Police. Powers under the Police Reform Act 2002 allow a constable in uniform, after giving a warning, to stop and seize a motor vehicle if he/she has grounds for believing that it is being used in a careless and inconsiderate manner, or being driven illegally off-road, or being used (or is likely to be used) in an antisocial manner causing harassment, alarm or distress.

I understand that that the packaging on powered items such as miniature motorcycles generally includes a warning that they are not for highway use. However it may be that, once such packaging is discarded, this is overlooked or ignored. My Department is working with the Home Office to consider how advice reminding purchasers and others of this issue might usefully be disseminated.

### Motorway Advertising

**Mark Tami:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions his Department has had with motoring and road safety organisations on the impact of advertisements situated next to motorways. [9226]

**Dr. Ladyman:** The Department has not had any recent specific discussions with motoring and road safety organisations on the impact of advertisements situated next to motorways.

**Mr. Ian Austin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions he has had with the police about advertising boards in fields adjacent to the motorway network. [8748]

**Dr. Ladyman:** My Department has not had any recent specific discussions with the police about advertising boards in fields adjacent to the motorway network.

### Pedestrian Crossings

**Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what criteria the Highways Agency takes into account before a decision is taken to install a pedestrian crossing. [8694]

**Dr. Ladyman:** The Highways Agency has adopted the advice provided by the Department for Transport in Local Transport Note 1/95: The Assessment of Pedestrian Crossings.

Factors taken into account include:

the widths of carriageways and footways

surroundings, including lighting, accesses, side roads, street furniture, and the visibility for drivers and pedestrians

vehicle and pedestrian flows and composition, including the proportion of children and elderly people, and the proportion of heavy goods and public service vehicles

the accident record.

There are three types of crossings:

1. A pedestrian refuge island is the minimum provision and can be used on roads with national speed limit.

2. Light signal controlled Pedestrian crossings are for heavily used roads and can be used wherever the speed limit is 50 mph or less.

3. Zebra Pedestrian crossings minimise delays to pedestrians but should only be used with moderate vehicle flows on roads with a 30 mph speed limit or less.

The choice of crossing will consider pedestrian delays and difficulty in crossing, vehicle delays, vehicle speeds, costs and local representation.

### Railways

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he expects existing rail services at stations on the *(a)* Hastings to Charing Cross and *(b)* Bexhill to London lines to be maintained at their current level. [9308]

**Derek Twigg** *[holding answer 4 July 2005]:* There are no current plans for significant service changes between Hastings and Charing Cross until December 2009. Bidders for the Integrated Kent Franchise have then been asked to make bids based on the service pattern set out as follows. For Bexhill passengers travelling to London Victoria via the Brighton Main Line, there is a proposal in the Strategic Rail Authority's draft Brighton Main Line Route Utilisation Strategy that would increase capacity on the Main Line, but would require passengers from Bexhill to change trains at Eastbourne or Polegate.

*Table: Services arriving in London in the 3 hour morning peak*

| | *Current service* | | *Change to service in December 2009* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Charing Cross* | *Cannon Street* | *Charing Cross* | *Cannon Street* | *Net change (all trains)* |
| High Brooms | 9 | 3 | +3 | −1 | +2 |
| Tunbridge Wells | 9 | 3 | +3 | −1 | +2 |
| Frant | 4 | 3 | −1 | −3 | −2 |

*Table: Services arriving in London in the 3 hour morning peak*

| | *Current service* | | *Change to service in December 2009* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Charing Cross* | *Cannon Street* | *Charing Cross* | *Cannon Street* | *Net change (all trains)* |
| Wadhurst | 5 | 4 | +1 | –2 | –1 |
| Stonegate | 4 | 3 | –1 | –3 | –2 |
| Etchingham | 5 | 4 | –2 | –2 | None |
| Robertsbridge | 4 | 3 | –1 | –1 | None |
| Battle | 5 | 4 | +1 | –2 | –1 |
| Crowhurst | 4 | 3 | –1 | –3 | –4 |
| West St. Leonards | 4 | 3 | –1 | –3 | –4 |
| St. Leonards Warrior Sq. | 5 | 4 | +1 | –2 | –1 |
| Hastings | 5 | 4 | +1 | –2 | –1 |
| Ore | 2 | 0 | –2 | None | –2 |

**Anne Main:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) whether his Department will fund the fitting-out of the interchange box under St. Pancras Station; and if he will make a statement; [9663]

(2) if he will estimate the cost of fitting-out the interchange box under St. Pancras Station; and if he will make a statement on the current industry estimates; [9664]

(3) who owns the interchange box under St. Pancras Station; and if he will make a statement; [9665]

(4) how much public money has been invested so far in the *(a)* construction and *(b)* planning of the interchange box under St. Pancras Station; and if he will make a statement. [9666]

**Derek Twigg:** The box which has been built for the planned Thameslink Midland Road station is intended to be fitted out by Network Rail as part of the Thameslink 2000 project, for which statutory powers and funding arrangements have yet to be settled. The Government remains committed to completing the station, estimates the cost of the fit-out and associated track and signalling work to be around £60m, and is looking further at the options for completing the work in advance of Thameslink 2000.

The Secretary of State for Transport owns the freehold of the Thameslink box and has agreed to grant a long lease (999 years) to Network Rail.

The station box was financed by London and Continental Railways (LCR) as part of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link project (CTRL). It is not possible to separately identify that element of Government support for the CTRL project that has been expended on the Thameslink box.

### Renewable Transport Fuels

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make it his policy to set annual targets towards achieving a 5.75 per cent. market share for renewable transport fuels by 2010. [9111]

**Dr. Ladyman:** The Government are currently conducting a feasibility study into the prospects for a Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation as a mechanism to promote renewable fuels into the long-term.

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has to introduce a renewable transport fuels obligation; and if he will make a statement. [9112]

**Dr. Ladyman:** The Government are currently considering whether an obligation might be an appropriate mechanism to support the introduction of renewable road transport fuels, but no decision has yet been taken.

### Road Improvements

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will list the road improvement schemes managed by the Highways Agency in *(a)* the Kent, East and West Sussex area and *(b)* England in each year since 1991; what the cost of each scheme was; and which schemes are awaiting action. [8442]

**Dr. Ladyman:** A table showing all Highways Agency major schemes, either completed, currently on site or in preparation, that have been taken forward since 1994 has been placed in the Libraries of the House. The Highways Agency does not retain cost information for schemes completed before its creation in 1994.

### Road Tax

**Mark Tami:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what research his Department has carried out into alternatives to road tax. [9230]

**Dr. Ladyman:** Decisions on fiscal policies are a matter for the Chancellor of the Exchequer, who keeps all forms of taxation under review. Officials in this Department provide advice as necessary to HM Treasury officials on the potential impacts of a number of transport tax policies.

The Government in 2003 commissioned a feasibility study of road pricing, published in 2004.

In line with our manifesto commitment, we are currently examining the long-term potential for moving away from the current system of motoring taxation towards a national system of road pricing.

**Mark Tami:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps his Department is taking to reduce the level of non-payment of road tax. [9231]

**Dr. Ladyman:** A system of Continuous Registration (CR) was introduced on 1 January 2004. The registered keeper of a vehicle is now responsible for licensing it until DVLA has been notified that it is off the public road or has been sold, transferred, scrapped or exported. DVLA issues £80 penalties (£40 if paid within 28 days) to the registered keepers of those vehicles that have been unlicensed for two consecutive months.

DVLA seeks to clamp the vehicles of persistent evaders. The Agency has a permanent wheel clamping operation based in larger vehicle population location, supported by mobile teams operating in rural areas. DVLA aims to clamp 100,000 unlicensed vehicles this financial year. Those evaders who have ignored the CR process will be specifically targeted. In addition, the Agency has partnership agreements with 64 local authorities and five 5 police forces to use DVLA's devolved powers to clamp and impound unlicensed vehicles.

The Agency works closely with the police forces using Automated Number Plate Readers. The police can stop those vehicles that are unlicensed for enforcement action to take place.

DVLA has introduced a telephone hotline number that members of the public can call to report unlicensed vehicles.

**Mark Tami:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the number of vehicles using the roads which have not paid road tax. [9232]

**Dr. Ladyman:** Estimates of vehicle excise duty evasion are determined by national roadside surveys undertaken by DfT statisticians. The latest survey took place in June 2004 and estimated that the total number of unlicensed vehicles was 1.2 million. This compares with 1.9 million in the previous (2002) survey.

## Road Traffic Accidents

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many road traffic accidents have been caused by loads breaking free of cargo trucks in each month since January 2003; how many of these resulted in one or more fatalities; and if he will make a statement. [9487]

**Dr. Ladyman:** The Department's Personal Injury Road Accident Database records, for each reported accident, whether a dislodged vehicle load in the vicinity of the accident formed a carriageway hazard. The table shows the number of reported accidents for which such a hazard was recorded. It cannot be determined whether the load forming the hazard broke free from a cargo truck, or whether the load caused the accident.

*Number of Injury Road Traffic Accidents in the United Kingdom where a dislodged vehicle load in the carriageway was a hazard[1]: by month from January 2003*

| *Month* | *Fatal Accidents* | *All Accidents* |
|---|---|---|
| *2003* | | |
| January | 0 | 29 |
| February | 0 | 29 |
| March | 1 | 31 |
| April | 0 | 27 |
| May | 0 | 29 |
| June | 0 | 46 |
| July | 0 | 21 |
| August | 0 | 30 |
| September | 0 | 35 |
| October | 0 | 28 |
| November | 0 | 26 |
| December | 0 | 20 |
| Total | 1 | 351 |
| *2004* | | |
| January | 0 | 19 |
| February | 0 | 16 |
| March | 0 | 19 |
| April | 0 | 21 |
| May | 0 | 30 |
| June | 0 | 31 |
| July | 0 | 25 |
| August | 0 | 36 |
| September | 0 | 37 |
| October | 0 | 26 |
| November | 0 | 20 |
| December | 1 | 17 |
| Total | 1 | 297 |

*Source:*
Department for Transport and Police Service of Northern Ireland
*Note:*
[1] These figures do not include accidents where the vehicle load which formed a carriageway hazard was dislodged as a result of the accident in question or a previous accident.

## Road Transport Fuels

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what percentage by weight of road transport fuel was comprised of *(a)* liquefied petroleum gas and *(b)* compressed natural gas in the last 12 months; [8438]

(2) what percentage by weight of UK road transport fuel is expected to be comprised of biofuels by the end of *(a)* 2005 and *(b)* 2010; [8440]

(3) what incentives are in place for motorists to use *(a)* biodiesel and *(b)* bioethanol; [8508]

(4) what incentives are in place for motorists to use *(a)* liquefied petroleum gas and *(b)* compressed natural gas. [8601]

**Dr. Ladyman:** The Government incentivises the use of biofuels and road fuel gases primarily by means of fuel duty incentives, as set out in the Chancellor of the Exchequer's Alternative Fuels Framework, published in the November 2003 pre-Budget report. Current and historic duty rates for all road fuels are published on the website of HM Revenue and Customs. The current duty rates for biofuels and road fuel gases are as set out in table 1.

*Table 1: Fuel duty rates as at 29 June 2005*

| *Fuel* | *Fuel duty rate* |
|---|---|
| Ultra-low sulphur petrol | 47.1 pence per litre |
| Ultra low sulphur diesel | 47.1 pence per litre |
| Liquefied petroleum gas | [1]9 pence per kg |
| Compressed natural gas | [2]9 pence per kg |
| Biodiesel | 27.1 pence per litre |
| Bioethanol | 27.1 pence per litre |

[1] Equivalent to c.5.4 pence per litre.
[2] Equivalent to c.6.1 pence per litre.

The Government have also, until recently, provided grants to help meet the additional purchase or conversion costs of certain clean and alternatively fuelled vehicles. These grant programmes are currently under review pending state aid clearance from the European Commission.

Current and historic sales figures for all road transport fuels are also published on the website of HM Revenue and Customs. Provisional figures for biofuels and road fuel gases for the financial year 2004–05 are as set out in table 2.

*Table 2: Sales of road transport fuels in 2004–05*

| *Fuel* | *Sale by volume (million litres)* | *Sales by mass (kilotonnes)* | *Approximate percentage of total by mass* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Ultra Low Sulphur Petrol | 26,561 | 19,549 | 51.1 |
| Ultra Low Sulphur Diesel | 22,304 | 18,557 | 48.5 |
| Total road fuel gases (Liquefied petroleum gas and compressed natural gas)[1] | [2]225 | [3]c.1103 | 0.3 |
| Biodiesel | 21 | 18 | 0.05 |
| Bioethanol | 14 | 11 | 0.03 |

[1] Figures not available separately, but at least 95 per cent. of this is likely to be LPG.
[2] Million litres at standard storage pressures.
[3] Assuming a 95/5 per cent. split between LPG and CNG.

Sales of biofuels have risen sharply since the beginning of 2005 with the introduction on 1 January of the 20 pence per litre fuel duty incentive for bioethanol. By the end of 2005, sales of biofuels are likely to comprise at least 0.3 per cent. of total road transport fuel sales by volume, or 0.32 per cent. by mass. This is in line with the target that the UK has set under the EU's Biofuels Directive, and would represent at least a five-fold increase over sales in 2004.

## Roads

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will list his Department's planned road building programmes, broken down by county. [8446]

**Dr. Ladyman:** The Department's planned road building programme consists of motorway and trunk road schemes in the Highways Agency Targeted Programme of Improvements and schemes that this Department has fully approved or provisionally accepted for funding, subject to completion of the necessary statutory procedures and the conditions set out in the relevant approval letters. A list of schemes that fall within these categories, by county or unitary authority, have been placed in the Libraries of the House.

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which road schemes that have been proposed by local authorities in England in local transport plans will affect *(a)* sites of special scientific interest, *(b)* areas of outstanding natural beauty, *(c)* national parks and *(c)* internationally designated sites; and in each case whether a preferred route has been announced. [8448]

**Dr. Ladyman:** In view of the number of road schemes involved, the information could be assembled only at a disproportionate cost.

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which completed road building programmes have affected designated *(a)* sites of special scientific interest, *(b)* areas of outstanding natural beauty and *(c)* national parks in each year since 1997. [8449]

**Dr. Ladyman:** Since 1997 we have completed over 118 Highways Agency and Local Highway Authority major road schemes outside London which cost over £5 million. The table identifies those schemes that impact on *(a)* sites of special scientific interest, *(b)* areas of outstanding natural beauty and *(c)* national parks.

| *Road scheme* | *Completion year* | *(a) Site of special scientific interest* | *(b) Area of outstanding naturalbeauty* | *(c) National park* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| A13 Thames Avenue to Wennington | 1997–98 | Rainham Marshes SSSI | — | — |
| A564 Derby Southern BP and Derby Spur | 1997–98 | Hilton Gravel Pit SSSI | — | — |
| M25J8–10 Widening | 1997–98 | — | Surrey Hills AONB | — |
| North of Stratton-Nettleton Improvement | 1997–98 | — | Cotswold AONB | — |
| Latton Bypass | 1997–98 | — | Cotswold AONB | — |
| A34 Newbury Bypass | 1998–99 | Snelsmore Common SSSI | — | — |
| M66 Denton-Middleton Contract I | 2000–01 | Hollingwood arm of Ashton Canal SSSI | — | — |
| M66 Denton-Middleton Contract III | 2000–01 | Rochdale Canal SSSI | — | — |
| A27 Polegate Bypass | 2002–03 | — | Adjacent to Sussex Downs AONB | — |
| A2/M2 Cobham to Junction 4 Widening | 2003–04 | Shorne and Ashen Bank Woods and Cobham Woods SSSI | — | — |
| A41 Aston Clinton Bypass | 2003–04 | — | Chilterns AONB | — |
| M6 Toll | 2003–04 | Chasewater Heath SSSI and River Blythe SSSI | — | — |
| A120 Stansted-Braintree Improvement | 2004–05 | Landtake from corner of one ancient woodland SSSI (unnamed) | — | — |
| A34 Chieveley M4 J13 Improvement | 2004–05 | — | Within Chilterns/North Wessex Downs AONB | — |
| A10 Wadesmill Colliers End | 2004–05 | Near Plashes Wood SSSI | — | — |
| A21 Lamberhurst Bypass | 2004–05 | — | Within High Weald AONB | — |

| Road scheme | Completion year | (a) Site of special scientific interest | (b) Area of outstanding natural beauty | (c) National park |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| South Stockton Link Road | (Substantially complete) 2005 | — | — | — |
| A617 Mansfield Ashfield Regeneration Route | 2004 | —[1] | — | — |
| Wyre Piddle Bypass | 2002 | —[2] | — | — |
| Burntwood Bypass Staffordshire | 2005 | —[3] | — | — |
| Broome-Ellingham Bypass (Norfolk) | 2002 | — | — | —[4] |

[1] Mansfield Ashfield Regeneration Route affected Fowlevil Brook which runs into Rainworth Lake SSSI. However, measures were taken to ensure the water quality in the brook was not affected (and hence the SSSI was not affected either) so I have assumed this does not need to be included.
[2] Wyre Piddle Bypass in Worcestershire was completed in 2002. Although the bypass did not affect any SSSIs, AONB or national parks, it did affect Piddle Brook, a site of special wildlife interest.
[3] While the scheme avoided direct affect on the adjacent SSSI's, it skirted the boundaries of the Biddulph Pool and No Man's Heath SSSI and the Chasewater Heaths SSSI.
[4] The Broome-Ellingham Bypass affected the area of the Norfolk Broads, which has the status but not the designation of a national park, and this was taken into account when the scheme was considered and approved.

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* accidents and *(b)* fatalities were recorded on the A253 between (i) Hastings and Bexhill and (ii) Bexhill and Pevensey with particular reference to King Offa Way, Bexhill, in each year since 1997. [8450]

**Dr. Ladyman:** The information requested is shown in the following table. Accidents and fatalities occurring on King Offa Way are not included as part of the figures for the section between Bexhill and Pevensey.

| | Section between Hastings and Bexhill | Section between Bexhill and Pevensey | King Offa Way |
|---|---|---|---|
| *(a) Accidents on the A259: 1997–2004* | | | |
| 1997 | 45 | 30 | 3 |
| 1998 | 42 | 32 | 8 |
| 1999 | 43 | 24 | 10 |
| 2000 | 23 | 22 | 7 |
| 2001 | 29 | 18 | 5 |
| 2002 | 32 | 33 | 8 |
| 2003 | 42 | 22 | 9 |
| 2004 | 32 | 28 | 10 |
| *(b) Fatalities on the A259: 1997–2004* | | | |
| 1997 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| 1998 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 1999 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 2000 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 2001 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 2002 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2003 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| 2004 | 0 | 0 | 1 |

**Harry Cohen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many private contractors have traffic cones which they can use to block road lanes; how many cones are in the possession of *(a)* private contractors, *(b)* emergency services and *(c)* others; and what system his Department operates for the distribution and return of cones. [9385]

**Dr. Ladyman:** The Department for Transport does not collect information about the number of private contractors who have traffic cones that they use to block road lanes or how many cones are in the possession of private contractors, the emergency services and others.

On the trunk road and motorway network the distribution and returning of traffic cones is a matter that is left to individual contractors.

The Highways Agency's Traffic Officers have a number of cones that are stored in their vehicles for their use while patrolling the network and dealing with broken down vehicles and providing mobile and temporary road closures. The Traffic Officers collect these cones after use.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much he has allocated to the *(a)* improvement and *(b)* maintenance of the (i) A127 and (ii) A13 in the Southend area in each of the next three financial years. [9689]

**Dr. Ladyman:** Funding for the maintenance and minor improvement of A127 and A13 is included within the block allocation made to Southend-on-Sea borough council under Local Transport Plan procedures. The firm allocation for FY 2005–06 is £1.622 million and the provisional allocation for FY 2006–07 is £1.707 million. Improvements to the A13 public transport corridor are included in an LTP major scheme and the council's application for further funding is currently under consideration by my Department.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many speed cameras are situated on *(a)* the A127 between the M25 and Southend and *(b)* the A13 between the M25 and Southend; and what plans there are to install new speed cameras in the next two years. [9915]

**Dr. Ladyman:** The information requested is not held centrally by the Department. The location and number of all safety camera sites within the national safety camera programme are available on the Department's website at www.dft.gov.uk. Further site specific information will be available from the Essex Safety Camera Partnership who can be contacted via their website at www.essexsafetycameras.co.uk.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* minor and *(b)* serious road accidents occurred on the A127 between the M25 and Southend in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [9916]

**Dr. Ladyman:** The information requested is in the table.

*Minor and serious accidents on the A127 between the M25 and Southend*

| | *Serious accidents* | *Slight accidents* |
|---|---|---|
| 2000 | 35 | 204 |
| 2001 | 38 | 209 |
| 2002 | 22 | 182 |
| 2003 | 32 | 185 |
| 2004 | 28 | 172 |

### Safety Cameras

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many speed cameras there are in England and Wales, broken down by borough; how much money has been raised in fines, broken down by borough, since the installation of each camera; and if he will make a statement. [8687]

**Dr. Ladyman:** For information on the number of fixed and mobile speed camera sites broken down by partnership, I refer to my answer of 9 June 2005, *Official Report*, columns 617–19W.

The Department's information on fines following offences detected by safety cameras relates to the totals for safety camera partnerships, and not to individual camera sites or boroughs. Information on the total fine receipts and number of fines for each partnership for the last audited year 2003–04 is available on the Department's website of responses to Freedom of Information requests.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many speed cameras are situated on each side of the road on the A102 between the A11 and the A13. [10472]

**Dr. Ladyman:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given today (UIN 9915).

### Traffic Accidents

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 16 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 537W, on traffic accidents (London), if he will set out the equivalent figures for the London borough of Sutton in 1985. [8421]

**Dr. Ladyman:** There were 12 fatal accidents and 800 injury accidents in the London borough of Sutton in 1985.

### Traffic Calming

**Mark Tami:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what research his Department has evaluated on the effects of traffic calming measures on *(a)* reducing speed and *(b)* preventing accidents. [9224]

**Dr. Ladyman:** The Department has commissioned an extensive programme of road safety research covering a wide range of topics, including the development and evaluation of a variety of traffic calming measures designed to reduce vehicle speeds and road accidents. These evaluations have helped to develop guidance and best practice which is set out in Traffic Advisory Leaflets and other publications.

The Department's *Traffic Calming Bibliography*, Traffic Advisory Leaflet 2/05 published in January this year, lists the main items of published advice and research into the design, use and effectiveness of traffic calming measures. Copies of this leaflet have been placed in the House Library.

A Local Transport Note on Traffic Calming is being drafted. This will summarise existing information on the design and effectiveness of traffic calming measures. The Department hopes to publish this Local Transport Note later this year.

### Traffic Management Act

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he intends to lay regulations under section 6 (Civil Enforcement of Traffic Contraventions) of the Traffic Management Act 2004; and if he will make a statement. [10014]

**Ms Buck:** I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 9 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 620W.

### Traffic Statistics

**Mr. Geoffrey Robinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment his Department has made of the effect on *(a)* carbon dioxide and *(b)* other exhaust pollutants of the 25 foot turning circle of London taxis. [8290]

**Dr. Ladyman:** None. Transport for London is the Licensing Authority for taxis in London. They are undertaking a review of the requirements for London licensed taxis, including the turning circle.

**Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for what reasons plans to upgrade the A14 around Kettering have been put back from 2012 to 2016 to 2017 to 2021. [8383]

**Dr. Ladyman:** The Highways Agency is currently developing a scheme to improve the A14 around Kettering. The Regional Spatial Strategy for the East Midlands, published in March 2005 gives the implementation date for this scheme as between 2017 and 2021. The implementation date is the time at which the road is open to traffic and the start of construction will be two-three years prior to this. This is in line with the Secretary of State's announcement on the multi-modal study in July 2003 although the precise timing of the scheme will be subject to availability of funding and satisfactory completion of statutory procedures.

### Transport Infrastructure

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make a statement on transport infrastructure needs in *(a)* London, *(b)* Kent and *(c)* Surrey. [8926]

**Ms Buck:** Transport in London is primarily the responsibility of the Mayor and Transport for London (TfL). In October 2004, TfL published a five year,

£10 billion investment programme designed to delivery infrastructure improvements through to 2010.

For Kent and Surrey, the county councils and the unitary authority for the Medway area assessed local transport infrastructure needs in the Local Transport Plans (LTPs) that they produced in 2000. Over the past five years, the Department has allocated £150 million for expenditure in Kent and £124 million for Surrey to support delivery of local schemes. These figures cover local authority capital expenditure on major projects (costing over £5 million) and on programmes of smaller schemes, but they exclude expenditure on rail schemes and on Highways Agency schemes on its motorway and trunk road network.

Local transport authorities outside London are due to submit new provisional LTPs, covering the 2006–2011 period, to the department by the end of July 2005, with final versions following by the end of March 2006.

### Vehicle Registration

**Mark Tami:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the number of vehicles on the roads which are not registered to their owners. [9216]

**Dr. Ladyman:** The Jill Dando Institute of Crime Science estimated that, in 2004, there were some 0.5m vehicles in use that, while taxed, were not registered to their current keepers. DVLA's own database of vehicles for which there is no current keeper contains some 2.9m records, both taxed and untaxed. Whilst the majority of these vehicles will no longer be on the road (but DVLA has not been notified that they have been scrapped), DVLA makes the database available to police forces for use in conjunction with their Automatic Number Plate Reader system.

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many vehicles were reported to the Driver Vehicle Licensing Agency via V28 forms in each year since 1996–97. [9546]

**Dr. Ladyman:** The form V28 is used by local authorities and other enforcement agencies to notify DVLA of abandoned vehicles. The numbers of vehicles reported in this way were as follows:

*Notifications of abandoned vehicles*

| *Year* | *Abandoned vehicles* |
|---|---|
| 1996–97 | 11,533 |
| 1997–98 | 14,267 |
| 1998–99 | 19,529 |
| 1999–00 | 42,589 |
| 2000–01 | 75,291 |
| 2001–02 | 130,854 |
| 2002–03 | 161,304 |
| 2003–04 | 128,043 |
| 2004–05 | 121,173 |

**Mr. Gregory Campbell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* applications and *(b)* renewals were processed by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency in Swansea in each of the last five years. [9733]

**Dr. Ladyman:** The number of Driver Licence applications received by DVLA are:

| | *First applications* | *Renewals* |
|---|---|---|
| 2000–01 | 727,117 | 1,017,113 |
| 2001–02 | 840,663 | 1,045,751 |
| 2002–03 | 923,422 | 1,121,416 |
| 2003–04 | 971,316 | 1,161,611 |
| 2004–05 | 978,462 | 1,205,102 |

**Mr. Gregory Campbell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the average time taken to process *(a)* applications and *(b)* renewals at the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency in Swansea was in the last year for which figures are available. [9734]

**Dr. Ladyman:** In 2004–05, 98.4 per cent. of the 978,462 first applications for a driving licence were processed by DVLA within eight working days (date of receipt at the Agency to date of delivery to the customer's address). This bettered the target set for processing 98 per cent. of first applications within eight working days.

In the same period 98 per cent. of driving licence renewals were processed by DVLA within 10 working days which met the target set for the Agency for this transaction.

**Mr. Gregory Campbell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many complaints were received regarding problems in the processing of applications and renewals at the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency in Swansea in each of the last five years. [9735]

**Dr. Ladyman:** The number of driver licence processing time and procedures complaints are:

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2000–01 | 312 |
| 2001–02 | 213 |
| 2002–03 | 243 |
| 2003–04 | 326 |
| 2004–05 | 231 |

## TREASURY

### Births

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many babies were born in *(a)* England and Wales and *(b)* the Southend area, broken down by maternal age in each of the last five years for which figures are available; and how many were under (i) 2,500g and (ii) 3,000g in each case. [9944]

**John Healey:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Colin Mowl to Mr. David Amess, dated 7 July 2005:*

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent question asking, how many babies were born in *(a)* England and Wales and *(b)* the Southend area, broken down by maternal age: and how many were

under (i) 2,500g and (ii) 3,000g in each case, in each of the last five years for which figures are available. I am replying in his absence. (9944)

Figures covering live births to women resident in England and Wales, for the years 2000 to 2004, are given in the attached table.

*Total number of live born babies by maternal age and selected birth weight to women resident in Southend and in England and Wales, 2000–04*

| | England and Wales | | | Southend | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Total number | Under 2,500g | Under 3,000g | Total number | Under 2,500g | Under 3,000g |
| *2000* | | | | | | |
| Under 20 | 45,833 | 4,251 | 13,346 | 172 | 20 | 49 |
| 20–24 | 107,705 | 8,973 | 30,010 | 334 | 21 | 84 |
| 25–29 | 170,607 | 12,203 | 40,509 | 515 | 42 | 125 |
| 30–34 | 180,022 | 12,413 | 38,854 | 563 | 34 | 123 |
| 35+ | 99,963 | 7,840 | 22,636 | 295 | 18 | 62 |
| Total | 604,130 | 45,680 | 145,355 | 1,879 | 135 | 443 |
| *2001* | | | | | | |
| Under 20 | 44,178 | 4,159 | 13,252 | 146 | 13 | 40 |
| 20–24 | 108,806 | 9,001 | 30,630 | 387 | 13 | 91 |
| 25–29 | 159,861 | 11,573 | 38,592 | 503 | 33 | 118 |
| 30–34 | 178,817 | 12,338 | 39,489 | 552 | 40 | 131 |
| 35+ | 102,698 | 8,012 | 23,526 | 316 | 19 | 50 |
| Total | 594,360 | 45,083 | 145,489 | 1,904 | 118 | 430 |
| *2002* | | | | | | |
| Under 20 | 43,460 | 4,117 | 13,257 | 142 | 18 | 40 |
| 20–24 | 110,928 | 9,559 | 31,790 | 349 | 32 | 98 |
| 25–29 | 153,328 | 11,233 | 37,650 | 472 | 26 | 105 |
| 30–34 | 180,465 | 12,681 | 40,159 | 587 | 37 | 125 |
| 35+ | 107,733 | 8,328 | 24,811 | 341 | 30 | 83 |
| Total | 595,914 | 45,918 | 147,667 | 1,891 | 143 | 451 |
| *2003* | | | | | | |
| Under 20 | 44,228 | 4,259 | 13,601 | 135 | 9 | 34 |
| 20–24 | 116,581 | 9,840 | 33,131 | 396 | 30 | 108 |
| 25–29 | 156,882 | 11,499 | 39,011 | 483 | 35 | 110 |
| 30–34 | 187,150 | 12,967 | 41,855 | 551 | 45 | 118 |
| 35+ | 116,410 | 8,966 | 26,900 | 346 | 25 | 90 |
| Total | 621,251 | 47,531 | 154,498 | 1,911 | 144 | 460 |
| *2004*[1] | | | | | | |
| Under 20 | 45,033 | 4,163 | 13,493 | 123 | 10 | 37 |
| 20–24 | 121,077 | 9,954 | 33,770 | 386 | 43 | 109 |
| 25–29 | 159,914 | 11,701 | 39,473 | 490 | 22 | 94 |
| 30–34 | 190,365 | 13,322 | 42,795 | 590 | 34 | 124 |
| 35+ | 123,120 | 9,408 | 28,416 | 355 | 28 | 85 |
| Total | 639,509 | 48,548 | 157,947 | 1,944 | 137 | 449 |

[1] Provisional

### Carbon Capture and Abatement Technologies

**Mr. Salmond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will provide additional tax and financial incentives to *(a)* promote the development of carbon capture and abatement technologies and *(b)* support the development and construction of carbon capture and abatement plants. [10301]

**John Healey:** As the Chancellor announced in the Budget, the Government are examining how it might support the development of carbon capture and storage within the Climate Change Programme Review, including the potential for new economic incentives. Carbon capture and storage is also eligible for funding through the £25 million Carbon Abatement Technology strategy launched by the Minister for Energy on 14 June.

### Cost Recovery

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 28 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 1424W, on cost recovery, what advice his Department has given to the NHS on reaching agreement with hospices on levels of service and prices reflecting the full cost of services provided in relation to *(a)* adults and *(b)* children. [10403]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** Treasury has worked with the Department of Health to embed in the NHS principles set out in the 2002 Treasury "Cross cutting review of the role of the voluntary and community sector in service delivery". These apply equally when government funds any service delivered by the voluntary sector, including adults' and children's hospices: *(a)* working towards agreed levels of service with providers; *(b)* ensuring that the price for the agreed level of service reflects the full cost of the service to be provided, including the legitimate portion of overhead costs; and *(c)* achieving this by coming together in partnership with the sector in a compact-compliant manner. More detailed guidance on implementing the principle of full cost recovery will be published in a revised version of "Guidance to Funders" by the end of the year.

## EC Officials

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average pension is of each grade of retired European Communities official; and if he will make a statement. [10083]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** This information is not available.

## Government Debt

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the effects on debt servicing costs if the Government refinanced its debt of 10-year maturity or longer at the same 10-year interest rates paid by *(a)* Greece, *(b)* Italy and *(c)* Spain. [9895]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The Government issues gilts at a range of maturities in order to fulfil its commitment to long-term minimisation of debt servicing costs while taking account of risk. The Government issues gilts in economic conditions that differ from those faced by the Eurozone countries when issuing in euros. Therefore, it would not be meaningful to base the costs of financing the Government's borrowing needs on Eurozone interest rates. In particular, the UK economy is growing more rapidly than the Eurozone and is, therefore, at a different point in the interest rate cycle. It would also be misleading to compare debt-servicing costs based on financing borrowing through 10-year bonds only because this would not take account of the range of maturities and yields at which governments issue bonds.

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what factors underlie the level of long-term interest rates (or bond yields) paid by the Government on their debt with a maturity of 10 years or more; and what assessment he has made of the level of such rates in comparable countries. [10449]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The main factors underlying the level of gilt yields are: (i) the level of short-term interest rates; (ii) investor demand for gilts of different maturities; and (iii) market expectations about macroeconomic factors such as future inflation and interest rates. The Government issue gilts (denominated in sterling) in economic conditions that differ from those of other sovereign issuers (for example the United States that issues in dollars or Eurozone countries that issue in euros). In particular, the UK economy is growing at a different rate from the Eurozone and US economies and is, therefore, at a different point in the interest rate cycle. It would not be meaningful to assess the costs of financing the Government's borrowing needs by looking at the level of interest rates in other countries.

## Hypothermia

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many deaths linked with hypothermia there were in *(a)* the United Kingdom, *(b)* England, *(c)* Scotland, *(d)* Wales, *(e)* Essex and *(f)* the Southend area of those aged (i) 60 to 64 years, (ii) 65 to 79 years, (iii) over 80 years and (iv) all ages in each of the last five years. [9910]

**John Healey:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Colin Mowl to Mr. David Amess, dated 7 July 2005:*

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many deaths linked with hypothermia there were in *(a)* the United Kingdom, *(b)* England, *(c)* Scotland, *(d)* Wales, *(e)* Essex, and *(f)* the Southend area of those aged (i) 60 to 64 years, (ii) 65 to 79 years, (iii) over 80 years, and (iv) all ages in each of the last five years. I am replying in his absence. (9910)

Available information relates to the number of deaths where hypothermia was mentioned on the death certificate. The latest year for which these figures are available is 2004. Figures for the areas requested are given in the attached table, for each of the years 2000 to 2004.

*Deaths with a mention of hypothermia[1] on the death certificate, for the United Kingdom by area,[2] 2000 to 2004[3]*

| | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *(a) United Kingdom* | | | | | |
| (i) 60–64 | 14 | 16 | 15 | 10 | 12 |
| (ii) 65–79 | 105 | 91 | 51 | 43 | 58 |
| (iii) 80 and over | 183 | 155 | 121 | 101 | 108 |
| (iv) All ages | 374 | 344 | 255 | 217 | 222 |
| *(b) England* | | | | | |
| (i) 60–64 | 7 | 12 | 12 | 8 | 8 |
| (ii) 65–79 | 82 | 70 | 40 | 32 | 44 |
| (iii) 80 and over | 154 | 123 | 98 | 86 | 85 |
| (iv) All ages | 300 | 250 | 195 | 180 | 167 |
| *(c) Scotland* | | | | | |
| (i) 60–64 | 7 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| (ii) 65–79 | 15 | 12 | 5 | 6 | 6 |
| (iii) 80 and over | 20 | 18 | 15 | 9 | 13 |
| (iv) All ages | 49 | 60 | 32 | 22 | 30 |
| *(d) Wales* | | | | | |
| (i) 60–64 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| (ii) 65–79 | 5 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 4 |
| (iii) 80 and over | 4 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 7 |
| (iv) All ages | 13 | 18 | 14 | 7 | 14 |

*Deaths with a mention of hypothermia[1] on the death certificate, for the United Kingdom by area,[2] 2000 to 2004[3]*

| | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *(e) Essex* | | | | | |
| (i) 60–64 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| (ii) 65–79 | 3 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| (iii) 80 and over | 1 | 4 | 4 | 1 | 1 |
| (iv) All ages | 7 | 10 | 6 | 2 | 2 |
| *(f) Southend* | | | | | |
| (i) 60–64 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| (ii) 65–79 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| (iii) 80 and over | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| (iv) All ages | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 |

[1] Deaths with a mention of hypothermia defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) code N991.6 for the year 2000 for England and Wales and Northern Ireland, and the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) code T68 for Scotland from 2000 to 2004, and for England and Wales and Northern Ireland from 2001 to 2004.
[2] Deaths of usual residents for these areas.
[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year and are provisional for Northern Ireland.

### Poverty Reduction

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he is taking to reduce poverty in persons aged over 65 years; and if he will make a statement. [10539]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** Poverty and social exclusion are complex and multi-dimensional issues, affecting many aspects of people's lives—including their living standards, health, housing, the quality of their environment and not just low income. The Department for Work and Pensions "Oppor unity for all" report sets out the Government's strategy for tackling poverty and social exclusion and reports progress against a range of measures.

However, 2003–04 data show nearly 2 million pensioners have been lifted out of absolute low income since 1997. Compared with the 1997 system, in 2005–06, as a result of the Government's measures including the pension credit, pensioner households will be on average £29 a week better off while the poorest third of pensioner households will be on average £39 a week better off.

Alongside a 7 per cent. real increase in the basic state pension, winter fuel payments and free television licences, pension credit has been key to this increase in income. Pension credit which now pays over £6 billion a year to our poorest pensioners, guaranteeing a minimum income of £109.45 a week for single pensioners and £167.05 couples (over age 60). 2.7 million pensioner households (3.3 million individuals) were receiving pension credit at end March 2005. The Government are committed to increasing the guarantee credit element of pension credit by earnings next year and in the next spending round 2006–08.

### Public Borrowing

**Mr. George Osborne:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how he calculates the start and end points of the economic cycle; when, for the purposes of calculating the golden rule, the current economic cycle *(a)* started and *(b)* is expected to finish; and when his Department estimates that the next economic cycle will start. [9857]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The Treasury's transparent and consistent methodology for dating the cycle uses a wide range of survey and other information and is explained in "Trend Growth: Recent Developments and Prospects" published alongside Budget 2002 and "Fiscal Policy: Public Finances and the Cycle" published alongside Budget 1999. The most recent "Financial Statement and Budget Report 2005" (HC 372) gave an assessment of when the current cycle is judged to have started and is expected to end.

### Science Investment

**Dr. Iddon:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the projected figures for increasing public investment in scientific research set out in the 2004 Spending Review are contingent on increases in investment by the private sector; and if he will make a statement. [9838]

**John Healey:** The 10-year Science and Innovation Investment framework set out the Government's intention to increase investment in the public science base at least in line with the trend growth rate of the economy through the 10-year period, increasing science spending as a proportion of GDP.

However, the Government's overall ambition is that overall levels of R and D in the economy should reach 2.5 per cent. of GDP.

The 10-year framework recognised that this scenario represents a considerable challenge for both Government and UK business, which can only be achieved if the Government's commitment to invest substantially in the science base is matched by the private sector and leading charitable funders, and in particular that it is clear that private sector R and D funding is on a new and growing trajectory.

### Tax Avoidance Schemes

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will introduce legislation to prevent accountancy firms selling aggressive tax avoidance schemes from securing contracts awarded by his Department. [9408]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The Government will continue to award contracts in accordance with procurement procedures. I refer my hon. Friend to my answer of 15 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 391W.

## Tax Credits

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his estimate is of the proportion of overpaid tax credits for 2003–04 which so far have been written off; and if he will make a statement. [8576]

**Dawn Primarolo:** I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave him on 4 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 96W.

**Mrs. Iris Robinson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what *(a)* the total amount of tax credit payments claimed in Northern Ireland since their introduction, *(b)* the total amount of overpayments, *(c)* the value of overpayments which have been written off and *(d)* the value of overpayments retrieved is. [8801]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Estimates of the total amount of tax credits entitlement, broken down by country and region, appear in the HMRC publication "Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics. Finalised Awards 2003–04.Geographical analyses."

The numbers of tax credits awards where there was an underpayment or overpayment at 5 April 2004 following finalisation also appear in the publication "Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics. Finalised 2003–04. Supplement on payments in 2003–04. Geographical analyses."

The estimates in both these publications are based on samples and are subject to significant sampling uncertainty. These publications can be found on the HMRC website at http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-stats.htm.

Information about the amounts written off is not available at a regional level.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the performance of the tax credits system against targets set for it over the period March 2003 to June 2005; and if he will make a statement. [8846]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Details of the Inland Revenue's performance against their tax credits targets for 2003–04 were published in their annual report and accounts in October 2004, and can be found on the HMRC website at http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/about/reports.htm.

The spring departmental report 2005, which can be found at the same address, gives progress against the targets in 2004–05. The Department will publish final results for 2004–05 in its annual report, which will be available on its website at www.hmrc.gov.uk.

The results for April and May 2005 will be covered in the 2005–06 annual report when that is published.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, if he will list the management information collected on a regular basis and reported to Ministers on the tax credit system. [8859]

**Dawn Primarolo:** I hold regular meetings with senior officials responsible for the delivery of tax credits at which I ask for various types of information.

Section 40 of the Tax Credit Act requires the Board of Inland Revenue, now HM Revenue and Customs, to make an annual Report to the Treasury about tax credits. Section 40(2) requires the Treasury to publish the annual Report and lay a copy before both Houses.

**Mr. Redwood:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many people have been notified of overpayments of tax credits since 5 May; [8879]

(2) how many people received overpayments of tax credits before 5th May. [8883]

**Dawn Primarolo** *[holding answer 4 July 2005]:* Almost all families whose 2003–04 awards were overpaid at finalisation had been notified of this by 5 May 2005.

Overpayments are not identified until awards are finalised after the end of the financial year. For 2004–05 awards, this process is currently under way. Therefore estimates of numbers of overpayments or underpayments for 2004–05 awards at 5 April 2005 will not be available until after family circumstances and incomes for 2004–05 have been finalised. The most recent estimates available for the net amount paid in tax credits and the net amount of overpayments is for awards at 5 April 2004 based on final family circumstances and incomes for 2003–04. They appear in the HMRC publication "Child and Working Tax Credits Annual statistics. 2003–04 Payments." The estimates are based on samples and are subject to significant sampling uncertainty.

**Mr. George Osborne:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many complaints about tax credits have been made to HM Revenue and Customs in each of the last three financial years. [9729]

**Dawn Primarolo:** For 2003–04 and 2004–05 (the first two years of the new tax credits), I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave my hon. Friend the Member for Walsall, North (Mr. Winnick) on 15 June 2005, *Official Report*, columns 394–95W.

**Mr. George Osborne:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people are employed to work for the tax credit helpline, broken down by where staff are based in the UK. [9730]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The following table shows the staff numbers in full time equivalents (FTE) employed to work on the tax credit helpline by UK location at the end of May 2005.

| *UK location* | *Staff numbers (FTE)* |
|---|---|
| *May 2005* | |
| Belfast | 100 |
| Peterlee | 600 |
| Livingston | 300 |
| Merry Hill | 350 |
| Dundee | 600 |
| Bathgate | 650 |
| Newcastle | 600 |
| Total | 3,200 |

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make a statement on the progress made in recovery of overpaid tax credits. [9739]

**Dawn Primarolo:** No estimates of recovered overpayments can be made until the departmental accounts for 2004–05 have been prepared and the trust statement published.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer by what date he intends to introduce a statutory test for recovery of overpaid tax credits; whether the test will include an independent right of appeal; and if he will make a statement. [9842]

**Dawn Primarolo:** I refer the hon. Member to my statement of 26 May 2005, *Official Report*, column 802, on tax credits.

**Mr. George Osborne:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people are employed within Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs to handle complaints relating to tax credits. [9844]

**Dawn Primarolo:** At 28 May 2005 HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) had nearly 400 full-time equivalent staff working in the Tax Credit Office handling tax credit complaints. These staff also deal with compensation in accordance with complaints and redress procedures explained in the Department's Code of Practice 1: "Putting things right".

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the *(a)* number and *(b)* total value of excess tax credit payments and overpayments where there was no disregard of income rises of up to £2,500 in (i) 2003–04 and (ii) 2004–05; and if he will make a statement. [9866]

**Dawn Primarolo:** I refer the hon. Member to my reply to him 4 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 98W. The £2,500 disregard applies to all tax credit awards.

### VAT (New Build Projects)

**Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what representations he has received from charitable organisations which zero-rate the VAT on new build projects and have an unfunded future liability for the repayment of the VAT should the use of the new building be changed at a later date. [10222]

**Dawn Primarolo:** In the last year a small number of letters from charitable organisations and hon. Members have been received by Treasury Ministers about the VAT zero rate for the construction of certain charity buildings. Zero-rating applies to the construction and sale of new buildings intended to be used by charities solely for a qualifying purpose. This qualifying purpose must be either use for non-business purposes or use as a village hall or similar.

If the building is put to a non-qualifying use within 10 years of completion of the building, the VAT originally saved must be repaid to HM Revenue and Customs. However, the full amount of VAT saved will only be repayable if the use changes in the first year following completion. Otherwise, the VAT repayable is adjusted according to the number of complete years of qualifying use that have elapsed.

As a concession, minor non-qualifying use of a building can be disregarded.

Officials are examining the issues arising from this in certain circumstances.

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Benefits (Dundee)

**Mr. McGovern:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people were in receipt of *(a)* incapacity benefit, *(b)* jobseeker's allowance, *(c)* income support and *(d)* income support for lone parents in (i) Dundee West and (ii) Dundee East (A) in the most recent year for which figures are available and (B) one year previously. [10339]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The information is in the tables.

*Number of incapacity benefit (IB) and severe disability allowance (SDA) claimants in the parliamentary constituencies of Dundee East and Dundee West at February 2004 and February 2005*

| | *IB/SDA* | *IB* | *SDA* |
|---|---|---|---|
| *February 2004* | | | |
| Dundee East | 4,800 | 4,000 | 800 |
| Dundee West | 5,000 | 4,300 | 700 |
| *February 2005* | | | |
| Dundee East | 5,000 | 4,200 | 800 |
| Dundee West | 5,000 | 4,400 | 700 |

*Notes:*
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest hundred. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
2. "Claimant" figures include all incapacity benefit and severe disability allowance (including incapacity benefit credits-only cases).

*Source:*
Information Directorate, 5 per cent. Samples.

*Jobseekers allowance (JSA) and income support (IS) claimants in the Parliamentary constituencies of Dundee East and Dundee West at February 2004 and February2005*

| *As at February each year* | *All JSA* | *All IS* | *IS lone parents* |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Dundee West* | | | |
| 2004 | 2,000 | 4,300 | 1,500 |
| 2005 | 2,100 | 4,200 | 1,500 |
| *Dundee East* | | | |
| 2005 | 2,300 | 4,400 | 1,500 |
| 2004 | 2,300 | 4,200 | 1,400 |

*Notes:*
1. Figures have been rounded to the nearest hundred.
2. IS claimants may also be in receipt of incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance.
3. All IS category includes IS lone parents.
4. JSA figures include claimants receiving Nil benefit, (ie. those receiving national insurance credits only).
5. IS lone parents are defined as single claimants with dependants not receiving the disability or pensioner premium.

*Source:*
Information Directorate, 5 per cent. samples.

### Earnings-Related Pensions

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 14 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 260W, on earnings-related pensions, what estimate he has made of the cost *(a)* in real terms and *(b)* as a percentage of GDP of pension credit if income taken into account for pension credit is assumed to increase (i) in line with price growth and (ii) halfway between price and real earnings growth in (A) 2010, (B) 2020, (C) 2030, (D) 2040 and (E) 2050. [8858]

**Mr. Timms:** The requested information is in the following tables.

Estimated costs, £ billion, 2005–06 prices:

| | *Pension credit income increasing with prices* | *Pension credit income increasing midway between prices and earnings growth* |
|---|---|---|
| 2010 | 9.8 | 9.6 |
| 2020 | 16.7 | 15.0 |
| 2030 | 30.0 | 25.4 |
| 2040 | 49.1 | 40.1 |
| 2050 | 71.5 | 57.2 |

Estimated cost as a percentage of GDP:

*Percentage*

| | *Pension credit income increasing with prices* | *Pension credit income increasing midway between prices and earnings growth* |
|---|---|---|
| 2010 | 0.7 | 0.7 |
| 2020 | 0.9 | 0.8 |
| 2030 | 1.4 | 1.2 |
| 2040 | 1.9 | 1.5 |
| 2050 | 2.2 | 1.8 |

*Notes:*

1. Both tables provide figures on a UK basis.
2. Figures are consistent with published projections.

*Source:*

DWP projection models

### Financial Assistance Scheme

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will list the pension schemes expected to be eligible for the Financial Assistance Scheme, broken down by parliamentary constituency in which the company's headquarters is located. [8866]

**Mr. Timms:** We published a list of pension schemes that are potentially eligible for help from the Financial Assistance Scheme on 22 February. The list was compiled from information provided by trustees and administrators during our data collection exercise at the end of last year. We asked for scheme specific information including the name of the scheme, trustee contact details, and the date scheme wind up commenced.

Information on the location of each scheme's sponsoring employer was not collected as part of the exercise and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

### Incapacity Benefit

**Mr. Frank Field:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average time between an initial personal capability assessment for claimants of incapacity benefits and a follow-up assessment has been in each of the last five years, broken down by *(a)* sex, *(b)* age and *(c)* medical condition. [10227]

**Mrs. McGuire:** The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. She will write to the hon. Member.

*Letter from Lesley Strathie to Mr. Frank Field, dated 7 July 2005:*

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what the average time between an initial Personal Capability Assessment for claimants of incapacity benefits and a follow up assessment has been in each of the last five years, broken down by *(a)* sex, *(b)* age and *(c)* medical condition. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Information about the average time taken between initial personal capability assessments and follow up assessments is not recorded centrally.

Re-referral is based on the advice of a Medical Services doctor. The doctor's advice is based on the likely improvement in the person's condition over a 3 to 18 month period. Where the doctor considers the condition is unlikely to change significantly in the longer term, cases will be looked at again at a later date, normally within 3 to 5 years.

### Pension Credit

**Mr. Hood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners in the Lanark and Hamilton, East constituency are in receipt of the pension credit; how much they receive on average; and if he will make a statement. [10063]

**Mr. Timms:** The information is not currently available. Information on numbers of households and individuals in receipt of pension credit and average awards in each constituency at 31 March 2005 is contained in the most recent quarterly pension credit progress report, which was published on 20 June. A copy of the report is in the Library. The next progress report, with information as at the end of June, will include the new constituencies which came into being at the general election.

**Julie Morgan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many recipients there are of pension credit in Cardiff, North constituency; and what the average award is. [10312]

**Mr. Timms:** Information on numbers of households and individuals in receipt of pension credit and average awards in each constituency at 31 March 2005 is contained in the most recent quarterly pension credit progress report, which was published on 20 June. A copy of the report is in the Library.

### Pensions

**Mr. Frank Field:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate has been made of the effect on projected expenditure for the basic state pay as you go pension if all those currently contracted out from the state scheme were to return for the next *(a)* 10, *(b)* 20, *(c)* 30, *(d)* 40 and *(e)* 50 years. [9947]

**Mr. Timms** *[holding answer 5 July 2005]:* While there would be an impact on future state pension expenditure if those currently contracted out were to contract back

in, it would be on the state second pension and not the basic state pension. The effect of such a move is shown in the table.

*Annual increase in state second pension expenditure that would arise if everyone contracted back into the state scheme*

| | *Annual increase to S2P (£ million)* |
|---|---|
| 2015–16 | 400 |
| 2025–26 | 2,700 |
| 2035–36 | 9,400 |
| 2045–46 | 15,700 |
| 2055–56 | 21,700 |

*Notes:*

1. The estimates show the effect on state second pension expenditure in the selected years if contracting-out of the state second pension were abolished from April 2006.
2. Estimates are for Great Britain only, not UK, and are consistent with the December 2004 update of the "Government Actuary's Quinquennial Review of the National Insurance Fund".
3. Figures are expressed in 2005–06 price terms and are rounded to the nearest £100 million.
4. Figures given are for specific years, rather than the range of years, and do not reflect the total increase for each year in between.

*Source:*

Government Actuary's Department.

### Social Security Office (Aberystwyth)

**Mark Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what assessment he has made of the likely effect of the proposed closure of the social security office in Aberystwyth upon delivery of his Department's services; and if he will make a statement; [10338]

(2) what timetable has been set for the proposed closure of the social security office in Aberystwyth. [10342]

**Margaret Hodge:** The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. She will write to the hon. Member.

*Letter from Lesley Strathie to Mr. Mark Williams, dated 7 July 2005:*

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your questions concerning the proposed closure of Aberystwyth Social Security Office. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

I know that David Anderson, the former Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, wrote to you on 11 May, about our proposed changes to service delivery in Aberystwyth. In his letter David set out in detail the background to these changes and the benefits that the new integrated Jobcentre Plus service would bring to our customers.

We have considered the effects on service delivery and expect that through the better use of IT and telephony we will be making our services more accessible than ever. The new integrated service will be delivered from the site of the current Jobcentre, and the enhanced Personal Adviser service for customers on Incapacity Benefit and Income Support, will enable us to increase the help we offer to some of our most disadvantaged customers.

In terms of timescales, we currently plan to introduce the new service in Aberystwyth by the end of this year. At this point, although the Social Security Office will close to the public, we will continue to process benefits at this site until the work is eventually transferred to our Benefit Processing Centre in Llanelli.

We have not set a date for the closure of the Social Security Office as detailed planning for the transfer of Benefit Processing work is still continuing. However, nationally, we aim to complete the migration of this work to our network of Processing Centres by March 2008 and as local timescales become known, I have asked Pam Sutton, the Jobcentre Plus District Manager for West Wales, to ensure that you are kept fully informed.

I hope this is helpful.

### Training and Enterprise Council Pension Schemes

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) whether approaches have been made to the *(a)* Pensions Protection Fund and *(b)* Financial Assistance Scheme in respect of former Training and Enterprise Council pension schemes; [8749]

(2) whether applications have been made to the *(a)* Pensions Protection Fund and *(b)* Financial Assistance Scheme in respect of any former Training and Enterprise Council pension schemes. [9323]

**Mr. Timms:** No.

# Written Answers to Questions

*Monday 11 July 2005*

## SOLICITOR-GENERAL

### English Wine

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Solicitor-General if he will ensure that English wine is made available at dinners, receptions and parties he hosts at which hospitality involving wine is appropriate *(a)* during the EU presidency and *(b)* generally; and if he will make a statement. [9164]

**The Solicitor-General:** I have no current plans to host any dinners, receptions or parties specifically for the EU presidency. Generally, all procurement is undertaken in line with the EC's procurement rules and must represent value for money. Wherever possible British products are used.

### European Court of Justice

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Solicitor-General if he will list each item of UK legislation which has been or is being subjected to legal challenge in the European Court of Justice *(a)* on the grounds of an alleged conflict with Article 30 of the Treaty of Rome, *(b)* on the grounds of an alleged conflict with another article of the treaty and *(c)* on other grounds, together with the date (i) on which each challenge was instituted and (ii) of the court decision. [10483]

**The Solicitor-General:** The information requested is extremely broad covering a period of over 30 years and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Information about European Court of Justice cases is widely published, in particular on their website and in the European Court Reports.

### Fraud Convictions (Essex)

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Solicitor-General how many people have been convicted of fraud in *(a)* Southend and *(b)* Essex in each year since 1997. [10578]

**The Solicitor-General:** The following table shows the number of offenders convicted at all courts of fraud offences from 1997 to 2003, in the south-east Essex petty sessional area (which covers Southend and some parts of Rayleigh, Benfleet and Canvey) and the Essex police force area. The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

| | *South-east Essex psa* | *Essex police force area* |
|---|---|---|
| 1997 | 78 | 355 |
| 1998 | 64 | 358 |
| 1999 | 79 | 338 |
| 2000 | 79 | 319 |
| 2001 | 60 | 316 |
| 2002 | 54 | 311 |
| 2003 | 56 | 314 |

### Laptop Computers

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Solicitor-General how many laptop computers have been used by *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* special advisers and *(c)* officials in the Law Officers' Departments in each year since 1995; how many have been (i) lost and (ii) stolen in that period; what the cost was of the use of laptops in that period; and if he will make a statement. [4111]

**The Solicitor-General:** Details on the use of laptop computers by the Law Officers' Departments between 1995–96 and 2004–05 are given, where available, in the following table. Details have not always been held centrally and would incur disproportionate cost to obtain for the periods not available.

Laptop computers have facilitated greater flexibility of working for all staff and are particularly useful for prosecutors working out of office at police stations and courts.

*Law Officers' Department use of laptop computers*

| | *Attorney General's Office*[1] | | | *Treasury Solicitors Department* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Ministers* | *Officials* | | *Officials* | |
| | *Number* | *Number* | *£* | *Number* | *£* |
| 1995–96 | n/a | n/a | n/a | [4]— | [4]— |
| 1996–97 | n/a | n/a | n/a | [4]— | [4]— |
| 1997–98 | n/a | n/a | n/a | [4]— | [4]— |
| 1998–99 | n/a | n/a | n/a | 5 | 2,025 |
| 1999–2000 | 0 | 9 | | 5 | 2,025 |
| 2000–01 | 0 | 2 | | 11 | 4,149 |
| 2001–02 | 9 | 2 | | 32 | 14,897 |
| 2002–03 | 2 | 4 | 17,235 | 76 | 42,341 |
| 2003–04 | 2 | 4 | | 96 | 53,960 |
| 2004–05 | 4 | 2 | | 107 | 60,658 |
| Lost and/or stolen[6] in period | 0 | 0 | | 4 stolen + 2 lost since 2001–02 | |

| | *Crown Prosecution Service*[3] | | *Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office*[3] | | *Serious Fraud Office* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | *Officials* | | | |
| | *Number* | *£* | *Number* | *£* | *Number* | *£* |
| 1995–96 | n/a | n/a | [3,5]— | [3,5]— | n/a | n/a |
| 1996–97 | n/a | n/a | [3,5]— | [3,5]— | n/a | n/a |
| 1997–98 | n/a | n/a | [3,5]— | [3,5]— | n/a | n/a |
| 1998–99 | n/a | n/a | [3,5]— | [3,5]— | 21 | n/a |
| 1999–2000 | n/a | n/a | [3,5]— | [3,5]— | 22 | n/a |
| 2000–01 | n/a | n/a | [3,5]— | [3,5]— | 16 | n/a |

| | Crown Prosecution Service[1] | | Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office[1] Officials | | Serious Fraud Office | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Number | £ | Number | £ | Number | £ |
| 2001–02 | n/a | n/a | 3.5 | 3.5 | 90 | n/a |
| 2002–03 | 449 | 102,704 | 3.5 | 3.5 | 122 | n/a |
| 2003–04 | 899 | 454,158 | 10 | 10,000 | 357 | n/a |
| 2004–05 | 967 | 714,644 | 10 | | 337 | n/a |
| Lost and/or stolen[6] in period | 20 since 2002–03 | | 0 since 2003–04 | | 3 since 1999–2000 | |

[1] There are no special advisers
[2] Figures for the CPS include HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate. The CPS does not own laptop computers; since 2002, it has had a Public Finance Initiative contract for IT equipment under which a monthly charge is made for laptops.
[3] RCPO was established in April 2005. Previously, as the Customs and Excise Prosecutions Office it owned the laptops identified in the table. It also had the use of some 17 laptops provided by HM Customs and Excise and the latter provision is included in the response for HM Revenue and Customs.
[4] Laptops not in use.
[5] RCPO and CEPO, its predecessor, not established
[6] Records do not differentiate between laptops which are lost or stolen, except where specified

### Serious Fraud Office

**Malcolm Bruce:** To ask the Solicitor-General pursuant to the answer of 16 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 600W, on the Serious Fraud Office, when he will place the guidance which governs implementation of the revised version of the Memorandum of Understanding in the Library. [9770]

**The Solicitor-General:** The answer of 16 June 2005 was partially in error. There is no current intention to issue separate guidance governing the implementation of the revised version of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The MOU is currently in the process of being revised and this is being co-ordinated by the Home Office. The MOU will be placed in the House of Commons Library after all parties to the MOU have agreed the revised version. The MOU will also be available upon request from any of the involved parties, including the Serious Fraud Office.

### Police Officers (Speeding Prosecutions)

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Solicitor-General how many *(a)* successful and *(b)* unsuccessful prosecutions of police officers for speeding there have been in each of the last three years. [10200]

**Hazel Blears:** I have been asked to reply.

The information is not collected centrally.

## CHURCH COMMISSIONERS

### Stipends

28. **Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners if the Church Commissioners will make it their policy to withhold the payment of stipends to clergymen and clergywomen who do not believe in God. [10651]

**Sir Stuart Bell:** The Commissioners have no power to withhold stipends paid by or through them on the grounds of a cleric's beliefs.

## ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

### Election Pilots

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission whether the Electoral Commission will issue guidance to local authorities with regards to applying for *(a)* all-postal voting pilots and *(b)* other forms of election pilot in (i) forthcoming by-elections and (ii) the 2005 local elections. [9807]

**Peter Viggers:** The Commission informs me that there is no requirement for it to issue guidance for local authorities on applications for electoral pilot schemes and I understand it has no present plans to do so.

### Individual Registration

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what research the Electoral Commission has conducted into the effect of individual registration on the electoral roll. [9809]

**Peter Viggers:** The Electoral Commission informs me that it has published several research reports and updates on the impact of individual registration on overall levels of registration in Northern Ireland, the only part of the United Kingdom where there is individual registration at present. All of the Commission's reports, including the 2002 report "The Electoral Fraud (Northern Ireland) Act 2002: An assessment of its first year in operation", are available on its website. The Commission is also currently undertaking research that will provide a better understanding of the extent and nature of under-registration across Great Britain.

### Welsh Assembly

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission if the Electoral Commission will make a statement on the Government's plan to amend the electoral system for the Welsh Assembly to stop Party List candidates also running for constituency seats. [9808]

**Peter Viggers:** The Electoral Commission informs me that it is considering what response, if any, to make to the White Paper 'Better Governance for Wales', in which a proposal to this effect features.

## CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

### Sports Bodies

12. **James Brokenshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps the Government are taking to reduce the burden of administration on sports bodies for which she is responsible. [10634]

**Mr. Caborn:** In March this year, having consulted widely in the sports sector, my Department and the Cabinet Office published a joint report, entitled Making a Difference—Reducing Burdens in School and Community Sport, on reducing administrative burdens in school and community sport.

As sponsoring Minister for the report it is my belief that the successful implementation of its recommendations will enable staff and volunteers in sporting bodies to focus on what they do best—delivering successful and rewarding sporting opportunities.

### Drinks Pricing

13. **Greg Mulholland:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps she has taken to raise awareness of the implications for responsible drinking of the Office of Fair Trading's ruling on minimum drinks pricing. [10635]

**James Purnell:** As part of the Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy, Government are working with the alcohol industry to ensure that irresponsible drinks promotions can be addressed. I understand that the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) has not made any ruling on this matter. However, they have provided advice on the application of competition law to measures that may be taken in this area, to a number of local authorities and to the Local Authorities Co-ordinators of Regulatory Services (LACORS). LACORS has circulated this advice to the licensing specialists of local authorities as well as posting it on its website.

### Young People (Sports)

14. **Mr. Robathan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what her policy is on competitive sports for young people. [10636]

**Mr. Caborn:** In December 2004, the Government announced the creation of Competition Managers. These new posts will play a key role in delivering the Government's aim of a high quality school sport national competition framework by 2010 by co-ordinating the planning, management and implementation of competitive sport between schools. This will complement the principles of long-term athlete development by identifying talented young people with the potential to reach elite or even Olympic levels of performance. It will also increase and widen the opportunities for all children to take part in competitive sports at school. By September 2005, 20 managers will be appointed in England and Wales, a further 45 managers are due to be appointed by September 2006 and 90 managers by September 2007.

### Digital Television

15. **John Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will make a statement on progress towards digital switchover. [10637]

**James Purnell:** Great progress has been made. 62 per cent. of households are now estimated to have digital television.

As we said in our Manifesto, we will achieve digital switchover between 2008 and 2012 ensuring universal access to high-quality, free-to-view and subscription digital TV. This will happen region by region, and we will make sure that the interests of elderly people and other vulnerable groups are protected.

**Mr. Moore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when she expects the switchover from analogue to digital television to take place in the Border Television region; and if she will make a statement. [9617]

**James Purnell:** As we said in our manifesto, we will achieve digital switchover between 2008 and 2012 ensuring universal access to high-quality, free-to-view and subscription digital TV. This will happen region by region, and we will make sure that the interests of elderly people and other vulnerable groups are protected.

The indicative regional order published by Ofcom in February suggests that Border will be the first region to switch. The Government will confirm the region-by-region timetable in due course.

**Mrs. James:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will make a statement on digital television coverage in Swansea East. [9779]

**James Purnell:** The vast majority of households in Swansea can, with the appropriate equipment, receive digital television services via at least one of digital satellite, digital terrestrial or cable.

**Mr. Rob Wilson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) how many applications for Local Digital Service Programme Licences there have been in the past five years; and how many were *(a)* granted and *(b)* refused; [9978]

(2) how many applications for National Digital Service Programme Licences there were in the past five years; and how many were *(a)* granted and *(b)* refused. [9981]

**James Purnell:** The matter raised is the responsibility of the Office of Communications (Ofcom) as independent regulator. Accordingly, my officials have asked the chief executive of Ofcom to respond directly to the hon. Member. Copies of the chief executive's letter will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

**Mr. Rob Wilson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what plans she has to change the number of *(a)* Local Digital Service Programme Licences, *(b)* National Digital Service Programme Licences and *(c)* National Radio Licences. [9980]

**James Purnell:** I have no plans as this is a matter for the Office of Communications (Ofcom). Ofcom's duties and responsibilities for licensing digital programme services and digital sound programme services are set out in the Broadcasting Act 1996 and the Communications Act 2003.

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate she has made of the number of households affected by restrictive covenants that prevent external satellite dishes on properties; what proportion of these households are unable to obtain digital television via any other means; and if she will make a statement. [7971]

**James Purnell:** Restrictive covenants are private agreements that prevent an owner from carrying out certain actions on their own land. Some covenants are intended to benefit and bind the original parties only, whereas others are intended to benefit and bind successive owners of the land.

No information is held centrally about the number of homes which may have an operative restrictive covenant which may either explicitly or implicitly prevent the installation of an external satellite dish or aerial.

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether it is her policy to support the use of integrated reception systems to provide digital services in multiple dwelling units; and if she will make a statement. [7973]

**James Purnell:** Many residents living in multi-dwelling units are already able to access digital television services either through communal systems that are capable of transmitting digital signals or through the use of other antennae.

We recognise that all landlords who own or manage communal TV systems need to start taking steps to prepare for digital switchover. In association with the Chartered Institute of Housing, we are developing comprehensive new guidance for landlords who have properties with analogue communal systems which need to be upgraded. The guidance, which will be published shortly, will be aimed at both the private and social sector landlords.

However, it is for individual landlords consulting as appropriate with residents, to determine how to upgrade communal television systems for digital services.

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will make it her policy to offer incentives to landlords to update communal reception arrangements to integrated reception system standards; and if she will make a statement. [7974]

**James Purnell:** We have no plans to offer financial incentives to landlords to update communal television systems for digital television services.

### National Lottery

16. **Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent representations she has received from charities in respect of the distribution of National Lottery grants. [10638]

**Mr. Caborn:** I receive representations from time to time about the distribution of Lottery grants, some of these are from charities. The National Lottery Bill will create a better framework for distributing Lottery money to charities and other voluntary and community organisations. My predecessor discussed this with representatives of the voluntary sector and I will be meeting them again soon to renew those discussions.

**Mark Tami:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much has been provided from National Lottery funds to support the development of *(a)* netball, *(b)* tennis, *(c)* football, *(d)* rugby union, *(e)* rugby league, *(f)* cricket and *(g)* motor sport in England in each of the last five years. [9228]

**Mr. Caborn:** Lottery funding to support the development of sport in England is distributed primarily through Sport England. The Big Lottery Fund also administers lottery grants to individual sports through the Awards for All programmes. Details of this funding over the last five years can be found in the following table:

£

| | *2000-01* | | *2001-02* | | *2002-03* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Awards for All* | *Sport England* | *Awards for All* | *Sport England* | *Awards for All* | *Sport England* |
| Netball | 269,674 | 1,856,225 | 283,745 | 4,334,320 | 625,746 | 3,278,965 |
| Tennis (including real and lawn) | 410,320 | 4,484,174 | 384,488 | 11,898,237 | 816,571 | 10,703,470 |
| Football | 1,836,937 | 5,568,920 | 1,705,632 | 26,218,174 | 3,390,823 | 9,281,074 |
| Rugby Union | 355,904 | 2,360,269 | 525,488 | 2,566,082 | 763,260 | 5,393,585 |
| Rugby League | 370,728 | 1,981,519 | 216,828 | 4,193,472 | 398,774 | 683,171 |
| Cricket | 1,341,312 | 22,197,439 | 1,695,650 | 5,919,613 | 2,366,232 | 13,702,207 |
| Motor sport | 7,945 | 16,051 | 21,148 | — | 17,806 | — |

£

| | *2003-04* | | *2004-05* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Awards for All* | *Sport England* | *Awards for All* | *Sport England* |
| Netball | 639,760 | 2,185,632 | 174,479 | 1,143,214 |
| Tennis (including real and lawn) | 586,657 | 3,478,419 | 261,675 | — |
| Football | 3,252,416 | 7,092,736 | 1,598,545 | 2,095,669 |
| Rugby Union | 558,827 | 3,607,813 | 153,500 | 150,000 |
| Rugby League | 389,282 | 5,695,815 | 147,124 | — |
| Cricket | 1,840,244 | 9,010,458 | 661,856 | 1,822,875 |
| Motor sport | 10,000 | — | — | — |

Further lottery grants from Sport England were made through World Class Funding and through Whole Sport Plans (2004–05):

£

| Sport | World Class Funding (overall) | Whole Sport Plans |
|---|---|---|
| Netball | 9,258,470 | 500,000 |
| Tennis | 500,000 | 500,000 |
| Football | 500,000 | 500,000 |
| Rugby Union | 13,512,908 | 1,000,000 |
| Rugby League | 5,437,347 | 410,000 |
| Cricket | 6,862,528 | 500,000 |
| Motor Sport | — | — |

And additionally, a large number of the multi-sport projects Sport England has funded have benefited these sports. Since 1 April 2000, Sport England has awarded £364,201,963 to multi-sport projects.

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment her Department has made of the likely impact on *(a)* public health, *(b)* education and *(c)* the environment of abolishing the Big Lottery Fund and instead equally dividing the National Lottery Good Causes' funds between charities, arts, heritage and sport from 2009; and if she will make a statement. [10192]

**Mr. Caborn:** The three new good cause areas of health, education and the environment were only created in 1998. They stand alongside, not in place of, the four other good causes. I have no intention of abolishing either them or the Big Lottery Fund, or of making an assessment of the opportunities which would be missed if we were to abolish them.

### Licensing Act

17. **Peter Luff:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what progress she has made with the implementation of the Licensing Act 2003. [10639]

**James Purnell:** As I announced to the House on June 8, the Licensing Act 2003 will be fully implemented on November 24. My Department has initiated an intensive and targeted publicity campaign, and is working closely with industry and local authority representatives to advise licensees of the need to convert their existing licences before the deadline of 6 August and the recent upturn in applications reflects the impact of this campaign.

19. **Mr. Graham Stuart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate she has made of the number of amateur sports clubs which might have to pay more to operate as licensed premises following the implementation of the Licensing Act 2003. [10641]

**James Purnell:** We do not have figures for the numbers of sports clubs in particular that hold full justices' on-licences or club registration certificates. However, at 30 June 2004 there were 19,913 registered clubs in England and Wales. This number also includes political, ex-services, working men's and other clubs as well as Miners' Welfare Institutes.

It should be noted that sports clubs do not just pay the fee of £16 now for a registration certificate allowing them to supply alcohol. Those that obtain permanent extensions for their bars must pay an additional £25 for their special hours certificate. To obtain such a certificate, the club must first obtain a "certificate of suitability" from its local authority. This is essentially the same as a public entertainment licence and costs vary between local authority areas from £50 to £500 annually. Those clubs without permanent extensions of hours but which open their bars later for special occasions like Christmas and other holiday dances and functions, weddings, anniversaries or during periods like World Cups abroad, must pay for each permission to extend their hours. These are "occasional permissions" and "special orders of exemption". Each costs the club £10 and many clubs will have as many as 12 per year. All of this and the bureaucracy involved is swept away by the 2003 Act. Under the new licensing regime, the fee of between £100-£635 will cover all the activities and hours involved, and the majority of sports clubs will pay no more than £100, and £70 annually thereafter.

The new fees are intended to do no more than recover the licensing authorities' (local authorities') costs of administration, inspection and enforcement.

**Mr. Redwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate she has made of the number of public houses which may lose their license as a result of failing to meet the *(a)* deadlines and *(b)* requirements of the Licensing Act 2003. [8789]

**James Purnell:** The information is as follows:

*(a)* No estimate has been made of the number of public houses which may lose their licenses as a result of failing to meet the deadlines set out in the legislation.

My Department estimates that *(b)* some 50 public houses and other licensed premises may lose their licenses under the new licensing regime, following possible objections from the police and others. The 2003 Act allows for such objections in the interests of giving local communities more say in licensing decisions. The estimate is low as the majority of public house licenses will have been reviewed relatively recently under the existing licensing regime.

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent representations she has received from the Local Government Association on the implementation of the Licensing Act 2003. [11050]

**James Purnell:** Ministers and officials have frequent contact with the Local Government Association about the implementation of the Licensing Act 2003. The association is also a member of the high level group of senior representatives of key stakeholders which we established to monitor and evaluate implementation of the Act. Minutes of the group's meetings are available on my Department's website www.culture.gov.uk

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions she has had with trade associations representing companies involved in the retail of alcohol who are or will be affected by the new licensing regime. [9141]

**James Purnell:** I chair a high level group to ensure the smooth running of the implementation of the Licensing Act 2003. This group contains representatives of trade associations as well as representatives of central Government, local government, and the police. The minutes of the meetings of this group are available on the DCMS website at http://www.culture.gov.uk/alcohol_and_entertainment/hlm_sogroup.htm.

**Mr. Moss:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what representations she has received from the *(a)* Local Government Authority and *(b)* individual licensing authorities about the timetable for licensing applications before (i) 6 August and (ii) the second appointed day in November. [9457]

**James Purnell:** The Local Government Association has made clear that they are not in favour of changing either the 6 August date for transitional applications, or the second appointed day of 24 November, when the Licensing Act 2003 comes into force. Some individual local authorities have sought that these dates be delayed. We do not intend to move either of these dates. A change to the 6 August deadline would require primary legislation, which is not feasible before that date. Any delay in implementing the Act would be counter-productive as it would also delay the important powers under the Act to deal with alcohol-fuelled violence and antisocial behaviour.

**Mr. Moss:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what her estimate is of the number of applications for licences under the Licensing Act 2003 received by licensing authorities by 30 June; what percentage of the projected total those represent; what proportion have applied for a variation; and what proportion have applied for an entertainments licence. [9553]

**James Purnell:** As at 30 June we estimate that approximately 47,500 applications for premises licences and club premises certificates under the Licensing Act 2003 have been made. This represents approximately 25 per cent. of existing licensed premises and registered clubs. We would expect 65 per cent. of these applications to involve variations. We have no estimate of the number of applications that will have included regulated entertainment as a licensable activity.

**Mr. Moss:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what representations she has received from Action with Communities in Rural England on the impact of the Licensing Act 2003 on village halls and village social life. [9755]

**James Purnell:** Representations from Action with Communities in Rural England (ACRE) have primarily concerned the complicated nature of some aspects of the new legislation, the role of designated premises supervisors and the limitations placed by the 2003 Act on the number of temporary event notices that may be given in respect of any individual premises in a calendar year. In response, my Department have continued to work closely and constructively with ACRE. The organisation recently commented publicly that DCMS have been very helpful in explaining the new processes and providing guidance and legal interpretation of the new legislation.

### G8 Summit (Tourism)

18. **David Mundell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps she is taking to ensure that visitBritain maximises the tourism opportunities arising from holding the G8 summit. [10640]

**James Purnell:** In view of the events of last Thursday, it would be inappropriate to discuss the G8 summit in terms of tourism. VisitBritain works continuously to use major international events to promote Britain overseas. That work will continue.

### "The Market for Art" Report

**Derek Wyatt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when her Department expects to respond to the Sixth Report of the Culture, Media and Sport Committee, HC 414, Session 2004–05, on The Market for Art. [11530]

**Mr. Lammy:** My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State will respond to the Report of the Culture, Media and Sport Committee on The Market for Art before the summer recess.

**Mr. Andy Reed:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions she has had with manufacturers and installers of play equipment on the implementation of the play programme for England of the Big Lottery Fund. [10496]

**Mr. Caborn:** I have held no discussions with manufacturers or installers of play equipment regarding the Big Lottery Fund's play programme.

### Culture and Commerce Conference

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will ensure representatives of European trade unions are invited to the Conference on Culture and Commerce, being organised by her Department. [11880]

**Mr. Lammy:** Yes.

### Opera

**Mr. Chaytor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will take further steps to make opera more accessible to wider audiences; and if she will make a statement. [10630]

**Mr. Lammy:** Government support for opera is channelled through Arts Council England (ACE). All of the opera organisations funded by the Arts Council have policies in place to improve access to a wider and more diverse audience including ticket pricing policies, touring and the work of their education departments.

### Osborne Estates Act

**Mr. Andrew Turner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what conditions she expects to be met before supporting measures to repeal the Osborne Estates Act 1902. [10105]

**Mr. Lammy** *[holding answer 7 July 2005]:* We are fully committed to seeking Parliament's approval to amend the Osborne Estate Act 1902. There are no conditions attached to this, other than the need to find a suitable legislative slot.

### Public Sector Spectrum

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent discussions her Department has had with the Treasury on releasing public sector spectrum to the market; and if she will make a statement. [10204]

**James Purnell:** My Department has regular discussions with the Treasury and other Departments, on a wide range of issues, including spectrum matters.

### Radio Station (Chorley)

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will provide support for a radio station for Chorley; and if she will make a statement. [10803]

**James Purnell:** Planning, licensing and regulation of independent radio in the UK is a matter for the independent regulator, Ofcom.

My Department has made £0.5 million available for community radio for each of the years to 2007–08. The fund will be handled by Ofcom, who will take decisions on allocation in due course.

### Sport England

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what funding was allocated to Sport England by her Department in each year since 1997, broken down by *(a)* Government region and *(b)* parliamentary constituency; and if she will make a statement. [6942]

**Mr. Caborn:** Exchequer funding allocated to Sport England by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport can be broken down by Government region. This is shown in the following table:

*Regional costs 1997–2004*

£

| | Financial year | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *1996–97* | *1997–98* | *1998–99* | *1999–2000* |
| Northern | 1,131,020 | 1,114,129 | 548,850 | 799,755 |
| Yorkshire | 1,303,919 | 1,272,570 | 740,530 | 1,102,934 |
| East Midlands | 1,262,237 | 1,242,020 | 772,700 | 1,017,987 |
| Eastern | 1,289,334 | 1,236,528 | 748,250 | 931,789 |
| London | 1,494,021 | 1,118,350 | 487,372 | 819,746 |
| South-east | 1,078,175 | 1,053,715 | 475,528 | 810,109 |
| Southern[1] | 1,080,764 | 1,208,279 | 493,871 | 945,355 |
| South-west | 1,164,165 | 1,227,023 | 607,950 | 813,456 |
| West Midlands | 1,193,329 | 1,301,333 | 733,750 | 1,122,526 |
| North-west | 1,359,291 | 1,412,961 | 759,320 | 1,262,145 |
| Total costs | 12,356,255 | 12,186,908 | 6,368,121 | 9,625,802 |
| Out of a total funding of: | 15,700,000 | 33,700,000 | 33,500,000 | 34,500,000 |

£

| | Financial year | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *2000–01* | *2001–02* | *2002–03* | *2003–04* |
| Northern | 845,203 | 767,043 | 801,011 | 616,522 |
| Yorkshire | 929,366 | 1,101,121 | 1,026,042 | 589,873 |
| East Midlands | 923,216 | 865,806 | 765,791 | 554,271 |
| Eastern | 897,524 | 780,252 | 580,779 | 415,681 |
| London | 1,035,734 | 1,251,373 | 959,769 | 615,197 |
| South-east | 741,993 | 1,533,149 | 1,242,907 | 777,329 |
| Southern[1] | 967,330 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| South-west | 948,582 | 917,756 | 844,576 | 585,641 |
| West Midlands | 982,481 | 1,006,831 | 1,032,574 | 636,513 |
| North-west | 1,204,827 | 1,343,257 | 1,211,431 | 634,001 |
| Total costs | 9,476,254 | 9,566,589 | 8,464,881 | 5,425,029 |
| Out of a total funding of | 34,500,000 | 34,500,000 | 34,725,000 | 39,475,000 |

[1] Sport England no longer recognise a separate Southern region.

*Note:*
These are the total regional costs delivered locally, it excludes any nationally delivered regional programmes.

It is not possible to provide figures on funding allocated to Sport England by parliamentary constituency.

### Television Licence

**Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many people in Hampshire have been prosecuted for not having a television licence in each of the last five years. [9788]

**James Purnell:** The data collected by the Home Office relate to all offences under the Wireless Telegraphy Acts of 1949 to 1967, most though not all of which involve television licence evasion. The number of people proceeded against for such offences at magistrates courts in Hampshire in each of the last five years for which information is available was:

| | *Proceeded against*[1] |
|---|---|
| 1999 | 1,728 |
| 2000 | 3,968 |
| 2001 | 3,282 |
| 2002 | 2,110 |
| 2003 | 1,814 |

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

**Mr. Rob Wilson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether a television licence will be required for television-on-mobile devices. [9991]

**James Purnell:** The BBC, as television licensing authority, is responsible for interpreting the licensing regulations and determining the licensing requirements for specific equipment. However, the general position is that a television licence is required to install or use a television receiver, which is defined in regulations as any apparatus installed or used for the purpose of receiving any television programme service. Mobile or portable devices are not exempt from the licensing requirements, but a television licence for a person's home address covers the use, anywhere else in the United Kingdom, by the licensee or any person normally living with them at the licensed address, of a portable television receiver powered solely by its own internal batteries.

**Mr. Rob Wilson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many prosecutions for failure to pay the TV licence fee there have been in each year since 2000. [9993]

**James Purnell:** The data available relate to all offences under the Wireless Telegraphy Acts of 1949 to 1967 in England and Wales, and to all offences under the 1949 Act in Scotland, most though not all of which involve television licence evasion. The number of people

proceeded against for such offences in England, Scotland and Wales, in each year since 2000 for which information is available, was:

| | *Proceeded against*[1,2] |
|---|---|
| 2000 | 123,153 |
| 2001 | 97,877 |
| 2002 | 111,671 |
| 2003 | 95,380 |

[1] Figures for Northern Ireland are not available.
[2] On the principal offence basis.

**Mrs. Dorries:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many households in the Mid-Bedfordshire parliamentary constituency are in receipt of the free television licence for over 75-year-olds. [10905]

**James Purnell:** TV Licensing, who administer free television licences for people aged 75 or over as agents for the BBC, are not able to provide geographical breakdowns of the number of free licences issued. However, the number of households with at least one person aged 75 or over claiming the winter fuel payment in the Mid-Bedfordshire constituency in 2004–05 was 4,745, according to Department for Work and Pensions records.

## PRIME MINISTER

### Advertising

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Prime Minister how much his Office spent on advertising in each of the last five years. [10234]

**The Prime Minister:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Yeovil (Mr. Laws) on 3 February 2005, *Official Report*, column 1010W, and to the letter of 1 March from the then Minister for the Cabinet Office to the hon. Member for Yeovil, a copy of which was placed in the Library of the House.

### Departmental Bills

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Prime Minister what criteria are used by him in selecting Government bills that he will co-sponsor; and if he will make a statement. [10466]

**The Prime Minister:** I support all Government bills whether sponsored or not.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Prime Minister if he will list bills that he has *(a)* sponsored and *(b)* co-sponsored in each session since 1997. [10467]

**The Prime Minister:** This information is not held in the format requested. However, it is a matter of public record and can be found in the *Official Report*.

### English Wine

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Prime Minister if he will ensure that English wine is made available at dinners and receptions which he hosts during the EU presidency at which hospitality involving wine is appropriate; and if he will make a statement. [8876]

**The Prime Minister:** All procurement is undertaken in line with the European Commission's procurement rules and to obtain value for money. Where possible British products are used.

### France

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Prime Minister what representations he has made to the French Government on the issue of public statements regarding British cuisine; and what representations he has received on this subject. [11748]

**The Prime Minister:** I have not made or received any representations on this matter.

### Illegal Immigration

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Prime Minister when *(a)* he and *(b)* his Office first became aware (i) of Home Office research into the number of people illegally in the country and (ii) that the research had made an estimate of the number of such people. [11384]

**The Prime Minister:** I refer the hon. Member to the afternoon press briefing given by my official spokesman on 30 June 2005, a copy of which is available on the Number 10 website.

### Iraq

**Adam Price:** To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to his oral answer of 29 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 1288, what evidential basis there was for Sir Richard Dearlove's assessment of United States administration policy contained in the memorandum. [10727]

**The Prime Minister:** I have nothing further to add to the answer I gave the hon. Member on 29 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 1288.

### Voting Record

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Prime Minister how many times he has voted in *(a)* divisions on the floor of the House and *(b)* deferred divisions in each session since 1997. [10468]

**The Prime Minister:** This information is made available at the end of each parliamentary session in the Standard Note 'Members' participation in Commons Divisions'. Copies of which are available in the Libraries of the House.

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### Bird Scarers

**David Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what regulations are in place on the use of audible bird scarers by farmers; [10617]

(2) what her Department's policy is on the use of audible bird scarers by farmers. [10618]

**Mr. Bradshaw** *[holding answer 7 July 2005]:* The National Farmers Union has produced a code of practice on the use of bird scarers, on which the Department was consulted. This code of practice

recommends, among other things, that auditory bird scarers sound only four times in any one hour, and that they are placed as far away as is practicable from nearby hospitals, homes or schools in order to avoid causing a nuisance.

Should a local authority receive a complaint of noise from an auditory bird scarer, they have a duty to take reasonable steps, where practicable, to investigate the complaint under section 79 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990. If satisfied that the noise amounts to a statutory nuisance, or that a statutory nuisance is likely to occur or recur, the local authority must serve a notice requiring the noise to be abated or restricted. Failure to comply with an abatement notice can result in a fine of up to £20,000 upon summary conviction.

### Car Audio Systems

**Dr. Tony Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many prosecutions were made in relation to waste from car audio systems under *(a)* Regulation 97 of the Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations and *(b)* other legislation in the last year for which figures are available. [9772]

**Dr. Ladyman:** I have been asked to reply.

No data are available for prosecutions related to noise from car audio systems. Data are only available for noise offences committed against the Road Use (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986 in total. In addition to Regulation 97, this would also include offences against Regulations 54 to 58 that prohibit excessive noise from modified or poorly maintained exhaust systems and silencers. On this basis, the number of fixed penalty notices issued and prosecutions recorded by the Home Office during 2003 in England and Wales were as follows:

*Fixed penalty notices and court proceedings for aiding, abetting, causing or permitting noise offences[1], England and Wales, 2003*

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| Fixed penalty notices issued | 1,262 |
| Total proceeded against | 2,653 |
| Total findings of guilt | 1,808 |

[1] Offences under the Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986, Regulations 54–58, 97–99.

### Cetaceans

**Jeremy Corbyn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she has taken to protect *(a)* whales, *(b)* dolphins and *(c)* porpoises in coastal waters. [8640]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The taking of whales, dolphins and porpoises is prohibited in EU and UK waters. In addition to EU measures adopted in 2004 to tackle the threat to small cetaceans from incidental capture in fisheries operating in Community waters, the UK has also put in place measures to protect common dolphins through a prohibition on pelagic pair trawl fishing for bass within 12 nautical miles of the south-west coast.

### Dog Microchips

**Harry Cohen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her estimate is of the percentage of dogs in England which have not been micro-chipped; if she will initiate a campaign to increase micro-chipping of dogs; and if she will make a statement. [9350]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Micro-chipping of dogs is currently undertaken through local registration schemes, therefore Government do not keep statistics on the number of dogs that have or have not been micro-chipped. There are no current plans for a national campaign to increase the micro-chipping of dogs.

### English Wine

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps her Department takes to promote English wines. [9145]

**Jim Knight:** The Government have a continuing supporting role in helping the wine industry and in particular, their endeavours to produce and market quality wines. This is encouraged through the Quality and Regional Wine Schemes which have been introduced by the Department to promote the quality and reputation of English and Welsh wine. Officials meet regularly with the industry to discuss producer concerns, and to monitor how these schemes are operating. I am very pleased that more and more producers are being persuaded to take part in these schemes.

When suitable opportunities arise, we in the Department always endeavour to serve and promote national products including English wine. These occasions are an important means of introducing our wines to a new and influential audience. For example, British produce (including English wine) will be promoted generally during the UK presidency of the EU, and we plan to provide British produce and drink for all EU Council meetings in Brussels and Luxembourg over this period.

In addition, English wine producers have benefited from Defra grants in excess of £350,000 to help with production and marketing.

Defra has also been in recent contact with the United Kingdom Vineyards Association (UKVA), which represents a majority of English and Welsh wine producers, to encourage further uptake of marketing and processing assistance schemes available to the industry.

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will ensure that English wine is made available at dinners, receptions and parties she hosts at which hospitality involving wine is appropriate *(a)* during the EU presidency and *(b)* generally; and if she will make a statement. [9155]

**Margaret Beckett:** Since Defra was established in June 2001 I have followed a policy of serving British food and drink, including English wine. I am delighted that my Cabinet colleagues are intending to join me in promoting British food and drink more generally during the presidency. We are also planning to provide British produce and drink for all EU Council meetings in Brussels and Luxembourg during the UK presidency.

### Fly-tipping

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 16 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 552W, on fly-tipping, if she will break down the figures provided by *(a)* region and *(b)* local authority. [11406]

**Mr. Bradshaw** *[holding answer 11 July 2005]:* The data requested will be made available in the Library of the House.

### Food Subsidy

**Mr. Roger Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what subsidy was applied to food production in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* the EU in each year between 1999 and 2004, broken down by commodity. [9386]

**Jim Knight:** The tables show the value of subsidies that are directly linked to production of commodities as recorded by Eurostat in the Economic Accounts for Agriculture, for the EU 15 countries and the United Kingdom. They also show the value of other subsidies which are not linked to production but from which farmers have benefited as a consequence of engaging in production.

The figures provided in the table exclude public expenditure on market support measures (e.g. export refunds, intervention) and they also exclude payments which, according to national accounts conventions, are recorded as capital transfers (which for the UK means that these figures exclude the foot and mouth disease compensation payments of 2001).

Further detail may be obtained from the Eurostat website at http://epp.eurostat.cec.eu.int.

*European Union (15 countries)*

€ million

| | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004*[1] |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Crops* | | | | | | |
| Cereals (including wheat, barley, oats, rye) | 10,673.0 | 11,821.0 | 12,325.9 | 12,703.8 | 12,298.0 | 12,761.3 |
| Industrial crops (including rape seed, sugar beet) | 5,050.0 | 4,410.5 | 3,874.8 | 3,448.1 | 3,462.4 | 3,480.1 |
| Forage plants | 822.0 | 923.3 | 1,042.4 | 1,027.9 | 1,065.7 | 1,021.3 |
| Other crop products (including olive oil, vegetables, horticultural products, seeds) | 2,544.8 | 2,587.7 | 2,610.4 | 2,802.9 | 2,691.7 | 2,673.5 |
| *Total subsidies linked to crop output* | 19,089.8 | 19,742.5 | 19,853.5 | 19,982.7 | 19,517.8 | 19,936.1 |
| *Animals and animal products* | | | | | | |
| Cattle | 4,291.2 | 5,241.7 | 5,798.4 | 6,708.5 | 6,972.6 | 7,171.4 |
| Pigs | 199.7 | 61.0 | 50.2 | 48.3 | 51.2 | 53.4 |
| Sheep and goats | 1,926.0 | 1,614.4 | 1,029.6 | 1,628.5 | 1,688.1 | 1,703.4 |
| Other animals | 48.2 | 21.8 | 21.6 | 22.0 | 21.0 | 18.9 |
| Animal products (including milk) | 264.9 | 300.5 | 382.7 | 254.0 | 243.9 | 1,329.9 |
| *Total subsidies linked to animal output* | 6,729.9 | 7,239.4 | 7,282.4 | 8,661.2 | 8,976.7 | 10,276.9 |
| *Total subsidies linked to production* | 25,819.7 | 26,981.9 | 27,135.9 | 28,644.0 | 28,494.6 | 30,213.1 |
| Other subsidies, not linked to production | 10,473.8 | 10,620.9 | 12,713.8 | 12,963.3 | 14,215.6 | 13,326.5 |
| *Total subsidies* | 36,293.6 | 37,602.8 | 39,849.7 | 41,607.3 | 42,710.2 | 43,539.6 |

[1] Provisional.
*Source:*
http://epp.eurostat.cec.eu.int

*United Kingdom*

€ million

| | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004*[1] |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Crops* | | | | | | |
| Cereals (including wheat, barley, oats, rye) | 1,069.6 | 1,200.4 | 1,024.5 | 1,153.3 | 1,053.2 | 1,056.5 |
| Industrial crops (including rape seed, sugar beet) | 435.9 | 241.5 | 187.8 | 135.3 | 178.1 | 200.8 |
| Forage plants | 103.5 | 93.6 | 110.5 | 112.6 | 103.1 | 104.6 |
| Other crop products (including olive oil, vegetables, horticultural products, seeds) | 15.6 | 12.3 | 11.8 | 10.7 | 9.2 | 7.9 |
| *Total subsidies linked to crop output* | 1,624.6 | 1,547.8 | 1,334.6 | 1,411.9 | 1,343.5 | 1,369.7 |
| *Animals and animal products* | | | | | | |
| Cattle | 1,369.2 | 1,475.6 | 1,335.9 | 1,477.3 | 1,399.0 | 1,536.7 |
| Pigs | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Sheep and goats | 621.8 | 553.1 | 295.2 | 451.4 | 413.4 | 465.4 |
| Other animals | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Animal products (including milk) | 0.0 | 36.1 | 127.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 161.4 |
| *Total subsidies linked to animal output* | 1,991.0 | 2,064.8 | 1,758.1 | 1,928.7 | 1,812.4 | 2,163.5 |
| *Total subsidies linked to production* | 3,615.6 | 3,612.6 | 3,092.7 | 3,340.6 | 3,155.9 | 3,533.2 |
| Other subsidies, not linked to production | 483.1 | 507.9 | 909.8 | 944.1 | 900.4 | 912.3 |
| *Total subsidies* | 4,098.7 | 4,120.5 | 4,002.6 | 4,284.6 | 4,056.3 | 4,445.6 |

[1] Provisional.
*Source:*
http://epp.eurostat.cec.eu.int

### Hazardous Waste

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what consequences hazardous waste producers face if they do not register by the 16 July deadline; and if she will make a statement. [10348]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Anyone who produces hazardous waste is required to notify their premises to the Environment Agency unless those premises fall within one of the categories listed as exempt in the Regulations. The removal of hazardous waste from any premises that is not either notified or genuinely exempt will be prohibited from 16 July and the Regulations provide that those who fail to comply may, on summary conviction, be subject to a fine of up to £5,000. Alternatively, the Environment Agency may choose to issue a Fixed Penalty of £300.

In enforcing these Regulations, the Environment Agency will place the highest priority on the protection of human health and the environment and will expect all movements of hazardous waste to be accompanied by a consignment note. The requirement to notify premises will be enforced in line with their published enforcement and prosecution policy.

### Hedgehogs/Badgers

**Mr. Roger Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of whether there is a correlation between the decline in the hedgehog population and the increase in badger numbers; and if she will make a statement. [9960]

**Jim Knight** *[holding answer 6 July 2005]:* Mammals such as badgers and hedgehogs interact in a complex manner in the countryside. Badgers' main food source is earthworms but they will consume a wide variety of foods such as invertebrates, plant roots, fruits, cereals, animal carcasses, stored livestock feed and sometimes hedgehogs when conditions limit the source of earthworms.

Long term data on hedgehog populations, over the period covering the badger population increase, would be required in order to answer the above question. Such a dataset does not exist, therefore it is not possible to conclude that badger population increase is the cause of a hedgehog population decline.

Research is being carried out to obtain a greater understanding of these interactions. The Central Science Laboratory is conducting a replicated experimental assessment of the ecological consequences of badger removal within the Randomised Badger Culling Trial. The research includes estimating the abundance of hedgehog populations in selected regions of south-west England. Unpublished data from this research suggest that hedgehogs were less likely to be present in areas where badger sett density was high. Additionally, hedgehog numbers tended to increase when badgers were removed, suggesting that a relationship exists between badger density and hedgehog populations. It is hoped further analyses will reveal more on the nature of what is likely to be a complex relationship.

### Hill Farmers

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she is taking to ensure the economic survival of hill farmers in England. [11268]

**Jim Knight:** Farmers in the English uplands currently receive in excess of £180 million in CAP payments. In 2006 they will continue to be eligible for schemes under the England Rural Development Programme such as Environmental Stewardship and the Hill Farm Allowance, as well as the Single Payment Scheme.

The Secretary of State gave a commitment on 22 April 2004 to consider how upland communities could receive appropriate support from rural development funds. Future arrangements are currently being reviewed in the context of the new EU Rural Development Regulation which will come into effect in 2007.

### Identity Cards

**Mr. Garnier:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment she has made of the implications of the introduction of identity cards for her Department. [9881]

**Jim Knight:** On 28 June 2005, my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary placed in the Library a paper containing the latest estimates of benefits of the Identity Cards Scheme which shows that the benefits outweigh the costs once the scheme is fully operational. The cost of equipping premises will depend on the nature of the use of the Identity Cards Scheme and the type of identity check(s) necessary to deliver the business benefits. In some cases, benefits could be realised without the use of card readers and the cost of installing any readers needs to be considered alongside future plans to refresh or upgrade IT systems. As the design of the scheme matures, during and after the procurement exercise, so will our understanding of where the scheme will be of most benefit, which will allow us to prepare estimates of costs and benefits.

### Llancloudy

**Mr. Keetch:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 30 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 1643W, on Llancloudy, if she will ensure that no route for removal of waste from Hill Farm Llancloudy is agreed before her officials meet the hon. Member for Hereford and a representative of the Llancloudy Residents Association; and if she will make a statement. [10984]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** I can assure the hon. Member that my officials will not finalise agreement on the route for the removal of waste from Hill Farm, Llancloudy until they have met with the hon. Member and a representative of the Residents Association. My officials will be in contact with the hon. Member's office to arrange a mutually convenient date for the meeting.

### Marine Noise Pollution

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether marine noise pollution was discussed at the recent International Whaling Conference; and if she will make a statement. [8905]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** At last year's (2004) annual meeting of the International Whaling Commission a special symposium was held on the impacts of anthropogenic noise on cetaceans. This year's meeting continued discussions on the potential negative impact of rising levels of disturbance on whale populations, due to factors such as ship traffic and seismic surveys, and it was decided to hold a scientific workshop to consider the effects of anthropogenic noise at next years meeting.

My Department has been working with other countries, through the Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic, North East Atlantic, Irish and North Seas (ASCOBANS) toward the prevention of significant disturbance to cetaceans, including that of acoustic disturbance.

## Recycling

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans the Department has to make recycling facilities more readily available; and if she will make a statement. [10347]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Responsibility for the provision of recycling facilities rests with local authorities who have been set statutory performance standards for 2003–04 and 2005–06 for the recycling and composting of household waste.

Defra, and Government more widely, recognise the challenge local authorities in England face meeting these statutory performance standards and the increase in costs as waste is diverted away from landfill. Accordingly, we are providing increased levels of support and funding.

Local authorities' main source of funding for waste management is the Environmental, Protective and Cultural Services (EPCS) block of the revenue support grant distributed by central Government each year, supplemented by council tax. In last year's Spending Review (SR2004) the Government announced an increase in EPCS Formula Spending Share block of £888 million by 2007–08 over 2004–05.

Funding is also being provided from a variety of other sources to help authorities meet and exceed their targets. The Waste Performance and Efficiency Grant (WPEG) is providing unringfenced funding to local authorities worth £45 million in 2005–06 and £105 million and £110 million in the two following years. Through the private finance initiative (PFI), credits worth £355 million have been made available in the three years to 2005–06 as an extra source of funding, with a further £535 million available in 2006–07 and 2007–08.

Alongside the additional funding, we are providing increased support to local authorities through a number of organisations including the Waste Implementation Programme and the Waste and Resources Action Programme.

Local authorities decide how to invest this funding in the provision of local recycling services that best meet local circumstances and the wishes of their electorate.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many recycling points there are in each local authority in Essex per 1,000 population; and how many there were in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [10463]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Results from the Defra Municipal Waste Management Survey and National Statistics mid-year population estimates are in the following table.

A recycling point has been reported as either a recycling site or a civic amenity site. All civic amenity sites under the control of Essex Waste Disposal Authority, have been allocated to the district where that site is situated.

| | *Recycling sites* | *Civic amenity sites* | *Total recycling sites* | *Recycling sites per 1,000 population* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *1999–2000* | | | | |
| Basildon | 78 | 1 | 79 | 0.48 |
| Braintree | [1]110 | 2 | [1]112 | 0.87 |
| Brentwood | 13 | 2 | 15 | 0.22 |
| Castle Point | 20 | 1 | 21 | 0.24 |
| Chelmsford | 97 | 2 | 99 | 0.64 |
| Colchester | [1]50 | 1 | [1]51 | 0.32 |
| Epping Forest | 49 | 3 | 52 | 0.43 |
| Harlow | 20 | 1 | 21 | 0.27 |
| Maldon | 68 | 2 | 70 | 1.22 |
| Rochford | 60 | 1 | 61 | 0.79 |
| Tendring | 54 | 4 | 58 | 0.43 |
| Uttlesford | [1]51 | 1 | [1]52 | 0.76 |
| Essex County WDA | 670 | 21 | 691 | 0.53 |
| Southend on Sea UA | 20 | 2 | 22 | 0.14 |
| Thurrock UA | 45 | 1 | 46 | 0.33 |
| Total all Essex | 735 | 24 | 759 | 0.48 |
| *2000–01* | | | | |
| Basildon | 76 | 1 | 77 | 0.47 |
| Braintree | 110 | 2 | 112 | 0.85 |
| Brentwood | 12 | 2 | 14 | 0.20 |
| Castle Point | 21 | 1 | 22 | 0.25 |
| Chelmsford | 99 | 2 | 101 | 0.65 |
| Colchester | 50 | 1 | 51 | 0.33 |
| Epping Forest | 55 | 3 | 58 | 0.48 |
| Harlow | 18 | 1 | 19 | 0.24 |
| Maldon | 60 | 2 | 62 | 1.06 |
| Rochford | 57 | 1 | 58 | 0.74 |
| Tendring | 54 | 5 | 59 | 0.43 |
| Uttlesford | 51 | 1 | 52 | 0.76 |
| Essex County WDA | 663 | 22 | 685 | 0.53 |
| Southend on Sea UA | 21 | 2 | 23 | 0.14 |
| Thurrock UA | 28 | 1 | 29 | 0.20 |
| Total all Essex | 712 | 25 | 737 | 0.46 |
| *2001–02* | | | | |
| Basildon | 76 | 1 | 77 | 0.46 |
| Braintree | 131 | 2 | 133 | 1.00 |
| Brentwood | 12 | 2 | 14 | 0.20 |
| Castle Point | 21 | 1 | 22 | 0.25 |
| Chelmsford | 96 | 2 | 98 | 0.62 |
| Colchester | 61 | 1 | 62 | 0.40 |
| Epping Forest | 55 | 3 | 58 | 0.48 |
| Harlow | 19 | 1 | 20 | 0.25 |
| Maldon | 58 | 2 | 60 | 1.01 |
| Rochford | 58 | 1 | 59 | 0.75 |
| Tendring | 65 | 5 | 70 | 0.50 |
| Uttlesford | 60 | 1 | 61 | 0.88 |
| Essex County WDA | 712 | 22 | 734 | 0.56 |
| Southend on Sea UA | 20 | 2 | 22 | 0.14 |
| Thurrock UA | 31 | 1 | 32 | 0.22 |
| Total all Essex | 763 | 25 | 788 | 0.49 |

| | Recycling sites | Civic amenity sites | Total recycling sites | Recycling sites per 1,000 population |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *2002–03* | | | | |
| Basildon | 68 | 1 | 69 | 0.41 |
| Braintree | 131 | 2 | 133 | 0.99 |
| Brentwood | 12 | 2 | 14 | 0.20 |
| Castle Point | 21 | 1 | 22 | 0.25 |
| Chelmsford | 96 | 2 | 98 | 0.62 |
| Colchester | 58 | 1 | 59 | 0.38 |
| Epping Forest | [1]55 | 3 | [1]58 | 0.48 |
| Harlow | 19 | 1 | 20 | 0.25 |
| Maldon | 50 | 2 | 52 | 0.86 |
| Rochford | 55 | 1 | 56 | 0.71 |
| Tendring | 65 | 5 | 70 | 0.50 |
| Uttlesford | 51 | 1 | 52 | 0.75 |
| Essex County WDA | 681 | 22 | 703 | 0.53 |
| Southend on Sea UA | 20 | 2 | 22 | 0.14 |
| Thurrock UA | 28 | 1 | 29 | 0.20 |
| Total all Essex | 729 | 25 | 754 | 0.46 |
| *2003–04* | | | | |
| Basildon | 68 | 1 | 69 | 0.41 |
| Braintree | 124 | 2 | 126 | 0.93 |
| Brentwood | 12 | 2 | 14 | 0.20 |
| Castle Point | 21 | 1 | 22 | 0.25 |
| Chelmsford | 96 | 2 | 98 | 0.62 |
| Colchester | 58 | 1 | 59 | 0.37 |
| Epping Forest | 55 | 3 | 58 | 0.48 |
| Harlow | 18 | 1 | 19 | 0.24 |
| Maldon | 58 | 2 | 60 | 1.00 |
| Rochford | 55 | 1 | 56 | 0.71 |
| Tendring | 65 | 5 | 70 | 0.50 |
| Uttlesford | 60 | 1 | 61 | 0.87 |
| Essex County WDA | 690 | 22 | 712 | 0.53 |
| Southend on Sea UA | 20 | 2 | 22 | 0.14 |
| Thurrock UA | 31 | 1 | 32 | 0.22 |
| Total all Essex | 741 | 25 | 766 | 0.47 |

[1] This figure is an estimated value used to replace a non-response on the survey questionnaire.

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many recycling points there are in *(a)* Lancashire and *(b)* Chorley. [10990]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Results from the 2003–04 Defra Municipal Waste Management Survey are as follows:

| | Recycling sites | Civic amenity sites | Total sites |
|---|---|---|---|
| *(a)* Total Lancashire | 312 | 26 | 338 |
| *Of which:* | | | |
| *(b)* Chorley | 22 | 0 | [1]22 |
| *Total Lancashire derived from the following:* | | | |
| Districts within Lancashire | 275 | 0 | 275 |
| Blackburn with Darwin UA | 11 | 2 | 13 |
| Blackpool UA | 26 | 1 | 27 |
| Lancashire county WDA | 0 | 23 | 23 |

[1] Chorley borough council has one civic amenity site run by Lancashire county WDA within its boundary. This has been excluded from the Chorley total.

## Rural Employment

**Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many jobs have been created in rural areas in each year since 1997, broken down by *(a)* agricultural and *(b)* non-agricultural. [8916]

**Jim Knight:** Statistics on the creation of jobs are not collected by any Government Department in this format.

The Labour Force Survey details the number of individuals in employment and can reliably be examined at local authority district level, though not at any smaller geographical scale. It is not therefore possible to give a definitive breakdown of changes in employment levels between urban and rural areas within local authority districts.

However, using the current Countryside Agency broad classification of rural and urban Districts, and recognising that 'rural districts' contain many urban areas and vice versa, employment levels are as follows (changes in the survey approach do not allow for comparison before 2000–01):

| | Total in employment | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Rural districts | Urban districts | All districts |
| 2000–01 | 6,672,461 | 16,057,031 | 22,729,492 |
| 2001–02 | 6,741,084 | 16,234,694 | 22,975,778 |
| 2002–03 | 6,774,135 | 16,294,254 | 23,068,389 |
| 2003–04 | 6,845,578 | 16,397,862 | 23,243,440 |

*Source:*
Labour Force Survey, ONS

As can be seen over this period, overall employment levels increased by 3 per cent. in rural districts and 2 per cent. in all other districts.

The June Agricultural and Horticultural Survey records the labour force on all farms in England. Data are available since 1997 and the numbers of people employed in agriculture is as follows, again using the current Countryside Agency classification of rural and urban districts:

| | Rural districts | Urban districts | All districts |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1997 | 311,842 | 81,263 | 393,105 |
| 1998 | 315,396 | 81,161 | 396,557 |
| 1999 | 302,002 | 77,016 | 379,018 |
| 2000 | 298,141 | 76,147 | 374,288 |
| 2001 | 307,898 | 78,866 | 386,764 |
| 2002 | 295,326 | 76,498 | 371,824 |
| 2003 | 282,516 | 71,865 | 354,381 |
| 2004 | 292,783 | 74,707 | 367,490 |

*Source:*
June Agricultural and Horticultural Survey, Defra

These figures show that the labour force on agricultural holdings decreased by 6 per cent. between 1997 and 2004.

Defra will very shortly publish a new urban/rural classification of local authorities districts which will enable a more detailed analysis of rural and urban statistical data. The tables included in this written answer will be recreated using the new classification when this is published and I will write to the hon. Member with this information.

### Seal products

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will make it her policy *(a)* to ban the importation of seal products into the United Kingdom and *(b)* to press for a similar ban in the EU. [6586]

**Jim Knight:** Council Directive 83/129/EEC (as amended by Council Directive 89/370/EEC) already imposes an EU-wide ban on the commercial import of certain seal skin products, including raw or tanned furskins, of whitecoat pups of harp seals and blueback pups of hooded seals. This Seals Directive is implemented in the UK by The Import of Seal Skins Regulations 1996.

We have been advised by the Commission that it does not currently see any scientific basis for proposing an extension of the Seals Directive. We agree with the Commission but will reconsider our position if new data show that the levels of take by seal hunting are unsustainable and pose a conservation threat to either harp or hooded seals.

### Trees

**Mr. Cameron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she is taking to increase the number of native trees planted by the Forestry Commission; how many trees have been planted by Government agencies over the past 20 years in *(a)* England and *(b)* West Oxfordshire; and what targets to encourage the expansion of forests have been set. [11569]

**Jim Knight:** The Forestry Commission has embarked on a programme to restore 15,000 hectares of ancient semi-natural woodland on the public forest estate by 2020 and this will include planting and regenerating native tree species. In addition most new planting by the Commission, which is in the priority areas for improving the environment of disadvantaged urban communities, will be native broadleaves.

In the recently published Action Plan for our new Statement of Policy for England's Ancient and Native Woodland there is a clear action to promote woodland creation which extends, buffers and links ancient woodland through both the English woodland grant scheme and environmental stewardship grants. In order to respect the biodiversity values of ancient woodland much of this type of woodland creation will involve the use of native species.

Information on the number of trees planted by Government agencies is not recorded centrally. However, most new woodland planting is carried out by private landowners and is grant aided by the Forestry Commission. This has averaged over 4,600 hectares per year for the last 10 years and the majority of this planting has been with broadleaves and most of these have been native species.

Our policy for the expansion of forests and woodland is set out in the England Forestry. Strategy published in 1998. This seeks a continued steady expansion of our woodland area to provide more benefits for society and our environment. Within this policy we have established some short-term targets, for example the creation of 30,000 hectares of new woodland under the current (2000–06) England Rural Development Programme.

### UK-produced Food

**Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what guidance she has issued on the minimum acceptable proportion of the UK's food needs which should be sourced from home-grown producers. [8913]

**Jim Knight:** The Government do not have a policy regarding a minimum level of food production, and therefore, have not issued guidance. The Government have a food security policy to ensure consumers have access to a stable and adequate supply of food. The UK has long been a net importer of food and national and international food security is best facilitated through improved trading relationships based on more open international markets and reductions in trade distorting subsidies.

## DEFENCE

### Correspondence

**Mr. Ancram:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list letters received by *(a)* him and *(b)* other Ministers in his Department from hon. Members during the period 1 February to 5 May; and how many of these letters were replied to. [6712]

**Mr. Touhig:** We do not capture this information in the form requested. However, according to our current ministerial correspondence database, of the 1,329 letters received during this period for answer by Ministry of Defence Ministers, my right hon. friend the Secretary of State for Defence has replied substantively to 149, while 1,167 have been responded to by other Ministers. Interim, or holding, replies have been sent to a further 10.

**Mr. Ancram:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list occasions during the period 1 February to 5 May on which *(a)* he and *(b)* other Ministers in his Department stated in written parliamentary answers that they would write to hon. Members in order further to clarify a specific matter; and whether this commitment was not undertaken on any occasion. [6713]

**Mr. Touhig:** Defence Ministers undertook to write to various right hon. and hon. Members in answer to 32 parliamentary questions between 1 February 2005 and

5 May 2005. Our records show that this commitment was not followed through on 16 occasions as it was not possible to provide clarification before Prorogation.

### Departmental Conferences

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much the Department spent on organising or sponsoring conferences in each of the last five years. [10262]

**Mr. Touhig:** This information is not held centrally in the form requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Conferences and their associated costs are organised in accordance with departmental regulations.

### Iraq

**Mr. Ellwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he expects British troops to return to the UK when the British area of responsibility in Iraq is ready to hand over to Iraqi forces if the US area of responsibility is not ready for handover. [4828]

**Mr. Ingram:** The United Kingdom is committed to Iraq under the mandate of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1546, and for as long as the Iraqi Government judge that the coalition is required to assist and develop the Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) and provide security. Factors in determining the scope and timeline for eventual UK force level reductions in Iraq will include: the readiness of the ISF to take responsibility for the range of security tasks; the overall security situation; and progress on the political process. We will assess each of these factors as they affect both the four provinces covered by Multinational Division (South East) and Iraq as a whole, in close consultation with the Government of Iraq and our coalition partners, particularly the United States.

### Medal Citations

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how individuals can obtain details of citations accompanying medals awarded to deceased relatives. [8627]

**Mr. Touhig:** Individuals seeking details of citations for awards to relatives who are deceased should write to the honours and awards branch at the relevant service address:

*Royal Navy*

Naval Secretary (Honours and Awards)
Room 157A
Victory Building
HM Naval Base
Portsmouth
PO1 3LS

*Army*

Military Secretary 1
Block 7
Wellington Barracks
Birdcage Walk
London
SW1E 6HQ

*Royal Air Force*

MOD Medal Office
Building 250
RAF Innsworth
Gloucester
GL3 1HW

Surviving records pre-1937, or pre-1939 for the Royal Navy and Royal Marines, are available in The National Archives at the following address:

*The National Archives*

Ruskin Avenue
Kew
Richmond
Surrey
TW9 4DU

### Meteorological Office

**Malcolm Bruce:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the future role of *(a)* the Meteorological Office headquarters in Exeter and *(b)* the weather stations in (i) Aberdeen, (ii) Belfast, (iii) Birmingham, (iv) Cardiff, (v) London and (vi) Manchester. [9237]

**Mr. Touhig:** The Meteorological Office facility recently established at Exeter houses the HQ, operations and research centre (Hadley Centre). The operations centre provides a 24 hour, seven day capability for weather centre forecasting and for issuing severe weather warnings. The outputs are delivered in real time on a national and international basis.

The future of civil forecasting at Aberdeen, Belfast, Birmingham, Cardiff, London and Manchester is the subject of current consultation by the Met Office. I will make a decision about the way ahead, taking full account of representations received, following the completion of consultation in autumn 2005.

**Malcolm Bruce:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a copy of the strategic review of the Meteorological Office production network. [9256]

**Mr. Touhig** *[holding answer 5 July 2005]:* A copy of the consultation document will be placed in the Library of the House. I have already sent a copy of this document to those Members whose constituents may be affected by the final decision about the future of civil forecasting.

### Official Residences

**Mr. Prisk:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list the residential properties his Department's Ministers are entitled to use as part of their duties. [6181]

**Mr. Touhig** *[holding answer 27 June 2005]:* Defence Ministers are not presently entitled to use any official residential properties as part of their duties.

### Premature Voluntary Release

**Mr. Moore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* officers and *(b)* private soldiers of each

Army regiment and corps have left under Premature Voluntary Release terms in each of the last three years. [9626]

**Mr. Touhig** *[holding answer 5 July 2005]:* The information is as follows:

*UK Regular Army trained officer Premature Voluntary Release exits (PVR)*

| Arm/service | PVR 2002–03 | PVR 2003–04 | PVR 2004–05 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Staff | 40 | 40 | 50 |
| The Honourable Artillery Company/Royal Armoured Corps | 30 | 30 | 40 |
| Royal Regiment of Artillery | 30 | 30 | 30 |
| Corps of Royal Engineers | 30 | 40 | 30 |
| Royal Corps of Signals | 30 | 30 | 30 |
| The Infantry | 90 | 100 | 120 |
| Army Air Corps | 10 | 20 | 20 |
| Royal Army Chaplain's Department | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— |
| The Royal Logistics Corps | 60 | 60 | 70 |
| Royal Army Medical Corps | 20 | 30 | 20 |
| Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers | 30 | 30 | 30 |
| Adjutant General's Corps (Provost Branch) | [1]— | 10 | 10 |
| Adjutant General's Corps (Staff and Personnel Support Branch) | 20 | 30 | 20 |
| Adjutant General's Corps (Educational and Training Services Branch) | 10 | 10 | 20 |
| Adjutant General's Corps (Army Legal Services Branch) | [1]— | 10 | [1]— |
| Royal Army Veterinary Corps | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— |
| Small Arms School Corps | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— |
| Royal Army Dental Corps | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— |
| Intelligence Corps | 10 | 10 | 20 |
| Army Physical Training Corps | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— |
| General List | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— |
| Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps | 20 | 10 | 20 |
| Corps of Army Music | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— |
| Total | 440 | 500 | 530 |

*UK Regular Army trained soldier Premature Voluntary Release exits (PVR)*

| Arm/corps | PVR 2002–03 | PVR 2003–04 | PVR 2004–05 |
|---|---|---|---|
| The Honourable Artillery Company/Royal Armoured Corps | 300 | 300 | 280 |
| Royal Regiment of Artillery | 360 | 400 | 420 |
| Corps of Royal Engineers | 470 | 490 | 620 |
| Royal Corps of Signals | 420 | 380 | 440 |
| The Infantry | 1,370 | 1,340 | 1,350 |
| Army Air Corps | 80 | 60 | 90 |
| The Royal Logistics Corps | 730 | 670 | 640 |
| Royal Army Medical Corps | 90 | 80 | 110 |
| Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers | 340 | 400 | 450 |
| Adjutant General's Corps (Provost Branch) | 120 | 110 | 150 |
| Adjutant General's Corps (Staff and Personnel Support Branch) | 180 | 170 | 180 |
| Royal Army Veterinary Corps | 10 | 10 | [1]— |
| Small Arms School Corps | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— |
| Royal Army Dental Corps | 20 | 10 | 20 |
| Intelligence Corps | 40 | 20 | 40 |
| Army Physical Training Corps | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps | 30 | 30 | 40 |
| Corps of Army Music | 40 | 30 | 50 |
| Long Service List | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— |
| Total | 4,610 | 4,500 | 4,880 |

[1] — represents zero, rounded to zero, or a percentage based upon a number rounded to or equal to zero.

*Notes:*

1. Data are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Numbers ending in '5' have been rounded to the nearest 20 to avoid systematic bias.
3. Totals have been rounded separately and so may not appear to be the sum of their parts.
4. PVR occurrences broken down by regiment are not held centrally and could not be provided without incurring disproportionate costs.

### Royal Centre for Defence Medicine

**Mr. Robathan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average waiting time was for military personnel attending the Royal Centre for Defence Medicine, Selly Oak to be given an appointment with a civilian consultant in the last period for which figures are available. [10412]

**Mr. Touhig:** The routinely collected data on waiting times for out-patients are specifically aimed at monitoring performance against the stated DMS targets.

DMS targets are for 45 per cent. of all referrals to be seen within four weeks and 85 per cent. within 13 weeks. The waiting times for the period April 2003 to March

2004 show that 52.9 per cent. of referrals were seen within four weeks and 92.24 per cent. within the 13 week target.

**Mr. Robathan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average time taken to process a military patient through the Royal Centre for Defence Medicine in Selly Oak was in the last period for which figures are available; what assessment he has made of the operational implications of the waiting time; and if he will make a statement. [10413]

**Mr. Touhig:** It is not possible to give the average time taken to process military patients through the Royal Centre for Defence Medicine because of the wide variety of conditions that referred patients suffer from. At one end of the spectrum there may be, for example, patients with simple skin complaints who are seen and dealt with in a single out-patients. At the other extreme are patients with more complex or serious health problems which may be associated with a need for on going management programmes that can continue for months and even years.

No specific assessment has been made of the operational impact of the patient processing times at the Royal College of Defence Medicine.

**Mr. Robathan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the longest time taken for the result of a blood test for a military patient to be processed by the Royal Centre for Defence Medicine in Selly Oak has been since the centre was established. [10414]

**Mr. Touhig:** RCDM does not collect information on the time taken to process blood tests for their patients.

As with all blood tests the speed of the result depends upon the clinical priority of the patient and the type of blood test required.

This ranges from within four hours for an in-patient/ emergency patient to two to three weeks for more specialised blood tests.

If an out-patient requires urgent testing they are sent to the blood department by the consultant and samples are taken there and then.

### Scottish Infantry Recruitment

**Mr. Hood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much funding has been allocated for the recruitment of soldiers to the Scottish Infantry Regiments in 2005; what strategies have been employed to boost recruitment levels; and if he will make a statement. [10055]

**Mr. Touhig:** The Army's overall recruiting budget for the financial year 2005–06 is £85.355 million. It is not possible to accurately identify expenditure by region or for specific areas of the British Army.

The current recruiting climate is a demanding one and the Army is working hard to meet its enlistment targets. In Scotland, a multi-media marketing campaign was conducted between October 2004 and April 2005 with the aim of improving recruitment into the Scottish Infantry. A further campaign began in April 2005 and will run until Match 2006 to support all aspects of Army recruiting in Scotland.

**Mr. Hood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many new soldiers have been recruited in Scotland since January; what targets were set; and if he will make a statement. [10056]

**Mr. Touhig:** Overall manning targets are set on the Army Training and Recruiting Agency by Director Manning (Army). This takes account both of the forecast of the numbers required and the financial allocations for any given year.

Subsequently, HQ Recruiting Group allocates an indicative target to each of its 10 regional recruiting commands, of which Scotland is one.

The table shows the results for Scotland for all Arms and Services against the indicative targets for each quarter (Quarter) in financial year 2004–05 and the first quarter of 2005–06.

| *Financial year* | *Indicative target* | *Enlisted soldiers* | *Percentage achieved* |
|---|---|---|---|
| *2004–05* | | | |
| Quarter 1 | 160 | 200 | 123 |
| Quarter 2 | 500 | 400 | 80 |
| Quarter 3 | 150 | 180 | 124 |
| Quarter 4 | 470 | 360 | 76 |
| *2005–06* | | | |
| Quarter 1 | 210 | 150 | 69 |

**Mr. Hood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the levels of recruitment to the Scottish Infantry Regiments in 2005; and if he will make a statement. [10057]

**Mr. Touhig:** None.

### Shackleton Planes (Hearing Loss)

**Julia Goldsworthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what representations he has received from veterans who claim to have been affected by hearing loss as a result of flying in Shackleton planes; and what estimate he has made of the number of veterans who have so far been affected. [7724]

**Mr. Touhig:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave her on 22 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 1067. The additional information requested is not available and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Trident

**Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what considerations he took into account in deciding to stop targeting the Trident nuclear deterrent. [9805]

**John Reid:** The missiles have been detargetted since 1994. The policy of detargetting the United Kingdom's Trident missiles was confirmed in the 1998 strategic defence review, to reflect improvements in the strategic environment since the end of the cold war.

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

### Bulgaria (EU Accession)

**Mrs. Ellman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will list the outstanding areas of concern relating to Bulgaria's accession to the European Union. [9764]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander** *[holding answer 5 July 2005]:* The European Commission wrote to the Bulgarian Government at the start of June 2005. It stated that Bulgaria is 'generally on track in meeting its commitments and requirements arising from the accession negotiations in most areas'. But it noted that Bulgaria still needs to implement important elements of the acquis and identified five key areas requiring particular attention:

1. freedom to provide services;
2. company law;
3. agriculture;
4. environment;
5. justice and home affairs.

### Common Foreign and Security Policy

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the Government's position is on the development and capability of the Common Foreign and Security Policy; and if he will make a statement. [9974]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** As stated in the White Paper issued on 30 June 2005, the Government are a strong supporter of developing more active, coherent and capable EU external policies, including the Common Foreign and Security Policy, as set out in the European Security Strategy of December 2003. The Government's priorities in this area are set out in paragraphs 75 to 101 of the White Paper. The Government are also committed to enhancing the military and civilian capabilities from member states available for missions carried out under the European Security and Defence Policy, as an integral part of an active Common Foreign and Security Policy.

### Departmental Conferences

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much the Department spent on organising or sponsoring conferences for each of the last five years. [10273]

**Mr. Straw:** Details of these events are not held centrally within the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### European Union

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans the Government have to improve the regulatory environment in the EU during the UK presidency. [9975]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** Advancing Better Regulation in the EU is a priority during the UK presidency. Improving the regulatory environment is central to increasing EU competitiveness. For further information, I refer my hon. Friend to the White Paper on the UK's presidency of the European Union (Cm 6611).

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans the Government have to propose changes to the EU Services Directive during the UK presidency. [9977]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** I refer my hon. Friend to the White Paper on the UK's presidency of the European Union (Cm 6611). The Services Directive is a crucial next step for the Single Market, vital for growth and jobs. The UK presidency will take forward discussion with a view to resolving the political and social concerns about the Directive.

### Government Wine Cellar

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many bottles of *(a)* blue chip list wines, *(b)* fine wines, *(c)* reception or drinking wines and *(d)* spirits and liqueurs were held in the Government wine cellar, managed by his Department in each of the last five years; what the estimated value was in each year; what the total estimated value of the Government wine cellar was in each year; how much was spent on (i) blue chip list wines, (ii) fine wines, (iii) reception or drinking wines and (iv) spirits and liqueurs in each year; what the total expenditure on the Government wine cellar was in each year; and if he will make a statement. [9495]

**Mr. Straw:** The Government wine cellar holds approximately 37–39,000 bottles of wine at any given time. No distinction is made between "blue chip" and "fine" wines. Approximately 3–4,000 bottles of the stock are beverage or reception wines. Small quantities of spirits and liqueurs are held for general use. There has been no significant variation in the last five years.

From 2000–04 the valuation placed on the cellar was approximately £1.6 million. From 2004, on the advice of the National Audit Office, the valuation was changed to reflect the cost price of the stock rather than the previous market valuation. The cellar is now valued at around £0.7 million.

The total annual spend on the cellar varies from around £75,000 per annum to approximately £97,000, depending on stock levels and consumption.

### Iran

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on Iran's pursuit of a nuclear program. [10302]

**Dr. Howells:** Our policy towards Iran is one of constructive, but critical engagement. We maintain a robust dialogue on issues of concern, such as Iran's nuclear programme.

Our Government, together with France and Germany, supported by the European Union High Representative, (the "E3/EU") has agreed to negotiations with Iran on long-term arrangements as laid down in the Paris Agreement of November 15 2004. These arrangements will provide objective guarantees that Iran's nuclear programme is exclusively for peaceful purposes.

### St. Helena's Chapel (Istanbul)

**Mr. Laxton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) whether his Department plans to lease the churchyard of St. Helena's chapel in Istanbul to a commercial organisation; [10759]

(2) what plans his Department has to restore St. Helena's chapel which is part of the British consulate in Istanbul. [10760]

**Mr. Straw:** We are considering options for St. Helena's chapel with the Bishop of Gibraltar in Europe and will continue to work for an outcome which meets the needs both of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and The Church.

### UK Consular Services

**Dr. Cable:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the capacity of consular services to assist stranded UK travellers in the event of a major scheduled airline failure in *(a)* peak season, *(b)* mid-season and *(c)* low-season. [9361]

**Dr. Howells:** I refer the hon. Member to the reply my hon. Friend the Minister for Europe gave him on 4 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 187W. The capacity of our consular services to assist stranded travellers in peak season would undoubtedly be stretched further than in mid or low season due to factors such as availability of alternative transport and numbers travelling. It is for this reason that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office strongly recommends that UK citizens travelling abroad take out comprehensive travel insurance.

### Visa Applications

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the recent policy of British consulates in *(a)* India and *(b)* Jamaica in respect of visa applicants who were young, single, and of marriageable age. [9830]

**Dr. Howells:** There is no specific policy relating to visa applicants from either India or Jamaica who may be considered young, single and of marriageable age. The UK welcomes all genuine applicants.

**Mike Gapes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the reasons for the length of time taken to process *(a)* the visit visa applications of relatives of Mr. Mirza lodged in July 2004 reference numbers 851813, 851815, 851816, 851832 and 851782 and *(b)* the appeals lodged in January 2004. [9448]

**Dr. Howells** *[holding answer 6 July 2005]:* I regret that I cannot provide my hon. Friend with this information as under the Data Protection Act, we cannot disclose details of individual cases in a public forum without the individual's written consent. My noble Friend the Lord Triesman of Tottenham, the Foreign and Commonwealth Minister responsible for entry clearance matters arising overseas, has however written to my hon. Friend about these applications.

## TRANSPORT

### A380 Aircraft

**Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will list those UK airports that will be able to handle the A380 aircraft; and if he will make a statement. [9676]

**Ms Buck:** I understand that both Heathrow and Manchester airports will be able to handle the A380 when it enters into service in 2006. Nottingham East Midlands airport will also accept the A380 from 2006 but for cargo purposes only.

Gatwick airport will be able to accept the A380 in 2006 on diversion only with plans for full operations in 2008. Stansted airport has plans to handle the A380 in 2011.

### Aircraft Noise (Twickenham)

**Dr. Cable:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the average noise level above the Twickenham area for London Heathrow take-offs and landings *(a)* excluding and *(b)* including Concorde has been in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available. [10082]

**Ms Buck:** There is no specific noise monitoring of flights in the Twickenham area. The Civil Aviation Authority's Environmental Research and Consultancy Department produces annual noise contours at Heathrow on behalf of the Department. These are published on the Department's website. The latest report (ERCD 0401, July 2004) shows that Twickenham lies outside the 57dBA contour area normally considered to represent the onset of significant community annoyance.

### Blue Badges

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what steps he is taking to reduce the theft of disabled persons' Blue Badges; [10396]

(2) if he will make it his policy to set up a national register of disabled persons' Blue Badge holders to prevent the theft and reuse of disabled persons' Blue Badges; [10397]

(3) if he will introduce legislation to make it a criminal offence intentionally to use a disabled person's Blue Badge known, or reasonably known, to be stolen; and if he will make a statement; [10398]

(4) if he will introduce legislation to make it an offence to park in a designated disabled persons parking bay without displaying a Blue Badge. [10399]

**Ms Buck:** The Department has made provision for a power to inspect Blue Badges through Section 94 of the Traffic Management Act 2004 and we will shortly be consulting on the guidance for enforcement officers and badge holders. The new power will be introduced later in 2005 by Commencement Order once the necessary guidance is in place. We are also reintroducing a hologram onto the badge as part of a draft regulatory package that we hope to consult on during the summer with the intention of implementing later in the year. The

Department is also discussing with the Home Office ways in which the abuse of Blue Badges, including theft, can be tackled.

The Department has recently let a research contract looking into the feasibility of a national Blue Badge database. This is scheduled for completion in December 2005, when the final report containing recommendations should be available.

It is already an offence under Section 21 (4B) of the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970, as introduced by Section 35(4) of the Road Traffic Act 1991, to drive a motor vehicle displaying a badge unless the badge is properly issued and displayed. It is also an offence under Section 47 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 to park a vehicle which is not displaying a badge in a designated disabled persons' parking bay.

### Concessionary Travel

**Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much money will be allocated to each local authority to cover the cost of the concessionary travel fare scheme for pensioners. [9787]

**Ms Buck:** Final decisions on the distribution of the extra funding have not been made.

### Consultation (North-West)

**Mrs. Ellman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which organisations he consults when considering transport issues affecting the north-west region. [10427]

**Ms Buck:** On matters specific to the north-west we consult the local authorities, and regional representative bodies and a range of interest groups. National consultations on the whole range of transport matters will also include organisations representing the interests of those in the north-west.

### Crossrail

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make a statement on private sector investment in the Crossrail project. [10369]

**Derek Twigg** *[holding answer 7 July 2005]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Southport (Dr. Pugh) on 16 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 528W.

### Driving Licences (Eye Conditions)

**Mrs. Gillan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the merits of issuing restricted driving licences to people with retinistis pigmentosa. [9036]

**Dr. Ladyman:** Based on current guidelines and expert advice, restricted licences (other than short period licences to allow for regular review) are not issued to those with retinitis pigmentosa.

A European Commission medical expert working group has been considering the medical standards applied across the European Union in relation to vision and driving and is due to report shortly. Existing licensing arrangements for people with visual problems will be reviewed in light of this report.

**Mrs. Gillan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will assess the merits of introducing a restricted driving licence to drivers who marginally fail the mechanical 120 degree test resulting from European Directive (91/439/EEC) which would be indicated on a vehicle with an R sign and which would restrict drivers to a speed of 40 mph and prohibit them from driving on motorways. [9037]

**Dr. Ladyman:** A European Commission medical expert working group has been considering the medical standards applied across the European Union in relation to vision and driving and is due to report shortly. Existing licensing arrangements for people with visual problems will be reviewed in light of this report, but it is unlikely that we will introduce a restricted license of the type described.

### Driving Test Results

**Mr. Michael Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* passes and *(b)* failures of motor car driving tests there were in each test centre in Worcestershire in each of the last five years. [11067]

**Dr. Ladyman:** The results of practical car driving tests conducted at Worcester driving test centre in each of the last five years are shown in the table:

*Worcester driving test centre pass/fail stats 2000–05*

| | *Fail* | *Pass* | *Total* | *Percentage pass* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2000–01 | 2,368 | 1,987 | 4,385 | 45.6 |
| 2001–02 | 2,430 | 2,379 | 4,809 | 49.5 |
| 2002–03 | 2,436 | 2,378 | 4,814 | 49.4 |
| 2003–04 | 2,868 | 2,729 | 5,597 | 48.8 |
| 2004–05 | 3,961 | 3,150 | 7,111 | 44.3 |

### Hastings to Bexhill Link Road

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what representations he has received opposing the proposed Hastings to Bexhill Link Road; and if he will make a statement. [10621]

**Dr. Ladyman** *[holding answer 7 July 2005]:* My Department has, over the last twelve months, received written representations both "for" and "against" the Bexhill to Hastings Link Road, a proposed local transport major road scheme. Around 750 representations were received opposing the scheme.

### Heathrow

**Mr. Davey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what extra security measures will be put in place to deal with increased traffic through Heathrow as a result of a fifth terminal being built. [10307]

**Ms Buck:** Terminal Five, like the rest of Heathrow and other UK airports, will be subject to the UK national aviation security programme which is in place to prevent unlawful interference with civil aviation in the UK.

**Mr. Davey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether the noise insulation scheme will be applicable to Kingston as a result of the fifth terminal being built at Heathrow. [10308]

**Ms Buck:** There are no requirements for provision of noise insulation that relate to the construction or coming into use of the fifth terminal at Heathrow.

Government policy on measures to address the impacts of future airport growth are set out in the White Paper, "The Future of Air Transport"[1]. We expect airport operators to offer acoustic insulation to any residential property which suffers a daytime noise level of 63dBA Leq[2] and a large increase in noise (3dBA $L_{eq}$ or more). Noise contours to determine the relevant boundaries should be produced in 2007, comparing noise levels in 2006 with those in 2002, and at 5 yearly intervals thereafter.

Proposals for new noise insulation schemes in respect of night-time noise are set out in the consultation paper "Night Flying Restrictions at Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted Airports: Stage 2 of Consultation on Restrictions to apply from 30 October 2005" that we published in June[3]. The map at annex G of the consultation paper shows the proposed boundaries for the Heathrow scheme do not include any part of Kingston-upon-Thames. The consultation closes on 16 September.

[1] Cm 6046, December 2003.

[2] A measure of long-term average noise exposure. For aircraft it is the level of a steady sound which, if heard continuously over the same period of time, would contain the same total sound energy as all the aircraft noise events.

[3] The forthcoming publication of the consultation paper was announced on 9 June 2005, House of Commons, *Official Report*, column 59WS.

**Mr. Davey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate his Department has made of the revenue that will be generated by the expansive shopping arena planned for the fifth terminal at Heathrow. [10310]

**Ms Buck:** The provision of retail facilities was considered during the Heathrow Terminal 5 planning inquiry. The inquiry inspector's conclusions and his recommendation that Terminal 5 should go ahead were accepted in the decision letter of 20 November 2001.

The retail revenue that will be generated from the shopping facilities planned for T5 is a matter for the airport operator.

### Identity Card

**Mr. Garnier:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the cost of equipping premises for which his Department has responsibility with identity card readers, with particular reference to *(a)* airports, *(b)* seaports and *(c)* the British Transport Police. [9888]

**Ms Buck:** We have been working with the Home Office to identify areas where the Identity cards Scheme could provide business benefits. On 28 June 2005, my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary placed in the Library a paper containing the latest estimates of benefits of the Identity Cards Scheme which shows that the benefits outweigh the costs once the scheme is fully operational. The cost of equipping premises will depend on the nature of the use of the Identity Cards Scheme and the type of identity check(s) necessary to deliver the business benefits. In some cases, benefits could be realised without the use of card readers and the cost of installing any readers needs to be considered alongside future plans to refresh or upgrade IT systems. As the design of the scheme matures, during and after the procurement exercise, so will our understanding of where the scheme will be of most benefit which will allow us to further refine our estimates of costs and benefits.

### Lancaster Link Road

**Geraldine Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what objections his Department has made to Lancashire county council's proposals to build a link road to the motorway south of Lancaster. [10151]

**Dr. Ladyman:** In 2001 the Department for Transport considered the western bypass, a major scheme proposal to link Heysham with the M6. The Department's view, as expressed in the local transport capital expenditure letter, was that the proposal should be compatible with the Lancaster local plan. I understand that Lancashire county council are preparing new proposals as part of the local transport plan process. It would be inappropriate to comment further until the Department has received the authority's proposals and considered the scheme in accordance with our major scheme guidance.

### Merchant Navy

**Mr. Brazier:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the size of the UK merchant marine was by *(a)* tonnage and *(b)* number of ships in each year between 1994 and 2004. [9961]

**Dr. Ladyman:** The tonnage and number of trading vessels of 500 gt and over registered in the UK at the end of each year between 1994 and 2004 were as follows:

| *End of year* | *Gross tonnage (Thousand)* | *Deadweight tonnage (Thousand)* | *Number* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1994 | 3,637 | 3,889 | 282 |
| 1995 | 3,729 | 3,981 | 271 |
| 1996 | 3,260 | 3,285 | 257 |
| 1997 | 2,791 | 2,381 | 246 |
| 1998 | 3,051 | 2,669 | 257 |
| 1999 | 3,171 | 2,712 | 264 |
| 2000 | 4,550 | 3,730 | 305 |
| 2001 | 5,006 | 4,244 | 317 |
| 2002 | 7,085 | 6,661 | 386 |
| 2003 | 9,944 | 9,808 | 483 |
| 2004 | 10,221 | 10,499 | 486 |

*Note:*
The statistics are taken from "Maritime Statistics 2003", published by DfT.

**Mr. Brazier:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* officers and *(b)* seamen were serving in the merchant marine in each year between 1994 and 2004. [9962]

**Dr. Ladyman:** Estimates of the number of UK merchant navy officers and ratings are available for 1997 to 2004 only, as follows:

| | *Officers* | *Ratings* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1997 | [1]14,300 | 10,800 | 25,100 |
| 1998 | [1]13,500 | 10,800 | 24,300 |
| 1999 | 13,900 | 8,900 | 22,800 |
| 2000 | 15,100 | 10,300 | 25,400 |
| 2001 | 12,800 | 6,400 | 19,200 |
| 2002 | 14,000 | 8,900 | 22,900 |
| 2003 | 16,000 | 10,500 | 26,500 |
| 2004 | 15,800 | 9,600 | 25,400 |

[1] Certificated officers only

*Notes:*
1. Officers and ratings estimates comprise deck, engine, technical and hotel/catering grades. Cadets are excluded.
2. The estimates are taken from "UK Seafarer Statistics", published by DfT.

### Motorway Noise

**Mr. Robathan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the number of households east of the M1 between junction 10 and junction 11 adversely affected by noise, broken down by decibel levels; and if he will make a statement on the acoustic screening on that stretch of motorway. [10358]

**Dr. Ladyman:** In a report completed in 2000, the Agency's consultants identified 772 properties in an area chiefly concentrated around Junction 11 with noise levels of 68 dB(A) or more. Of this number, 523 properties are located on the eastern side of the M1. The noise level ranges for the properties on the eastern side are as follows.

| *Noise level range* | *Number of properties* |
|---|---|
| 68–70 dB(A) | 279 |
| 71–75 dB(A) | 187 |
| 76–80 dB(A) | 51 |
| Over 80 dB(A) | 6 |

In September 2003 the Highways Agency completed the first phase of a scheme to provide acoustic fences on both sides of the M1 at Junction 11 at Luton. Phase 2 began in January 2005 and is due for completion in August 2005.

### Night Flights (Heathrow)

**Dr. Cable:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport on how many nights there were disruptions or delays sufficient to cause an increase in flights above the scheduled number taking off between 23.30 and 06.00 from London Heathrow in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [10087]

**Ms Buck:** The arrangements under which aircraft may be granted dispensations from the night restrictions have applied for many years. They were confirmed as part of the present night restrictions regime at Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted announced on 10 June 1999, *Official Report*, columns 378–80. Information on dispensations is given in the following table in the form in which it is held, showing the number granted each season. Some dispensations were for a single additional flight (either landing or take-off) on a particular night while on other occasions several dispensations have been granted on a single night for the same reason, eg delays resulting from widespread and prolonged air traffic disruption. The number of nights where there were 10 or more additional departures is also given.

| *Night restrictions season*[1] | *Dispensations for delays*[2] | *Dispensations for VIPs/ emergency relief etc*[3] | *Emergencies*[4] | *Nights with 10 or more additional departures* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Summer 2000 | 163 | 1 | 11 | 3 |
| Winter 2000–01 | 136 | 0 | 47 | 3 |
| Summer 2001 | 129 | 5 | 15 | 2 |
| Winter 2001–02 | 100 | 5 | 27 | 4 |
| Summer 2002 | 164 | 7 | 28 | 2 |
| Winter 2002–03 | 230 | 5 | 161 | 4 |
| Summer 2003 | 44 | 3 | 15 | 1 |
| Winter 2003–04 | 62 | 1 | 41 | 2 |
| Summer 2004 | 40 | 2 | 9 | 2 |
| Winter 2004–05 | 0 | 3 | 21 | 0 |

[1] The season change with the clocks.
[2] Delays to aircraft which are likely to lead to serious congestion at the aerodrome or serious hardship or suffering to passengers or animals; delays to aircraft resulting from widespread and prolonged disruption of air traffic.
[3] Dispensations granted by the Secretary of State, mainly where the aircraft is carrying a VIP or cargo intended for emergency relief.
[4] Emergencies where there is an immediate danger to life or health.

### Parking Penalties

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* appeals against parking penalty charge notices and *(b)* successful appeals there were in each local authority in England in the last five years for which figures are available. [8228]

**Ms Buck:** This information is collected by the National Parking Adjudication Service (NPAS) outside London and by the Parking and Traffic Appeals Service (PTAS) inside London and published by them in their annual reports. The latest NPAS report is for 2003 and PTAS report is for 2003–04 and can be downloaded from the following addresses:

www.parking-appeals.gov.uk/accessible/about/anreport.asp
www.parkingandtrafficappeals.gov.uk/annualreports.asp

### Pensioners (Free Travel)

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will estimate the cost of providing a free bus pass for pensioners that can be used on all bus services in England. [10801]

**Ms Buck:** Initial analysis suggests the cost could be around £100 million a year on top of the additional funding (£350 million in 2006–07) already being provided.

**Mr. Betts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will estimate the cost of extending the pensioner free travel scheme to cover journeys by light-rail. [10804]

**Ms Buck:** Initial analysis suggests that it could cost around £15 million per year on top of the additional funding (£350 million in 2006–07) already being provided to cover local bus services.

### Public Highways (Expenditure)

**Mr. Letwin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make a statement on levels of expenditure on *(a)* maintenance and *(b)* repair of public highways by highways authorities between 2003–04 and 2005–06. [9166]

**Ms Buck:** For the maintenance of trunk roads, the Government provided £1,060,408 in 2003–04, £1,062,755 in 2004–05 and has budgeted £1,186,049 for 2005–06.

Through the Local Transport Plan Settlement, the Government provided £610 million for local authority (capital) highway maintenance in 2003–04, £651 million in 2004–05 and £660 million in 2005–06.

In addition, revenue provision of £2,005 million for 2003–04, £2,055 million for 2004–05 and £2,053 million for 2005–06 has been made to local authorities, for highway maintenance through local authorities' formula for standard spending.

Funding provided to local authorities for road maintenance is not ring fenced. It is for the authorities themselves to decide upon their spending priorities, across the whole range of services that they provide.

### Public Transport

**Mr. Duncan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will take steps to ensure public transport vehicles are equipped with forced air ventilation systems. [9307]

**Mr. Darling:** I refer the hon. Member to my answer given to him today (UIN 9017).

**Mr. Duncan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the health and safety requirements are for ventilation on public transport; and whether public transport vehicles are required to have forced air ventilation systems installed. [9017]

**Mr. Darling:** Although there are no legal requirements for ventilation on trains under health and safety law, the Health and Safety Executive publishes guidance which recommends that rail operators have on-board ventilation systems that

> 'should be capable of providing and maintaining a satisfactory environment throughout the range of foreseeable conditions the train may encounter (including delays and failures)'.

Buses (other than minibuses) and coaches in public service must provide adequate ventilation for the driver and passengers without the need to open any window. Ventilation may be provided by forced-air systems, such as fans or air-conditioning units, but are not required to be of this type.

### Rail Passengers Council

**Mrs. Ellman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what *(a)* procedures and *(b)* selection criteria he used when making appointments to the Rail Passengers Council. [10425]

**Derek Twigg:** The Secretary of State made the recent 12 member appointments to the new Rail Passengers Council following the procedures set out in the code of practice for ministerial appointments to public bodies, which is issued by the Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments (OCPA). The selection criteria were published as part of the open recruitment process which was regulated by OCPA and validated by an independent assessor.

**Mrs. Ellman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the adequacy of representation of the interests of passengers in the north-west in the Rail Passengers Council. [10426]

**Derek Twigg:** The new Rail Passengers Council (RPC) is being established as a single, national body covering all of Great Britain. Members have been appointed to represent passengers on this basis, working in partnership with the RPC staff. The selection of members recently appointed to the new RPC provide the balance of skills and experience that will drive forward the work of the new RPC in future and build the organisation's standing and reputation among passengers and the rail industry.

### Railways

**Mrs. Riordan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many train operators have access agreements on the East Coast Main Line. [9303]

**Derek Twigg:** 36 train operators have track access agreements which include rights to operate trains on, or over part of, the East Coast Main Line.

### Roads

**Stewart Hosie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions he has had with the Scottish business community on proposals for road pricing. [5131]

**Dr. Ladyman:** In line with their manifesto commitments, the Government will examine the potential of moving away from the current system of motoring taxation towards a national system of road pricing. The Government have made clear the need for a broad consensus on this issue and continues to discuss transport matters with the business community.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the *(a)* daily volume of traffic on the A127 between the M25 and Southend and *(b)* capacity of the A127 was in (i) 1997, (ii) 1999, (iii) 2000 and (iv) the last period for which figures are available; and what the projected traffic volume is for (A) 2006, (B) 2008 and (C) 2010. [9913]

**Dr. Ladyman:** Daily traffic volume on the A127 between the M25 and Southend measured using annual average daily flow (AADF) was in the following range:

| | *AADF (lowest and highest)* |
|---|---|
| 1997 | 54,000–70,000 |
| 1999 | 56,000–70,000 |
| 2000 | 55,000–62,000 |
| 2004 | 60,000–67,000 |

The capacity, measured using congestion reference flow, of the A127 in the same years was as follows:

| | *Capacity* |
|---|---|
| 1997 | 68,000 |
| 1999 | 68,000 |
| 2000 | 68,000 |
| 2004 | 68,000 |

For projected traffic volumes I refer the hon. Member to "The Future of Transport: A network for 2030" White Paper published by my Department in July 2004.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the *(a)* daily volume of traffic on the A13 between the M25 and Southend and *(b)* capacity of the A13 was in (i) 1997, (ii) 1999, (iii) 2000 and (iv) the last period for which figures are available; and what the projected traffic volume is for (A) 2006, (B) 2008 and (C) 2010. [9914]

**Dr. Ladyman:** Daily traffic volume on the A13 between the M25 and Southend measured using annual average daily flow (AADF) was in the following range:

| | *AADF (lowest and highest)* |
|---|---|
| 1997 | 15,000–71,000 |
| 1999 | 15,000–74,000 |
| 2000 | 15,000–75,000 |
| 2004 | 21,000–88,000 |

The capacity, measured using congestion reference flow, of the A13 in the same years was as follows:

| | *Capacity* |
|---|---|
| 1997 | 59,000 |
| 1999 | 59,000 |
| 2000 | 59,000 |
| 2003 | 58,000 |

For projected traffic volumes I refer the hon. Member to "The Future of Transport: A network for 2030" White Paper published by my Department in July 2004.

### Safety Cameras

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many speed camera tickets have been challenged in each year since 1997 in *(a)* England, *(b)* Essex and *(c)* Southend; and how many were successful. [10914]

**Dr. Ladyman:** This information is not available.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what research his Department is undertaking into accidents around speed camera sites. [10395]

**Dr. Ladyman:** The independent three-year report into the National Safety Camera Programme, published in June 2004, showed a reduction in deaths and serious injuries at camera sites. A fourth year report, reflecting the roll-out of the programme to 35 safety camera partnerships, is in preparation. The Department's 2005–06 research programme also includes new research into understanding the mechanisms of change in accident occurrence and speed behaviour brought about by speed enforcement by cameras to help improve our understanding of the wider effects of safety cameras.

### Statutory Instruments

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what statutory instruments have been sponsored by his Department since 1997. [10392]

**Ms Buck:** Lists of all statutory instruments (SIs) from 1 January 1998 to 30 June 2005, prepared by the Office of Public Sector Information (OPSI) have today been placed in the Library. These lists, prepared in alphabetical order by department, detail for each year from 1998 the number and title of each statutory instrument sponsored by the Department. There are separate lists for General and Local SIs. SIs which have been originated by departments but which were also Orders in Council are only listed under the Privy Council Office (PCO).

### Tonnage Tax

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many certificates of non-compliance have been issued to companies and groups failing to meet their tonnage tax training obligations; and how many were subsequently cancelled. [11510]

**Dr. Ladyman:** No certificates of non-compliance have been issued.

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many companies or groups have been required to make higher rate payments for failing to meet their obligations since the tonnage tax was introduced. [11511]

**Dr. Ladyman:** Three companies or groups have been required to pay a surcharge on their payments in lieu of training since tonnage tax was introduced.

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many companies have submitted training commitments for his approval since the tonnage tax was introduced. [11512]

**Dr. Ladyman:** 88 company/groups have applied for approval of a training commitment since tonnage tax was introduced.

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many companies have been allowed to make tonnage tax payments in lieu of training; what the total amount of such payments has been; and to whom such payments are made. [11722]

**Dr. Ladyman:** We have approved planned payments in lieu of training (PILOT) for 19 companies/groups. Other companies/groups have paid PILOT because of shortfalls in training against the training commitment, and/or to meet incremental training commitments arising from additional vessels entering their fleets. PILOT payments are made to the Maritime Training Trust (MTT), which is an independent body with members from the Chamber of Shipping and the maritime trade unions. The MTT allocates the monies received to promote UK seafarer training. The total amount of PILOT received by the MTT to date is £3,844,909.

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many companies or groups made returns to him during the tonnage tax regime during the last full year for which figures are available on *(a)* training provided and *(b)* payments in lieu of training. [11723]

**Dr. Ladyman:** 66 companies/groups have provided end of period adjustment returns in respect of 2003–04, which is the last full tonnage tax training commitment year for which figures are available. With a few returns outstanding, a total of 11,090 months of actual training was provided, and 2,420 PILOT payments were due.

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the minimum training obligation is for a company or group to qualify for tonnage tax exemption. [11724]

**Dr. Ladyman:** The minimum training obligation is to recruit and train one officer trainee per year for every 15 officer posts in the company/group's effective officer complement.

### Transport Infrastructure

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make a statement on *(a)* road transport infrastructure needs and *(b)* rail infrastructure needs in (i) Castle Point and (ii) Essex. [10947]

**Ms Buck:** Road transport infrastructure needs of Essex are currently subject to appraisal by the three Essex transport authorities through their local transport plans. Provisional plans for the period 2006 to 2011 are due to be submitted by the end of July. The SRA have completed their regional planning assessment for rail covering the eastern region. They are due to report their findings shortly.

**Mrs. Dorries:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* ministerial colleagues and *(b)* others about transport provision in the county of Bedfordshire. [11094]

**Ms Buck:** The Government office for the east of England has met with chief officers at Bedfordshire county council to discuss the importance of transport provision in the county in relation to other services.

The Government office for the east of England has met a number of times with Bedfordshire county council officers in the last six months to discuss their delivery of local transport schemes and about their forthcoming second local transport plan.

### Untaxed Vehicles

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many drivers in *(a)* Southend, *(b)* Essex and *(c)* England and Wales have been convicted of driving without a road-tax licence in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [10475]

**Dr. Ladyman:** No figures are available for Southend. The information for Essex and for England and Wales is as follows:

| | *Essex* | | *England and Wales, including Essex* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Successful prosecutions* | *Out of court settlements* | *Successful prosecutions* | *Out of court settlements* |
| 2000 | 4,127 | 3,942 | 196,134 | 177,099 |
| 2001 | 4,399 | 4,179 | 213,054 | 179,263 |
| 2002 | 4,092 | 3,315 | 222,328 | 167,747 |
| 2003 | 3,638 | 3,135 | 225,549 | 164,156 |
| 2004 | 3,349 | 2,275 | 182,691 | 97,943 |

The introduction of continuous registration at the beginning of 2004 gave DVLA the ability to enforce directly from the licensing computer record. As a result an additional 323,554 late licensing penalties were paid in 2004.

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Child Support Agency

**John Cummings:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he expects the problems with the Child Support Agency computer system to be resolved. [1593]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive, Mr. Stephen Geraghty. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Stephen Geraghty to Mr. John Cummings, dated 11 July 2005:*

In reply to your recent parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, when he expects the problems with the Child Support Agency computer system to be resolved.

The Agency has acknowledged that there are problems with the IT system and there are some serious defects. Work to stabilise the system is ongoing and this has already brought about improvements. The Agency is continuing to work with the computer supplier (EDS) to remedy the problems and IT releases were successfully implemented in December 2004 and May 2005 to resolve various system performance issues and build upon the improvements already made.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the recommendations of the Child Support Agency's internal audit; and who carries out the agency's internal audit functions. [9324]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The internal audit of CSA is undertaken by DWP Internal Assurance Services, a corporate team independent of the Agency and who operate in accordance with the Government internal audit standards.

The internal audit work in respect of CSA is overseen by the CSA Audit Committee which is chaired by an independent non-executive Director who is also a member of the CSA Management Board. The NAO also attend the CSA Audit Committee.

Internal audit recommendations and the implementation of them by management is reviewed at each Audit Committee meeting.

### Financial Assistance Scheme

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will give permission to pension scheme trustees eligible for the financial assistance scheme to start paying some pension to scheme members or widowed spouses of scheme members who *(a)* are beyond their scheme's pension age, *(b)* are terminally ill and *(c)* would qualify for ill health early retirement. [11618]

**Mr. Timms:** Decisions on when and in what circumstances payments should be made from pension schemes to pension scheme members are a matter for the trustees of the scheme, although we would encourage them to start paying pensions as quickly as possible

The draft financial assistance scheme (FAS) regulations that were laid before Parliament on 22 June and await parliamentary approval, provide for FAS initial payments to be made to eligible scheme members who have reached age 65 but the pension scheme has not completed wind up, and also to those aged under 65 with a terminal illness. These payments which would top up any payments made by the scheme trustees to 60 per cent. of core pension rights would be made as soon as possible after the affected scheme had been assessed as eligible for the FAS.

### Housing Benefit

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average processing times for housing benefit claims are in each *(a)* London borough, *(b)* local housing authority in the North East and *(c)* Pathfinder area, broken down by tenure sector. [10909]

**Mr. Timms:** The information requested is in the table.

*Average housing benefit clearance times (calendar days) in local authorities listed; fourth quarter 2004–05*

| 31 March 2005 | All housing benefit | Rent rebate | Rent allowance |
|---|---|---|---|
| Alnwick | 35.93 | 25.24 | 44.07 |
| Argyll and Bute | 35.51 | 30.87 | 39.31 |
| Barking | 70.02 | 63.1 | 82.17 |
| Barnet | 35.47 | 31.24 | 37.01 |
| Berwick-upon-Tweed | 31.82 | 23.16 | 39.81 |
| Bexley | 44.71 | 34.76 | 46.14 |
| Blackpool | 18.48 | 13.18 | 19.45 |
| Blyth Valley | 24 | 22.51 | 25.88 |
| Brent | 37.35 | 32.24 | 38.93 |
| Brighton and Hove | 31.84 | 28.24 | 33.41 |
| Bromley | 29.62 | n/a | 29.62 |
| Camden | 34.79 | 30.69 | 37.99 |
| Castle Morpeth | 23.68 | 19.52 | 26.94 |
| City of London | 25.51 | 23.7 | 28.64 |
| Conwy | 32.01 | 29.88 | 32.68 |
| Coventry | 53.61 | n/a | 53.61 |
| Croydon | 32.85 | 17.52 | 43.52 |
| Darlington | 31.88 | 25.41 | 34.81 |
| Derwentside | 28.39 | 25.66 | 30.83 |
| Durham | 29.17 | 25.13 | 34.66 |
| Ealing | 61.2 | 59.91 | 61.86 |
| Easington | 36.01 | 35.86 | 36.16 |
| East Riding of Yorkshire | 29.46 | 22.1 | 33.78 |
| Edinburgh | 43.79 | 33.32 | 55.14 |
| Enfield | 39.08 | 32.91 | 41.83 |
| Gateshead | 66.8 | 66.8 | 66.8 |
| Greenwich | 35.22 | 31.29 | 39.39 |
| Guildford | 21.01 | 23.26 | 19.83 |
| Hackney | 78.53 | 70.52 | 84.71 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Haringey | 50.34 | 38.07 | 57.31 |
| Harrow | 27.3 | 22.11 | 28.83 |
| Hartlepool | 28.96 | 18.25 | 29.07 |
| Havering | 32.55 | 29.54 | 35.64 |
| Hillingdon | 52.37 | 44.46 | 56.31 |
| Hounslow | 40.74 | 33.53 | 45.83 |
| Islington | 49.37 | 54.29 | 43.88 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 30.01 | 30.01 | 30.01 |
| Lambeth | 47.11 | 42.75 | 51.27 |
| Leeds | 64.2 | 63.2 | 65.28 |
| Lewisham | 32.37 | 31.21 | 33.22 |
| Merton | 52.38 | 46.74 | 54.6 |
| Middlesbrough | 36.6 | 83.73 | 35.18 |
| Newham | 47.24 | 47.43 | 47.17 |
| North East Lincoln | 36 | 35.35 | 36.24 |
| North Tyneside | 47.83 | 47.85 | 47.8 |
| Norwich | 17.71 | 15.78 | 19.83 |
| Pembrokeshire | 43.08 | 36.96 | 47.94 |
| Redbridge | 36.16 | 29.39 | 38.73 |
| Redcar and Cleveland | 39.05 | 32.58 | 39.28 |
| Salford | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Sedgefield | 31.91 | 29.34 | 35.96 |
| South Norfolk | 31.2 | 15.45 | 32.62 |
| South Tyneside | 42.64 | 42.23 | 43.41 |
| Southwark | 39.13 | 39.13 | 39.13 |
| St Helens | 34.21 | n/a | 34.21 |
| Sunderland | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Sutton | 42.07 | 30.51 | 47.52 |
| Teesdale | 46.94 | 52.45 | 44.43 |
| Teignbridge | 30.39 | 21.54 | 30.61 |
| Tower Hamlets | 61.63 | 62 | 61.35 |
| Tynedale | 21.28 | n/a | 21.28 |
| Waltham Forest | 36.2 | 31.17 | 37.71 |
| Wandsworth | 52.25 | 44.43 | 56.66 |
| Wansbeck | 42.36 | 40.33 | 44.94 |
| Wear Valley | 21.41 | 17.87 | 24.26 |
| Wrexham | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Wychavon | 35.21 | 21.29 | 35.43 |
| Wycombe | 23.14 | 21.32 | 24.06 |
| Wyre | 43.74 | n/a | 43.74 |
| Wyre Forest | 28.52 | 33.63 | 28.31 |
| York | 64.46 | 44.47 | 76.71 |

n/a = not provide by the local authority. In the case of rent rebate figures only not being available, this may be because the local authority has no rent rebate cases.

*Notes:*

1. Rent rebates are made on local authority properties.
2. Rent allowance is paid on all private rented accommodation, including registered social landlords.

*Source:*

Local authority reported data.

### Incapacity Benefit

**Mr. Frank Field:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has to help existing long-term claimants of incapacity benefit. [11444]

**Mrs. McGuire:** All existing claimants of incapacity benefit are offered personal help and support to return to work through a range of jobcentre plus and private and voluntary sector provision such as the new deal for

disabled people, work preparation and workstep. Financial incentives which make an eventual return to full-time work more viable are also available through the permitted work rules, benefit run-ons and tax credits.

Our Pathways to Work pilots offer a sophisticated range of back to work and rehabilitation support. We are expanding the coverage of our compulsory work-focused interview (WFI) regime to existing claimants to make sure they are fully aware and are actively encouraged to take up the help and support on offer. Our proposals for reforming incapacity benefit will build on Pathways to Work to enable as many recipients as possible to realise their own aspirations of a return to work. A Green Paper will be published later this year.

### Maternity Grant

**John Hemming:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the value of the maternity grant was for each year between 1995 and 2002. [7501]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** A claim for a Sure Start maternity grant may be made from the 29th week of pregnancy and up to three months after the baby is born, adopted or the subject of a parental order in respect of a surrogate birth. Between 1995 and 26 March 2000, social fund maternity payments were paid at the rate of £100 per child.

These were gradually replaced by Sure Start maternity grants from 27 March 2000 and were paid at the rate of £200 per child for babies due, born, adopted or the subject of a parental order in respect of a surrogate birth on or after 11 June 2000. This was increased to £300 from 17 September 2000 for babies due, born, adopted or the subject of a parental order in respect of a surrogate birth on or after 3 December 2000.

From 31 March 2002, the Sure Start maternity grant was increased to £500 per child for babies due, born, adopted or the subject of a parental order in respect of a surrogate birth on or after 16 June 2002.

### Medical Assessment Centres

**Judy Mallaber:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions from which towns and villages in Amber Valley claimants attend medical assessment centres in *(a)* Derby, *(b)* Chesterfield, *(c)* Mansfield and *(d)* Nottingham. [11220]

**Mrs. McGuire:** The information is not available in the requested format.

Information on the postcode areas that make up the Amber Valley constituency, and the medical examination centres that customers from that area would normally travel to for their medical examination, are in the table.

| *Postcode* | *Medical assessment centre* |
|---|---|
| NG16 | Derby |
| DE21 | Derby |
| DE5 | Derby |
| DE56 | Derby |
| DE6 | Derby |
| DE7 | Derby |
| DE75 | Derby |
| DE4 | Chesterfield |
| DE55 | Chesterfield |

*Notes:*
1. The postcode DE75 falls within the Amber Valley constituency only.
2. Remaining postcodes cover a number of constituencies, including Amber Valley.

*Source:*
DWP Medical Provision and Contracting Team

### Occupational Pensions

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he was first contacted by the parliamentary ombudsman in relation to her inquiry into complaints about occupational pensions; and when he completed his submission of evidence to the inquiry. [11616]

**Mr. Timms:** The parliamentary ombudsman wrote formally to my permanent secretary on 16 November 2004 regarding her investigation into complaints about occupational pensions. An initial response was sent on 20 December. The ombudsman's investigation continues and my officials continue to provide any information requested.

### Pension Scheme Records

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will ask the pensions regulator to instruct trustees of all pension schemes winding up either to keep all records or to forward them to the regulator or his Department. [11617]

**Mr. Timms:** The pensions regulator may by notice in writing require a trustee or manager, professional adviser or employer of an occupational or personal pension scheme to produce any document or provide any other information which is relevant to the exercise of the regulator's functions.

Legislation requires trustees to keep written records in connection with a scheme winding up. The pensions regulator has the power to see all documents relating to the pension scheme. A person who without reasonable excuse neglects or refuses to provide information or produce a document when required to do so is guilty of an offence.

## CABINET OFFICE

### Civil Service (Offensive Language)

**Mr. Beith:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will take steps to discourage the use of offensive and obscene language in the civil service. [11191]

**Mr. Hutton:** Departments and agencies make clear to their staff through staff handbooks the standards of behaviour expected of them and the action that might be taken against them if their behaviour does not meet these standards. This will include any circumstances in

which the behaviour, action or inaction of individuals significantly disrupts or damages the performance or reputation of the organisation.

### Civil Service (Welsh Speakers)

**Hywel Williams:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what review the civil service has undertaken of the *(a)* numbers and *(b)* location of Welsh speakers employed by the Government and Government agencies outside Wales. [10730]

**Mr. Hutton:** The numbers of Welsh speakers employed by Government Departments and agencies are not collected centrally. A review of Welsh speaking staff employed outside Wales has not been undertaken.

### Civil Service Reform

**David Taylor:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what recent representations he has received on reforming the civil service; and if he will make a statement. [8051]

**Mr. Hutton:** I have received a number of representations on reforming the civil service since my appointment. These have focused on the role of the civil service in helping the Government to deliver better public services, covering subjects such as the Government's information technology (IT) strategy to transform public services, better regulation, the involvement of users in public services and the importance of effective leadership development.

The major programme of civil service reform currently under way addresses each of these issues. The latest position on reform was set out by the head of the home civil service on 20 June in the report, "Delivery and Values One Year On".

## INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### Consultants

**Mrs. Dean:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what plans he has to issue guidance on effective commissioning for those in the public and voluntary sectors who are commissioning work from external consultants. [7024]

**Hilary Benn:** I refer my hon. Friend to the response given by the Economic Secretary to the Treasury on 27 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 1286W.

### Education Projects (Great Lakes and Horn of Africa)

**Mark Simmonds:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will make a statement on his Department's involvement in education projects in the *(a)* Great Lakes and *(b)* Horn of Africa regions. [6935]

**Hilary Benn:** In Uganda, over the last 10 years we have provided £75 million of direct assistance to the education sector through projects and targeted budget support. The Ugandan Government prefer donors to provide support for the implementation of its Poverty Eradication Action Plan as general budget support and this is now the principal means through which the UK supports the continued expansion of the education sector. In addition, mindful of the continuing insecurity in the north, DFID is supporting UNICEF in funding projects through NGOs that are improving access to basic services, including education.

The UK is the co-ordinating donor for the education sector in Rwanda. We have supported education, through general budget support, £21 million was released between 2000 and 2003 via an 'education window', and our current Poverty Reduction Budget Support monitors education performance as an indicator of progress. Since 2001 we have targeted £13 million to a programme of capacity building. DFID has also worked with the Ministry of Education, with a particular focus on improving girls' education. We have also supported a number of measures to help reduce public financing on higher education.

The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) faces immense challenges. Education—like every other sector—deteriorated hugely under the impact of conflict over the past decade. The DRC is moving towards its first democratic elections since the 1960s and we hope this will signal a new start in DRC where an elected Government, with the support of the international community, can work to deliver services to the Congolese people. DFID is already providing some assistance to education; we have been supporting the Bank in the development of their Education Investment programme, and we are supporting the NGO Catholic Relief Services in its project in basic education in North Sankuru. More broadly, we are now looking hard at what DFID's most effective long-term role should be, as part of the wider donor community, in supporting the strengthening and expansion of service delivery in the DRC.

In Sudan, DFID is supporting UNICEF's work in basic education and the international NGO, GOAL'S country wide literacy and livelihoods programme. In the south we are in the process of developing a framework for service delivery which covers health, water and sanitation as well as education, and we are about to launch the second phase of our education and training scholarships scheme, which will be managed by the British Council (£1.4 million 2005–07). Our support for education in the Horn relates mainly to Ethiopia, with a small programme of support in Somalia.

DFID supports the Government of Ethiopia's Education Sector Development Plan (ESDP), which emphasises primary education, through Poverty Reduction Budget Support (PRBS) to the Government of Ethiopia (£30 million 2004–05). The Department works closely with the Ministry of Education and development partners to improve sector dialogue, policies and strategies in education. Gross enrolment rates in primary education have doubled over the last 10 years. In addition, we provide specific technical support in a number of areas (including education management capacity building and HIV/AIDS and education). In particular, we are supporting the Ministry of Education's Teacher Development Programme through a pooled fund with five other bilateral partners. DFID also has a small Innovatory Fund for Education which supports the development and dissemination of innovative practice in education, particularly by NGOs.

We are playing an active role in the coordination and development of the Somalia education sector with other development partners in Nairobi, including UNESCO, UNICEF, USAID, EU and the private sector. We are supporting UNESCO, Save the Children UK and Africa Educational Trust on projects in Somalia that aim to increase opportunities for girls as well as boys in accessing quality basic education, develop textbooks and establish an examination system.

### Gambia

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether it is Government policy to support an extension to the Hib disease vaccination programme in Gambia beyond 2007. [9901]

**Mr. Thomas:** The Government welcome the recent study, conducted by the World Health Organisation and the Medical Research Council, showing that the routine immunisation of young children against Hib disease, a major cause of meningitis and pneumonia in developing countries, has virtually eliminated the disease in The Gambia. We hope that these results will encourage other countries in sub-Saharan Africa to persevere with their own immunisation efforts.

Routine Hib vaccination was introduced in The Gambia in 1997 as part of the country's expanded programme of immunisation. No cases of invasive Hib have been detected since 2002. The programme is being supported by the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation (GAVI), to which DFID has contributed since its inception in 2000. The GAVI is providing $3,229,000 for the Hib and Hepatitis vaccination programme for the period 2002–06 and is currently considering a second phase of support from 2007, taking into account priorities, performance and results, in consultation with the countries concerned. DFID has presently pledged support to the GAVI up to 2007–08.

### Special Advisers

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will list *(a)* the special advisers in his Department, *(b)* their specific areas of expertise and *(c)* the total cost of employing them in the latest year for which figures are available. [8816]

**Hilary Benn:** I refer the hon. Member to the response given by the Prime Minister on 4 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 36W.

### Tibet

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will make a statement on the humanitarian situation in Tibet. [9920]

**Mr. Thomas:** Tibet is one of the poorest provinces in China. DFID is providing £0.5 million per year through Save the Children to meet the costs of programmes on health, sanitation and basic education in Tibet. The FCO also financed several small projects in Tibetan areas of other Chinese provinces over the last year.

### United Nations Population Fund

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) who the British representative is on the executive board of the United Nations Population Fund; [10563]

(2) whether the UK representative on the executive board of the United Nations Population Fund has connections to non-governmental organisations concerned with abortion related issues. [10891]

**Mr. Thomas:** The UK representatives on the executive board of the United Nations Population Fund do not have any connections to non-governmental organisations concerned with abortion related issues. The British representatives on the executive board of the United Nations Population Fund are DFID officials from its United Nations Commonwealth Department (UNCD) and Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) officials from the UK mission in New York.

## TREASURY

### Alcohol/Drugs-related Deaths

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many deaths in which the primary cause was *(a)* alcohol and *(b)* illegal drugs there were in (i) Southend and (ii) Essex in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available. [10557]

**John Healey:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Colin Mowl to Mr. David Amess, dated 11 July 2005:*

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many deaths in which the primary cause was *(a)* alcohol and *(b)* illegal drugs there were in (i) Southend and (ii) Essex in each of the last 10 years. I am replying in his absence. (10557)

The most recently available information is for deaths registered in 2004 and deaths occurring in 2003. Relevant figures are only readily available for deaths where the underlying cause was either related to drug poisoning or directly related to alcohol (alcohol abuse, dependence and poisoning, and diseases directly related to alcohol use). It is not possible to identify from death certificates which substance was the primary cause when more than one was involved.

Figures for alcohol-related deaths to usual residents of Southend and Essex registered in the years 1995 to 2004 are given in the attached table. ONS compiles a special database to analyse mortality from drug-related poisoning adding more detail than is available on routine annual extracts. This database is compiled using the annual occurrences extract of mortality data. Figures showing deaths related to drug poisoning involving controlled drugs occurring in the years 1994 to 2003, to usual residents of Southend and Essex, are given in the table below. Information on deaths involving illegal drugs is not available, as how the deceased obtained a particular drug is not recorded at death registration.

It should be noted that the figures on drug-related poisoning are not directly comparable to the figures on alcohol for the following reasons.

The figures on drugs do not include long-term effects of drug taking, whereas the figures on alcohol include cirrhosis of the liver.

Deaths from poisoning which involved both drugs and alcohol are coded as due to drug poisoning, in accordance with international rules for coding cause of death.

The figures on alcohol include only those where the underlying cause was alcohol-related. The figures on specific drugs include any mention of a substance on a death related to drug poisoning.

*Number of alcohol-related deaths[1] and deaths from drug-related poisoning[2] involving controlled drugs,[3] Southend and Essex,[4] 1994 to 2004[5]*

| | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *(a) Alcohol-related deaths* | | | | | | | | | | | |
| (i) Southend | — | 12 | 17 | 17 | 16 | 12 | 18 | 19 | 21 | 26 | 24 |
| (ii) Essex | — | 60 | 82 | 88 | 101 | 95 | 96 | 113 | 102 | 111 | 113 |
| *(b) Deaths from drug-related poisoning involving controlled drugs* | | | | | | | | | | | |
| (i) Southend | 9 | * | 8 | * | 5 | 5 | 7 | 12 | 5 | 10 | — |
| (ii) Essex | 19 | 20 | 15 | 29 | 22 | 28 | 35 | 16 | 21 | 17 | — |

* Fewer than 5 deaths

[1] For the years 1995–2000 the cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9). The codes selected to define alcohol-related deaths are listed below:
291—Alcoholic psychoses
303—Alcohol dependence syndrome
305.0—Non-dependent abuse of alcohol
425.5—Alcoholic cardiomyopathy
571—Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis
E860—Accidental poisoning by alcohol
For the years 2001–04 the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) was used. To maintain comparability with earlier years the following codes were selected:
F10—Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol
142.6—Alcoholic cardiomyopathy
K70—Alcoholic liver disease
K73—Chronic hepatitis, not elsewhere classified
K74—Fibrosis and cirrhosis of liver
X45—Accidental poisoning by and exposure to alcohol
The selection of codes to define alcohol-related deaths is described in:
Baker A and Rooney C (2003). Recent trends in alcohol-related mortality, and the impact of ICD-10 on the monitoring of these deaths in England and Wales. Health Statistics Quarterly 17, pp 5–14.

[2] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) codes 292, 304, 305.2–305.9, E850-E858, E950.0-E950.5, E962.0 and E980.0-E980.5for 1994 to 2000, and the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes F11-F16, F18-F19, X40-X44, X60-X64, X85 and Y10-YJ4 from 2001 onwards.

[3] Drugs mentioned on the death certificate of a death where the underlying cause was drug poisoning.

[4] Deaths of usual residents of:
(i)—Southend-on-Sea unitary authority
(ii)—County of Essex
Data for the county of Essex does not include deaths to residents of the unitary authorities of Southend-on-Sea or Thurrock.

[5] Data are for deaths registered in each calendar year for alcohol-related deaths and for deaths occurring in each calendar year for deaths related to drug poisoning.

### Bedfordshire (Statistics)

**Mrs. Dorries:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much revenue was raised from personal taxation in the constituency of Mid-Bedfordshire in the last financial year for which figures are available. [11010]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The information on revenue raised from personal taxation by parliamentary constituency is not available therefore I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member Reading, East (Mr. Wilson) on 21 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 940W.

### Conferences

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much the Department has spent on organising or sponsoring conferences in each of the last five years. [10245]

**John Healey:** Records of the cost of activities such as conferences are not held centrally and so the information requested could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

### Corporation Taxes

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the impact of the potential mobility of corporations on the yield of corporation taxes to the Exchequer. [11041]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The Government are committed to maintaining a modern, fair and competitive corporation tax system. The UK compares favourably to other major economic partners and tax is only one factor in businesses' location decisions.

### Corruption (Procurement)

**Malcolm Bruce:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the definition is of general interest as used by his Department in the draft regulations to implement Article 45 of the EU procurement directive 2004/18/EC; and if he will make a statement on the overriding requirements through which a contracting authority can disregard the duty not to select an economic operator that has been convicted of corruption or bribery as described in that directive. [10081]

**John Healey:** The Government believes that Article 45 of the new procurement directive is very helpful in the fight against fraud and corruption by requiring, for the first time under the EU procurement rules, contracting authorities to exclude suppliers convicted of such offences. At present, such exclusions are voluntary. The article only enables member states to derogate from this requirement for "overriding requirements in the general interest", which is designed to cover exceptional circumstances of national emergency, for example related to the protection of life and security. Our proposed guidance on this article will cover these matters and will provide additional advice to authorities on when the derogation should be invoked. This guidance will be informed by the current consultation exercise on the regulations to implement the new directive.

## Electoral Registration

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people of voting age were *(a)* registered to vote and *(b)* resident in each ward in each constituency in each region in 2001. [10941]

**John Healey:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician. I have asked him to reply.

*Letter from Colin Mowl to Mr. Chris Ruane, dated 11 July 2005:*

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your question concerning how many people of voting age were *(a)* registered to vote and *(b)* resident in each ward in each constituency in each region in 2001.1 am replying in his absence. (10941)

I have arranged for the data requested to be placed in the House of Commons library.

Electorate Counts

The ward electorate counts are for February 2001 parliamentary electors, including attainers (persons attaining the age of 18 after 16 February 2001 but before 16 February 2002). The counts relate to England and Wales only. There are a number of wards which are split by parliamentary constituency i.e. they fall within two or more parliamentary constituencies. The ward electorate and population counts are repeated for each parliamentary constituency which they fall within, and are indicated by an asterisk * alongside their ward name, electorate and population figures for the whole ward are shown. Some wards will therefore be double counted. Split ward electorate and population counts by parliamentary constituency are not available.

Electoral Wards

The electorate counts are not necessarily consistent with the statutory electoral register return RPF 29, due to the need for population estimation purposes to use and convert historic electorate counts on different ward geographies to a consistent ward geography i.e. the Census Area Statistics (CAS) ward geography (CAS wards were used for 2001 Census outputs).

The electorate counts therefore do not necessarily relate to wards which were in existence in February 2001, and some wards which were in existence in February 2001 may have had subsequent boundary changes.

Population Estimates

The ward population estimates for persons aged 18 and over relate to mid-2001 i.e. 30 June 2001 and are for CAS wards. Due to their small population size, population estimates for wards in City of London and Isles of Scilly are shown for the local authority areas only. For comparative purposes, the electorate counts for wards within these local authorities have been similarly aggregated.

Limitations with the data

The parliamentary electorate excludes European Union citizens and includes overseas electors. The former will be included in the population estimates and the latter excluded. Comparable ward counts of local government electors are not readily available.

There is inevitably some double counting of the registered electorate as electoral registration officers vary in how quickly they remove people from the registers after they have moved away from an area or after they have died. In addition, people can register in more than one place.

There is a relatively small number of wards (44) where the electorate counts are more than 10 per cent. greater than the population estimate, the majority of such cases are likely to be attributable to a limitation in the methodology used to convert electorate counts from a non-CAS ward geography onto a CAS ward geography. There may however also be valid reasons why the electorate count may exceed the estimated population, as described above.

## Flexible Service Delivery Programme

**Mark Williams:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) if he will make a statement on the implications of Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs flexible service delivery programme for employment levels within the Department; [10340]

(2) what account is being taken of rurality issues within Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs flexible service delivery programme. [10341]

**Dawn Primarolo:** HM Revenue and Customs is preparing business plans to meet its efficiency savings target for 2005–08. The Department's targets are to reduce the number of its staff by 12,500 net of re-deployments. The Department is also developing its plans to meet its targets under 'Lyons' to move 1,950 posts from London and the South East by 2008 and a further 2,300 by 2010.

In developing its plans HM Revenue and Customs is assessing and taking account of their potential social and economic impact in the local area.

## Fuel Duty

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what assessment he has made of the impact of increases in fuel duty on those *(a)* on low incomes and *(b)* without access to alternative modes of transport; [10393]

(2) what research his Department has evaluated on the effects of rises in fuel duty on the growth of carbon dioxide emissions; and if he will place in the Library copies of such research; [10394]

(3) what research his Department has evaluated on the effects of the cost of petrol on use of vehicles; and if he will place in the Library copies of such research. [10417]

**John Healey:** I have been asked to reply.

When taking decisions on fuel duty rates, the Chancellor of the Exchequer takes account of all relevant economic, environmental and social considerations.

No specific research has been published on the impact of increases of fuel prices on those on low incomes; however, some reports have been published by the Department for Transport analysing the relationship between fuel costs, vehicle use and carbon emissions, which are relevant. These are:

"Review of Income and Price Elasticities in the Demand for Road Traffic" by Mark Hanly, Joyce Dargay and Phil Goodwin, UCL, March 2002;

"Development of an Aggregated Transport Forecasting Model (ATFM)" by Joyce Dargay, Phil Goodwin and Mark Hanly, UCL, September 2002; and

"Review of income and price elasticities of demand for road traffic" by Daniel Graham and Stephen Glaister, Imperial College, July 2002.

These reports are all available on the Department's website (www.dft.gov.uk) and copies have been placed in the House.

### Green and White Papers

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* Green and *(b)* White papers his Department has produced since 1997; and if he will list these in date order. [10558]

**John Healey:** A chronological list, prepared by the Office of Public Sector Information, of all Command Papers produced by individual Departments since 10 May 2001 has been placed in the Library of the House and is also accessible at www.opsi.gov.uk.

It is not possible to differentiate between Green papers and White papers. Information prior to May 2001 is not available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

### Health Expenditure

**Adam Price:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the figures for capital expenditure on health in the nations and regions included in the Public Expenditure Statistical Analysis include those amounts invested through the private finance initiative. [11365]

**Mr. Des Browne:** The capital expenditure figures in the Public Expenditure Statistical Analysis do not include investments through the private finance initiative, except where PFI schemes have been classed as on the public sector balance sheet.

### Identity Cards

**Mr. Garnier:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the cost of equipping Revenue and Customs premises with identity card readers. [9756]

**Dawn Primarolo:** No such estimate has been made.

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when the timing of the Identity Cards Scheme Gateway 1 review was decided; and whether the timing has been revised in the last 12 months. [10069]

**Mr. Des Browne:** The Identity Cards Programme is scheduled to have a Gateway 1 review in July 2005. The current dates were agreed with the Home Office in May 2005. There had been a provisional intention to hold the Gateway 1 review in March 2005.

### Men:Women Ratio

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the current ratio between men and women is aged *(a)* 20 to 65 years and *(b)* 65 years and over; and what the equivalent figures were for (i) 1976 to 1980, (ii) 1981 to 1985, (iii) 1986 to 1990, (iv) 1991 to 1995, (v) 1996 to 2000 and (vi) 2001 to 2004. [10543]

**John Healey:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Colin Mowl to Mr. David Amess, dated 11 July 2005:*

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your question concerning the sex ratios for the current year and between 1976 and 2004. I am replying in his absence. (10543)

The table below shows the average sex ratios of persons in England and Wales aged 65 and over, and of those aged 20 to 64 inclusive, for mid-2003, the latest available year.

*Population England and Wales mid-2003*

| *2003*[1] | *Number/Ratio* |
|---|---|
| Males 20–64 (number) | 15,522,600 |
| Females 20–64 (number) | 15,727,200 |
| Ratio M/F | 0.99 |
| Males 65 + (number) | 3,606,800 |
| Females 65 + (number) | 4,853,900 |
| Ratio M/F | 0.74 |

[1] Mid-2003 population estimates are the latest data available.

*Note:*
Population estimates are shown to the nearest 100 people.

*Source:*
Office for National Statistics

The attached table gives equivalent data for the years you requested, though 2001 to 2003 is shown, rather than the 2001 to 2004 you requested, as 2003 are the latest available data. Mid-2004 population estimates will be published on 25 August 2005.

*Population England and Wales mid-1976 to mid-2003*

| | *Males 20–64* | *Females 20–64* | *Ratio M/F* | *Males 65 +* | *Females 65 +* | *Ratio M/F* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1976 | [1]13,686,500 | 13,779,500 | | 2,772,600 | 4,346,500 | |
| 1977 | [1]13,706,900 | 13,794,600 | | 2,817,800 | 4,396,400 | |
| 1978 | [1]13,728,200 | 13,815,400 | | 2,863,100 | 4,452,700 | |
| 1979 | [1]13,779,400 | 13,840,600 | | 2,907,100 | 4,502,500 | |
| 1980 | [1]13,835,000 | 13,892,600 | | 2,950,400 | 4,555,000 | |
| Average population 1976 to 1980 | [1]13,747,200 | 13,824,500 | 0.99 | 2,862,200 | 4,450,600 | 0.64 |

*Population England and Wales mid-1976 to mid-2003*

| | *Males 20–64* | *Females 20–64* | *Ratio M/F* | *Males 65+* | *Females 65+* | *Ratio M/F* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1981 | 13,894,600 | 13,971,300 | | 2,970,500 | 4,577,600 | |
| 1982 | 13,953,100 | 14,051,500 | | 2,970,100 | 4,579,800 | |
| 1983 | 14,094,400 | 14,188,600 | | 2,947,200 | 4,558,000 | |
| 1984 | 14,283,100 | 14,349,200 | | 2,936,300 | 4,546,300 | |
| 1985 | 14,364,800 | 14,419,800 | | 3,014,100 | 4,632,900 | |
| Average population 1981 to 1985 | 14,118,000 | 14,196,100 | 0.99 | 2,967,600 | 4,578,900 | 0.65 |
| 1986 | 14,435,000 | 14,503,600 | | 3,071,800 | 4,695,800 | |
| 1987 | 14,511,700 | 14,583,000 | | 3,123,300 | 4,742,400 | |
| 1988 | 14,587,600 | 14,662,400 | | 3,157,600 | 4,774,300 | |
| 1989 | 14,673,500 | 14,750,000 | | 3,192,400 | 4,804,700 | |
| 1990 | 14,758,600 | 14,828,000 | | 3,217,200 | 4,815,800 | |
| Average population 1986 to 1990 | 14,593,300 | 14,665,400 | 1.00 | 3,152,500 | 4,766,600 | 0.66 |
| 1991 | 14,827,600 | 14,927,900 | | 3,248,100 | 4,832,200 | |
| 1992 | 14,887,200 | 14,998,700 | | 3,274,900 | 4,843,000 | |
| 1993 | 14,930,000 | 15,053,200 | | 3,298,600 | 4,850,500 | |
| 1994 | 14,958,100 | 15,107,300 | | 3,315,400 | 4,848,200 | |
| 1995 | 15,002,700 | 15,139,800 | | 3,342,400 | 4,856,400 | |
| Average population 1991 to 1995 | 14,921,100 | 15,045,400 | 0.99 | 3,295,900 | 4,846,000 | 0.68 |
| 1996 | 15,031,300 | 15,172,000 | | 3,367,000 | 4,854,400 | |
| 1997 | 15,044,900 | 15,206,500 | | 3,391,500 | 4,845,100 | |
| 1998 | 15,074,400 | 15,256,700 | | 3,417,100 | 4,840,900 | |
| 1999 | 15,164,800 | 15,355,000 | | 3,437,400 | 4,824,900 | |
| 2000 | 15,273,100 | 15,485,100 | | 3,465,600 | 4,821,400 | |
| Average population 1996 to 2000 | 15,117,700 | 15,295,100 | 0.99 | 3,415,700 | 4,837,400 | 0.71 |
| 2001 | 15,376,600 | 15,579,900 | | 3,509,900 | 4,831,700 | |
| 2002 | 15,446,400 | 15,655,300 | | 3,557,400 | 4,842,900 | |
| 2003 | 15,522,600 | 15,727,200 | | 3,606,800 | 4,853,900 | |
| Average population 2001 to 2003 | [2]15,448,500 | 15,654,200 | 0.99 | 3,558,000 | 4,842,800 | 0.73 |

[1] Data for 1976 to 1980 may contain small founding errors as it has been aggregated from rounded quinary age group data.
[2] Mid-2003 population estimates are the latest data available. Mid-2004 population estimates will be published on 25 August 2005.
*Note:*
Population estimates are shown to the nearest 100 people.
*Source:*
Office for National Statistics

### MG Rover

**Charles Hendry:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he met representatives of the Shanghai Automotive Industry Corporation during his visit to China in February; and if he will make a statement. [9358]

**John Healey** *[holding answer 4 July 2005]:* No. The Chancellor discussed MG Rover with the Chinese Government during his visit to China in February 2005.

### Ministers (Tax Treatment)

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer in what ways the income tax treatment of Ministers differs from the tax treatment of individuals receiving comparative pay and emoluments in the private sector, with particular reference to *(a)* residences and *(b)* cars. [11038]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The tax rules which apply when someone is provided with accommodation because of his or her office or employment are the same for Government Ministers as for other taxpayers.

The tax treatment of transport and subsistence for the Speaker, Ministers and Opposition office-holders is covered by specific legislation in section 295 of the Income Tax (Earnings and Pensions) Act.

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the total value was of the imputed rent for tax purposes on official residences provided to Government Ministers in each of the last 10 years. [11039]

**Dawn Primarolo:** This information is not available. However the same general tax rules would be applied as in any other case where living accommodation is provided by an employer.

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether Ministers who have residences provided by the Crown are taxed on the value of those residences on the basis of benefits in kind. [11040]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The tax rules which apply when someone is provided with accommodation because of his or her office or employment are the same for Government Ministers as for other taxpayers.

### Occupational Pensions

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he was first contacted by the Parliamentary Ombudsman in relation to her inquiry into complaints about occupational pensions; and when he completed his submission of evidence to the inquiry. [11620]

**John Healey:** The Parliamentary Ombudsman wrote to the Permanent Secretary to the Treasury on 16 November 2004 to indicate that she would conduct

an investigation into complaints she had received relating to occupational pensions. The Permanent Secretary wrote to the Parliamentary Ombudsman on 17 December 2004 in response to those elements of the investigation relating to the Treasury.

### Oil Prices

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effect of oil price changes on items made from by-products of oil. [10541]

**John Healey:** The ONS produce a number of price indices that measure oil price changes and changes in the by-products of oil. These include individual price indices published as constituent parts of the producer prices index, and the retail and consumer price indices, including the by-products of oil. For example, the producer input prices index is disaggregated by commodity group, which separately identifies the changes in crude oil prices, fuel prices, chemical prices and other groupings. All of these published indices are available on the ONS website: www.statistics.gov.uk.

### Perinatal/Infant Mortality

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the rates of *(a)* perinatal mortality and *(b)* infant mortality in each primary care trust were in (i) the Southend area, (ii) Essex and (iii) England and Wales in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [10559]

**John Healey:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Colin Mowl to Mr. David Amess, dated 11 July 2005:*

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the rates of perinatal mortality and infant mortality in each primary care trust were in *(a)* the Southend area, *(b)* Essex and *(c)* England and Wales in each of the last five years for which figures are available. I am replying in his absence. (10559)

Information on infant and perinatal mortality is routinely published for local authorities and strategic health authorities. Figures for England and Wales, Essex and Southend unitary authority are given in the attached table.

Figures cannot be provided for primary care trusts because of the risk of disclosing information about individuals as a result of differences between trust and local authority boundaries.

*Perinatal and infant mortality rates by selected area, 1999 to 2003.*

| | *England and Wales* | *Essex* | *Southend UA* |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Perinatal mortality rate*[1] | | | |
| 1999 | 8.2 | 6.8 | 7.0 |
| 2000 | 8.2 | 6.9 | 6.9 |
| 2001 | 8.0 | 5.8 | 7.8 |
| 2002 | 8.3 | 8.1 | 7.9 |
| 2003 | 8.5 | 6.8 | 8.3 |
| *Infant mortality rate*[2] | | | |
| 1999 | 5.8 | 4.4 | 3.5 |
| 2000 | 5.6 | 3.8 | 3.2 |
| 2001 | 5.4 | 4.3 | 3.2 |
| 2002 | 5.2 | 4.8 | 4.2 |
| 2003 | 5.3 | 4.5 | 5.2 |

[1] Per 1,000 live and stillbirths
[2] Per 1,000 live births

*Source:*
For 1999 to 2001, rates are available in Key Population and Vital Statistics, table 4.2 and for 2002 to 2003 rates are shown in table 4.1b. http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=539

### Petrol Duty

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the rate of duty was on a litre of unleaded petrol in each month since 1997. [10540]

**John Healey:** Duty rates for all hydrocarbon oil products, including unleaded petrol, since 1997 are available on the Revenue and Customs website at www.hmrc.gov.uk.

### Public Sector Spectrum

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what progress his Department has made in assessing the potential to release public sector spectrum to the market; and if he will make a statement. [10203]

**John Healey:** The Chancellor announced an independent audit of spectrum holdings—focusing on the public sector—in his pre-Budget report in 2004. The audit is being carried out by Professor Martin Cave, who intends to publish a consultation paper on emerging issues before delivering his final report ahead of the 2005 pre-Budget report.

### Random Audits

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many self-assessing taxpayers were selected for random audits in the 2004–05 financial year; how many such audits were carried out; what the cost was; and what their yield was in terms of *(a)* unpaid tax and *(b)* penalties received by HM Revenue and Customs. [10921]

**Dawn Primarolo:** In the tax year 2004–05 the Inland Revenue (now part of HM Revenue and Customs) selected 6,482 Income Tax Self Assessment taxpayers for random enquiry. 401 Corporation Tax Self Assessment taxpayers were selected for random enquiry in the same year. The deadline for opening these enquiries has not yet passed. Therefore no figures are available to show how many of these inquiries have been carried out. It is also too early to determine what yield these inquiries will produce.

### Revenue and Customs

**Hywel Williams:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects to publish the business plan for meeting Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs efficiency savings for 2005 to 2008. [10731]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Further to the written answer I gave the hon. Gentleman on 26 May 2005, *Official Report*, column 191W, HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) is preparing business plans to meet its efficiency savings for 2005–08.

Inland Revenue and HM Customs and Excise (now HMRC) did publish a joint Efficiency Technical Note last October which set out how the efficiency savings would be achieved and measured.

The Efficiency Technical Note is published on HMRC's internet site.

### Road Pricing

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what the estimated revenues for the lorry road user charging project are; and what proportion of the estimated revenues for the project are expected to come from each part of the UK; [5177]

(2) when he expects the lorry road user charging scheme to become operational in the UK; [5180]

(3) what discussions have taken place between his Department and Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs about lorry road user charging; and what the outcome was of those discussions. [5181]

**John Healey:** I refer the hon. Gentleman to the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Transport on 5 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 171.

### Tax Avoidance

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many disclosures of *(a)* direct tax and *(b)* VAT avoidance schemes have been made under the 2004 rules; and how many promoters of such schemes have made disclosures. [10910]

**Dawn Primarolo:** There have been 524 disclosures for direct tax and 787 for VAT up to 30 June 2005. The number of promoters who made disclosures in that period is 102. These figures attest to the success of the disclosure rules.

### Tax Credits

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what his estimate is of the time needed to resolve the problems identified in the Ombudsman's report in the administration of tax credits; and if he will make a statement; [8844]

(2) if he will write off all excess and overpaid tax credits caused by official error in (1) 2003–04 and *(b)* 2004–05; and if he will make a statement. [8849]

**Dawn Primarolo:** I refer the hon. Member to the statements I made to the House on 26 May 2005, *Official Report*, column 23WS and 22 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 801.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what plans he has to ask Revenue and Customs to contact everyone who has been overpaid tax credits as a result of official error to inform them that that was the reason for the overpayment; and if he will make a statement. [8850]

**Dawn Primarolo:** I refer the hon. Member to the statement I made to the House on 26 May 2005, *Official Report*, column 23WS on tax credits.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the accuracy levels for processing tax credit claims were in each year since 2000–01; and if he will make a statement. [9296]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Accuracy levels for processing working families' tax credit and disabled person's tax credit applications in 2001–02 and 2002–03 can be found in the Board's Annual Reports for those years.

Similarly, performance against the accuracy target for processing new tax credits claims for 2003–04 was published in the Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2004. These reports are available on the internet at:

http://www.hmr.gov.uk/about/reports.htm.

Indicative results for the Department's performance for 2004–05 can be found in HMRC spring departmental report 2005 at the aforementioned link.

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) whether the calculation of overpayments of tax credit takes into account *(a)* pension contributions and *(b)* charitable contributions; and whether this information is routinely requested by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs before sending out calculations of overpayment; [9870]

(2) whether information on *(a)* pension contributions and *(b)* charitable contributions is routinely requested in the calculation of tax credits; and what percentage of tax credit claimants provided such information in the last period for which information is available. [9871]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Pension contributions and charitable contributions are both taken into account in calculating tax credit awards, as are Gift Aid, trading losses and non-taxable expenses.

In both the tax credits claim form and accompanying guidance notes, claimants are advised to obtain a working sheet (TC825) to help them calculate the deductions they can make against the family's gross income on which their tax credit award is assessed.

Claimants are given the same advice in their renewals form and accompanying guidance, which is sent out at the end of the tax year.

No data are available on numbers who make such deductions.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will publish the advice given by *(a)* the Inland Revenue to the Government and *(b)* EDS to the Inland Revenue about system problems relating to the introduction of the new tax credits between June 2002 and May 2003; and if he will make a statement. [10015]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Advice provided by the Inland Revenue to Ministers during this period drew on information and guidance provided by EDS. HMRC are in ongoing discussions with EDS about compensation for the system problems that arose and if these discussions do not lead to an acceptable offer the department will commence legal proceedings. In the circumstances, any advice provided to Ministers has to remain confidential.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what comparison he has made of error rates for payments of the *(a)* working families tax credit and *(b)* the child and working tax credits; how the error rates compare with those forecast by the Department in (i) 2001, (ii) 2002, and (iii) 2003; and if he will make a statement. [10016]

**Dawn Primarolo:** HMRC are currently undertaking a programme of work on finalised 2003–04 awards—the first year of working tax credit and child tax credit—to provide more information on the level of claimant error and fraud. child and working tax credits (CTC/WTC) are very different in scale and scope compared to their predecessors, working families' tax credit (WFTC) and disabled persons tax credit (DPTC) because of the annual nature of awards and because they are designed to react to any changes in personal circumstances during the period of an award. Also, significantly more families benefit from them, including a large proportion that are only receiving the family element. These fundamental differences do not lend themselves to direct comparison.

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many open days have been held by the Inland Revenue in the last 12 months for staff and volunteers of independent advice services providing assistance to tax credit claimants; how many people have attended such open days; and if he will make a statement on *(a)* feedback received and *(b)* resultant action. [10269]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Between 1 April 2004 and 31 March 2005 Tax Credit Office attended 151 events around the country. The events were attended by around 3,600 people from the voluntary and community sector (VCS).

*(a)* An average 90 per cent. of attendees rated the events as "good" or "excellent".

*(b)* TCO representatives undertake to answer separately any advisers' questions that could not be answered immediately at the event. They also report back any points that have arisen to colleagues as appropriate, in case any further follow up action may be required.

**Mr. Frank Field:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans he has to delay the transfer of the families who currently receive their child tax credit through Jobcentre Plus, but whose awards are due to be transferred to HM Revenue and Customs in 2005–06. [11442]

**Dawn Primarolo:** I refer the right hon. Gentleman to my statement of 22 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 805.

### Travel Concessions

**Mr. Clelland:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will abolish the taxation applied to employer-provided travel concessions. [11218]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Employees who receive free or cheap travel concessions from their employer, for themselves or members of their families, will generally be taxable on the benefit by reference to the cost to the employer. We have no plans to change this.

### VAT

**Mr. Soames:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will take steps to harmonise the VAT imposed on new builds and renovated properties. [11489]

**Dawn Primarolo:** While agreements with our European partners allow us to keep our zero rates as they currently stand, we cannot extend them or introduce new ones. This means that in order to harmonise the rates of VAT on all building work and renovation, we would first have to give up our current zero rates for construction, including those for the construction of new charity buildings and new housing, and for approved alterations to listed buildings. While we continue to keep the impact of VAT on different types of building work under review, we have no plans to give up our existing construction zero rates.

### Young People

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many young people are not in employment, education or training, broken down by *(a)* constituency and *(b)* local authority (i) in total and (ii) as a percentage of each age group, in descending order grouped by region for the last year in which figures are available. [10384]

**John Healey:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Colin Mowl to Mr. Chris Ruane, dated 11 July 2005:*

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent parliamentary question asking how many young people are not in employment, education or training, broken down by *(a)* constituency and *(b)* local authority (i) in total and (ii) a percentage of each age group, in descending order grouped by region for the last year in which figures are available. I am replying in his absence. (10384)

I am placing in the House of Commons Library, tables showing the numbers of people aged 16 to 24 not in employment, or in full-time education or government training for each constituency and local authority in Great Britain, during the 12 months ending February 2004. Estimates for similar areas in Northern Ireland are not available.

These estimates, based on annual local area Labour Force Survey, depend on small sample numbers and are therefore subject to relatively large sampling errors. The comparisons between the percentages for different areas (quoted in tables 2 and 4) should be treated with particular caution.

## TRADE AND INDUSTRY

### Business and Industry Skills

**Mr. Soames:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what steps he is taking to encourage the supply of science, technology, engineering and mathematics skills for young people for business and industry. [9410]

**Malcolm Wicks:** The Department and DfES are working closely together to ensure that the skills which business and industry require are those which are delivered in schools and through the sector skills councils. For example the 14–19 White Paper (DfES) recognised the need to do more to increase the

appreciation among tomorrow's citizens of the contribution that science and technology make towards our way of life; and also to increase the numbers who leave school equipped to pursue careers using skills in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.

The DTIs key focus is on the informal side of science education. We are supporting SETNET, the Science, Engineering, Technology and Maths Network, for the next three years with funding in excess of £10 million. SETNET co-ordinates a UK-wide network of some 50 SETPOINTS and also the Science and Engineering Ambassadors programme (SEAs) which provides a framework within which people, working in science and technology environments can be trained to go into schools and act as role models to help teachers convey the excitement of careers using STEM skills.

### Crèche Facilities

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what crèche facilities are provided by his Department; and at what cost to *(a)* the Department and *(b)* employees in 2004–05. [10525]

**Alan Johnson:** DTI staff in central London have access to a 32 place holiday play scheme in our 1 Victoria Street building which is highly rated by both parents and children for its quality. DTI HQ staff in Cardiff have access to a local holiday play-scheme.

London-based DTI staff also have access to six full-time subsidized nursery places for under 5's, currently occupied by five children. DTI plans to end the contract in December 2005 and to introduce a Salary Sacrifice scheme that will benefit more parents, enabling them to make savings on their child care fees. Costs for *(a)* the department is £63,214 *(b)* employees the holiday play scheme costs £14.00 per place towards the £31.00 daily fee, and nursery places cost £118 per week.

### Cut and Sew Contract

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what discussions officials of his Department have had with the Ministry of Defence about the cut and sew contract. [9121]

**Alun Michael:** My officials have discussed the cut and sew contract with the Ministry of Defence and understand the contract fully complies with the requirements of EU procurement guidelines, UK Defence Industrial Policy, and MOD's Supplier Base Optimisation Programme.

### European Charter for Researchers

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will make a statement on UK plans to implement the European Charter for Researchers. [9025]

**Malcolm Wicks:** It is for individual institutions to decide whether they wish to subscribe to the European Charter for Researchers, which draws heavily upon UK practice. The UK presidency of the European Union will in addition be hosting an international conference on 8 and 9 September at which the Charter and its practical implementation will be discussed. The Charter will also influence on-going work on a possible revision to the "Concordat for the Management of Research Staff in UK Universities and Colleges".

### Export Control and Non-Proliferation Directorate

**Mr. Arbuthnot:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will place in the Library a copy of the Report by ASE Consulting into privatising the Export Control and Non-Proliferation Directorate; and if he will make a statement. [10138]

**Malcolm Wicks:** I have placed in the Libraries of the House copy of the Report recently released under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. A few extracts have been withheld under Section 43 of the Act.

### Measurement Advisory Committee

**Charles Hendry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what reports have been published by the Measurement Advisory Committee in each year since 2001. [9339]

**Malcolm Wicks:** Annual reports have been published for 2001–02, 2002–03 and 2003–04. These are all available for download from the DTI website at www.dti.gov.uk/nms/mac/ The report for 2004–05 is currently being prepared.

**Charles Hendry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what *(a)* remuneration and *(b)* expenses are received by members of the Measurement Advisory Committee. [9340]

**Malcolm Wicks:** Members of the Measurement Advisory Committee receive reimbursement for travel and subsistence while on Committee business. This is the only remuneration they receive.

**Charles Hendry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the terms of reference of the Measurement Advisory Committee are; and if he will make a statement. [9341]

**Malcolm Wicks:** The objective of the Measurement Advisory Committee is to offer the Department of Trade and Industry strategic advice on:

the effectiveness with which the NMS (National Measurement System) supports innovation and competitiveness within UK business and industry; the priorities the Department should assign to programmes of work undertaken to meet the needs of the NMS;

the broad objectives, balance and strategy for UK Government support of measurement.

These objectives are achieved by advising on:

the needs of users in business, industry and the community;

priorities for funding;

the effectiveness of steps to ensure that good value is achieved from investment in NMS programmes and that the right balance is struck between measurement research and the needs of all users;

the effectiveness of steps to secure greater engagement with business and industry and improve dissemination of the results of investment in NMS;

commercial opportunities resulting from the research and development carried out by contractors, in support of the NMS;

input to the Department's longer forward looks;

key priorities for the UK measurement system within a European and global context.

**Charles Hendry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the total *(a)* running costs and *(b)* expenditure of the Measurement Advisory Committee have been in each year since 2001. [9342]

**Malcolm Wicks:** The information is as follows.

*(a) Running costs*

DTI provides secretariat support for the Committee. The Committee does not have a budget or staff.

*(b) Expenditure: Travel and subsistence*

| | £000 |
|---|---|
| 2001–02 | 50 |
| 2002–03 | 66 |
| 2003–04 | 66 |
| 2004–05 | 100 |

*Note:*
Covers expenditure on 18 working groups which support the Committee.

**Charles Hendry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the current work programme of the Measurement Advisory Committee is. [9343]

**Malcolm Wicks:** The work programme of the Measurement Advisory Committee will be established when the recently appointed Chairman, and four new members, first meet the rest of the Committee in October. The focus of the meeting will be on the review of the National Measurement System which is currently being carried out within the Department of Trade and Industry.

**Charles Hendry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the criteria for membership of the Measurement Advisory Committee is; and how its members are selected. [9344]

**Malcolm Wicks:** The criteria for membership of the Measurement Advisory Committee is an active interest in, and the ability to comment authoritatively on, current and future measurement needs.

Members are recruited through open competition in accordance with the Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments (OCPA) guidelines.

**Charles Hendry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment he has made of the cost-effectiveness of the Measurement Advisory Committee; and if he will make a statement. [9678]

**Malcolm Wicks:** The current review of the National Measurement System is considering, among other things, appropriate advisory structures for the NMS.

## Miners' Compensation Scheme

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will list the 20 medical companies who have received the most in fees under the Miners Compensation Scheme for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and vibration white finger since 1999, broken down by amount received. [10462]

**Malcolm Wicks** *[holding answer 7 July 2005]:* The medical companies who have received fees under the Miners Compensations Schemes are as follows.

| Company | Total approximate fees paid to date (£ million) |
|---|---|
| Healthcall | 120 |
| SEMA/ATOS | 180 |
| Capita Health Solutions | 2 |

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what discussions have taken place between his Department and IRISC in relation to eliminating fraud under the Miners' Compensation Scheme since 1990. [10336]

**Malcolm Wicks** *[holding answer 7 July 2005]:* Detection of potentially fraudulent claims has formed part of the Department's claims handlers' role since the schemes began in 1999. A process for managing the risk of fraud is in place and the Department holds regular discussions with the claims handlers on the issue.

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what training has been provided for officials on avoiding fraud under the Miners' Compensation Scheme in each year since 1999. [10337]

**Malcolm Wicks** *[holding answer 7 July 2005]:* Officials receive work-based training and guidance from external lawyers and consultants and the Department's own lawyers on fraud management on an ongoing basis.

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will list the top 20 solicitors in terms of *(a)* fees paid, *(b)* claims registered and *(c)* claims outstanding for (i) chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and (ii) vibration white finger deceased claims under the Miners' Compensation Scheme. [10344]

**Malcolm Wicks** *[holding answer 7 July 2005]:* The top 20 solicitors in each of the categories is as follows:

*(a)(i) Fees for handling deceased COPD claims*

£ million

| Solicitor | Fee |
|---|---|
| Thompsons | 35.5 |
| Mark Gilbert Morse | 31.3 |
| Hugh James Ford Simey | 28.3 |
| Raleys Solicitors | 21.9 |
| Beresfords Solicitors | 16.9 |
| Browell Smith and Co | 13.7 |
| Graysons | 6.6 |
| Randell Lloyd Jenkins and Martin | 6.0 |
| Watson Burton | 5.6 |
| The Legal Warehouse | 5.4 |
| Irwin Mitchell | 5.4 |
| Wake Smith | 5.3 |
| Ingrams Solicitors | 4.8 |
| Towells Solicitors | 4.6 |
| Moss Solicitors | 3.4 |
| O. H. Parsons | 2.9 |
| Birchall Blackburn | 2.7 |
| Corries | 2.3 |
| Kidd and Spoor Harper Solicitors | 2.1 |
| Barber and Co | 2.0 |

*(a)(ii) Fees for handling deceased VWF claims*

£000

| Solicitor | Fee |
|---|---|
| Thompsons | 1,147.9 |
| Browell Smith and Co | 549.0 |
| Raleys Solicitors | 497.8 |
| Hugh James Ford Simey | 369.7 |
| Union of Democratic Mineworkers | 336.2 |
| Graysons | 269.6 |
| Watson Burton | 186.5 |
| Moss Solicitors | 109.3 |
| Irwin Mitchell | 106.8 |
| Towells Solicitors | 103.6 |
| Beresfords Solicitors | 96.4 |
| AMS Law | 86.0 |
| Atteys | 72.5 |
| O. H. Parsons | 68.4 |
| Kidd and Spoor Harper Solicitors | 67.4 |
| Shaw and Co. Solicitors | 55.9 |
| Corries | 33.9 |
| Randell Lloyd Jenkins and Martin | 19.3 |
| Gorman Hamilton Solicitors | 15.4 |
| Simpson Millar Solicitors | 11.4 |

*(b)(i) Deceased COPD claims registered*

| Solicitor | Number |
|---|---|
| Beresfords Solicitors | 50,929 |
| Hugh James Ford Simey | 36,176 |
| Thompsons | 32,922 |
| Mark Gilbert Morse | 23,974 |
| Raleys Solicitors | 23,690 |
| Avalon | 19,506 |
| Browell Smith and Co. | 16,163 |
| Barber and Co. | 9,991 |
| Corries | 6,785 |
| Randell Lloyd Jenkins and Martin | 6,641 |
| Delta Legal | 6,401 |
| Birchall Blackburn | 5,784 |
| Ingrams Solicitors | 5,559 |
| Watson Burton | 5,234 |
| BRM Solicitors | 4,939 |
| AMS Law | 4,903 |
| The Legal Warehouse | 4,643 |
| Graysons | 4,248 |
| Irwin Mitchell | 3,922 |
| Wake Smith | 3,865 |

*(b)(ii) Deceased VWF claims registered*

| Solicitor | Number |
|---|---|
| Thompsons | 3,361 |
| Beresfords Solicitors | 2,784 |
| Union of Democratic Mineworkers | 2,567 |
| Hugh James Ford Simey | 1,730 |
| Browell Smith and Co. | 1,528 |
| Graysons | 1,187 |
| Raleys Solicitors | 1,173 |
| Towells Solicitors | 973 |
| Moss Solicitors | 780 |
| AMS Law | 744 |
| Watson Burton | 601 |
| Kidd and Spoor Harper Solicitors | 318 |
| Randell Lloyd Jenkin and Martin | 314 |
| The Legal Warehouse | 290 |
| Irwin Mitchell | 276 |
| Atteys | 263 |
| O. H. Parsons | 220 |
| Corries | 118 |
| Shaw and Co. Solicitors | 111 |
| Ingrams Solicitors | 84 |

*(c)(i) Deceased COPD claims outstanding*

| Solicitor | Number |
|---|---|
| Beresfords Solicitors | 38,965 |
| Hugh James Ford Simey | 24,628 |
| Thompsons | 20,018 |
| Avalon | 18,330 |
| Raleys Solicitors | 15,109 |
| Mark Gilbert Morse | 11,179 |
| Browell Smith and Co. | 10,246 |
| Barber and Co. | 8,184 |
| Delta Legal | 5,802 |
| Corries | 5,504 |
| Birchall Blackburn | 4,513 |
| BRM Solicitors | 4,366 |
| Randell Lloyd Jenkins and Martin | 3,941 |
| Ingrams Solicitors | 3,530 |
| AMS Law | 3,323 |
| Hilary Meredith Solicitors | 2,431 |
| The Legal Warehouse | 2,419 |
| Watson Burton | 2,284 |
| 1 Legal Solicitors | 2,061 |
| Recompense Ltd. | 1,708 |

*(c)(ii) Deceased VWF claims outstanding*

| Solicitor | Number |
|---|---|
| Thompsons | 2,153 |
| Beresfords Solicitors | 973 |
| Graysons | 888 |
| Union of Democratic Mineworkers | 824 |
| Hugh James Ford Simey | 791 |
| Towells Solicitors | 519 |
| Raleys Solicitors | 436 |
| Browell Smith and Co. | 413 |
| Moss Solicitors | 344 |
| Randell Lloyd Jenkins and Martin | 167 |
| The Legal Warehouse | 155 |
| Irwin Mitchell | 116 |
| Atteys | 112 |
| Kidd and Spoor Harper Solicitors | 97 |
| Corries | 62 |
| Shaw and Co. Solicitors | 62 |
| O. H. Parsons | 58 |
| Ingrams Solicitors | 25 |

**Adam Price:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what role Ministers had in the decision to allow the Union of Democratic Mineworkers to process compensation claims directly under the coal health schemes. [9089]

**Malcolm Wicks** *[holding answer 4 July 2005]:* Following the judgments against British Coal in both the vibration white finger and respiratory disease litigations, the High Court ordered the DTI to set up schemes, in agreement with miners' solicitors, to assess compensation for both types of claim. Claims had by then been registered through the Claimants Solicitors Group (the CSG), some of which were sponsored by the main mining unions, the NUM and NACODS. The UDM had also registered a large number of claims directly on behalf of their members, through their dedicated claims handling company, Vendside Ltd. The CSG and the UDM were unable to work together or enter into single arrangements for historical reasons. Ministers agreed the DTI would negotiate the strategy with the UDM and Vendside in which the terms for compensation are the same as for the agreement with the CSG.

### Petrol Prices

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what steps his Department is taking to reduce the price of petrol. [10535]

**Malcolm Wicks:** The DTI closely monitors petrol price changes within the market, which recently have reflected high international oil prices.

While it is Government policy not to intervene in commercial price setting, because they believe that the consumer is best served by open competition between companies within the UK downstream oil sector, they do recognise the impact that high petroleum prices can have on various sectors. As a result they have acted by announcing that due to sustained volatility in the oil market the Government will not go ahead with the planned inflation increase on 1 September—including for rebated oils, biofuels and road fuel gases—and will review the position again at the time of the pre-Budget report.

The Government are also supporting efforts to improve stability in the international oil market by promoting greater market transparency and understanding, and encouraging greater investment throughout the global oil supply chain.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the average price per litre of *(a)* unleaded petrol and *(b)* leaded petrol was in (i) Great Britain and (ii) the United States, together with the amount of tax paid per litre in each case, in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [10536]

**Malcolm Wicks:** Data are only available for unleaded petrol (95 RON specification) and for the United Kingdom not Great Britain. Prices in pence per litre are given as follows.

*Pence/litre*

| | *Prices in the United Kingdom* | | | *Prices in the United States* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Including taxes* | *Total tax* | *Excluding taxes* | *Including taxes* | *Total tax* | *Excluding taxes* |
| 2000 | 79.93 | 60.32 | 19.60 | 29.56 | 6.66 | 22.89 |
| 2001 | 75.72 | 57.68 | 18.04 | 30.42 | 7.01 | 23.40 |
| 2002 | 73.24 | 56.73 | 16.51 | 27.51 | 6.76 | 20.75 |
| 2003 | 76.04 | 57.47 | 18.58 | 28.72 | 6.24 | 22.49 |
| 2004 | 80.22 | 59.05 | 21.18 | 29.78 | 5.63 | 24.15 |

*Source:*
International Energy Agency, Energy Prices and Taxes, Q1 2005.

### Public Telephone Boxes

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many public telephone boxes are in use. [9120]

**Alun Michael:** The regulation of telephone boxes is a matter for the independent regulator, the Office of Communications (Ofcom). I understand from Ofcom that there are currently approximately 68,000 public telephone boxes in the UK.

### Pyramid Selling Schemes

**John Penrose:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry for what reasons his Department has continued to use the Companies Acts and the Insolvency Act 2000 to wind up companies operating pyramid selling schemes following the introduction of the Trading Schemes Act 1997; and if he will make a statement. [10243]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The Trading Schemes Act 1996+ and the Trading Schemes Regulations 1997 provide civil sanctions for breach of their provisions and the Fair Trading Act 1973 provides criminal sanctions. However, neither Act nor the regulations provide a power to wind up a scheme which is operating against the public interest. When there are grounds to suspect that a company is operating a scheme in breach of the regulations the company may be investigated under Part XIV of the Companies Act 1985 and, if the investigation findings point to the need to do so, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State may present a petition in the public interest for the winding up of the company under section 124A of the Insolvency Act 1986. It is for the court to decide whether or not a winding up order should be made.

### Renewable Energy Schemes

**Mr. Salmond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will extend support and incentives available to renewable energy producers to include carbon capture and abatement schemes. [10298]

**Malcolm Wicks** *[holding answer 7 July 2005]:* We are currently examining the potential for economic incentives for the deployment of carbon capture and storage and other carbon abatement technologies in the Climate Change Programme Review as announced by the Chancellor in his Budget Statement this year. We expect to report on our findings in the autumn.

**Mr. Salmond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will increase funds available to support the development of carbon capture and abatement technologies in the UK. [10299]

**Malcolm Wicks** *[holding answer 7 July 2005]:* I have recently announced some £25 million to support the demonstration of carbon capture and storage and other carbon abatement technologies. This is new money and in addition to the £6 million per year allocated under the 2004 spending round.

### Wind Farms

**Mr. Hood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what percentage of the energy mix wind power contributes to UK energy supply; and if he will make a statement. [10287]

**Malcolm Wicks:** In 2004 onshore and offshore wind together accounted for 0.49 per cent. of the electricity generated in the United Kingdom, up from 0.32 per cent. in 2003. In terms of primary energy supply the percentages were smaller at 0.07 per cent. in 2004 up from 0.05 per cent. in 2003.

In total in 2004 renewable sources accounted for 3.58 per cent. of the electricity generated in the UK (up from 2.67 per cent. in 2003) and 1.54 per cent. of energy supply in primary energy input terms (up from 1.32 per cent. in 2003).

## HEALTH

### "Delivering Race Equality"

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what action has been taken towards the improvement of services for older people specified in "Delivering Race Equality". [6400]

**Mr. Byrne:** "Delivering Race Equality in Mental Health Care" (DRE) was published in January 2005. It is a five-year action plan for tackling discrimination and improving services for black and minority ethnic (BME) patients.

DRE was preceded in 2001 by the national service framework (NSF) for older people. Standard seven of the NSF is clear that older people from BME communities need appropriate and accessible mental health services. DRE recognises that older people from BME communities can face additional barriers to appropriate and effective mental health services. It also recognised that further action was needed for standard seven of the NSF to be implemented fully.

The Department's national clinical directors for older people's services and mental health services, Professors Ian Philp and Louis Appleby, will shortly launch a vision for the future of older people's mental health. This will outline the key components of a model service and build on the service developments that the NSF and DRE have initiated.

A number of focused implementation sites for DRE are being established. These sites will help to develop best practice in mental health care for BME communities, including older people, that can be disseminated across the country.

### Accident and Emergency Services

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many of those attending accident and emergency departments were not registered with a GP in each of the last three years, broken down by NHS region. [7062]

**Mr. Byrne:** The data are not collected centrally by the Department.

### Agency Staff

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps she is taking to reduce the number of agency staff working in the NHS. [7626]

**Mr. Byrne:** We have a well established work force strategy based on recruiting and retaining a high quality national health service work force. As part of this strategy, we recognise the need to use a flexible pool of staff through NHS banks or private agencies. We expect these staff to be of good quality and for the NHS to get value for money. To ensure that this is the case, we have developed agency framework agreements through our Purchasing and Supplies Agency and have established NHS Professionals as a special health authority. These are playing a significant part in securing the appropriate and effective use of agency staff.

According to a recent independent report, agency spending fell "for the first time in recent memory" in 2003–04 and improvements were led by a reduction of £65 million in spend on agency nurses.

**David Davis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what action her Department is taking to reduce the NHS's use of agency and bank nurses. [6550]

**Mr. Byrne:** I refer the right hon. Member to the reply I gave to my hon. Friend the Member for Chorley (Mr. Hoyle) today.

### Alcohol-related Illness

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people *(a)* under the age of 18 and *(b)* over the age of 18 were admitted to hospital for alcohol-related problems in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available, broken down by region. [8009]

**Caroline Flint:** The table shows how many people under the age of 18 and over the age of 18 were admitted to hospital for alcohol-related problems in each of the years for which data are available—from 1996–97 onwards—broken down by region.

*Counts of finished admission episodes for selected[1] alcohol related diseases by strategic health authority (SHA) of residence and age grouping– national health service hospitals, England 1996–97 to 2003–04*

| | | 1996–97 | | 1997–98 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| SHA of residence | | Aged under 18 | Aged 18 and over | Aged under 18 | Aged 18 and over |
| Q01 | Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire HA | 108 | 713 | 149 | 876 |
| Q02 | Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire HA | 139 | 526 | 159 | 677 |
| Q03 | Essex HA | 69 | 672 | 55 | 771 |
| Q04 | North West London HA | 56 | 1,008 | 51 | 1,432 |
| Q05 | North Central London HA | 65 | 761 | 43 | 901 |
| Q06 | North East London HA | 56 | 851 | 45 | 946 |
| Q07 | South East London HA | 69 | 926 | 71 | 1,286 |
| Q08 | South West London HA | 100 | 762 | 94 | 765 |
| Q09 | Northumberland, Tyne and Wear HA | 226 | 1,513 | 238 | 1,236 |
| Q10 | County Durham and Tees Valley HA | 257 | 959 | 282 | 1,014 |
| Q11 | North and East Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire HA | 144 | 928 | 108 | 537 |
| Q12 | West Yorkshire HA | 228 | 1,351 | 225 | 1,411 |
| Q13 | Cumbria and Lancashire HA | 252 | 2,259 | 261 | 2,148 |
| Q14 | Greater Manchester HA | 271 | 2,766 | 278 | 2,470 |
| Q15 | Cheshire and Merseyside HA | 356 | 2,983 | 332 | 3,085 |
| Q16 | Thames Valley HA | 69 | 858 | 86 | 935 |
| Q17 | Hampshire and Isle of Wight HA | 97 | 1,118 | 107 | 1,141 |

*Counts of finished admission episodes for selected[1] alcohol related diseases by strategic health authority (SHA) of residence and age grouping—national health service hospitals, England 1996–97 to 2003–04*

| SHA of residence | | 1996–97 Aged under 18 | 1996–97 Aged 18 and over | 1997–98 Aged under 18 | 1997–98 Aged 18 and over |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Q18 | Kent and Medway HA | 115 | 806 | 123 | 597 |
| Q19 | Surrey and Sussex HA | 159 | 1,530 | 168 | 1,475 |
| Q20 | Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire HA | 127 | 1,184 | 119 | 1,211 |
| Q21 | South West Peninsula HA | 123 | 943 | 148 | 1,045 |
| Q22 | Dorset and Somerset HA | 76 | 908 | 92 | 726 |
| Q23 | South Yorkshire HA | 153 | 761 | 126 | 868 |
| Q24 | Trent HA | 193 | 1,848 | 245 | 1,647 |
| Q25 | Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland HA | 94 | 667 | 117 | 672 |
| Q26 | Shropshire and Staffordshire Ha | 155 | 1,035 | 182 | 1,227 |
| Q27 | Birmingham and The Black Country HA | 169 | 2,047 | 208 | 2,106 |
| Q28 | Coventry, Warwickshire, Herefordshire and Worcestershire HA | 170 | 1,388 | 182 | 1,294 |
| S | Scotland | 2 | 21 | 4 | 19 |
| U | England—not otherwise specified | 3 | 330 | 9 | 414 |
| W | Wales | 17 | 91 | 17 | 125 |
| X | Foreign (incl. Isle of Man and Channel Islands) | 6 | 38 | 4 | 34 |
| Y | Unknown | 49 | 1,176 | 93 | 1,934 |
| Z | Northern Ireland | — | 13 | — | 6 |
| Total | | 4,173 | 35,740 | 4,421 | 37,031 |

| SHA of residence | | 1998–99 Aged under 18 | 1998–99 Aged 18 and over | 1999–2000 Aged under 18 | 1999–2000 Aged 18 and over |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Q01 | Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire HA | 115 | 1,061 | 143 | 1,133 |
| Q02 | Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire HA | 148 | 712 | 158 | 734 |
| Q03 | Essex HA | 47 | 681 | 58 | 783 |
| Q04 | North West London HA | 45 | 1,528 | 50 | 1,124 |
| Q05 | North Central London HA | 28 | 893 | 52 | 901 |
| Q06 | North East London HA | 47 | 974 | 53 | 1,056 |
| Q07 | South East London HA | 48 | 1,198 | 71 | 1,360 |
| Q08 | South West London HA | 79 | 713 | 87 | 876 |
| Q09 | Northumberland, Tyne and Wear HA | 195 | 1,640 | 198 | 1,690 |
| Q10 | County Durham and Tees Valley HA | 213 | 1,083 | 239 | 1,102 |
| Q11 | North and East Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire HA | 198 | 1,331 | 253 | 1,414 |
| Q12 | West Yorkshire HA | 206 | 1,254 | 237 | 1,376 |
| Q13 | Cumbria and Lancashire HA | 221 | 1,942 | 313 | 1,811 |
| Q14 | Greater Manchester HA | 251 | 2,291 | 290 | 2,309 |
| Q15 | Cheshire and Merseyside HA | 296 | 2,955 | 319 | 2,961 |
| Q16 | Thames Valley HA | 100 | 866 | 111 | 854 |
| Q17 | Hampshire and Isle of Wight HA | 117 | 1,361 | 138 | 1,328 |
| Q18 | Kent and Medway HA | 119 | 597 | 127 | 676 |
| Q19 | Surrey and Sussex HA | 167 | 1,417 | 207 | 1,244 |
| Q20 | Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire HA | 149 | 1,200 | 124 | 1,234 |
| Q21 | South West Peninsula HA | 107 | 926 | 137 | 966 |
| Q22 | Dorset and Somerset HA | 95 | 737 | 90 | 935 |
| Q23 | South Yorkshire HA | 148 | 887 | 170 | 869 |
| Q24 | Trent HA | 202 | 2,011 | 259 | 2,068 |
| Q25 | Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland HA | 114 | 851 | 126 | 788 |
| Q26 | Shropshire and Staffordshire Ha | 141 | 1,102 | 169 | 1,048 |
| Q27 | Birmingham and The Black Country HA | 203 | 1,861 | 281 | 1,866 |
| Q28 | Coventry, Warwickshire, Herefordshire and Worcestershire HA | 173 | 1,133 | 199 | 1,231 |
| S | Scotland | 2 | 24 | 6 | 38 |
| U | England—not otherwise specified | 8 | 499 | — | — |
| W | Wales | 17 | 116 | 25 | 218 |
| X | Foreign (incl. Isle of Man and Channel Islands) | 9 | 36 | 13 | 43 |
| Y | Unknown | 18 | 570 | 35 | 1,016 |
| Z | Northern Ireland | — | 15 | — | 8 |
| Total | | 4,026 | 36,465 | 4,738 | 37,060 |

| SHA of residence | | 2000–01 Aged under 18 | 2000–01 Aged 18 and over | 2001–02 Aged under 18 | 2001–02 Aged 18 and over |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Q01 | Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire HA | 144 | 1,133 | 130 | 1,135 |
| Q02 | Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire HA | 122 | 629 | 176 | 687 |
| Q03 | Essex HA | 61 | 768 | 43 | 761 |
| Q04 | North West London HA | 54 | 955 | 61 | 1,106 |
| Q05 | North Central London HA | 49 | 814 | 44 | 807 |
| Q06 | North East London HA | 30 | 889 | 52 | 977 |
| Q07 | South East London HA | 53 | 1,113 | 47 | 1,017 |
| Q08 | South West London HA | 102 | 850 | 115 | 761 |
| Q09 | Northumberland, Tyne and Wear HA | 219 | 1,567 | 172 | 1,486 |

| SHA of residence | | 2000–01 Aged under 18 | 2000–01 Aged 18 and over | 2001–02 Aged under 18 | 2001–02 Aged 18 and over |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Q10 | County Durham and Tees Valley HA | 241 | 1,066 | 183 | 1,079 |
| Q11 | North and East Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire HA | 221 | 1,232 | 224 | 1,246 |
| Q12 | West Yorkshire HA | 168 | 1,509 | 192 | 1,509 |
| Q13 | Cumbria and Lancashire HA | 294 | 1,823 | 288 | 2,168 |
| Q14 | Greater Manchester HA | 342 | 2,301 | 285 | 2,311 |
| Q15 | Cheshire and Merseyside HA | 314 | 3,156 | 315 | 3,459 |
| Q16 | Thames Valley HA | 69 | 913 | 129 | 954 |
| Q17 | Hampshire and Isle of Wight HA | 133 | 1,315 | 119 | 1,290 |
| Q18 | Kent and Medway HA | 99 | 665 | 151 | 650 |
| Q19 | Surrey and Sussex HA | 235 | 1,260 | 295 | 1,256 |
| Q20 | Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire HA | 102 | 1,017 | 144 | 1,094 |
| Q21 | South West Peninsula HA | 110 | 1,114 | 110 | 1,152 |
| Q22 | Dorset and Somerset HA | 98 | 731 | 97 | 712 |
| Q23 | South Yorkshire HA | 139 | 951 | 103 | 831 |
| Q24 | Trent HA | 232 | 2,006 | 251 | 1,875 |
| Q25 | Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland HA | 98 | 768 | 91 | 652 |
| Q26 | Shropshire and Staffordshire Ha | 135 | 950 | 148 | 1,002 |
| Q27 | Birmingham and The Black Country HA | 267 | 1,842 | 247 | 1,908 |
| Q28 | Coventry, Warwickshire, Herefordshire and Worcestershire HA | 194 | 1,107 | 142 | 1,026 |
| S | Scotland | 4 | 29 | 2 | 35 |
| U | England—not otherwise specified | 5 | 495 | 7 | 529 |
| W | Wales | 16 | 84 | 23 | 111 |
| X | Foreign (incl. Isle of Man and Channel Islands) | 10 | 44 | 6 | 47 |
| Y | Unknown | 32 | 500 | 42 | 558 |
| Z | Northern Ireland | — | 7 | — | 6 |
| Total | | 4,412 | 35,603 | 4,434 | 36,197 |

| SHA of residence | | 2002–03 Aged under 18 | 2002–03 Aged 18 and over | 2003–04 Aged under 18 | 2003–04 Aged 18 and over |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Q01 | Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire HA | 115 | 1,208 | 144 | 1,338 |
| Q02 | Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire HA | 148 | 707 | 133 | 815 |
| Q03 | Essex HA | 52 | 779 | 64 | 981 |
| Q04 | North West London HA | 60 | 1,204 | 86 | 1,423 |
| Q05 | North Central London HA | 59 | 874 | 62 | 906 |
| Q06 | North East London HA | 64 | 1,036 | 86 | 1,157 |
| Q07 | South East London HA | 62 | 1,289 | 88 | 1,392 |
| Q08 | South West London HA | 129 | 863 | 135 | 1,049 |
| Q09 | Northumberland, Tyne and Wear HA | 159 | 1,510 | 117 | 1,533 |
| Q10 | County Durham and Tees Valley HA | 123 | 929 | 142 | 1,225 |
| Q11 | North and East Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire HA | 170 | 1,209 | 252 | 1,292 |
| Q12 | West Yorkshire HA | 204 | 1,484 | 186 | 1,539 |
| Q13 | Cumbria and Lancashire HA | 273 | 2,023 | 250 | 2,054 |
| Q14 | Greater Manchester HA | 271 | 2,162 | 344 | 2,522 |
| Q15 | Cheshire and Merseyside HA | 323 | 3,517 | 349 | 3,771 |
| Q16 | Thames Valley HA | 89 | 975 | 116 | 1,063 |
| Q17 | Hampshire and Isle of Wight HA | 151 | 1,405 | 181 | 1,307 |
| Q18 | Kent and Medway HA | 116 | 734 | 145 | 766 |
| Q19 | Surrey and Sussex HA | 253 | 1,496 | 266 | 1,543 |
| Q20 | Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire HA | 126 | 1,107 | 170 | 1,230 |
| Q21 | South West Peninsula HA | 128 | 1,218 | 198 | 1,292 |
| Q22 | Dorset and Somerset HA | 85 | 660 | 85 | 730 |
| Q23 | South Yorkshire HA | 89 | 957 | 100 | 1,146 |
| Q24 | Trent HA | 211 | 1,832 | 218 | 2,060 |
| Q25 | Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland HA | 84 | 853 | 92 | 1,111 |
| Q26 | Shropshire and Staffordshire Ha | 138 | 1,097 | 176 | 1,276 |
| Q27 | Birmingham and The Black Country HA | 185 | 1,978 | 237 | 2,113 |
| Q28 | Coventry, Warwickshire, Herefordshire and Worcestershire HA | 143 | 1,181 | 152 | 1,135 |
| S | Scotland | 6 | 24 | 6 | 47 |
| U | England—not otherwise specified | 8 | 553 | 17 | 705 |
| W | Wales | 18 | 89 | 12 | 104 |
| X | Foreign (incl. Isle of Man and Channel Islands) | 10 | 47 | 9 | 61 |
| Y | Unknown | 27 | 445 | 29 | 417 |
| Z | Northern Ireland | — | 8 | — | 19 |
| Total | | 4,079 | 37,453 | 4,647 | 41,122 |

[1] Alcohol related diseases defined as following ICD-10 codes recorded in primary diagnosis
F10 Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol, K70 Alcoholic liver disease, T51 Toxic effect of alcohol

*Notes:*
1. A finished admission episode is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. Please note that admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.
2. The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 14 (seven prior to 2002–03) diagnosis fields in the hospital episode statistics (HES) data set and provides the main reason why the patient was in hospital.
3. Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (ie the data are ungrossed).

*Source:*
HES, Health and Social Care Information Centre.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* binge drinking and *(b)* other alcohol-related emergency cases there were in hospitals in (i) England and (ii) Southend in the last period for which figures are available. [9926]

**Caroline Flint:** Data are not collected that could distinguish binge drinking from other alcohol related emergency admissions. The following table shows a count of finished admission episodes for alcohol related cases where the method of admission was emergency in 2003–04.

*2003–04*

| *Primary diagnosis* | *Southend hospital national health service trust* | *England* |
|---|---|---|
| F10 mental and behavioural disorder due to use of alcohol | 57 | 26,049 |
| K70 alcohol liver disease | 54 | 9,251 |
| T51 toxic effect of alcohol | 11 | 1,451 |
| Total | 122 | 36,751 |

*Source:*
Hospital Episode Statistics, Health and Social Care Information Centre

## Ambulance Service

**Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health which ambulance trusts have trained their staff in the use of clot-busting drugs. [9790]

**Mr. Byrne:** 28 ambulance service trusts have trained their paramedics in the use of clot-busting or thrombolytic drugs. These are:

Avon
Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire
Coventry and Warwickshire
Cumbria
Dorset
East Anglia
East Midlands
Essex
Gloucestershire
Hampshire
Hereford and Worcestershire
Isle of Wight (service to commence shortly, training has taken place)
Kent
Lancashire
Lincolnshire
Mersey Regional
North East
Oxfordshire
Royal Berkshire
Staffordshire
Surrey
Sussex
Tees, East and North Yorkshire
Two Shires
West Midlands (only in Shropshire)
West Country
Wiltshire
West Yorkshire Metropolitan

London Ambulance Service is involved in piloting primary angioplasty services, an alternative treatment for heart attack requiring a similar level of skill and training by paramedics.

Greater Manchester Ambulance Service is using a fast track scheme for all patients thought to be suffering from heart attack to ensure rapid transfer to hospital for these patients. South Yorkshire Ambulance Service is piloting a similar scheme to Greater Manchester.

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many ambulances are on call in Lancashire *(a)* on weekdays, *(b)* at weekends, *(c)* between 10 pm and 6 am during the week, *(d)* between 10 pm and 6 am on (i) Friday, (ii) Saturday and (iii) Sunday nights; and how many are stationed in Chorley constituency. [9618]

**Mr. Byrne:** This information is not available centrally and can be obtained from the Lancashire Ambulance Service National Health Service Trust.

## Anti-psychotic Drugs

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many adverse reaction reports were received through the yellow card reporting system for *(a)* all anti-psychotic drugs, *(b)* traditional anti-psychotic drugs and *(c)* atypical anti-psychotic drugs in each of the last five years; and how many prescriptions there were for each type of drug in each year. [6659]

**Jane Kennedy:** Table 1 shows the total number of suspected adverse drug reaction (ADR) reports received via the yellow card scheme from 1 January to 31 December for each of the last five years, for all anti-psychotic drugs, traditional anti-psychotics and atypical anti-psychotics.

*Table 1: Number of reports received via the yellow card scheme for anti-psychotics*

| | *Number of reports for all anti-psychotics* | *Number of reports for traditional anti-psychotics* | *Number of reports for atypical anti-psychotics* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2000 | 1,000 | 100 | 913 |
| 2001 | 1,189 | 105 | 1,097 |
| 2002 | 1,395 | 90 | 1,316 |
| 2003 | 1,774 | 115 | 1,680 |
| 2004 | 2,004 | 78 | 1,933 |

*Notes:*
1: The sum of reports for traditional and atypical anti-psychotics do not equal the number of reports for all anti-psychotics because, although each report refers to one patient, some reports have more than one suspected anti-psychotic drug as the patient is taking several drugs.
2. It is important to note that a report of an adverse drug reaction does not necessarily mean that it was caused by the drug. Many factors have to be taken into account in assessing causal relationships, including the possibility that the timing of the suspected reaction may be coincidental with the patient taking the drug, the possible contribution of concomitant medication and the underlying disease.

Table 2 shows the total number of prescriptions for all anti-psychotic drugs, traditional anti-psychotics and atypical anti-psychotics over the last five years supplied by the Prescription Pricing Authority (PPA).

*Table 2: Number of prescription items dispensed in the community for traditional and atypical anti-psychotics (for prescriptions dispensed in England)*

*Thousand*

| | *Number of prescriptions for all anti-psychotics* | *Number of prescriptions for traditional anti-psychotics* | *Number of prescriptions for atypical anti-psychotics* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2000 | 4,939.7 | 3,790.3 | 1,149.5 |
| 2001 | 4,718.0 | 2,876.0 | 1,842.0 |
| 2002 | 4,978.5 | 2,507.2 | 2,471.3 |
| 2003 | 5,335.0 | 2,251.3 | 3,083.7 |
| 2004 | 5,521.4 | 2,196.5 | 3,324.9 |

*Note:*
The data does not cover drugs dispensed in hospitals, including mental health trusts, or private prescriptions. Anti-psychotics are commonly dispensed within hospital pharmacies.

### Breastfeeding

**Mr. Kidney:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what budget provision she has made in her Department for supporting breastfeeding in *(a)* the 2005–06 financial year and *(b)* the 2006–07 financial year. [1319]

**Caroline Flint:** The Government are committed to increasing support for breastfeeding and has identified approximately £2 million for activities related to "Healthy Start" and breastfeeding, including national breastfeeding awareness week and a new national breastfeeding helpline. The five yearly national infant feeding survey to be conducted later this year will be funded separately. Primary care trusts are responsible for funding local breastfeeding support. The funding for financial year 2006–07 has yet to be agreed.

### Cardiac Care (Southend)

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many trained medical *(a)* doctors and *(b)* nurses specialising in cardiac care there are in Southend hospitals. [9921]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** There are eight cardiologists at Southend Hospital National Health Service Trust.

The number of cardiac care nurses is not held centrally. However, as at September 2004, which are the latest figures available, there were 1,119 qualified nurses at Southend Hospital.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cardiac-related emergency cases have been treated in hospitals in Southend in each year since 1997. [9922]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The number of emergency, finished admission episodes of cardiac care in Southend Hospital National Health Service Trust and, as it was known prior to 1998–99, Southend Health Care NHS Trust, is shown in the table.

| | *Finished admission episodes* |
|---|---|
| 1997–98 | 87 |
| 1998–99 | 124 |
| 1999–2000 | 210 |
| 2000–01 | 232 |
| 2001–02 | 247 |
| 2002–03 | 269 |
| 2003–04 | 254 |

*Notes:*
1. A finished admission episode is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. Please note that admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.
2. Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data, that is, the data are ungrossed.
3. The main operation is the first recorded operation in the hospital episode statistics (HES) data set and is usually the most resource intensive procedure performed during the episode. It is appropriate to use main operation when looking at admission details, eg time waited, but the figures for "all operations count of episodes" give a more complete count of episodes with an operation.

*Source:*
HES: Health and Social Care Information Centre.

### Clostridium Difficile

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps are being taken to prevent the spread of *Clostridium difficile* in hospitals in England. [8399]

**Jane Kennedy:** Our programme to control healthcare associated infection in England, including those due to *Clostridium difficile*, is set out in the Department's publications, "Winning Ways: Working together to reduce Healthcare Associated Infection in England" (December 2003) and "Towards cleaner hospitals and lower rates of infection" (July 2004). Specific measures will include incorporating high standard infection control procedures; appropriate antibiotic prescribing; and appropriate contingency, for example, appropriate disinfection or isolation, if an outbreak occurs.

### Connecting for Health

**Dr. Murrison:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what instructions have been issued by Connecting for Health to suppliers to develop stand alone versions of their application which are not reliant on the NHS data spine; and for what reasons. [7385]

**Mr. Byrne:** None. Contracts governing service levels for the data spine require a very taxing standard of guaranteed availability on a 24 hours a day, seven days a week basis. Suppliers are required to develop highly reliable and resilient systems to meet these service levels. Earlier this year, suppliers were asked to consider the impact for their systems and services of the data spine being unavailable temporarily, but there are no current plans to progress this to an instruction to develop stand-alone systems.

### Conscientious Objection

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she will reply to paragraphs 3.11 to 3.16 of the Twelfth Report from the Joint Committee on Human Rights of Session 2003–04, relating to conscientious objection; and if she will make a statement. [9965]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Parliament will debate the issues raised in the Assisted Dying for the Terminally Ill Bill on 10 October and the Government will listen carefully to this debate.

### Consultants' Contract

**Harry Cohen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether she has fully funded the NHS for the costs its has incurred from implementing the consultants' contract; and if she will make a statement. [9352]

**Mr. Byrne:** We have invested substantial resources—some £250 million extra by 2005–06—for the new consultant contract, which rewards those national health service consultants who do the most for the NHS and aims to secure real changes in the way patient care is delivered.

This funding, based on the methodology agreed with the British Medical Association during negotiations, was allocated to primary care trusts (PCTs) in December 2002 as part of main allocations. The amount that went to main allocations was 0.3 per cent. 2003–04, 0.4 per cent. in 2004–05 and 0.5 per cent. in 2005–06.

We uplifted the provider tariff for 2005–06 to take account of any potential cost pressures, although our national survey subsequently demonstrated that the cost pressures anticipated by trusts were not being realised. The imperative remains for trusts to ensure that all consultants have job plans that reflect the current needs of patients and the service in line with local delivery plans.

### Category A Patients (Mortality Statistics)

**Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of Category A patients were pronounced dead on arrival at hospital in the last period for which figures are available, broken down by ambulance trust. [9789]

**Mr. Byrne:** This information is not collected centrally.

### Dentistry

**Mr. Walker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what measures she is taking to increase the provision of dentistry services in Hertfordshire; and if she will make a statement. [7488]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The eight primary care trusts (PCTs) in Hertfordshire have received £1.03 million in capital grants in 2004–05 and £446,000 revenue access money in 2004–05. This additional funding has already delivered growth equivalent to 5.5 whole time dentists and delivered in excess of 10,000 additional patient registrations in Hertfordshire.

Through local recruitment activity, Dacorum PCT now employs three dentists from overseas and North Hertfordshire and Stevenage PCT employs two.

**Steve Webb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what orthodontic treatment is available on the NHS; and what the charges are for each type of treatment. [8090]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Full details of dental treatment available on the national health service are set out in the statement of dental remuneration (SDR), which details the availability of all NHS treatment and the fees payable by patients. A copy of the SDR has been placed in the Library. As with all NHS dental treatment, orthodontic treatment is free for children.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps her Department is taking to improve NHS dentistry in the Southend area. [9929]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** In 2004–05, the Department allocated £1.5 million to the Essex strategic health authority to improve access, choice and quality in national health service dentistry. Of this sum, Southend primary care trust (PCT) received £220,000. The PCT aims to create additional capacity of 23,400 places as a result. The PCT has a dental action plan in place which includes a range of measures to increase capacity and extend existing services, and has already negotiated two personal dental service contracts which has created an additional 13,000 patient registrations. The PCT has also recruited three Polish dentists as part of the Department's international recruitment scheme, with a fourth due to start later this month.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many dentists undertaking NHS work there are in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Southend Primary Care Trust; and if she will list the practices which are taking new patients. [9968]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The table shows the number of dentists in Essex and Southend Primary Care Trust (PCT).

Information about dentists taking on new national health service patients is not collected centrally. However, information can be obtained from local PCTs or from NHS Direct.

*General dental service (GDS) and personal dental service (PDS)—number of dentists in the specified areas as at 31 March 2005*

| | *All dentists* |
|---|---|
| Essex Strategic Health Authority (SHA) | 628 |
| *of which:* | |
| Southend-on-Sea PCT | 61 |

*Note:*
The figures given by PCT and SHA include all dentists practising in that area. Some dentists may have an open GDS or PDS contract in more than one PCT or SHA and therefore they have been counted more than once.
*Source:*
Dental Practice Board.

### Disability Equality Training

**Helen Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps she is taking to ensure that all NHS staff receive disability equality training; how many trusts provide such training; and how many strategic health authorities monitor the availability of such training in their area. [2722]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answer 9 June 2005]:* The responsibility for diversity awareness training, which includes disability equality, lies with each national health service employer. We recommended in "Improving Working Lives Practice Plus" that NHS employers provide employees with diversity awareness training. All NHS employers are expected to conform to "Improving Working Lives" human resources practice by March 2006. General practitioner practices and foundation trusts, however, are not covered by these requirements. Compliance data are not held centrally.

## Doctor Numbers

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* general practitioners, *(b)* consultants, *(c)* junior doctors, *(d)* staff grade and *(e)* associate specialists were employed in NHS hospitals in (i) West Sussex, (ii) Surrey, (iii) Durham, (iv) the East Riding of Yorkshire and (v) each strategic health authority in each of the last eight years. [7911]

**Mr. Byrne:** The information requested has been placed in the Library. Between 1997 and 2004 in England, consultants increased by 43 per cent.; associate specialists by 70 per cent.; staff grade by 114 per cent.; doctors in training or equivalents by 38 per cent. and general practitioners by 16 per cent.

## Domiciliary Care

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the stages in the registration of domiciliary care providers are; and what standard is required at each stage. [9078]

**Mr. Byrne:** The Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) is responsible for registering domiciliary care agencies in accordance with statutory regulations and national minimum standards. Information about registration is found on the application pack R1 and AppendixA3, both of which are available from CSCI at www.csci.org.uk.

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people in *(a)* England and *(b)* each region have (i) met and (ii) not met the required standard at each stage in the registration of domiciliary care providers. [9079]

**Mr. Byrne:** I understand from the chair for the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) that, in 2004–05, the CSCI registered 2,118 domiciliary care agencies, making a total of 4,091 registered as at 31 March 2005.

A total of 17 registrations for domiciliary care agencies were refused in 2004–05.

The regional analysis is shown in the table.

*Domiciliary care homes registered with CSCI in 2004–05*

| *Region* | *Number registered* |
|---|---|
| East Midlands | 232 |
| Eastern | 341 |
| London | 319 |
| North East | 58 |
| North West | 309 |
| South East | 282 |
| South West | 163 |
| West Midlands | 292 |
| Yorkshire and Humber | 122 |
| Grand total | 2,118 |

*Source:*
CAiRE, New to registration and new to regulation applications, 1 July 2005.

*Domiciliary care homes refused registration by with CSCI in 2004–05*

| *Region* | *Number refused application* |
|---|---|
| Eastern | 2 |
| London | 6 |
| North West | 3 |
| South East | 1 |
| South West | 1 |
| West Midlands | 3 |
| Yorkshire and Humber | 1 |
| Grand total | 17 |

*Source:*
CAiRE, 1 July 2005.

## Carers Equal Opportunities Act

**Dr. Francis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what mechanisms she is developing with the National Assembly for Wales Government to assess and share good practice in the implementation of the Carers Equal Opportunities Act 2004 in England and Wales; [9418]

(2) when the policy and practice guidance on the implementation of the Carers' Equal Opportunities Act 2004 will be issued. [9420]

**Mr. Byrne:** The Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE) is currently working on a web-based practice guidance to link with Departmental policy guidance. As SCIE covers England and Wales, this material will be relevant to both countries.

The Department hopes to publish the policy guidance for the Carers' Equal Opportunities Act 2004 by the end of July 2005. SCIE plans to produce the practice guidance and to publish it online in September 2005.

**Dr. Francis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what mechanisms will be put in place to assess the impact of the Carers Equal Opportunities Act 2004. [9421]

**Mr. Byrne:** The number of carers receiving assessments is increasing year-on-year. From 2004–05, new data will be collected on the outcomes of carer's assessments as well as the number of assessments. However, there are currently no specific plans to monitor precisely what service a carer receives as a result of their assessment.

## Euthanasia

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations she has received from *(a)* doctors and *(b)* nurses in support of (i) assisted suicide and (ii) voluntary euthanasia. [9606]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The Department has received regular correspondence over the last year on assisted suicide and voluntary euthanasia expressing a range of views and opinions. Correspondents do not necessarily include details of their profession.

## Food Poisoning (West Midlands)

**Mr. Michael Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of food poisoning there have been in each local authority in the west midlands in each of the last 10 years. [8977]

**Caroline Flint:** The number of notified cases of food poisoning in each local authority in the west midlands in each of the last 10 years is shown in Table 1.

Total notifications for the west midlands have shown a decrease since 1997.

Notified cases of food poisoning are not considered to be a reliable indicator of food-borne disease, due to considerable under-reporting. Very few notified cases will be based on evidence supporting a suspected association with food.

The Health Protection Agency has estimated that, in 2000, there may have been as many as 1.3 million cases of food-borne disease acquired in England and Wales, of which around 370,000 consulted a doctor[1]. In that year, only 86,528 cases of food poisoning were notified in England and Wales.

The annual totals of laboratory-confirmed cases of "Campylobacter" and "Salmonella" in the west midlands in the years 1995–2004 are shown in Table 2.

[1] Adak G. K. Long S. M. O'Brien S. J. Gut 2002; 51:832–841.

*Table 1: Notifications of food poisoning from the west midlands region[1,2]*

| *Local authority name* | *1996* | *1997* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005*[3] | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Birmingham | 1,121 | 2,105 | 2,073 | 1,888 | 1,775 | 1,604 | 1,354 | 1,244 | 1,233 | 518 | 1,4915 |
| Bridgnorth | 143 | 151 | 129 | 125 | 126 | 120 | 88 | 96 | 119 | 39 | 1,136 |
| Bromsgrove | 68 | 107 | 109 | 96 | 101 | 91 | 70 | 72 | 105 | 36 | 855 |
| Cannock Chase | 20 | 35 | 23 | 24 | 34 | 60 | 158 | 147 | 144 | 50 | 695 |
| Coventry | 419 | 368 | 461 | 434 | 322 | 406 | 505 | 412 | 441 | 144 | 3,912 |
| Dudley | 1,200 | 1,003 | 941 | 876 | 832 | 616 | 551 | 495 | 462 | 171 | 7,147 |
| East Staffordshire | 84 | 107 | 86 | 166 | 162 | 121 | 91 | 138 | 97 | 42 | 1,094 |
| Hereford | 51 | 70 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 121 |
| Hereford UA | — | — | 357 | 312 | 459 | 202 | 118 | 185 | 205 | 58 | 1,896 |
| Leominster | 53 | 64 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 117 |
| Lichfield | 125 | 185 | 159 | 200 | 173 | 153 | 147 | 137 | 80 | 41 | 1,400 |
| Malvern Hills | 267 | 304 | 224 | 204 | 227 | 199 | 166 | 182 | 184 | 60 | 2,017 |
| Newcastle under Lyme | 161 | 176 | 143 | 151 | 167 | 173 | 149 | 159 | 129 | 47 | 1,455 |
| North Shropshire | 162 | 185 | 120 | 153 | 147 | 142 | 116 | 111 | 85 | 31 | 1,252 |
| North Warwickshire | 96 | 118 | 164 | 141 | 130 | 136 | 98 | 75 | 79 | 30 | 1,067 |
| Nuneaton and Bedworth | 88 | 140 | 142 | 115 | 145 | 152 | 113 | 137 | 140 | 72 | 1,244 |
| Oswestry | 89 | 69 | 75 | 71 | 60 | 52 | 49 | 70 | 40 | 24 | 599 |
| Redditch | 93 | 83 | 58 | 76 | 67 | 53 | 56 | 50 | 79 | 17 | 632 |
| Rugby | 43 | 82 | 112 | 88 | 79 | 78 | 111 | 122 | 127 | 20 | 862 |
| Sandwell | 332 | 365 | 259 | 234 | 378 | 222 | 203 | 242 | 231 | 85 | 2,551 |
| Shrewsbury and Atcham | 221 | 220 | 246 | 194 | 224 | 214 | 157 | 180 | 165 | 49 | 1,870 |
| Solihull | 353 | 551 | 519 | 382 | 517 | 484 | 348 | 342 | 275 | 109 | 3,880 |
| South Herefordshire | 50 | 98 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 148 |
| South Shropshire | 137 | 116 | 65 | 86 | 114 | 102 | 70 | 83 | 93 | 39 | 905 |
| South Staffordshire | 131 | 165 | 166 | 184 | 269 | 314 | 223 | 222 | 146 | 59 | 1,879 |
| Stafford | 263 | 328 | 309 | 273 | 236 | 266 | 227 | 237 | 203 | 79 | 2,421 |
| Staffordshire Moorlands | 27 | 30 | 19 | 126 | 165 | 139 | 115 | 106 | 105 | 40 | 872 |
| Stoke on Trent | 435 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 435 |
| Stoke on Trent UA | — | 403 | 361 | 367 | 399 | 451 | 319 | 333 | 308 | 97 | 3,038 |
| Stratford on Avon | 63 | 158 | 201 | 212 | 222 | 222 | 232 | 187 | 219 | 87 | 1,803 |
| Tamworth | 81 | 71 | 80 | 75 | 110 | 71 | 82 | 61 | 54 | 20 | 705 |
| Telford and Wrekin UA | — | — | 227 | 231 | 272 | 296 | 228 | 203 | 245 | 95 | 1,797 |
| The Wrekin | 286 | 335 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 621 |
| Walsall | 288 | 345 | 351 | 303 | 322 | 280 | 203 | 214 | 190 | 87 | 2,583 |
| Warwick | 54 | 152 | 167 | 159 | 186 | 214 | 161 | 178 | 183 | 58 | 1,512 |
| Wolverhampton | 461 | 502 | 590 | 412 | 416 | 426 | 361 | 318 | 224 | 101 | 3,811 |
| Worcester | 247 | 229 | 322 | 301 | 271 | 253 | 206 | 241 | 207 | 57 | 2,334 |
| Wychavon | 198 | 203 | 204 | 207 | 216 | 184 | 150 | 204 | 165 | 65 | 1,796 |
| Wyre Forest | 155 | 160 | 171 | 212 | 197 | 231 | 171 | 223 | 180 | 79 | 1,779 |
| Total | 8,065 | 9,783 | 9,633 | 9,078 | 9,520 | 8,727 | 7,396 | 7,406 | 6,942 | 2,606 | 79,156 |

[1] Data gaps are due to changes in the boundaries and re-organisation of some local and unitary authorities in 1997 and 1998.

[2] The data presented in the table represent the number of cases notified in each area. The figures have not been adjusted for population.

[3] Provisional data, for weeks 01/2005 to 24/2005 only.

*Source:*

Notifications of infectious diseases (NOIDS)—29/06/2005.

*Table 2: Laboratory-reported cases of campylobacter and salmonella in the west midlands region, 1995–2004*

| *Region: west midlands* | *Campylobacter* | *Salmonella*[2] |
|---|---|---|
| 1995 | 4,528 | 2,723 |
| 1996 | 5,152 | 2,762 |
| 1997 | 6,087 | 2,693 |
| 1998 | 6,540 | 1,923 |
| 1999 | 6,384 | 1,505 |
| 2000 | 7,408 | 1,296 |
| 2001 | 6,621 | 1,325 |
| 2002 | 5,621 | 1,033 |
| 2003 | 5,347 | 1,122 |
| 2004[1] | 4,902 | 1,120 |

[1] Provisional data (may be subject to further change).

[2] From Health Protection Agency Salmonella dataset

*Source:*
Health Protection Agency centre for infections, environmental and enteric diseases department, England and Wales.

## General Practitioners

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many full-time equivalent general medical practitioners there were in each primary care trust in London on average in *(a)* 1997, *(b)* 2001 and *(c)* 2004, broken down by (i) single handed and (ii) two or more partner general practitioner practices; and what percentage these practices represented of the total number of general practitioner practices in each year. [8012]

**Jane Kennedy:** The information requested has been placed in the Library.

**Mr. Francois:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many general practitioners are practising in South Woodham Ferrers, Essex; and what the size of the patient list at each practice is. [9317]

**Jane Kennedy** *[holding answer 6 July 2005]:* The number general practitioners, GP practices, number of patients and average list size providing services to the residents of South Woodham Ferrers are shown in the table.

*Average list size of general medical practitioners, excluding retainers and registrars[1], and GP practices for specified organisations*
*As at 30 September 2004*
*Number (headcount)*

| *Primary care trust* | *All practitioners (excluding retainers and registrars)*[1] | *Patients* | *Average list size* | *GP practices* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Billericay, Brentwood and Wickford | 78 | 143,284 | 1,837 | 20 |
| Castle Point and Rochford | 91 | 175,019 | 1,923 | 27 |
| Maldon and South Chelmsford | 47 | 81,460 | 1,733 | 15 |

[1] General medical practitioners (excluding retainers and registrars) includes contracted GPs, general medical service (GMS) others, and personal medical service (PMS) others.
*Source:*
National Health Service Health and Social Care Information Centre GMS and PMS statistics.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many general practitioners there have been in the Southend primary care trust area in each year since 1997. [9966]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The table shows the number of general practitioners in the Southend area, with information for Southend on Sea primary care group (PCG) for 1999 and 2000 and then for its successor organisation, Southend on Sea primary care trust (PCT) for 2001 to 2004.

*General medical practitioners (excluding retainers and registrars)[1] for specified organisations: 1999–2004*
*Numbers (headcount)*

| | | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *[2]2004* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4KH89 | Southend On Sea PCG | 84 | 84 | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— |
| 5AK | Southend On Sea PCT | [3]— | [3]— | 82 | 79 | 87 | 111 | 103 |

[1] General medical practitioners (excluding retainers and registrars) includes contracted GPs, general medical service (GMS) others and personal medical service (PMS) others. Prior to September 2004 this group included GMS unrestricted principals, PMS contracted GPs, PMS salaried GPs, restricted principals, assistants, salaried doctors (Para 52 SFA), PMS other, flexible career scheme GPs and GP returners.
[2] As at December
[3] Denotes data not applicable
*Note:*
Data as at 1 October 1999–2000, 30 September 2001–04 and 31 December 2004.
*Source:*
NHS Health and Social Care Information Centre GMS and PMS statistics.

## General Social Care Council

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how the General Social Care Council measures the impact of its codes of practice on *(a)* the recruitment of social workers and *(b)* service users. [9076]

**Mr. Byrne:** Information on the impact of the General Social Care Council's (GSCC) codes of practice on the recruitment of social workers is not collected centrally.

The GSCC conducted a major consultation on the impact of the codes on the social care sector as a whole in 2004. The results of this exercise and other

information from the sector suggests that the codes are highly valued by the workforce, are being used in practice, are having a positive effect for service users and are seen as part of everyday activity.

The GSCC is planning further research on the codes of practice and how they are being embedded and the impact on service users.

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate *(a)* her Department and *(b)* the General Social Care Council has made of the number of (i) domiciliary care workers, (ii) outreach workers, (iii) residential child workers, (iv) social care managers and (v) staff responsible for recruitment and supervision of social care staff who would be covered by future requirements for registration with the General Social Care Council. [9445]

**Mr. Byrne:** There are an estimated 1.4 million social care workers in England, around a quarter of these are people working in domiciliary care.

Detailed information on the number of social care workers is collected by Skills for Care in relation to adult services and by the Children, Young People and Families Workforce Development Council (CWDC) in relation to children's services.

During 2004, the General Social Care Council (GSCC) carried out a widespread consultation about the order in which the remaining groups of social care staff should be brought into registration. I am considering their report of the outcome of this consultation in the context of the continuing development of our social care policies following the publication of the social care Green Papers, "Independence, well-being and choice" and "Every Child Matters". I expect to announce my decision shortly.

The GSCC will then work closely with Skills for Care and CWDC in preparing for registration of the new groups in the social care work force in light of information about the numbers in each category.

### Healthcare and Associated Infections

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 13 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 104W, on healthcare and associated infections, what the terms of reference are for the work referred to; what funding is planned for it; and when *(a)* the confidential study and *(b)* the qualitative study is expected (i) to start, (ii) to be completed and submitted to Ministers and (iii) published. [8028]

**Jane Kennedy:** The terms of reference are:

"A national audit of deaths from healthcare associated infections will be established and will investigate a proportion of the deaths that occur, to identify avoidable factors and lessons to be learned from them."

A sum of £450,000 was allocated from 1 April 2005 for two years. The six month pilot phase of the confidential qualitative study is about to start and an interim report is expected next year. The main phase will be completed in the following 18 months and a report will be submitted to the Department and published at the end of the study. The quantitative study will be undertaken over the same period.

**Mr. Hendrick:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she will introduce legislation to combat healthcare-associated infection; and if she will make a statement. [10922]

**Jane Kennedy** *[pursuant to the reply, 7 July 2005, Official Report C.579W]:* I regret that my previous reply was incorrect. It should read as follows:

We will be publishing on Friday 15 July a consultation document that sets out detailed proposals for tackling healthcare-associated infections, as outlined in the Gracious Speech. Copies will be available in the Library, and on the Department's website at: www.dh.gov.uk/Consultations/LiveConsultations/fs/en.

### Healthcare Commission

**Steve Webb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many complaints have been referred to the Healthcare Commission in each month since July 2004; and in respect of how many complaints the Healthcare Commission has *(a)* commenced and *(b)* concluded its inquiries. [9373]

**Jane Kennedy:** I understand from the chair of the Healthcare Commission that the number of requests for an independent review of complaints received, up to and including 30 June 2005, is as shown in the table.

| | *Complaints received* | *Complaints resolved (concluded)* | *Complaints where investigation has commenced* |
|---|---|---|---|
| *2004* | | | |
| August | 1,057 | 752 | 305 |
| September | 736 | 443 | 293 |
| October | 619 | 284 | 335 |
| November | 694 | 325 | 369 |
| December | 527 | 226 | 301 |
| *2005* | | | |
| January | 623 | 272 | 351 |
| February | 654 | 193 | 461 |
| March | 776 | 186 | 590 |
| April | 648 | 104 | 544 |
| May | 590 | 21 | 569 |
| June | 637 | 12 | 625 |
| Total | 7,561 | 2,818 | 4,743 |

### Hepatitis C

**Mrs. Dean:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she has made of the number of people in the Burton constituency infected with hepatitis C; how many people in the constituency have been diagnosed with hepatitis C; and how many people in the constituency were treated for hepatitis C in *(a)* 2003 and *(b)* 2004. [4422]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The information requested is not held centrally.

### Human Embryos (Research)

**Dr. Gibson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the three additional purposes for which human embryos may be used in research as contained in the Human Fertilisation and Embryology (Research Purposes) Regulations 2001 give effect to the recommendations of the joint Human Genetics Advisory

Commission and Human Fertilisation Embryology Authority report Cloning Issues in Reproduction, Science and Medicine that regulations should add the purposes of developing methods of therapy for mitochondrial disease and therapy for diseased or damaged tissues or organs. [8684]

**Jane Kennedy:** Following the report from the Chief Medical Officer's expert group reviewing the potential of developments in stem cell research and cell nuclear replacement to benefit human health[1], the Human Fertilisation and Embryology (Research Purposes) Regulations 2001 were introduced. They extended the purposes for which the Human Fertilisation Embryology Agency (HFEA) may grant licenses for research involving embryos to include increasing knowledge about the development of embryos, or about serious disease, and enabling any such knowledge to be applied in developing treatments for serious disease.

The HFEA may only grant licences for research projects if it appears that the activity is necessary or desirable for one or more of the research purposes listed in the Act, as extended by regulations, and the use of human embryos is necessary for the purposes of the research. Licence applications for research projects involving embryos for the purposes of developing methods of therapy for mitochondrial disease and therapy for diseased or damaged tissues or organs are considered in accordance with this procedure. The question of whether something is a serious disease is in the first instance for an HFEA licensing committee, and ultimately for the courts to decide.

The Government announced on 21 January 2004 their intention to undertake a review of the provisions of the HFEA to ensure that it remains effective in the 21st century. This will include a full public consultation exercise in 2005.

[1] Stem Cell Research: Medical Progress with Responsibility, Department of Health, July 2000.

## Liver Transplants

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting time is for a liver transplant. [9999]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The average waiting time for a liver transplant is 60 days for adults and 69 days for children.

## Malaria

**Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people have been diagnosed with malaria in the Hampshire and Isle of Wight strategic health authority area in each of the last five years, broken down by hospital trust. [9793]

**Caroline Flint:** The information requested is shown in the following table. The figures given do not relate to the number of people diagnosed with malaria, but the number of admitted care episodes in national health service hospitals where malaria was the primary diagnosis. Numbers lower than five have been suppressed for reasons of patient confidentiality.

*Count of finished admission episodes, strategic health authority of residence—Hampshire and Isle of Wight. Primary diagnosis—malaria (ICD-10 = between B50-B54), NHS hospitals, England, 1999–2000 to 2003–04*

| | Strategic health authority | Number |
|---|---|---|
| *1999–2000* | | |
| RBA | Taunton and Somerset NHS Trust | [1] |
| RD3 | Poole hospitals NHS Trust | [1] |
| RDU | Frimley Park hospital NHS Trust | 7 |
| RHM | Southampton university hospitals NHS Trust | 7 |
| RHU | Portsmouth hospitals NHS Trust | 7 |
| RN1 | Winchester and Eastleigh healthcare NHS Trust | [1] |
| RN5 | North Hampshire hospitals NHS Trust | [1] |
| RNZ | Salisbury healthcare NHS Trust | [1] |
| RPR | Royal West Sussex NHS Trust | [1] |
| RR2 | Isle Of Wight healthcare NHS Trust | [1] |
| *2000–01* | | |
| RDE | Essex Rivers healthcare NHS Trust | [1] |
| RDU | Frimley Park hospital NHS Trust | 21 |
| RHM | Southampton university hospitals NHS Trust | 13 |
| RHS | Southampton community health services NHS Trust | [1] |
| RHU | Portsmouth hospitals NHS Trust | 15 |
| RN1 | Winchester and Eastleigh healthcare NHS Trust | [1] |
| RN5 | North Hampshire hospitals NHS Trust | 7 |
| RR2 | Isle Of Wight healthcare NHS Trust | [1] |
| *2001–02* | | |
| RA2 | Royal Surrey county hospital NHS Trust | [1] |
| RDU | Frimley Park hospital NHS Trust | [1] |
| RDZ | Royal Bournemouth and Christchurch hospitals NHS Trust | [1] |
| RHM | Southampton university hospitals NHS Trust | 13 |
| RHU | Portsmouth hospitals NHS Trust | 10 |
| RN1 | Winchester and Eastleigh healthcare NHS Trust | 6 |
| RN5 | North Hampshire hospitals NHS Trust | [1] |
| RPR | Royal West Sussex NHS Trust | [1] |
| RR2 | Isle Of Wight healthcare NHS Trust | [1] |
| *2002–03* | | |
| RD7 | Heatherwood and Wexham Park hospital | [1] |
| RDU | Frimley Park hospital NHS Trust | [1] |
| RHM | Southampton university hospitals NHS Trust | 6 |
| RHU | Portsmouth hospitals NHS Trust | 8 |
| RM2 | South Manchester university hospitals NHS Trust | [1] |
| RN1 | Winchester and Eastleigh healthcare NHS Trust | [1] |
| RN5 | North Hampshire hospitals NHS Trust | [1] |
| RR2 | Isle Of Wight healthcare NHS Trust | [1] |
| RRV | University college London hospitals NHS Trust | [1] |
| RTH | Oxford Radcliffe hospital NHS Trust | [1] |
| *2003–04* | | |
| RDU | Frimley Park hospital NHS Trust | [1] |
| RHM | Southampton university hospitals NHS Trust | 8 |
| RHU | Portsmouth hospitals NHS Trust | 11 |
| RN1 | Winchester and Eastleigh healthcare NHS Trust | [1] |
| RTE | Gloucestershire hospitals NHS Trust | [1] |

[1] For reasons of confidentiality, figures between one and five have been suppressed.

*Notes:*

1. A finished admission episode is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. Please note that admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.
2. The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 14 (seven prior to 2002–03) diagnosis fields in the Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) data set and provides the main reason why the patient was in hospital.
3. Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are ungrossed).
4. Malaria defined as one of the ICD-10 codes in the primary diagnosis:

B50 Plasmodium falciparum malaria
B51 Plasmodium vivax malaria
B52 Plasmodium malariae malaria
B53 Other parasitologically confirmed malaria
B54 Unspecified malaria

*Source:*

Hospital episode statistics, Health and Social Care Information Centre.

### Maldon and South Chelmsford Primary Care Trust

**Mr. Francois:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the capital budget of the Maldon and South Chelmsford Primary Care Trust is for *(a)* 2005–06, *(b)* 2006–07 and *(c)* 2007–08; and how much of this money is (i) allocated to programmes and (ii) unallocated. [9316]

**Jane Kennedy** *[holding answer 6 July 2005]:* Maldon and South Chelmsford Primary Care Trust's (PCT) allocations are shown in the table.

| | *Budget allocation (£ million)* |
|---|---|
| 2005–06 | 70.6 |
| 2006–07 | 84.7 |
| 2007–08 | 94.4 |

It is for the PCT to decide how it spends the money allocated.

### Medical Centres (Attendance)

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many attendances at *(a)* walk-in centres and *(b)* minor injuries units there were in each quarter since September 2002. [7505]

**Mr. Byrne:** Data on the total number of visits to national health service walk-in centres is shown in the table. Data on minor injury units are published in the "Chief Executive's Report to the NHS—Statistical Supplement—May 2005".

*Total number of visits to NHS walk-in centres*

| *Period* | *Number of visits* |
|---|---|
| October to December 2002 | 332,586 |
| January to March 2003 | 335,358 |
| April to June 2003 | 391,940 |
| July to September 2003 | 412,829 |
| October to December 2003 | 387,570 |
| January to March 2004 | 389,784 |
| April to June 2004 | 477,667 |
| July to September 2004 | 503,144 |
| October to December 2004 | 516,406 |
| January to March 2005 | 571,305 |

*Source:*
Department of Health

### Medical Students

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she has made of the number of students on medical courses offered by institutions outside the UK who undertook their clinical training in England in each of the last five years; and what assessment she has made of the proportion who subsequently worked in the NHS after qualification. [7449]

**Mr. Byrne:** The information requested is not collected centrally.

**Mark Simmonds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the ratio of male to female first year medical students has been in each year since 1997; and if she will make a statement. [9245]

**Mr. Byrne:** The information requested is shown in the table.

*Number and gender of English medical school intake, 1997–98 to 2004–05*[1]

| | | *Male* | | *Female* | | *Ratio* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Academic year* | *Total* | *Number* | *Percentage* | *Number* | *Percentage* | *Male: Female* |
| 1997–98 | 3,749 | 1,697 | 45.3 | 2,052 | 54.7 | 1:1.209 |
| 1998–99 | 3,735 | 1,690 | 45.25 | 2,045 | 54.75 | 1:1.210 |
| 1999–2000 | 3,972 | 1,748 | 44.0 | 2,224 | 56.0 | 1:1.272 |
| 2000–01 | 4,300 | 1,826 | 42.5 | 2,474 | 57.5 | 1:1.355 |
| 2001–02 | 4,713 | 1,959 | 41.5 | 2,754 | 58.4 | 1:1.406 |
| 2002–03 | 5,277 | 2,123 | 40.2 | 3,152 | 59.7 | 1:1.485 |
| 2003–04 | 6,082 | 2,418 | 39.8 | 3,664 | 60.2 | 1:1.515 |
| 2004–05[1] | 6,326 | 2,528 | 40.0 | 3,798 | 60.0 | 1:1.502 |

[1] These figures are provisional until November 2005, when the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) will provide confirmed figures.

*Source:*
HEFCE.

Latest figures show that, in 2004–05, the intake of medical school students in England had risen by 69 per cent. since 1997.

### Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reasons the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency does not break down the 'No established link to device' category causes of medical device-related adverse incidents. [9430]

**Jane Kennedy:** The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency Adverse Incident Annual Report (DB2005(02)) includes a summary of information relating to the approximately 9,000 medical device related adverse incident reports received each year. The MHRA's adverse incident database holds detailed information on each of those incidents. MHRA staff using the database may select from 139 different categories and sub-categories when specifying incident causes. It would not be practical to provide this level of detail in the summary document, so these categories are grouped together under high level headings.

### Mental Health (Southend)

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many medical doctors there have been in mental health facilities in the Southend, West constituency in each year since 1997. [9923]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The information requested is not held centrally by constituency. However, the number of medical staff at mental health trusts who provide care in Essex from 1997 to 2004 are shown in the table.

*Hospital, public health medicine and community health services (HCHS): medical staff within mental health trusts in Essex Strategic Health Authority—as at 30 September each year*

*Number (headcount) and full time equivalents*

| | 1997 | | 1998 | | 1999 | | 2000 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Number | Fte | Number | Fte | Number | Fte | Number | Fte |
| Mental Health Trust Medical Staff | 242 | 205 | 220 | 191 | 222 | 198 | 182 | 164 |
| *of which:* | | | | | | | | |
| Essex and Herts Community NHS Trust | 76 | 63 | 68 | 57 | 63 | 54 | 25 | 23 |
| Mid Essex Community and Mental Health NHS Trust | 31 | 25 | 28 | 24 | 29 | 24 | 24 | 21 |
| New Possibilities NHS Trust | 17 | 10 | 16 | 10 | 14 | 8 | 17 | 11 |
| North East Essex Mental Health NHS Trust | 42 | 38 | 40 | 35 | 40 | 37 | 40 | 37 |
| North Essex Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| South Essex Mental Health and Community Care NHS Trust | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 76 | 72 |
| Southend Community Care NHS Trust | 38 | 36 | 35 | 34 | 36 | 35 | n/a | n/a |
| Thameside Community Health Care NHS Trust | 38 | 33 | 33 | 30 | 40 | 38 | n/a | n/a |

| | 2001 | | 2002 | | 2003 | | 2004 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Number | Fte | Number | Fte | Number | Fte | Number | Fte |
| Mental Health Trust Medical Staff | 158 | 144 | 173 | 165 | 176 | 170 | 184 | 173 |
| *of which:* | | | | | | | | |
| Essex and Herts Community NHS Trust | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Mid Essex Community and Mental Health NHS Trust | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| New Possibilities NHS Trust | 15 | 12 | 14 | 10 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| North East Essex Mental Health NHS Trust | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| North Essex Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust | 71 | 62 | 81 | 79 | 89 | 84 | 93 | 85 |
| South Essex Mental Health and Community Care NHS Trust | 72 | 70 | 78 | 76 | 87 | 86 | 91 | 89 |
| Southend Community Care NHS Trust | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Thameside Community Health Care NHS Trust | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |

n/a = not applicable

*Source:*

Health and Social Care Information Centre medical and dental workforce statistics.

### Misuse of Records

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what penalties are laid down for misuse of records by *(a)* permanent, *(b)* temporary and *(c)* agency NHS employees with access to patient records. [5918]

**Mr. Byrne:** There are no centrally laid down penalties for the misuse of patient records, as ensuring that records are managed to appropriate standards is a responsibility of each individual national health service organisation. However, departmental guidance, set out in "Confidentiality: NHS Code of Practice", published in November 2003, makes it clear that misuse of patient information should be treated as a serious disciplinary matter, possibly resulting in legal proceedings.

### National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence

**Mr. Hands:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average time has been for the National Institute for Clinical Excellence to issue guidance on cancer treatments once they have been licensed by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency in each year since 2000. [4834]

**Jane Kennedy:** It would be not possible to provide an average yearly figure that was in any way meaningful, given that many of the cancer drugs National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) has appraised were licensed some years, as much as six years in some cases, before the formation of NICE.

### National NHS Database

**Dr. Murrison:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what provision will be made for NHS patients wishing not to have their data recorded on the proposed national NHS database. [7379]

**Mr. Byrne:** For national health service patients wishing not to have their data recorded electronically within the NHS care records service (CRS), provision will be made to exercise their rights as provided by section 10 of the Data Protection Act 1998. This requires NHS data controllers to cease processing data, where the processing "is causing or is likely to cause substantial damage or distress", where that damage or distress would be unwarranted, the processing is not necessary for compliance with legal obligations and is not necessary to protect the vital interests of the data subject.

Procedures to give effect to these rights in respect of records held electronically within the CRS are being developed by the Department, in consultation with organisations representing the interests of patients and health professionals.

### New Hospital (Maldon)

**Mr. Francois:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether a site has been identified for the construction of the new hospital in Maldon, Essex; and what the latest date is on which she expects the hospital to open. [9314]

**Jane Kennedy** *[holding answer 6 July 2005]:* A potential site has been identified, but technical legal issues are delaying the purchase and at present it is not possible to say when it will be completed. A wide range of factors can affect the speed of progress of a new hospital build, but experience from other similarly sized schemes indicated that it will take about 48 months to complete the hospital from when the initial approval in principle to proceed is given. In this case, initial approval cannot be given until the site is in the ownership of the national health service.

## NHS Direct

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the study into the most appropriate organisational form for NHS Direct outlined in the Department's Implementation Framework for Reconfiguring the DH Arm's Length Bodies, published on 30 November 2004, is complete; and if she will make a statement. [7478]

**Mr. Byrne:** The further appraisal into the most appropriate organisational form for NHS Direct is expected to be completed this summer.

## NHS Finance

**Tony Baldry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health within what period she expects an NHS trust which is in deficit to bring its budget into balance. [6802]

**Mr. Byrne:** National health service trusts have a responsibility to break even each and every year. It is the responsibility of strategic health authorities (SHAs) to deliver both overall financial balance for their local health communities and to ensure each and every body achieves financial balance. As long as SHAs can deliver overall financial balance across their organisations, they can agree a plan for individual organisations that phases the recovery of deficits over several years.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funds have been allocated to hospitals in Southend in each year since 1997. [9924]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** National health service trusts do not receive funding as such as services are commissioned by primary care trusts. However, the income figures for Southend hospital NHS Trust are shown in the following table.

*Southend hospital NHS Trust total income*

*£000*

| | *Amount* |
|---|---|
| 1997–98 | 84,509 |
| 1998–99 | 93,139 |
| 1999–2000 | 107,598 |
| 2000–01 | 112,589 |
| 2001–02 | 125,771 |
| 2002–03 | 137,778 |
| 2003–04 | 150,235 |

*Note:*
NHS trusts do not normally receive funding direct from the Department, but receive income for service provision largely from health authorities and primary care trusts. Figures above show the total income of the trust, including all income from activities and all other operating income.

*Sources:*
Audited summarisation schedules of the Southend hospital NHS Trust 1997–98 to 2003–04.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the health expenditure per head of population in Southend, West constituency has been in each year since 1997. [9930]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** It is not possible to provide expenditure on individual constituencies. The expenditure per head on health in South Essex health authority (HA), 1997–99, and the Essex strategic health authority (SHA), 1999–2004, geographical areas, of which Southend, West constituency is a part, is shown in the following table.

*£ per head*

| | *South Essex HA area* | *Essex SHA area* |
|---|---|---|
| 1997–98 | 568.75 | n/a |
| 1998–99 | 636.27 | n/a |
| 1999–2000 | 722.78 | n/a |
| 2000–01 | 806.50 | n/a |
| 2001–02 | 832.87 | n/a |
| 2002–03 | n/a | 850.90 |
| 2003–04 | n/a | 1,034.95 |

*Notes:*
1. Expenditure is taken from audited health authority summarisation forms and primary care trust (PCT) summarisation schedules, which are prepared on a resource basis and therefore differ from cash allocations in the year. The figures have not been adjusted for inflation.
2. Allocations per weighted head of population provide a much more reliable measure to identify differences between funding of HAs and PCTs.
3. Figures for 1997–98 to 2001–02 have been prepared using gross expenditure figures. Figures for 2002–03 and 2003–04 have been adjusted to eliminate expenditure which would be double counted where an authority acts as a lead in commissioning healthcare or other services.
4. In many HAs, there are factors which distort the expenditure. These include:
the HA acting in a lead capacity to commission healthcare or fund training on behalf of other health bodies; and
asset revaluations in national health service trusts being funded through HAs or PCTs.
5. The majority of general dental services expenditure is separately accounted for by the Dental Practice Board. An element of pharmaceutical services expenditure is accounted for by the Prescription Pricing Authority. Total expenditure on these items by the Dental Practice Board and the Prescription Pricing Authority cannot be allocated to individual health bodies. Therefore, the total expenditure in the answer by HA does not capture all NHS expenditure within the area.
6. For these reasons expenditure cannot be compared reliably between health authorities or between different years.
*Sources:*
1. South Essex HA audited accounts 1997–98 and 1998–99.
2. South Essex HA audited summarisation forms 1999–2000 to 2001–02.
3. Essex SHA audited summarisation forms 2002–03 and 2003–04.
4. PCT audited summarisation schedules 2001–02 and 2003–04 for bodies within the above HA areas' weighted population figures.

**Mr. Yeo:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance her Department has given *(a)* the West Suffolk Hospitals Trust and *(b)* the Suffolk West primary care trust about how to deal with its financial deficit. [9336]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** National health service organisations are expected to plan for and achieve financial balance each and every year. Any deficits of

NHS trusts need to be matched by underspends by other NHS bodies each year. In the next year NHS trusts which overspend should make a surplus in order to ensure that other organisations can utilise the underspends from the previous year.

It is the responsibility of strategic health authorities (SHAs) to deliver both overall financial balance for their local health communities and to ensure each and every body achieves financial balance. However, there is a degree of flexibility in how this is managed at a local level. In circumstances where a surplus cannot be generated in the following year, SHAs can agree a recovery plan which phases the recovery of deficits over a number of years. This would require other NHS organisations within the health economy to underspend over the same period. Clearly, any such arrangements would have to be subject to the agreement of local providers, commissioners and the managing SHA.

**Frank Dobson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 29 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 1610W, what the latest available information in her Department is on NHS Trust deficits in *(a)* 2004–05 and *(b)* the current financial year. [10011]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answer 5 July 2005]:* The latest year for which audited data on the financial position of national health service organisations is available is 2003–04.

For 2004–05 and 2005–06, audited information in respect of the financial position of all strategic health authorities, primary care trusts and NHS trusts will be published in their individual annual accounts. For 2004–05, this information will be available centrally in autumn 2005. For 2005–06, it will be available in the following autumn.

## NHS Logistics

**Mr. Mike Hall:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment she has made of the fitness for purpose of the IT system at NHS Logistics; and what assessment she has made of the requirement for a new IT system to expand the market served by NHS Logistics; [9491]

(2) if she will publish the report by KPMG on IT systems used by NHS Logistics and the IT systems capacity required to service the NHS supply chain. [9493]

**Jane Kennedy:** The NHS Logistics Authority (NHSLA) undertakes an annual review of its information technology strategy, which covers issues such as system capacity and fitness for purpose. KPMG, NHSLA's internal auditor, has assisted NHS Logistics with these reviews. The reviews have concluded that the existing systems, with future planned enhancements, are capable of meeting the known medium term needs of the national health service and NHSLA.

KPMG prepares reports for their client, NHSLA, on a confidential basis and, therefore, it has no plans to publish these reports.

**Jonathan Shaw:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when the last significant restructuring of the management of NHS Logistics was. [9632]

**Jane Kennedy:** The last significant restructuring of the management of NHS Logistics was implemented in April 2000. This restructure was a result of recommendations made by the 1998 Cabinet Office Review of NHS Procurement. NHS Logistics has been subject to one internal management restructure since 2000, which was implemented in April 2003.

**Jonathan Shaw:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what growth occurred in the supply of goods by NHS Logistics, including the share of the NHS consumables market each year since 1997, broken down by *(a)* volume and *(b)* value. [9633]

**Jane Kennedy:** The NHS Logistics Authority (NHSLA) was formed in April 2000 and the income generated from the supply of goods is shown in the table. During this time, product revenues have grown by an average 8 per cent. per annum, which is a 38 per cent. increase on NHSLA's first year activity.

*Actual*

| | *Sales (£000)* |
|---|---|
| 2000–01 | 529,812 |
| 2001–02 | 560,695 |
| 2002–03 | 593,288 |
| 2003–04 | 677,928 |
| 2004–05 | 732,051 |

The national health service non-pay spend is circa £13 billion per annum and the consumable healthcare element, the area in which NHSLA operates, is estimated at around £4.2 billion.

This healthcare element has also grown by an average 8 per cent. per annum, resulting in a stable NHS logistics market share estimated at 18 per cent. by value and 70 per cent. by volume.

**Jonathan Shaw:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether NHS Logistics management has been asked by her Department to prepare a business plan relating to future expansion. [9634]

**Jane Kennedy:** As part of the business case process and evaluation of bidders' responses to the invitation to submit outline proposals, the NHS Logistics management was asked to prepare a 10-year forecast.

**Jonathan Shaw:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether NHS Logistics management has prepared a business plan relating to future expansion; [9635]

(2) what the market growth target for NHS Logistics is. [9636]

**Jane Kennedy:** The NHS Logistics Authority has prepared a business plan for the 2005–2006 financial year, which was approved by the Department. NHS Logistics has also produced a three-year corporate plan approved by the Department.

NHS Logistics sales budget target for 2005–06 is £777 million.

**Judy Mallaber:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what consultation has been undertaken with stakeholders on the future provision of each category of products used by NHS bodies but not supplied by NHS Logistics. [9904]

**Jane Kennedy:** The National Health Service Purchasing and Supply Agency and NHS Logistics have an established network and ongoing contact with NHS trust level supplies managers, supply management confederations and collaborative procurement hubs. This is supplemented by an extensive range of product and category specific commodity advisory groups, comprising NHS product users and other stakeholders.

These communication streams are consulted and provide input into the contracting process for the consumable products routed through NHS Logistics and also for those products that are supplied directly to the NHS. Selection of the most appropriate supply route for products is a key component of the contracting process and NHS Logistics is considered for all consumable product categories.

### NHS Pensions

**Harry Cohen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether she has fully funded the NHS for the costs its has incurred from its commitment properly to contribute to its staff pensions; and if she will make a statement. [9351]

**Mr. Byrne:** The Government Actuary periodically assesses the current and prospective liabilities of the national health service pensions scheme and recommends a contribution rate at a level commensurate with those liabilities. The employer's contribution rate is currently set at 14 per cent. of pensionable pay.

The costs of employers' pension contributions are taken into account in setting allocations.

### NHS Supplies Service

**Judy Mallaber:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will publish the business case for inviting companies to submit bids to provide the NHS supplies service. [9464]

**Jane Kennedy:** The business case contains commercially sensitive information and is not publicly available.

**Judy Mallaber:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health on what basis bidders to provide the NHS supplies service were accepted for the shortlist who may now be invited to negotiate. [9465]

**Jane Kennedy:** Under the European Union procurement rules, bidders were subject to a pre-qualification process. This process was conducted by the Department in conjunction with NHS Logistics and the NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency.

Pre-qualification assessed bidders on technical skills, financial standing and willingness to comply with the Transfer of Undertakings for Protection of Employment (TUPE) legislation and Treasury guidance on staff transfers and pensions.

**Mr. Mike Hall:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether potential bidders to run the NHS supplies service have been advised that they require a new IT system. [9492]

**Jane Kennedy:** The invitation to submit outline proposals did not refer bidders to the need for a new information technology system, but explained that change to the system was envisaged over the 10 years of a potential contract.

**Mr. Mike Hall:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of whether additional warehouse capacity that may be required for the expansion of the NHS supplies service provided by NHS Logistics or its successor should be *(a)* rented and *(b)* purchased. [9494]

**Jane Kennedy:** The NHS Logistics Authority has undertaken an assessment of its future warehouse capacity requirements. This indicated that the preferred option for future provision of additional capacity was through a contract with a third party service provider. The third party provider would be responsible for the provision of warehousing capacity and other resources needed to fulfil the contract.

**Judy Mallaber:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what specifications for IT equipment have been laid down for potential bidders to run the NHS supply service. [9963]

**Jane Kennedy:** The current specifications for information technology equipment, as used by NHS Logistics, will continue to be used.

### NHS Suspensions

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she has made of the proportion of *(a)* medical and *(b)* non-medical clinical staff who were suspended from work pending a fitness-to-practise investigation and subsequently return to work if they are cleared. [9362]

**Mr. Byrne:** This information is not collected centrally.

### Organ Donation

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps her Department is taking to increase public awareness of organ donor programmes. [10000]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** "Saving Lives, Valuing Donors—A Transplant Framework for England", sets out our key aims for transplantation including initiatives to encourage more people to donate organs and tissues. The Department has provided more than £10 million to UK Transplant to promote the organ donor register and support hospital-based initiatives. In 2005–06, we have provided over £100,000 of section 64 funding to charities promoting organ donation and supporting patient groups. The success of the various local and national campaigns has resulted in over 12.3 million people now registered on the organ donor register and in 2003–04 the highest number of organ transplants ever performed in the United Kingdom.

From 1 October 2005, NHS Blood and Transplant will look for further opportunities to raise the profile of organ donation.

### Paddington Basin Health Campus

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much public money has been spent on developing

the Paddington basin health campus project, broken down by the date on which the costs were incurred; and if she will make a statement. [5591]

**Mr. Byrne:** Expenditure by year for Paddington health campus project and forecast to 30 June 2005 is shown in the table. The money spent is committed proportionate to the size and complexity of the project involved. Details on the cost involved in this project have been released in London strategic health authority board papers and, at different stages in the lifetime of this project, through other channels—in most cases, answers to parliamentary questions. We shall draw on the experience of this project in taking forward alternative developments in north west London.

*Expenditure by year for Paddington health campus project and forecast to 30 June 2005*

£000

| *PHC spend by year from 1999* | *WLPF 1999–2000* | *PHC 2000–01* | *PHC 2001–02* | *PHC 2002–03* | *PHC 2003–04* | *PHC 2004–05* | *PHC from 1 April 2005 to 30 June 2005* | *PHC and WLPF total cost to 30 June 2005* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Advisers | 1,479 | 231 | 520 | 947 | 2,991 | 1,536 | 112 | 7,816 |
| Pay | 155 | 209 | 360 | 843 | 1,531 | 1,389 | 269 | 4,756 |
| Accommodation and other project costs | 18 | 62 | 46 | 309 | 416 | 337 | 79 | 1,267 |
| Total | 1,652 | 502 | 926 | 2,099 | 4,938 | 3,262 | 460 | 13,840 |
| Estimated direct costs from Partnerships UK (PUK)[1] | — | — | — | 282 | 388 | 497 | 0 | 1,167 |

[1] Not charged to budgets—but payable by trusts on termination of project—additional commitment

*Notes:*

1. Carrying costs are chargeable on PUK direct and indirect costs—to be advised (and direct/indirect charges confirmed) by PUK.
2. Paddington Development Corporation Ltd is claiming costs totalling 257,000 following termination of the collaboration agreement. The trusts are taking legal advice in respect of the claim. They have provisioned for the claim in their 2004–05 accounts. The cost of the claim is excluded from the above.
3. WLPF—West London Partnership Forum (hosted by former Kensington, Chelsea and Westminster Health Authority.
4. PHC—Paddington health campus (St. Mary's NHS Trust as paymaster).

## Patient Choice

**David Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research her Department has conducted into NHS patient choice in the provision of primary medical services; and if she will make a statement. [6920]

**Mr. Byrne:** The Department has recently commissioned a survey by MORI to explore the choices in primary care which people exercise or would like to exercise. In addition, we are able to draw upon the response to the consultation "Choice, responsiveness and equity in the NHS and social care" which preceded publication of "Building on the Best". Patient choice is also expected to be a theme of the forthcoming public consultation on out of hospital services, announced by the Secretary of State on 23 June 2005.

## Patients' Forums

**Dr. Cable:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the ability of new primary care trust-based patients' forums to monitor the London Ambulance Service as a pan-London body; and when she expects the current Patients' Form to cease operating. [8921]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Currently the makeup of the London Ambulance Service (LAS) patient forums does not adequately represent the perspective of the capital overall. With 12 members, there are large parts of the city that do not have patient experience representation.

It is the Government's intention to focus patient forum activity at the primary care trust (PCT) level but with arrangements in place to ensure the whole patients' journey is covered by forum activity. In the context of the LAS it is envisaged that all London PCT forums would work together to ensure that ambulance services are monitored and reviewed effectively from the patient perspective. It will be for the forums themselves to decide how best to achieve a comprehensive and robust arrangement, but one approach might be for each PCT forum to nominate one of its number to form a pan-London specialist ambulance review panel. Such an arrangement would mean that there was strong input from across the city with a membership of 29, with each London locality having a real chance to input into LAS at both strategic and operational levels.

It is envisaged that the reduction of forums to be based on PCT areas only will be during 2006.

## Photodynamic Therapy

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what representations she has received about the development of photodynamic therapy for the treatment of cancer in the NHS; when and from whom each was received; and if she will make a statement; [9951]

(2) what assessment she has made of the use of photodynamic therapy (PDT) in the NHS as a treatment for cancer; what plans she has to fund further research into the use of PDT; and if she will make a statement. [9952]

**Ms Rosie Winterton** *[holding answer 5 July 2005]:* The Department has received representations about photodynamic therapy (PDT) from several correspondents; a list of these correspondents is not collated centrally. David Longman, director of "Killing Cancer", has made recent representations about PDT.

As part of its programme of work on interventional procedures, the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) is looking at the use of PDT in the treatment of several cancers. NICE has already issued

guidance on the use of PDT in the treatment of Barrett's oesophagus and advanced bronchial carcinoma and is preparing guidance on the use of PDT in the treatment of bile duct cancer, skin tumours and advanced bronchial carcinoma.

The main agency through which the Government supports medical and clinical research is the Medical Research Council (MRC). The MRC is an independent body funded by the Department of Trade and Industry via the Office of Science and Technology.

The Department is not directly funding research on photodynamic therapy for cancer, but is providing national health service support through the national cancer research network for two trials of photodynamic therapy for biliary tract cancers.

Over 75 per cent. of the Department's total expenditure on health research is devolved to and managed by NHS organisations. Details of individual projects, including a number concerned with photodynamic therapy, can be found on the national research register at www.dh.gov.uk/research.

### Prescription Charging

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether she plans to conduct a review of the cost-effectiveness of prescription charging. [9292]

**Jane Kennedy:** I have no plans to review the cost effectiveness of the prescription charging arrangements.

### Primary Care Trusts

**Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what legislation would be required to enable mergers of existing primary care trusts; and if she will make a statement. [9792]

**Mr. Byrne:** Primary care trusts (PCTs) are established by orders made by the Secretary of State under the National Health Service Act 1977. Each PCT is established for a specified area of England. Mergers can be effected by the Secretary of State dissolving or amending the area of an existing PCT or establishing a new PCT. Under the legislation, consultation is required on proposals to make such changes.

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many primary care trusts in England did not meet their enhanced services floor (ESF) in 2004–05; what reasons have been reported to the Department for underspending on enhanced services; and what steps she is taking to ensure primary care trusts achieve their ESF in 2005–06; [7452]

(2) what sanctions can be imposed on primary care trusts which underspend against their enhanced services floor. [7453]

**Mr. Byrne:** Spend on enhanced services is monitored locally by strategic health authorities (SHAs) and nationally by the technical steering committee; a United Kingdom-wide committee incorporating representatives from all UK health Departments, NHS Employers and the British Medical Association (BMA). This indicates that overall investment in enhanced services by primary care trusts (PCTs) in 2004–05 is expected to be greater than the planned investment of £601 million, although a minority of PCTs planned to under-spend against their enhanced services floor. Slippage and slow uptake on enhanced services schemes appear to be the main reasons behind the forecast underspends.

As a consequence of this reported underspend, it has been agreed with the general practitioners' committee of the BMA that any underspends by PCTs in 2004–05 will be re-invested in 2005–06.

SHAs have the power to intervene if they believe PCTs are not delivering the necessary level of investment to provide good quality service for patients.

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the per capita funding for primary care trusts in *(a)* West Sussex, *(b)* Kent, *(c)* Durham and *(d)* the East Riding of Yorkshire was in each of the last five years; what the average for England was for each year; and what estimate has been made of allocations for the next five years. [7910]

**Mr. Byrne:** The table shows the per capita funding for 2000–01 to 2007–08, as well as the England average. Allocations to primary care trusts (PCTs) are based on the population weighted for a number of factors.

The 2003–04 to 2005–06 revenue allocations to PCTs increased by an average of 30.8 per cent.

The PCT revenue allocations for 2006–07 and 2007–08 increased by an average of 19.5 per cent. Revenue allocations to PCTs for 2008–09 onwards have not yet been determined.

*Allocation per head of population*

| *Health authority (HA)/PCT* | *2000–01* | *2001–02* | *2002–03* | *2003–04* | *2004–05* | *2005–06* | *2006–07* | *2007–08* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *West Sussex* | | | | | | | | |
| Adur, Arun and Worthing | 678 | 718 | 790 | 1,009 | 1,104 | 1,207 | 1,389 | 1,491 |
| Crawley | 678 | 718 | 790 | 796 | 871 | 953 | 1,137 | 1,245 |
| Horsham and Chanctonbury | 678 | 718 | 790 | 753 | 820 | 892 | 1,002 | 1,094 |
| Mid-Sussex | 678 | 718 | 790 | 783 | 853 | 927 | 1,132 | 1,222 |
| Western Sussex | 678 | 718 | 790 | 952 | 1,036 | 1,127 | 1,356 | 1,454 |
| *East Kent* | | | | | | | | |
| Ashford | 726 | 777 | 854 | 845 | 924 | 1,010 | 1,133 | 1,237 |
| Canterbury and Coastal | 726 | 777 | 854 | 925 | 1,007 | 1,095 | 1,222 | 1,322 |
| East Kent Coastal | 726 | 777 | 854 | 1,021 | 1,119 | 1,224 | 1,412 | 1,541 |
| Shepway | 726 | 777 | 854 | 980 | 1,073 | 1,173 | 1,333 | 1,453 |

*Allocation per head of population*

| *Health authority (HA)/PCT* | *2000–01* | *2001–02* | *2002–03* | *2003–04* | *2004–05* | *2005–06* | *2006–07* | *2007–08* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *West Kent* | | | | | | | | |
| Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley | 629 | 672 | 741 | 870 | 949 | 1,034 | 1,206 | 1,316 |
| Maidstone Weald | 629 | 672 | 741 | 783 | 857 | 939 | 1,101 | 1,201 |
| Medway | 629 | 672 | 741 | 780 | 857 | 939 | 1,126 | 1,254 |
| South West Kent | 629 | 672 | 741 | 791 | 862 | 939 | 1,099 | 1,194 |
| Swale | 629 | 672 | 741 | 839 | 923 | 1,012 | 1,185 | 1,338 |
| *County Durham* | | | | | | | | |
| Darlington | 745 | 808 | 884 | 1,006 | 1,096 | 1,189 | 1,398 | 1,508 |
| Derwentside | 745 | 808 | 884 | 1,041 | 1,143 | 1,249 | 1,460 | 1,592 |
| Durham and Chester-le-Street | 745 | 808 | 884 | 897 | 978 | 1,062 | 1,248 | 1,357 |
| Durham Dales | 745 | 808 | 884 | 1,024 | 1,117 | 1,216 | 1,436 | 1,561 |
| Easington | 745 | 808 | 884 | 1,030 | 1,158 | 1,296 | 1,664 | 1,912 |
| Sedgefield | 745 | 808 | 884 | 1,011 | 1,108 | 1,210 | 1,442 | 1,576 |
| *East Riding* | | | | | | | | |
| East Yorkshire | 677 | 741 | 814 | 834 | 909 | 987 | 1,114 | 1,209 |
| Eastern Hull | 677 | 741 | 814 | 999 | 1,094 | 1,195 | 1,412 | 1,541 |
| West Hull | 677 | 741 | 814 | 981 | 1,070 | 1,163 | 1,373 | 1,489 |
| Yorkshire Wolds and Coast | 677 | 741 | 814 | 890 | 970 | 1,052 | 1,175 | 1,287 |
| England average | 689 | 738 | 817 | 916 | 1,003 | 1,097 | 1,274 | 1,388 |

*Notes:*
There are several reasons why comparisons between allocations rounds cannot be made. For example:
1. 1999–2000 was the first year that unified allocations were made to HAs to cover hospital and community health services (HCHS), prescribing and general medical services cash limited;
2. 2003–04 was the first year revenue allocations were made direct to PCTs for three years. Prior to 2003–04, revenue allocations were made to HAs oh an annual basis. Prior to 2003–04, the table has assumed the same allocation per head across the strategic health authority area;
3. 2006–07 is the first year that primary medical services were incorporated into revenue allocations.

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans she has to merge primary care trusts; and what *(a)* discussions she has had and *(b)* representations she has received on this issue. [7454]

**Mr. Byrne:** Primary care trusts (PCTs) are central to improving the health of their population by commissioning high quality care.

"Creating a patient-led NHS" sets out the next stages of system reform and makes clear that the impact of the creation of foundation trusts, the new financial regime including payment by results, free choice in elective, the delegation of commissioning to general practitioner practices and the bringing together of contract management and administration into shared services means that PCTs will need to change and develop.

The Department has set in train the preparation of guidance on the process and timescale for developing PCTs to ensure a broad consistency of approach across the country. This will be issued as soon as it is ready.

## Prostate Cancer

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what discussions her Department has had with representatives of *(a)* patient groups and *(b)* professional organisations on the implementation of the waiting times targets for prostate cancer patients; [10223]

(2) what safeguards she plans to put in place to ensure that the cancer waiting time targets allow prostate cancer patients time to reflect before deciding on an appropriate course of treatment; [10224]

(3) what steps she has taken to inform *(a)* professionals, *(b)* hospitals trusts and *(c)* patient support groups of issues relating to the implementation of waiting time targets for prostate cancer patients; [10225]

(4) what safeguards will be put in place to ensure that prostate cancer patients are not directed towards a less effective form of treatment so as to meet waiting time targets. [10226]

**Ms Rosie Winterton** *[holding answers 7 July 2005]:* The NHS Cancer Plan sets out our strategy to reduce waiting times for cancer patients. There are two targets for prostate cancer to be achieved from December 2005; a maximum 31 day wait from diagnosis of prostate cancer to start of treatment and 62 days from urgent referral for suspected prostate cancer to first treatment.

A national cancer waits project was set up in December 2004 and has held two national conferences on achievement of the 2005 waiting times targets. An expert reference group, chaired by the national cancer director, consisting of representatives from special health authorities, primary care trusts, senior clinicians and national health service managers meets regularly to advise the project and discuss NHS implementation of the targets. The prostate advisory group, which includes membership from prostate charities, also discussed prostate cancer waits at its last meeting.

If a patient tells a clinician that they need time to reflect before deciding on treatment, then clinicians are allowed to suspend the time patients need to consider their treatment options. This means that when monitoring the time taken to achieve the targets, this time does not count as part of the 31 and 62 day waiting times. This ensures that patients have enough time to

make the right decision about their favoured treatment option. Decisions on the best treatment for each individual cancer patient must remain a clinical decision made by a multi disciplinary team. The targets ensure that agreed treatment is delivered quickly.

### Psoriasis

**Mr. Bruce George:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she has made of the proportion of the NHS drug budget that was allocated to treating psoriasis in the last year for which figures are available. [5986]

**Jane Kennedy:** The information is not available in the form requested. However, in 2003–04, the net ingredient cost of preparations used in the treatment of psoriasis was £31 million. This is 0.4 per cent, of the total net ingredient cost of all drugs dispensed in the community in England.

### Residential Care

**Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what percentage of extra-care tenants died in *(a)* their extra-care home and *(b)* in hospital in the last period for which figures are available; [7756]

(2) what percentage of residents of nursing and residential care homes died *(a)* in their care home and *(b)* in hospital in the last period for which figures are available. [7757]

**Mr. Byrne:** The data are not centrally available.

### Sexually-transmitted Diseases

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of *(a)* gonorrhoea, *(b)* syphilis, *(c)* Chlamydia and *(b)* thrush have been diagnosed in each primary care trust in London in each of the last five years. [8227]

**Jane Kennedy:** Information on the number of cases of gonorrhoea, syphilis, Chlamydia and thrush (anogenital candidosis) diagnosed in genitourinary medicine (GUM) clinics in each primary care trust (PCT) in London from 2000 to 2004 inclusive has been placed in the Library.

### Skin Cancer

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people have been diagnosed with skin cancer in London in each year since 1997. [8323]

**John Healey:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Colin Mowl to Ms Sarah Teather, dated 11 July 2005:*

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent question concerning how many people have been diagnosed with skin cancer in London in each year since 1997. I am replying in his absence. (8323)

The most recent available figures for the incidence of melanoma skin cancer are for the year 2002. Numbers of cases in London for the years 1997 to 2002 are given in the table below.

*Number of newly diagnosed cases of melanoma skin cancer[1] in London[2], 1997–2002*

| | *Persons* |
|---|---|
| 1997 | 484 |
| 1998 | 516 |
| 1999 | 482 |
| 2000 | 571 |
| 2001 | 508 |
| 2002 | 459 |

[1] Melanoma skin cancer is coded to C43 in the 10th edition of the International Classification of Disease (ICD-10).
[2] Government office for the region.
*Source:*
Office for National Statistics
Years 2000 & 2001—table 4 'Cancer statistics: registrations, England' series MB1.
http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk = 8843&Pos = &ColRank = 1&Rank = 240.

**Mark Tami:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of skin cancer linked to exposure to the sun have been reported in each of the last five years. [9213]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Colin Mowl to Mr. Mark Tami, dated 11 July 2005:*

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent question concerning how many cases of skin cancer linked to exposure to the sun have been reported in each of the last five years. I am replying in his absence. (9213)

The most recent available figures for the incidence of melanoma skin cancer are for the year 2002. Numbers of cases by sex for the years 1998 to 2002 are given in the table below.

*Number of newly diagnosed cases of melanoma skin cancer[1] in England, by sex, 1998–2002*

*Number of cases*

| | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Males | 2,149 | 2,161 | 2,541 | 2,638 | 2,832 |
| Females | 2,851 | 2,880 | 3,280 | 3,424 | 3,584 |
| Total | 5,000 | 5,041 | 5,821 | 6,062 | 6,416 |

[1] Melanoma skin cancer is coded to C43 in the 10th edition of the International Classification of Disease (ICD-10).
*Source:*
Office for National Statistics

Information on whether or not cases of skin cancer are linked to sun exposure is not available centrally.

### Smoking

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations the Government have received regarding circumstances when smoking does not have a negative effect on public health. [7129]

**Caroline Flint:** I refer my hon. Friend to the reply I gave on Tuesday 5 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 365W.

### Sterilisers

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many sterilisers for decontaminating surgical instruments were *(a)* over 16 years, *(b)* 11 to 15 years and *(c)* 10 or less years old in NHS hospitals in England, in the most recent period for which figures are

available, broken down by health authority; and what proportion of the total number of sterilizers this represents in each case. [9306]

**Jane Kennedy:** We do not routinely collect information about the number of sterilisers and their ages. Information collected in compiling the comprehensive survey report, "A Review of the Decontamination of Surgical Instruments in the NHS in England", published in December 2001, is shown in the table.

| *Age (years)* | *Number* | *Percentage* |
|---|---|---|
| Less than 5 | 251 | 29 |
| 6–10 | 200 | 22 |
| 11–15 | 199 | 27 |
| Greater than 16 | 242 | 27 |

As part of phase one of the decontamination programme, 160 sterilisers were procured by the National Health Service Purchasing and Supply Agency (NHS PASA) for NHS trusts in England. We have no information on sterilisers that may have been bought by NHS Trusts without involving NHS PASA.

### Trans Fats

**Dr. Kumar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if she will introduce legislation to control trans fats in food products; [7524]

(2) if she will take steps to ensure that food labelling includes details of trans fats. [7525]

**Caroline Flint:** The Government are concerned about the possible health effects, in particular on coronary health, from consuming certain fats. Based on independent expert advice, the Government consider saturated fat intake reduction of particular public health significance and are working to reduce fat intakes, which will include both saturated and trans fatty acids. Currently average population dietary intakes of trans fats in the United Kingdom are considerably lower than those recommended by the committee on medical aspects of food policy (1994). There are currently no plans to introduce legislation to control the amount of trans fats in foods.

The Government are pressing for the labelling of trans fatty acids in foods at European Union level.

### Waiting Times

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 25 May 2005, *Official Report*, column 123W, on waiting time targets, whether the Department has agreed local delivery plans with strategic health authorities; and if she will make a statement. [7563]

**Mr. Byrne:** No. The Department are still in the process of agreeing local delivery plans with strategic health authorities.

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting time is for an appointment at a drug rehabilitation clinic in *(a)* Lancashire and *(b)* Chorley; and if she will list the clinics available in Lancashire. [7595]

**Mr. Byrne:** All drug action teams have to report waiting times figures to the National Treatment Agency for Substance Abuse each quarter. The waiting time is defined as the time between the date an individual is first referred, or self-refers, for treatment, to the date he or she is admitted for structured treatment, following assessment.

The latest average waiting times figures for Lancashire are for the first quarter of 2005—January to March—and shown in the following table. Comparison is made with the waiting times in December 2001, when collection of waiting times began.

*Lancashire*

*Weeks*

| *Treatment modality* | *Average wait* | |
|---|---|---|
| | *December 2001* | *March 2005* |
| In-patient treatment | 12 | 3 |
| Residential rehabilitation | 12 | 0 |
| Specialist prescribing | 12 | 9 |
| General practitioner prescribing | 12 | 3 |
| Structured day care | 12 | 1 |
| Structured counselling | 12 | 2 |

Data is not reported on a sub-drug action team basis, so data for Chorley is not included in this response.

## HOME OFFICE

### Abandoned Vehicles

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of London's Operation Scrap-it; what plans his Department has for further funding of the project; and if he will make a statement. [8197]

**Hazel Blears:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Sutton and Cheam (Mr. Burstow) on 4 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 108W.

### Alcohol (Under-age Sales)

**Mr. Crabb:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many successful prosecutions were brought against shops and off-licences for sales of alcohol to persons under 18 years of age in England and Wales in each year between 1984 and 2004; [2586]

(2) how many convictions were made for sales of alcohol to persons under 18 years of age in England and Wales in each year from 1984 to 2004. [2589]

**Hazel Blears:** The number of prosecutions and convictions for sales of alcohol to persons under 18 years of age including those against shops and off-

licences, in England and Wales 1984 to 2003, are contained in the table.

Statistics on court proceedings for 2004 will be published in the autumn.

*Number of defendants proceeded against and found guilty at all courts for offences relating to the sale of alcohol to persons under 18 years of age, England and Wales 1984 to 2003* [1,2]

| *Offence description* | *Statute* | *Year* | *Proceeded against* | *Found guilty* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Selling etc., intoxicating liquor to persons under 18 for consumption on the premises | Licensing Act, 1964, Section 169(1); Licensing (Occasional Permisssions) Act 1983, Schedule (Sec. 3) para. 4(1) | 1984 | 314 | 164 |
| | | 1985 | 274 | 170 |
| | | 1986 | 296 | 165 |
| | | 1987 | 333 | 167 |
| | | 1988 | 673 | 357 |
| | | 1989 | 747 | 388 |
| | | 1990 | 574 | 273 |
| | | 1991 | 309 | 155 |
| | | 1992 | 195 | 87 |
| | | 1993 | 156 | 70 |
| | | 1994 | 137 | 83 |
| | | 1995 | 198 | 108 |
| | | 1996 | 251 | 119 |
| | | 1997 | 214 | 125 |
| | | 1998 | 310 | 157 |
| | | 1999 | 204 | 115 |
| | | 2000 | 130 | 56 |
| | | 2001 | 155 | 53 |
| | | 2002 | 168 | 105 |
| | | 2003 | 604 | 416 |
| Wholesaler selling intoxicating liquor to a person under 18 | Licensing Act 1964, Sec.181A(1) as added by Licensing Act 1988, Sec17. | 1984 | [3] | [3] |
| | | 1985 | [3] | [3] |
| | | 1986 | [3] | [3] |
| | | 1987 | [3] | [3] |
| | | 1988 | [3] | [3] |
| | | 1989 | 1 | — |
| | | 1990 | 4 | 1 |
| | | 1991 | 1 | 1 |
| | | 1992 | — | — |
| | | 1993 | — | — |
| | | 1994 | 1 | — |
| | | 1995 | — | — |
| | | 1996 | — | — |
| | | 1997 | 1 | 1 |
| | | 1998 | 1 | 1 |
| | | 1999 | 1 | — |
| | | 2000 | 2 | — |
| | | 2001 | 3 | — |
| | | 2002 | 2 | — |
| | | 2003 | 12 | 3 |

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Staffordshire police were only able to submit sample data for persons proceeded against and convicted in the magistrates courts for the year 2000. Although sufficient to estimate higher orders of data, these data are not robust enough at a detailed level and have been excluded from the table.
[3] Not available.

## Antisocial Behaviour Orders

**Mr. Clappison:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many dispersal orders have been made under the provisions of section 30 of the Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003 since the Act came into force; and if he will list the areas designated. [9427]

**Hazel Blears:** The figures requested are not routinely collected centrally. We estimate that dispersal powers have been authorised in over 400 areas between January 2004, when the powers came into force, and September 2004. We do not have a breakdown of the areas designated.

**Mr. Clappison:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* crack house closure orders, *(b)* housing injunctions for antisocial behaviour and *(c)* demoted tenancies have been issued under the provisions of the Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003 since the Act came into force. [9429]

**Hazel Blears:** The information is as follows:

*(a)* Under the powers of the Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003 over 150 Crack House Closure Orders have been issued between 20 January 2004 and the end of October 2004.

*(b)* The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) are committed to working with local authorities and Registered Social Landlords (RSLs) through the Housing Corporation, in order to develop means to collect data on the use of Housing injunctions from 2006–07 onwards.

*(c)* ODPM has requested that local authorities supply information on numbers of demoted tenancies from the current financial year onwards. The Housing Corporation are currently collecting this information from registered social landlords (RSLs) with the first set of annual data expected by late summer this year.

**Mr. Crabb:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many antisocial behaviour orders have been breached in *(a)* Pembrokeshire and *(b)* the Dyfed Powys police force area during each year since their introduction. [9732]

**Hazel Blears:** Data on convictions for breach of an antisocial behaviour order (ASBO) are currently available from 1 June 2000 to 31 December 2003 and are available at the criminal justice system (CJS) area level only. Of the 11 ASBOs reported to the Home Office as having been issued in the Dyfed Powys CJS area (which is coterminous with the police force area) during this period, five were breached on one or more occasions (all for the first time in 2003).Breach data for 2004 will be available towards the end of the year.

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many antisocial behaviour orders have been issued since inception, broken down by *(a)* London borough and *(b)* local authority in Essex. [8549]

**Hazel Blears:** The available information is given in the table.

*Number of ASBOs issued at all courts, as reported to the Home Office, where restrictions are imposed within the local government authority areas of Essex and Greater London, 1 June 2000[1] to 31 December 2004*

| *Area* | *Total issued* |
|---|---|
| Basildon DC | 7 |
| Chelmsford BC | 4 |
| Colchester BC | 5 |
| Epping Forest DC | 6 |
| Harlow DC | 8 |
| Maldon DC | 3 |
| Southend-on-sea BC | 14 |
| Tendring DC | 2 |
| Thurrock BC | 1 |
| Uttlesford DC | 2 |
| Essex total | 52 |
| Barking and Dagenham | 2 |
| Barnet | 12 |
| Bexley | 16 |
| Brent | 12 |
| Bromley | 9 |
| Camden | 73 |
| City of London | 5 |
| Croydon | 14 |
| Ealing | 12 |
| Enfield | 4 |
| Greenwich | 11 |
| Hackney | 8 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 11 |
| Haringey | 17 |
| Harrow | 6 |
| Havering | 8 |
| Hillingdon | 12 |
| Hounslow | 22 |
| Islington | 12 |
| Kensington and Chelsea Royal Borough | 9 |
| Kingston-on-Thames | 7 |
| Lambeth | 17 |
| Lewisham | 13 |
| Merton | 14 |
| Newham | 7 |
| Richmond upon Thames | 11 |
| Southwark | 12 |
| Sutton | 10 |
| Tower Hamlets | 17 |
| Waltham Forest | 12 |
| Wandsworth | 12 |
| Westminster | 31 |
| Greater London total | 438 |

[1] Between 1 April 1999 to 31 May 2000 data were collected on aggregate numbers only by police force area (pfa). During this period no reports were received of ASBOs issued in Essex and nine ASBOs were issued in Greater London.

**Mr. Crabb:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of antisocial behaviour orders since their introduction have been issued to under 16-year-olds from *(a)* two parent households, *(b)* single parent households and *(c)* local authority care. [10766]

**Hazel Blears:** The number of antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) issued to persons aged 10 to 15 years inclusive, as reported to the Home Office, from 1 June 2000 up to 31 December 2004 (latest available) is 1,047. Data collated by the Home Office for statistical purposes does not identify the personal circumstances of ASBO recipients.

**Mrs. Dorries:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many antisocial behaviour orders have been issued in *(a)* the county of Bedfordshire and *(b)* the constituency of Mid-Bedfordshire in each year since 1999. [11025]

**Hazel Blears:** The available information is given in the table.

*Number of ASBOs issued at all courts in Bedfordshire, as reported to the Home Office, and where orders have imposed restrictions within the local government authority areas in which the Mid Bedfordshire constituency is situated, by period, up to 31 December 2004 (latest available)*

| | *Total issued* | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Period* | *Bedfordshire* | *Bedford borough council* | *Mid Bedfordshire DC* | *South Bedfordshire DC* |
| 1 April 1999 to 31 May 2000[1] | 0 | [2] | [2] | [2] |
| 1 June 2000 to 31 December 2000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 1 January 2001 to 31 December 2001 | 4 | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| 1 January 2002 to 31 December 2002 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 0 |
| 1 January 2003 to 31 December 2003 | 14 | 5 | 1 | 1 |
| 1 January 2004 to 31 December 2004 | 15 | 1 | 1 | 3 |
| Total | [3]37 | 10 | 4 | 4 |

[1] Between 1 April 1999 to 31 May 2000 data were collected on aggregate numbers only by police force area.

[2] Not available

[3] Includes three ASBOs issued within the county of Bedfordshire where restrictions imposed relate to local government authority areas outside the county.

**Mr. Burns:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many anti-social behaviour orders have been issued in the Chelmsford local authority area in the last two years for which figures are available. [9415]

**Hazel Blears** *[holding answer 4 July 2005]:* The number of antisocial behaviour orders issued, as reported to the Home Office, where restrictions have been imposed within the local government authority area of Chelmsford borough council, in 2003 and 2004, is four. All of them were issued in 2004.

## Asylum Seekers

**Alistair Burt:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on how many occasions in the last six months asylum detainees have been transported to and from Yarl's Wood and Oakington Detention Centres in vehicles not equipped with CCTV; and if he will make a statement. [8453]

**Mr. McNulty:** This information is not readily available and the provision of a reply would be at disproportionate cost.

**Alistair Burt:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the grounds were for an order for deportation made against Anastancia Zulu, a Zimbabwean national detained at Yarl's Wood Detention Centre, on 14 June 2005. [8502]

**Mr. McNulty** *[holding answer 30 June 2005]:* I wrote to the hon. Member on 7 July 2005.

**Michael Connarty:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of those applying for asylum in the UK who had their application fast tracked during 2004 were detained for the duration of their application process; and what the average time taken to process a fast track application was in 2004. [8946]

**Mr. McNulty:** There are two separate detained fast track processes, which were operating in 2004. The Oakington process, which incorporates Non-Suspensive Appeals (NSA) and the Detained Fast Track at Harmondsworth.

During 2004, 6,520 applicants entered the Oakington process. The average length of stay for a detainee is not recorded centrally. However, the fast track process at Oakington is intended for claims which, upon initial screening, appear capable of being decided quickly in about 7 to 14 days. Claimants from countries listed on the designated NSA list at Section 94 of the Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002 are subject to the NSA procedure from the outset. Claimants who receive a clearly unfounded decision at Oakington can be immediately removed. Some claimants may stay at Oakington after their NSA decision pending re-documentation or because they are seeking to pursue a judicial review. Where appropriate to do so, they are detained at Oakington pending removal, others may be moved to other centres. The majority of claimants who do not receive a certified decision are released on temporary admission on completion of the Oakington process whilst their appeal is processed.

During 2004, 1,105 asylum applicants entered the Detained Fast Track at Harmondsworth. Since its inception in April 2003, the average time of detention for applicants in the fast track stands at 44 days from arrival at Harmondsworth to release and/or removal, this information is based on internal management information as such is not published within the official statistics.

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum applications were received from Eritrean nationals in *(a)* 2000–01, *(b)* 2001–02, *(c)* 2002–03, *(d)* 2003–04 and *(e)* 2004–05; and how many Eritrean nationals were deported in each year. [9781]

**Mr. McNulty:** Information on asylum applications and asylum removals are published quarterly on the Home Office Research Development and Statistics Directorate website at http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html.

*Removals and voluntary departures[1] of asylum applicants, excluding dependants, nationals of Eritrea, financial year 2001–02 to 2004–05[2]*

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2000–01 | n/a |
| 2001–02[3] | 5 |
| 2002–03[3] | * |
| 2003–04[3,4] | 20 |
| 2004–05[4] | 60 |

n/a = not available.

[1] Includes persons departing 'voluntarily' after enforcement action had been initiated against them, persons leaving under Assisted Voluntary Return Programmes run by the International Organisation for Migration, and removals on safe third country grounds.

[2] Figures rounded to the nearest five and * = 1 or 2, may not sum due to rounding.

[3] Data have been estimated due to data quality issues.

[4] Provisional figures.

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum seekers are appealing against refusals. [10101]

**Mr. McNulty:** Information on asylum initial decision outcomes and appeal outcomes is published quarterly and annually on the Home Office Research Development and Statistics Directorate website at http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html.

**Mr. Hood:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum applications have been made in Scotland since January; and if he will make a statement. [10285]

**Mr. McNulty:** Applications are made for asylum in the UK as a whole. The available data relates to the UK. Data are not available for constituent countries within the UK. Applications, excluding dependants, fell by 17 per cent. in quarter one (January to March) 2005 compared with the previous quarter. Information on asylum applications in the United Kingdom by nationality are published quarterly on the Home Office Research Development and Statistics Directorate web site at http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html.

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what evidence his Department has collated on the treatment of people whose applications for asylum in the UK are refused and who are returned to Zimbabwe. [10330]

**Mr. McNulty:** We have not received any corroborated reports of systematic mistreatment of returnees to Zimbabwe. We do not routinely monitor the treatment of individuals once removed from the UK. But our assessment of the situation on the ground is constantly monitored from a wide variety of sources, including the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, media reports and UK Government contacts with NGOs on the ground. Through the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and with those NGOs operating within the country we follow up any specific allegations of ill-treatment of returned failed asylum seekers. The country of origin information used by Home Office caseworkers is publicly available on the Home Office website.

**John Bercow:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make a statement on his Department's use of internal flight alternative as a reason for refusal of asylum applications. [10899]

**Mr. McNulty:** If a claimant has a well founded fear of persecution in their home area we will consider whether there is another part of their country in which they would be safe from persecution and to which it would be reasonable to expect the claimant to move. If there is, the claimant would not qualify for asylum. However, if there is no other part of the country that is safe from persecution or it would be unduly harsh to expect a claimant to relocate to a safe part of the country, then their fear of persecution in relation to the country as a whole would be well-founded. Instructions to caseworkers on the question of internal relocation are published on the Immigration and Nationality Directorate's website.

**John Bercow:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what guarantees have been received by his Department that returned Darfuri asylum seekers will not be at serious risk of torture or inhumane treatment in Khartoum; [11061]

(2) what steps he has taken to ensure the UK fulfils its commitment to avoid refoulement of asylum seekers. [11429]

**Mr. McNulty:** Each asylum and human rights claim is considered on its individual merits in accordance with our obligations under the 1951 UN Refugee Convention and the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR). Claimants who meet the definition of a refugee in the 1951 convention are granted asylum. If they do not qualify for asylum, but there are other circumstances that make them particularly vulnerable and engage our obligations under the ECHR, they are granted humanitarian protection or discretionary leave. If their application is refused, they have a right of appeal to the independent Asylum and Immigration Tribunal. In this way we ensure that we provide protection to those who need it. Conditions in the countries of origin of asylum applicants are continuously monitored.

Each application is considered against the background of the latest available country of origin information from a wide range of reliable sources including intergovernmental organisations (such as the UN), governmental sources (including the Foreign and Commonwealth Office) and human rights organisations (for example Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch). We fully recognise that the precarious conditions in Sudan for those of non-Arab ethnicity originating from Darfur are such that there are individuals who are able to demonstrate a need for international protection. In particular leading members of non-Arab ethnic Darfuri tribes, those classed as 'intellectuals' or who are prominent human rights activists from non-Arab ethnic groups. We do not however consider that each and every Sudanese national from Darfur who applies for asylum is in need of international protection. In a recent country guidance appeal determination (AE (Sudan) CG [2005] UKAIT 00101, promulgated 3 May 2005), the independent tribunal considered the most recent situation reports by a range of key sources including UNHCR, Amnesty International and Global IDP Project and ruled that ordinary non-Arab ethnic Darfuris may relocate internally to the capital Khartoum where they are safe from persecution. In accordance with these tribunal findings, we consider that, depending on the individual circumstances of the case, internal relocation for ordinary non-Arab ethnic Darfuris is a safe and viable option. In such cases, Khartoum is the most practical location in terms of safety and viability and we specifically advise that this profile of Darfuri is safe from persecution in the capital. We do not routinely monitor the treatment of individuals once removed from the UK. However, any specific allegations of ill-treatment of returned failed asylum seekers would be followed up through the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and with those NGOs operating within the country concerned.

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what evidence he relies on to formulate a view that a country can take back asylum seekers without persecution; and how often such a view is updated; [11169]

(2) what steps the Government and their consular officials take *(a)* to help and *(b)* to keep track of returned asylum seekers in their home country. [11168]

**Mr. McNulty:** Each asylum and human rights claim is considered on its individual merits in accordance with our obligations under the 1951 UN Refugee Convention and the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR). Claimants who meet the definition of a refugee in the 1951 convention are granted asylum. If they do not qualify for asylum, but there are other circumstances that make them particularly vulnerable and engage our obligations under the ECHR, they are granted humanitarian protection or discretionary leave. If their application is refused, they have a right of appeal to the independent Asylum and Immigration Tribunal. In this way we ensure that we provide protection to those who need it. Conditions in the countries of origin of asylum applicants are continuously monitored. Each application is considered against the background of the latest available country of origin information from a wide range of reliable sources including intergovernmental organisations (such as the UN), governmental sources (including the Foreign and Commonwealth Office) and human rights organisations (for example Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch). We do not routinely monitor the treatment of individuals once removed from the UK. However, any specific allegations of ill-treatment of returned failed

asylum seekers are followed up through the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and with those NGOs operating within the country concerned.

### Automatic Number Plate Recognition

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of alerts from the automatic number plate recognition system have been false positives; and what proportion related to *(a)* stolen vehicles, *(b)* non-payment of vehicle excise duty, *(c)* expired MOT certificates and *(d)* absence of insurance. [3956]

**Paul Goggins:** During Project Laser Two, the evaluation of Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) usage, a total of 101,775 vehicles were stopped by the police.

This study showed the following accuracy levels of databases used by the police:

Local force databases—83 per cent.

Police National Computer (PNC)—79 per cent.

Driver Vehicle Licensing Authority (DVLA)—40 per cent.

The PNC contains many more information reports than stolen vehicles, such as those used by persons wanted by the police. It is not possible, therefore, to identify "false positives" by the category of stolen vehicle alone. The police do not currently utilise databases specifically relating to expired Ministry of Transport (MOT) Certificates or the absence of insurance.

The Home Office is working closely with the Department for Transport to provide a method for electronically transferring data from the DVLA to the police so that information exchange is more timely and accurate. This is in addition to other improvements being made in this area by the DVLA such as the bar coding of Vehicle Excise Licences at the point of issue.

### Clear-up Rates

**Mr. Dodds:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what criteria are used to define the clearance of a crime for the purposes of reporting statistics on clear-up of offences by police forces in (i) England and (ii) Wales. [7514]

**Hazel Blears:** The way in which police forces in England and Wales should record and detect crime is governed by the Home Office Counting Rules for Recorded Crime. Section H of the General Rules in that document gives detailed information regarding the detecting of offences.

A copy of the Counting Rules is available on the Home Office website at: http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/countrules.html

### Community Sentences

**Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of *(a)* female and *(b)* male offenders have received community penalties in each year since 1997. [7821]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** The information requested is shown in table form for the years 1997–2003, which is the latest year for which data are currently available.

*Persons sentenced to community sentences 1997 to 2003*

*Percentage*

| | *Female* | *Male* |
|---|---|---|
| 1997 | 8.7 | 10.5 |
| 1998 | 8.9 | 10.5 |
| 1999 | 10.1 | 11.0 |
| 2000 | 9.2 | 11.4 |
| 2001 | 10.6 | 12.7 |
| 2002 | 11.0 | 13.7 |
| 2003 | 10.9 | 13.4 |

*Source:*

Sentencing Statistics, Home Office Statistical Bulletin 05/05, published February 2005.

### Correspondence

**Clare Short:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he will reply to the letter of 6 April, ref 1064462, from the hon. Member for Birmingham Ladywood. [7976]

**Mr. McNulty:** The Immigration and Nationality Directorate replied to my right hon. Friend recently.

**Sir Gerald Kaufman:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects to reply to the letter to him dated 22 March 2005 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton, with regard to Mr. N. Hussain. [10689]

**Mr. Charles Clarke:** I wrote to my right hon. Friend on 1 April 2005.

**Sir Gerald Kaufman:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects to reply to the letter to him dated 10 May from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton, with regard to Ms Zeinab Abdulrahman Al-hashmi. [10693]

**Mr. Charles Clarke:** I wrote to my right hon. Friend on 9 June 2005.

**Mr. Salmond:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the Minister of State for Citizenship, Immigration and Nationality will reply to the letter dated 10 May from the hon. Member for Banff and Buchan regarding his constituent Ms R. Dyka of Boddam. [10986]

**Mr. McNulty:** The Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department, my hon. Friend the Member for Leigh (Andy Burnham), wrote on 13 June.

### Corruption

**Malcolm Bruce:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects the members of the Review of the Law Relating to Bribery and Corruption team to meet. [6466]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** A review of the existing laws of corruption was completed by the Law Commission in 1998. The draft Corruption Bill, which was published

and received pre-legislative scrutiny in 2003, was based on proposals from this review. The Government response to the report of the Joint Committee which gave the Bill pre-legislative scrutiny set out the extent to which it agreed with the Joint Committee's recommendations. It remains the Government's aim to introduce the Corruption Bill when parliamentary time permits.

### Criminal Justice Act 1988

**Mr. Malins:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many *(a)* prosecutions and *(b)* convictions under section 141A of the Criminal Justice Act 1988 have taken place in each of the last five years; [4784]

(2) how many custodial sentences have been imposed on defendants convicted under section 141A of the Criminal Justice Act 1988 in each of the last five years. [4781]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** The information contained in the table gives the number of defendants proceeded against at the magistrates courts and found guilty and sentenced at all courts under the Criminal Justice Act 1988, Sec 141A as added by Offensive Weapons Act 1996, Sec 6(1) (Any person who sells to a person under age of 16 years, a knife; knife blade, razor blade, axe and any other article which has a blade, that is sharply pointed and which is made or adapted for use for causing injury to the person), England and Wales 1999 to 2003.Statistics on court proceedings for 2004 will be published in the autumn.

*Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty and sentenced at all courts under Criminal Justice Act 1988, Sec 141A[1], England and Wales 1999 to 2003*

| | | | | Sentence breakdown | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Proceeded against* | *Found guilty* | *Sentenced* | *Absolute/ conditional discharge* | *Fine* | *Immediate custody* | *Otherwise dealt with* |
| 1999 | 3 | 2 | 2 | — | 1 | — | 1 |
| 2000 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 2001 | 9 | 8 | 8 | — | 8 | — | — |
| 2002 | 11 | 10 | 10 | — | 10 | — | — |
| 2003 | 17 | 17 | 17 | 2 | 14 | — | 1 |

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

### Criminal Prosecutions

**Mr. Hepburn:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many young people of school age have been found guilty of committing a crime in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England and Wales in each year since 1997. [8353]

**Hazel Blears:** Data from the Home Office Court Proceedings database on the number of young people found guilty at all courts for all offences, in South Tyneside PSA, the North East region and England and Wales, 1997 to 2003 are contained in table A. It is not possible to identify those offenders in the Jarrow constituency, as the data do not go down to this level of detail.

In addition to court proceedings statistics, the number of young people of school age given Reprimands or Final Warnings in the North East region and England and Wales are provided in table B.

Statistics for 2004 court proceedings will be available in the autumn.

*Table A: Number of young offenders of school age found guilty at all courts for all offences, 1997 to 2003[1,2]*

| *Location* | *1997* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| South Tyneside[3] | 157 | 263 | 282 | 281 | 326 | 442 | 441 |
| North East region | 4,273 | 5,018 | 5,275 | 4,810 | 4,531 | 4,483 | 4,288 |
| England and Wales | 45,561 | 50,990 | 54,266 | 55,954 | 59,152 | 58,171 | 57,144 |

[1] Young offenders of school age, aged 10–16 years.
[2] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[3] Includes Crown court where South Tyneside was the committing court.

*Table B: Number of young offenders of school age given a reprimand or final warning for all offences, 1997 to 2003[1,2]*

| | *Location* | |
|---|---|---|
| | *North East region* | *England and Wales* |
| 1997 | 8,578 | 83,822 |
| 1998 | 7,344 | 89,083 |
| 1999 | 6,741 | 84,786 |
| 2000 | 6,648 | 81,806 |
| 2001 | 6,764 | 82,839 |
| 2002 | 6,711 | 71,433 |
| 2003 | 6,670 | 75,906 |

[1] Young offenders of school age, aged 10–16 years.
[2] These data are on the principal offence basis.

**Mr. Djanogly:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many criminal cases were prosecuted in each of the last 10 years, broken down by region. [9624]

**Hazel Blears** *[holding answer 5 July 2005]:* Data from the Home Office Court Proceedings database on the number of defendants proceeded against at the magistrates courts for all offences, by region, 1994 to 2003 are contained in the table. Statistics for 2004 court proceedings will be available in the autumn.

*Number of defendants proceeded against at the magistrates courts for all offences broken down by region, 1994 to 2003*[1]

| *Region* | *1994* | *1995* | *1996* | *1997* | *1998* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| North East | 103,988 | 95,591 | 96,309 | 92,026 | 98,447 |
| North West | 277,260 | 289,783 | 311,974 | 299,987 | 312,525 |
| Yorkshire and Humberside | 180,527 | 163,213 | 186,463 | 188,984 | 199,511 |
| East Midlands | 152,086 | 138,208 | 146,259 | 145,397 | 153,844 |
| West Midlands | 208,743 | 194,545 | 202,221 | 209,582 | 231,112 |
| East of England | 158,979 | 147,488 | 159,690 | 158,485 | 163,316 |
| London | 386,989 | 310,302 | 306,866 | 268,984 | 271,893 |
| South East | 219,874 | 214,436 | 214,839 | 205,041 | 222,407 |
| South West | 156,670 | 162,639 | 167,032 | 159,064 | 164,589 |
| Wales | 102,049 | 120,102 | 127,841 | 127,783 | 134,271 |
| Total | 1,947,165 | 1,836,307 | 1,919,494 | 1,855,333 | 1,951,915 |

| *Region* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| North East | 106,177 | 111,597 | 113,736 | 111,652 | 110,621 |
| North West | 300,783 | 323,148 | 306,265 | 309,445 | 327,001 |
| Yorkshire and Humberside | 209,843 | 208,896 | 193,634 | 197,580 | 201,740 |
| East Midlands | 151,843 | 151,013 | 154,856 | 154,363 | 176,433 |
| West Midlands | 210,381 | 201,778 | 193,661 | 207,462 | 210,792 |
| East of England | 152,790 | 151,598 | 153,142 | 164,880 | 170,760 |
| London | 262,047 | 255,914 | 237,935 | 266,219 | 260,825 |
| South East | 208,557 | 221,026 | 217,278 | 226,071 | 231,039 |
| South West | 152,341 | 154,476 | 149,779 | 160,693 | 172,646 |
| Wales | 127,003 | 125,231 | 117,447 | 126,463 | 138,965 |
| Total | 1,881,765 | 1,904,677 | 1,837,733 | 1,924,828 | 2,000,822 |

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis

**Dangerous Severe Personality Disorder Programme**

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which individuals and organisations were consulted in drawing up the criteria for referral to the Dangerous Severe Personality Disorder programme. [7989]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** The Dangerous Severe Personality Disorder programme (DSPD) is a pilot aimed at developing and evaluating pilot treatment services for dangerous offenders whose offending is linked to severe personality disorder. The referral and assessment processes are key elements of the pilot and are therefore also subject to on-going development and evaluation.

In establishing the current criteria for referral and assessment for the DSPD programme the following individuals and organisations were consulted:

Dr. David Thornton (Sand Ridge Sex Offender Treatment Centre, USA)

Dr. Linda Blud (HM Prison Service)

Ms. Gill Attrill (HM Prison Service)

Dr. Caroline Logan (University of Liverpool)

Ms Pam Wilson (HM Prison Service)

Prof. Don Grubin (Newcastle University)

Prof. Anthony Maden (Broadmoor Hospital)

Dr. Todd Hogue (Rampton Hospital)

Prof. Steven Hart (Simon Fraser University, Canada)

Mr. Ed Wozniak (Scottish Prison Service)

Dr. Kevin Douglas (University of South Florida, USA)

Prof. Brian Ferguson (Nottinghamshire Health Trust)

The DSPD Expert advisory group, which advises on all aspects of the programme, was also consulted. This group comprised the following individuals:

Prof. E.S. Paykel (University of Cambridge)

Prof. Jeremy Coid (Queen Mary College and East London and City Mental Health NHS trust)

Dr. Steve Wong (University of Saskatchewan, Canada)

Prof. Ronald Blackburn (University of Liverpool)

Prof. David Cooke (Douglas Inch Centre and Glasgow Caledonian University)

Prof Kevin Gournay (Institute of Psychiatry)

Ms. Kathryn Harney (Department of Health and University of Liverpool)

Prof. Sheilagh Hodgins (Institute of Psychiatry)

Prof. Roy King (University of Wales)

Dr. Pete Snowden (Ashworth Hospital)

Prof. Peter Tyrer (Imperial College London).

Key clinicians and stakeholders from HM Prison Service and the Department of Health were also consulted. This included the involvement of the DSPD units themselves. The DSPD referral and assessment criteria have also been presented and discussed at a variety of forums including academic conferences, the Royal College of Psychiatry and legal representatives.

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what access to advocacy is provided to people in the Dangerous Severe Personality Disorder programme *(a)* prior to referral and *(b)* while on the programme. [7990]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** The Dangerous Severe Personality programme is based both in high security hospital and prison settings. The access to advocacy is dependent on which setting an individual comes from as well as the setting to which they are admitted (if they meet the criteria).

For those coming from, or being admitted to a High Secure Hospital the arrangements are the same as those available to all patients in high secure hospitals; full access to an independent advocacy service. The service includes provision of clinics for groups of patients and also on a one-to-one basis at their request.

For those coming from, or being admitted to a High Secure Prison the arrangements are the same as those available to all Prisoners. Although there is no dedicated service, advocacy can be sought from: friends and family; lawyers; the Independent Monitoring Board; the Probation Service seconded staff in prisons; and the Chaplaincy.

### Deportations

**Kate Hoey:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will stop the deportation to Zimbabwe of Timbha Mqubeli, Home Office reference No. T1053486. [9869]

**Mr. McNulty:** It is not our usual practice to disclose information about an individual's immigration case to anybody other than their nominated representatives or constituency MP.

### Domestic Violence (Haringey)

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many incidents of domestic violence were reported in the London borough of Haringey in each year since 1995; how many fatalities were recorded as a result of these incidents; and if he will make a statement. [2899]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** From the information collected centrally on recorded crime and court proceedings, it is not possible to identify cases of domestic violence. Such offences are not specifically defined by statute and details of the individual circumstances of offences do not feature in either data series.

### Dovegate Prison

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the Director General of the National Offender Management Service visited Dovegate Prison on or around 6 August 2004. [1379]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** Martin Narey, Chief Executive of the National Offender Management Service, visited Dovegate prison on 6 August 2004.

### Local Government Employees (Assault)

**Mr. Clappison:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many employees in local government have been the victims of offences of violence suffered in the course of their employment in each of the last 20 years. [7560]

**Hazel Blears:** The requested information cannot be supplied as there is no specific offence of assault on public sector worker defined by statute. Such incidents are recorded by the police depending on the severity of the violence used and in accordance with the relevant legislation, for example more or less serious wounding or common assault, and cannot be separately identified from recorded crime series data. Assaulting someone who is serving the public is an aggravating factor which will be considered by the courts in passing sentence.

### Engagements

**Mr. Hands:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans he has to visit Hammersmith and Fulham. [2097]

**Mr. Charles Clarke:** The hon. Member will be aware of my visit to Hammersmith on 30 June on behalf of the Department to speak at the GPA Celebrate Conference.

### EU Accession Countries

**Mr. Betts:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will list *(a)* education services, *(b)* health services, *(c)* publicly-funded housing, *(d)* benefits, *(e)* employment protection and *(f)* other public services to which (i) citizens of the EU Accession State countries who have not registered to work but who are living in the UK with families and (ii) their families are entitled; and to which services (A) those who have registered for work and (B) their families are entitled. [1815]

**Mr. McNulty:** With effect from 1 May 2004, A8 nationals have been able to take up employment in the UK provided that they are authorised to do so under the Worker Registration Scheme (WRS). A8 nationals who are registered and working are entitled to the same treatment in respect of benefits as would other EEA nationals. An A8 national who has worked legally under the WRS for a period of 12 months without interruption (periods of employment must not total more than 30 days in any 12 month period) is entitled to full free movement rights and is no longer required to register his or her employment. I will write to my hon. Friend with full details of how entitlements vary depending on an individual's circumstances, and place a copy of the letter in the Library.

### European Police College

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what courses *(a)* are and *(b)* will be made available at the European Police College. [8981]

**Hazel Blears:** The European Police College's 2005 workplan has been placed in the House Library: document reference 10058/04 ENFOPOL 61

The European Police College's 2006 workplan was approved by the Council on 24 June 2005 and has been placed in the House Library: document reference 9133/05 ENFOPOL 63.

### Female Genital Mutilation

**Chris McCafferty:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with which countries his Department has had discussions regarding the extra-territorial aspects of the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2004. [8507]

**Paul Goggins** *[holding answer 4 July 2005]:* The Home Office has not had any discussions with other countries about the extra-territorial aspects of the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office, (FCO) which has responsibility for consular cases involving female genital mutilation, (FGM) has ensured that all posts are aware of this Act and has asked staff in countries with high prevalence rates to report on the action they could take to assist potential victims. In addition, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office has had discussions with relevant authorities in France about the action taken by French consular staff to assist victims of FGM and are planning to approach those in the Netherlands. Further guidance for consular staff is being developed by the FCO, in conjunction with the police and social services.

More generally, the FCO and DfID fund projects aimed at eradicating FGM overseas and providing adequate health care for girls and women affected by it. The FCO also works, through the UN and other international bodies, to encourage countries which have not done so to ratify the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention for the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women.

## Firearms Offences

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many air weapon offences have been committed in England and Wales by *(a)* 14, *(b)* 15, *(c)* 16, *(d)* 17-year-olds and *(e)* those over 18 years since the Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003 came into force. [9422]

**Hazel Blears:** Offences under the Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003, Section 37 came into force on 20 January 2004. Statistics of court proceedings for 2004 will be published in the autumn of 2005.

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what research has been carried out on the effects of the provisions relating to air weapons in the Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003; and on what basis the decision was taken to raise the age limit for air weapons. [9426]

**Hazel Blears:** There has been no central research into the effects of the provisions in the Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003 relating to air weapons. It is not possible to establish the age of offenders from offence statistics, which remain unacceptably high, but the Government believe that much of this misuse is carried out by young people and that a further increase in the age limit will help to prevent this.

**Stewart Hosie:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes were recorded by the police in which *(a)* a firearm was alleged to have been used and *(b)* an identified firearm other than an air weapon was alleged to have been used in (i) England and (ii) Wales from 1994 to 2004 in (A) total and (B) as a percentage of all crimes. [7259]

**Hazel Blears** *[holding answer 27 June 2005]:* The information requested is given in the following table.

*Recorded crimes involving firearms (excluding air weapons)*

| | *England and Wales* | *Wales* | *England* | *All recorded crimes* | *Percentage of firearm crimes to all recorded firearms* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1994 | 5,822 | n/a | n/a | 5,252,980 | 0.11 |
| 1995 | 5,866 | 79 | 5,787 | 5,100,241 | 0.12 |
| 1996 | 6,063 | 116 | 5,947 | 5,036,552 | 0.12 |
| 1997 | 4,904 | 85 | 4,819 | 4,598,357 | 0.11 |
| 1997–98 | 4,903 | 95 | 4,808 | 4,545,337 | 0.11 |
| 1998–99[1] | 5,209 | 100 | 5,109 | 5,109,089 | 0.10 |
| 1999–2000 | 6,843 | 94 | 6,749 | 5,301,187 | 0.13 |
| 2000–01 | 7,470 | 110 | 7,360 | 5,170,843 | 0.14 |
| 2001–02[2] | 10,023 | 106 | 9,917 | 5,525,024 | 0.18 |
| 2002–03[3] | 10,248 | 161 | 10,087 | 5,898,560 | 0.17 |
| 2003–04 | 10,338 | 169 | 10,169 | 5,934,580 | 0.17 |

*Recorded crimes involving firearms (including air weapons)*

| | *England and Wales* | *Wales* | *England* | *All recorded crimes* | *Percentage of firearm crimes to all recorded firearms* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1994 | 12,977 | 449 | 12,528 | 5,252,980 | 0.25 |
| 1995 | 13,104 | 635 | 12,469 | 5,100,241 | 0.26 |
| 1996 | 13,013 | 401 | 12,612 | 5,036,552 | 0.26 |
| 1997 | 12,410 | 342 | 12,068 | 4,598,357 | 0.27 |
| 1998–99[1] | 13,874 | 591 | 13,283 | 5,109,089 | 0.27 |
| 1999–2000 | 16,946 | 712 | 16,234 | 5,301,187 | 0.32 |
| 2000–01 | 17,697 | 614 | 17,083 | 5,170,843 | 0.34 |
| 2001–02[2] | 22,400 | 431 | 21,969 | 5,525,024 | 0.41 |
| 2002–03[3] | 24,070 | 938 | 23,132 | 5,898,560 | 0.41 |
| 2003–04 | 24,094 | 920 | 23,174 | 5,934,580 | 0.41 |

n/a = not available.

[1] There was a change in the counting rules for recorded crime on 1 April 1998.

[2] Figures for some crime categories may have been inflated by some police forces implementing the principles of the National Crime Recording Standard in advance of national implementation.

[3] The National Crime Recording Standard was introduced on 1 April 2002. Figures before and after this date are not directly comparable.

**Stewart Hosie:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes were recorded by the police in which a firearm was alleged to have been used, broken down by *(a)* crime and *(b)* firearm used for England and Wales for each year since 2001. [7260]

**Hazel Blears** *[holding answer 27 June 2005]:* The information requested is given in the table.

*Table 1: Firearms offences (excluding air-weapons)—2001–02*[1]

| *Offence group* | *Handgun* | *Imitation firearm* | *Long-barrelled shotgun* | *Other firearm* | *Rifle* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *England* | | | | | |
| Homicide | 59 | — | 18 | 2 | 1 |
| Attempted murder and other acts (including wounding) endangering life | 583 | 88 | 84 | 40 | 10 |
| Other violence against the person | 806 | 664 | 63 | 498 | 17 |
| Sexual offences | 21 | 1 | — | 1 | 1 |
| Burglary | 333 | 31 | 13 | 27 | 3 |
| Robbery | 3,833 | 270 | 143 | 292 | 16 |
| Fraud and forgery | 4 | — | — | — | — |

*Table 1: Firearms offences (excluding air-weapons)—2001–02*[1]

| *Offence group* | *Handgun* | *Imitation firearm* | *Long-barrelled shotgun* | *Other firearm* | *Rifle* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Theft and handling stolen goods | 35 | 2 | 1 | 9 | 2 |
| Criminal damage | 25 | 95 | 39 | 11 | 13 |
| Other offences | 159 | 27 | 10 | 43 | 1 |
| Total | 5,858 | 1178 | 371 | 923 | 64 |
| *Wales* | | | | | |
| Homicide | — | — | 2 | — | — |
| Attempted murder and other acts (including wounding) endangering life | 5 | 1 | — | 1 | — |
| Other violence against the person | 3 | 44 | 4 | — | — |
| Sexual offences | — | 1 | — | — | — |
| Robbery | 8 | 9 | — | — | — |
| Criminal damage | — | 11 | 3 | — | — |
| Other offences | — | 2 | — | 2 | — |
| Total | 16 | 68 | 9 | 3 | — |

| | *Sawn-off shotgun* | *Unconverted starting gun* | *Unidentified firearm* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *England* | | | | |
| Homicide | 1 | — | 12 | 93 |
| Attempted murder and other acts (including wounding) endangering life | 62 | 2 | 166 | 1,035 |
| Other violence against the person | 35 | 15 | 179 | 2,277 |
| Sexual offences | — | 0 | 3 | 27 |
| Burglary | 17 | 2 | 35 | 461 |
| Robbery | 199 | 4 | 548 | 5,305 |
| Fraud and forgery | — | — | — | 4 |
| Theft and handling stolen goods | 2 | — | 5 | 56 |
| Criminal damage | 5 | — | 185 | 373 |
| Other offences | 9 | 3 | 35 | 287 |
| Total | 330 | 26 | 1,168 | 9,918 |
| *Wales* | | | | |
| Homicide | — | — | — | 2 |
| Attempted murder and other acts (including wounding) endangering life | — | — | 5 | 12 |
| Other violence against the person | — | — | — | 51 |
| Sexual offences | — | — | — | 1 |
| Robbery | 2 | — | 1 | 20 |
| Criminal damage | — | — | 2 | 16 |
| Other offences | — | — | — | 4 |
| Total | 2 | — | 8 | 106 |

[1] Figures may have been inflated by some police forces implementing the principles of the National Crime Recording Standard before 1 April 2002

*Table 2: Firearms offences (excluding air-weapons)—2002–03*

| *Offence group* | *Handgun* | *Imitation firearm* | *Long-barrelled shotgun* | *Other firearm* | *Rifle* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *England* | | | | | |
| Homicide | 39 | — | 10 | — | 5 |
| Attempted murder and other acts (including wounding) endangering life | 632 | 68 | 92 | 24 | 8 |
| Other violence against the person | 938 | 1,143 | 67 | 421 | 16 |
| Sexual offences | 40 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 1 |
| Burglary | 328 | 20 | 18 | 26 | 2 |
| Robbery | 3,325 | 259 | 100 | 167 | 7 |
| Fraud and forgery | 4 | — | — | — | — |
| Theft and handling stolen goods | 29 | 8 | 1 | 3 | — |
| Criminal damage | 24 | 155 | 44 | 23 | 11 |
| Other offences | 172 | 38 | 17 | 37 | 2 |
| Total | 5,531 | 1,694 | 352 | 704 | 52 |
| *Wales* | | | | | |
| Homicide | 1 | — | 1 | — | — |
| Attempted murder and other acts (including wounding) endangering life | 3 | 3 | 1 | — | — |

*Table 2: Firearms offences (excluding air-weapons)—2002-03*

| *Offence group* | *Handgun* | *Imitation firearm* | *Long-barrelled shotgun* | *Other firearm* | *Rifle* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Other violence against the person | 6 | 82 | 3 | 3 | — |
| Sexual offences | — | 1 | — | — | — |
| Robbery | 7 | 8 | 1 | — | — |
| Criminal damage | — | 25 | 2 | — | — |
| Other offences | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | — |
| Total | 18 | 120 | 9 | 5 | — |

| | *Sawn-off shotgun* | *Unconverted starting gun* | *Unidentified firearm* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *England* | | | | |
| Homicide | 3 | — | 21 | 78 |
| Attempted murder and other acts (including wounding) endangering life | 47 | 3 | 256 | 1,130 |
| Other violence against the person | — | 14 | 279 | 2,922 |
| Sexual offences | — | — | 10 | 60 |
| Burglary | 22 | 1 | 54 | 471 |
| Robbery | 174 | 3 | 578 | 4,613 |
| Fraud and forgery | — | — | — | 4 |
| Theft and handling stolen goods | — | — | 11 | 52 |
| Criminal damage | 9 | — | 166 | 432 |
| Other offences | 9 | — | 50 | 325 |
| Total | 308 | 21 | 1,425 | 10,087 |
| *Wales* | | | | |
| Homicide | — | — | — | 2 |
| Attempted murder and other acts (including wounding) endangering life | 1 | — | 3 | 11 |
| Other violence against the person | 1 | — | — | 95 |
| Sexual Offences | — | — | — | 1 |
| Robbery | — | — | 1 | 17 |
| Criminal damage | — | — | 1 | 28 |
| Other offences | 1 | — | 1 | 7 |
| Total | 3 | — | 6 | 161 |

*Table 3: Firearms offences (excluding air-weapons)—2003-04*

| *Offence group* | *Handgun* | *Imitation firearm* | *Long-barrelled shotgun* | *Other firearm* | *Rifle* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *England* | | | | | |
| Homicide | 35 | 1 | 7 | 1 | — |
| Attempted murder and other acts (including wounding) endangering life | 663 | 58 | 104 | 50 | 10 |
| Other violence against the person | 986 | 1,431 | 104 | 486 | 15 |
| Sexual offences | 44 | 6 | 1 | — | 1 |
| Burglary | 347 | 23 | 19 | 29 | — |
| Robbery | 2,790 | 227 | 97 | 210 | 11 |
| Fraud and forgery | 5 | — | — | — | — |
| Theft and handling stolen goods | 38 | 5 | — | 10 | — |
| Criminal damage | 27 | 240 | 62 | 79 | 10 |
| Other offences | 188 | 38 | 16 | 33 | — |
| Total | 5,123 | 2,029 | 410 | 898 | 47 |
| *Wales* | | | | | |
| Homicide | — | — | — | — | — |
| Attempted murder and other acts (including wounding) endangering life | 5 | 5 | 2 | 3 | — |
| Other violence against the person | 4 | 88 | 4 | 6 | — |
| Sexual offences | — | — | — | — | — |
| Burglary | — | — | 1 | — | 1 |
| Robbery | 9 | 3 | 1 | — | — |
| Criminal damage | 1 | 21 | 6 | 1 | — |
| Other offences | 2 | — | — | — | — |
| Total | 21 | 117 | 14 | 10 | 1 |

| | Sawn-off shotgun | Unconverted starting gun | Unidentified firearm | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *England* | | | | |
| Homicide | 4 | — | 20 | 68 |
| Attempted murder and other acts (including wounding) endangering life | 46 | 1 | 263 | 1,195 |
| Other violence against the person | 55 | 8 | 303 | 3,388 |
| Sexual Offences | — | — | 5 | 57 |
| Burglary | 26 | — | 59 | 503 |
| Robbery | 148 | 5 | 531 | 4,019 |
| Fraud and forgery | — | — | 1 | 6 |
| Theft and handling stolen goods | 1 | 1 | 8 | 63 |
| Criminal damage | 6 | 1 | 121 | 546 |
| Other offences | 5 | 2 | 42 | 324 |
| Total | 291 | 18 | 1,353 | 10,169 |
| *Wales* | | | | |
| Homicide | — | — | — | — |
| Attempted murder and other acts (including wounding) endangering life | 2 | — | — | 17 |
| Other violence against the person | — | — | 3 | 105 |
| Sexual offences | — | — | — | — |
| Burglary | 1 | — | — | 3 |
| Robbery | — | — | — | 13 |
| Criminal damage | — | — | — | 29 |
| Other offences | — | — | — | 2 |
| Total | 3 | — | 3 | 169 |

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been killed by firearms since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [8522]

**Hazel Blears:** The number of homicides involving firearms, including air weapons, in England and Wales is given in the table.

*Homicides involving firearms (including air weapons) in England and Wales*

| | Number of homicides |
|---|---|
| 1997–98 | 54 |
| 1998–99 | 49 |
| 1999–2000 | 62 |
| 2000–01 | 73 |
| 2001–02 | 97 |
| 2002–03 | 81 |
| 2003–04 | 68 |

**Mr. Garnier:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many air weapon offences have been committed in England and Wales by persons aged *(a)* 14, *(b)* 15, *(c)* 16, *(d)* 17 and *(e)* over 18 years since the Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003 came into force. [8676]

**Hazel Blears:** Offences under the Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003, Section 37 came into force on 20 January 2004. Statistics of court proceedings for 2004 will be published in the autumn of 2005.

**Mr. Garnier:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what research has been carried out on the effects of recent changes in air weapon legislation in the Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003; and what the evidential basis was for raising the minimum age for air weapons to 18. [8680]

**Hazel Blears:** There has been no central research into the effects of the provisions in the Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003 relating to air weapons. It is not possible to establish the age of offenders from offence statistics, which remain unacceptably high, but the Government believe that much of this misuse is carried out by young people and that a further increase in the age limit will help to prevent this.

### Fresh Talent: Working in Scotland Scheme

**Stewart Hosie:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what action his Department will take to encourage those taking part in the Fresh Talent: Working in Scotland scheme to remain in Scotland following the expiration of the initial two-year visa. [9452]

**Mr. McNulty** *[holding answer 5 July 2005]:* We have provided, in the Immigration Rules and guidance on the scheme, that participants may remain in Scotland after the initial two years as long as they meet the relevant requirements. They may apply to extend their stay in a relevant managed migration category. This could be as a work permit holder, a highly skilled migrant, a business person or a business innovator.

### Homophobic Assaults

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many homophobic assaults there were in London in each year since 1997. [7464]

**Hazel Blears:** The requested information cannot be supplied as offences involving homophobia are not documented separately in the recorded crime series.

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many homophobic hate crimes there have been since recording began, broken down by London borough; and if he will make a statement. [2921]

**Hazel Blears:** The requested information cannot be supplied as offences involving homophobia are not documented separately in the recorded crime series.

In 2001 the Metropolitan Police Service (MRS) and the Royal Holloway University of London, funded by the Home Office Targeted Policing Initiative, undertook a joint project that aimed to develop a strategic overview of hate crime information recorded by the MPS. Information about the project can be found on the MPS's website at http://www.met.police.uk/urhc/index.htm and www.met.police.uk/urhc/ho_fact6.pdf

### Hunger Strikers

**Kate Hoey:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what procedures are in place to deal with hunger strikers in detention centres. [10494]

**Mr. McNulty:** The condition of the health and well-being of those who are declining to accept their meals is being carefully monitored and managed. Food is available to all hunger strikers and they are seen daily by a medical practitioner to check their condition.

### Illegal Immigrants

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the recently announced figures for people estimated to be illegally in the country included dependants; and what methodology was used to calculate the total. [10453]

**Mr. McNulty:** The estimate of the size unauthorised (illegal) population contained in RDS online report 29/05—"Sizing the unauthorised (illegal) migrant population in the United Kingdom in 2001" includes foreign born dependants. The methodology used is described on pages two to four of the report.

### Immigration and Nationality Directorate

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many reports the Immigration and Nationality Directorate's Complaints Audit Committee produced in 2004; and how many complaints were made to it. [6431]

**Mr. McNulty:** The Immigration and Nationality Directorate's (IND) independent Complaints Audit Committee (CAC) produced four quarterly reports following their audit of complaints completed during 2003–04. Their annual report for 2003–04 was published on 20 July 2004. Copies of the report were put in the Library of the House. It is also available on the IND's website.

The CAC do not deal with complaints. Their remit is to monitor the effectiveness of IND's procedures for investigating formal complaints about the conduct and efficiency of staff in IND, and since 1999 to comment on quality of service issues.

The CAC's annual report for 2004–05 was published on 29 June 2005; copies are available in the Library.

### Licensed Premises (Violent Crime)

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 20 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 764W, on Licensed Premises (violent crime), when he expects the statistics for violent offences committed in connection with licensed premises in each police area for 2004–05 to be available. [7996]

**Hazel Blears:** Data are expected to be available in autumn 2005.

### Live8 Concert (Policing)

**Mrs. Lait:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions he has had with the commissioner for the Metropolitan police regarding the use of police officers from other forces to help police the Live8 concert; and what additional funding his Department will provide to meet these costs. [7375]

**Hazel Blears:** No discussions have been held with the commissioner, who is responsible for the operations of the Metropolitan Police Service.

He informs me that policing the 'Live 8' concert in Hyde Park involved a joint operation by the service and the British Transport police. No mutual aid from other forces will be required. No additional funding will be sought from the Government and, because of the charitable nature of the event, no charges will be levied on the organisers of the event.

### Methadone

**Mr. Fabian Hamilton:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the size of the black market in methadone in the UK. [6990]

**Paul Goggins** *[holding answer 28 June 2005]:* The Home Office has not made any estimate of the size of the black market in methadone although it is predicted to be very small, as production is strictly regulated.

### Metropolitan Police

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will rank each London borough Metropolitan Police Service by *(a)* number of officers, *(b)* number of crimes, *(c)* number of cases detected and *(d)* percentage of cases detected. [7072]

**Hazel Blears:** The information requested is given in the following table.

*Number of police officers[1], recorded offences and detections by Metropolitan Police Service basic command units (BCUs), 2003–04*

| BCU unit | Number of police officers[1] | Number of offences | Number of detections | Percentage of offences detected |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Barking and Dagenham | 384 | 22,144 | 3,718 | 17 |
| Barnet | 541 | 36,288 | 4,930 | 14 |
| Bexley | 338 | 20,344 | 3,117 | 15 |
| Brent | 683 | 35,837 | 5,212 | 15 |
| Bromley | 459 | 30,918 | 5,108 | 17 |
| Camden | 794 | 51,016 | 8,476 | 17 |
| City of Westminster | 1,637 | 79,296 | 13,961 | 18 |
| Croydon | 659 | 37,043 | 5,463 | 15 |
| Ealing | 697 | 37,927 | 6,006 | 16 |
| Enfield | 538 | 29,998 | 4,344 | 14 |
| Greenwich | 583 | 31,347 | 4,127 | 13 |
| Hackney | 766 | 39,035 | 5,184 | 13 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 516 | 28,650 | 4,678 | 16 |
| Haringey | 682 | 36,807 | 7,494 | 20 |
| Harrow | 333 | 18,430 | 2,680 | 15 |

*Number of police officers[1], recorded offences and detections by Metropolitan Police Service basic command units (BCUs), 2003–04*

| BCU unit | Number of police officers[1] | Number of offences | Number of detections | Percentage of offences detected |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Havering | 343 | 22,165 | 3,614 | 16 |
| Heathrow | 399 | 6,071 | 1,601 | 26 |
| Hillingdon | 484 | 29,349 | 4,399 | 15 |
| Hounslow | 472 | 30,416 | 4,593 | 15 |
| Islington | 680 | 40,816 | 6,190 | 15 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 575 | 29,873 | 5,113 | 17 |
| Kingston upon Thames | 275 | 16,309 | 2,299 | 14 |
| Lambeth | 941 | 49,937 | 7,748 | 16 |
| Lewisham | 625 | 31,577 | 5,220 | 17 |
| Merton | 339 | 18,738 | 3,246 | 17 |
| Newham | 781 | 40,615 | 5,613 | 14 |
| Redbridge | 440 | 28,438 | 4,065 | 14 |
| Richmond upon Thames | 285 | 15,446 | 2,079 | 13 |
| Southwark | 869 | 46,276 | 6,043 | 13 |
| Sutton | 280 | 16,154 | 2,453 | 15 |
| Tower Hamlets | 760 | 39,188 | 4,625 | 12 |
| Waltham Forest | 533 | 30,912 | 4,237 | 14 |
| Wandsworth | 612 | 33,567 | 5,317 | 16 |
| Total | 19,304 | 1,060,927 | 162,953 | 15 |

[1] This excludes police officers seconded out to central services but includes those on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave.

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the pension and other benefits packages offered to new police constables joining the Metropolitan police in London are. [8703]

**Hazel Blears:** Police officers joining the Metropolitan Police Service become members of the Police Pensions Scheme, unless they opt out. The starting salary of a police constable is £19,803. Metropolitan police officers are additionally entitled to London weighting at £1,938 a year and London allowance at £4,338 a year.

### Miscarriages of Justice (Compensation)

**Mr. Pope:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the Government's policy is on recouping the costs of bed and board incurred during imprisonment from the compensation moneys paid to people wrongly imprisoned due to miscarriages of justice. [3082]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** While the Home Secretary decides whether an applicant qualifies for compensation in respect of a miscarriage of justice, the assessment of the amount of compensation is undertaken by an Assessor appointed by him under the Criminal Justice Act 1988 (currently Lord Brennan QC). The amount of an award is wholly a matter for the Assessor, and the Home Secretary has no power to influence or vary his determination.

Saved living expenses for the period an applicant spent in prison are frequently referred to, incorrectly, as deductions for "bed and board" or "board and lodging". The compensation process involves two separate and distinct concepts of loss: pecuniary and non-pecuniary loss. The pecuniary element, the quantifiable financial loss, is intended to put the applicant back into the financial position they would have been in but for their wrongful conviction, but not to a position better than that. Any deduction for saved living expenses is made by the Assessor in respect of the costs an applicant would have been required to pay out of their net income, for example rent or mortgage payments. The deduction is restricted to the pecuniary loss element only, and is not intended to cover optional or enhanced expenditure, such as luxuries and leisure activities. A minimal monthly expenditure is therefore deducted.

The non-pecuniary loss award, however, is in recognition of, for example, loss of reputation, loss of liberty, hardship, mental suffering, injury to feelings, and inconvenience. It is an award in recognition of the miscarriage of justice itself.

### Missing Children

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 20 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 766W, on missing children, what assessment his Department has made of the viability of collecting this information. [9431]

**Hazel Blears:** The Home Office has no plans to collect this information centrally. However, we have been working with the Association of Chief Police Officers and the National Missing Persons Helpline to establish joint working arrangements to improve the recording and information sharing and exchange, in order to improve the way in which missing persons are dealt with. Part of this work includes the establishment of a comprehensive national police database of missing and unidentified people reported either to the police or the helpline.

### Motoring Offences

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females were convicted of motoring offences in (i) Southend, (ii) Essex and (iii) England and Wales in each of the last five years for which figures are available, broken down by offence. [10509]

**Hazel Blears:** The information from the Home Office Court Proceedings database is contained in the tables and gives the number of males and females found guilty of motoring offences by offence class in Southend, Essex police force area and England and Wales 1999 to 2003. Statistics for 2004 will be available in the autumn.

*Number of offenders found guilty of motoring offences by gender and offence class at all courts in England and Wales, 1999 to 2003[1]*

| | Males | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Offence class | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 |
| Dangerous driving | 3,871 | 3,974 | 4,046 | 4,760 | 5,236 |
| Driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs | 71,637 | 68,762 | 68,185 | 72,444 | 74,242 |
| Careless driving | 29,180 | 25,187 | 22,486 | 19,890 | 18,115 |
| Accident offences | 4,994 | 4,640 | 4,881 | 4,808 | 5,078 |
| Driving licence related offences | 37,800 | 37,931 | 39,259 | 42,169 | 49,580 |
| Vehicle insurance offences | 149,478 | 153,891 | 151,229 | 163,823 | 185,285 |
| Vehicle registration and Excise licence offences | 7,734 | 8,899 | 10,522 | 14,763 | 18,841 |
| Work record or employment offences | 4,709 | 4,197 | 3,503 | 2,931 | 2,654 |

*Number of offenders found guilty of motoring offences by gender and offence class at all courts in England and Wales, 1999 to 2003*[1]

| | | | Males | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Offence class* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* |
| Operator's licence offences | 1,132 | 1,183 | 901 | 712 | 522 |
| Vehicle Test offences | 19,378 | 15,878 | 13,573 | 12,295 | 13,367 |
| Fraud, forgery, etc associated with vehicle or driver record | 3,737 | 3,177 | 3,220 | 3,039 | 2,973 |
| Vehicle, or part, in dangerous or defective condition | 13,740 | 10,950 | 8,704 | 7,284 | 6,656 |
| Speed limit offences | 125,076 | 113,660 | 107,890 | 97,640 | 109,664 |
| Motorway offence (other than speeding) | 1,260 | 1,816 | 1,330 | 1,612 | 1,101 |
| Neglect of traffic directions | 21,344 | 21,566 | 19,837 | 17,842 | 17,387 |
| Neglect of pedestrian rights | 3,597 | 2,696 | 2,174 | 1,823 | 1,901 |
| Obstruction, waiting and parking offences | 11,454 | 9,606 | 8,986 | 8,710 | 9,088 |
| Lighting offences | 3,904 | 2,913 | 2,274 | 2,146 | 2,071 |
| Noise offences | 1,011 | 756 | 646 | 467 | 419 |
| Load offences | 8,117 | 7,764 | 6,274 | 5,083 | 5,180 |
| Offences peculiar to motor cycles | 210 | 255 | 258 | 218 | 224 |
| Miscellaneous offences (including trailer offences) | 33,722 | 31,390 | 29,993 | 34,650 | 46,892 |
| Total | 557,085 | 531,091 | 510,171 | 519,109 | 576,476 |

| | | | Females | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Offence class* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* |
| Dangerous driving | 137 | 116 | 128 | 155 | 215 |
| Driving etc, after consuming alcohol or taking drugs | 7,868 | 7,984 | 7,924 | 8,989 | 9,539 |
| Careless driving | 6,017 | 5,280 | 4,394 | 3,875 | 3,406 |
| Accident offences | 758 | 803 | 813 | 783 | 884 |
| Driving licence related offences | 2,729 | 2,882 | 2,695 | 2,914 | 3,512 |
| Vehicle Insurance Offences | 17,813 | 18,282 | 16,916 | 18,988 | 22,008 |
| Vehicle registration and Excise licence offences | 1,682 | 2,106 | 2,478 | 3,959 | 4,916 |
| Work record or employment offences | 92 | 65 | 71 | 40 | 44 |
| Operator's licence offences | 40 | 35 | 28 | 28 | 25 |
| Vehicle test offences | 2,407 | 1,984 | 1,542 | 1,503 | 1,581 |
| Fraud, forgery, etc associated with vehicle or driver record | 338 | 282 | 293 | 285 | 272 |
| Vehicle, or part, in dangerous or defective condition | 1,068 | 840 | 687 | 647 | 519 |
| Speed limit offences | 20,500 | 20,443 | 21,178 | 21,147 | 24,262 |
| Motorway offence (other than speeding) | 116 | 277 | 158 | 184 | 100 |
| Neglect of traffic directions | 4,254 | 4,407 | 4,151 | 4,016 | 3,799 |
| Neglect of pedestrian rights | 630 | 542 | 415 | 390 | 360 |
| Obstruction, waiting and parking offences | 3,141 | 2,636 | 2,605 | 2,570 | 2,729 |
| Lighting offences | 342 | 299 | 250 | 237 | 220 |
| Noise offences | 83 | 87 | 53 | 45 | 30 |
| Load offences | 210 | 198 | 175 | 140 | 130 |
| Offences peculiar to motor cycles | 11 | 17 | 17 | 14 | 17 |
| Miscellaneous offences (including trailer offences) | 6,869 | 7,584 | 7,107 | 7,856 | 9,467 |
| Total | 77,105 | 77,149 | 74,078 | 78,765 | 88,035 |

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis

### Mr. Crispen Kulinsi

**Kate Hoey:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will defer the enforced return of Mr. Crispen Kulinsi (Home Office ref K1188546) to Malawi pending consideration by his Department of the risks of Mr. Kulinsi's further deportation from Malawi to Zimbabwe. [7543]

**Mr. McNulty:** It is not our usual practice to disclose information about an individual's immigration case to anybody other than their nominated representatives or constituency MP.

### Murder Rate

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the murder rate per 1,000 of the population in *(a)* the constituency of Southend, West and *(b)* England and Wales was in each of the last five years. [10506]

**Hazel Blears:** Figures are provided for homicide (murder, manslaughter and infanticide) as, at the time of recording, the nature of the killing is often not known. Information for Southend, West is not available. The available data relates to the Southend Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) area and homicide data at CDRP level has only been collected since 2001–02. Available data are given in the following table.

*Homicide rate per 1,000 population*

| | *2001–02* | *2002–03* | *2003–04* |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Southend* | | | |
| Homicide | 5 | 6 | 2 |
| Rate/1,000 population | 0.028 | 0.037 | 0.013 |
| *England and Wales* | | | |
| Homicide | 891 | [1]1,043 | 853 |
| Rate/1,000 population | 0.017 | 0.020 | 0.016 |

[1] In 2002–03, 172 victims of Dr. Harold Shipman were recorded, all of which relate to offences committed in previous years.

### Nazi War Criminals

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his Department's information held on alleged Nazi war criminals includes information on any persons who were formerly detained

in the category known as black prisoners of war during the second world war; and if he will make a statement. [2680]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** Information of this nature is not held centrally and to provide it would incur disproportionate cost.

### Police

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* cars, *(b)* vans, *(c)* trucks, *(d)* motor cycles, *(e)* push bicycles and *(f)* horses are operated by Lancashire police. [11070]

**Hazel Blears:** The chief constable is responsible for the operational management of the force. I will ensure that he receives a copy of the question and replies to my hon. Friend directly in response to my hon. Friend's concerns.

**Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will meet a cross-party delegation from Northamptonshire, including hon. Members, to discuss funding for the county police force. [8415]

**Hazel Blears:** We have invested strongly in local policing in Northamptonshire. This investment has delivered record police officer numbers and police support staff and an increasing number of community support officers.

Northamptonshire Police Authority received an excellent funding settlement this year. It is receiving £67.8 million in general police grants for 2005–06, an increase of £3.5 million or 5.5 per cent. over last year, significantly higher than the minimum increase of 3.75 per cent. guaranteed to all police authorities. It also receives around £6.9 million in specific grants for targeted programmes.

The police funding formula is currently being reviewed to ensure it continues to reflect fairly the relative financial pressures on each police authority. We expect a 12 week consultation period on options for formula change to begin in late July with the aim of introducing a revised formula in 2006–07. The consultation will provide an opportunity for all interested parties to comment on a range of proposals.

Grant floors will continue to remain an integral part of the finance system to provide a financially stable system for all police authorities.

**Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he plans to remove the floor damping scheme for police authority grant funding for 2006–07 and beyond. [11195]

**Hazel Blears:** Grant damping provisions to provide a financially stable system for all police authorities will continue to remain an integral part of the grant system in 2006–07. The general grant floor of 3.75 per cent. this year guaranteed a minimum increase for all police authorities, well above both police pay and inflationary pressures. Northamptonshire Police Authority received an increase above the floor, at 5.5 per cent.

### Pre-sentence Reports

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance his Department has issued to the Probation Service on the preparation of pre-sentence reports. [8379]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** Minimum standards for the preparation of pre-sentence reports are outlined in the National Probation Service National Standards. Supplementing the National Standards, detailed guidance has been issued to the Probation Service through a Probation Circular. Both these documents were published in March 2005.

### Prisoners (Deportation)

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prisoners in London are held awaiting deportation having completed their sentences. [8273]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** Information on the number of people who were detained in prison establishments awaiting deportation after completing their sentence is not available.

Work is ongoing to improve the quality of the data held on those people detained under the Immigration Act powers in prison establishments.

### Prisons

**Dr. Vis:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prison staff were diagnosed as suffering from tuberculosis in the last year for which figures are available; and how many staff died from the disease. [1827]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** In the last year one member of staff contracted tuberculosis from which he later died. Tests have confirmed that he did not contract the disease from within the Prison Service.

**Harry Cohen:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what action he has taken following the recommendation in 2004 of HM Inspectorate of Prisons that the female centre at HMP Durham be closed down; and if he will make a statement. [8055]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** An announcement was made on 26 May 2004 that the women's unit at HMP Durham was to close.

By October 2004, 97 female prisoners previously held at HMP Durham were interviewed by the Women's Estate Management Team and relocated in a phased process to an area appropriate to their security status and resettlement needs, or were released at the end of their sentence. Only six female prisoners remain there, of whom five are Restricted Status.

A discrete unit within Durham was converted to accommodate these women, who will remain there while alternative facilities are being developed at another establishment. The former women's unit has now been adapted to accommodate male prisoners.

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many places there were in prisons in London in each of the last five years. [8393]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** The information requested is provided in the table.

*Number of places in London prisons over the last five years*

| | Total operational capacity |
|---|---|
| 2000 | 6,592 |
| 2001 | 6,657 |
| 2002 | 6,859 |
| 2003 | 7,023 |
| 2004 | 7,108 |
| 2005 | 7,463 |

*Note:*
Operational capacity has been used to represent the number of places. It is defined as the total number of prisoners that an establishment can hold without serious risk to good order, security, and the proper running of the planned regime.

### Probation Service

**Mr. Gerrard:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps he has taken in the last two financial years to improve the health and safety of staff at probation hostels in England and Wales. [6098]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** The "Revitalising Health and Safety Strategy" was launched by the Director General of Probation in March 2003. This followed a national audit on the levels of compliance with health and safety legislation in the 42 probation areas. This strategy has improved health and safety in probation hostels by introducing a national accident/incident recording system, by the prioritisation of the identification of asbestos and providing risk assessments with management guidance and best practice.

The National Probation Service has also been working in partnership with the Health and Safety Executive, Probation Boards Association and trade unions in order to develop and implement a first class health and safety management system.

### Religious Premises (Vandalism)

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many acts of vandalism on *(a)* synagogues, *(b)* mosques, *(c)* churches, *(d)* temples and *(e)* Gurdwaras were reported in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [8064]

**Hazel Blears:** The information requested is not available. Apart from criminal damage to a dwelling, the recorded crime statistics do not separately identify the location of acts of vandalism.

### School-age Children (Protection from Crime)

**Harry Cohen:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps he is taking to ensure that children who are taken out of schools do not become victims of crime; and if he will make a statement. [9365]

**Hazel Blears:** Where there are concerns about children removed from schools these will normally be pursued through the local education authority. In some cases these concerns will be sufficient to warrant police involvement. For example, the Metropolitan police investigation into the 'Adam' case found that a number of African boys were missing from education. However, police inquiries in conjunction with Education Welfare Officers established that there was no evidence to suggest these children had come to any harm.

### Sentencing

**Mr. Andrew Turner:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what information he collects on the average sentence imposed for similar crimes in different police and courts' service areas; and for which crimes such information is available. [7947]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** Data on sentence lengths for all crimes are collected in all criminal justice and petty-sessional areas. Selected data are published annually in the Home Office Statistical Bulletin "Sentencing Statistics" and in the Criminal Statistics Supplementary Volumes. The "Sentencing Statistics" Bulletin for 2003, published in February 2005, includes the average sentences for major offence groups such as "violence against the person", "sexual offences", etc. for individual areas. The Criminal Statistics Supplementary Volumes provide more detailed information for individual offences.

### Speed Cameras

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much money has been raised from speed cameras in each of the last five years; how much of this money has been retained by road safety partnerships; and how much has been kept by the Government. [4510]

**Hazel Blears:** While information is not available on the amount of fines paid following speed offences detected by camera, table A shows the number of fixed penalties and court fines ordered to be paid for the offence of 'speeding detected by camera' in the calendar years 1999 to 2003 (latest available). Not all fines and fixed penalties will have been paid. Information for 2004 will be available in early 2006.

I am advised by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Transport that the revenue figures for the National Safety Camera Programme in England and Wales are available from the start of the netting-off scheme as given in table B. The table shows data by financial year and indicates the number of Safety Camera Partnerships participating in the programme at each stage. It is only fixed penalty income from offences detected by cameras within the national scheme that can be netted off. Except where special provisions apply, such as have been made for supporting the operation of approved safety camera, the whole of offenders' fines normally accrue to the Consolidated Fund.

Details of programme funding for 2000–01 to 2002–03 are given in "The national safety camera programme—three-year evaluation report", copies of which have been placed in the Library of the House, and are available from the Department for Transport website.

*Table A: Fixed penalty and court proceedings data for speeding offences detected by cameras[1] England and Wales, 1999 to 2003*

*Number of offences*

| | Fixed penalties | | Court proceedings[2] | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Number of tickets[3] | Estimated revenue[4] (£) | Number of fines | Total amount of fine (£) | Average fine (£) |
| 1999 | 423,000 | 16,920,000 | 32,300 | 3,434,000 | 106 |
| 2000 | 599,200 | 25,965,000 | 31,800 | 3,400,000 | 107 |
| 2001 | 877,500 | 52,650,000 | 40,500 | 4,510,000 | 111 |
| 2002 | 1,135,000 | 68,122,000 | 46,300 | 4,778,000 | 103 |
| 2003 | 1,657,000 | 99,423,000 | 61,300 | 6,572,000 | 107 |

[1] Offences under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and The Motor Vehicles (Speed Limits on Motorways) Regulations 1973.
[2] Includes cases where fixed penalty notices were originally issued but not paid and subsequently referred to court.
[3] Only covers tickets paid where there is no further action.
[4] Estimate based on £40 fixed penalty charge to October 2000. Raised to £60 from November 2000.

*Table B: Revenue figures for the National Safety Camera Programme in England and Wales, 2000–01 to 2003–04[1]*

£

| Year and (number of partnerships participating in programme) | Receipts from fixed penalties | Expenditure | Balance, accruing to the Consolidated Fund |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2000–01 (7 partnerships) | 10,362,440 | 8,985,247 | 1,367,193 |
| 2001–02 (7 partnership, 14 from October 2001) | 19,660,780 | 16,106,559 | 3,554,221 |
| 2002–03 (23 partnerships, 25 from July 2002, 29 from October 2002) | 68,872,320 | 54,256,502 | 14,615,818 |
| 2003–04 (Provisional) (35 partnerships) | 112,200,000 | 91,800,000 | 20,400,000 |

## UK Citizenship

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been refused UK citizenship based on an insufficient standard of English in each of the last 10 years, broken down by nationality. [6440]

**Mr. McNulty:** The latest available statistics on the number of people that have been refused UK citizenship based on an insufficient standard of English in the last 10 years can be found in the table.

Data for 1995 to 2001 do not include nationality data as this was not reported at the time.

Information on grants of UK citizenship is published annually in the Home Office bulletin "Persons Granted British Citizenship United Kingdom", available on the Home Office website at http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html

*Person refused UK citizenship based on an insufficient standard of English, 1995 to 2004*

| Nationality | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Afghanistan | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | [1]— | n/a |
| Algeria | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | [1]— |
| Angola | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Argentina | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Bangladesh | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 5 | 5 | n/a |
| Bosnia—Herzegovina | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Colombia | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Eritrea | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Ethopia | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Former Yugoslavia | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| India | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | [1]— | n/a |
| Iran | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Iraq | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | [1]— | [1]— | n/a |
| Lebanon | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Pakistan | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | [1]— | [1]— |
| Peoples republic of China | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Somalia | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | [1]— |
| Thailand | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Turkey | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 10 | 15 | 10 |
| Vietnam | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | [1]— | n/a | n/a |
| Stateless | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Total | 25 | 30 | 50 | 55 | 30 | 25 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 10 |

n/a = Data unavailable.
[1] Negligible (i.e. two or less).
*Note:*
Data is rounded to nearest five.

### UK-US Data Transfer

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether UK data on criminal convictions are made available to United States customs and immigration agents; and on what basis. [4674]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** There are no arrangements for routinely supplying UK criminal record information to US customs and immigration authorities. However, information may be shared between agencies during joint criminal investigations.

### Vehicle Registration

**Mark Tami:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individuals in England and Wales have been *(a)* prosecuted and *(b)* convicted in relation to failing to register their vehicles in their name in each of the last five years. [9241]

**Hazel Blears:** It is not possible from the information held on the Home Office Court Proceedings Database to identify prosecutions for the specific offence of failing to register a vehicle separately from other types of offences under the Vehicle Excise and Registration Act 1994.

### Victims of Crime

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many young people of school age have been the victims of crime in *(a)* Southend, West constituency, *(b)* Essex, *(c)* Greater London and *(d)* England and Wales in the last five years for which figures are available. [10517]

**Hazel Blears:** The information requested is not collected centrally. Apart from specific sexual offences, it is not possible to identify the age of the victim in the recorded crime statistics.

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps the victims of serious crime can take to prevent the perpetrators of such crimes from coming near their homes while on *(a)* temporary release, *(b)* conditional release and *(c)* permanent release. [3564]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** The national probation service has a statutory duty to work with victims of sexual or violent offences where the offender receives a custodial sentence of 12 months or more. This duty was conferred under the Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000 and is soon to be extended, under the Domestic Violence Crime and Victims Act 2004, to the victims of mentally disordered offenders.

Victims are provided with a single point of contact with the probation service, through Victim Liaison Officers (VLOs), from whom they can receive information about key stages in an offender's sentence, such as temporary leave and release on licence.

Many victims of serious crime will have concerns about an offender approaching them or their home once released from prison. The victim contact scheme provides an opportunity for victims to request that conditions be attached to an offender's licence on conditional release. These conditions may specify, for example, that the offender is not allowed to have any contact with the victim and may establish exclusion zones into which the offender is not allowed, such as the areas around the victim's house or place of work. Victims who have concerns about the risk posed to them by an offender on either temporary or conditional release can discuss their concerns with the VLO who can use this information in reports to the prison governor or Parole Board.

When an offender is released on licence, he/she will be subject to supervision by the probation service. During the period of the licence, the VLO will maintain contact with a victim and the victim's family. If victims have concerns about the offender breaching conditions not to contact them or entering an exclusion zone, they should inform the VLO who will in turn notify the offender's supervising officer. If the concerns are substantiated, the offender will either be warned about his/her behaviour, or recalled to custody if it is thought he/she presents an unacceptable risk of harm to the public and there is evidence he/she has breached the licence conditions.

### Worker Registration Scheme

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the Government have commissioned research into the efficiency of the worker registration scheme; and how many people have registered with the scheme since 1 May 2004, broken down by country. [6909]

**Mr. McNulty:** No research into the efficiency of the scheme has yet been commissioned. The scheme will be reviewed after two years of its operation.

### Young Offenders

**Simon Hughes:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what financial penalties have been imposed on the contractors for *(a)* Hassockfield, *(b)* Medway, *(c)* Rainsbrook and *(d)* Oakhill secure training centres in each financial year that each centre has been operating; and what the reasons were for each such penalty. [8954]

**Fiona Mactaggart** *[holding answer 4 July 2005]:* The financial penalties imposed on secure training centre contractors are set out in the following tables:

*Financial penalties[1] imposed on secure training centre contractors*
*Rainsbrook secure training centre*

£

| | *Liquidated damages for late opening of centre* | *Non-availability of places* | *Performance points[2]* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1999–2000 | 155,152.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 2000–01 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 2001–02 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 2002–03 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 2003–04 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 2004–05 | 0.00 | 333.13 | 0.00 |

*Hassockfield secure training centre*

£

| | Liquidated damages for late opening of centre | Non-availability of places | Performance points[2] |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1999–2000 | 35,759.20 | 10,014.87 | 738.03 |
| 2000–01 | 0.00 | 14,788.62 | 6,933.38 |
| 2001–02 | 0.00 | 6,337.98 | 0.00 |
| 2002–03 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 2003–04 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 606.06 |
| 2004–05 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |

*Medway secure training centre*

£

| | Liquidated damages for late opening of centre | Non-availability of places | Performance points[2] |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1998–99 | 0.00 | 605,990 | 43,290 |
| 1999–2000 | 0.00 | 87,759 | 17,812 |
| 2000–01 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 2001–02 | 0.00 | 114,238 | 0.00 |
| 2002–03 | 0.00 | 36,359 | 5,416 |
| 2003–04 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 54,000.32 |
| 2004–05 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 37,085 |

*Oakhill secure training centre*

£

| | Liquidated damages for late opening of centre | Non-availability of places | Performance points[2] |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1998–99 | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| 1999–2000 | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| 2000–01 | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| 2001–02 | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| 2002–03 | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| 2003–04 | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| 2004–05 | 311,994.80 | 572,119.84 | 0 |

n/a = not available

[1] All figures are exclusive of VAT

[2] Performance points are awarded for failure to deliver specific services.

**Simon Hughes:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what fees are paid by the Youth Justice Board for a bed in *(a)* a local authority secure children's home, *(b)* secure training centre and *(c)* a Young Offenders Institution. [8955]

**Fiona Mactaggart** *[holding answer 4 July 2005]:* The latest average daily costs per place calculated by the Youth Justice Board are as follows: young offender institution–£138; secure training centre–£396; and local authority secure children's home–£526. These are average costs. Actual payments vary according to a range of factors, including occupancy levels at establishments and regional variations.

## Young People (Secure Training Centres)

**Ms Keeble:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of the young people admitted from each secure training centre to hospital in each of the last four years had been involved in incidents in which restraint techniques were used on them during *(a)* the previous 24 hours and *(b)* the previous week. [1566]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** The figures in the following table are based on information supplied by the secure training centre operators.

*Admissions to hospital of secure training centre trainees following restraint during (a) previous 24 hours (b) previous week*

| | 2001 | | 2002 | | 2003 | | 2004 | | 1 January-27 May 2005 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| STC | (a) | (b) | (a) | (b) | (a) | (b) | (a) | (b) | (a) | (b) |
| Medway | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Rainsbrook[1] | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Hassockfield | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Oakhill[2] | — | — | — | — | — | — | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

[1] Rainsbrook 2004 figures do not include Gareth Myatt, who was pronounced dead on arrival at hospital following a restraint incident on 19 April.

[2] Oakhill opened 19 August 2004

**Ms Keeble:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on how many occasions young people have been admitted to hospital from each secure training centre in each of the last four years. [1567]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** The figures in the following table are based on information supplied by the secure training centre operators.

*Admissions to hospital of secure training centre trainees 2001–05*

| STC | Medway | Rainsbrook | Hassockfield | Oakhill[1] |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2001 | 2 | 2 | 0 | — |
| 2002 | 2 | 4 | 1 | — |
| 2003 | 2 | 3 | 1 | — |
| 2004 | 3 | 5[2] | 2 | 0 |
| 1 January-27 May 2005 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 |

[1] Oakhill opened 19 August 2004

[2] Rainsbrook 2004 figures do not include Gareth Myatt, who was pronounced dead on arrival at hospital following a restraint incident on 19 April.

**Ms Keeble:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of the young people admitted to hospital from each secure training centre in each of the last four years were admitted due to *(a)* illness and *(b)* non-accidental injuries. [1568]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** The figures in the following table are based on information supplied by the secure training centre operators.

*Admissions to hospital 2001–05*

| *STC* | *Medway* | *Rainsbrook* | *Hassockfield* | *Oakhill*[1] |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Due to illness* | | | | |
| 2001 | 2 | 1 | 0 | — |
| 2002 | 1 | 2 | 1 | — |
| 2003 | 1 | 2 | 0 | — |
| 2004 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 0 |
| Up to 27 May 2005 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| *Due to non accidental injuries* | | | | |
| 2001 | 0 | 1 | 0 | — |
| 2002 | 1 | 0 | 0 | — |
| 2003 | 1 | 0 | 0 | — |
| 2004 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Up to 27 May 2005 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

[1] Oakhill opened 19 August 2004.
[2] Includes one termination of pregnancy.
[3] Includes one termination of pregnancy.

## DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

### Advertising Expenditure

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how much the *(a)* Department and *(b)* non-departmental bodies for which the Department is responsible has spent on advertising, broken down by media type in the last three years. [9496]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister was created on 29 May 2002.

The total expenditure by *(a)* the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister on advertising media is as follows:

| | *2002–03* | *2003–04* | *2004–05* |
|---|---|---|---|
| TV | 2,829,248 | 2,879,286 | 3,216,961 |
| Radio | 303,581 | 90,508 | 407,795 |
| Press | 214,114 | 709,205 | 372,924 |
| Other | 0 | 808,011 | 1,041,190 |
| Total | 3,346,943 | 4,487,010 | 5,038,870 |

Figures for *(b)* non-departmental bodies are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Aston Down

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will make a statement on his decision to order an environmental impact assessment on Aston Down; and what representations he has received on the matter. [6776]

**Yvette Cooper** *[holding answer 23 June 2005]:* The applicants requested the Secretary of State's screening direction on the matter of whether or not the application made to Stroud district council is an 'EIA application' within the meaning of the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (England and Wales) Regulations 1999.

The Secretary of State issued a screening direction on 11 May 2005. In the opinion of the Secretary of State, taking into account the selection criteria in schedule 3 to the 1999 regulations, the proposal is likely to have significant effects on the environment by virtue of factors such as its nature and location. The development proposed, namely, change of use of buildings to a mix of classes B1, B2, B8, and sui generis uses falls within the description at paragraph (10)*(a)* of schedule 2 to the 1999 regulations. The reason for this conclusion is the proposal is for an industrial estate development on a site in excess of 0.5 hectares. Since the proposal exceeds the threshold in column 2 of the table in schedule 2 to the 1999 regulations and is located in a sensitive area, the Secretary of State considers the application to be a 'Schedule 2 application' within the meaning of the 1999 regulations.

However, the Secretary of State's opinion on the likelihood of the development having significant environmental effects is reached only for the purposes of the screening direction. Since a further planning application is expected in respect of this site, it is possible that the site will come before the First Secretary of State in the future either as the subject of a call-in or on appeal, therefore any comments regarding the merits of any proposal for the site could prejudice the First Secretary of State's position.

Representations were received from English Nature, the Aston Down Action Group and from members of the public.

### Bridging Newcastle Gateshead Pathfinder

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister who gave the approval for Bridging Newcastle Gateshead Pathfinder to commission an area planning consultation from the Beyond Green consultancy on the area around the former Newcastle Brewery; what the cost was of the commission; whether Bridging Newcastle Gateshead Pathfinder knew that the same consultancy was also conducting planning consultations for a major developer in the area; and what protocols regarding the avoidance of conflicts of interest applied. [9877]

**Yvette Cooper:** Discussions on individual projects are devolved to the board of the Bridging Newcastle Gateshead Pathfinder and do not require approval from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister. The pathfinder has standard processes for appraisal and approval of projects. No information on this project is held centrally.

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister who the members of the *(a)* Bridging Newcastle Gateshead Pathfinder Board and *(b)* North East Regional Housing Board are; if he will place in the Library a copy of the declaration of interest by each member; and whether each organisation is required to have board meetings open to the public. [9878]

**Yvette Cooper:** Membership of the Bridging Newcastle Gateshead Pathfinder Board is:

Leo Finn (Chair)

Cllr Greg Stone, Cabinet Member, Newcastle City Council

Steve Dunlop, Director, Newcastle City Council

Cllr David Napier, Cabinet Member, Gateshead Council

Sheila Johnston, Director, Gateshead Council

Douglas Taylor, Newcastle and Whitley Housing Trust, LSP Newcastle

Pauline Nelson, Gateshead Voluntary Organisations Council, LSP Gateshead

Pat Ritchie, One NorthEast

Malcolm Levi, Home Group

Mike Smith, Northern Rock

Donald Urquhart, English Partnerships

Eric Morgan, Sanderson Weatherall

Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (Observer)

Government Office for the North East (Observer)

Housing Corporation (Observer)

Board members are asked to declare interests at the beginning of each meeting and withdraw from discussion where appropriate. Records of declarations of interest are not held centrally.

Board meetings are not open to the public although it is proposed that the board should in future following board meetings provide information on its website.

Membership of the North East Regional Housing Board is:

Jonathan Blackie, Chair, Regional Director Government Office for the North East

Neil Bradbury, English Partnerships

Cllr Bob Brady, Association of North East Councils

John Carleton, Housing Corporation

Alan Clarke, Chief Executive, One NorthEast

Leo Finn, Chair of Bridging Newcastle Gateshead

Jolyon Harrison, House Builders Federation

Arthur Cross, The North East Council of Tenants and Residents (NECTAR)

Cllr Alan Napier, North East Assembly

The terms of reference for board members relating to declaration of interest are:

"It is the responsibility of all Board, Executive and related Task Group members to declare any personal interest in matters being considered, eg, issues which may result in financial gain to them.

Upon declaration of an interest the member will be expected to withdraw from that part of the meeting unless decided otherwise by the majority of members in attendance."

There have been no declarations of interest.

Meetings of the board are not open to the public but the minutes of meetings are publicly available on the North East Housing board website at www.nehb.org.uk

### Canal Boats

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how moving canal boats which are a primary residence will be assessed for council tax purposes under the council tax revaluation. [11437]

**Mr. Woolas:** Boats are not in themselves subject to council tax. A mooring occupied by a boat which is somebody's sole or main residence is deemed to be a "dwelling" for council tax purposes and will therefore attract a council tax liability in the same way as other domestic types of property. A dwelling consisting of a mooring which is not occupied by a boat is exempt from council tax.

### Community Housing Task Force

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether the private sector makes a contribution to the *(a)* costs and *(b)* salaries of his Community Housing Task Force. [9552]

**Yvette Cooper:** No.

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many people have left the Housing Task Force since its inception; and how many of them have gone into the private sector. [9654]

**Yvette Cooper:** Since its inception, eight people have left the Community Housing Task Force, three of whom have gone into the private sector, one to a housing association, and two as consultants.

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether *(a)* councils, *(b)* registered social landlords and *(c)* private sector investors are charged for the services of his Department's Housing Task Force. [9657]

**Yvette Cooper:** No.

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister in what circumstances the Housing Task Force advises councils to announce tenant ballots ahead of schedule. [9658]

**Yvette Cooper:** The Community Housing Task Force refer authorities to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister's Housing Transfer Manual 2005 Programme which gives guidance on the procedures to be followed during the consultation process.

### Council Housing

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many consultants and tenants' advisers consulted by councils on housing options have recommended against transfer; and to which councils. [9637]

**Yvette Cooper:** Consultants and tenants' advisers do not make recommendations on housing options.

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether his Department keeps a list of consultants for councils considering their housing options; and what criteria determine which consultants are on the list. [9639]

**Yvette Cooper:** The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister keeps a list of consultants for training and networking purposes. This is occasionally shared with councils when requested. No recommendations are made.

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how much his Department has paid in gap funding and to how many registered social landlords taking over council housing. [9655]

**Yvette Cooper:** To date one payment of £7.65 million has been made to Shoreline Housing Partnership.

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will estimate the number and value of council housing properties transferred to *(a)* registered social landlords and *(b)* arm's length management organisations since 1999. [9656]

**Yvette Cooper:** Since 1999 approximately 639,000 council dwellings have been transferred to registered social landlords at a total gross transfer price of approximately £3 billion. Proposals to pass the management of 796,000 dwellings to arm's length management organisations (ALMOs) have been approved since the programme was launched in 2001. It is not possible to estimate the value of the stock managed by ALMOs. As the stock remains in the ownership of the local authority, a valuation does not have to be carried out when an ALMO is set up.

## Council Tax

**John Hemming:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what assumed national council tax figure was used by central government in each year since the introduction of the council tax. [9209]

**Mr. Woolas:** Assumed national council tax (ANCT) was introduced in 2003–04. Before that, council tax for standard spending (CTSS) was used in an analogous way. The annual figures used are set out in the table.

| | *National band D CTSS/ANCT* |
|---|---|
| 1993–94 | 492.62 |
| 1994–95 | 527.40 |
| 1995–96 | 551.55 |
| 1996–97 | 568.94 |
| 1997–98 | 593.09 |
| 1998–99 | 634.62 |
| 1999–2000 | 664.88 |
| 2000–01 | 695.54 |
| 2001–02 | 730.89 |
| 2002–03 | 769.16 |
| 2003–04 | 1,037.46 |
| 2004–05 | 1,061.46 |
| 2005–06 | 1,101.96 |

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what the council tax for a band E house in *(a)* each London borough and *(b)* each local authority in Essex is; and what the comparable figures for each of the last three years for which figures are available were. [10567]

**Mr. Woolas:** Details of the council tax for a band E property in *(a)* each London borough and *(b)* each local authority in Essex for the last four years are published on the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister's website and can be found under the heading "Information For Taxpayers—Council Tax" at:

http://www.local.odpm.gov.uk/finance/ct.htm

## Departmental Requests

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will place in the Library a copy of the internal guidance produced by his Department for its staff on handling *(a)* written parliamentary question requests, *(b)* Freedom of Information Act 2000 requests and *(c)* requests made under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004. [7401]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** Answers to parliamentary questions are drafted in accordance with the Cabinet Office guidance to officials on drafting answers to parliamentary questions, copies of which are available in the Library of the House. In addition, guidance is available to officials in the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) on the processing of parliamentary questions, including written questions. A copy of that guidance has been placed in the Library of the House.

Guidance issued to ODPM officials on handling requests for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 has been placed in the Library of the House.

## Development Tariffs

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will make a statement on the South East Regional Assembly's proposals for development tariffs across the South East. [5573]

**Yvette Cooper:** We understand that the South East England Regional Assembly is still in the process of developing and refining its proposals in respect of development tariffs and we have not yet seen the details of the proposals.

## Domestic Violence

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many refuge places for victims of domestic violence there are in England; how many *(a)* women, *(b)* children and *(c)* men stayed in them in the last year for which figures are available; and how much central Government funding was made available to such refuges in that year. [8410]

**Mr. Woolas:** Through the Supporting People programme information is collected by the Department from administering authorities on the number of units of support available to women who are at risk of domestic violence. A unit is either accommodation based, including places within a women's refuge, or a service that allows the victim to remain in their own accommodation where appropriate. At April 2003, there were 5,831 units of support for women at risk of domestic violence, of which 3,523 were accommodation based and 2,308 were other support services. No information is collected by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) on the number of men who are victims of domestic violence.

Information is also collected by the ODPM from service providers on the number of new clients accessing services through the Supporting People programme, including the number of women who are at risk of domestic violence and the type of service provided to them. Between 1 April 2003 and 31 March 2004 some

22,200 women, with around 24,000 children, who accessed a service through Supporting People were at risk of domestic violence. Of these 22,000, 14,000 were placed in a women's refuge and 4,400 received other support. The remainder received other types of service.

In 2003–04 over £50 million was allocated by local authorities through the Supporting People programme for housing-related support for victims of domestic violence.

### English Wine

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will ensure that English wine is made available at dinners, receptions and parties he hosts at which hospitality involving wine is appropriate *(a)* during the EU presidency and *(b)* generally; and if he will make a statement. [9151]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** All procurement in the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister is undertaken in line with the EC's procurement rules and to obtain value for money.

However, British products are used where possible, and we will certainly be considering British produce for events planned in connection with the Presidency.

### E-projects (Funding)

**Robert Key:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what the cost of the Environment and Community Online Residents E-Services project has been in each year since it was established. [6559]

**Mr. Woolas:** The Environment and Community Online Resident E-Services National e-Government project was allocated a total of £3.5 million in 2003–04. To date the project has claimed a total of £2,561,724.51. This includes—for 2003–04—no payment, 2004–05—£1,604,012.10 and 2005–06—£957,712.41.

### Fire-related Deaths

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many fire-related deaths in dwellings in *(a)* Southend and *(b)* Essex there were in each year since 1997. [10568]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The following information is as follows:

*(a)* Information for Southend is not held centrally.

*(b)* Information on the number of deaths in dwellings fires attended by Essex fire and rescue service is shown in the following table.

*Fire-related deaths in dwellings in Essex, 1997 to 2004*

| | Number |
|---|---|
| 1997 | 14 |
| 1998 | 6 |
| 1999 | 6 |
| 2000 | 10 |
| 2001 | 6 |
| 2002 | 7 |
| 2003 | 8 |
| 2004 (Provisional) | 6 |

*Source:*
Fire and Rescue Service FDR1 returns to ODPM.

### HMOs (Licence Fees)

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister (1) what his Department's most recent estimate is of the sum which will be raised from houses in multiple occupation licensing fees; and what methodology was used to make the estimate; [6426]

(2) what arrangements he will put in place to ensure houses in multiple occupation licence fees set by local authorities only recover costs; and when he expects these arrangements to be in place. [6419]

**Yvette Cooper:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) on 5 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 308W.

### Home Assessment Ratings

**Dr. Iddon:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many homes in the *(a)* public sector and *(b)* private sector have standard assessment procedure ratings that fall into the (i) 0–20, (ii) 20–40, (iii) 40–60 and (iv) above 60 bands. [9832]

**Yvette Cooper:** The number of homes with specified standard assessment procedure (SAP) ratings in the public and private housing sectors is provided in the following table, using information from 2001 (the most recent figures currently available):

*Table: Public and private housing sector SAP ratings (banded), 2001*

*Thousands of dwellings*

| | 2001 | |
|---|---|---|
| *SAP rating:* | *Public* | *Private* |
| less than 20 | 128 | 887 |
| 20–39 | 340 | 3,078 |
| 40–59 | 1,325 | 9,618 |
| 60 or more | 1,020 | 4,811 |
| all | 2,812 | 18,395 |

*Note:*
Higher SAP ratings indicate more energy efficient homes. RSL-owned dwellings have been classified as private for the purpose of this table.
*Source:*
English House Condition Survey

### Homelessness

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many people were *(a)* accepted as eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and in priority need, *(b)* found to be unintentionally homeless but not in a priority need category, *(c)* in temporary accommodation arranged by the local authority under homelessness legislation, *(d)* designated as homeless at home, *(e)* recorded as sleeping rough and *(f)* people on the housing register. [8079]

**Yvette Cooper:** Information about local authorities' actions under homelessness legislation is collected quarterly and is in respect of households rather than persons. Information on the numbers on local authorities' housing registers is collected annually and is also in respect of households.

The table presents information reported by each London borough on the number of households accepted as eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and

in priority need, and those found to be unintentionally homeless but not in a priority need category, for each year since 2001–02, along with the number of households in temporary accommodation arranged by local authorities under homelessness legislation, plus those additionally designated "homeless at home", as at 31 March of each year. Also shown is the number of households on each authority's housing register as at 1 April of each year, and the number of people who sleep rough—that is, those who were literally roofless on a single night during the year.

The duty owed to a person accepted as eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and in priority need is to secure suitable accommodation. If a settled home is not immediately available, the authority may secure temporary accommodation until a settled home becomes available. As an alternative to the provision of temporary accommodation some authorities arrange for households to remain in their current accommodation (homeless at home), until a settled solution becomes available.

*Reported household data 2001–02 (April 2001 to March 2002)*

| | | Decisions[1] during year | | Position on 31 March 2002 | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Housing register (at 1 April) | Accepted[2] as owed a main duty | Not in priority need | Temporary[3] accommodation | Homeless at home[4] | Rough sleepers (persons) |
| London | 211,469 | 29,320 | 12,260 | 46,390 | 5,490 | 357 |
| Barking and Dagenham | 2,157 | 346 | 385 | 544 | 0 | 0 |
| Barnet | 6,732 | 1,112 | 517 | 1,710 | 359 | 0 |
| Bexley | 3,596 | 454 | 678 | 223 | 39 | 0 |
| Brent | 13,511 | 1,236 | 299 | 3,540 | 144 | 7 |
| Bromley | 3,787 | 785 | 443 | 369 | 278 | 0 |
| Camden | 8,614 | 1,120 | 305 | 1,739 | 198 | 38 |
| City of London | 703 | 12 | 1 | 38 | 0 | 30 |
| Croydon | 6,214 | 1,198 | 1,287 | 3,011 | 0 | 7 |
| Ealing | 8,132 | 860 | 812 | 2,076 | 393 | 7 |
| Enfield | 8,845 | 1,143 | 180 | 2,392 | 0 | 0 |
| Greenwich | 5,869 | 1,217 | 424 | 279 | 746 | 0 |
| Hackney | 8,307 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 8,930 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 6,865 | 805 | 140 | 1,465 | 147 | 3 |
| Haringey | 10,344 | 1,138 | 0 | 3,520 | 1 | 2 |
| Harrow | 3,141 | 444 | 222 | 1,505 | 4 | 0 |
| Havering | 1,985 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 0 |
| Hillingdon | 5,810 | 1,119 | 425 | 1,895 | 124 | 0 |
| Hounslow | 4,983 | 1,383 | 733 | 992 | 270 | 8 |
| Islington | 6,427 | 1,428 | 1,181 | n/a | n/a | 0 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 6,150 | 593 | 121 | 959 | 4 | 15 |
| Kingston upon Thames | 3,723 | n/a | n/a | 664 | 31 | 3 |
| Lambeth | 13,115 | 1,470 | 305 | 1,643 | 410 | 23 |
| Lewisham | 10,182 | 1,102 | 601 | n/a | n/a | 3 |
| Merton | 4,214 | 173 | 109 | 192 | 6 | 1 |
| Newham | 11,426 | 1,449 | 315 | 2,296 | 648 | 8 |
| Redbridge | 5,426 | 437 | 36 | 1,764 | 0 | 5 |
| Richmond upon Thames | 3,383 | 399 | 154 | 474 | 26 | 5 |
| Southwark | 7,191 | 1,317 | 209 | 704 | 547 | 13 |
| Sutton | 2,432 | 462 | 279 | 409 | 93 | 0 |
| Tower Hamlets | 7,566 | 1,401 | 44 | 1,978 | 18 | 9 |
| Waltham Forest | 8,664 | 1,121 | 381 | 785 | 107 | 1 |
| Wandsworth | 3,120 | 927 | 450 | 1,217 | 0 | 0 |
| Westminster | 8,855 | 1,176 | 667 | 2,460 | 292 | 169 |

*Reported household data 2002–03 (April 2002 to March 2003)*

| | | Decisions[1] during year | | Position on 31 March 2003 | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Housing register | Accepted[2] as owed a main duty | Not in priority need | Temporary[3] accommodation | Homeless at home[4] | Rough sleepers (persons) |
| London | 226,789 | 29,790 | 12,280 | 52,690 | 6,330 | 321 |
| Barking and Dagenham | 2,668 | 595 | 448 | 707 | 6 | 0 |
| Barnet | 7,030 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 0 |
| Bexley | 3,487 | 468 | 524 | 250 | 50 | 0 |
| Brent | 14,746 | 1,039 | 369 | 3,473 | 143 | 4 |
| Bromley | 3,592 | 865 | 405 | 589 | 325 | 0 |
| Camden | 8,147 | 1,290 | 318 | 1,893 | 315 | 28 |
| City of London | 623 | 31 | 3 | 32 | 0 | 41 |
| Croydon | 6,890 | 1,291 | 1,345 | 3,450 | 0 | 6 |
| Ealing | 8,289 | 1,001 | 763 | 2,008 | 360 | 4 |
| Enfield | 7,264 | 1,186 | 279 | 2,678 | 0 | 0 |
| Greenwich | 6,876 | 1,003 | 345 | 282 | 765 | 3 |
| Hackney | 1,136 | 117 | 2,214 | 137 | 11 | |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 6,044 | 811 | 159 | 1,659 | 139 | 4 |
| Haringey | 12,585 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 8 |
| Harrow | 3,992 | 400 | 85 | 1,601 | 21 | 0 |

*Reported household data 2002-03 (April 2002 to March 2003)*

| | | Decisions[1] during year | | Position on 31 March 2003 | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Housing register | Accepted[2] as owed a main duty | Not in priority need | Temporary[3] accommodation | Homeless at home[4] | Rough sleepers (persons) |
| Havering | 1,888 | 180 | 110 | 379 | 1 | 0 |
| Hillingdon | 6,041 | 933 | 437 | 1,813 | 168 | 0 |
| Hounslow | 6,369 | 852 | 708 | 1,144 | 334 | 3 |
| Islington | 8,161 | 1,314 | 1,065 | 1,421 | n/a | 2 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 8,294 | 410 | 104 | 940 | 0 | 6 |
| Kingston upon Thames | 3,971 | 448 | 351 | 718 | 16 | 0 |
| Lambeth | 14,228 | 1,651 | 404 | 2,257 | 512 | 12 |
| Lewisham | 15,368 | 1,170 | 638 | 1,243 | 613 | 1 |
| Merton | 4,361 | 156 | 79 | 179 | 9 | 0 |
| Newham | 13,942 | 1,433 | 200 | 4,208 | 797 | 0 |
| Redbridge | 5,671 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 5 |
| Richmond upon Thames | 3,763 | 325 | 107 | 538 | 64 | 6 |
| Southwark | 6,164 | 1,827 | 324 | 732 | 513 | 2 |
| Sutton | 1,653 | 429 | 346 | 427 | 51 | 0 |
| Tower Hamlets | 7,837 | 1,617 | 51 | 2,446 | 10 | 2 |
| Waltham Forest | 10,283 | 1,140 | 644 | 1,151 | 118 | 4 |
| Wandsworth | 3,923 | 1,072 | 407 | 1,489 | 49 | 0 |
| Westminster | 3,709 | 1,132 | 728 | 2,619 | 399 | 169 |

[1] Data shown where four quarterly returns were received, n/a denotes an authority failed to provide a return for one or more quarters.
[2] All households eligible under homelessness legislation, found to be unintentionally homeless and in a priority need category and consequently owed a main homelessness duty.
[3] Households in accommodation either pending a decision on their homelessness application or awaiting allocation of a settled home following acceptance.
[4] Households designated as "homeless at home" that have remained in their existing accommodation and have the same rights to suitable alternative accommodation as those in accommodation arranged by the authority.

*Source:*
ODPM: Homelessness returns (quarterly) and Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix (annual)

*Reported household data 2003-04 (April 2003 to March 2004)*

| | | Decisions[1] during year | | Position on 31 March 2004 | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Housing register (as at 1 April) | Accepted[2] as owed a main duty | Not in priority need | Temporary[3] accommodation | Homeless at home[4] | Rough sleepers (persons) |
| London | 242,389 | 30,080 | 14,690 | 58,820 | 5,630 | 267 |
| Barking and Dagenham | 3,018 | 667 | 371 | 789 | 0 | 0 |
| Barnet | 8,738 | 1,084 | 1,663 | 1,960 | 241 | 0 |
| Bexley | 4,265 | 365 | 468 | 321 | 35 | 0 |
| Brent | 13,425 | 897 | 363 | 4,208 | 96 | 0 |
| Bromley | 3,556 | 873 | 528 | 720 | 277 | 0 |
| Camden | 8,961 | 1,648 | 409 | 2,166 | 450 | 13 |
| City of London | 679 | 22 | 13 | 25 | 1 | 36 |
| Croydon | 6,425 | 1,240 | 1,596 | 3,545 | 6 | 0 |
| Ealing | 10,763 | 1,094 | 859 | 2,009 | 287 | 0 |
| Enfield | 9,496 | 1,085 | 249 | 2,963 | n/a | 0 |
| Greenwich | 7,753 | 1,246 | 447 | 378 | 575 | 0 |
| Hackney | 10,529 | n/a | n/a | 2,270 | 251 | 7 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 6,665 | 644 | 196 | 1,781 | 92 | 2 |
| Haringey | 14,264 | n/a | n/a | 4,774 | 0 | 6 |
| Harrow | 3,281 | 264 | 101 | 1,458 | 7 | 0 |
| Havering | 1,962 | 452 | 165 | 819 | 42 | 0 |
| Hillingdon | 5,507 | 735 | 234 | 1,873 | 98 | 0 |
| Hounslow | 5,952 | 691 | 121 | 1,130 | 362 | 0 |
| Islington | 8,566 | n/a | n/a | 1,438 | n/a | 7 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 7,872 | 476 | 153 | 965 | 0 | 6 |
| Kingston upon Thames | 4,137 | 418 | 398 | 840 | 24 | 0 |
| Lambeth | 11,140 | 1,545 | 774 | 1,845 | 778 | 11 |
| Lewisham | 15,341 | 1,502 | 602 | 1,640 | 756 | 0 |
| Merton | 4,312 | 204 | 109 | 165 | 3 | 0 |
| Newham | 16,228 | 1,519 | 158 | 5,155 | 151 | 6 |
| Redbridge | 4,952 | 806 | 32 | 2432 | n/a | 5 |
| Richmond upon Thames | 3,861 | 316 | 154 | 534 | 27 | 6 |
| Southwark | 6,757 | 1,540 | 370 | 926 | 471 | 17 |
| Sutton | 1,662 | 312 | 374 | 538 | 27 | 0 |
| Tower Hamlets | 10,979 | 1,657 | 267 | 2,900 | 23 | 11 |
| Waltham Forest | 9,680 | 1,025 | 1,155 | 1,668 | 73 | 1 |
| Wandsworth | 5,072 | 1,036 | 600 | 1,644 | 31 | 0 |
| Westminster | 6,591 | 1,117 | 713 | 2,944 | n/a | 133 |

*Reported household data 2004-05 ( April 2004 to March 2005 )*

| | | Decisions[1] during year | | Position on 31 March 2005 | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Housing register (as at 1 April)* | *Accepted[2] as owed a main duty* | *Not in priority need* | *Temporary[3] accommodation* | *Homeless at home[4]* | *Rough sleepers (persons)* |
| London | 279,729 | 26,730 | 12,650 | 61,990 | 4,670 | 265 |
| Barking and Dagenham | 3,149 | 775 | 223 | 474 | 1 | 0 |
| Barnet | 10,732 | 758 | 1,526 | 2,334 | 270 | 0 |
| Bexley | 4,404 | 430 | 536 | 377 | 39 | 0 |
| Brent | 15,504 | 795 | 469 | 4,453 | 95 | 6 |
| Bromley | 3,866 | n/a | n/a | 451 | n/a | 0 |
| Camden | 15,757 | 1,148 | 213 | 2,172 | 257 | 5 |
| City of London | 914 | 31 | 5 | 34 | 2 | 22 |
| Croydon | 8,067 | 1,126 | 1,412 | 3,346 | 3 | 0 |
| Ealing | 12,808 | 789 | 742 | 2,221 | 405 | 4 |
| Enfield | 12,584 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 0 |
| Greenwich | 6,710 | 1,157 | 327 | 543 | 722 | 0 |
| Hackney | 11,016 | 1,153 | 191 | 2,479 | n/a | 8 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 7,874 | 653 | 208 | 1,825 | 82 | 3 |
| Haringey | 16,920 | 1,175 | 0 | 5,309 | 7 | 4 |
| Harrow | 4,333 | 96 | 58 | 1,275 | 1 | 0 |
| Havering | 2,384 | 200 | 111 | 814 | 19 | 0 |
| Hillingdon | 6,910 | 461 | 34 | 1,878 | 17 | 0 |
| Hounslow | 7,088 | 891 | 97 | 1,234 | 189 | 0 |
| Islington | 6,871 | 1,130 | 750 | 1,550 | n/a | 1 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 8,326 | 589 | 189 | 1,196 | 0 | 10 |
| Kingston upon Thames | 4,465 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 0 |
| Lambeth | 12,847 | 1,644 | 444 | 2,378 | 413 | 12 |
| Lewisham | 17,497 | 1,245 | 443 | 1,847 | 919 | 0 |
| Merton | 4,834 | 261 | 252 | 156 | 2 | 0 |
| Newham | 19,503 | n/a | n/a | 5,815 | 15 | 3 |
| Redbridge | 4,766 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 0 |
| Richmond upon Thames | 4,868 | 279 | 60 | 458 | n/a | 0 |
| Southwark | 6,657 | 1,668 | 507 | 969 | 370 | 6 |
| Sutton | 2,145 | 272 | 302 | 636 | 31 | 0 |
| Tower Hamlets | 14,575 | 1,151 | 160 | 2948 | 5 | 5 |
| Waltham Forest | 9,016 | 800 | 942 | 1,807 | 74 | 1 |
| Wandsworth | 6,672 | 840 | 424 | 1,593 | 46 | 0 |
| Westminster | 5,667 | 1,112 | 1,015 | 3,148 | 139 | 175 |

[1] All households eligible under homelessness legislation, found to be unintentionally homeless and in a priority need category and consequently owed a main homelessness duty.
[2] Data shown where four quarterly returns were received n/a denotes an authority failed to provide a return for one or more quarters.
[3] Households in accommodation either pending a decision on their homelessness application or awaiting allocation of a settled home following acceptance.
[4] Households designated as "homeless at home" that have remained in their existing accommodation and have the same rights to suitable alternative accommodation as those in accommodation arranged by the authority.
*Source:*
ODPM: Homelessness returns (quarterly) and Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix (annual)

### Household Projections (South-east)

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what his timetable is for publication of household projections for the South East. [8614]

**Yvette Cooper:** Publication of 2003-based household projections for England and the Government Office Regions is planned for September. These will be National Statistics with the release date pre-announced on the Office for National Statistics' website.

### Housing

**Lorely Burt:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what *(a)* legislation and *(b)* other safeguards are in place (i) to protect public open space and parkland from housing development in the urban environment and (ii) to stop councils selling off public open space and parkland for housing development to fund other council services. [8923]

**Yvette Cooper:** National planning guidance set out in PPG17 (Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation) makes clear that open spaces that are needed by their communities should be protected and not developed for other uses. PPG17 indicates that planning authorities should undertake assessments of their communities' open space needs and only consider granting permission for development where open spaces are surplus to all requirements. PPG3 (Housing) complements this protection through the priority it gives to building new houses on previously developed land.

My right hon. Friend the Deputy Prime Minister must be notified of those major proposals for housing or that affect open spaces which are subject to relevant directions so that he can consider whether to call them in for his own determination. A local authority proposing to dispose of open space under the Local Government Act 1972 must advertise its intention in a local newspaper for two consecutive weeks and consider any objections.

Disposal of land by local authorities is governed by section 123 of the Local Government Act 1972. Local authorities may dispose of land in any manner they wish: my right hon. Friend the Deputy Prime Minister, the Secretary of State's only involvement is to grant or withhold consent where authorities wish to dispose of land at less than the best consideration reasonably obtainable and the proposed disposal falls outside the scope of the General Consent set out in ODPM Circular 06/2003.

**Mr. Soames:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister who the zone agent is for West Sussex in the key worker living scheme. [10170]

**Yvette Cooper:** Moat Housing Group is the zone agent for the Sussex area.

**Mr. Soames:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what advice he has received from the Regional Housing Board on the amount of affordable housing needed in West Sussex *(a)* in 2005 and *(b)* over the next 10 years. [10171]

**Yvette Cooper:** The South East Regional Housing Board has not given any advice to my right hon. Friend the Deputy Prime Minister on the amount of affordable housing needed in West Sussex. The Board's role is to set out overall priorities for the region rather than to determine allocations between individual local authorities.

**Mr. Soames:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many key workers in West Sussex he expects to benefit from the *(a)* Social Home Buy and *(b)* New Build Home programmes. [10217]

**Yvette Cooper** *[holding answer 7 July 2005]:* It is not possible to estimate at the moment how many people in West Sussex will benefit from the Government's proposals for low cost home ownership. The South East Region has been allocated £805.161 million of funding for housing for the two years 2006–08 and the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister is currently awaiting Regional Housing Board recommendations as to how and where this should be invested. Once priorities for investment have been established, housing providers will be invited to bid for funding. The number of people in West Sussex who will benefit will depend on which bids are successful.

With regard to Social HomeBuy it is a voluntary scheme and it will be up to the individual social landlords to decide whether to operate it in any given area.

**Mr. Soames:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many first-time buyers in West Sussex he expects to benefit from the First Time Buyers Initiative. [10218]

**Yvette Cooper** *[holding answer 7 July 2005]:* It is too early to say how many first time buyers in West Sussex will be helped through the First Time Buyers Initiative. Our target for the initiative is to provide 15,000 affordable homes across England over the next five years to 2010. This target can be found in our Five Year Strategy, "Sustainable Communities: Homes for All", published by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister in January 2005 (a copy of which is available in the Library of the House). English Partnerships is now developing a delivery plan for the First Time Buyers Initiative.

Our consultation document "HomeBuy; Expanding the opportunity to own" launched in April 2005 set out various proposals for simplifying, making fairer and expanding our low cost home ownership programme. The consultation process closed on 24 June, and the results will be fed into English Partnerships' delivery plan. English Partnerships will be working closely with stakeholders such as the Regional Housing Boards, local planning authorities and others to assess local demands and accommodate them where possible taking account of regional strategies and development plans. Regional Housing Boards will advise on groups to be given priority, reflecting the needs of the region.

**Mr. Soames:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many people in West Sussex he expects to benefit from the Key Worker Living Scheme. [10219]

**Yvette Cooper:** *[holding answer 7 July 2005]:* Allocations are not made by individual counties. The Sussex area has been allocated over £8 million in 2004–05 and 2005–06 to invest in the provision of Key Worker Living Homebuy Equity Loans to help an estimated 250 households into home ownership by March 2006. In addition funding has been allocated to develop over 424 new homes to rent or buy through shared ownership in the area by March 2007.

**Mr. Soames:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how much public sector land the Government have released for housing in West Sussex in the last five years; and how much further such land he plans to release. [10220]

**Yvette Cooper** *[holding answer 7 July 2005]:* It is the responsibility of local planning authorities to identify and release land for housing as part of the planning process.

The Government have implemented a number of initiatives to assist with land supply in support of the Sustainable Communities Plan.

A register of surplus public sector land held by central Government bodies has been established. English Partnerships is currently reviewing the sites on the register to identify those which could have the potential for housing development. As at March 2005, there were 713 sites on the register. Sites are continually being added as they are identified as surplus by landowners and removed once expressions of interests are received after a site has been marketed. A list of the sites on the register, as at March 2005, can be found on the English Partnerships website at: http://www.englishpartnerships.co.uk/images/16EE954C904340DDAB44702EF5D2ADE6.pdf. English Partnerships will publish a quarterly update of sites on the register.

English Partnerships has also recently taken ownership of the first 67 sites from a portfolio of 96 surplus hospital sites. The sites are currently being assessed for their development potential and will then be taken forward in consultation with the relevant local planning authorities. English Partnerships and the Defence Estates have also signed a joint working agreement on surplus land. This sets out how the agencies will work together with the objective of maximising the potential of surplus defence sites to help deliver the Sustainable Communities Plan.

The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and English Partnerships also maintain the National Land Use Database of Previously-Developed Land (NLUD-PDL). This covers vacant and derelict land and also land in use with potential for development. It covers land in both public and private ownership. Information on the sites is available from the NLUD website at www.nlud.org.uk.

In addition, English Partnerships is developing the National Brownfield Strategy which will provide a coherent vision for the future development of brownfield land to underpin national, regional and local development aspirations. The strategy will help our targets for building new homes on brownfield land thereby reducing the pressure on the green belt.

**Mr. Soames:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what definition he uses of the term affordable housing. [10221]

**Yvette Cooper** *[holding answer 7 July 2005]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer given in the other place on 9 June 2005, *Official Report*, column WA99–100 to the noble Lord Marlesford.

**Dr. Iddon:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many house *(a)* demolitions and *(b)* completions there were in (i) the public sector and (ii) the private sector in the last 10 years. [9835]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The numbers of demolitions and new build completions in each year since 1995–96 for England are tabled as follows.

*Thousands of dwellings*

| | *(a) Total demolitions*[1] | *(b) New build completions* | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | *Private sector* | *Social (for rent) sector*[2,3] |
| 1995–96 | n/a | 123.6 | 31.0 |
| 1996–97 | n/a | 121.2 | 25.1 |
| 1997–98 | 14.1 | 127.8 | 21.7 |
| 1998–99 | 14.5 | 119.5 | 19.1 |
| 1999–2000 | 17.2 | 124.2 | 17.2 |
| 2000–01 | 20.0 | 116.4 | 16.7 |
| 2001–02 | 26.3 | 115.5 | 14.2 |
| 2002–03 | 23.4 | 124.3 | 13.4 |
| 2003–04 | 20.1 | 129.5 | 13.8 |
| 2004–05 | n/a | 137.8 | 16.8 |

n/a = not available

[1] Figures are not available separately for private and social for rent sectors

[2] Social (for rent) sector covers activity by councils and registered social landlords

[3] The figures may understate new build by Registered Social Landlords as such dwellings may be classified as 'private' by building inspectors.

*Source:*

Demolitions: Local Authority Housing Flow (HFR/P3J) returns to ODPM, also HIP Business Plan Completions: Local Authority P2 (also NHBC) returns to ODPM

### Local Authority Contractors

**Mr. Davidson:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will list contractors based in other EU member states that are providing services to local authorities in England. [9368]

**Mr. Woolas:** The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Local Authority Pension Funds

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what estimate he has made of the likely shortfall in local authority pension funds under the *(a)* Local Government Pension Scheme (Amendment) Regulations 2004 and *(b)* Local Government Pension Scheme (Amendment) Regulations 2005. [6418]

**Mr. Woolas:** I refer the hon. Member to answer given to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) on 6 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 411W.

### Local Authority Targets

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will list the targets that his Department sets for local authorities; and if he will make a statement. [9536]

**Mr. Woolas:** Local authorities contribute to the delivery of the Office of Deputy Prime Minister's Public Service Agreement targets. These are set out in the ODPM Annual report, a copy of which has been made available in the Library of the House. They also contribute to the delivery of targets set out in the ODPM five-year plans, "Sustainable Communities: People, Places and Prosperity and Sustainable Communities: Homes for all". These do not include targets set by other Departments for local authorities.

### Motorway Advertisements

**Mark Tami:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what planning constraints apply to the *(a)* size and *(b)* location of advertisements adjacent to motorways. [9222]

**Yvette Cooper:** The limits to the size and location of advertisements which may be displayed with the deemed consent of the local planning authority are set out in the Town and Country Planning (Control of Advertisements) Regulations 1992, otherwise local planning authorities must consider amenity and public safety on a site-specific basis.

### Oil Firing Technology

**Mr. Peter Ainsworth:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will take steps to raise professional standards among oil fired heating installers by means of the oil firing technical association scheme. [10374]

**Yvette Cooper** *[holding answer 7 July 2005]:* The Oil Firing Technical Association for the Petroleum Industry Ltd. (OFTEC) is an industry body which installers can choose to join if they wish. It has robust entry competence standards and continuing training requirements for installers registered with it. Its installers have been found to deliver a high level of compliance with the requirements of the Building Regulations.

No information is available on the competence level of installers which are not registered with OFTEC. They are under a duty to inform local authorities of all installations that they carry out and the local authorities are responsible for making sure that these installations meet the minimum required standards in the Building Regulations.

**Mr. Peter Ainsworth:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister when the Oil Firing Technical Association Scheme was last reviewed; and when the next review is scheduled to take place. [10375]

**Yvette Cooper** *[holding answer 7 July 2005]:* The building regulations competent person scheme operated by the Oil Firing Technical Association for the Petroleum Industry Ltd. (OFTEC) began operation on 1 April 2002. It was subject to a formal review after a year of operation. The review concluded that it had achieved a higher level of building regulations compliance than would otherwise have been the case and had helped to raise installation standards. Since that time the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister has kept OFTEC under informal review and believes that the conclusions reached by the formal review remain valid.

The next formal review of OFTEC will take place in conjunction with its application for UKAS accreditation to the appropriate standard, likely within the next 18 months.

### Planning Policy Guidance

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister (1) when he expects to publish his revision of Planning Policy Guidance 3; [9542]

(2) which national planning policy documents the Government are seeking to revise or update; and what timetable has been set. [9543]

**Yvette Cooper:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 20 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 835W, which set out the Government's plans for revising planning policy guidance (PPG3) on housing.

The written statement made by my right hon. Friend the then Minister for Housing and Planning on 17 June 2004, *Official Report*, column 45WS, indicated that priority would be given to replacement of Planning Policy Guidance notes (PPGs) by Planning Policy Statements (PPSs) where it was required for good policy reasons. Progress on replacement of those PPGs (other than PPG3) identified in the statement as a priority is tabled as follows.

| *PPS Number* | *Subject* | *Consultation draft* | *Publication of revised PPS/PPG* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Delivering Sustainable Development | 23 February 2004 | 1 February 2005 |
| 4 | Economic Development | To be decided | — |
| 6 | Planning for Town Centres | 15 December 2003 | 21March 2005 |
| 7 | Sustainable Development in Rural Areas | 15 September 2003 | 3 August 2004 |
| 9 | Nature Conservation/ Biodiversity | 8 September 2004 | August 2005 |
| 10 | Waste Management | 6 December 2004 | Summer 2005 |
| 11 | Regional Planning | 13 October 2003 | 7 September 2004 |
| 12 | Development Plans | 13 October 2003 | 7 September 2004 |
| 22 | Renewable Energy | 5 November 2003 | 9 August 2004 |
| 23 | Pollution Control | February plus July 2002 | 3 November 2004 |
| 24 | Planning and Noise | Autumn 2005 | Summer 2006 |
| 25 | Development and Flood Risk | Autumn 2005 | — |

The review and replacement of other PPGs will take place as and when necessary in the light of their policy and strategic significance. In the meantime the current PPG will remain in place.

It is not proposed to produce any additional PPSs at present, although good practice guidance on specific topics may be produced from time to time.

### Private Rented Accommodation

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what assessment his Department has made of the *(a)* regional and *(b)* local variation in availability of private sector rented accommodation. [10145]

**Yvette Cooper:** Estimates of the number of privately rented households in England during 2003–04, broken down by Government Office Region, are set out in the following table. The figures are derived from the "Survey of English Housing", which is an annual survey of around 20,000 households. While the survey is large enough to provide reasonable estimates of the number of private renters by region, it cannot be used to provide estimates at local authority level.

*Number of privately renting households by region, 2003–04*

| *Government office region* | *Privately renting households* | *All households* | *Private renters as a percentage of all households* |
|---|---|---|---|
| North East | 84,000 | 1,100,000 | 8 |
| North West | 235,000 | 2,822,000 | 8 |
| Yorkshire and Humber | 176,000 | 2,137,000 | 8 |
| East Midlands | 156,000 | 1,768,000 | 9 |
| West Midlands | 153,000 | 2,170,000 | 7 |
| Eastern | 241,000 | 2,250,000 | 11 |
| London | 507,000 | 3,013,000 | 17 |
| South East | 337,000 | 3,262,000 | 10 |
| South West | 260,000 | 2,105,000 | 12 |
| Total | 2,149,000 | 20,627,000 | 10 |

*Source:*

Survey of English Housing, 2003–04

A comprehensive breakdown of the number of privately rented households at the time of the 2001 census is available in a table entitled: "KS18 Tenure: census 2001, Key Statistics of local authorities"

This can be accessed via the National Statistics website using the following link: http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/ssdataset.asp?vlnk=6579&More=Y

The number of households who were privately renting at the time of the last census can be determined by adding together the figures in columns H and I of this table.

### Safer Stronger Communities Fund

**Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how much money has been allocated to each Hampshire local authority from the Safer Stronger Communities Fund. [9796]

**Mr. Woolas:** There are no local authorities in Hampshire receiving Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) funding from the Safer Stronger Communities Fund (SSCF).

### Social Housing

**John Hemming:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what the forecast availability of *(a)* council and *(b)* registered social landlord social housing is in each year to 2010, broken down by Government Office region. [8891]

**Yvette Cooper:** The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister has not made any forecasts of availability of social housing up to 2010.

Following the Spending Review 2004 the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister estimated that 75,000 additional social rented homes would be provided in England by 2007–08. The regional housing boards recommendations, being considered by Ministers, will inform the detailed investment priorities for 2006–07 and 2007–08.

Future delivery of social housing after 2007–08 will be dependent on the outcome of the Spending Review 2006.

## NORTHERN IRELAND

### Abandoned Vehicles

**Dr. McCrea:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much has been spent by each council in Northern Ireland on clearing abandoned vehicles in each year since 1997. [11124]

**Angela E. Smith:** The information requested was not held centrally until 2002–03. For 2002–03 and 2003–04, the net expenditure incurred by district councils on clearing abandoned vehicles is set out in the following table. Information for 2004–05 is not yet available.

| *District council* | *2002–03* | *2003–04* |
|---|---|---|
| Antrim | 0 | 0 |
| Ards | 1,493 | 1,323 |
| Armagh | 3,800 | 13,957 |
| Ballymena | 0 | 0 |
| Ballymoney | 0 | 0 |
| Banbridge | 0 | 0 |
| Belfast | 0 | 70,716 |
| Carrickfergus | 0 | 0 |
| Castlereagh | 4,108 | 4,306 |
| Coleraine | 0 | 0 |
| Cookstown | 1,846 | 1,504 |
| Craigavon | 0 | 0 |
| Derry | 13,465 | 12,897 |
| Down | 0 | 0 |
| Dungannon and South Tyrone | 3,200 | 3,187 |
| Fermanagh | 15,837 | 19,537 |
| Larne | 15,084 | 3,180 |
| Limavady | 75 | 5,858 |
| Lisburn | 0 | 0 |
| Magherafelt | 0 | 0 |
| Moyle | 943 | 951 |
| Newry and Mourne | 0 | 0 |
| Newtownabbey | 37,425 | 14,792 |
| North Down | 0 | 0 |
| Omagh | 27,214 | 32,935 |
| Strabane | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 124,490 | 185,143 |

### Auction Marts

**Dr. McCrea:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will make a statement on the future of auction marts within Northern Ireland. [11123]

**Angela E. Smith:** I am aware that auction marts perform an important role within the agricultural industry in Northern Ireland. The future of such marts is a commercial issue for each mart operator taking account of the pattern of trade in live animals and statutory obligations in respect of animal health and welfare in the operation of their enterprises.

### Avian Flu

**Dr. McCrea:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what precautionary measures have been put in place to prevent the spread of the avian influenza virus to Northern Ireland. [11127]

**Angela E. Smith:** If there is an outbreak of disease in an exporting country DARD takes appropriate emergency safeguard action in accordance with Community legislation. This may include a ban on imports of animals and animal products from all, or parts, of that country.

Safeguard measures in relation to Avian influenza (AI) were put in place for affected Asian countries in January 2004 and have since been extended to 30 September 2005. Restrictions were placed on South African imports in August 2004 and have now been extended to 31 December 2005.

The situation in affected countries is kept under review and controls on imports are modified in line with community decisions. Safeguard measures are currently in place to ban or restrict imports of animals, meat and other products of susceptible species in respect of highly pathogenic Avian influenza (HPAI) in Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Pakistan, the People's Republic of China, including the territory of Hong Kong, North Korea, Thailand, Vietnam and South Africa.

All poultry meat and birds imported into the EU from third countries must enter at designated border inspection posts where they are subject to veterinary inspections. All consignments are subject to documentary and identity checks. These checks ensure that these import conditions are met. Northern Ireland

has no border inspection posts approved to accept live poultry, although we can accept certain categories of frozen and chilled products for human consumption.

WHO is carefully monitoring the situation in South East Asia with regards to human cases of the disease. Northern Ireland maintains close links with the Department of Health and the Health Protection Agency in England in order to ensure we have up to date information on global developments.

Since the SARS outbreak in early 2003, surveillance for 'flu' and 'flu-like' illnesses is carried out throughout the year by a network of 24 GP spotter practices. These GPs are requested to obtain appropriate clinical samples for laboratory analysis from patients presenting with clinical features of 'flu', particularly if there are links with South East Asia.

### Bovine TB

**Dr. McCrea:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many cattle herds in Northern Ireland were placed under movement restrictions as a result of bovine TB during *(a)* 2003 and *(b)* 2004 in each of the six counties. [11126]

**Angela E. Smith:** During 2003 and 2004, there were 12,184 and 13,572 cattle herds placed under movement restrictions as a result of bovine TB. The distribution of movement restrictions is not available by county. The increase in herd restrictions in 2004 reflects the measures introduced to deal with herds whose test had not taken place by the due date. There is clear evidence that the incidence of TB in Northern Ireland is decreasing.

### Child Support Agency

**Lady Hermon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what percentage of Child Support Agency (CSA) cases in Northern Ireland were being calculated under the new system for CSA payments on 1 July. [11356]

**Mr. Hanson:** The percentage of child support cases in Northern Ireland being assessed on the new computer system (CS2) under the new rules as of 1 July 2005 is 29.4 per cent. A further 17.7 per cent. are also being processed on the new system. However, these cases have been assessed using 'old scheme' legislation and will be maintained for a transitional period until such times as Ministers decide to convert all remaining 'old scheme' cases to the 'new rules'.

### Common Agricultural Policy

**Dr. McCrea:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much money was spent within the delivery element of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development in the last year for which figures are available; and what percentage of the Department's total expenditure was accounted for by common agricultural policy payments to individual farmers. [11118]

**Angela E. Smith:** The latest financial year for which audited accounts are available is 2003–04.

It has been assumed that the delivery element represents expenditure which is not classified as administration in estimates. On this basis expenditure on the delivery element totalled £354.2 million.

Total expenditure by the Department in 2003–04 amounted to £471.2 million. The total common agricultural policy expenditure amounted to £205.8 million, giving a percentage of 43.7 per cent. The breakdown of this expenditure between individual farmers and other recipients is not readily available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Staff

**Dr. McCrea:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many days Department of Agriculture and Rural Development staff took off as sick leave on average in the last year for which figures are available. [11119]

**Angela E. Smith:** The last year for which official figures are available is the 2003–04 financial year and only relates to 3,875 non-industrial staff employed by DARD. During this period the statistics indicate that staff in the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development took on average 12.4 days sick absence per staff year. DARD is currently in the process of obtaining official figures for circa 600 industrial staff, but these will not be available until later in the year.

**Dr. McCrea:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what salary is paid to the *(a)* Permanent Secretary and *(b)* each of the Deputy Secretaries within the Department for Agriculture and Rural Development; and what level of expenses each received in 2004–05. [11121]

**Angela E. Smith:** The salary, including performance pay, of the Permanent Secretary and the Deputy Secretaries is published annually in the resource accounts of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. The accounts for the 2004–05 financial year have not yet been published. They will be submitted for audit by 29 July 2005 and laid before Parliament by 31 October 2005.

As the salary information requested will be the subject of future publication it falls within the scope of Section 22 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. I am therefore unable at this time to provide you with salary details for 2004–05.

The only expenses paid to the Permanent Secretary and the Deputy Secretaries were for travel and subsistence. The following amounts were paid to the relevant officers during 2004–05.

£

| *Name* | *Title* | *Travel and subsistence expenses 2004–05* |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. P. Toal | Permanent Secretary | 2,219.54 |
| Mr. G. Lavery | Deputy Secretary | 323.60 |
| Mr. R. Houston | Deputy Secretary | 2,647.29 |
| Mr. T. McCusker | Deputy Secretary | 4,934.32 |
| Mr. R. McClenaghan | Deputy Secretary | 3,058.21 |
| Dr. G. McIlroy | Deputy Secretary | 0 |

**Dr. McCrea:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people are employed within the Department for Agriculture and Rural Development; and what the total wages bill was in 2004–05. [11122]

**Angela E. Smith:** At 31 March 2005 a total of 4,286 staff were employed by the Department for Agriculture and Rural Development. The total wages bill for 2004–05 was £108,653,000.

### Driving Tests

**Dr. McCrea:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* passes and *(b)* failures of driving tests there were in each of the test centres within Northern Ireland in each of the last five years. [11117]

**Angela E. Smith:** The number of driving test *(a)* passes and *(b)* failures at each of the Driver and Vehicle Testing Agency's centres is provided in the following table:

| Centre | 2000 | | 2001 | | 2002 | | 2003 | | 2004 | | 2005 to date | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Pass | Fail | Pass | Fail | Pass | Fail | Pass | Fail | Pass | Fail | Pass | Fail |
| Armagh | 774 | 655 | 678 | 741 | 718 | 649 | 758 | 642 | 707 | 536 | 570 | 484 |
| Ballymena | 1,108 | 1,130 | 1,041 | 1,096 | 1,147 | 1,315 | 1,194 | 1,549 | 1,395 | 2,051 | 744 | 997 |
| Belfast Balmoral | 1,879 | 2,889 | 1,743 | 2,517 | 1,578 | 3,055 | 1,818 | 3,138 | 1,075 | 2,248 | 631 | 1,121 |
| Belfast Castlereagh | 1,589 | 1,905 | 1,622 | 1,883 | 1,472 | 2,008 | 1,534 | 2,229 | 990 | 1,715 | 664 | 1,020 |
| Coleraine | 1,270 | 1,123 | 1,196 | 1,235 | 1,242 | 1,145 | 1,531 | 1,620 | 1,205 | 1,375 | 790 | 833 |
| Cookstown | 1,575 | 1,128 | 1,385 | 1,648 | 1,848 | 1,867 | 1,839 | 2,029 | 2,069 | 1,901 | 1,019 | 851 |
| Craigavon | 1,126 | 1,091 | 1,060 | 1,335 | 1,050 | 1,255 | 1,211 | 1,504 | 1,186 | 1,088 | 668 | 568 |
| Downpatrick | 1,052 | 620 | 1,079 | 708 | 1,063 | 689 | 1,271 | 878 | 1,244 | 650 | 612 | 443 |
| Enniskillen | 897 | 406 | 875 | 434 | 851 | 480 | 998 | 496 | 861 | 645 | 544 | 375 |
| Larne | 1,653 | 1,274 | 1,412 | 1,731 | 1,447 | 1,965 | 1,408 | 1,982 | 1,071 | 1,728 | 812 | 1,182 |
| Lisburn | 1,099 | 847 | 1,025 | 1,039 | 901 | 1,160 | 1,150 | 1,411 | 804 | 1,285 | 577 | 978 |
| Londonderry | 1,730 | 1,331 | 1,375 | 1,687 | 1,533 | 1,801 | 1,607 | 1,889 | 1,339 | 1,866 | 788 | 1,196 |
| Newry | 1,238 | 893 | 1,116 | 1,066 | 1,228 | 1,190 | 1,332 | 1,071 | 1,105 | 846 | 866 | 639 |
| Newtownards | 1,555 | 1,007 | 1,541 | 1,179 | 1,507 | 1,303 | 1,602 | 1,384 | 1,461 | 1,329 | 1,042 | 915 |
| Omagh | 1,024 | 796 | 976 | 961 | 1,025 | 1,012 | 1,244 | 977 | 1,233 | 977 | 648 | 492 |

### Dyslexia

**Mr. McGrady:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much has been allocated to each education and library board to implement the Taskforce Group report proposals on dyslexia for *(a)* 2004–05, *(b)* 2005–06 and *(c)* 2007–08; and what assessment he has made of the use to which such resources have so far been put. [11606]

**Angela E. Smith:** Additional earmarked allocations to the education and library boards for pupils with dyslexia were £60,000 per board in 2004–05 and £136,000 per board in 2005–06. This represents a total investment of £980,000 over the two years. It is planned to make further funding available in 2006–07 and 2007–08, but exact allocations for those years have yet to be determined.

The boards are asked to monitor this expenditure and to provide reports to the Department of Education on a six monthly basis. To date enhanced support, through the peripatetic and educational psychology services, has enabled waiting times to be reduced and increased numbers of children to be supported. Training for teachers in identification techniques and teaching strategies has also been extended.

### Education and Library Expenditure

**Lady Hermon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will apply equality impact assessments to the recently announced changes in expenditure by the education and library boards, with particular reference to funding for English as an additional language support. [7048]

**Angela E. Smith:** The Department of Education will not be carrying out equality impact assessments in relation to any of the recently announced cutbacks in expenditure by the education and library boards, nor the reductions in funding made by the education and library boards for English as an additional language support.

Boards must consider carefully any reduction in their support for EAL Services as the additional funding provided to schools for this purpose through the common funding Formula is intended to supplement and not to replace board funding. Boards must be satisfied that the services they provide are sufficient to meet the needs of EAL pupils in their area. The change in EAL policy by the board may adversely affect children whose first language is not English and who are of a different race and could therefore place the board in contravention of section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998. Boards are public authorities in their own right under the terms of the Act. Boards must advise the Department on the action they are taking to ensure the provision of adequate EAL services in their area.

### Education Finance

**Lady Hermon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how the recently announced additional funding of £12.5 million to education is to be divided between education and library boards; for what specific purposes within each Board the funding has been allocated; what the timescale for the availability of this funding is; and if he will make a statement. [11495]

**Angela E. Smith:** Consideration is currently being given to the arrangements for distribution of the £12.5 million to the five Education Boards and the other education authorities. The funding will be allocated to special education, school meals, school maintenance, and to help deal with the impact of falling pupil numbers and support the Boards in developing shared services. It is planned to notify allocations for special education, school meals and maintenance before the beginning of the next school year. Allocations in relation to falling pupil numbers and shared services will be conditional on Boards bringing forward robust plans.

### Electricity Expenditure

**Dr. McCrea:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the average amount spent by a household in Northern Ireland on electricity was in the last two years. [11177]

**Angela E. Smith:** The average household electricity bill in Northern Ireland for the year ended 31 March 2004 was £410, and that for the year ended 31 March 2005 was £412.

The Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment is continuing to work towards securing EU State aid approval of a proposed Government intervention aimed at reducing electricity prices. As an interim measure, £8.8 million of the available funding has been allocated to assist with energy efficiency measures which will have the effect of an average 1.5 per cent. reduction in electricity tariffs for all customers in the 2005–06 tariff year.

### Fuel Poverty

**Lady Hermon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps he is taking to tackle fuel poverty in Northern Ireland. [11293]

**Mr. Hanson:** I refer the hon. Lady to the answer I gave the hon. member for Belfast, North (Mr. Dodds) on 13 June 2005 in *Official Report*, column 4150W.

### Public Sector Housing

**Dr. McCrea:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the Government's house building target is for the South Antrim constituency in the public sector over the next five years. [11116]

**Mr. Hanson:** In the South Antrim constituency the public sector house building targets are as follows:

| | *Schemes* | *Number of houses* |
|---|---|---|
| 2005–06 | 7 | 73 |
| 2006–07 | — | — |
| 2007–08 | 2 | 18 |
| 2008–09 | 2 | 16 |
| 2009–10 | 7 | 57 |

### Reading

**Lady Hermon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what assessment he has made of the use of synthetic phonics in the teaching of reading in Northern Ireland's schools. [11342]

**Angela E. Smith:** The Belfast Education and Library Board has developed and trialled a linguistic phonics programme (which is similar to synthetic phonics) within schools its area in the period 2003 to 2005. Feedback from the initial study of the programme was positive and in 2005–06, as part of the Northern Ireland literacy strategy, it is being expanded across other board areas.

### Secondary Education

**Lady Hermon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the cost has been to date of the review of post-primary education, including the *(a)* Burns and *(b)* Costello report; and if he will make a statement. [11333]

**Angela E. Smith:** The Post-Primary Review was completed on 26 January 2004 when the Government announced they had accepted and were implementing the recommendations of the Post-Primary Review Working Group.

A total of £1,464,000 has been spent on the post-primary review as follows:

*(a)* £830,000 on research, the Post-Primary Review Body costs and the publication of the Burns report;

*(b)* £419,000 on consultation about the recommendations of the Burns report; and

*(c)* £215,000 on costs of the Post-Primary Review Working Group and the publication and distribution of the Costello report.

**Lady Hermon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many responses were received by the Department of Education in its consultation on admissions criteria; when he expects the analysis of responses to be concluded; and what the cost has been to date of the admissions criteria consultation exercise. [11334]

**Angela E. Smith:** The consultation on new admissions arrangements closed on 30 June and all the responses received are currently being processed. It is not yet possible to confirm the total number of responses but this figure should be available shortly. Analysis of responses will take place over the summer months and we will be endeavouring to complete this as soon as possible to inform decisions on the way forward. I will write to the hon. Member with further information as soon as this is available.

The cost of the consultation to date is £71,777.

### Sewerage

**Mrs. Iris Robinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what improvements are planned for the sewerage infrastructure of the Laurelvale and Tandragee area. [10356]

**Mr. Woodward:** The Chief Executive of Water Service (Mrs. Katharine Bryan) has been asked to write to the hon. Lady in response to this question.

*Letter from Mrs. Katharine Bryan to Mrs. Iris Robinson dated 11 July 2005.*

You recently tabled a Parliamentary Question asking the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what improvements are planned for the sewerage infrastructure of the Laurelvale and Tandragee area. (10356). I have been asked to reply as this issue falls within my responsibility as Chief Executive of Water Service.

The existing wastewater treatment works at Tandragee is overloaded and does not meet the regulatory discharge standard set by the Environment and Heritage Service. Water Service is therefore taking forward a major project to rationalise wastewater treatment in the Tandragee area. This includes the provision of a new wastewater treatment works at Tandragee and the closure of a number of smaller wastewater treatment works including Laurelvale. The wastewater from these smaller works will be pumped to the new Tandragee Works for treatment. The new treatment works has been designed to cater for future needs in the area up to the year 2028. Work on the project commenced in April 2005 and is due for completion in March 2007, at an estimated cost of £8.3 million.

Water Service is presently carrying out a Drainage Area Study on the Tandragee sewerage network to identify any improvements required to meet future capacity and environmental standards. The study is nearing completion and it is anticipated that it will recommend improvement works to the value of approximately £1 million. However, due to other priorities, arising mainly from the need to achieve compliance with EC Directives, it is unlikely that any improvement work on the sewerage network could commence before 2010.

### Speech Therapy

**Dr. Alasdair McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what assessment he has made of the provision of speech therapy support to children with special educational needs at Belvoir Park Primary School in Belfast South; and if he will take steps to improve the provision of such support. [11280]

**Angela E. Smith:** Officials from the Department of Education have been in contact with the South Eastern Education and Library Board, in which area Belvoir Park Primary School is situated. The Board is aware of the problem and has written to the Eastern Health and Social Services Board, expressing deep concern and requesting an early meeting. I have asked to be informed of the outcome of that meeting.

### Staff Development

**Mr. Donaldson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much the Department of Education has spent on implementing its policy of staff development and performance review. [11368]

**Angela E. Smith:** My Department has spent £1.7k on implementing the Performance Review and Staff Development (PRSD) scheme which will apply to all teachers in grant-aided schools from the 1 September 2005. This covered the cost of training all principals, nominated school governors and the appointment, training and employment of the external advisors to provide quality, objective and focussed advice to school governors in the review of the principal.

### Teachers

**Lady Hermon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many teachers are employed in *(a)* Catholic maintained schools and *(b)* non-Catholic maintained schools; and what the average gross salary paid to teachers in each category was for the last year for which figures are available. [11352]

**Angela E. Smith:** There are 7,063 permanent teachers currently employed in Catholic maintained schools and 10,142 in non-Catholic maintained schools. The average gross salary for each category for the 2004–05 financial year was £221,287,678.38 for Catholic maintained schools and £306,271,691.36 for the non-Catholic maintained schools.

### Transfers Tourist Board

**Mrs. Iris Robinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to his response of 13 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 92W, on the Northern Ireland Transfers Tourist Board, if he will break down the totals by district council area. [11072]

**Angela E. Smith:** The following table gives the total Northern Ireland Tourist Board (NITB) grant assistance paid to tourism related businesses in each Northern Ireland council area since 1999 (financial years).

It should also be noted that financial assistance was provided to accommodation projects by the NITB up until March 2002 however since April 2002 this assistance has been administered through Invest NI.

£

| *Council* | *1999–2000* | *2000–01* | *2001–02* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Across all council areas and x-border | 1,213,839.87 | 1,166,946.38 | 1,366,717.37 |
| Antrim Borough Council | 557,314.39 | 120,498.70 | 93,841.90 |
| Ards Borough Council | 314,121.58 | 293,261.78 | 2,246.19 |
| City and District Council | 96,532.46 | 710,783.87 | 2,058,104.99 |
| Ballymena Borough Council | 109,462.70 | 24,844.95 | 9,940.30 |
| Ballymoney Borough Council | 11,418.70 | 117,773.41 | 10,854.24 |
| Banbridge District Council | 2,100.00 | 500.00 | 43,381.62 |
| Belfast City Council | 1,004,640.33 | 1,504,387.32 | 2,123,103.00 |
| Carrickfergus Borough Council | 8,871.41 | 97,548.91 | 147,818.58 |
| Castlereagh Borough Council | 31,500.00 | 4,200.00 | 0.00 |
| Coleraine Borough Council | 97,795.94 | 602,739.79 | 168,600.48 |
| Cookstown District Council | 26,138.44 | 30,113.00 | 500.00 |
| Craigavon Borough Council | 1,209.82 | 15,724.34 | 0.00 |
| Derry City Council | 609,542.64 | 531,512.51 | 1,753,139.92 |
| Down District Council | 1,508,804.36 | 2,088,662.11 | 561,591.78 |
| Dungannon and South Tyrone Borough Council | 161,791.79 | 35,289.91 | 24,824.64 |
| Fermanagh District Council | 452,050.36 | 354,196.74 | 1,408,109.86 |
| Larne Borough Council | 20,493.30 | 402,233.37 | 508,782.01 |
| Limavady Borough Council | 71,454.63 | 120,454.38 | 24,221.50 |
| Lisburn Borough Council | 35,685.51 | 58,145.92 | 39,709.83 |
| Magherafelt District Council | 3,117.38 | 56,945.49 | 181,109.83 |
| Moyle District Council | 391,445.84 | 950,834.44 | 574,033.40 |
| Newry and Mourne District Council | 242,217.76 | 158,801.38 | 130,960.31 |
| Newtownabbey Borough Council | 900.00 | 1,000.00 | 600.00 |
| North Down Borough Council | 53,504.52 | 21,800.00 | 700.00 |
| Omagh District Council | 261,931.26 | 173,876.03 | 156,208.68 |
| Strabane District Council | 15,045.86 | 15,984.30 | 1,140.00 |
| Total | 7,302,930.85 | 9,659,059.03 | 11,390,240.43 |

| Council | 2002–03 | 2003–04 | 2004–05 | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Across all council areas and x-border | 1,214,735.45 | 1,993,209.78 | 1,666,684.31 | 8,622,133.16 |
| Antrim Borough Council | 9,700.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 781,354.99 |
| Ards Borough Council | 56,736.58 | 57,375.74 | 0.00 | 723,741.87 |
| City and District Council | 26,630.56 | 23,991.20 | 0.00 | 2,916,043.08 |
| Ballymena Borough Council | 1,500.00 | 1,000.00 | 0.00 | 146,747.95 |
| Ballymoney Borough Council | 0.00 | 13,047.18 | 0.00 | 153,093.53 |
| Banbridge District Council | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 45,981.62 |
| Belfast City Council | 58,800.63 | 21,000.00 | 38,314.95 | 4,750,246.23 |
| Carrickfergus Borough Council | 1,500.00 | 500.00 | 0.00 | 256,238.90 |
| Castlereagh Borough Council | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 35,700.00 |
| Coleraine Borough Council | 43,768.98 | 35,410.62 | 0.00 | 948,315.81 |
| Cookstown District Council | 100,348.63 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 157,100.07 |
| Craigavon Borough Council | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 16,934.16 |
| Derry City Council | 57,680.46 | 11,654.98 | 7,123.97 | 2,970,654.48 |
| Down District Council | 30,236.44 | 15,172.10 | 0.00 | 4,204,466.79 |
| Dungannon and South Tyrone Borough Council | 0.00 | 20,790.00 | 2,310.00 | 245,006.34 |
| Fermanagh District Council | 11,476.91 | 41,857.92 | 15,392.47 | 2,283,084.26 |
| Larne Borough Council | 1,500.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 933,008.68 |
| Limavady Borough Council | 2,300.00 | 4,602.91 | 0.00 | 223,033.42 |
| Lisburn Borough Council | 3,500.00 | 2,021.79 | 0.00 | 139,063.05 |
| Magherafelt District Council | 17,416.40 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 258,589.10 |
| Moyle District Council | 24,185.92 | 12,072.63 | 0.00 | 1,952,572.23 |
| Newry and Mourne District Council | 37,397.60 | 3,379.51 | 35,775.13 | 608,531.69 |
| Newtownabbey Borough Council | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 2,500.00 |
| North Down Borough Council | 700.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 76,704.52 |
| Omagh District Council | 2,368.52 | 0.00 | 7,093.37 | 601,477.86 |
| Strabane District Council | 25,432.99 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 57,603.15 |
| Total | 1,727,916.07 | 2,257,086.36 | 1,772,694.20 | 34,109,926.94 |

### Waste Management

**Dr. McCrea:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what waste management options have been placed before councils by the Government. [11128]

**Angela E. Smith:** The Department of the Environment has recently published guidance on waste management options for municipal and non-municipal waste in Northern Ireland. The report on Best Practicable Environmental Option for Waste Management follows extensive stakeholder engagement involving District Councils and other stakeholders as part of the Waste Management Strategy review.

A broad range of options were considered comprising different combinations of technologies to divert waste from landfill including recycling, composting, anaerobic digestion, mechanical biological treatment, thermal treatment and advanced thermal treatment (pyrolysis and gasification). These options were assessed against key decision criteria of feasibility, environmental impact, cost and social impact.

The findings provide a framework for assessing the preferred combination of different technologies to meet targets on landfill diversion at 2020, in order to support progress on planning, procurement and funding for a new waste management infrastructure for Northern Ireland. The framework is intended to guide District Councils in the development of their Waste Management Plans and infrastructure procurement, while not constraining local choices to meet challenging Landfill Directive targets.

## CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

### Claim Management Companies

**Mr. Djanogly:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what assessment she has made of the extent to which claim management companies are adhering to the Claims Standards Council's draft code. [11422]

**Bridget Prentice:** None. The Claims Standards Council (CSC) has submitted its draft code of practice to the Office of Fair Trading for approval. We will work with the CSC to ensure that compliance with the code is effectively monitored by them.

**Mr. Djanogly:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what steps she has taken to assess the effectiveness of the self-regulation of claim management companies. [11425]

**Bridget Prentice:** The Government have announced that they will introduce measures in the Compensation Bill to enable claims management companies to be effectively regulated.

### Conditional Fee Arrangements

**Mr. Djanogly:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what plans she has to reform the rules governing the procedure for conditional fee arrangements. [11424]

**Bridget Prentice:** We published a consultation paper "Making Simple CFAs a Reality" in June 2004. We have considered the responses made and we plan to publish a report of the conclusions of the consultation by autumn 2005.

### Contingency Fees

**Mr. Djanogly:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what research she has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* carried out into the (i) effectiveness and (i) impact of contingency fees. [11423]

**Bridget Prentice:** The Better Regulation Task Force in its report, "Better Routes to Redress" recommended that research should be carried out into the potential impact and effectiveness of contingency fees. The Government rejected this recommendation. They believe that Conditional Fee Agreements (CFAs) should remain the principal form of private funding in the civil justice system and that the primary focus should remain on making CFAs work better rather than exploring the potential impact of allowing contingency fees beyond their existing use.

### Correspondence

**Mr. Winnick:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs when she will reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Walsall, North of 26 May, reference 184373–1. [10728]

**Bridget Prentice:** My Department wrote to my hon. Friend on 1 June saying we would reply by the 29 June. I replied on 30 June one day late. For that I apologise. I understand my hon. Friend received the reply on 6 July.

### Criminal Defence Service

**Mr. Djanogly:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what percentage of costs on average were claimed in applications for costs by the Criminal Defence Service in each of the last 10 years. [9831]

**Bridget Prentice:** The Criminal Defence Service (CDS) does not make an application for costs in criminal defence cases. Under the Criminal Defence Service (Recovery of Defence Costs Orders) Regulations 2001, it is the responsibility of the court to consider making a Recovery of Defence Costs Order (RDCO) at the conclusion of every case heard in the higher courts.

### Election Turnout

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what the average turnout in *(a)* local, *(b)* general, *(c)* Welsh Assembly, *(d)* Northern Ireland Assembly, *(e)* Scottish Parliament, *(f)* London Assembly and *(g)* European Parliament elections was in each relevant year since 1975. [9767]

**Ms Harman:** The average turnout in general, Welsh Assembly, Northern Ireland Assembly, Scottish Parliament, London Assembly and European Parliament elections in each year since 1975 is set out as follows:

*General election turnout from 1945–2001*

| | *England* | *Wales* | *Scotland* | *Northern Ireland* | *United Kingdom* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1945 | 73.4 | 75.7 | 69.0 | 67.4 | 72.8 |
| 1950 | 84.4 | 84.8 | 80.9 | 77.4 | 83.9 |
| 1951 | 82.7 | 84.4 | 81.2 | 79.9 | 82.6 |
| 1955 | 76.9 | 79.6 | 75.1 | 74.1 | 76.8 |
| 1959 | 78.9 | 82.6 | 78.1 | 65.9 | 78.7 |
| 1964 | 77.0 | 80.1 | 77.6 | 71.7 | 77.1 |
| 1966 | 75.9 | 79.0 | 76.0 | 66.1 | 75.8 |
| 1970 | 71.4 | 77.4 | 74.1 | 76.6 | 72.0 |
| 1974[1] | 79.0 | 80.0 | 79.0 | 69.9 | 78.8 |
| 1974[2] | 72.6 | 76.6 | 74.8 | 67.7 | 72.8 |
| 1979 | 75.9 | 79.4 | 76.8 | 67.7 | 76.0 |
| 1983 | 72.5 | 76.1 | 72.7 | 72.9 | 72.7 |
| 1987 | 75.4 | 78.9 | 75.1 | 67.0 | 75.3 |
| 1992 | 78.0 | 79.7 | 75.5 | 69.8 | 77.7 |
| 1997 | 71.4 | 73.5 | 71.3 | 67.1 | 71.4 |
| 2001 | 59.2 | 61.6 | 58.2 | 68.0 | 59.4 |
| 2005 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 61.3 |

n/a = not available
[1] February
[2] October
*Source:*
House of Commons Research Paper 99/64

*National Assembly for Wales turnout*

| | *Percentage* |
|---|---|
| 1999 | 46.2 |
| 2003 | 38.2 |

*Source:*
House of Commons Research Paper 03/59

*Northern Ireland Assembly*

| | *Percentage* |
|---|---|
| 1998 | 68.7 |
| 2003 | 63.1 |

*Source:*
House of Commons Research Paper 03/59

*Scottish Parliament turnout*

| | *Percentage* |
|---|---|
| 1999 | 58 |
| 2003 | 49 |

*Source:*
House of Commons Research Paper 03/59

*Greater London Assembly elections turnout*

| | *Percentage* |
|---|---|
| 2000 | 31 |
| 2004 | 36.97 |

*Source:*
House of Commons Research Paper 03/59

*European Parliamentary election turnout from (1979–99)*

| | *Percentage* |
|---|---|
| 1979 | 32 |
| 1984 | 33 |
| 1989 | 36 |
| 1994 | 36 |
| 1999 | 24 |
| 2004 | 38.8 |

*Source:*
House of Commons Research Paper 99/64

Comprehensive figures for local elections are not available centrally.

## Legal Aid

**Mr. Djanogly:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how much was spent on administering the criminal legal aid system in each of the last 10 years. [9773]

**Bridget Prentice:** The information requested is not readily available and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. The Legal Services Commission's administration budget does not differentiate between administering the Criminal Defence Service and the Community Legal Service.

**Mr. Djanogly:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs (1) how many civil legal aid contracts awarded in each of the contract rounds since the enactment of the Access to Justice Act 1999 were terminated before the expiry of their term, broken down by region; and what the reasons for the termination were in each case; [9816]

(2) how many civil legal aid contracts awarded before July 2003 were terminated before the expiry of their term, broken down by region; and what the reasons for the termination in each case were. [9817]

**Bridget Prentice:** The number of civil legal aid contracts terminated before the expiring of their term since civil contracting was introduced in 2000, by region, is shown in the following table. Information on the termination of individual contracts is not held centrally by the Legal Services Commission (LSC). To investigate the reasons behind the termination of these contracts would involve considerable liaison with each regional office and could be achieved only at disproportionate cost to the LSC.

*Figures showing the number of civil legal aid contracts terminated before the expiring of their term since contracting was introduced in 2000, by region are given below. (Reference 9816/9817)*

| | Year terminated | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Region* | *2000–01* | *2001–02* | *2002–03* | *2003–04* | *2004–05* |
| West Midlands | 26 | 17 | 25 | 20 | 27 |
| South East | 37 | 27 | 57 | 53 | 13 |
| South West | 15 | 19 | 7 | 19 | 12 |
| Eastern | 4 | 13 | 27 | 6 | 3 |
| Wales | 37 | 15 | 22 | 9 | 1 |
| Yorks and Humberside | 16 | 6 | 19 | 17 | 8 |
| Merseyside | 11 | 1 | 18 | 9 | 16 |
| London | 52 | 19 | 20 | 17 | 3 |
| North West | 25 | 44 | 30 | 64 | 16 |
| North East | 16 | 12 | 11 | 24 | 9 |
| East Midlands | 18 | 10 | 6 | 10 | 2 |
| Total | 257 | 183 | 242 | 248 | 110 |

**Mr. Djanogly:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs pursuant to the Answer of 27 June 2005, *Official Report*, columns 1331–2W, on legal aid/salaries, what the reasons were for the termination of the 104 active contracts which were terminated before the expiry of their term; and which regions they covered. [10009]

**Bridget Prentice:** Information on the termination of individual contracts is not held centrally by the Legal Services Commission (LSC). To investigate the reasons behind the termination of these contracts would involve considerable liaison with each regional office and could be achieved only at disproportionate cost to the LSC.

## National Archives

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs if she will bring forward legislation to make it an offence to place forged documents in the National Archives. [10808]

**Bridget Prentice:** On 5 July the National Archives placed the following statement on its website:

"Reports in the press have questioned the authenticity of five documents within files FO 800/9868 and HS 8/944. The National Archives has taken these allegations extremely seriously. We commissioned an official forensic examination which has now concluded that these five documents are, indeed, forgeries. In the light of this, we are reviewing our own procedures and taking legal advice, with a view to taking further action."

It would be inappropriate to comment further at this time.

## Police Stations (Duty Solicitors)

**Mr. Djanogly:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs whether she plans to change the number of duty solicitors at police stations. [8908]

**Bridget Prentice:** There are currently no plans to change the access of individuals held at police stations to free legal advice.

## Postal Voting

**Mr. Bone:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what the Department's policy is on all postal vote elections; and if she will make a statement. [9679]

**Ms Harman:** I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave on 7 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 535W.

## Public Record Office

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what assessment she has made of the *(a)* integrity and *(b)* authenticity of documents held in the Public Record Office; and if she will make a statement. [10810]

**Bridget Prentice:** The National Archives has a duty to make its holdings publicly available under the Public Records Act 1958 but has put in place a range of security measures to safeguard their integrity and authenticity. In the light of a current case, these measures are being reviewed.

## Taxis

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how much the Department has spent on taxis in each of the last five years. [6500]

**Bridget Prentice:** It is not possible for the Department to provide full detailed information requested on how much was spent on taxis in each of the last five years without incurring disproportionate cost.

The Department has published rules for official travel in its staff handbook and all travel complied with the requirements of the Civil Service Management Code.

### Voter Registration

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what research she has *(a)* conducted and *(b)* evaluated into the effect of individual registration on the electoral roll. [9766]

**Ms Harman:** The Electoral Commission has published a number of reports covering this issue. These include "The Electoral Fraud (Northern Ireland) Act 2002: An assessment of its first year in Operation" (December 2003) and "Statistical analysis of the Northern Ireland electoral register" (December 2003). Since the publication of these reports, the Commission has also periodically published updated statistical analysis. The most recent analysis was published in May 2005 and charts the impact of the Electoral Registration (Northern Ireland) Act 2005. The issue is also covered in the Commission's 2003 report "The Electoral Registration Process". All of these publications are available on the Electoral Commission's website.

This issue was also discussed in the Northern Ireland Affairs Select Committee report Electoral Registration in Northern Ireland (December 2004), and the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and Constitutional Affairs Select Committee report "Electoral Registration" (March 2005).

## EDUCATION AND SKILLS

### Academic Research (Commercial Exploitation)

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many spin-offs from English universities there were in each year between 1994 and 2004; and what proportion of the total income of English universities she estimates was derived from the commercial exploitation of academic research in each of these years. [8036]

**Bill Rammell:** Information on spin-offs and income generated from the commercial exploitation of academic research is available from the Higher Education-Business and Community Interaction survey (HE-BCI) carried out by the Higher Education funding Council for England (HEFCE). Such information was not available before 2001. The first set of data to be published was for the academic year 2001/02. Data currently available are as set out in the following table:

*Income (£000)*

| | *2001/02 AY* | *2002/03 AY* |
|---|---|---|
| Contract research | 267,598 | 237,904 |
| Consultancy | 93,695 | 125,823 |
| Licensing income | 22,136 | 15,329 |
| Sale of spin-off equity | 10,425 | 13,490 |
| Number of spin-offs | 159 | 158 |

*Source:*
HE-BCI Survey—published figures

There is no formal requirement on Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) to provide information for this survey. The data in the previous table are therefore not necessarily a complete reflection of the number of spin-offs and income generated. Information on total income is available from the Higher Education Statistics Agency Financial Statistical Return as set out in the following table:

*HEFCE funded HEIs*

| | *Total income (£000)* |
|---|---|
| 2001/02 AY | 11,833,707 |
| 2002/03 AY | 12,722,703 |

*Source:*
HESA Financial Statistical Return

### Academies

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what governance arrangements will be used for new 16 to 19 academies; [10491]

(2) whether the new 16 to 19 Academy based on Brunel University's Uxbridge Campus will be *(a)* a school and *(b)* a further education college; and when she expects it to open for enrolments; [10490]

(3) whether the London West Learning and Skills Council Strategic Area Review took account of the plans to open a 16 to 19 academy based on Brunel University's Uxbridge campus; and whether the review recommended the opening of such an Academy. [10489]

**Jacqui Smith:** 16–19 academies will be established under the procedures for setting up new further education colleges as specified in the Further and Higher Education Act 1992. These academies will be subject to the same governance arrangements as for existing further education colleges, but tailored to reflect the ethos of an academy and the presence of a sponsor. Tailoring governance arrangements in this way is already established practice for a number of colleges in the FE sector, for example sixth form colleges. The governance arrangements for the academies will also need to take account of existing statutory requirements and will need to satisfy my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State before approval is given to the proposal.

If approved by the Secretary of State, the new Brunei HSBC Education Trust Academy will be legally established as a further education college but will reflect the ethos of an academy. It would open in September 2008. The academy would provide education for 800 16–19 year-olds drawing from the Learning and Skills Council London West area and beyond. It would be particularly aimed at those who might otherwise not have stayed on for post 16 education, including students from disadvantaged areas or who have achieved less than they might. (10490)

The London West Learning and Skills Council Strategic Review did not coincide with the proposal to establish the Brunel HSBC Education Trust 16–19 Academy. However, initial consultation by the sponsors involved Hillingdon LEA, West London LSC and the national LSC before the feasibility phase for the project began in December 2004.

The West London LSC are active members of the Brunei academy project board and chair the academy forum which is seeking the views of local secondary schools and FE Colleges on the proposal, on an on-going basis as the proposal is developed. The academy

sponsors are very keen to work closely with local schools and to provide a wider service to the community. Post 16 participation in Hillingdon is one of the lowest in West London and the academy will help to address this weakness. Further research into the need for places in the London West area, and the potential impact such an academy may have on local providers, has been commissioned by the local LSC and this should be available in the autumn for presentation to both the LSC and Ministers before a decision on the academy is made.

**Mr. Randall:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) who has been consulted by *(a)* her Department and *(b)* the Learning and Skills Council on plans for a 16 to 19 Academy based on Brunel University's Uxbridge Campus; [10214]

(2) how much funding *(a)* her Department and *(b)* the Learning and Skills Council have allocated to the feasibility study into plans for a 16 to 19 academy based on Brunel University's Uxbridge Campus; [10213]

(3) what consultative arrangements are required to be in place when a new 16 to 19 academy is planned. [10212]

**Jacqui Smith** *[holding answer 7 July 2005]:* The project to establish a 16–19 Academy based on Brunel University's Uxbridge Campus is currently in its feasibility stage. Initial consultation with post-16 education providers in the area is already under way through a West London Learning and Skills Council (LSC) chaired Academy Forum. Formal and wider consultation on the proposal to establish the Academy will begin during July 2005 for three months involving organisations who would normally be consulted during the establishment of a Further Education College and an Academy. This will include local schools and FE colleges, the West London LSC, the national LSC, Hillingdon LEA and other LEAs in the areas surrounding Uxbridge. In addition details of the proposal will be published in a local newspaper. The Academy sponsors are very keen that it should develop a good relationship with local schools and colleges.

Academy projects in feasibility receive funding from the Department for Education and Skills depending on the expected length and complexity of the feasibility phase. The Learning and Skills Council is not involved in providing Academy feasibility funding. A final feasibility budget for the Brunel HSBC Education Trust Academy is likely to be decided shortly but is currently estimated to be £332,000. This will cover project management, consultation, legal and other costs until completion of the feasibility phase. This started in December 2004 and should finish in spring 2006.

Academies for 16 to 19-year-olds will legally be Further Education Colleges but with an Academy ethos. The consultation will follow the statutory requirements for establishing a Further Education college under section 51 of the Further and Higher Education Act 1992. Consultation requirements also include compliance with the Education (Publication of Draft Proposals and Orders) (Further Education Corporations) (England) Regulations 2001—S.I.2001/782. The responses to consultation will be included in the detailed information to both the national LSC and Ministers before a decision is made on the establishment of the Academy.

### Access to Learning Fund

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what resources she has set aside for the Access to Learning Fund for each year between 2005 and 2008. [10045]

**Phil Hope:** The funds set aside for the Access to Learning Fund for each year between 2005 and 2008 are set out in £ millon's in the following table.

| | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| 2005/06 | [1,2]66.8 |
| 2006/07 | [1]65.8 |
| 2007/08 | [1]57.9 |

[1] The above figures include DfES'/HEFCE's contribution to administration. HEFCE's contribution for 2006/07 and 2007/08 is estimated and is based upon the council's actual contribution of £1.5 million for 2005/06, uprated by inflation (2.5 per cent.) for each year. Higher education institutions may use up to 3 per cent. of their total allocation for administrative purposes.
[2] The figure for 2005/06 includes £1.85 millon transferred from the Department of Health (contribution for NHS means tested bursary recipients).

### Adoption

**John Hemming:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what restrictions on adopting children apply to people who are overweight. [7878]

**Maria Eagle:** There are no blanket restrictions on people who are overweight from applying to adopt a child. The adoption agency has a duty to children needing adoptive families to satisfy itself that the prospective adopter has a reasonable expectation of continuing to enjoy good health, and that they have sufficient health and vigour to meet the many varied demands of a child throughout his childhood and into adulthood.

A person's weight could be a contributory factor to the state of his health, either now or in the future, and if so this will be brought out in his medical report produced by his GP. If there is any medical condition which might affect the prospective adopter's capacity to care for a child, this is taken very seriously and explored thoroughly to obtain as much information as possible to enable a decision to be made on his suitability to adopt a child. If an adoption agency decides that it does not propose to approve the prospective adopter, the reasons must be sound and defensible. The prospective adopter has the right to challenge that qualifying determination by either making representations to the adoption agency or applying to the independent review panel to review his case.

### Adult Education

**Mr. Marsden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what discussions she has had with *(a)* the Association of Colleges, *(b)* unions representing staff in the further education sector and *(c)* other concerned bodies about Learning and Skills Council funding allocations for adult education for 2005–06; [10739]

(2) what discussions she has had with the sector skills councils about Learning and Skills Council funding allocations for adult education for 2005–06. [10740]

**Bill Rammell:** I last met with the Association of Colleges (AoC) on 27 June 2005 and with NATFHE on 23 June 2005 when we discussed further education, including adult education, funding issues among other matters. I expect to meet again with the AoC later this month and with NATFHE later in the year. I, and my ministerial colleagues, have also discussed funding issues and concerns with a number of other organisations and groups and with individual colleges and providers. I recently held two meetings with hon. and right hon. Members to discuss the further education funding settlement for 2005/06. Ministers are due to have met with all sector skills councils by the end of this year and will be happy to discuss any funding issues that may arise.

**Helen Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what criteria are used for appraising adult education colleges. [10710]

**Phil Hope:** All providers that are funded by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC), including adult education colleges, are responsible for the effective management of their own processes for strategic planning, self-assessment and quality improvement. Local LSCs undertake an annual planning review with those providers that have agreed a three-year development plan with the LSC. These review discussions focus on the provider's contribution to the local LSC's plan and agreed priorities, progress towards achieving agreed strategies and performance measures, and the management of associated risks.

Adult education colleges are inspected on a four-year cycle using the Common Inspection Framework for all post-16 providers. This framework, published by Ofsted and the Adult Learning Inspectorate, is based on standard principles for inspection used across Government.

### Advertising

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much the Department spent on advertising in each of the last five years. [10254]

**Maria Eagle:** My Department's expenditure on advertising for the last five years is set out as follows:

| | *Advertising spend (£ million)* |
|---|---|
| 2000–01 | 23.9 |
| 2001–02 | 16.6 |
| 2002–03 | 11.3 |
| 2003–04 | 17.0 |
| 2004–05 | 11.8 |

*Note:*
All expenditure is exclusive of VAT.

### Aim Higher

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the funding will be for Aim Higher in 2006–07. [10048]

**Bill Rammell:** The funding for Aim Higher in 2006–07 is set out in the following table:

| *Funding source* | *Amount (£000)* |
|---|---|
| DfES | 77,000 |
| HEFCE[1] | 10,000 |
| Department of Health | 600 |
| Total | 87,600 |

[1] To be confirmed.

This includes money for Aim Higher publicity, evaluation, and national projects as well as funds distributed to local partnerships.

### Apprenticeships

**Mr. Hood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much funding has been allocated by the Learning and Skills Council to apprenticeships for *(a)* 16 to 18 and *(b)* over 19-year-olds in 2005–06. [8857]

**Phil Hope:** This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council. Mark Haysom, the Council's Chief Executive, will write to my hon. Friend with this information and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Library.

*Letter from Mark Haysom to Mr. Jimmy Hood, dated 8 July 2005:*

I write in response to your recent Parliamentary Question to the Secretary of State for Education and Skills, which has been referred to the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) by Phil Hope, regarding how much funding has been allocated by the Learning and Skills Council to apprenticeships for *(a)* 16 to 18-year-olds and *(b)* over 19-year-olds for 2005–06".

For 16 to 18-year-olds, we are allocating £597,184,711. For those aged 19 and over, £265,763,060. We are also allocating £221,915,602 for the pre-apprenticeship Entry 2 Employment programme.

The figures are slightly different for the academic year, which forms the basis of our contracts with providers. For 16 to 18-year-olds, the amount is £594,410,328, for those aged 19 and over, £266,738,550 and for Entry 2 Employment, £226,906,476.

I trust this is helpful.

**Mr. Kidney:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if she will introduce an additional apprenticeship facility for young people who cannot meet the learning requirement of the full apprenticeship but who want to work and engage in flexible learning. [10433]

**Phil Hope:** The content of each apprenticeship framework is designed by the business led Sector Skills Councils in the context of a blueprint agreed between the Department and key stakeholders. Achievement of the full framework is intended to be the minimum requirement for qualified status at either Level 2 or Level 3 within a particular industry. The basic elements of the framework,—NVQ, technical certificate, key skills and any other qualifications designated by the sector—form that minimum requirement and are intended to provide as much flexibility as possible while maintaining quality and standards across industries. However, for some young people initial assessment will indicate they may not be able to complete all elements of the framework. A number of other programmes may be suitable for young people in this position. In particular for 16 to 18-year-olds we are piloting a programme to encourage young people in jobs without training to take up learning opportunities. The programme will start in April 2006. For those over 19 and without either basic

skills or a first Level 2 qualification we are putting in place the National Employer Training programme to deliver high quality flexible qualifications in the workplace.

**Mr. Kidney:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what assessment she has made of the drop-out rate for apprenticeships; and what causes she has identified. [10434]

**Phil Hope:** The Learning and Skills Council measures the number and proportion of young people who complete all the elements of their apprenticeship framework. The completion rate in academic year 2002/03 was 27 per cent., so far in 2004/05 the rate is 35.7 per cent. To further improve completion we have adopted a Performance Indicator for 2007/08 to increase the number of completions by 75 per cent. from 43,000 to 75,000. To achieve this, the Department and the LSC will continue to research and address the reasons for non-completion, which will vary from sector to sector and from employer to employer. Overall, the main reasons that have been identified are: poor quality learning provision; inappropriate or inflexible frameworks, or elements of frameworks; and inadequate initial assessment of apprentices' capabilities. We also have anecdotal evidence of young people not completing due to promotion at work. While this might be seen as a 'good' reason, we are keen that young people and their employers understand the value of completing the full framework, both to productivity and future employability. The LSC will continue with its programme to root out poor provision by withdrawing contracts where necessary. According to the Adult Learning Inspectorate in 2001–02 the level of inadequate provision was 60 per cent. In 2003–04 that had fallen to 34 per cent.

The content of apprenticeship frameworks are set by Sector Skills Councils within a blueprint set by the Department and other key stakeholders. This offers as much flexibility to sectors as possible while maintaining overall standards across industries. Effective initial assessment remains crucial to ensuring that young people have a realistic chance of completing their programme. Providers are judged on the systems they have in place to do this. We will also be focusing our future marketing activity on ensuring that apprenticeships and their value are better understood.

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many school leavers are expected to take up apprenticeships in 2005–06 in *(a)* Lancashire and *(b)* Chorley. [9610]

**Phil Hope:** This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council. Mark Haysom, the Council's Chief Executive, will write to my hon. Friend with this information and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Library.

*Letter from Mark Haysom to Mr. Lindsay Hoyle, dated 8 July 2005:*

I write in response to your recent Parliamentary Question to the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (which has been referred to the Learning and Skills Council LSC for a response) regarding how many school leavers are expected to take up apprenticeships in 2005–06 in *(a)* Lancashire and *(b)* Chorley.

LSC Lancashire does not generate this information, however Connexions does gather data on the intended destinations of all young people leaving school each summer. The data for summer 2005 would give the best indication of the numbers of school leavers expected to take up apprenticeships in 2005–06. LSC Lancashire has contacted Connexions Lancashire and they have provided the following data. The number of young people in Lancashire intending to take up an apprenticeship is 4,743 and of these, 284 will live in Chorley.

I trust this is helpful.

**Mr. Cameron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the cost of modern apprenticeships and their successor schemes have been in each year since their introduction. [10770]

**Phil Hope:** Apprenticeships in England are funded through the work based learning for young people budget of the Learning and Skills Council. This budget covers Apprenticeships, Advanced Apprenticeships, NVQ Learning and Entry to Employment. The following table shows estimated spending by the LSC since it was established in 2001.

*£ million*

| *Academic year* | *Total WBL budget* | *Estimated apprenticeship spend* |
|---|---|---|
| 2001/02 | 673 | 467 |
| 2002/03 | 828 | 539 |
| 2003/04 | 791 | 560 |
| 2004/05 | 1,037 | 810 |

Before the LSC was established apprenticeships were funded by the Training and Enterprise Councils (TEC). Disaggregated data showing the amount of funding spent on apprenticeships from their work based learning for young people budget in this period is not available.

### Bursaries (EU Students)

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what advice the Office for Fair Access is seeking in respect of the obligations of institutions to make bursary provision available for EU students. [11502]

**Bill Rammell:** None. Institutions, not the Office for Fair Access, are responsible for deciding their bursary arrangements, including any obligations these may involve in respect of EU students.

### Chemistry

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many students sat A-level chemistry in *(a)* 2005 and *(b)* 1997. [10167]

**Jacqui Smith:** The information available on the number of students taking A-level chemistry can be found as follows.

| | *2004* | *1997* |
|---|---|---|
| 16 to 18-year-old A-level candidates | 240,810 | 231,334 |
| 16 to 18-year-old candidates taking chemistry | 32,130 | 36,429 |

*Notes:*

1. The information for this answer is derived from data collected for the School and College Achievement and Attainment Tables (formerly Performance Tables) that are published annually. The most recent information the department holds on A-level results is from 2004.
2. Ages are taken at the start of the academic year ie 31 August.

### Children's Workforce

**Annette Brooke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what the position of educational psychologists will be under the proposed qualifications framework within the new children's workforce; [10332]

(2) what assessment she has made of the likely effects of the proposed review of the functions and contribution of educational psychologists on the numbers planning to train as educational psychologists in the 2006–07 academic year; [10333]

(3) what advice the Department provides on *(a)* funding and *(b)* training routes for prospective applicants for educational psychologists training; [10334]

(4) when she expects the proposed review of the functions and contribution of educational psychologists to be completed; [10335]

(5) what sources of funding are available to people seeking to train as educational psychologists; and what training opportunities are open to such people. [10345]

**Maria Eagle** *[holding answer 7 July 2005]:* It is the Department's intention that educational psychologists (EPs) will be included within the Single Qualifications Framework. These proposals were published in the Children's Workforce Strategy on 1 April and are currently the subject of a consultation period. We will await comments before a final decision is made about how we proceed.

Where individuals wish to train as an EP, we would normally point them to the websites of the British Psychological Society, http://www.bps.org.uk/, who are responsible for the accreditation of EP training courses and qualifications, and the Employers' Organisation, http://www.lg-employers.gov.uk, who currently administer, on behalf of the Local Government Association, a postgraduate EP Clearing House and Grant Scheme, funded from within the top-sliced Rate Support Grant provision allocated by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister in accordance with recommendations of the LGA. There are a number of higher education institutions that currently run accredited EP courses, details of which can be obtained from either the BPS or the EO.

As announced by the hon. Minister for Children, in her written statement to Parliament on 1 February 2005, we expect that the bulk of the work involved in the planned review to be completed in 2005. Given the contract for the work has yet to be placed, it would be inappropriate to speculate as to the effect or outcomes of the review.

### Correspondence

**Sir Gerald Kaufman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills when she expects to reply to the letter to her dated 1 June 2005 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton, with regard to R.M. Cawley. [10686]

**Maria Eagle:** My right hon. Friend the Minister of State for Schools and with responsibility for 14–19 Learners, replied to the right hon. Member's letter of 1 June 2005 on 30 June 2005.

### Degree Awarding

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what her estimate is of the number of private sector companies that will be granted degree awarding status as a result of recent legislation introduced by her Department in each of the next five years. [11095]

**Bill Rammell:** In order to be awarded degree awarding powers, private companies would have to meet our stringent criteria. We seek advice from the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) on whether institutions meet our criteria and this process can take some considerable time. At present, the QAA are considering a small number of applications from private companies. We have made no estimates of the numbers of private sector providers likely to attain degree awarding status.

### Dyslexia

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what research her Department is carrying out into dyslexia; and how much was spent by her Department on such research during each of the last five years for which figures are available. [10580]

**Maria Eagle:** The Department is not currently carrying out research into dyslexia. We have however supported a number of pieces of relevant work in recent years.

Together with W H Smith and other partners, we supported the Dyslexia Institute's (DI) Spell It research project, which considered the impact of different interventions with seven-year-olds experiencing difficulty with reading. A readers' support pack was one of the outcomes of the Spell It project and we gave the DI a grant to make copies available to parents through the Institute's network of regional centres. We also gave a grant to QinetiQ, formerly the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency, to work with Oxford University and others on some exploratory research into eye movement characteristics as possible indicators of dyslexia.

To help improve awareness of different approaches, we supported a number of research reviews by Dr. Angela Fawcett of Sheffield University, which are available to interested parties on the Department's special educational needs website. We also gave a grant in support of the British Dyslexia Association's international dyslexia conference, where different techniques are presented and discussed.

We also supplied funding to support an OECD collaborative research and dissemination initiative to assess the implications of the latest developments in research on brain functioning for the development of literacy and mathematical skills. The latest discoveries in brain science are expected to have profound implications for what we understand as appropriate methods of teaching and learning. For example, brain science is already shedding light on the causes and possible remedies for dyslexia.

Expenditure on the above amounted to £1,478,344.

## Education

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many children are attending schools in the London borough of Sutton in the 2004/05 academic year, broken down by *(a)* the local authority in which the child is resident and *(b)* whether the child is attending (i) primary, (ii) secondary and (iii) special school. [10331]

**Jacqui Smith:** The information requested broken down by local education authority has been provided in the following tables:

*Total number of pupils attending schools in Sutton, broken down by residing authority*

| | *Number of pupils* | *Percentage of pupils* |
|---|---|---|
| Pupils attending schools in Sutton | 31,297 | 100.0 |
| *Home authority* | | |
| Sutton | 24,883 | 79.5 |
| Croydon | 2,383 | 7.6 |
| Merton | 1,624 | 5.2 |
| Surrey | 1,548 | 4.9 |
| Kingston upon Thames | 391 | 1.2 |
| Lambeth | 160 | 0.5 |
| Wandsworth | 120 | 0.4 |
| Bromley | 36 | 0.1 |
| Lewisham | 33 | 0.1 |
| Southwark | 22 | 0.1 |
| Other LEAs | 33 | 0.1 |
| Unknown/not given[1] | 64 | 0.2 |

[1] Residence of pupil unknown/not given.

*Note:*
'—' denotes percentage of less than 0.05 per cent.

*Source:*
PLASC 2005 Provisional data

*Total number of pupils attending schools in Sutton, broken down by phase of education*

| | *Number of pupils* | *Percentage of pupils* |
|---|---|---|
| Pupils attending schools in Sutton | 31,297 | 100.0 |
| *School type* | | |
| Primary | 15,051 | 48.1 |
| Secondary | 15,974 | 51.0 |
| Special | 272 | 0.9 |

*Source:*
PLASC 2005 Provisional data.

## Education Funding

**Mr. Michael Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the answer of 4 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 160W, which geographical areas receive an area cost uplift in the funding formula; what data source is used to determine the uplift; and what percentage of additional funding is allocated to each area in receipt of it. [11107]

**Bill Rammell:** The Learning and Skills Council's (LSC) area cost uplift is based on research using Labour Force Survey and New Earnings Survey data. The level of the uplift and the areas where it is applied are as follows:

*Area—Costs uplifts by region*

*London A—20 per cent.*
- Camden
- Greenwich
- Islington
- Kensington and Chelsea
- Lambeth
- Southwark
- Westminster
- Wandsworth
- Hackney
- Tower Hamlets
- Lewisham
- Newham
- Haringey
- Hammersmith
- Fulham

*London B—12 per cent.*
- Barking and Dagenham
- Bexley
- Havering
- Redbridge
- Barnet
- Enfield
- Waltham Forest
- Bromley
- Croydon
- Kingston upon Thames
- Merton
- Richmond upon Thames
- Sutton
- Brent
- Ealing
- Harrow
- Hillingdon
- Hounslow

*Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire non-fringe—3 per cent.*
- Bedfordshire County Council
- Bedford
- Luton
- Mid-Bedfordshire
- North Hertfordshire
- South Bedfordshire
- Stevenage

*Berkshire, Surrey and West Sussex fringe—12 per cent.*
- Surrey County Council
- Bracknell Forest
- Crawley
- Elmbridge
- Epsom and Ewell
- Guildford
- Mole Valley
- Reigate and Banstead
- Runnymede
- Slough
- Spelthorne
- Surrey Heath

Tandridge
Waverley
Windsor and Maidenhead
Woking

*Berkshire non-fringe—12 per cent.*

Reading
West Berkshire
Wokingham

*Buckinghamshire non-fringe—7 per cent.*

Aylesbury Vale
Wycombe
Milton Keynes

*Hampshire and Isle of Wight—2 per cent.*

Basingstoke and Deane
East Hampshire
Eastleigh
Fareham
Gosport
Hampshire County Council
Hart
Havant
New Forest
Portsmouth
Rushmoor
Southampton
Test Valley
Winchester

*Hertfordshire and Buckinghamshire fringe—10 per cent.*

Broxbourne
Chiltern
Dacorum
East Hertfordshire
Hertsmere
South Bucks
St. Albans
Three Rivers
Watford
Welwyn Hatfield

*Kent and Essex fringe—6 per cent.*

Basildon
Brentwood
Dartford
Epping Forest
Harlow
Sevenoaks
Thurrock

*Oxfordshire—7 per cent.*

Oxfordshire County Council
Cherwell
South Oxfordshire
West Oxfordshire
Oxford
Vale of White Horse

*West Sussex non-fringe—1 per cent.*

Adur
Chichester
Mid-Sussex
Arun
Horsham
Worthing

## Enterprise Education

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what progress has been made in integrating enterprise elements into GCSE courses on *(a)* mathematics, *(b)* science, *(c)* English, *(d)* information technology and *(e)* design and technology. [10039]

**Jacqui Smith:** Since 2000, all GCSEs have been required to provide opportunities for generating evidence for assessing the six key skills, which are skills for enterprise. In addition, the 14–19 White Paper emphasised the need to develop English, maths and ICT curriculum and qualifications to equip young people with the knowledge, skills and understanding needed for employment. The QCA is developing the mathematics curriculum to include financial literacy in the context of the GCSE.

Progress has also been made in providing guidance from DfES and QCA to teachers of GCSE subjects at key stage 4 on incorporating activities that develop young people's enterprise knowledge and skills.

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the *(a)* overall and *(b)* per school funding allocation for enterprise education for each year between 2005 and 2008 is. [10051]

**Jacqui Smith:** The Government are allocating £60 million a year for the three years from September 2005 to support a new focus on enterprise education in all secondary schools. This funding is allocated to individual schools through a simple formula, based 90 per cent. on the number of key stage 4 pupils per school, and 10 per cent. on pupils' eligibility for free school meals.

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the projected *(a)* number and *(b)* proportion of secondary schools offering enterprise education (i) in 2004–05 and (ii) over the next three years is. [10052]

**Jacqui Smith:** We are currently funding over 700 schools through Enterprise Education Pathfinders to offer enterprise education and help us deliver national guidance on the most effective modes of delivery. About 900 schools are supported by the LSC's Enterprise Advisers to help them introduce enterprise education—making a total of 50 per cent. of schools who have already been supported. Over the next three years, starting from September 2005, all secondary schools will be funded to provide enterprise education. Ofsted and the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority will monitor progress.

## European Contractors

**Mr. Davidson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if she will list contractors based in other EU member states that are providing services to her Department. [9555]

**Bill Rammell:** The Department does not maintain a record of contractors based in other EU member states and the information could be provided at only disproportionate costs.

### Examination Standards

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills who is responsible for assessing the consistency of standards across time for *(a)* the national tests at seven, 11 and 14 years and *(b)* GNVQs. [10916]

**Jacqui Smith:** As regulator of the public examinations system and of National Curriculum tests, the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority is accountable to my right hon. Friend for maintaining standards over time in respect of those tests and GNVQ examinations.

### Fingerprint-scanning Systems (Schools)

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what meetings *(a)* she and *(b)* officials from her Department have held with companies providing or seeking to provide fingerprint-scanning systems in schools. [10070]

**Jacqui Smith:** Neither my officials nor I have had any meetings with companies providing or seeking to provide fingerprint-scanning systems in schools.

### Further Education Funding

**Annette Brooke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many further education colleges in England have received *(a)* a reduction and *(b)* a percentage increase in their funding of less than three per cent. for 2005–06. [8499]

**Bill Rammell** *[holding answer 30 June2005]:* Based upon current Learning and Skills Council records, 34 further education colleges in England (9 per cent. of colleges), have received a reduction in their funding for 2005–06 when compared to 2004–05. And 85 further education colleges (22 per cent. of colleges), have had a percentage increase in their funding of less than three per cent.. In total, 262 further education colleges (69 per cent. of colleges) have received a percentage increase in their funding of more than three per cent.

However, inflation was 2.5 per cent. In total, 283 further education colleges (74 per cent. of colleges) received an increase equal to or greater than inflation.

### Mathematics

**Mr. Gibb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) how many schools entered pupils only for the lower tier GCSE mathematics examination in the last year for which figures are available; [9258]

(2) what proportion of pupils studying mathematics at GCSE were entered for the higher tier examination in the last year for which figures are available; [9259]

(3) how many schools entered no pupils for the higher tier GCSE mathematics examination in *(a)* 2001–02, *(b)* 2002–03 and *(c)* 2003–04. [9260]

**Jacqui Smith:** The information requested on GCSE mathematics by higher and lower tiers is not held centrally by the Department.

**Mr. Gibb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many pupils sat GCSE examinations in *(a)* mathematics and *(b)* additional mathematics in each year since 1995. [9263]

**Jacqui Smith:** The information requested on the number of pupils attempting GCSE (full course) mathematics and additional mathematics can be found as follows.

| | *Number of 15-year-old pupils* | *Number of 15-year-old pupils attempting mathematics* | *Number of 15-year-old pupils attempting additional mathematics* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2003/04 | 643,574 | 606,002 | 246 |
| 2002/03 | 622,122 | 585,045 | 241 |
| 2001/02 | 606,554 | 568,645 | 203 |
| 2000/01 | 603,318 | 563,594 | 256 |
| 1999/2000 | 580,393 | 539,734 | 236 |
| 1998/99 | 580,972 | 536,583 | 254 |
| 1997/98 | 575,210 | 526,673 | 194 |
| 1996/97 | 586,766 | 533,833 | 141 |
| 1995/96 | 594,035 | 537,635 | 152 |
| 1994/95 | 578,197 | 522,296 | — |

GCSE additional mathematics was not available until 1995–96; therefore it is not possible to provide figures for 1994–95 for this subject.

**Mr. Gibb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many pupils have sat A Level examinations in *(a)* mathematics and *(b)* further mathematics in each year since 1995. [9264]

**Jacqui Smith:** The information requested on the number of candidates sitting A Level maths and further maths can be found as follows:

| | *16–18 year old A Level candidates* | *16–18 year old candidates taking Maths* | *16–18 year old candidates taking Further Maths* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2003–04 | 240,810 | 45,879 | 5,111 |
| 2002–03 | 236,288 | 44,331 | 4,730 |
| 2001–02 | 226,169 | 44,055 | 4,498 |
| 2000–01 | 231,656 | 53,604 | 5,052 |
| 1999–00 | 231,423 | 53,148 | 5,015 |
| 1998–99 | 236,091 | 55,348 | 5,145 |
| 1997–98 | 236,154 | 55,831 | 5,211 |
| 1996–97 | 231,334 | 55,001 | 4,999 |
| 1995–96 | 218,254 | 52,979 | 4,913 |
| 1994–95 | 215,424 | 50,058 | 4,255 |

**Mr. Clappison:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if she will list the English universities which have *(a)* closed and *(b)* announced the closure of their mathematics department in the last eight years; and how many places for mathematics have been lost. [8718]

**Bill Rammell:** Information on the closure, merger or opening of particular university courses and departments is not collected centrally by either my Department, the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE), or the Higher Education Statistical Agency (HESA). Higher Education Institutions are

autonomous organisations responsible for their own academic direction and strategic use of funds, and any decisions on closures of departments are made by them.

In their advice to the Secretary of State on strategic subjects published last week, HEFCE has estimated that despite a fall in activity of 9.3 per cent. (or 1,800 full-time equivalents—FTEs) in mathematics since 1999–2000, the total activity remained at nearly 17,500 FTEs in 2003–04, providing a substantial base on which to build. We will be considering HEFCE's advice carefully in the coming months before responding.

### Office for Fair Access

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many higher education institutions in England have informed the Office for Fair Access of the possibility that on clearing they may *(a)* make adjustments to their fees below the levels set out in their access agreements and *(b)* offer bursaries or other financial support in excess of that set out in their access agreements; and if she will make a statement. [10044]

**Bill Rammell:** The Office for Fair Access tell me that no institutions have told them explicitly that they are considering amending their fees or bursary proposals during clearing. However, it is open to institutions at any time to seek OFFA's agreement to amend their access agreements, and five institutions have formally proposed to increase the level of bursary support that they will offer students entering in 2006.

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what disciplinary options are available to the Office for Fair Access in respect of upheld complaints from the public that levels of support committed to in access agreements are not being delivered. [10047]

**Bill Rammell:** If there is a serious breach of an access agreement, the director for fair access can direct the Higher Education Funding Council for England to suspend part of an institution's grant until the institution has made restitution to any student who has been disadvantaged, or has taken other measures that it promised to take (for example, to run outreach work). The director can also fine an institution up to a maximum of £500,000, and notify its governing body that he will refuse to approve an access agreement from it for a specified length of time.

### Police Officers (Schools)

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many schools employ police officers *(a)* through the Safer Schools Partnership and *(b)* outside the Safer Schools Partnership. [7706]

**Jacqui Smith:** There are currently 260 police officers working as part of Safer Schools Partnerships (SSPs) in schools.

My Department does not have figures for the numbers of police officers working in schools outside a Safer Schools Partnership.

### Prison Education

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what estimate she has made of the *(a)* number and *(b)* percentage of prisons in England and Wales that are providing adequate (i) literacy, (ii) numeracy and (iii) vocational training. [11498]

**Phil Hope:** Learning and skills in prisons in England and Wales are provided by providers acting under contract to the Prison Service and through some direct provision by Prison Service staff.

The quality of learning and skills provision in prisons is assessed through a programme of inspections undertaken by the Adult Learning Inspectorate working alongside Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons. The ALI Chief Inspectors' Annual Report 2004 records that the quality of Foundation Programmes (covering literacy, language and numeracy provision) was judged to be satisfactory or better in 25 out of 33 (76 per cent.) of prisons inspected in 2003–04.

For all other areas of learning, which include vocational training, the provision in 2003–04 was judged to be satisfactory or better in 65 out of 94 (69 per cent.) instances.

### Research and Development

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what progress has been made towards the target to increase the ratio of research and development across the economy to 2.5 per cent. of national gross domestic product by 2014; and if she will make a statement. [10040]

**John Healey:** I have been asked to reply.

In July 2004, the Government published a 10-year Science and Innovation Investment Framework, which set out an ambition for the UK's total public and private investment in R&D to reach 2.5 per cent. of GDP by 2014, together with a comprehensive set of policies designed to achieve this. Figures from 2003, which pre-date the 10-year framework, show that public and private investment in R&D stood at 1.9 per cent. of UK GDP. The Government will continue to monitor public and private levels of investment in R&D as the 10-year framework is implemented in future years.

**Dr. Iddon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what real-terms percentage increase she expects in research investment by the Higher Education Funding Council for England in each of the next three years. [9836]

**Bill Rammell:** Our overall plans for investment in university research are published each year in the grant letter to the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE), but HEFCE is responsible for determining the distribution of the total between institutions and over academic years. Our latest plans allow for an increase of 6.8 per cent./5.9 per cent./5 per cent. in real terms over the next three financial years (2005–08).

### School Bullying

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the Answer of 7 June

2005, *Official Report*, column 471W, on bullying, what assessment her Department has made of the impact of the Make the Difference series of ministerial conference on bullying in schools. [8480]

**Jacqui Smith:** Between November 2003 and June 2004, a series of regional conferences was run as part of the "Make the Difference" campaign. These conferences, which welcomed an impressive 5,000 people, offered an opportunity for schools and other partners to share good practice on this issue and to learn at first hand of successful techniques used elsewhere.

Many delegates reported that the conferences had been exactly what they need in order to return to their schools and start making changes.

There was also an influx of signed Charters after the conferences at which it was launched.

One specific result has been that a school that offered an acclaimed workshop at two conferences has now placed its work on DVD in response to requests from many other schools.

Most importantly schools tell us that the conferences have led to significant changes in schools, acting as a catalyst for innovative ways of tackling the problem.

### Science Graduates

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what estimate she has made of the shortfall in science-qualified graduates against the requirements of industry in each of the last five years, broken down by discipline in which there has been such a shortfall. [9249]

**Bill Rammell:** My Department does not make such estimates.

### Skills Shortage

**Mr. Prisk:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what assessment she has made of the skills shortage in *(a)* the East of England and *(b)* Hertford and Stortford constituency. [10926]

**Phil Hope:** Figures from the National Employers Skills Survey, conducted by the Learning and Skills Council in 2003, showed that the East of England region had 14,000 skill shortage vacancies at the time of the survey. This compares with 16,000 in 2002 and represents 18.2 per cent. of all England's skill shortage vacancies. 4 per cent. of establishments reported such vacancies, which was the average for England as a whole.

For East Hertfordshire, which covers the constituency of Hertford and Stortford, seven of the 67 establishments surveyed reported skill shortage vacancies. This equates to 10 per cent. of those surveyed.

### State Boarding Schools

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many *(a)* state boarding schools there are and *(b)* pupils were educated at state boarding schools in the last year for which figures are available. [8487]

**Jacqui Smith:** There are currently 34 maintained boarding schools in England, with approximately 32,500 pupils, of which 4,500 are boarders.

There are also 132 maintained special schools with approximately 9,200 pupils, of which 2,900 are boarders.

### Student Finance

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the *(a)* average and *(b)* maximum amount of support available for (i) full-time and (ii) part-time students in academic years (A) was in 2003/04 and (B) is in 2004/05. [10049]

**Bill Rammell:** The maximum amount available for the standard student support package is set out as follows. Whereas we publish statistics on average fee and maintenance expenditure per student, we do not have data on average amounts available.

£

| *Student loans* | *Maximum available* | *75 per cent. non income assessed* | *25 per cent. income assessed* |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Full time student support: 2003/04*[1] | | | |
| *Students living away from their parents home and studying in:* | | | |
| London | 4,930 | 3,695 | 1,235 |
| Elsewhere | 4,000 | 3,000 | 1,000 |
| *Students living at their parents home:* | | | |
| London or elsewhere | 3,165 | 2,375 | 790 |
| *Part time student support: 2003/04*[2] | | | |
| *Full time student support: 2004/05*[3] | | | |
| *Students living away from their parents home and studying in:* | | | |
| London | 5,050 | 3,790 | 1,260 |
| Elsewhere | 4,095 | 3,070 | 1,025 |
| *Students living at their parents home:* | | | |
| London or elsewhere | 3,240 | 2,430 | 810 |
| *Part time student support: 2004/05*[4] | | | |

[1] Grant for fees up to the full £1,125 fee.
[2] Loan £500.
[3] Grant for fees up to the full £1,150 fee. HE grant up to £1,000 (the minimum grant is £50).
[4] Fee grant up to £575. Course grant up to £250.

In addition to the standard package of full-time support, in both academic years there was a range of extra help available for students with dependants (Adult Dependants Grant, Parents Learning Allowance and Childcare Grant); disabled students (non-means tested Disabled Students Allowances); care leavers (Care Leavers Grant); and certain students incurring additional travel costs (Travel Grant). Also available were discretionary funds such as the Access to Learning Fund and Opportunity Bursaries. Part-time students could also receive Disabled Students Allowances and help from the discretionary funds. In 2003/04 a fee waiver scheme was operated for part-time students through the discretionary Access to Learning Fund. This was replaced with the statutory fee grant in 2004/05.

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to her answer of 23 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 1169W, on further and higher education, what the estimated cost of grants

for full-time students with dependants domiciled in England and Wales at UK institutions was for each academic year between 1999–2000 and 2003–04. [10053]

**Bill Rammell:** Available data are given in the table.

*Number of students domiciled in England and Wales at UK institutions in receipt of a dependants' grant, number of grants received, and related expenditure, academic years 1999/2000 to 2003/04*

| Academic year | Number of students in receipt of a dependants' grant[1] | Number of grants awarded to eligible students[1,2] | Expenditure on dependants' grants (£ million) |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1999/2000 | 15,500 | 27,000 | 42.6 |
| 2000/01 | 20,400 | 36,900 | 59.5 |
| 2001/02 | 23,900 | 54,500 | 86.6 |
| 2002/03 | 24,300 | 59,500 | 97.8 |
| 2003/04 | 27,900 | n/a | [3]57.2 |

[1] Rounded to the nearest 100.

[2] The figures show the total number of grants received as a student can receive more than one type of grant.

[3] Expenditure on dependants' grants for children is not included in 2003/04 since, in April 2003 child tax credits became available to individuals with dependent children, and this included students. To avoid double funding for the same purpose it was decided that it was correct to abolish the dependant grants for children from 2003/04 as students could receive the child tax credit.

*Source:*
F503G Survey of local education authorities and SLC.

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the total value of student loans outstanding has been at the end of each year between 1993–94 and 2003–04. [10911]

**Bill Rammell:** The following table shows the student loan amount outstanding for publicly owned debt in the UK, at the end of each financial year specified.

| Financial year | Amount outstanding (£ million) |
|---|---|
| 1993–94 | 675.1 |
| 1994–95 | 1,178.0 |
| 1995–96 | 1,859.0 |
| 1996–97 | 2,691.0 |
| 1997–98 | 3,574.3 |
| 1998–99 | 3,591.9 |
| 1999–2000 | 3,992.5 |
| 2000–01 | 6,043.2 |
| 2001–02 | 8,394.0 |
| 2002–03 | 10,827.5 |
| 2003–04 (provisional) | 13,364.2 |

*Source:*
Student Loans Company

The Statistical First Release "SFR26/2004 Statistics of Student Loans for Higher Education in the United Kingdom—Financial Year 2003–04 (Provisional)" published on 29 July 2004 gives further information on student loan outlay and repayments. It is available on the DfES website at:

www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000479/index.shtml

Figures will be updated in the Statistical First Release "Student Loans for Higher Education in the United Kingdom—Financial Year 2004–05 (Provisional)", due to be published on 28 July 2005 by the Student Loans Company. It will be available on the SLC website at:

www.slc.co.uk/noframe/corpinfo/natstat.html

## Teacher Training

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many students are in teacher training colleges in *(a)* Southend, *(b)* Essex, *(c)* outer London, *(d)* inner London and *(e)* England; and what the figures were for each of the last five years for which figures are available. [10582]

**Jacqui Smith:** Qualified teacher status (QTS) is usually obtained by successfully completing an undergraduate course of initial teacher training or by completing a course leading to the postgraduate certificate in education (PGCE). Both types of courses are run by higher education institutions. In 1993 a new system of school centred ITT (SCITT) was launched. This is mainly postgraduate training that is designed and delivered by a group of schools.

The numbers of students undertaking initial teacher training in higher education institutions are given in the following table:

*Table 1: Number of students in higher education institutions undertaking initial teacher training*

| Region | 2000/01 | 2001/02 | 2002/03 | 2003/04 | 2004/05 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Southend | — | — | — | — | — |
| Essex | 417 | 425 | 460 | 459 | 426 |
| Outer London | 2,962 | 2,971 | 3,202 | 3,629 | 3,836 |
| Inner London | 2,435 | 2,489 | 2,307 | 2,405 | 2,464 |
| England | 45,499 | 46,188 | 48,674 | 50,299 | 50,600 |

The number of students undertaking initial teacher training in SCITTs are given in the following table:

*Table 2: Number of students in SCITTs undertaking initial teacher training*

| Region | 2000/01 | 2001/02 | 2002/03 | 2003/04 | 2004/05 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Southend | 24 | 23 | 27 | 29 | 29 |
| Essex | 96 | 100 | 102 | 147 | 159 |
| Outer London | 62 | 74 | 67 | 64 | 41 |
| Inner London | 90 | 110 | 131 | 111 | 109 |
| England | 1,099 | 1,213 | 1,451 | 1,578 | 1,763 |

This data is taken from the TTA Trainee Numbers Census 2000–04 and does not include employment based routes into teaching.

## Training and Enterprise Councils

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what legal action has been taken against the liquidators of training and enterprise councils by her Department; and what assessment she has made of the impact on the former TECs pension funds of legal action. [9329]

**Phil Hope:** My Department has not had recourse to take any legal action against the liquidators of TECs, although we did appoint an administrative receiver in four instances to ensure the best interests of TEC pensioners were adhered to and to help safeguard public funds.

No assessment has therefore been made of the impact on former TECs' pension funds of legal action.

### Tuition Fees

**Mr. Rob Wilson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much has been raised from student tuition fees in each year since their introduction. [9987]

**Bill Rammell:** Students on full-time undergraduate courses and their families are expected to make a contribution towards the cost of their tuition only if they can afford to do so.

The amount of private contribution to tuition fees by students from England, Wales, and the European Union from 1999/2000 to 2004/05 is given in the table. This does not include Government expenditure on the fee remission grant.

*Private contributions to tuition fees for students domiciled in England, Wales, or the European Union for academic years 1999/2000[1] to 2004/05*

| *Academic year* | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| 1999/2000 | 199.2 |
| 2000/01 | 309.2 |
| 2001/02 | 373.3 |
| 2002/03 | 403.1 |
| 2003/04 | 420.1 |
| 2004/05[2] | 435.8 |

[1] Tuition fees were introduced in academic year 1998/99, however as that year was treated as a transitional year, data are not available on the same basis as subsequent years.

[2] Provisional (as at 31 March 2005)

*Source:*
Student Loans Company

Data do not include expenditure for those students who decide not to apply for any support with their fees and instead make the full payment direct to the institution.

### UK Skills Base

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what assessment she has made on the link between the UK skills base and productivity growth and if she will make a statement. [11098]

**Phil Hope:** The quantity and quality of skilled labour available in an economy is an important determinant of economic performance and productivity growth. Research has shown that, in terms of GDP per hour, 12 per cent. of the productivity gap with France and one-fifth of the productivity gap with Germany is due to the UK's relative skills level.

In addition to skills investment, innovation, enterprise and competition are all key drivers of productivity growth. These drivers are complementary and interdependent.

More evidence on the links between skills and productivity can be found at http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/documents/enterprise_and_productivitv/ent_index.cfm

### UK-Israel Joint Programmes

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if she will list the joint academic and research programmes involving the UK and Israel which have received UK Government funding since 2000. [9834]

**Bill Rammell:** DfES funding for university teaching and research in England is in the form of a block grant, and universities have flexibility to allocate it as they wish between Departments and programmes. We do not monitor which programmes receive funding. The research councils are the other major Government funders of academic research: they do not have any formal co-funding programmes with Israeli funding agencies, but have awarded some funding for projects, including funding to enable collaborations between UK and Israeli researchers.

# Written Answers to Questions

*Tuesday 12 July 2005*

## PRIME MINISTER

### Food Aid

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Prime Minister what representations he made to the G8 in response to the World Food Programme's request for help for hungry and malnourished people. [11588]

**The Prime Minister:** At the request of the US and UK, the G8 has agreed to work urgently with partners to improve the effectiveness and availability of humanitarian assistance and adequately fund urgent humanitarian needs in Africa.

I also refer my hon. Friend to the communiqué issued at the G8 summit. This is available on the No. 10 website.

### Tax Credits

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to his oral answer of 29 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 1292, on tax credit overpayments, when he plans to write to the hon. Member for Yeovil; and if he will make a statement. [10818]

**The Prime Minister:** I replied to the hon. Member yesterday.

## MINISTER FOR WOMEN

### Discrimination

**Julie Morgan:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what steps have been taken to tackle discriminatory behaviour against lesbian, gay and bisexual people in the provision of goods, facilities and services. [10314]

**Meg Munn:** Since 1997, Government action has been directed to making a real difference to the lives of a great many of lesbian, gay and bisexual people across the country. Having said that, we recognise that there is still discrimination against lesbian, gay and bisexual people in the provision of goods, facilities and service and these are difficult areas which need to be looked at carefully.

We announced in February this year our intention to review discrimination law and look in detail at the best ways to address the current gaps and difficulties. The work of this review is now under way. A proper investigation of how the law should be shaped particularly in important areas such as providing protection from discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation in the provision of goods, facilities and services is a key area for the Discrimination Law Review.

The review will lead to proposals for a fairer, simpler and more effective framework; and will enable this Government to deliver its manifesto commitment to introduce a Single Equality Bill in the lifetime of this Parliament.

## TRADE AND INDUSTRY

### Broadband (East Sussex)

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will provide further broadband availability assistance to East Sussex county council in order for it to meet its broadband targets. [10869]

**Alun Michael:** The South East England Development Agency (SEEDA) is now running a number of programmes targeting broadband take-up in addition to availability. SEEDA funding of £150,000 is supporting a broadband partnership which is led by East Sussex county council in partnership with East Sussex Economic Partnership, Business Link for Sussex, BT Group, the local education authority in East Sussex, and the Learning and Skills Council. The title of the project is "Social and Economic Advancement in East Sussex through Accelerated Broadband Service Availability". Its aim is to grow demand for broadband services and to develop the benefits to businesses and less advantaged communities in priority areas. The project started in late 2004 and is likely to run for at least two years.

No direct funding from DTI is offered specifically to increase broadband availability in the East Sussex area, although we are working closely with BT to minimise the small number of remaining broadband 'blackspots' across the country.

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what funding assistance has been given to East Sussex county council to assist it to meet its broadband availability targets in the county. [10870]

**Alun Michael:** Broadband coverage in the South East of England is extensive, with over 99 per cent. of households able to receive broadband as indicated to in my previous answer to the hon. Member of 29 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 1570W. All telephone exchanges except one in East Sussex are enabled for broadband and that one, Isfield, has a commercial wireless service installed. The wireless solution at Isfield was funded from a grant of £50,000 from the South East of England Development Agency to the East Sussex county council to support wireless broadband community co-operatives. Apart from this, no direct funding has gone to East Sussex county council because we have successfully focused upon delivering a competitive marketplace to encourage the rollout of broadband.

### Carbon Sequestration

**Mr. Salmond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment he has made of the infrastructure requirements to sequester carbon dioxide in reservoirs in the North sea. [10978]

**Malcolm Wicks** *[holding answer 11 July 2005]:* One of the tasks arising from the carbon abatement technology strategy which I announced on 14 June 2005 will be to assess the sources and North sea sinks for $CO_2$ which in itself would identify possible infrastructures. We would plan to publish the results of this work within the next year.

**Mr. Salmond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what estimate he has made of the number of barrels of oil that can be recovered as a result of enhanced oil recovery and carbon dioxide sequestration in *(a)* the UK sector of the North sea and *(b)* the Scottish sector of the North sea. [10979]

**Malcolm Wicks** *[holding answer 11 July 2005]:* We have conducted studies to look into the potential for injecting carbon dioxide into mature UK North sea oilfields for sequestration and for extracting more oil. These studies show that the additional recovery could be as much as 2 billion barrels if the technology is applied extensively. However this is prior to full economic evaluations being done.

Most of the fields that went into the study are in the central North sea, northern North sea and west of Shetlands.

### Consumer Protection

**Joan Walley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (1) if the Government will assess the merits of bringing forward legislative proposals to increase the level of protection for consumers who purchase a defective vehicle; [10694]

(2) if he will re-examine the effectiveness of legislation protecting consumers from faulty goods. [10695]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The Government are committed to improving Britain's consumer regime and any intervention should be based on an evidence-based and risk-assessed approach. I have seen no evidence to suggest that the current legislation in this area is not working effectively.

### English Wine

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (1) what steps he is taking to promote English wine during the EU presidency; and if he will make a statement; [9144]

(2) if he will ensure that English wine is made available at dinners, receptions and parties he hosts at which hospitality involving wine is appropriate *(a)* during the EU presidency and *(b)* generally; and if he will make a statement. [9165]

**Ian Pearson:** The Department of Trade and Industry is organising several informal events in the UK during the UK presidency, in order to facilitate progress on key EU priorities at formal meetings to be held in Brussels. Catering for these events is procured in line with the EC's procurement rules and obtains value for money for the Department. During the presidency, DTI ministerial colleagues, officials and I are planning to serve English and Welsh wine, as well as other UK produce, wherever catering contracts at event venues permit this.

For formal Council meetings in Brussels we are working with the Council Secretariat to try to provide British food and drink for all formal EU Council meetings during the presidency, including English wine.

### Export Control and Non-Proliferation Directorate

**Mr. Arbuthnot:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry pursuant to the answer of 21 June 2005, *Official Report*, columns 898–99W, on the export control and non-proliferation directorate, whether the report written by ASE Consulting on the potential privatisation of the export control and non-proliferation directorate recommended that outsourcing as a means of service delivery was compatible with the executive functions of that directorate; what steps his Department is taking following ASE Consulting's recommendations; and if he will make a statement. [10251]

**Malcolm Wicks:** The report, a copy of which has been placed in the Libraries of the House, did not conclude that outsourcing would be incompatible with the executive functions of the directorate. The Department is currently considering the report.

### Iraq

**Harry Cohen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what discussions he has had with representatives of oil companies since June 2004 on the future of the Iraqi oil sector, broken down by *(a)* date and *(b)* location; if he will publish the minutes of those meetings; and if he will make a statement. [11460]

**Malcolm Wicks:** There is no record of any discussions having taken place.

### Kyoto Targets

**Mr. Hood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what his policy is on the allocation of individual carbon allowances in order to help the UK meet Kyoto targets for carbon dioxide emissions; and if he will make a statement. [10755]

**Mr. Morley:** I have been asked to reply.

The Government have recognised the fact that additional measures are necessary to meet the UK's ambitious domestic emission reduction targets. The current review of the UK Climate Change Programme is looking at how existing policies are performing and the range of policies that might be put in place in the future to put us back on track to achieving our domestic goals.

Allocation of individual carbon allowances (sometimes called domestic tradable quotas) raises several issues that need to be addressed before coming to a conclusion on feasibility, including whether the benefits of introducing such allocations are proportionate to the costs of administering them as well as the public acceptability of such a scheme.

### MG Rover

**Charles Hendry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will make a statement on the future of the MG brand. [5870]

**Ian Pearson:** The future of the MG brand is not yet clear as it depends on the outcome of the efforts of the administrators to sell the assets of MG Rover.

**Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many workers made redundant at MG Rover have found new employment; what assistance he is giving to workers who have not yet found employment; and if he will make a statement. [8100]

**Ian Pearson:** Of the 4,991 former MG Rover and Powertrain workers who registered with Jobcentre Plus, 1,355 had found new employment by Tuesday 5 July 2005. In addition, some 400 former MG Rover employees chose not to register and a proportion of these will have found new employment.

All former employees are being offered a personal training plan and as at 24 June 2005 a total of 3,151 such plans had been developed, with 1,318 individuals actually undergoing training. Various agencies working under the auspices of the Rover Task Force have worked with colleges of further education and other providers in the West Midlands to expand capacity so as to accommodate this extra demand.

### MOD Textile Contracts

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment he has made of the effects on the UK textile industry of Ministry of Defence textile contracts being awarded in China. [10786]

**Alun Michael:** No direct contracts for clothing have been awarded by MOD to Chinese companies although contractors based in the EU have let sub-contracts to Chinese based companies.

No assessment has been made of the effects on the UK textiles industry of sourcing from China. Most combat clothing in the UK is categorised as non warlike. MOD's supplier base optimisation (SBO) programme in relation to non warlike supplies has to comply with EU public procurement regulations against the criteria of the most economically advantageous tender. However, industrial implications are noted during the tender process and brought to the attention of Ministers in the ministerial submission for SBO contracts.

### Nuclear Power

**Paul Flynn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what discussions his Department *(a)* has had and *(b)* plans to have with (i) current UK nuclear operators, (ii) overseas nuclear power generators and (iii) investors in respect of conditions which would be necessary for them to consider constructing or financing new nuclear power plants in the UK. [10814]

**Malcolm Wicks:** The Department is always willing to meet companies engaged in the energy industry and we have regular update discussions with a wide range of such companies including those in the categories referred to. Where issues relevant to new nuclear build are raised, we are quite prepared to listen to the views put to us.

### Oil Imports

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what steps he is taking to reduce the UK's dependency on imported oil. [10875]

**Malcolm Wicks:** Although the UK currently remains a net exporter of oil, it is likely we will become a net importer by around 2010. However, relying on imports need not be a problem in itself, although it does require us to take a longer-term strategic international approach to energy reliability. Oil is an internationally traded commodity and all countries, whether import-dependent or not, have a common interest in promoting open markets. Most other advanced industrial economies already import significant proportions of their oil needs without noticeable disruption.

Notwithstanding this, however, the Government remain committed to maximising the economic recovery of the UK's own oil (and gas) reserves. The PILOT initiative—a joint programme involving the Government and the UK's oil and gas industry—is central to this aim. Moreover, the Government are already putting in place policies that will help ease the UK economy away from power supplied primarily through fossil fuel supply, by increasing energy efficiency and developing alternative technologies. Information on these policies can be found in the Energy White Paper 2003 "Our energy future—creating a low carbon economy" (http://www.dti.gov.uk/energy/whitepaper/index.shtml).

In parallel, the Government have put in place a number of measures to improve the average fuel efficiency of vehicles, as set out in the July 2002 Powering Future Vehicles Strategy. These include fiscal incentives, such as the graduated, $CO_2$ based Vehicle Excise Duty and Company Car Tax schemes. The Government are also promoting the use of renewable transport fuels, such as biofuels, by means of fuel duty incentives. Sales of biofuels have increased rapidly during 2005, and currently stand at some 10 million litres a month, a five-fold increase over sales in 2004.

### Post Offices

**Mr. Hood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many direct post offices have closed in the last 18 months in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* Scotland; and if he will make a statement. [11201]

**Barry Gardiner:** This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. (POL) and the Chief Executive has been asked to reply direct to my hon. Friend.

### Pregnant Workers (Discrimination)

**Mr. Hood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what steps he is taking to help prevent discrimination against pregnant women in the workplace; and if he will make a statement. [10061]

**Meg Munn:** Employers who discriminate against pregnant women are breaking the law. We have taken the opportunity afforded by the amended Equal Treatment Directive to clarify the law and are amending the Sex Discrimination Act so that it explicitly outlaws pregnancy discrimination in the workplace. These regulations will come into force on 1 October 2005.

The Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) recently published a final report on their investigation into pregnancy discrimination at work. We will be considering the report and recommendations carefully.

### Royal Mail

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry pursuant to the answer of 4 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 60W, on Royal Mail, whether the Government will be the only shareholder in Royal Mail in the future; and what plans are being considered to provide shares to *(a)* employees and *(b)* others. [11642]

**Barry Gardiner:** As I said in my previous answer, the Government have given the Royal Mail greater commercial freedom and have no plans to privatise it. Neither do we have plans to issue shares to employees or others.

Our ambition is to see a publicly owned Royal Mail fully restored to good health providing customers with excellent service and its employees with rewarding employment.

### UK Trade and Investment

**Mr. Arbuthnot:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry when UK Trade and Investment consulted the Association of Trade Organisations on proposed changes to the Support for Exhibitions and Seminars Abroad scheme; and if he will make a statement. [10480]

**Ian Pearson:** UK Trade and Investment consulted the accredited trade organisations, including members of the Sponsors' Alliance, in writing in autumn 2004; at an open forum in November 2004; and in small working groups and larger format meetings in the first three months of 2005. UK Trade and Investment is continuing to discuss the implementation of changes to the SESA scheme with the Sponsors' Alliance and accredited trade organisations who are not members of that association.

**Mr. Arbuthnot:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how UK Trade and Investment plans to help existing exporters who want to expand their export activities into new markets to gain access to these markets; and if he will make a statement. [10481]

**Ian Pearson:** Advice and access to a range of UKTI services is available, through international trade advisers based in regional trade teams, to existing exporters who want to expand their export activities into new markets. Support is also available for sectorally based initiatives from which both new and existing exporters will benefit.

## CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

### BBC Freeview (East Sussex)

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps she is taking to ensure that East Sussex receives 100 per cent. coverage of BBC Freeview; and if she will make a statement on BBC Freeview targets for the county. [10871]

**James Purnell:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 26 May 2005, *Official Report*, columns 170–71W.

The vast majority of households in East Sussex can, with the appropriate equipment, receive BBC digital television services via either digital satellite, digital terrestrial or cable.

The Government are committed to ensuring that at digital switchover everyone in the UK who can currently get the main public service broadcasting channels in analogue form (BBC1 and 2, ITV, Channel 4/S4C and Five) can receive them on digital systems.

### Big Lottery Fund

**Mr. Andy Reed:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what criteria will be used to allocate funding from the Big Lottery Fund for a play programme; and when she expects allocations to be made. [10497]

**Mr. Caborn:** This is a matter for the Big Lottery Fund which is currently undertaking development work on the new play fund.

### Departmental Staff

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many full-time equivalents have worked for the Department for each of the last five financial years for which figures are available. [11508]

**Mr. Caborn:** I refer the hon. Member to table C of the annual publication "Civil Service Statistics" which provides staff numbers in the Department for Culture, Media and Sport and its agency in each year from 1998 to 2004, copies of which are laid in the Libraries of both Houses. 2004 figures have been published on the Cabinet Office website.

### Heritage Economic Regeneration Scheme

**Mr. Love:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) what assessment she has made of the likely impact the new evaluation methodology of the Heritage Economic Regeneration Scheme will have on the review of area heritage grant schemes; and if she will make a statement; [10457]

(2) what assessment she has made of the impact of the Partnership Schemes in Conservation Areas programme; when a decision will be taken on extending the programme to other areas; and if she will make a statement. [10458]

**Mr. Lammy:** I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave him on 28 June 2005, *Official Report*, columns 1390–91W.

English Heritage's Heritage Economic Regeneration Scheme (HERS) was replaced by Partnership Schemes in Conservation Areas in April 2005. This reflected its decision to devolve management of its grant schemes to its regional offices. As with HERS, the scheme applies to any conservation area in an area of deprivation.

English Heritage is reviewing the method by which such schemes are evaluated as part of its work on the Heritage Dividend. Together with the Heritage Lottery Fund and other grant giving agencies, it is also exploring the possibility of a joint area- based grant scheme.

### Resale Rights

**Derek Wyatt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many meetings her Department has held with ministerial colleagues at the Department for Trade and Industry to discuss artists' resale rights since 5 May. [11531]

**Mr. Lammy** *[holding answer 11 July 2005]*: There have been no meetings between the Department for Culture Media and Sport and ministerial colleagues at the Department for Trade and Industry to discuss artists' resale rights since 5 May.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

### Vote Office Print Unit

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission if he will list the publications produced by the vote office print unit since its inception. [10877]

**Nick Harvey:** Since its inception in 1994 the vote office print services unit has produced over 48,000 publications. A list of them all in a readily intelligible form could only be produced with disproportionate effort.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what his estimate is of the savings to the House by the use of the vote office print unit since its inception to produce publications previously printed by other sources. [10878]

**Nick Harvey:** It is not possible with precision to calculate the total savings to the House by use of the print services unit since its inception. On the basis of prices obtained from external printers relating to the production of a sample of 11 documents currently printed in-House it is estimated that savings in the order of £6 million have been achieved over the 10 years of operation of the unit.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how many staff are employed by the vote office print unit; and at what grade. [10879]

**Nick Harvey:** 10 staff are currently employed in the vote office Print services unit (two grade B; three grade C and five grade D), under the overall direction of another member of staff (grade A) as part of her duties. Six of these members of staff work a rotating shift system to provide a production capability from 7.30am to midnight on Mondays to Thursdays and 7.30am to 7pm on Fridays, in weeks that the House is sitting.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what the average printing costs of the vote bundle per printed page were during the 2004–05 financial years. [10920]

**Nick Harvey:** The average printing costs of the vote bundle per originated printed page during financial year 2004–05 were £74.15.

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Housing Allowance

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the local housing allowance rates are for each rental category in each of the original pathfinder authorities. [8864]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave my hon. Friend the Member for Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Central (Jim Cousins) on 29 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 1558W.

### Housing Benefit

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the cost of housing benefit paid to council tenants was in the last year for which figures are available. [9662]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The 2003–04 expenditure for housing benefit rent-rebate cases is £5,037 million.

### Jobseeker's Allowance

**Mr. Frank Field:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the off-flow from jobseeker's allowance (JSA) was for *(a)* the UK, *(b)* England and Wales and *(c)* Birkenhead in each year since 1998, broken down by reason; and what percentage of JSA off-flow this represented in each case. [11693]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The information has been placed in the Library.

## DEFENCE

### Armed Forces Recruitment

**Mrs. Dorries:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many people from Mid-Bedfordshire constituency have been recruited into the armed forces in each year since 1997. [11093]

**Mr. Touhig:** This information is not held centrally and cannot be collated without incurring disproportionate cost.

### Armoured Vehicles

**Ann Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 27 June 2005, *Official Report*, columns 1199–20W, on armoured vehicles, what the cost is of each complete base unit from Iveco. [10445]

**Mr. Ingram:** The information requested cannot be provided given the confidential nature of the contract between BAE Systems Land Systems and Iveco.

### Command and Liaison Vehicle

**Ann Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what other designs were considered in the assessment phase for the Command and Liaison Vehicle. [10444]

**Mr. Ingram:** Three designs were considered during the Assessment Phase for the United Kingdom's Command and Liaison Vehicle: Alvis Vehicles Ltd. proposed an IVECO Multi-role Light Vehicle (MLV); Vickers Defence Systems proposed a RG32M, and United Defence Limited Partnership proposed a ACMAT Ranger.

### Defence Export Services Organisation

**Harry Cohen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the duration is of Alan Garwood's appointment as Head of the Defence Export Services Organisation; and what his annual salary was in each year between 2001–02 and 2005–06. [9321]

**Mr. Ingram:** Mr. Alan Garwood took up a three-year contract as the Head of Defence Export Services on 23 September 2002. This appointment has an option to extend and this has now been exercised with the contract extended by mutual agreement, for one year to 22 September 2006. Mr. Garwood, who is seconded from the defence industry, receives a civil service salary within the senior civil service pay band 3 (previously deputy secretary level), which as of April 2005 has a range between £93,139 and £198,197. Industry then pays an element that brings the salary to the level which the individual would otherwise receive in the commercial sector. This figure is agreed by the National Defence Industries Council.

### Future Offensive Air System

**Mr. Moore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the total cost has been of the Future Offensive Air System; and what the main components of this expenditure were. [9629]

**Mr. Ingram** *[holding answer 4 July 2005]:* Research and technology work carried out as part of the Future Offensive Air System (FOAS) is being used in continuing work on future combat air systems. The total cost of FOAS to date is estimated to be £114 million. The main components are a range of targeted technology demonstrator programmes, studies into concepts for potential FOAS components, and technical support provided by DSTL and its predecessors.

### Future Rapid Effects System

**Ann Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many battalions will operate the medium weight Future Rapid Effects System vehicles; and how many of those vehicles there will be in each battalion. [10446]

**Mr. Ingram:** Future Rapid Effects System vehicles will be used in the medium-weight mechanised brigades and are also expected to fulfil a number of roles in both heavy armoured and light brigades.

The detailed fielding plans that will define which units will be equipped with FRES vehicles, and the numbers of vehicles to be allocated to individual units are currently being developed as part of the initial Assessment Phase.

**Ann Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many companies *(a)* expressed an interest in bidding for and *(b)* bid for provision of electric armour for the Future Rapid Effects System project; and if he will make a statement. [10928]

**Mr. Ingram:** Five companies expressed an interest in bidding for a contract to demonstrate electric armour technology. On completion of the assessment of these expressions of interest, two companies were invited to tender. Formal bids were received from both companies.

### Iraq

**Harry Cohen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what role UK forces had in Operation Spear in Iraq; whether the operation was fully co-ordinated with *(a)* Iraqi security forces and *(b)* the Iraqi Administration; what armaments were used in the operation; whether civilians lived in the area covered by the operation; what warning was given to civilians; what the Government's policy is on legal liability in joint military operations in Iraq; and if he will make a statement. [9786]

**Mr. Ingram:** Operation Spear was a combined US-Iraqi security force anti-terrorist operation co-ordinated by US forces and the Iraqi Ministry of Defence. Detailed operational information is therefore a matter for the US or Iraqi authorities.

Although there were no specific British plans to support the operation, three RAF Tornado GR4s on routine patrols in Iraq were tasked to respond to calls for close air support assistance from US forces during the course of the operation. Those UK aircraft did not expend any weapons in support of the operation.

It is UK government policy on legal liability on combined operations in Iraq, that each nation would be directly liable for the consequences of actions taken by its own forces.

**Dr. Kumar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many civilian contractors employed by the Department have died during their service in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan since 1997. [11341]

**Mr. Ingram:** No officially accredited Ministry of Defence contractors have died on operations in Afghanistan or Iraq since the start of the current operations there, in 2001 and 2003 respectively.

### Military Bands

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many public performances military bands have given in each of the last three years; and which were free. [11171]

**Mr. Touhig:** Military bands undertake a large number of performances each year many of which are open to the public under a variety of arrangements. The level of detail sought in the question can be provided only at disproportionate cost as records are not held centrally.

### RAF (Permanent Commissions)

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of service *(a)* men and *(b)* women who successfully applied to sign on for a permanent commission in the RAF, broken down by (i) supply, (ii) administration and (iii) engineering in each of the last five years. [10357]

**Mr. Touhig:** The following figures show the numbers of personnel who converted from a short service commission to a permanent commission during the calendar years shown.

| | *Engineer* | | *Supply* | | *Administration* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Male* | *Female* | *Male* | *Female* | *Male* | *Female* |
| 2000 | 10 | [1]— | 10 | [1]— | 15 | 15 |
| 2001 | 5 | [1]— | 10 | [1]— | 15 | 15 |
| 2002 | | [1]— | 5 | [1]— | 10 | 15 |
| 2003 | [1]— | [1]— | 5 | [1]— | 10 | 15 |
| 2004 | [1]— | [1]— | 5 | 0 | 0 | [1]— |

[1] — denotes a number less than 5.

*Note:*
Figures are rounded to the nearest 5.

### RAF Marham

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many BAE Systems staff work at RAF Marham servicing fast jets. [11173]

**Mr. Ingram:** Currently, eight BAE Systems technicians are involved in the repair and maintenance of the Tornado GR4 aircraft at RAF Marham in Norfolk.

In addition a further 25–35 BAE Systems personnel may be on-site at RAF Marham at any one time in support of the Tornado GR4. None of these people are however, directly involved in the repair and maintenance of aircraft.

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what equipment has been moved from Warton to RAF Manton to help service fast jets. [11174]

**Mr. Ingram:** A small amount of surplus BAE Systems equipment racking and ground equipment has recently been moved from BAE Systems Warton to RAF Marham in Norfolk. The equipment will be used to support the repair and maintenance of Tornado GR4 aircraft.

### Scottish Infantry Recruitment

**Mr. Hood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many soldiers have left the Scottish Infantry Regiments since January; and if he will make a statement. [10058]

**Mr. Touhig:** During the period 1 January to 30 April 2005 180 officers and soldiers left the Army Full-Time Trained strength from the Scottish Division of the Infantry. This comprises of 10 officers and 170 soldiers.

### Tracked Vehicles

**Ann Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 15 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 442W, on tracked vehicles, what will happen to the Combat Vehicle Reconnaissance (Tracked) vehicles when they are phased out in 2014. [10440]

**Mr. Ingram:** It is intended to dispose of the Combat Vehicle Reconnaissance (Tracked) CVR(T) through the Disposal Services Agency (DSA).

### Trident

**Paul Flynn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the expected cost of replacing Trident is, broken down by *(a)* initial cost and *(b)* annual running costs. [11322]

**John Reid:** No decisions on any replacement for the Trident system have yet been taken. It is therefore too early to say what might be the initial procurement costs or annual running costs of any replacement system.

## NORTHERN IRELAND

### Identity Cards

**Mr. Garnier:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what estimate he has made of the cost of equipping Police Service of Northern Ireland premises with identity card readers. [9886]

**Mr. Woodward:** On 28 June 2005, my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary placed in the Library a paper containing the latest estimates of benefits of the Identity Cards Scheme which shows that the benefits outweigh the costs once the scheme is fully operational. The Police Service of Northern Ireland has been contributing to this process. The cost of equipping premises will depend on the nature of the use of the Identity Cards Scheme and the type of identity check(s) necessary to deliver the business benefits. In some cases, benefits could be realised without the use of card readers and the cost of installing any readers needs to be considered alongside future plans to refresh or upgrade IT systems. As the design of the scheme matures, during and after the procurement exercise, so will our understanding of where the scheme will be of most benefit which will allow us to further refine our estimates of costs and benefits.

**Mr. Garnier:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent discussions *(a)* he and *(b)* his officials have had with their Irish Government counterparts concerning the introduction of identity cards and the national data register in the United Kingdom and their effect upon the common travel area. [9887]

**Andy Burnham:** I have been asked to reply.

There is regular contact between Home Office officials and their counterparts in Ireland about the introduction of Identity Cards. The Home Secretary has met the Irish Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform and discussed the Government's plans with him.

The principle of the common travel area, within which people of any nationality may travel without routine immigration checks, will remain unchanged. The area covers the UK, Ireland, the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands.

### Litter

**Dr. McCrea:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps are being taken to discourage the dropping of litter on streets; what penalties apply to this offence; and how many prosecutions there were in each council area in the last period for which figures are available. [11129]

**Angela E. Smith:** It is an offence to drop litter under Article 3 of the Litter (Northern Ireland) Order 1994. A person guilty of such an offence is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 4 on the standard scale which currently stands at £2,500.

A district council may, however, offer the person the opportunity of discharging any liability to conviction for the offence by payment of a fixed penalty. The amount of the fixed penalty was doubled last year to £50 and proposals are included in the draft Local Government (NI) Order 2005 which is currently before Parliament to allow councils to retain these fines for spending on litter related activities.

The Department of the Environment is also currently considering the range of measures in the recent Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005, which among other things, strengthen the legislation for dealing with litter in England and Wales, with a view to making recommendations on how they might be brought forward in the Northern Ireland context.

The Department does not hold information on the number of prosecutions for littering in each council area.

### Parades Commission

**Mr. Dodds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many meetings of the Parades Commission there have been in each year since its formation; how many meetings each member of the Commission attended in each year; and whether that attendance was for *(a)* the whole and *(b)* part of the meeting. [9746]

**Mr. Woodward:** The Parades Commission has advised me that this information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Post-primary Education

**Lady Hermon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps are being taken to implement the Costello proposals on post-primary education; and when he expects legislation to be placed before Parliament to implement those proposals. [11236]

**Angela E. Smith:** The recommendations of the report of the Post-Primary Review Working Group (the Costello Report) were accepted in full by Government in January 2004 and are currently being implemented. Action is under way in the following key areas.

*Strategic advice*

A strategic advisory group, comprising representatives of the managing authorities and other key education organisations, was established in June 2004 to advise the Department of Education on implementation issues, and has met on nine occasions to date.

*Admissions*

Options for new admission arrangements to post-primary schools, including admissions criteria that could be used by schools if they are oversubscribed, were published for consultation on 28 January 2005. The consultation ended on 30 June and decisions will be taken when the responses have been fully considered.

*Specialist Schools*

A conference on specialist schools, aimed at senior members of school management, was held in November 2004. A small-scale pilot to test the model in the Northern Ireland context is under consideration.

*Pupil Profile*

For the last two years the Northern Ireland Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment (CCEA) has been developing a pupil profile which will help parents and children make appropriate choices at transfer stage. A large-scale pilot of year 5 pupils is planned for 2006–07.

*Entitlement Framework*

Guidance issued to schools in June 2005 to help them to begin to plan for the move to the full curricular entitlement framework, to ensure that it is delivered to all pupils. Additional funding has been provided to education and library boards and the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools to support and facilitate schools to begin to deliver the entitlement framework. Further guidance is expected to issue in autumn 2005 which will deal with practical issues in the delivery of the framework and will be informed by evaluation evidence from the first phase of the Vocational Enhancement Programme in 2004–05, an initiative funded by the Departments of Education and Employment and Learning to develop models of collaborative working between schools and further education colleges and disseminate good practice. Further collaborative projects are being funded in 2005–06.

Funding has also been provided for a number of e-learning pilots and for the development of new vocational qualifications.

*6th forms*

Guidance was issued to schools about new arrangements requiring proposals for the establishment of new 6th forms to be the subject of statutory development proposals.

*Legislation*

Primary legislation necessary to give effect to the new arrangements is expected to be laid before Parliament in spring 2006.

### Police Service

**Lady Hermon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the average Police Service of Northern Ireland emergency response time was in each policing district in each of the past 18 months; and what steps are being taken to improve response times. [9126]

**Mr. Woodward:** Recording of response times commenced on 1 April 2005. The current Policing Plan requires the Police Service of Northern Ireland to work towards establishing a baseline for measuring police response times to emergency calls. Work is ongoing to establish how this might be achieved, and a report will be made at the end of the financial year. Improvement in response times cannot be measured until this baseline is established.

**Mr. Dodds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many civilian workers in security jobs at Police Service of Northern Ireland stations have been given training with weapons. [9480]

**Mr. Woodward:** No civilian workers in security jobs at PSNI stations have been given training with weapons as part of their role.

## CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

### Elections

**Mr. Djanogly:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what estimate she has made of the number of complaints made by voters concerning their votes being cast illegitimately by someone other than themselves during the general election 2005. [11691]

**Ms Harman:** My Department has received no complaints from voters alleging that their votes were cast illegitimately by someone other than themselves during the 2005 general election.

Our advice to any person who suspects that electoral malpractice may have taken place, is that they should report their suspicions to their local police force.

**Mr. Djanogly:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many postal votes were received by returning officers after the polling day of the 2005 general election, broken down by parliamentary constituency. [11706]

**Ms Harman:** Returning officers have a duty to complete a 'statement as to postal ballot papers' for each election (form K, schedule 3 to the Representation of the People (England and Wales) Regulations 2001). This includes the total of postal ballot papers that arrived too late to be included in the count.

The Electoral Commission will collate and publish this information later this summer, as part of their general duty to report on UK parliamentary elections.

**Mr. Djanogly:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs if she will list the Commonwealth countries that have reciprocal agreements with the UK over residential qualifications for voting in *(a)* local elections and *(b)* national elections. [11709]

**Ms Harman:** The Representation of the People Act 1983 provides that all Commonwealth citizens who are lawfully resident in the UK are entitled to vote in parliamentary and local elections. Decisions about voting rights of British citizens resident in other Commonwealth countries are for the individual countries concerned.

**Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what percentage of the voting electorate voted by *(a)* post and *(b)* proxy in the last general election, broken down by constituency. [10718]

**Ms Harman:** Returning Officers have a duty to complete a 'statement as to postal ballot papers' for each election (form K, schedule 3 to the Representation of the People (England and Wales) Regulations 2001). This includes the total number of postal votes issued and subsequently returned.

The Electoral Commission will collate and publish this information later this summer, as part of their general duty to report on UK parliamentary elections. The report will also include figures on proxy voting.

### Freedom of Information Act

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what provisional assessment was made of the likely implications for *(a)* staffing and *(b)* expenditure of applications to the National Archives under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 for copies of personal details from households listed in the 1911 decennial Census for England and Wales. [9514]

**Ms Harman:** Section 41 of the FOI Act relating to breach of confidence has been applied to all applications received since January 2005 to view individual 1911 census returns. The National Archives is currently developing plans including staff development and expenditure allocations to make the 1911 census publicly available in 2012 in line with government policy to release decennial census returns after a period of 100 years.

### Public Records Act

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs whether the Public Records Act 1958 extended 100-year closure of the 1911 decennial census for England and Wales still applies. [9550]

**Ms Harman:** Since January 2005 the section 41 exemption of the FOI Act relating to breach of confidence has been applied to all applications received to view individual 1911 census returns. It remains government policy to make census returns publicly available after a period of 100 years.

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

### Ahmadi Muslim Community

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Government of *(a)* Pakistan and *(b)* Bangladesh on the persecution of the Ahmadi Muslim community; and if he will make a statement. [11163]

**Dr. Howells:** We regularly raise our human rights concerns with the Government of Pakistan, including our concerns about the experiences of religious minorities including the Ahmadi community. We judge that collective action through the EU is the most effective method of voicing these concerns. The EU most recently demarched the Government of Pakistan on these subjects on 30 June 2005.

We are concerned by the apparent increase in intolerance towards religious minorities in Bangladesh, including the Ahmadi community. We regularly raise these concerns with the Government of Bangladesh, both bilaterally and with EU partners. My hon. Friend the Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Douglas Alexander) did so with the Bangladeshi Prime Minister on a visit to Dhaka on 21 December. The local EU presidency did so most recently during a call on the Bangladeshi Home Minister on 14 May.

### Chechnya

**Stephen Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions the Government have held with the Russian Government regarding its military involvement in Chechnya. [10704]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** We remain concerned about the human rights situation in Chechnya. We are especially concerned about the culture of impunity, with continuing reports of extra-judicial killings, arbitrary detention and torture. We frequently raise our concerns with the Russian Government, both bilaterally and in multilateral fora. These include concerns about the military component of Russia's response to the problems in Chechnya. Bilaterally, we most recently discussed Chechnya in depth during the UK-Russia Human Rights dialogue on 23 May, when we expressed our belief that effective maintenance of security and actions to counter terrorism should be pursued within a framework that respects human rights and international humanitarian law. We also discussed Chechnya during the EU-Russia human rights consultations held in March 2005.

### Correspondence

**Sir Gerald Kaufman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he expects to reply to the letter to him dated 26 May from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton, with regard to Mr. Mohammad Chaudhary. [10690]

**Dr. Howells:** My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary replied to my right hon. Friend's letter of 26 May concerning Mr. Mohammad Chaudhary on 13 June. UKvisas re-sent a copy of this letter on 6 July.

**Sir Gerald Kaufman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he expects to reply to the letter to him dated 19 May from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton, with regard to Mr. Mukhtar Ali. [10691]

**Dr. Howells:** I refer my right hon. Friend to my earlier reply of 4 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 181W. A further copy of our reply has been forwarded to my right hon. Friend's constituency office for information.

**Mr. Winnick:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he will reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Walsall, North of 26 May to the Home Office which was subsequently transferred to his Department, regarding a constituent. [10729]

**Dr. Howells** *[holding answer 11 July 2005]:* My noble Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Lord Triesman of Tottenham) replied to my hon. Friend on 7 July.

### Corruption

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his counterparts in overseas governments about reducing corruption related to the arms trade. [11203]

**Dr. Howells:** My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not held recent discussions with counterparts specifically on the subject of corruption in the arms trade. However, the Government are committed to working for an international treaty covering the trade in conventional arms and Ministers and officials are pursuing this objective actively in bilateral contacts as well as in multilateral fora, including at the recent meeting of G8 Foreign Ministers.

### Council of Europe Youth Foundation

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the activities of the Council of Europe's Youth Foundation. [9043]

**Bill Rammell:** I have been asked to reply.

The European Youth Foundation (EYF) is a fund established in 1972 by the Council of Europe to provide financial support for youth activities in the 46 member states of the Council of Europe. In 2003, with a budget of approximately €3 million, the EYF supported some 320 projects involving more than 15,000 young people.

### Kyrgyzstan

**Mr. Hands:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he has taken to establish the welfare of the Uzbek and Kyrgyz citizens in Djalabad's refugee camps. [10902]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** Our Ambassador, James Sharp, who is accredited to Kyrgyzstan, has visited the country twice since early June 2005. On the first occasion, he publicly emphasised the importance of the Kyrgyz Government's honouring its international commitments on refugees. Both the Kyrgyz Foreign Minister and National Security Council Chairman assured him that the Government would do so. Mr. Sharp also met the local United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) representatives to review the refugee situation.

The handing of four Uzbek refugees to the Andizhan Prosecutor on 9 June appears to have been a clear breach of the Kyrgyz Government's obligations. As a result, on 21 June we, acting with our EU partners, delivered a demarche to the Kyrgyz Government over its treatment of refugees, insisting that it abided by its commitments to the 1951 UN Convention on Refugees.

Mr. Sharp visited the refugee camps in Jalalabad on 6 July. We will continue to monitor the situation closely, and press the Kyrgyz Government to comply with its international responsibilities.

### Eastern Europe

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will list those UK non-governmental organisations which are funded to promote information exchanges with Eastern Europe. [9042]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office is engaged in a wide range of activities in Eastern Europe which could be classed as information exchange, including political work, sponsored and other working visits, public diplomacy activity, scholarship schemes, shorter-term fellowships and project work. Some of these activities are carried out by or with a range of UK non-governmental organisations, and non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs) such as the British Council, the BBC World Service, the Westminster Foundation for Democracy, the British Association for Central and Eastern Europe and various British universities.

### EU Constitution

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the Government's policy is on *(a)* direct UK and *(b)* European Commission involvement in the ratification process of the EU constitution by individual member states by means of (i) official visits and (ii) funding for information projects; and if he will make a statement. [10084]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** Individual member states are responsible for their own ratification of the EU constitutional treaty, including the organisation of official visits and the allocation of funds for information projects. The Institutions of the European Union are responsible for their own communications activities. The Government are in contact with the European Parliament and the European Commission about their EU communications activities.

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the requirement under Article III-305 of the EU constitution for the United Kingdom to present a common EU position at NATO meetings where such a position has been reached; and by what mechanism the EU Foreign Minister would be permitted to address the meeting on his request. [10096]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** Article III-305, or any other article in the EU constitutional treaty, would not require the UK alone or any other member state to present the common EU position in NATO meetings. But Article III-305 would require all member states, including the UK, to uphold previously agreed positions in other international organisations. This provision has existed since Maastricht. Because we have a veto on foreign and defence policy, these EU positions would have been previously agreed by us.

There is no provision in the constitutional treaty for the EU Foreign Minister to request to address a meeting in NATO. However, Article III-296.2 of the EU constitutional treaty makes clear that he or she would represent agreed positions of the EU in international meetings and at international conferences, acting on behalf of the European Union. Where the EU and NATO engage in dialogue which helps develop their

strategic partnership—for example in the regular meetings between the Political and Security Committee and the North Atlantic Council—the EU Foreign Minister would present the EU policies, which we would have agreed to. This mirrors the current arrangement where the presidency presents agreed positions. The UK would, of course, be represented in both its UK and EU seats.

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the requirement under Article III-305 of the EU constitution for the United Kingdom to present a common EU position at Commonwealth meetings where such a position has been reached; and by what mechanism the EU Foreign Minister would be permitted to address the meeting on his request. [10098]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** Neither Article III-305, nor any other article in the EU constitutional treaty, would require the UK alone or any other member state to present the common EU position in Commonwealth meetings. But Article III-305 would require all member states, including the UK, to uphold previously agreed positions in other international organisations. This provision has existed since Maastricht. Because we have a veto on foreign and defence policy, these EU positions would have been previously agreed by us. In the Commonwealth, this requirement would apply to the UK, Malta and Cyprus.

There is no provision in the constitutional treaty for the EU Foreign Minister to request to address a Commonwealth meeting. However, Article III-296.2 of the EU constitutional treaty makes it clear that he or she would represent agreed positions of the EU in international meetings and at international conferences, acting on behalf of the European Union. So, for example, if the members of the Commonwealth were to hold a joint meeting with the European Union, the Union Minister for Foreign Affairs could represent the European Union if the meeting was relevant to his/her external portfolio. The European Union is not a member of the Commonwealth and the UK would continue to represent itself in Commonwealth meetings.

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will list those EU countries that have indicated a willingness to continue ratifying the EU constitution; and whether ratification would be made by *(a)* Parliament and *(b)* after a plebiscite in each case. [10099]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** Belgium, Malta and Estonia intend to proceed with parliamentary ratification of the EU constitutional treaty. Luxembourg held a referendum on 10 July. The Czech Republic intends to proceed with ratification of the EU constitutional treaty by referendum, although the requisite enabling legislation has yet to be passed and the Government have announced that any ratification is unlikely before mid 2006. The Irish Government have announced that they will not set a date for their referendum. Poland has not decided how, if at all, to proceed with ratification and the Polish President has said that a referendum in 2005 looks "unrealistic". The Swedish Government have announced that they will seek to postpone their parliamentary ratification process and the Finnish Government have postponed parliamentary ratification. The Danish and Portuguese Governments have postponed their referendums. The treaty was approved by Parliament in Cyprus on 30 June.

### EU Membership

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will set out the factors underlying each of the Copenhagen criteria by which a candidate country would be assessed for membership of the EU. [10418]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** The Copenhagen criteria require that a state has the institutions to preserve democratic governance and human rights, a functioning market economy, and that the state accepts the obligations and intent of the EU. The EU have not set out explicit factors underlying these criteria. It is the responsibility of the Commission to advise on whether the criteria are met and then for member states to confirm this advice.

### EU Transparency

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the application of the principle of transparency in EU *(a)* whistleblower cases and *(b)* working committees. [5289]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** Article 1 of the Treaty on European Union provides that decisions are taken as openly as possible and as closely as possible to the citizen. The EU institutions, when dealing with both whistleblower cases and working committees, apply the EU's general rules on transparency.

Regulation 1049/2001 of the European Parliament and the Council provides for public access to European Parliament, Council and Commission documents. Under the Regulation, all official documents are accessible except when disclosure would infringe a specific public or private interest. All decisions refusing even partial access to a document may be the subject of an administrative appeal to the institution concerned. If not satisfied, applicants for information may then institute court proceedings, or appeal to the European Ombudsman.

Various working committees and groups operate under the auspices of the Council (under Article 19(3) of the Council's rules of procedure). The Council General Secretariat updates and publishes a list of such bodes. The documents of working committees can be made directly accessible to the public in accordance with Article 11 of Annex II of the Council's Rules of Procedure. (These are easily accessible on the Council's website at http://ue.eu.int/docCenter.asp?lang=en&cmsid=245)

### European Union

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs below what minimum share of the popular vote sustaining a Government a country would be assessed as no longer a functioning democracy for the purposes of the Copenhagen criteria applied to membership of the European Union. [9893]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** The Copenhagen criteria require that a candidate country have

"stability of institutions guaranteeing democracy, the rule of law, human rights and respect for and protection of minorities"

in order to open negotiations. The Copenhagen criteria do not specify a minimum share of the popular vote sustaining a Government necessary for a country to be considered democratic. The Commission is responsible for advising whether the Copenhagen criteria are met and will look at the individual circumstances of each country in reaching its assessment.

**Kate Hoey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the basis is of the statement by the Minister for Europe in his letter to the Financial Times on 22 June regarding the cost to the UK of the EU budget proposed by the Luxembourg presidency at the European Council. [9907]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** The €25 billion figure was based on the final Luxembourg proposal on 17 June regarding own resources on the revenue side of the EU budget. That proposal would have excluded all community expenditure other than new member states' market related expenditure and direct payments under the Common Agricultural Policy from the calculation of the UK abatement. It also proposed other adjustments to the own resources decision so as to reduce the net contributions to the community budget of Germany, Sweden and the Netherlands. The combined effect of these changes would have meant that over the 2007 to 2013 period, the UK net contribution to the Community Budget i.e. the UK's gross contribution less the abatement and UK public and private-sector receipts would have been approximately €25 billion higher than it would have been if the current own resources system continued unchanged.

### Fissile Missile Cut-off Treaty

**Jeremy Corbyn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on negotiations concerning the Fissile Missile Cut-off Treaty. [11052]

**Dr. Howells:** The UK has a long-standing commitment to conclude negotiations on a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices. The UK remains committed to pushing forward substantive work on this treaty at the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva and has been pressing for negotiations to begin as soon as possible and without pre-conditions. We regret that this has not been agreed to date.

### France (Gypsies)

**Dr. Iddon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the French Government concerning its treatment of indigenous Gypsies. [10139]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not made representations to the French Government on this issue but officials remain in regular contact on the full range of social and human rights issues. The human rights of members of the Roma community are protected by the core international human rights instruments, to which France is a party.

### G8 Summit

**Pete Wishart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make it his policy to ensure agreements reached at the G8 summit in Perthshire this week recognise the location of the summit by referring to them as the Perthshire Declaration or Perthshire Accord. [10500]

**Ian Pearson:** The G8 Summit was held at the Gleneagles Hotel and will be known as the G8 Gleneagles Summit. Documents issued during the summit will reflect this.

### Human Rights Council

**John Bercow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on non-governmental organisations having a specific role as part of the peer review process proposed for the Human Rights Council. [11188]

**Ian Pearson:** If peer review is an element of the future Council's work, reports from NGOs should provide an important source of information for consideration in the process. More generally, we are strongly in favour of NGO participation in any Council being maintained at the same or greater level as in the Commission on Human Rights, and are working with our EU partners to ensure this is achieved.

**John Bercow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on the UN Secretary General's proposal to replace the UN Commission on Human Rights with a Human Rights Council. [11190]

**Ian Pearson:** The UK fully supports the Secretary-General's proposal to raise the profile, status and effectiveness of the main intergovernmental human rights forum in the UN system through replacing the Commission on Human Rights with a Human Rights Council. We believe it should be on the same footing as the Security Council and Economic and Social Council, with a clear mandate to address urgent human rights situations as and when they arise.

### Inter Institutional Agreement on Better Lawmaking

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the effect of the Inter Institutional Agreement on *(a)* business and *(b)* job creation. [9976]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** The 2003 Inter Institutional Agreement on Better Lawmaking provides a framework for taking forward elements of the Better Regulation agenda which require co-operation between Community institutions. These include simplifying and reducing the volume of legislation and using impact assessment for significant Council and Parliament amendments. Improving the regulatory environment in Europe and reducing the burden of regulation on business will make a real contribution to increasing European competitiveness. Dutch studies predicted that

reducing their national administrative burden by 25 per cent. could result in an increase of 1.5 per cent. in Dutch Gross Domestic Product.

### Iraq

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the *(a)* role, *(b)* mandate, *(c)* budget, *(d)* diplomatic status, *(e)* level of support available from British diplomats, *(f)* personal security arrangements and *(g)* level of access to classified documents of the Secretary General/High Representative of the EU for Iraq. [10241]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** There is no EU Secretary General/High Representative for Iraq.

**Harry Cohen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what advice and assistance the Government have provided on oil policy to the Government of Iraq since June 2004; and if he will make a statement. [11481]

**Dr. Howells:** Since June 2004 the UK Government have provided policy advice and support to Iraq on oil matters in two areas.

In August 2004 the UK Government handed an outline document to the Iraq Ministry of Oil (MoO) on transparency and business ethics. The purpose was to familiarise the MoO with international initiatives aimed at improving transparency and the importance of good practice.

The UK has also been involved with assisting the MoO on education and training issues, delivered through the UK-Iraq Joint Board on Education and Training, established in December 2003. This includes work on a Learning Needs Analysis, English Language Training, IT Strategy, and Human Resources Procedures.

**Harry Cohen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will place in the Library a copy of the fiscal and regulatory frameworks for the Iraqi oil industry prepared by the Government and referred to in paragraph 11 of the Response of the Secretary of State to the Seventh Report of the Foreign Affairs Committee session 2003–04, on Foreign Policy Aspects of the War Against Terrorism; and if he will make a statement. [11516]

**Dr. Howells:** We discuss with the Iraqi Ministries their priorities on a regular basis. We had intended to prepare a paper for the Iraqi Ministry of Oil (MoO) on regulatory frameworks, but following discussion with them decided to reprioritise the funding. We are therefore not able to place a copy of the fiscal and regulatory frameworks for the oil industry in the Library of the House.

I refer my hon. Friend to the reply I gave to him today (UIN 11481) on the areas the UK has assisted the MoO on oil policy since June 2004. We are continuing to discuss with the MoO how we can help them develop an oil industry that is transparent and efficiently run.

### Israel

**Jeremy Corbyn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports *(a)* NATO and *(b)* the Government have received regarding whether Israel possesses weapons of mass destruction. [11051]

**Dr. Howells:** The Government are not able to answer on behalf of NATO. We are of course aware of the widespread assumption that Israel possesses nuclear weapons, but note too that the Israeli Government have refused to confirm it.

### Middle East

**Jeremy Corbyn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will support a nuclear weapon free zone in the Middle East. [11086]

**Dr. Howells:** The United Kingdom strongly supports the establishment of a zone free from all Weapons of Mass Destruction in the Middle East. The UK, together with the Russian Federation and United States, sponsored the Resolution on the Middle East agreed at the 1995 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review and Extension Conference which included a call for the establishment of a such a zone.

### Sir Donald Tsang

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Answer to Question 6623, what the Government's policy is on the use of Sir Donald Tsang's title. [10784]

**Ian Pearson:** There is no Government Policy on the use of Donald Tsang's title, which derives from the KBE awarded to him in 1997 for his 30-year service to Hong Kong. It is for the individual concerned to decide whether they use or wish to be known by their title.

### Sudan

**John Bercow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to the government of Sudan regarding *(a)* the use of torture in Sudan, *(b)* summary arrest without trial, *(c)* the treatment of minorities outside Darfur and *(d)* the treatment of opposition parties in Sudan. [10895]

**Ian Pearson:** We make regular representations to the Government of Sudan on human rights, both bilaterally and through multilateral forums such as the EU-Sudan Human Rights dialogue and the sub-Joint Implementation Mechanism meetings on human rights. On 30 June we emphasised to senior Sudanese government and judicial officials the importance of human rights. The discussions covered a wide range of subjects including the use of torture and treatment of minorities.

We regularly raise with the Government of Sudan the importance of fully implementing the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and the new Interim National Constitution which make explicit provisions for the protection of human rights, fair trial and free speech. We intend to take forward these issues as part of our EU presidency.

**John Bercow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the *(a)* fairness and *(b)* effectiveness of the Sudanese judicial system.[11063]

**Ian Pearson:** The UK makes regular representations to the Government of Sudan on the need to ensure its judicial process is fair and transparent, and we have raised our concerns on a number of individual cases. We are pleased that, under the provisions of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, the parties have committed themselves to a comprehensive review of the Sudanese judicial system, and to guaranteeing free and fair trials for all. The UK will play a leading role in supporting reform of the Sudanese justice sector. As part of our £7.2 million programme in this area, we are assisting the National Judicial Service Commission, which monitors reform.

The International Commission of Inquiry on Darfur set up by the UN Secretary-General cited shortcomings in the Sudanese criminal justice system and concluded that the Sudanese judiciary were unable or unwilling to carry out prosecutions in relation to the crimes in Darfur. UN Security Council Resolution 1593 of 31 March 2005, which we sponsored, therefore referred Darfur to the International Criminal Court. In the Prosecutor's first report to the Security Council on 19 June, he said he had sufficient grounds for a formal investigation. The decision was, in part, based on the absence of Sudanese legal proceedings relating to the cases the Prosecutor is likely to focus on.

**John Bercow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what assessment his Department has made of the *(a)* treatment of prisoners and *(b)* safety of political dissidents in Sudan; [11064]

(2) what assessment his Department has made of the prospect for fair and humane treatment of political activists and dissidents in Khartoum. [11065]

**Ian Pearson:** We make regular representations to the Government of Sudan regarding the treatment of prisoners and the release of political detainees. We welcome the release on 30 June of 29 political prisoners, among them the leader of the Popular Congress Party Dr. Hassan al-Turabi and General Secretary of the Beja Congress Abdulla Musa. We continue to press the Government of Sudan to release those political detainees still held.

Under the terms of the Interim National Constitution, signed on 6 June 2005, and the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), signed on 9 January 2005, the rights to freedom of thought, conscience, expression and association are guaranteed to all. They also guarantee freedom from discrimination on any grounds, including for political or other opinions. We continue to urge the parties to implement fully the CPA and to ensure that swift progress is made on the provisions on human rights.

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the recent peace deal for Darfur, with specific reference to the security situation; and how this peace deal relates to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement signed in 2004. [11213]

**Ian Pearson:** We welcome the signature on 5 July in Abuja, of the Declaration of Principles for the resolution of the conflict in Darfur. We congratulate the parties on this achievement, and commend the African Union (AU)-led mediation team for its efforts. This is an important step. It is the first document agreed by the parties to the Darfur conflict that deals with political, rather than humanitarian and security, issues. Although not a peace deal in itself, it sets the framework within which the negotiations towards such a deal should proceed. We are pressing the parties to return to Abuja on 24 August, the date set for resumption of talks by the AU Special Envoy Salim Salim, and to negotiate in good faith, towards a full political agreement, necessary to achieve peace in Darfur. Such an agreement will need to be complementary to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, signed in Nairobi on 9 January. We also continue to insist that the parties abide by the commitments they have already made to improve the security situation in Darfur, notably the Humanitarian Ceasefire Agreement and the Abuja Humanitarian and Security Protocols.

**John Bercow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what assessment his Department has made of the security situation in Khartoum for Darfuri citizens; [11031]

(2) what assessment he has made of the risks to the safety of black African Darfuris in Khartoum. [11066]

**Ian Pearson:** There are over a million Darfuris in Khartoum, many of them Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). We and our international partners closely monitor the living conditions of IDPs including those from other parts of the Sudan, for example through participation in the recently formed Consultative Committee on Re-planning Areas of Displacement in Khartoum. We are constantly pressing the Government of Sudan to improve conditions for IDPs, including Darfuris. We have no information that the conditions for black African Darfuri IDPs are worse than those for any other IDPs.

## UK Consular Services

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans he has for the British consulate-general in *(a)* Hamburg and *(b)* Munich; and if he will make a statement. [9879]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** Following the announcement my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary made to the House on 15 December 2004, *Official Report*, columns 137–40WS about changes to the UK's network of overseas representation, officials have been reviewing how we can provide trade, consular and other services in Germany most cost-effectively, and finalising recommendations about the precise size and structure of the British consulates in that country. The results of this work will be made public when it is finished.

## Uzbekistan

**Mr. Hands:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when the UK Ambassador to Tashkent last met the President of Uzbekistan, Islam Karimov. [10903]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** David Moran, our Ambassador to Tashkent, presented his credentials to President Karimov on 8 June 2005. The meeting was largely ceremonial. Earlier in the day, in a meeting with Foreign Minister Ganiev, Mr. Moran had said that were the opportunity to arise, he would look to discuss two principal points with the President: firstly, Mr. Karimov's concrete plans for the reforms mentioned in his 28 January speech to Parliament, and secondly, the question of allowing an international independent inquiry into the events of 12–13 May in Andizhan. In the event, President Karimov raised these issues himself, sticking to well-known Uzbek positions on both.

**Mr. Hands:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the results were of the 15 May meeting between the UK Ambassador to Tashkent and the Uzbek Deputy Foreign Minister, Nematov on political and economic reform; and what actions have resulted from this meeting. [10904]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** Uzbek Deputy Foreign Minister Nematov requested a meeting with our Ambassador to Tashkent, David Moran, following my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary's 14 May statement on Andizhan. A copy of the statement is available on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website: www.fco.gov.uk/policy/news/press-releases. Mr. Moran told Mr. Nematov that a peaceful solution to the Andizhan situation would need to be accompanied by progress on both economic and political reforms. He noted that Uzbek President Karimov had mentioned such reforms in his 28 January 2005 speech to Parliament. A number of decrees have been issued in June by the Uzbek Government, which if implemented, might reduce the burden on businesses, for example by reducing the scope for official inspections.

Uzbek Foreign Minister Ganiev has undertaken to discuss these areas with EU Heads of Mission in Tashkent. We look forward to this opportunity for dialogue towards reform. In the meantime Mr. Moran has also had meetings with both the Deputy Interior Minister to discuss prison reforms, and the Deputy Justice Minister to discuss judicial reform and the abolition of the death penalty.

## TREASURY

### ATMs

**John Robertson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what assessment he has made of trends in the numbers of fee-charging ATMs; and if he will make a statement; [10824]

(2) what assessment he has made of whether the LINK interchange fee is sufficient to cover ATM transactions; [10825]

(3) what assessment he has made of the ability of people in rural areas to gain access to cash without incurring charges; [10826]

(4) if he will make it his policy to *(a)* cap charges made by ATM machines at £1.50 and *(b)* ensure that all non-financial ATM transactions remain free; [10827]

(5) whether the Treasury plans to assess the effectiveness of LINK rules introduced on 1 July to improve signage on fee-charging ATMs; [10828]

(6) what assessment he has made of the likely level of charges that would be incurred by consumers in a year if charges were to be introduced for withdrawing cash from all ATMs; [10829]

(7) what assessment he has made of the ability of elderly people to gain access to cash without incurring charges; [10830]

(8) what discussions Her Majesty's Treasury has had with LINK regarding consumer representation on its board; [10831]

(9) if he will make it his policy to track and publish trends in the growth of fee-charging transactions at ATMs; and if he will make a statement. [10832]

**John Healey:** The Government have been closely monitoring the situation regarding ATM charges and will continue to do so. This includes monitoring the effectiveness of LINK rules on signage and regular discussion of relevant issues with LINK and other interested parties. The Office of Fair Trading's Payment Systems Task Force, established to address competition problems in payment systems, is about to start work on LINK Access and Governance.

We believe it is important that people are able to obtain cash free of charge. Recently, there has been an increase in the number of surcharging ATMs in the UK. However, statistics on the number of withdrawals at these ATMs indicate that most are to be found in locations where there are only a low number of transactions and where interchange fees would therefore be insufficient to cover the operating costs of the ATM, were it to offer free withdrawals. The Government believes that direct regulation of retail prices should only be a last resort, implemented where it has been very clearly established that competition is not feasible, or where a monopoly supplier would be the most efficient option.

Overall, relatively few withdrawals are made at charging machines. Over 96 per cent. of withdrawals are free of charge to consumers and there are over 30,000 free ATMs in the UK. The number of free ATMs is still increasing and the Government does not see any reason to believe that free ATMs are under threat. There are also alternative ways to obtain free access to cash. Many of the major banks now offer their customers free over-the-counter withdrawals at the Post Office and 'Cash Back' is widely available in supermarkets and shops.

The Government have responded to the Treasury Select Committee's recent report on cash machine charges (Treasury Committee's Fifth Report of Session 2004–05) and the Treasury Committee is expected to publish the response shortly, once it has been re-appointed following the general election. The Government's response to the Treasury Select Committees' report sets out policy on the issue in more detail.

## Bedfordshire (Statistics)

**Mrs. Dorries:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the levels of long-term *(a)* adult and *(b)* youth unemployment were in (i) the county of Bedfordshire and (ii) the constituency of Mid-Bedfordshire in each year since 1997. [11009]

**John Healey:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician. I have asked him to reply.

*Letter from Colin Mowl to Mrs. Nadine Dorries dated 12 July 2005:*

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question about unemployment. I am replying in his absence. (11009)

Table 1 attached shows the numbers of long-term adult unemployed (over 12 months) and long-term youth (aged 16 to 24) unemployed in the county of Bedfordshire, for the periods ending in February each year from 1998 to 2004, the latest period for which data are available. Table 2 shows similar information for the Mid-Bedfordshire constituency. These estimates are based on annual local area Labour Force Survey data which as with any sample survey is subject to sampling variability.

The Office for National Statistics also compiles statistics of those claiming Jobseeker's Allowance for local areas. Tables 3 and 4 attached show the annual average number of adult Job Seeker's Allowance claimants, claiming for over 12 months, and the corresponding number of Job Seeker's Allowance claimants aged 18 to 24 (claiming for over 12 months) resident in the county of Bedfordshire and Mid- Bedfordshire respectively for each year from 1997 to 2004.

The data in tables 3 and 4 are published on the Office for National Statistics Nomis(r) website: www.nomisweb.co.uk.

*Table 1: Numbers of long-term unemployed (over 12 months) resident in the county of Bedfordshire*

| | | Thousands |
|---|---|---|
| *12 months ending February* | *All* | *Youth (aged 16–24)* |
| 1998 | n/a | n/a |
| 1999 | 3 | [1]– |
| 2000 | 2 | [1]– |
| 2001 | 1 | [1]– |
| 2002 | 1 | [1]– |
| 2003 | 1 | [1]– |
| 2004 | 2 | 1 |

n/a = Not available.

[1] Zero or disclosive sample size.

*Source:*

Annual local area Labour Force Survey Data not available.

*Table 2: Numbers of long-term unemployed (over 12 months) resident in the Mid-Bedfordshire constituency*

| | | Thousands |
|---|---|---|
| *12 months ending February* | *All* | *Youth (aged 16–24)* |
| 1998 | n/a | n/a |
| 1999 | 1 | [1]– |
| 2000 | [1]– | [1]– |
| 2001 | [1]– | [1]– |
| 2002 | [1]– | [1]– |
| 2003 | [1]– | [1]– |
| 2004 | [1]– | [1]– |

n/a = Data not available.

[1] Zero or disclosive sample size.

*Source:*

Annual local area Labour Force Survey

*Table 3: Numbers of JSA claimants (claiming over 12 months) resident in the county of Bedfordshire*

| *Annual averages* | *All* | *Youth (aged 18–24)* |
|---|---|---|
| 1997 | 1,635 | 230 |
| 1998 | 1,015 | 120 |
| 1999 | 780 | 30 |
| 2000 | 605 | 15 |
| 2001 | 555 | 10 |
| 2002 | 510 | 10 |
| 2003 | 540 | 10 |
| 2004 | 520 | 20 |

*Notes:*

1. Data rounded to nearest 5 (disclosure control).
2. Computerised claims only.

*Source:*

Jobcentre Plus Administrative system

*Table 4: Numbers of JSA claimants (claiming over 12 months) resident in the Mid-Bedfordshire constituency*

| *Annual averages* | *All ages* | *Youth (aged 18–24)* |
|---|---|---|
| 1997 | 245 | 30 |
| 1998 | 135 | 15 |
| 1999 | 120 | 5 |
| 2000 | 85 | 0 |
| 2001 | 75 | 0 |
| 2002 | 70 | 0 |
| 2003 | 80 | 0 |
| 2004 | 60 | 0 |

*Notes:*

1. Data rounded to nearest 5 (disclosure control).
2. Computerised claims only.

*Source:*

Jobcentre Plus Administrative system

**Mrs. Dorries:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many primary school-aged children there are expected to be in *(a)* Bedfordshire local education authority and *(b)* the constituency of Mid-Bedfordshire in each of the next five academic years. [11011]

**John Healey:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Jil Matheson to Mrs. Nadine Dorries, dated 12 July 2005:*

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your question concerning the number of primary school age children there are predicted to be in Bedfordshire Local Education Authority and the constituency of Mid-Bedfordshire for the next five academic years. I am replying in his absence. (11011)

Table 1 shows the mid-year population of 5–11 year olds in the County of Bedfordshire taken from the official 2003-based Sub-national Population Projections for England. The projections are produced by Local Authority area and so data at a Local Education Area can only be provided if the areas are coterminous, which in this case they are. These population projections are demographic trend-based projections that indicate what the population levels of an area are likely to be if recently observed trends in fertility, mortality and migration were to continue. They take no account of future development which may affect trends.

Unfortunately, the Mid Bedfordshire Parliamentary Constituency area is not coterminous with the Local Authority areas—it covers parts of Mid Bedfordshire District and South Bedfordshire District and so it is not possible to provide projection data for this area.

*Table 1: Bedfordshire projected population of [1]primary school age children*

| | Thousands |
|---|---|
| 2005 | 35.3 |
| 2006 | 34.9 |
| 2007 | 34.5 |
| 2008 | 34.3 |
| 2009 | 34.3 |
| 2010 | 34.4 |

[1] Primary school age defined as 5 to 11-year–olds.

*Source:*
ONS 2003-based Subnational population projections

**Mrs. Dorries:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many pensioners lived in the constituency of Mid-Bedfordshire in the last year for which figures are available. [11012]

**John Healey:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Colin Mowl to Mrs. Nadine Dorries, dated 12 July 2005:*

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many pensioners lived in the constituency of Mid-Bedfordshire in the last year for which figures are available. I am replying in his absence. (11012)

Mid-year population estimates are not available for Parliamentary Constituencies. I have therefore provided figures taken from the 2001 Census.

The table below shows the number of people of pensionable age living in Mid-Bedfordshire constituency on Census day (29 April 2001). The figures have been extracted from Table CAS002 on the CD supplement to the "Census 2001 Census Area Statistics for Parliamentary Constituencies in England and Wales", which is available on request from Census Customer Services (census.customerservices@ons.gov.uk).

*Total number of people, and those of pensionable age living in Mid-Bedfordshire constituency on Census day (29 April 2001)*

| England Area | All people | People of pensionable age[1] |
|---|---|---|
| Mid-Bedfordshire | 92,855 | 14,492 |

[1] Pensionable Age is 65 and over for males and 60 and over for females

*Source:*
2001 Census Report for Parliamentary Constituencies

**Mrs. Dorries:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people were in employment in the Mid-Bedfordshire constituency in April of each year since 2000. [11013]

**John Healey:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician. I have asked him to reply.

*Letter from Colin Mowl to Mrs. Nadine Dorries, dated 12 July 2005:*

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question about employment. I am replying in his absence. (11013)

Table 1 attached shows the number of employed persons, aged 16 and over, resident in the Mid-Bedfordshire constituency for the periods ending in February each year from 2000 to 2004, the latest period for which data are available. These estimates are based on annual local area Labour Force Survey data which, as with any sample survey, is subject to sampling variability.

The data are published on the Office for National Statistics Nomis(r) website: www.nomisweb.co.uk.

*Table 1: Number of persons aged 16 and over in employment resident in the Mid-Bedfordshire constituency*

| 12 months ending February | Thousand |
|---|---|
| 2000 | 44 |
| 2001 | 49 |
| 2002 | 50 |
| 2003 | 52 |
| 2004 | 58 |

*Source:*
Annual local area Labour Force Survey

**Mrs. Dorries:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer of how many deaths in *(a)* the county of Bedfordshire and *(b)* the constituency of Mid-Bedfordshire alcohol was the primary cause in each year since 2000. [11015]

**John Healey:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician. I have asked him to reply.

*Letter from Colin Mowl to Mrs. Nadine Dorries, dated 12 July 2005:*

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent question asking in respect of how many deaths in *(a)* the county of Bedfordshire and *(b)* the constituency of Mid- Bedfordshire alcohol was the primary cause in each year since 2000. I am replying in his absence. (11015)

The latest year for which figures are available is 2004. The attached table shows the numbers of deaths among residents of the County of Bedfordshire and Mid Bedfordshire Parliamentary Constituency where the underlying cause of death indicated a condition directly related to alcohol use in the years 2000 to 2004.

*Alcohol-related deaths[1] to usual residents of the county of Bedfordshire[2] and Mid Bedfordshire parliamentary constituency, registered 2000 to 2004*

| | Number of deaths | |
|---|---|---|
| | Bedfordshire | Mid Bedfordshire |
| 2000 | 28 | 6 |
| 2001 | 32 | 9 |
| 2002 | 28 | 7 |
| 2003 | 40 | 9 |
| 2004 | 34 | 9 |

[1] For the year 2000 the cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9). The codes used by ONS to define alcohol-related deaths are listed below:
291—Alcoholic psychoses
303—Alcohol dependence syndrome
305.0—Non-dependent abuse of alcohol
425.5—Alcoholic cardiomyopathy
571—Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis
E860—Accidental poisoning by alcohol
For the years 2001–04 the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) was used. To maintain comparability with earlier years the following codes were used:
F10—Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol
142.6—Alcoholic cardiomyopathy
K70—Alcoholic liver disease
K73—Chronic hepatitis, not elsewhere classified
K74—Fibrosis and cirrhosis of liver
X45—Accidental poisoning by and exposure to alcohol
Deaths were selected using the original underlying cause.

[2] Figures provided relate to the current county of Bedfordshire. This excludes the unitary authority of Luton, created in 1997, which was part of the former county.

The selection of codes to define alcohol-related deaths is described in:
Baker A and Rooney C (2003). Recent trends in alcohol-related mortality, and the impact of ICD-10 on the monitoring of these deaths in England and Wales. "Health Statistics Quarterly 17, pp 5–14".

## Birth, Marriage and Death Certificates

**Anne Milton:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will establish a central record of applications for replacement certificates for births, marriages and deaths. [11409]

**John Healey:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Registrar General, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Dennis Roberts to Anne Milton, dated 12 July 2005:*

The Registrar General for England and Wales has been asked to reply to your question asking if a central record of applications for replacement certificates for birth, marriage and death with be established. I am replying in his absence. (11409)

By law, anyone who can provide sufficient information to identify a register entry can buy a certified copy of that entry (certificate) from the General Register Office (GRO) or the Register Office where the event took place.

Annually, approximately 4.6 million certificates are issued by the local registration service from 366 offices and a further 2 million certificates issued by the General Register Office. Due to the number of providers and scale of the applications received, there are no plans to record application details on a central database.

## Breast Cancer

**Mrs. Dorries:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the incidence of breast cancer per 1,000 women has been in *(a)* England, *(b)* the county of Bedfordshire and *(c)* Mid-Bedfordshire parliamentary constituency in each year since 1990. [11104]

**John Healey:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician. I have asked him to reply.

*Letter from Colin Mowl to Mrs. Nadine Dorries, dated 12 July 2005:*

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning what the incidence of breast cancer per 1,000 women has been in *(a)* England, *(b)* the County of Bedfordshire and *(c)* Mid-Bedfordshire parliamentary constituency in each year since 1990. I am replying in his absence. (11104)

The most recent available figures for the incidence of female breast cancer are for the year 2002. Age-standardised incidence rates (directly standardised to the European standard population) for England and the current county of Bedfordshire in each year since 1990 are given in the attached table. The rates have been provided per 100,000 women to assist the interpretation of the trends. Incidence rates are not available centrally for Parliamentary Constituencies.

*Directly age-standardised incidence rates1 of female breast2 cancer per 100,000 women in England and Bedfordshire, 1990–2002*

| | *England* | *Bedfordshire*[3] |
|---|---|---|
| 1990 | 98.9 | 102.6 |
| 1991 | 105.3 | 109.1 |
| 1992 | 106.6 | 152.6 |
| 1993 | 101.5 | 109.5 |
| 1994 | 103.7 | 121.2 |
| 1995 | 103.9 | 115.0 |
| 1996 | 105.1 | 97.9 |
| 1997 | 108.1 | 159.4 |
| 1998 | 112.7 | 139.8 |
| 1999 | 116.5 | 101.6 |
| 2000 | 113.8 | 119.5 |
| 2001 | 114.5 | 123.9 |
| 2002 | 114.0 | 109.7 |

[1] Age-standardised rates per 100,000 population are directly standardised to the European standard population. In detailed analyses of trends in incidence and mortality over time for a particular cancer, ONS use age-standardised rates. These control for differences in the size and age structure of the population and allow unbiased comparison of rates over time.

[2] From 1990 to 1994, International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) code 174; from 1995 to 2002, International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) code C50.

[3] Figures provided relate to the current county of Bedfordshire. This excludes the unitary authority of Luton, created in 1997, which was part of the former county.

*Source:*
Office for National Statistics

## Census

**Lorely Burt:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether any person sued the Registrar General in the English courts for breach of confidence for releasing personal information from the closed 1901 decennial census for England and Wales between 1975 and 1996. [11652]

**John Healey:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Registrar General, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Dennis Roberts to Lorley Burt, dated 12 July 2005:*

The National Statistician and Registrar General for England and Wales, has been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many persons sued the Registrar General in the English courts for breach of confidence for releasing personal information from the closed 1901 decennial census for England and Wales between 1975 and 1996. I am replying in his absence. (11652)

There have been no instances of court action against the Registrar General for breach of confidence for releasing personal information from the 1901 decennial census for England and Wales between 1975 and 1996.

## Expenditure and Revenue (Scotland)

**Mr. Salmond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the total relative surplus or deficit of Government expenditure and revenue in Scotland, *(a)* including and *(b)* excluding the gross domestic product share of the United Kingdom surplus or deficit of the general Government borrowing requirement, for each year since 1978–79, assuming a constant relationship between the Scottish deficit, as published in the Government Expenditure and Revenue in Scotland 2002–03, and the United Kingdom general Government borrowing requirement, excluding privatisation proceeds and North Sea revenues and including in Scotland's revenue total a 90 per cent. share of North Sea oil revenue and a gross domestic product share of privatisation proceeds. [11108]

**Mr. Des Browne:** The Treasury does not produce a breakdown of aggregate revenue and borrowing by country and region. "Government Expenditure and Revenue in Scotland" is produced by the Scottish Executive.

### Hiatt Handcuffs

**Miss Kirkbride:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when the Customs investigation into large Hiatt handcuffs is expected to be concluded. [10857]

**Dawn Primarolo:** HM Revenue and Customs expect the investigation to be concluded very soon.

### Hospital-acquired Infections

**Mr. Lidington:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when the Office for National Statistics will have available statistics to show the number of deaths attributable to *Clostridium difficile* in 2004; and if he will make a statement. [5037]

**John Healey** *[holding answer 16 June 2005]:* The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Colin Mowl to Mr. David Lidington, dated 12 July 2005:*

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking when the Office for National Statistics (ONS) will have available statistics to show the number of deaths attributable to *Clostridium difficile* in 2004. I am replying in his absence. (5037)

In the Tenth Revision of the International Classification of Diseases (ICD-10), deaths involving enterocolitis due to *Clostridium difficile* can all be identified from the code A04.7. Enterocolitis is the commonest illness caused by *C. difficile* infection. For causes other than enterocolitis that are also known to be associated with *C. difficile*, it is not possible to identify from ICD codes alone the number of deaths where *C. difficile* actually contributed to the death. For this reason, the only routinely available mortality statistics on *C. difficile* are those where it was associated with enterocolitis. The relevant figures for 2004 will be available in November 2005.

ONS is working with the Health Protection Agency on a special study to identify the total number of deaths where *C. difficile* was mentioned on the death certificate.

### Illegitimate Births

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the rate of overall illegitimate births as a percentage of all births in each of the past 20 years: [10973]

**John Healey:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Colin Mowl to Mr. David Amess, dated 12 July 2005:*

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking for the percentage of births which were illegitimate, for each of the last 20 years. I am replying in his absence. (10973)

The information requested is shown in the attached table.

*Percentage of live births born outside marriage 1985 to 2004 England and Wales*

| | Percentage outside marriage |
|---|---|
| 1985 | 19.2 |
| 1986 | 21.4 |
| 1987 | 23.2 |
| 1988 | 25.6 |
| 1989 | 27.0 |
| 1990 | 28.3 |
| 1991 | 30.2 |
| 1992 | 31.2 |
| 1993 | 32.2 |
| 1994 | 32.4 |
| 1995 | 33.9 |
| 1996 | 35.8 |
| 1997 | 37.0 |
| 1998 | 37.8 |
| 1999 | 38.9 |
| 2000 | 39.5 |
| 2001 | 40.0 |
| 2002 | 40.6 |
| 2003 | 41.4 |
| 2004 | 42.2 |

*Source:*
ONS

### Inland Revenue

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff have been employed in the Inland Revenue Contact Centre Network in each quarter from Q2 2001 to Q2 2005; and if he will make a statement. [9295]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The following table shows the staff numbers in full time equivalents (FTE) in all of the Inland Revenue Contact Centre network by quarter from Q2 2001 to May 2005.

*Inland Revenue contact centre network*

| Quarter | Staff Numbers (FTE) rounded |
|---|---|
| *2001* | |
| Q2 | 1,600 |
| Q3 | 1,700 |
| Q4 | 1,900 |
| *2002* | |
| Q1 | 2,300 |
| Q2 | 2,700 |
| Q3 | 3,500 |
| Q4 | 3,700 |
| *2003* | |
| Q1 | 4,300 |
| Q2 | 5,200 |
| Q3 | 5,200 |
| Q4 | 5,500 |
| *2004* | |
| Q1 | 6,100 |
| Q2 | 7,200 |
| Q3 | 7,600 |
| Q4 | 7,600 |
| *2005* | |
| Q1 | 8,300 |
| Q2[1] | 8,300 |

[1] Two months only.

The increased number of staff from 2001 Q2 to 2005 Q2 is a result of increased levels of business, including tax credits, transfers of calls from other parts of the business (regions) and the setting up of more helplines.

## Oil Prices

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) if he will estimate the impact on *(a)* the harmonised index of consumer prices and *(b)* the rate of increase of the harmonised index of consumer prices of a sustained $10 rise in the world price of a barrel of crude oil after (i) one year and (ii) two years; [11030]

(2) if he will estimate the direct revenue effect of a sustained $10 rise in the world price of a barrel of crude oil on the revenue accruing to the Exchequer in the *(a)* first and *(b)* second financial years following the rise. [11035]

**John Healey:** The impact of higher oil prices on the public finances is discussed in Box 2.5 in the 2004 pre-Budget report.

The Government will publish an update of the effect of oil prices on the UK's public finances and updated forecasts for the UK and world economies in pre-Budget report 2005 as usual, taking into account all relevant factors and developments, including oil prices.

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average *(a)* dollar and *(b)* sterling price for a barrel of crude oil extracted in the United Kingdom was in each of the last 10 years; and how much revenue accrued to the Exchequer from oil production in each year. [11034]

**John Healey:** The following table gives DTI estimates for each of the last 10 years of the average sterling price received by UK Continental Shelf producers for a barrel of crude. These have been converted into US dollar prices using the average annual exchange rate for each year. All prices are nominal.

| | *Estimated price of crude oil extracted in the UK (£ per barrel)* | *Estimated price price of crude oil in extracted in the UK ($ per barrel)* |
|---|---|---|
| 1995 | 10.6 | 16.7 |
| 1996 | 12.7 | 19.8 |
| 1997 | 11.2 | 18.4 |
| 1998 | 7.9 | 13.0 |
| 1999 | 10.4 | 16.9 |
| 2000 | 18.1 | 27.3 |
| 2001 | 16.5 | 23.7 |
| 2002 | 16.6 | 24.9 |
| 2003 | 17.9 | 29.1 |
| 2004 | 20.1 | 36.7 |

Information on United Kingdom tax revenues from North Sea oil and gas production can be found at: "http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/corporate_tax/table11-11.pdf"

## Petrol Prices

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what research he is *(a)* conducting and *(b)* planning to conduct into the effects of higher fuel prices on domestic food prices; [10887]

(2) hat research he is *(a)* conducting and *(b)* planning to conduct into the effects of higher fuel prices on air travel. [10888]

**John Healey:** The Chancellor considers relevant social, economic and environmental factors in making taxation policy.

All taxation policy is kept under review and any changes are announced by the Chancellor in the context of his Budget statement.

## PFI Projects

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the total value is of off-balance sheet private finance initiative contracts. [8975]

**John Healey:** The Treasury publication "PFI: Meeting the Investment Challenge" showed that £15.3 billion of PFI projects by capital value are accounted for off-balance sheet. Data on projects to have reached financial close since this publication can be established from departmental accounts (available on Department's websites) and the HM Treasury "PFI Signed Projects List" (available online at www.hm-treasury.gov.uk). The balance sheet treatment of PFI projects is determined by an independent auditor following United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice, including Financial Reporting Standards issued by the independent Accounting Standards Board (ASB).

## Population Statistics

**Mr. Paterson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the population of *(a)* Oswestry borough and *(b)* North Shropshire district has been in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [10929]

**John Healey:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Colin Mowl to Mr. Owen Paterson, dated 12 July 2005:*

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your question concerning the population of *(a)* Oswestry Borough and *(b)* North Shropshire District in each of the last five years for which figures are available. I am replying in his absence. (10929)

The most recent population estimates published are for mid-2003. (Estimates for mid-2004 will be published on 25 August 2005.) Therefore, the table below provides population estimates for Oswestry Borough and North Shropshire District for mid-1999 to mid-2003.

*Mid-year population estimates: 1999 to 2003*

| | *North Shr shire district* | *Thousand Oswestry borough* |
|---|---|---|
| 1999 | 55.9 | 36.1 |
| 2000 | 56.5 | 36.8 |
| 2001 | 57.2 | 37.3 |
| 2002 | 58.2 | 37.7 |
| 2003 | 58.4 | 38.2 |

*Note:*
Population estimates are shown in thousands and rounded to the nearest 100 people. *Source:*
Office for National Statistics

**Mr. Paterson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the age structure of the population of *(a)* Oswestry borough and *(b)* North Shropshire district has been in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [10930]

**John Healey:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician. I have asked him to reply.

*Letter from Colin Mowl to Mr. Owen Paterson, dated 12 July 2005:*

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your question concerning the age structure of the population of *(a)* Oswestry borough and *(b)* North Shropshire district in each of the last five years for which figures are available. I am replying in his absence. (10930)

The most recent population estimates published are for mid-2003. (Estimates for mid-2004 will be published on 25 August 2005.) Therefore, the attached Table 1 provides data for Oswestry borough and Table 2 for North Shropshire district for mid-1999 to mid-2003. I have provided population estimates by sex and quinary age band for both of these areas.

Tables showing these data and data for an alternative age grouping (0–15, 16–59/64, and 60/65+) can be found on the National Statistics website under "Current Releases" at www.statistics.gov.uk/popest.

*Table 1: Mid-year population estimates for Oswestry borough*

*Thousand*

| Age bands | Mid-1999 | | | Mid-2000 | | | Mid-2001 | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Males | Females | Total | Males | Females | Total | Males | Females | Total |
| All ages | 17.3 | 18.8 | 36.1 | 17.7 | 19.0 | 36.8 | 18.1 | 19.3 | 37.3 |
| 0 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.4 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.4 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.4 |
| 1–4 | 0.9 | 0.8 | 1.7 | 0.8 | 0.8 | 1.6 | 0.8 | 0.8 | 1.6 |
| 5–9 | 1.1 | 1.1 | 2.3 | 1.2 | 1.1 | 2.3 | 1.2 | 1.1 | 2.3 |
| 10–14 | 1.2 | 1.2 | 2.4 | 1.4 | 1.3 | 2.6 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 2.6 |
| 15–19 | 1.1 | 1.2 | 2.2 | 1.1 | 1.2 | 2.3 | 1.2 | 1.2 | 2.4 |
| 20–24 | 0.7 | 0.8 | 1.5 | 0.8 | 0.8 | 1.6 | 0.8 | 0.8 | 1.7 |
| 25–29 | 1.2 | 1.2 | 2.4 | 1.1 | 1.1 | 2.2 | 1.1 | 1.1 | 2.1 |
| 30–34 | 1.4 | 1.4 | 2.7 | 1.4 | 1.4 | 2.7 | 1.3 | 1.4 | 2.7 |
| 35–39 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 2.7 | 1.4 | 1.4 | 2.8 | 1.4 | 1.4 | 2.8 |
| 40–44 | 1.2 | 1.2 | 2.4 | 1.2 | 1.2 | 2.4 | 1.3 | 1.2 | 2.5 |
| 45–49 | 1.2 | 1.2 | 2.4 | 1.2 | 1.2 | 2.4 | 1.2 | 1.2 | 2.4 |
| 50–54 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 2.6 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 2.7 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 2.7 |
| 55–59 | 1.0 | 1.1 | 2.2 | 1.1 | 1.2 | 2.3 | 1.1 | 1.2 | 2.4 |
| 60–64 | 0.9 | 1.0 | 1.9 | 0.9 | 1.0 | 2.0 | 0.9 | 1.1 | 2.0 |
| 65–69 | 0.8 | 0.9 | 1.8 | 0.8 | 0.9 | 1.8 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 1.8 |
| 70–74 | 0.8 | 0.9 | 1.6 | 0.8 | 0.9 | 1.6 | 0.8 | 0.9 | 1.6 |
| 75–79 | 0.6 | 0.9 | 1.5 | 0.6 | 0.9 | 1.5 | 0.6 | 0.9 | 1.4 |
| 80–84 | 0.3 | 0.6 | 0.9 | 0.3 | 0.6 | 0.9 | 0.4 | 0.6 | 1.0 |
| 85+ | 0.2 | 0.6 | 0.7 | 0.2 | 0.6 | 0.8 | 0.2 | 0.6 | 0.8 |

*Thousand*

| | Mid-2002 | | | Mid-2003 | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Males | Females | Total | Males | Females | Total |
| All ages | 18.3 | 19.5 | 37.7 | 18.5 | 19.7 | 38.2 |
| 0 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.3 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.4 |
| 1–4 | 0.8 | 0.8 | 1.6 | 0.8 | 0.8 | 1.6 |
| 5–9 | 1.2 | 1.1 | 2.3 | 1.2 | 1.1 | 2.3 |
| 10–14 | 1.4 | 1.4 | 2.7 | 1.4 | 1.4 | 2.8 |
| 15–19 | 1.3 | 1.2 | 2.4 | 1.3 | 1.2 | 2.5 |
| 20–24 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 1.8 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 1.8 |
| 25–29 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.9 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 1.9 |
| 30–34 | 1.3 | 1.4 | 2.7 | 1.3 | 1.4 | 2.7 |
| 35–39 | 1.4 | 1.4 | 2.9 | 1.4 | 1.5 | 2.9 |
| 40–44 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 2.7 | 1.4 | 1.3 | 2.7 |
| 45–49 | 1.2 | 1.2 | 2.4 | 1.2 | 1.3 | 2.5 |
| 50–54 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 2.6 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 2.6 |
| 55–59 | 1.2 | 1.3 | 2.5 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 2.6 |
| 60–64 | 1.0 | 1.1 | 2.1 | 1.0 | 1.2 | 2.2 |
| 65–69 | 0.9 | 1.0 | 1.8 | 0.9 | 1.0 | 1.9 |
| 70–74 | 0.8 | 0.9 | 1.7 | 0.8 | 0.9 | 1.7 |
| 75–79 | 0.6 | 0.8 | 1.4 | 0.6 | 0.8 | 1.4 |
| 80–84 | 0.4 | 0.6 | 1.0 | 0.4 | 0.7 | 1.1 |
| 85+ | 0.2 | 0.6 | 0.8 | 0.2 | 0.6 | 0.8 |

*Notes:*

1. Mid-2003 population estimates are the latest data available. Mid-2004 population estimates will be published on 25 August 2005.
2. Population estimates are shown in thousands and rounded to the nearest 100 people.
3. Figures may not add exactly due to rounding.

*Source:*

Office for National Statistics

*Table 2: Mid-year population estimates for north Shropshire district*

*Thousand*

| Age bands | Mid-1999 Males | Mid-1999 Females | Mid-1999 Total | Mid-2000 Males | Mid-2000 Females | Mid-2000 Total | Mid-2001 Males | Mid-2001 Females | Mid-2001 Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| All ages | 28.0 | 28.0 | 55.9 | 28.3 | 28.2 | 56.5 | 28.6 | 28.6 | 57.2 |
| 0 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.6 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.6 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.6 |
| 1–4 | 1.3 | 1.2 | 2.6 | 1.3 | 1.2 | 2.6 | 1.4 | 1.3 | 2.7 |
| 5–9 | 1.8 | 1.6 | 3.5 | 1.8 | 1.6 | 3.5 | 1.8 | 1.7 | 3.5 |
| 10–14 | 1.8 | 1.6 | 3.4 | 1.8 | 1.7 | 3.5 | 1.9 | 1.7 | 3.6 |
| 15–19 | 2.0 | 1.6 | 3.6 | 2.1 | 1.6 | 3.7 | 2.1 | 1.6 | 3.7 |
| 20–24 | 1.3 | 1.1 | 2.4 | 1.4 | 1.1 | 2.5 | 1.4 | 1.2 | 2.6 |
| 25–29 | 1.8 | 1.5 | 3.3 | 1.6 | 1.5 | 3.1 | 1.5 | 1.4 | 2.9 |
| 30–34 | 2.1 | 2.0 | 4.0 | 2.0 | 2.0 | 4.0 | 2.0 | 2.0 | 4.0 |
| 35–39 | 2.1 | 2.0 | 4.1 | 2.2 | 2.1 | 4.2 | 2.2 | 2.2 | 4.4 |
| 40–44 | 1.9 | 1.8 | 3.7 | 2.0 | 1.9 | 3.8 | 2.1 | 2.0 | 4.0 |
| 45–49 | 1.9 | 1.9 | 3.8 | 1.9 | 1.8 | 3.7 | 1.9 | 1.9 | 3.8 |
| 50–54 | 2.1 | 2.2 | 4.3 | 2.1 | 2.2 | 4.3 | 2.1 | 2.2 | 4.2 |
| 55–59 | 1.7 | 1.7 | 3.4 | 1.8 | 1.8 | 3.6 | 1.9 | 1.9 | 3.8 |
| 60–64 | 1.6 | 1.6 | 3.1 | 1.6 | 1.6 | 3.2 | 1.6 | 1.6 | 3.2 |
| 65–69 | 1.4 | 1.5 | 2.9 | 1.4 | 1.5 | 2.8 | 1.4 | 1.5 | 2.8 |
| 70–74 | 1.2 | 1.3 | 2.5 | 1.2 | 1.3 | 2.6 | 1.2 | 1.4 | 2.6 |
| 75–79 | 0.9 | 1.3 | 2.2 | 0.9 | 1.3 | 2.2 | 0.9 | 1.2 | 2.1 |
| 80–84 | 0.5 | 0.8 | 1.3 | 0.5 | 0.8 | 1.3 | 0.5 | 0.9 | 1.4 |
| 85+ | 0.3 | 0.9 | 1.2 | 0.3 | 1.0 | 1.3 | 0.3 | 0.9 | 1.3 |

*Thousand*

| Age bands | Mid-2002 Males | Mid-2002 Females | Mid-2002 Total | Mid-2003 Males | Mid-2003 Females | Mid-2003 Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| All ages | 29.1 | 29.1 | 58.2 | 29.2 | 29.2 | 58.4 |
| 0 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.6 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.6 |
| 1–4 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 2.6 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 2.5 |
| 5–9 | 1.9 | 1.7 | 3.6 | 1.8 | 1.6 | 3.5 |
| 10–14 | 2.0 | 1.8 | 3.8 | 2.0 | 1.8 | 3.8 |
| 15–19 | 2.2 | 1.6 | 3.8 | 2.1 | 1.7 | 3.8 |
| 20–24 | 1.6 | 1.2 | 2.8 | 1.7 | 1.3 | 3.0 |
| 25–29 | 1.4 | 1.3 | 2.7 | 1.3 | 1.2 | 2.5 |
| 30–34 | 1.9 | 2.0 | 3.9 | 1.9 | 1.8 | 3.7 |
| 35–39 | 2.2 | 2.2 | 4.5 | 2.2 | 2.3 | 4.5 |
| 40–44 | 2.2 | 2.0 | 4.2 | 2.2 | 2.1 | 4.3 |
| 45–49 | 1.9 | 1.9 | 3.8 | 2.0 | 1.9 | 3.9 |
| 50–54 | 2.0 | 2.1 | 4.1 | 2.0 | 2.0 | 4.0 |
| 55–59 | 2.1 | 2.1 | 4.2 | 2.1 | 2.2 | 4.3 |
| 60–64 | 1.6 | 1.6 | 3.2 | 1.6 | 1.7 | 3.3 |
| 65–69 | 1.4 | 1.5 | 2.9 | 1.5 | 1.5 | 3.0 |
| 70–74 | 1.3 | 1.4 | 2.6 | 1.3 | 1.4 | 2.7 |
| 75–79 | 0.9 | 1.2 | 2.1 | 0.9 | 1.2 | 2.1 |
| 80–84 | 0.6 | 0.9 | 1.5 | 0.6 | 1.0 | 1.6 |
| 85+ | 0.3 | 1.0 | 1.3 | 0.3 | 0.9 | 1.2 |

*Notes:*
1. Mid-2003 population estimates are the latest data available. Mid-2004 population estimates will be published on 25 August 2005.
2. Population estimates are shown in thousands and rounded to the nearest 100 people.
3. Figures may not add exactly due to rounding

*Source:*
Office for National Statistics

## Press Officers

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many press officers the Department employed in each year since 1997; and what the cost was in each year. [8135]

**John Healey:** I refer the hon. Member to the answers given on 1 April 2004, *Official Report*, column 1683W and 26 April 2004, *Official Report*, column 754W.

The number of press officers employed has remained broadly constant at nine, increasing to 11 in 2004–05.

The costs for 2004–05 are £317,559.

## Procurement Directive

**Malcolm Bruce:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library correspondence between *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Office of Government Commerce and the European Commission in relation to implementing Article 45 of EU Public Procurement Directive 2004/18/EC. [10705]

**John Healey:** The Treasury and the Office of Government Commerce have had no correspondence with the European Commission about the implementation of Article 45 of Directive 2004/18/EC.

## Public Bills

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) if he will list the public bills for which his Department is responsible which were reprinted during each of the last three sessions; what the reason was for reprinting each bill; and what the cost was; [10880]

(2) if he will list the public acts for which his Department is responsible which were reprinted during each of the last three years; what the reason was for reprinting each Act; and what the cost was. [10943]

**John Healey:** Bills can be reprinted several times during the course of their passage through both Houses of Parliament. The printing of Bills is, however, a matter for the respective Bill Offices in both Houses. Detailed information relating to the reprinting of Treasury Bills is not available.

The responsibility for the printing of Acts of Parliament rests with the Queen's Printer within Her Majesty's Stationery Office who has let a contract for their printing and publication under which the contractor is obliged to maintain availability while an Act remains in force. No information is available as to whether any Treasury sponsored Acts have been reprinted.

## Self-invested Personal Pensions

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what estimate he has made of the numbers of buy to let properties which will be eligible to put into self-invested personal pensions from April 2006; [11153]

(2) what estimate he has made of the tax foregone as a result of the ability to put buy and let properties into self-invested personal pensions from April 2006. [11164]

**John Healey:** I refer my hon. Friend to the reply my hon. Friend the Economic Secretary gave to the hon. Member for Carmarthen, East and Dinefwr (Adam Price) on 14 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 340W.

## Single Mothers

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what percentage of 16 to 19-year-olds are single mothers in each county in England and Wales. [11047]

**John Healey:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician. I have asked him to reply.

*Letter from Colin Mowl to Mr. David Amess, dated 12 July 2005:*

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent question concerning the percentage of 16–19 year olds, who are single mothers in each county of England and Wales. I am replying in his absence. (11047)

The numbers of female lone parents aged 16–19 resident in private households by county and unitary authorities of England and Wales, produced from the 2001 Census, are shown in the attached table. The proportions they represent of all females aged 16–19 is also shown.

*Table C0524: All females and lone parent female persons aged 16–19—Population: females aged 16–19—Geographical level: counties/ UAs of England and Wales*

| | | All females aged 16–19 | Female lone parent | Percentage of females aged 16–19 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 727 | England and Wales | 1,251,082 | 31,637 | 2.53 |
| 00EB | Hartlepool UA | 2,334 | 127 | 5.44 |
| 00EC | Middlesbrough UA | 4,048 | 216 | 5.34 |
| 00EE | Redcar and Cleveland UA | 3,574 | 143 | 4.00 |
| 00EF | Stockton-on-Tees UA | 4,688 | 179 | 3.82 |
| 00EH | Darlington UA | 2,256 | 79 | 3.50 |
| 20 | Durham County | 12,395 | 446 | 3.60 |
| 2D | Tyne and Wear (Met County) | 28,414 | 1,133 | 3.99 |
| 35 | Northumberland | 7,173 | 226 | 3.15 |
| 00ET | Halton UA | 3,303 | 109 | 3.30 |
| 00EU | Warrington UA | 4,576 | 108 | 2.36 |
| 00EX | Blackburn with Darwen UA | 3,797 | 160 | 4.21 |
| 00EY | Blackpool UA | 3,051 | 145 | 4.75 |
| 13 | Cheshire County | 15,254 | 309 | 2.03 |
| 16 | Cumbria | 10,958 | 315 | 2.87 |
| 2A | Greater Manchester (Met County) | 63,108 | 2,248 | 3.56 |
| 2B | Merseyside (Met County) | 37,144 | 1,180 | 3.18 |
| 30 | Lancashire County | 29,419 | 810 | 2.75 |
| 00FA | Kingston upon Hull; City of UA | 6,408 | 345 | 5.38 |
| 00FB | East Riding of Yorkshire UA | 7,304 | 113 | 1.55 |
| 00FC | North East Lincolnshire UA | 4,014 | 178 | 4.43 |
| 00FD | North Lincolnshire UA | 3,542 | 110 | 3.11 |
| 00FF | York UA | 4,959 | 70 | 1.41 |
| 2C | South Yorkshire (Met County) | 31,506 | 1,052 | 3.34 |
| 2F | West Yorkshire (Met County) | 55,326 | 1,758 | 3.18 |
| 36 | North Yorkshire County | 12,197 | 209 | 1.71 |
| 00FK | Derby UA | 5,826 | 187 | 3.21 |
| 00FN | Leicester UA | 8,488 | 324 | 3.82 |
| 00FP | Rutland UA | 921 | 4 | 0.43 |
| 00FY | Nottingham UA | 8,819 | 429 | 4.86 |
| 17 | Derbyshire County | 15,711 | 337 | 2.14 |
| 31 | Leicestershire County | 14,635 | 204 | 1.39 |
| 32 | Lincolnshire | 14,473 | 309 | 2.14 |
| 34 | Northamptonshire | 14,994 | 419 | 2.79 |
| 37 | Nottinghamshire County | 16,497 | 415 | 2.52 |
| 00GA | Herefordshire; County of UA | 3,697 | 85 | 2.30 |
| 00GF | Telford and Wrekin UA | 3,952 | 123 | 3.11 |
| 00GL | Stoke-on-Trent UA | 6,513 | 283 | 4.35 |
| 2E | West Midlands (Met County) | 68,492 | 2,285 | 3.34 |
| 39 | Shropshire County | 6,331 | 155 | 2.45 |

*Table C0524: All females and lone parent female persons aged 16–19—Population: females aged 16–19—Geographical level: counties/ UAs of England and Wales*

| | | *All females aged 16–19* | *Female lone parent* | *Percentage of females aged 16–19* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 41 | Staffordshire County | 19,032 | 357 | 1.88 |
| 44 | Warwickshire | 11,438 | 228 | 1.99 |
| 47 | Worcestershire County | 12,189 | 221 | 1.81 |
| 00JA | Peterborough UA | 3,956 | 126 | 3.19 |
| 00KA | Luton UA | 5,237 | 101 | 1.93 |
| 00KF | Southend-on-Sea UA | 3,408 | 85 | 2.49 |
| 00KG | Thurrock UA | 3,323 | 76 | 2.29 |
| 09 | Bedfordshire County | 8,866 | 186 | 2.10 |
| 12 | Cambridgeshire County | 13,630 | 187 | 1.37 |
| 22 | Essex County | 28,714 | 461 | 1.61 |
| 26 | Hertfordshire | 23,162 | 305 | 1.32 |
| 33 | Norfolk | 17,706 | 293 | 1.65 |
| 42 | Suffolk | 14,654 | 267 | 1.82 |
| 1B | Inner London | 62,518 | 1,526 | 2.44 |
| 1C | Outer London | 101,753 | 1,988 | 1.95 |
| 00LC | Medway UA | 6,520 | 149 | 2.29 |
| 00MA | Bracknell Forest UA | 2,383 | 56 | 2.35 |
| 00MB | West Berkshire UA | 3,614 | 62 | 1.72 |
| 00MC | Reading UA | 3,707 | 117 | 3.16 |
| 00MD | Slough UA | 2,849 | 44 | 1.54 |
| 00ME | Windsor and Maidenhead UA | 2,723 | 48 | 1.76 |
| 00MF | Wokingham UA | 3,545 | 32 | 0.90 |
| 00MG | Milton Keynes UA | 5,094 | 129 | 2.53 |
| 00ML | Brighton and Hove UA | 6,243 | 116 | 1.86 |
| 00MR | Portsmouth UA | 5,050 | 127 | 2.51 |
| 00MS | Southampton UA | 6,494 | 177 | 2.73 |
| 00MW | Isle of Wight UA | 2,848 | 66 | 2.32 |
| 11 | Buckinghamshire County | 11,060 | 111 | 1.00 |
| 21 | East Sussex County | 10,489 | 198 | 1.89 |
| 24 | Hampshire County | 28,126 | 433 | 1.54 |
| 29 | Kent County | 31,617 | 655 | 2.07 |
| 38 | Oxfordshire | 15,279 | 230 | 1.51 |
| 43 | Surrey | 22,879 | 220 | 0.96 |
| 45 | West Sussex | 15,751 | 238 | 1.51 |
| 00HA | Bath and North East Somerset UA | 4,309 | 46 | 1.07 |
| 00HB | Bristol; City of UA | 10,421 | 272 | 2.61 |
| 00HC | North Somerset UA | 3,955 | 74 | 1.87 |
| 00HD | South Gloucestershire UA | 5,150 | 64 | 1.24 |
| 00HG | Plymouth UA | 6,447 | 210 | 3.26 |
| 00HH | Torbay UA | 2,773 | 51 | 1.84 |
| 00HN | Bournemouth UA | 3,778 | 65 | 1.72 |
| 00HP | Poole UA | 3,078 | 52 | 1.69 |
| 00HX | Swindon UA | 3,950 | 108 | 2.73 |
| 15 | Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly | 10,994 | 197 | 1.79 |
| 18 | Devon County | 15,889 | 278 | 1.75 |
| 19 | Dorset County | 7,973 | 121 | 1.52 |
| 23 | Gloucestershire | 12,856 | 237 | 1.84 |
| 40 | Somerset | 11,233 | 188 | 1.67 |
| 46 | Wiltshire County | 9,231 | 141 | 1.53 |
| 00NA | Isle of Anglesey/Sir Ynys Mon | 1,551 | 46 | 2.97 |
| 00NC | Gwynedd/Gwynedd | 3,028 | 61 | 2.01 |
| 00NE | Conwy/Conwy | 2,254 | 52 | 2.31 |
| 00NG | Denbighshire/Sir Ddinbych | 2,000 | 55 | 2.75 |
| 00NJ | Flintshire/Sir y Fflint | 3,480 | 91 | 2.61 |
| 00NL | Wrexham/Wrecsam | 3,239 | 99 | 3.06 |
| 00NN | Powys/Powys | 2,650 | 54 | 2.04 |
| 00NQ | Ceredigion/Sir Ceredigion | 2,512 | 28 | 1.11 |
| 00NS | Pembrokeshire/Sir Benfro | 2,703 | 120 | 4.44 |
| 00NU | Carmarthenshire/Sir Gaerfyrddin | 4,162 | 115 | 2.76 |
| 00NX | Swansea/Abertawe | 6,009 | 255 | 4.24 |
| 00NZ | Neath Port Talbot/Castell-nedd Port Talbot | 3,238 | 139 | 4.29 |
| 00PB | Bridgend/Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr | 2,929 | 116 | 3.96 |
| 00PD | The Vale of Glamorgan/Bro Morgannwg | 2,968 | 101 | 3.40 |
| 00PF | Rhondda; Cynon; Taff/Rhondda; Cynon; Taf | 6,011 | 324 | 5.39 |
| 00PH | Merthyr Tydfil/Merthyr Tudful | 1,497 | 93 | 6.21 |
| 00PK | Caerphilly/Caerffili | 4,210 | 194 | 4.61 |
| 00PL | Blaenau Gwent/Blaenau Gwent | 1,647 | 93 | 5.65 |
| 00PM | Torfaen/Tor-faen | 2,129 | 81 | 3.80 |
| 00PP | Monmouthshire/Sir Fynwy | 1,848 | 24 | 1.30 |
| 00PR | Newport/Casnewydd | 3,476 | 158 | 4.55 |
| 00PT | Cardiff/Caerdydd | 9,550 | 292 | 3.06 |

*Note:*

Cells in this table have been randomly adjusted to avoid release of confidential data.

*Source:*

2001 Census

### Substance Abuse (Scotland)

**Mr. Hood:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many deaths occurred in Scotland as a result of *(a)* heroin and methadone abuse and *(b)* alcohol abuse in each year from 2001 to 2004; and if he will make a statement. [11493]

**John Healey:** This is a devolved matter and the responsibility of the Scottish Executive. My hon. Friend could pursue the matter with the Chief Executive of the General Register Office for Scotland.

### Tax Credits

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will commission research into the effects of making tax credit awards for fixed periods; and if he will make a statement. [8563]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The Government carefully examined the issue of how tax credits could respond to changes in families' income and circumstances, and consulted on it when designing the child and working tax credits. A consultation document, 'New Tax Credits Supporting families, making work pay and tackling poverty', was published in July 2001.

In the light of that consultation exercise, the April 2002 publication "The Child and Working Tax Credits: The Modernisation of Britain's Tax and Benefit System Number Ten" set out how the system would work.

The Government decided that tax credits should be designed to tailor support to families' specific circumstances, and to respond to their changing needs, providing most support when their need is greatest.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff work on the Inland Revenue tax credits complaints helpline; what the average number of calls *(a)* received and *(b)* answered was on each day in the last period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [9841]

**Dawn Primarolo:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 6 July 2005, *Official Report*, columns 436–37W.

### Testicular Cancer

**Mrs. Dorries:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the incidence of testicular cancer per 1,000 men has been in *(a)* England, *(b)* the county of Bedfordshire and *(c)* Mid-Bedfordshire parliamentary constituency in each year since 1990. [10907]

**John Healey:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician. I have asked him to reply.

*Letter from Colin Mowl to Mrs. Nadine Dorries, dated 12 July 2005:*

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning what the incidence of testicular cancer per 1,000 men has been in *(a)* England, *(b)* the County of Bedfordshire and *(c)* Mid-Bedfordshire Parliamentary Constituency in each year since 1990.I am replying in his absence. (10907)

The most recent available figures for the incidence of testicular cancer are for the year 2002. Age-standardised incidence rates (directly standardised to the European standard population) for England in each year since 1990 are given in the attached table. The rates have been provided per 100,000 men to assist the interpretation of the trends.

In each of the years since 1990 there were fewer than 20 cases of testicular cancer in the current county of Bedfordshire, too few to reliably calculate annual age-standardised incidence rates. For the period 1990–2002 the age-standardised incidence rate for this county was 6.2 per 100,000 men.

Incidence rates are not available centrally for Parliamentary Constituencies.

*Directly age-standardised incidence rates[1] of testicular[2] cancer per 100,000 men in England, 1990–2002*

| | *England* |
|---|---|
| 1990 | 4.9 |
| 1991 | 5.2 |
| 1992 | 5.4 |
| 1993 | 5.5 |
| 1994 | 5.3 |
| 1995 | 5.9 |
| 1996 | 5.8 |
| 1997 | 5.7 |
| 1998 | 6.2 |
| 1999 | 6.8 |
| 2000 | 6.7 |
| 2001 | 6.6 |
| 2002 | 6.2 |

[1] Age-standardised rates per 100,000 population are directly standardised to the European standard population. In detailed analyses of trends in incidence and mortality over time for a particular cancer, ONS use age-standardised rates. These control for differences in the size and age structure of the population and allow unbiased comparison of rates over time.

[2] From 1990 to 1994, International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) code 186; from 1995 to 2002, International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) code C62.

*Source:*

Office for National Statistics

### Unleaded Petrol

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will reduce the tax on unleaded petrol. [10886]

**John Healey:** The Government recently announced that it will not go ahead with the planned inflation increase of fuel duties on 1 September—including for rebated oils, biofuels and road fuel gases—and will review the position again at the time of the pre-Budget report.

## HOME OFFICE

### Airsoft Games

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what representations he has received from participants in airsoft games about the impact of Government legislation on the sport. [10169]

**Hazel Blears:** We have received and are considering representations from a range of individuals and organisations about the effect the Violent Crime Reduction Bill will have on airsoft games. Only realistic

imitation firearms will be caught by the proposed ban on manufacture, import or sale and owners of existing guns will be able to retain and use them.

### Airwave

**Mr. Henderson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the performance of the police airwave system during the floods earlier this year in Carlisle. [11576]

**Hazel Blears:** No such assessment has been made because Airwave is not yet in operational use in Cumbria.

**Mr. Henderson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the current status of the police airwave programme is *(a)* operational and *(b)* ready for service. [11582]

**Hazel Blears:** Airwave is available to all 51 forces in England, Wales and Scotland. Airwave is in operational use (in full or in part) in 48 forces.

**Mr. Crabb:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what *(a)* performance targets have been set and *(b)* performance-related payments have been made to O2 Airwave in connection with the contract to provide the Tetra telecommunications network. [11592]

**Hazel Blears:** There are a range of performance targets set out in the contract with O2 covering matters such as service availability and resolution of faults. There are no performance-related payments for exceeding these targets. There are, however, penalties for failing to meet them.

### ASBOs

**Mr. Hood:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much funding is expected to be allocated for anti-social behaviour orders in 2005. [10165]

**Hazel Blears:** We do not allocate any funding for antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs). There are currently six local agencies who can apply for ASBOs and it is the responsibility of these agencies to meet any associated costs.

### Assaults (Race/Religion)

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what estimate he has made of the number of members of the *(a)* Jewish, *(b)* Muslim, *(c)* Hindu, *(d)* Sikh and *(e)* Christian faiths who were found guilty of assaults in which race or religion was assessed as a factor in each of the last three years for which figures are available; [8057]

(2) how many people of *(a)* white European, *(b)* white British, *(c)* African-Caribbean and *(d)* Gypsy Traveller extraction were convicted of assaults in which race or religion was assessed as a factor in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [8060]

**Paul Goggins:** It is not possible from the statistics collected on the Home Office Court Proceedings Database to identify different religious groups, as this data is not collected centrally. Nor is there currently robust data available on the ethnicity of people convicted of assaults, in which race or religion was assessed as a factor. Available information on the number of offenders found guilty of racial assaults, religious assaults and racial or religious assaults, England and Wales, 2001–03 is contained in the following table. Data for 2004 statistics will be available in the autumn.

*Number of offenders found guilty at all courts for racial, religious and racial or religious assault offences, England and Wales 2001–03*[1]

| *Offence* | *Statute* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Racially aggravated common assault | Crime and Disorder Act 1998 S.29(1Xc)and(3) | 220 | 284 | 336 |
| Religiously aggravated common assault | Crime and Disorder Act 1998 S.29(1Xc)and(3) | n/a | 1 | 4 |
| Racially or religiously aggravated common assault | Crime and Disorder Act 1998 S.29(1)(c)and(3) | n/a | 2 | 20 |
| Racially aggravated actual bodily harm | Offences against the Person Act 1861 S.47 (in part) as amended by Crime and Disorder Act 1998 S.29 (1) *(b)* and (2) | 83 | 122 | 118 |
| Religiously aggravated actual bodily harm | Offences against the Person Act 1861 S.47 (in part) as amended by Crime and Disorder Act 1998 S.29 (1) *(b)* and (2) | n/a | n/a | 2 |
| Racially or religiously aggravated actual bodily harm | Offences against the Person Act 1861 S.47 (in part) as amended by Crime and Disorder Act 1998 S.29 (1) *(b)* and (2) | n/a | n/a | 6 |
| Racially aggravated malicious wounding or GBH | Offences Against the Person Act 1861 S.20 as amended by Crime and Disorder act S.29 (1) *(a)* and (2) | 28 | 19 | 19 |
| Religiously aggravated wounding or inflicting grievous bodily harm (inflicting bodily injury with or without weapon | Offences Against the Person Act 1861 S.20 as amended by Crime and Disorder act S.29 (1) *(a)* and (2) | n/a | 2 | 2 |
| Racially or religiously aggravated malicious wounding or GBH | Offences Against the Person Act 1861 S.20 as amended by Crime and Disorder act S.29 (1) *(a)* and (2) | n/a | 1 | 10 |
| Total | | 331 | 431 | 517 |

n/a = not available.

[1] These data are on a principal offence basis.

### Asylum Seekers

**Bob Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum seekers from the Kurdish area of Iraq have been deported in each of the last 24 months for which figures are available, broken down by destination in Iraq to which they were sent. [9140]

**Mr. McNulty:** The nationality of asylum applicants is recorded by the Home Office. However, information on the region of a country that asylum applicants originate from is not recorded.

Information on the destination for the removal of failed asylum seekers has only been available since the beginning of 2004. The latest published information on removal of asylum seekers covers the first quarter of 2005.

Information on the number of asylum seekers removed can be found on the Home Office website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html.

### Community Support Officers

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the training of community support officers. [8098]

**Hazel Blears:** Under the Police Reform Act 2002 it is for each chief constable to be satisfied that community support officers (CSOs) have received adequate training for the powers with which they are designated. The Central Police Training and Development Authority has prepared a CSO training package for use by forces but the training is delivered locally. A report on the National Evaluation of CSOs by the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Branch will address various areas, including training. The report will be published later this year.

### Consultants

**Mrs. Dean:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans he has to issue guidance on effective commissioning for those in the public and voluntary sectors who are commissioning work from external consultants. [7028]

**Paul Goggins:** The Home Office follows OGC best practice advice to the public sector through its web-based product the Successful Delivery Toolkit (www.ogc.gok.uk/sdtoolkit/). The guidance is aimed at public sector organisations and complies with Government policy and regulations for procurement but is not specifically tailored to the voluntary sector. The guidance includes the use of consultants covering:

Purchasing consultancy services, covering the tendering process;

Use of professional advisors, including consultants. Where it may be appropriate to use consultants, for example, in construction or specification writing;

Examples of specific guides that are relevant to the procurement and supply of consultancy services:

(i) Delivering world-class consultancy services to the public sector—A statement of best practice;

(ii) The Government Procurement Code of Good Practice for Customer and Suppliers.

There are currently no plans for the Home Office to issue further guidance.

### Extradition

**Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many British citizens have been extradited to the USA under the UK-US Extradition Treaty 2003. [11609]

**Andy Burnham:** The UK-US Extradition Treaty 2003 has not yet been brought into force but some of its provisions have been given effect by the Extradition Act 2003, which came into force on one January 2004. Eight British citizens, and three US citizens, have been extradited to the US under the Extradition Act 2003. The Act and the Treaty have not changed the position whereby both the UK and the US are prepared to consider the extradition of their own citizens.

### Fine Defaulters

**Mrs. Gillan:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been sent to prison in the first five months of 2005 for defaulting on the payment of a fine. [8988]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** Information is only available for January to April 2005. In this period there were 731 persons received into prison establishments in England and Wales in default of payment of a fine, as recorded on the Prison Service IT system.

### Identity Cards

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment the Government have made of the cost to local authorities of introducing identity cards. [9547]

**Andy Burnham:** The Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) published along side the Identity Cards Bill on 25 May 2005, contains the most recent assessment of the impact of introducing Identity Cards. The RIA makes it clear that there are no proposals to require any organisations or individuals to undertake any checks on Identity Cards. No local authority will be obliged to check Identity Cards as part of their business, however some may choose to do so to in order to benefit from more efficient processes and a estimated reduction in fraud as a result of using the Identity Card Scheme.

**Mr. Garnier:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the cost of equipping police premises in each police area in England and Wales; and police officers with identity card readers. [9753]

**Andy Burnham:** The Home Office has been working to identify areas where the identity cards scheme could provide business benefits. My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary placed in the Library a paper containing the latest estimates of benefits of the identity cards scheme. The cost of equipping premises will depend on the nature of the use of the identity cards scheme and the type of identity check(s) necessary to deliver the business benefits. In some cases, benefits could be realised without the use of card readers and the cost of installing any readers needs to be considered alongside future plans to refresh or upgrade IT systems.

As the design of the scheme matures, during and after the procurement exercise, so will our understanding of where the scheme will be of most benefit which will allow us to further refine our estimates of costs and benefits.

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the likely need to replace identity cards before their expiry date; by what means he intends to arrange for replacements to be issued; and what estimate he has made of the likely cost *(a)* to the Government and *(b)* to the individual concerned. [9919]

**Andy Burnham:** Reviews of current research and surveys conducted with companies involved in card technology has indicated the feasibility of an ID card that lasts for 10 years. This has been reflected in other identity cards schemes, Hong Kong for example.

As the planned validity period of the identity card issued to UK nationals is 10 years, requests for replacement cards in advance of their expiry date are likely to arise from lost, stolen, damaged or faulty cards. Estimates have been made of the likely rates of failure, damage and loss (including theft) based on industry benchmarks and experience from other government departments, however due to reasons of commercial sensitivity, it is not appropriate to release these figures as it would hinder the Department's ability to achieve value for money in the forthcoming procurement phase.

It is planned to issue replacement identity cards in a secure yet convenient manner for the public. A member of the public will be able to report their card lost, stolen or damaged via post, internet, telephone and in-person, subject to a secure process of authentication.

Costs based on this work have been included in the operating costs published in the RIA. However we cannot disaggregate these costs for reasons of commercial confidentiality. No decisions have been made in respect of the fee charged for issuing a replacement card.

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how he plans to ensure that measures in the Identity Cards Bill are compatible with disability rights legislation. [9936]

**Andy Burnham:** The Disability Discrimination Act 1995 applies to the identity cards scheme. There is nothing on the face of the Identity Cards Bill that contradicts any provision of that Act.

The Identity Cards Bill contains, at Clause 41(1), the usual provision which ensures that any secondary legislation can contain different provision for different cases and that any exemptions and exceptions as are necessary are made. This inbuilt flexibility will allow for any special policies, practices or procedures which will have to be adopted to cater for the wide variety of special needs people with disabilities have.

The United Kingdom Passport Service biometric trial which was a trial of the processes of enrolling biometrics, rather than a test of the technology, included a sample group of disabled participants to record their customer experience. Disability Matters Ltd. were satisfied with this approach and reported that they had been impressed with the way that disabled people were actively involved in the project. The Identity Cards Programme Team continues to liaise with organisations who best understand the needs of disabled people so that these needs are dealt with directly and sensitively.

### Lancaster Castle

**Geraldine Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when Lancaster Castle will cease to be a prison; and if he will make a statement. [10154]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** There are currently no plans to cease using Her Majesty's Prison Lancaster Castle as a prison.

### Licensing

**Mr. Malins:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what powers magistrates have to ban defendants from entering licensed premises. [4785]

**Hazel Blears:** Under the provisions of the Licensed Premises (Exclusion of Certain Persons) Act 1980 a court can make an order prohibiting a person from entering specified licensed premises, following conviction for an offence committed on licensed premises involving violence or threats of violence. In addition, Antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) that were introduced under Section one of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and first used in 1999 can also be used to prohibit certain people from entering specific areas or premises. ASBOs however have a two year minimum period and can contain various prohibitions. We are therefore introducing Drinking Banning Orders (DBOs) under the Violent Crime Reduction Bill that we introduced on 8 June 2005. The Bill received its Second Reading on 20 June 2005. A DBO has an effect for a period not less than two months and not more than two years and would be more appropriate where binge drinking and alcohol fuelled behaviour needs to be addressed and discouraged and where there is a need for more flexible time limits to apply to a ban.

### Local Authority Regulatory Services

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance the Government have given to *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* local authorities' co-ordinators of regulatory services, on tackling (i) underage drinking, (ii) solvent abuse and (iii) bogus marriages. [7428]

**Hazel Blears:** The Government taking action on underage drinking, solvent abuse and bogus marriages.

(i) The results of a campaign aimed at tackling alcohol-related disorder and underage drinking, involving the police, trading standards and other partners, were published in a document called "Lessons Learned from the Alcohol Misuse Enforcement Campaign" last year. This included lessons learned from underage test purchasing operations undertaken during the campaign. The lessons learned document was circulated to all Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships. In addition, on 8 June 2005 we introduced the Violent Crime Reduction Bill which includes new powers for the police to impose 48-hour bans on pubs and clubs persistently selling to underage drinkers.

(ii) The Home Office and other Government Departments have worked in partnership with the Department of Health who have developed a framework for tackling volatile substance abuse. The draft framework outlines a number of key recommendations that Government will take forward in partnership with key stakeholders at local, regional and national level.

(iii) Registrars and local authorities coordinators of regulatory services (LACORS) are both represented on a joint Home Office/Registrars Group which discusses issues relating to marriage abuse. The General Register Office has provided guidance on identifying bogus marriages and on the implementation of the provisions contained in sections 19 to 25 of the Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants etc.) Act 2004 to combat bogus marriages.

### Mini-Motos

**Jim Dowd:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what measures he is taking to prevent the use of miniature motorcycles (mini-motos) on publicly owned land. [10437]

**Paul Goggins:** We have already given the police a power under the Police Reform Act 2002 to seize any mechanically propelled vehicle which is being driven both in a careless and inconsiderate manner on-road, or off-road without lawful authority, and causing or likely to cause alarm, distress or annoyance to members of the public. How the police exercise this power is an operational matter for individual chief officers. We are aware of local initiatives, bringing together a wide range of interests, to investigate the possibilities for making special provision for recreational use of vehicles which will avoid nuisance to the general public. We are working with other Departments to develop such thinking and its practical implementation.

### National Firearms Register

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 20 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 766W, on the National Firearms Register, when he expects the National Firearms Licensing Management System to be successfully signed off and available for forces to take up. [8812]

**Hazel Blears** *[holding answer 5 July 2005]:* Load testing for the live piloting of the National Firearms Licensing Management System will resume in the autumn.

### National Offender Management Service

**Mrs. Gillan:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) when the National Offender Management Service *proposes to build on the sites in (a)* Merseyside and *(b)* London for which it has obtained outline planning permission; [10180]

(2) what progress has been made in acquiring the two sites to build large multi-functional prisons for which the 2003 Budget Settlement made provision. [10181]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** Although the National Offender Management Service owns the two sites at Merseyside and London, no decision has been taken to build on them. A number of sites have previously been identified as potentially suitable for new prisons, but no decision to acquire any site has been made.

### Off-licence Sales

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prosecutions there have been for off-licence alcohol sales to people *(a)* already under the influence of alcohol and *(b)* under the age of 18 years in each of the last 10 years; if he will break down by region the number of defendants; and if he will make a statement. [1559]

**Hazel Blears:** The available information from the Home Office Court Proceedings database gives the number of defendants proceeded against in England and Wales, 1994 to 2003, for the offences of: "Selling etc., intoxicating liquor to persons under 18 for consumption on the premises" (including "wholesaler selling intoxicating liquor to a person under 18") and "permitting drunkenness or riotous conduct on the premise, or selling liquor to a drunken person", broken down by region.

Statistics for 2004 will be available in the autumn.

We introduced the Violent Crime Reduction Bill on the 8 June 2005. The Bill includes a power for police to impose 48-hour bans on pubs and clubs persistently selling alcohol to underage drinkers. The provisions apply to all premises licensed to retail alcohol, including off-licenses, convenience stores and supermarkets, and to any person giving a temporary event notice which authorizes sales of alcohol.

*Number of defendants proceeded against for certain offences relating to the sale of alcohol, by region[1] England and Wales 1994 to 2003*

| *Offence description* | *Statute* | *Region* | *1994* | *1995* | *1996* | *1997* | *1998* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Permitting drunkenness or riotous conduct on the premises or selling liquor to a drunken person | Licensing Act 1964, Sec 172; Licensing Act (Occasional Permissions) Act 1983, Sec 3 (Sch para 6) | North East | — | — | 1 | — | — |
| | | North West | 2 | — | — | 2 | 1 |
| | | Yorkshire and Humberside | — | 2 | — | — | — |
| | | East Midlands | — | — | — | — | — |
| | | West Midlands | 3 | — | — | 2 | 1 |
| | | East of England | 3 | — | — | 1 | — |
| | | London | 3 | 11 | 2 | 1 | 11 |
| | | South East | 2 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 9 |
| | | South West | — | — | — | — | — |
| | | Wales | 1 | 3 | 3 | — | — |
| | | England and Wales | 14 | 19 | 8 | 9 | 22 |

*Number of defendants proceeded against for certain offences relating to the sale of alcohol, by region[1] England and Wales 1994 to 2003*

| *Offence description* | *Statute* | *Region* | *1994* | *1995* | *1996* | *1997* | *1998* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Selling intoxicating liquor to persons under 18 for consumption on the premises[2] | Licensing Act 1964, Sees 169 A&B; Licensing (Occasional Permissions) Act 1983, Schedule (Sec 3) para 4(1) | North East | 12 | 8 | 23 | 34 | 94 |
| | | Northwest | 19 | 47 | 64 | 55 | 58 |
| | | Yorkshire and Humberside | 7 | 8 | 12 | 16 | 22 |
| | | East Midlands | 8 | 19 | 19 | 20 | 15 |
| | | West Midlands | 9 | 26 | 29 | 25 | 20 |
| | | East of England | 27 | 12 | 18 | 18 | 18 |
| | | London | 11 | 19 | 14 | 13 | 13 |
| | | South East | 17 | 10 | 19 | 9 | 18 |
| | | South West | 12 | 20 | 31 | 2 | 40 |
| | | Wales | 16 | 29 | 22 | 23 | 13 |
| | | England and Wales | 138 | 198 | 251 | 215 | 311 |

| *Offence description* | *Statute* | *Region* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Permitting drunkenness or riotous conduct on the premises or selling liquor to a drunken person | Licensing Act 1964, Sec 172; Licensing Act (Occasional Permissions) Act 1983, Sec 3 (Sch para 6) | North East | — | — | — | — | — |
| | | North West | — | 2 | 2 | — | — |
| | | Yorkshire and Humberside | 1 | — | — | — | 1 |
| | | East Midlands | — | — | — | — | — |
| | | West Midlands | — | 2 | — | 1 | — |
| | | East of England | — | — | 3 | — | 1 |
| | | London | 7 | 3 | 5 | 3 | 3 |
| | | South East | 3 | 3 | — | — | 3 |
| | | South West | — | — | — | 3 | — |
| | | Wales | 2 | — | — | — | — |
| | | England and Wales | 13 | 10 | 10 | 7 | 8 |
| Selling intoxicating liquor to persons under 18 for consumption on the premises2 | Licensing Act 1964, Sees 169 A&B; Licensing (Occasional Permissions) Act 1983, Schedule (Sec 3) para 4(1) | North East | 41 | 18 | 18 | 9 | 42 |
| | | Northwest | 41 | 30 | 35 | 73 | 211 |
| | | Yorkshire and Humberside | 17 | 22 | 31 | 14 | 9 |
| | | East Midlands | 14 | 9 | 7 | 11 | 78 |
| | | West Midlands | 34 | 21 | 11 | 13 | 62 |
| | | East of England | 7 | 6 | 5 | 5 | 11 |
| | | London | 17 | 2 | 19 | 12 | 113 |
| | | South East | 10 | 6 | 17 | 12 | 30 |
| | | South West | 5 | 4 | 6 | 2 | 17 |
| | | Wales | 19 | 14 | 9 | 19 | 43 |
| | | England and Wales | 205 | 132 | 158 | 170 | 616 |

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Includes "Wholesaler selling intoxicating liquor to a person under 18"

## Passports

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost is of issuing *(a)* existing passports and *(b)* passports with a facial biometric (i) based on a suitable quality photograph provided by the applicant and (ii) based on a photograph taken by the Passport Office, (A) excluding and (B) including the cost of operating and maintaining the record system and overhead costs. [9937]

**Andy Burnham:** All passports issued use photographs provided by the applicants, none are taken by the Passport Service. In 2004–05 the actual average unit cost of issuing and delivering just over six million passports was £38.30. In 2005–06 the Passport Service will begin issuing passports containing facial biometrics, these will be phased in progressively during the last quarter of 2005–06 and the first quarter of 2006–07. The average unit cost of producing passports, including an element for the facial biometric will be:

2005–06: £42.36

2006–07: £67.93

**Mark Fisher:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which company was awarded the contract to manufacture the chips used in biometric passports. [11151]

**Andy Burnham:** The new central and regional biometric passport (ePassport) production facilities are to be procured through the existing Security Printing and Systems Ltd. (SPSL) printing contract. SPSL will be required to procure key components though sub-contracts, with UKPS participation to endure value for money and the best technical solution. Detailed commercial negotiations for the production of ePassports are continuing, and a contract is expected to be signed in August 2005. Any sub-contract awarded for the manufacture and supply of chips to be used in ePassports would thereafter be placed by SPSL. Such a contract has not yet been placed.

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make a statement on the Passport Office's plans to require interviews for renewals of and applications for passports. [11181]

**Andy Burnham:** A written statement announcing the decision to require interviews for adult first time passport applicants was made by my right hon. Friend

the Member for Kilmarnock and Loudoun (Mr. Browne) on 21 December 2004, *Official Report*, column 172WS.

Personal attendance for passport renewals would become necessary in connection with the addition of fingerprints to biometric passports, and interview of all passport applicants would provide a further strengthening of UK Passport Service premises in line with International practises. The EU has decided that fingerprints should be included in passports issued by member states in the Schengen area, within three years of agreement on the technical specification. The UK is currently excluded from this requirement but there would be disadvantages for British passport holders if UK passports were issued to a lower standard than those of other EU member states. The UK is currently challenging its exclusion, and in parallel is considering whether to mirror the EU requirement. A statement will be made when final decisions have been made.

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment the Department has made of the cost-effectiveness of the proposed interview scheme in the Passport Office. [11182]

**Andy Burnham:** The Passport Service's Authentication by Interview (AbI) scheme is intended both to deter and to detect fraudulent applications among adult first time applicants but its business case has been constructed on its potential deterrent effect, for which evidence exists. UKPS data sampling has identified the first time adult channel as accounting for 74 per cent. of all fraudulent applications, although this group accounts for less than 10 per cent. of all applications processed annually by the Agency. AbI closes the loophole that currently exists in the postal application system by bringing together the physical applicant, and current biographical information, to ensure they are one and the same. A fraudster will now be faced with having to act out their false identity, and risk a real possibility of detection. There have been a number of instances in the past where the requirement to attend for interview would have enabled UKPS to identify a fraudulent application and prevent the issue of a passport in a false identity. The estimated cost of the scheme in its year of introduction is aggregated within the total estimated unit cost of £67.93 for 2006–07, published within the UKPS Corporate and Business Plan. The benefit the scheme is designed to deliver is in deterring fraudulent passport applications and thus contributing to the overall fight against identity fraud and reducing numbers of such frauds with consequent benefits to the individual and to the UK public and private sectors.

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for what reasons his Department considers interviews to be the most effective way of targeting passport fraud; and what alternative methods for stopping fraud it has assessed. [11183]

**Andy Burnham:** The introduction of interviews is one of a range of initiatives the UK Passport Service is taking forward to reduce passport fraud through improved detection and prevention, as indicated in its 2005–10 Corporate and Business Plan. The Passport Service's programme of work which has been informed by, and is closely related to the recommendations of the Cabinet Office study on identity fraud published in 2002, includes:

- Increasing data-sharing with public and private sector organisations;
- Improving systems and staff training in identity authentication, and increasing the professionalism of its fraud investigation capability;
- Improving the security of the passport book, through the introduction of biometric chip enabled passports from 2006;
- Using facial recognition technology to detect fraudulent applications;
- Use of its new Omnibase, and Lost/Stolen/Recovered global passport databases to detect and prevent fraud;
- Working with law enforcement agencies to apprehend, disrupt and dismantle the activities of those involved in identity fraud; and
- Supporting the work of the Home Office's Identity Fraud Steering Committee in promoting closer public/private sector collaboration in combating identity fraud.

The planned interviews will be conducted after improved checking of the information provided by applicants, including database checks. The interview will then enable genuine applicants to demonstrate their knowledge of the identity claimed but will face fraudulent applicants with the likelihood of detection. The interview will have an important deterrent effect, and will close off loopholes associated with illegal immigration where the applicant is often not in the UK and would be unable to answer questions related to residence in the UK. Only a procedure that includes an interview will enable the UKPS to confirm that the intended passport holder is the rightful owner of the identity claimed and to close the loophole that is inevitable when applications can be submitted by post.

## Prisons

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many inmates have escaped from prisons in London in each year since 1997. [8304]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** The table shows that there were seven KPI recorded escapes between the period 1997–98 to the present date.

| *Financial year* | *Total number of escapes* | *Prison* |
|---|---|---|
| 1997–98 | 1 | HMP Belmarsh |
| 1998–99 | 3 | Pentonville |
| | | Wormwood scrubs |
| | | Feltham |
| 1999–2000 | 0 | — |
| 2000–01 | 0 | — |
| 2001–02 | 1 | Feltham |
| 2002–03 | 1 | Brixton |
| 2003–04 | 0 | — |
| 2004–05 | 1 | Pentonville |
| Total KPI escapes | 7 | |

An escape is classified as a escape if a prisoner is unlawfully at large for more than 15 minutes.

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many UK prisons have *(a)* been refurbished and *(b)* newly built since 1997; [8461]

(2) how many prisons there are in England; and if he will list each prison. [8462]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** Prisons in Scotland and Northern Ireland are the responsibility of the Scottish Parliament and the Secretary of State for the Northern Ireland respectively.

Refurbishment in prisons occurs on a continuing basis, as the need arises. For example a wing, kitchen or gym may be refurbished, dependent on need. No prison has been refurbished in its entirety since 1997.

There have been nine newly built prisons opened in England and Wales since 1997.

There are 139 prisons in England and Wales. This includes three prisons which contain separate units located on one site: Moorland (open and closed), Usk/Prescoed and Grendon/Spring Hill. This number also includes Dover and Haslar, which are managed by the Prison Service on behalf of the immigration and nationality directorate. All prisons in England and Wales are listed as follows:

*Public Prisons:*

Acklington
Albany
Ashwell
Askham Grange
Aylesbury
Bedford
Belmarsh
Birmingham
Blakenhurst
Blantyre House
Blundeston
Brinsford
Bristol
Brixton
Brockhill
Buckley Hall
Bullingdon
Bullwood Hall
Camp Hill
Canterbury
Cardiff
Castington
Channings Wood
Chelmsford
Coldingley
Cookham Wood
Dartmoor
Deerbolt
Dorchester
Dover
Downview
Drake Hall
Durham
East Sutton Park
Eastwood Park
Edmunds Hill
Elmley
Erlestoke
Everthorpe
Exeter
Featherstone
Feltham
Ford
Foston Hall
Frankland
Full Sutton
Garth
Gartree
Glen Parva
Gloucester
Grendon/Spring Hill
Guys Marsh
Haslar
Haverigg
Hewell Grange
High Down
Highpoint
Hindley
Hollesley Bay
Holloway
Holme House
Hull
Huntercombe
Kingston
Kirkham
Kirklevington
Lancaster
Lancaster Farms
Latchmere House
Leeds
Leicester
Lewes
Leyhill
Lincoln
Lindholme
Littlehey
Liverpool
Long Lartin
Low Newton
Maidstone
Manchester
Moorland
Morton Hall
Mount
New Hall
North Sea Camp
Northallerton
Norwich
Nottingham
Onley
Parkhurst
Pentonville
Portland
Preston
Ranby
Reading
Risley
Rochester

Send
Shepton Mallet
Shrewsbury
Stafford
Standford Hill
Stocken
Stoke Heath
Styal
Sudbury
Swaleside
Swansea
Swinfen Hall
Thorn Cross
Usk Prescoed
Verne
Wakefield
Wandsworth
Warren Hill
Wayland
Wealstun
Weare
Wellingborough
Werrington
Wetherby
Whatton
Whitemoor
Winchester
Woodhill
Wormwood Scrubs
Wymott
Contracted Out Prisons:
Altcourse
Ashfield
Bronzefield
Doncaster
Dovegate
Forest Bank
Lowdham Grange
Pare
Peterborough
Rye Hill
Wolds

**Mrs. Gillan:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average annual cost of keeping a person in prison was in the last period for which figures are available. [8989]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** In 2003–04 the average cost per prisoner was £25,377 for contracted prisons and £25,718 for public sector prisons.

**Mrs. Gillan:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offenders were held in prison awaiting deportation on 24 June, broken down by *(a)* those who have been awaiting deportation for (i) one week, (ii) two to four weeks, (iii) four to eight weeks, (iv) eight to 12 weeks and (v) more than 12 weeks and *(b)* nationality. [9002]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** Information on the number of people who were detained in prison establishments awaiting deportation after completion of a criminal sentence is not available.

Work is ongoing to improve the quality of data held on those people detained under Immigration Act powers in Prison Service establishments.

**Mrs. Gillan:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many vacancies there were in each prison establishment for *(a)* prison officers and *(b)* other prison staff as at 24 June. [9003]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** The latest information on staff vacancies for each public sector prison establishment relates to staff in post at 31 May and is calculated by comparing the operational staffing requirements as at 30 June. This snapshot is contained in the table.

Information on required staffing levels within prisons managed by the private sector is not collected centrally in this form and is therefore not available.

Overall, Officer recruitment continues at a high level compared with previous years and the Service-wide shortfall among operational staff is well within an acceptable operating margin. To cover any vacancies in the short-term, certain establishments are allowing officers to work additional hours as part of the 'Contracted Supplementary Hours Scheme'. This scheme contributed the equivalent of 412 full-time officers at 31 March 2005. At that time the total operational staff availability was 25,858 compared to an operational staffing requirement of 26,087, resulting in a Service-wide shortfall of just 0.9 per cent.

Staffing levels in non-operational roles are more fluid and vacancy figures require qualification. This is in part due to the number of reviews taking place across the Prison Service and on-going work to introduce greater efficiencies which has led to decisions to leave posts unfilled.

| *Establishment* | *Shortfall of staff in post 31 May 2005 against operational staffing requirement 1 July 2005* | |
|---|---|---|
| | *Officers* | *Other staff* |
| Acklington | 9 | 3 |
| Albany | 7 | 6 |
| Ashwell | 8 | 13 |
| Askham Grange | — | 4 |
| Aylesbury | 13 | 5 |
| Bedford | 7 | 28 |
| Belmarsh | 29 | 18 |
| Birmingham | 22 | 12 |
| Blakenhurst | 15 | — |
| Blantyre House | 1 | 3 |
| Blundeston | — | — |
| Brinsford | 16 | — |
| Bristol | 15 | 20 |
| Brixton | 14 | 5 |
| Brockhill | 5 | 8 |
| Buckley Hall | 1 | 3 |
| Bullingdon | 22 | 15 |
| Bullwood Hall | 9 | — |
| Camp Hill | 2 | — |
| Canterbury | 3 | 11 |
| Cardiff | — | 5 |
| Castington | — | — |
| Channings Wood | 3 | 11 |
| Chelmsford | 11 | — |
| Coldingley | 8 | 3 |

| Establishment | Shortfall of staff in post 31 May 2005 against operational staffing requirement 1 July 2005: Officers | Other staff |
|---|---|---|
| Cookham Wood | — | — |
| Dartmoor | 1 | 6 |
| Deerbolt | 2 | — |
| Dorchester | — | — |
| Dover | — | 10 |
| Downview | 5 | — |
| Drake Hall | 1 | — |
| Durham | 1 | 30 |
| East Sutton Park | 1 | — |
| Eastwood Park | 34 | 35 |
| Edmunds Hill | — | — |
| Elmley | 3 | 14 |
| Erlestoke | 6 | 7 |
| Everthorpe | — | — |
| Exeter | 1 | 12 |
| Featherstone | 3 | 15 |
| Feltham | 17 | 29 |
| Ford | 9 | 25 |
| Foston Hall | 11 | 12 |
| Frankland | 4 | 21 |
| Full Sutton | 19 | 27 |
| Garth | 7 | 4 |
| Garthree | 26 | 20 |
| Glen Parva | 7 | 23 |
| Gloucester | 1 | 6 |
| Grendon | 5 | — |
| Guys Marsh | 4 | 12 |
| Haslar | — | 3 |
| Haverigg | 8 | 11 |
| Hewell Grange | 1 | 7 |
| High Down | 12 | 2 |
| Highpoint | 2 | 2 |
| Hindley | 14 | 2 |
| Hollesley Bay | — | 2 |
| Holloway | 25 | — |
| Holme House | 4 | 14 |
| Hull | — | — |
| Huntercombe | 22 | 23 |
| Kingston | 5 | 5 |
| Kirkham | 4 | 12 |
| Kirklevington Grange | — | 2 |
| Lancaster | 2 | 1 |
| Lancaster Farms | 8 | — |
| Latchmere House | 4 | 1 |
| Leeds | 1 | — |
| Leicester | 9 | — |
| Lewes | 3 | — |
| Leyhill | 3 | 20 |
| Lincoln | — | — |
| Lindholme | — | — |
| Littlehey | 6 | 11 |
| Liverpool | — | — |
| Long Lartin | 13 | 15 |
| Low Newton | 5 | — |
| Maidstone | — | 22 |
| Manchester | 32 | 18 |
| Moorland | — | — |
| Morton Hall | 2 | — |
| New Hall | 37 | 8 |
| North Sea Camp | 3 | 14 |
| Northallerton | 2 | 6 |
| Norwich | 3 | 3 |
| Nottingham | — | — |
| Onley | 13 | 14 |
| Parkhurst | 12 | 30 |
| Pentonville | 2 | 12 |
| Portland | 8 | 17 |
| Preston | 2 | — |
| Ranby | 5 | — |
| Reading | 1 | 4 |
| Risley | 16 | — |
| Rochester | 1 | 9 |
| Send | 4 | 8 |
| Shepton Mallet | 1 | — |
| Shrewsbury | — | — |
| Stafford | — | — |
| Standford Hill | — | 5 |
| Stocken | — | 9 |
| Stoke Heath | 14 | 11 |
| Styal | 7 | 6 |
| Sudbury | 2 | 12 |
| Swaleside | — | — |
| Swansea | — | — |
| Swinfen Hall | 12 | 5 |
| The Mount | 12 | 16 |
| The Verne | — | — |
| Thorn Cross | 3 | 3 |
| Usk/Prescoed | — | — |
| Wakefield | 8 | 8 |
| Wandsworth | 17 | 58 |
| Warren Hill | — | 3 |
| Wayland | 11 | 6 |
| Wealstun | — | 5 |
| Weare | 9 | 7 |
| Wellingborough | 4 | 10 |
| Werrington | 3 | 4 |
| Wetherby | 6 | — |
| Whatton | — | — |
| Whitemoor | 41 | 62 |
| Winchester | 1 | 9 |
| Woodhill | 17 | 31 |
| Wormwood Scrubs | — | 23 |
| Wymott | 13 | 19 |
| Total | 844 | 1,068 |

*Note:*
Establishments showing "—" currently have no shortfall of staff

**Mrs. Gillan:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prisoners have escaped from each prison in the first six months of 2005; and how many have not been recaptured. [9004]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** In February 2005 there were two escapes from the Verne prison and both prisoners have been recaptured. There have been no other escapes during this period.

**Mrs. Gillan:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* prison officers and *(b)* non-uniformed prison staff were working in Her Majesty's Prison Service on 24 June. [9005]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** On 31 May 2005, the closest day to 24 June for which information is available, there were *(a)* 24,400 officers and *(b)* 23, 774 other prison staff working in the public sector Prison Service. These two figures represent the total staffing of the public sector Prison Service but include 7,271 operational support grades and 1,131 nurses who would be expected towear a uniform. Non-uniformed staff carry out arange of functions, covering operational management, chaplaincy, psychology, industrial work, administration, catering and farms and gardens. Staffing numbers within privately managed establishments are not collected by the Office for Contracted Prisons and are therefore not available.

**Mrs. Gillan:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many fires there were in prisons in the first five months of 2005, broken down by prison; and whether *(a)* prison staff and *(b)* prisoners were hurt in each case. [9006]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** There have been 414 fires in prisons between 1 January and 31 May 2005. The following table gives a breakdown of incidents by establishment. Information is not held centrally on the number of staff or prisoners injured as a result of these incidents and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

| Establishment | Totals |
|---|---|
| Acklington | 1 |
| Altcourse | 4 |
| Ashfield | 1 |
| Ashwell | 1 |
| Bedford | 2 |
| Belmarsh | 1 |
| Birmingham | 4 |
| Blakenhurst | 7 |
| Brinsford | 5 |
| Bristol | 3 |
| Brixton | 6 |
| Bronzefield | 3 |
| Buckley Hall | 4 |
| Bullingdon | 2 |
| Bullwood Hall | 7 |
| Camphill | 9 |
| Castington | 2 |
| Channings Wood | 2 |
| Chelmsford | 7 |
| Dartmoor | 2 |
| Deerbolt | 8 |
| Doncaster | 3 |
| Dorchester | 1 |
| Dovegate | 2 |
| Downview | 5 |
| Durham | 15 |
| Eastwood Park | 17 |
| Edmunds Hill | 2 |
| Elmley | 4 |
| Erlestoke | 1 |
| Exeter | 4 |
| Featherstone | 1 |
| Feltham | 24 |
| Ford | 1 |
| Forest Bank | 9 |
| Foston Hall | 4 |
| Frankland | 3 |
| Full Sutton | 10 |
| Garth | 1 |
| Glen Parva | 1 |
| Gloucester | 4 |
| Guys Marsh | 1 |
| Hewell Grange | 1 |
| Highdown | 10 |
| Highpoint | 9 |
| Hindley | 5 |
| Hollesley Bay | 1 |
| Holloway | 1 |
| Hull | 4 |
| Huntercombe | 3 |
| Kirklevington | 1 |
| Lancaster Farms | 4 |
| Leeds | 7 |
| Lewes | 5 |
| Lincoln | 4 |
| Lindholme | 3 |
| Littlehey | 1 |
| Liverpool | 4 |
| Long Lartin | 2 |
| Lowdham Grange | 2 |
| Low Newton | 9 |
| Maidstone | 2 |
| Manchester | 5 |
| Moorland | 1 |
| Morton Hall | 4 |
| New Hall | 4 |
| Norwich | 5 |
| Nottingham | 2 |
| Parc | 4 |
| Parkhurst | 8 |
| Pentonville | 4 |
| Portland | 5 |
| Preston | 4 |
| Ranby | 2 |
| Reading | 2 |
| Risley | 7 |
| Rochester | 3 |
| Rye Hill | 5 |
| Stafford | 1 |
| Stoke Heath | 5 |
| Styal | 5 |
| Swaleside | 3 |
| Swansea | 3 |
| The Mount | 2 |
| The Verne | 1 |
| Wakefield | 4 |
| Wandsworth | 20 |
| Wayland | 2 |
| Wellingborough | 6 |
| Wetherby | 1 |
| Whitemoor | 5 |
| Winchester | 5 |
| Wolds | 1 |
| Woodhill | 2 |
| Wormwood Scrubs | 9 |
| Wymott | 2 |
| Total | 414 |

**Mrs. Gillan:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will list the sites which are under consideration for the building of new prisons. [9007]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** Although a number of sites have previously been identified as potentially suitable, no decision to buy a site has been made. If a site is under consideration for acquisition, details could not be disclosed for commercial reasons. Any Member in whose constituency where we have decided to buy a site or where we are planning to build a new prison will be kept up to date on developments by the Home Office.

The National Offender Management Service owns two sites at Merseyside and Thamesmead, London, but no decision has been taken to build on them.

**Mrs. Gillan:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prisons and detention centres are fitted with sprinkler equipment; and which areas of each such establishment are protected by the sprinkler system. [9008]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** Prison kitchens and workshops are the high risk areas in which sprinklers are widely installed. The only prison establishment that has sprinklers in the living accommodation is the prison ship HMP Weare.

The current situation with regard to sprinklers in Detention Centres is:

Harmondsworth—sprinklers installed throughout

Colnbrook—sprinklers installed throughout

Yarl's Wood—sprinklers installed throughout

Campsfield House—no sprinklers installed

Tinsley House—no sprinklers

Dungavel—sprinklers installed within the new house block. Other areas managed by the fire evacuation strategy plans.

Oakington—no sprinklers

Lindholme—no sprinklers Dover- no sprinklers

Haslar—no sprinklers

All prisons and detention centres manage fire risks by means of detailed evacuation and fire strategy plans.

**Mrs. Gillan:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign nationals were held in prisons in England and Wales on 24 June, broken down by *(a)* nationality and *(b)* prison. [9009]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** The information requested is not available for 24 June. Information for 31 May 2005, as recorded on the Prison Service IT system, is provided in the tables.

*Population of foreign nationals in prison establishments[1], by establishment, England and Wales, 31 May 2005*

| | Number |
|---|---|
| Total | 9,576 |
| Acklington | 18 |
| Albany | 34 |
| Altcourse | 30 |
| Ashfield | 7 |
| Ashwell | 47 |
| Askham Grange | 4 |
| Aylesbury | 60 |
| Bedford | 60 |
| Belmarsh | 212 |
| Birmingham | 136 |
| Blakenhurst | 68 |
| Blantyre House | 5 |
| Blundeston | 107 |
| Brinsford | 17 |
| Bristol | 53 |
| Brixton | 271 |
| Brockhill | 9 |
| Bronzefield | 131 |
| Buckley Hall | 25 |
| Bullingdon | 128 |
| Bullwood Hall | 20 |
| Camp Hill | 97 |
| Canterbury | 35 |
| Cardiff | 52 |
| Castington | 5 |
| Channings Wood | 31 |
| Chelmsford | 126 |
| Coldingly | 75 |
| Cookham Wood | 32 |
| Dartmoor | 37 |
| Deerbolt | 5 |
| Doncaster | 74 |
| Dorchester | 20 |
| Dovegate | 89 |
| Dover | 320 |
| Downview | 83 |
| Drake Hall | 61 |
| Durham | 24 |
| East Sutton Park | 20 |
| Eastwood Park | 14 |
| Edmunds Hill | 31 |
| Elmley | 215 |
| Erlestoke | 30 |
| Everthorpe | 11 |
| Exeter | 22 |
| Featherstone | 48 |
| Feltham | 193 |
| Ford | 136 |
| Forest Bank | 33 |
| Foston Hall | 5 |
| Frankland | 36 |
| Full Sutton | 55 |
| Garth | 43 |
| Gartree | 35 |
| Glen Parva | 51 |
| Gloucester | 18 |
| Grendon (Spring Hill) | 40 |
| Guys Marsh | 41 |
| Haslar | 146 |

*Population of foreign nationals in prison establishments[1], by establishment, England and Wales, 31 May 2005*

| | Number |
|---|---|
| Haverigg | 13 |
| Hewell Grange | 16 |
| Highdown | 194 |
| Highpoint South | 191 |
| Hindley | 11 |
| Hollesley Bay (Warren Hill) | 58 |
| Holloway | 142 |
| Holme House | 27 |
| Hull | 49 |
| Huntercombe | 60 |
| Kingston (Portsmouth) | 19 |
| Kirkham | 19 |
| Kirklevington | 3 |
| Lancaster | 1 |
| Lancaster Farms | 12 |
| Latchmere House | 36 |
| Leeds | 73 |
| Leicester | 37 |
| Lewes | 62 |
| Leyhill | 51 |
| Lincoln | 27 |
| Lindholme | 35 |
| Littlehey | 94 |
| Liverpool | 54 |
| Long Lartin | 55 |
| Low Newton | 14 |
| Lowdham Grange | 74 |
| Maidstone | 114 |
| Manchester | 147 |
| Moorland | 23 |
| Moorland Open | 6 |
| Morton Hall | 211 |
| Mount | 193 |
| New Hall | 20 |
| North Sea Camp | 21 |
| Northallerton | 3 |
| Norwich | 70 |
| Nottingham | 37 |
| Onley | 35 |
| Parc | 35 |
| Parkhurst | 79 |
| Pentonville | 344 |
| Peterborough | 36 |
| Portland | 67 |
| Preston | 25 |
| Ranby | 55 |
| Reading | 18 |
| Risley | 43 |
| Rochester | 73 |
| Rye Hill | 78 |
| Send | 39 |
| Shepton Mallet | 7 |
| Shrewsbury | 20 |
| Stafford | 43 |
| Standford Hill | 100 |
| Stocken | 46 |
| Stoke Heath | 21 |
| Styal | 26 |
| Sudbury | 42 |
| Swaleside | 191 |
| Swansea | 12 |
| Swinfen Hall | 35 |
| Thorn Cross | 7 |
| Usk (Prescoed) | 19 |
| Verne | 268 |
| Wakefield | 30 |
| Wandsworth | 384 |
| Warren Hill | 19 |
| Wayland | 147 |
| Wealstun | 33 |
| Weare | 53 |
| Wellingborough | 73 |

*Population of foreign nationals in prison establishments[1], by establishment, England and Wales, 31 May 2005*

| | Number |
|---|---|
| Werrington | 3 |
| Wetherby | 7 |
| Whatton | 24 |
| Whitemoor | 59 |
| Winchester | 76 |
| Wolds | 17 |
| Woodhill | 114 |
| Wormwood Scrubs | 624 |
| Wymott | 44 |

[1] Figures include persons held in immigration removal centres at Dover, Haslar and Lindholme

*Population of foreign nationals in prison establishments,[1] by nationality England and Wales, 31 May 2005*

| Foreign national | Total |
|---|---|
| Total | 9,576 |
| Total Africa | 2,416 |
| Algeria | 139 |
| Angola | 66 |
| Benin | 7 |
| Botswana | 2 |
| Burundi | 6 |
| Cameroon, United Republic | 30 |
| Central African Republic | 11 |
| Chad | 1 |
| Congo, Republic of | 75 |
| Congo, Democratic Republic of the | 45 |
| Côte d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast) | 23 |
| Djibouti | 1 |
| Egypt | 26 |
| Equatorial Guinea | 2 |
| Ethiopia | 39 |
| French Guiana | 3 |
| Gabon | 1 |
| Gambia | 37 |
| Ghana | 184 |
| Guinea | 13 |
| Guinea-Bissau | 1 |
| Kenya | 59 |
| Liberia | 39 |
| Libya | 21 |
| Malawi | 15 |
| Mali | 2 |
| Mauritania | 3 |
| Mauritius | 17 |
| Morocco | 38 |
| Mozambique | 3 |
| Namibia | 7 |
| Niger | 2 |
| Nigeria | 721 |
| Rwanda | 10 |
| Sao Tome and Principe | 1 |
| Senegal | 7 |
| Seychelles | 1 |
| Sierra Leone | 64 |
| Somalia | 255 |
| South Africa | 152 |
| Sudan | 35 |
| Swaziland | 1 |
| Tanzania | 14 |
| Togo | 12 |
| Tunisia | 13 |
| Uganda | 63 |
| Zambia | 18 |
| Zimbabwe | 134 |
| Total Asia | 1,277 |
| Bangladesh | 136 |
| Bhutan | 1 |
| China | 219 |
| Hong Kong | 15 |
| India | 230 |
| Indonesia | 4 |
| Japan | 2 |
| Korea Republic of (Sth) | 5 |
| Malaysia | 30 |



*Population of foreign nationals in prison establishments,[1] by nationality England and Wales, 31 May 2005*

| Foreign national | Total |
|---|---|
| Maldives | 1 |
| Mongolia | 5 |
| Myanmar (Burma) | 3 |
| Nepal | 6 |
| Pakistan | 374 |
| Philippines | 13 |
| Sri Lanka | 132 |
| Surinam | 3 |
| Thailand | 4 |
| Vietnam | 96 |
| Total Central or South America | 310 |
| Argentina | 6 |
| Belize | 1 |
| Bolivia | 8 |
| Brazil | 39 |
| Chile | 17 |
| Columbia | 136 |
| Costa Rica | 4 |
| Ecuador | 9 |
| Mexico | 17 |
| Panama | 1 |
| Paraguay | 1 |
| Peru | 3 |
| Uruguay | 1 |
| Venezuela | 68 |
| Total Europe | 2,799 |
| Albania | 103 |
| Andorra | 1 |
| Armenia | 3 |
| Austria | 7 |
| Azerbijan | 1 |
| Belgium | 45 |
| Bosnia-Hercegovina | 5 |
| Bulgaria | 10 |
| Croatia | 11 |
| Cyprus | 57 |
| Czech Republic | 19 |
| Denmark | 8 |
| Estonia | 6 |
| Finland | 5 |
| France | 144 |
| Georgia | 11 |
| Germany | 121 |
| Gibraltar | 4 |
| Greece | 27 |
| Hungary | 13 |
| Irish Republic | 697 |
| Italy | 105 |
| Kazakhstan | 4 |
| Kyrgystan | 3 |
| Latvia | 34 |
| Lithuania | 124 |
| Macedonia | 16 |
| Malta | 6 |
| Moldova | 47 |
| Netherlands | 161 |
| Norway | 5 |
| Poland | 99 |
| Portugal | 177 |
| Romania | 140 |
| Russia | 109 |
| Serbia and Montenegro | 91 |
| Slovakia | 6 |
| Slovenia | 2 |
| Spain | 96 |
| Sweden | 16 |
| Switzerland | 9 |
| Turkey | 254 |
| Total Middle East | 530 |
| Afghanistan | 97 |
| Iran | 120 |
| Iraq | 218 |
| Israel | 24 |
| Jordan | 8 |
| Kuwait | 10 |
| Lebanon | 18 |
| Oman | 1 |

*Population of foreign nationals in prison establishments,[1] by nationality England and Wales, 31 May 2005*

| *Foreign national* | *Total* |
|---|---|
| Republic of Yemen | 12 |
| Saudi Arabia | 8 |
| Syrian Arab Republic | 11 |
| United Arab Emirates | 4 |
| Total North America | 104 |
| Canada | 27 |
| United States of America | 77 |
| Total Oceania | 44 |
| Australia | 19 |
| Canton and Enderbury Island | 1 |
| Fiji | 6 |
| French Southern Territories | 1 |
| Kiribati | 1 |
| New Zealand | 13 |
| Papua New Guinea | 2 |
| Samoa | 1 |
| Total Other | 13 |
| Total West Indies | 2,082 |
| Aruba | 1 |
| Bahamas | 3 |
| Barbados | 31 |
| Bermuda | 3 |
| Dominica | 8 |
| Dominican Republic | 9 |
| Grenada | 29 |
| Guyana | 42 |
| Haiti | 2 |
| Jamaica | 1,774 |
| Montserrat | 6 |
| Netherlands Antilles | 17 |
| St Christopher and Nevis | 1 |
| St Kitts and Nevis | 5 |
| St Lucia | 23 |
| St Vincent and The Grenadines | 10 |
| Trinidad and Tobago | 119 |

[1] Figures include persons held in immigration removal centres at Dover, Haslar and Lindholme.

**Mrs. Gillan:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prisoners are serving a custodial sentence of *(a)* less than 12 months and *(b)* over 12 months, broken down by nationality and gender. [9012]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** The information requested, as recorded on the Prison Service IT system, is provided in the following table.

*Population of prison establishments[1] under an immediate custodial sentence, by nationality, sentence length and sex England and Wales, 31 May 2005*

| | *Males* | | | *Females* | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Less than 12 months* | *12 months or more* | *Total males* | *Less than 12 months* | *12 months or more* | *Total females* | *Total* |
| Total | 7,437 | 51,271 | 58,708 | 675 | 2,795 | 3,470 | 62,178 |
| Total UK nationals | 6,775 | 45,886 | 52,661 | 600 | 2,205 | 2,806 | 55,467 |
| Total Foreign nationals | 635 | 5,251 | 5,886 | 69 | 569 | 638 | 6,524 |
| Total Unrecorded | 27 | 134 | 161 | 6 | 21 | 27 | 188 |
| Total Africa | 198 | 1,112 | 1,310 | 36 | 145 | 182 | 1,491 |
| Algeria | 25 | 59 | 84 | — | — | — | 84 |
| Angola | 6 | 31 | 37 | — | — | — | 37 |
| Benin | — | 7 | 7 | — | — | — | 7 |
| Botswana | — | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | 1 |
| Burundi | 1 | 1 | 2 | — | — | — | 2 |
| Cameroon, United Republic | 2 | 4 | 6 | — | 1 | 1 | 7 |
| Central African Republic | — | 7 | 7 | — | — | — | 7 |
| Congo, Democratic Republic of the | 4 | 24 | 28 | — | — | — | 28 |
| Congo, Republic of | 4 | 36 | 40 | 2 | — | 2 | 42 |
| Côte d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast) | 2 | 15 | 17 | — | — | — | 17 |
| Djibouti | — | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | 1 |
| Egypt | 4 | 7 | 11 | 3 | — | 3 | 14 |
| Equatorial Guinea | — | 2 | 2 | — | — | — | 2 |
| Ethiopia | 6 | 11 | 17 | 4 | — | 4 | 20 |
| French Guiana | 1 | 2 | 3 | — | — | — | 3 |
| Gabon | 1 | — | 1 | — | — | — | 1 |
| Gambia | 2 | 12 | 14 | — | 1 | 1 | 15 |
| Ghana | 11 | 104 | 114 | 1 | 19 | 20 | 135 |
| Guinea | 1 | 4 | 5 | — | — | — | 5 |
| Kenya | 3 | 34 | 37 | — | 3 | 3 | 40 |
| Liberia | 4 | 9 | 13 | — | 2 | 2 | 15 |
| Libya | 1 | 11 | 12 | — | — | — | 12 |
| Malawi | — | 6 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 8 |
| Mali | — | — | — | — | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Mauritania | 1 | 1 | 2 | — | — | — | 2 |
| Mauritius | 1 | 7 | 8 | — | 1 | 1 | 9 |
| Morocco | 1 | 22 | 23 | — | 1 | 1 | 24 |
| Mozambique | 1 | 1 | 2 | — | — | — | 2 |
| Namibia | — | 2 | 2 | — | — | — | 2 |
| Niger | 1 | 1 | 2 | — | — | — | 2 |
| Nigeria | 31 | 305 | 337 | 18 | 83 | 101 | 438 |
| Rwanda | 1 | 4 | 5 | — | 1 | 1 | 6 |
| Sao Tome and Principe | — | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | 1 |
| Senegal | 1 | 3 | 4 | — | — | — | 4 |
| Seychelles | — | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | 1 |
| Sierra Leone | 7 | 28 | 35 | — | 1 | 1 | 36 |
| Somalia | 34 | 124 | 158 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 161 |
| South Africa | 2 | 83 | 85 | 3 | 20 | 23 | 107 |
| Sudan | 3 | 12 | 15 | — | 1 | 1 | 16 |

*Population of prison establishments[1] under an immediate custodial sentence, by nationality, sentence length and sex England and Wales, 31 May 2005*

| | Males | | | Females | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Less than 12 months* | *12 months or more* | *Total males* | *Less than 12 months* | *12 months or more* | *Total females* | *Total* |
| Swaziland | — | — | — | — | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Tanzania | 2 | 7 | 9 | — | — | — | 9 |
| Togo | — | 7 | 7 | — | 2 | 2 | 9 |
| Tunisia | 2 | 8 | 10 | — | — | — | 10 |
| Uganda | 10 | 38 | 48 | — | 1 | 1 | 49 |
| Zambia | 2 | 11 | 13 | — | — | — | 13 |
| Zimbabwe | 22 | 56 | 78 | 3 | 4 | 7 | 85 |
| Total Asia | 105 | 659 | 763 | 10 | 23 | 33 | 796 |
| Bangladesh | 15 | 73 | 89 | — | 2 | 2 | 91 |
| China | 19 | 77 | 96 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 100 |
| Hong Kong | 1 | 14 | 15 | — | — | — | 15 |
| India | 14 | 111 | 124 | 3 | 4 | 7 | 131 |
| Indonesia | — | 4 | 4 | — | — | — | 4 |
| Japan | — | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | 1 |
| Korea Republic of (Sth) | — | 3 | 3 | — | 2 | 2 | 5 |
| Malaysia | 3 | 9 | 12 | — | 1 | 1 | 13 |
| Mongolia | — | 2 | 2 | — | — | — | 2 |
| Myanmar (Burma) | 1 | 1 | 2 | — | — | — | 2 |
| Nepal | 2 | — | 2 | — | — | — | 2 |
| Pakistan | 29 | 241 | 270 | 2 | 7 | 8 | 279 |
| Philippines | 3 | 7 | 10 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 11 |
| Sri Lanka | 16 | 71 | 87 | 1 | — | 1 | 88 |
| Surinam | — | 3 | 3 | — | — | — | 3 |
| Thailand | — | 2 | 2 | — | 1 | 1 | 3 |
| Vietnam | 2 | 39 | 41 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 46 |
| Total Central or South America | 13 | 191 | 203 | 5 | 25 | 30 | 234 |
| Argentina | 1 | 3 | 4 | — | — | — | 4 |
| Belize | — | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | 1 |
| Bolivia | — | 4 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 6 |
| Brazil | 4 | 15 | 19 | 2 | 7 | 9 | 28 |
| Chile | — | 9 | 9 | — | — | — | 9 |
| Columbia | 5 | 90 | 95 | 2 | 5 | 7 | 102 |
| Costa Rica | — | 3 | 3 | — | 1 | 1 | 4 |
| Ecuador | 2 | 2 | 4 | — | — | — | 4 |
| Mexico | — | 8 | 8 | — | — | — | 8 |
| Panama | — | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | 1 |
| Paraguay | — | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | 1 |
| Peru | — | 3 | 3 | — | — | — | 3 |
| Uruguay | — | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | 1 |
| Venezuela | 1 | 49 | 50 | — | 11 | 11 | 61 |
| Total Europe | 217 | 1,510 | 1,727 | 16 | 159 | 175 | 1,902 |
| Albania | 12 | 51 | 63 | — | — | — | 63 |
| Armenia | — | 3 | 3 | — | — | — | 3 |
| Austria | — | 3 | 3 | — | 3 | 3 | 6 |
| Azerbijan | — | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | 1 |
| Belgium | 1 | 23 | 24 | — | 7 | 7 | 31 |
| Bosnia-Hercegovina | — | 3 | 3 | — | — | — | 3 |
| Bulgaria | — | 3 | 3 | — | 1 | 1 | 4 |
| Croatia | — | 2 | 2 | 1 | — | 1 | 3 |
| Cyprus | 5 | 48 | 52 | — | — | — | 52 |
| Czech Republic | 2 | 9 | 11 | — | — | — | 11 |
| Denmark | — | 2 | 2 | — | — | — | 2 |
| Estonia | 1 | 1 | 2 | — | — | — | 2 |
| Finland | — | 3 | 3 | — | — | — | 3 |
| France | 15 | 78 | 93 | — | 14 | 14 | 107 |
| Georgia | — | 3 | 3 | — | — | — | 3 |
| Germany | 8 | 69 | 76 | 3 | 17 | 20 | 96 |
| Gibraltar | 1 | 3 | 4 | — | — | — | 4 |
| Greece | 1 | 15 | 16 | — | 2 | 2 | 18 |
| Hungary | — | 11 | 11 | — | — | — | 11 |
| Irish Republic | 62 | 461 | 523 | 7 | 28 | 35 | 558 |
| Italy | 5 | 60 | 65 | 1 | 12 | 13 | 78 |
| Kazakhstan | — | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | 1 |
| Kyrgystan | — | 2 | 2 | — | — | — | 2 |
| Latvia | 5 | 17 | 22 | — | 1 | 1 | 23 |
| Lithuania | 7 | 41 | 48 | 1 | 5 | 6 | 54 |
| Macedonia | 1 | 6 | 7 | — | — | — | 7 |
| Malta | — | 3 | 3 | — | 1 | 1 | 4 |
| Moldova | 2 | 13 | 15 | — | — | — | 15 |
| Netherlands | 3 | 88 | 91 | — | 25 | 25 | 116 |
| Norway | — | 3 | 3 | — | — | — | 3 |
| Poland | 16 | 35 | 51 | — | 2 | 2 | 53 |
| Portugal | 24 | 97 | 121 | — | 11 | 11 | 132 |
| Romania | 5 | 66 | 71 | — | 6 | 6 | 77 |
| Russia | 15 | 37 | 52 | 3 | 3 | 6 | 58 |

*Population of prison establishments[1] under an immediate custodial sentence, by nationality, sentence length and sex England and Wales, 31 May 2005*

| | Males | | | Females | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Less than 12 months* | *12 months or more* | *Total males* | *Less than 12 months* | *12 months or more* | *Total females* | *Total* |
| Serbia and Montenegro | 6 | 49 | 55 | — | 1 | 1 | 56 |
| Slovakia | — | 3 | 3 | — | 1 | 1 | 4 |
| Spain | 5 | 55 | 59 | — | 13 | 13 | 73 |
| Sweden | — | 6 | 6 | — | 3 | 3 | 9 |
| Switzerland | — | 6 | 6 | — | 2 | 2 | 8 |
| Turkey | 17 | 129 | 146 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 148 |
| Total Middle East | 58 | 237 | 294 | — | 2 | 2 | 296 |
| Afghanistan | 11 | 32 | 43 | — | — | — | 43 |
| Iran | 14 | 48 | 63 | — | — | — | 63 |
| Iraq | 30 | 110 | 140 | — | — | — | 140 |
| Israel | — | 12 | 12 | — | — | — | 12 |
| Jordan | — | 5 | 5 | — | — | — | 5 |
| Kuwait | — | 2 | 2 | — | — | — | 2 |
| Lebanon | 1 | 7 | 8 | — | 1 | 1 | 9 |
| Republic of Yemen | — | 9 | 9 | — | — | — | 9 |
| Saudi Arabia | — | 4 | 4 | — | — | — | 4 |
| Syrian Arab Republic | 1 | 5 | 6 | — | — | — | 6 |
| United Arab Emirates | 1 | 2 | 3 | — | 1 | 1 | 4 |
| Total North America | 4 | 62 | 65 | — | 17 | 17 | 82 |
| Canada | 1 | 15 | 16 | — | 4 | 4 | 20 |
| United States of America | 3 | 46 | 49 | — | 13 | 13 | 62 |
| Total Oceania | 6 | 28 | 34 | — | 1 | 1 | 35 |
| Australia | 5 | 11 | 16 | — | — | — | 16 |
| Fiji | — | 5 | 5 | — | — | — | 5 |
| French Southern Territories | — | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | 1 |
| Kiribati | — | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | 1 |
| New Zealand | 1 | 8 | 9 | — | 1 | 1 | 10 |
| Papua New Guinea | — | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | 1 |
| Samoa | — | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | 1 |
| Total Other | — | 8 | 8 | — | — | — | 8 |
| Total West Indies | 35 | 1,445 | 1,481 | 1 | 197 | 198 | 1,678 |
| Aruba | — | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | 1 |
| Bahamas | — | 1 | 1 | — | 2 | 2 | 3 |
| Barbados | — | 24 | 24 | — | 2 | 2 | 26 |
| Bermuda | — | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | 1 |
| Dominica | — | 5 | 5 | — | — | — | 5 |
| Dominican Republic | — | 3 | 3 | — | 2 | 2 | 5 |
| Grenada | 1 | 18 | 19 | — | 4 | 4 | 23 |
| Guyana | 1 | 24 | 25 | — | 5 | 5 | 30 |
| Haiti | — | 2 | 2 | — | — | — | 2 |
| Jamaica | 28 | 1,260 | 1,288 | 1 | 140 | 141 | 1,429 |
| Montserrat | — | 4 | 4 | — | — | — | 4 |
| Netherlands Antilles | — | 12 | 12 | — | 2 | 2 | 14 |
| St. Kitts and Nevis | — | 3 | 3 | — | 1 | 1 | 4 |
| St. Lucia | 1 | 16 | 17 | — | 2 | 2 | 19 |
| St. Vincent and The Grenadines | 2 | 7 | 9 | — | 1 | 1 | 10 |
| Trinidad and Tobago | 3 | 63 | 66 | — | 35 | 35 | 101 |

[1] Figures include persons held in immigration removal centres at Dover, Haslar and Lindholme

**Mrs. Gillan:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff have been recruited by the Prison Service since the managed recruitment ban was lifted. [9059]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** Between 1 April 2005, when the managed recruitment freeze was lifted, and 20 June, 1,107 staff have been recruited to Her Majesty's Prison Service.

The managed recruitment freeze did not affect contracted prisons and therefore they have been excluded from the figures.

**Mrs. Gillan:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many vacancies for staff in prison establishments there were on the last date for which figures are available; how many staff were working out their notice period; how many staff in prison establishments are expected to retire before 1 April; and how many staff he estimates are required to fill all posts at prison establishments. [9062]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** At 31 May 2005 23,869 prison officer grade staff were employed at public sector prison establishments (excluding Headquarters) against an operational staffing requirement of 24,530 at 30 June. In addition, the equivalent of 412 officers were available for operational duty through the contract supplementary hours scheme. Overall, operational staffing availability was therefore just one per cent below the operational staffing requirement. The Director General considers this to be within an acceptable operating margin.

For all grades of staff working in prison establishments (excluding headquarters) there was a shortfall between staff in post and operational staffing requirement of 1,459 (3.1 per cent.) at 30 June 2005. This

figure represents a snapshot and does not take into account new staff still in the recruitment process. A total of 46,470 staff (covering all grades) would need to be employed in public sector prison establishments to fill all identified posts at 30 June 2005.

Information on the number of staff working out their notice is not recorded centrally and could be collected only at disproportionate cost. Between 1 June 2005 and 1 April 2006, 555 staff are expected to retire. Information on required staffing levels within prisons managed by the private sector is not collected centrally in this form and is therefore not available.

**Mrs. Gillan:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prison cells were available for use at each prison establishment on the latest date for which figures are available; and how many prisoners could be housed in those cells. [9065]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** The total number of prison cells and other accommodation is not recorded centrally. The standard unit of prison accommodation is the prison place, which may be located in cells, cubicles, dormitories, rooms or wards. When totalled it represents the uncrowded capacity of a prison, or certified normal accommodation (CNA).

The total number of prisoners that an establishment can hold in its accommodation is the prison's operational capacity. It is determined by Prison Service area managers on the basis of operational judgment and experience, taking into account control, security and the proper operation of the planned regime.

Data on prison capacity in England and Wales, as at 24 June 2005 (the last date for which figures are available), is set out in table 1.

*Table 1*

| *Prison* | *CNA* | *Op Cap* |
|---|---|---|
| Acklington | 882 | 882 |
| Albany | 526 | 526 |
| Altcourse | 614 | 903 |
| Ashfield | 400 | 360 |
| Ashwell | 535 | 545 |
| Askham Grange | 129 | 131 |
| Aylesbury | 432 | 438 |
| Bedford | 324 | 494 |
| Belmarsh | 799 | 917 |
| Birmingham | 1,121 | 1,402 |
| Blakenhurst | 821 | 1,060 |
| Blantyre House | 122 | 122 |
| Blundeston | 420 | 464 |
| Brinsford | 477 | 493 |
| Bristol | 426 | 606 |
| Brixton | 606 | 798 |
| Brockhill | 145 | 148 |
| Bronzefield | 451 | 451 |
| Buckley Hall | 350 | 385 |
| Bullingdon | 759 | 963 |
| Bullwood Hall | 167 | 171 |
| Camp Hill | 513 | 585 |
| Canterbury | 196 | 314 |
| Cardiff | 525 | 754 |
| Castington | 400 | 410 |
| Channings Wood | 634 | 667 |
| Chelmsford | 437 | 575 |
| Coldingley | 370 | 390 |
| Cookham Wood | 120 | 168 |
| Dartmoor | 598 | 625 |
| Deerbolt | 513 | 518 |

*Table 1*

| *Prison* | *CNA* | *Op Cap* |
|---|---|---|
| Doncaster | 771 | 1,120 |
| Dorchester | 147 | 260 |
| Dovegate | 800 | 800 |
| Dover[1] | 314 | 314 |
| Downview | 251 | 251 |
| Drake Hall | 315 | 315 |
| Durham | 496 | 725 |
| East Sutton Park | 94 | 100 |
| Eastwood Park | 310 | 346 |
| Edmunds Hill | 160 | 160 |
| Elmley | 753 | 985 |
| Erlestoke | 426 | 426 |
| Everthorpe | 423 | 469 |
| Exeter | 316 | 533 |
| Featherstone | 599 | 615 |
| Feltham | 761 | 761 |
| Ford | 541 | 541 |
| Forest Bank | 800 | 1,040 |
| Foston Hall | 223 | 223 |
| Frankland | 718 | 734 |
| Full Sutton | 596 | 608 |
| Garth | 633 | 667 |
| Gartree | 435 | 440 |
| Glen Parva | 668 | 808 |
| Gloucester | 214 | 313 |
| Grendon | 241 | 235 |
| Guys Marsh | 519 | 570 |
| Haslar* | 160 | 160 |
| Haverigg | 536 | 546 |
| Hewell Grange | 176 | 176 |
| Highdown | 627 | 736 |
| Highpoint | 776 | 800 |
| Hindley | 455 | 455 |
| Hollesley Bay | 330 | 330 |
| Holloway | 483 | 485 |
| Holme House | 857 | 994 |
| Hull | 812 | 1,071 |
| Huntercombe | 360 | 368 |
| Kingston | 194 | 196 |
| Kirkham | 588 | 590 |
| Kirklevington, | 223 | 223 |
| Lancaster | 159 | 244 |
| Lancaster Farms | 480 | 527 |
| Latchmere House | 207 | 207 |
| Leeds | 806 | 1,254 |
| Leicester | 191 | 355 |
| Lewes | 458 | 545 |
| Leyhill | 508 | 508 |
| Lincoln | 307 | 490 |
| Lindholme* | 802 | 849 |
| Littlehey | 664 | 706 |
| Liverpool | 1,163 | 1,438 |
| Long Lartin | 444 | 444 |
| Low Newton | 343 | 396 |
| Lowdham Grange | 504 | 500 |
| Maidstone | 548 | 548 |
| Manchester | 954 | 1,269 |
| Moorland | 740 | 779 |
| Moorland Open | 260 | 260 |
| Morton Hall | 391 | 392 |
| Mount | 704 | 708 |
| New Hall | 367 | 426 |
| North Sea Camp | 306 | 306 |
| Northallerton | 127 | 209 |
| Norwich | 591 | 823 |
| Nottingham | 385 | 510 |
| Onley | 520 | 520 |
| Pare | 839 | 1,036 |
| Parkhurst | 459 | 507 |
| Pentonville | 868 | 1,189 |
| Peterborough | 525 | 525 |
| Portland | 382 | 398 |
| Prescoed | 160 | 170 |

*Table 1*

| *Prison* | *CNA* | *Op Cap* |
|---|---|---|
| Preston | 331 | 620 |
| Ranby | 912 | 1,038 |
| Reading | 190 | 297 |
| Risley | 1,038 | 1,073 |
| Rochester | 392 | 392 |
| Rye Hill | 600 | 600 |
| Send | 218 | 218 |
| Shepton Mallet | 160 | 186 |
| Shrewsbury | 168 | 300 |
| Spring Hill | 314 | 314 |
| Stafford | 680 | 680 |
| Standford Hill | 464 | 464 |
| Stocken | 595 | 622 |
| Stoke Heath | 574 | 690 |
| Styal | 405 | 455 |
| Sudbury | 563 | 571 |
| Swaleside | 756 | 778 |
| Swansea | 248 | 425 |
| Swinfen Hall | 590 | 590 |
| Thorn Cross | 316 | 316 |
| Usk | 150 | 250 |
| Verne | 552 | 587 |
| Wakefield | 561 | 565 |
| Wandsworth | 966 | 1,416 |
| Warren Hill | 222 | 222 |
| Wayland | 657 | 709 |
| Wealstun | 842 | 892 |
| Weare | 398 | 398 |
| Wellingborough | 548 | 548 |
| Werrington | 146 | 148 |
| Wetherby | 360 | 360 |
| Whatton | 319 | 360 |
| Whitemoor | 464 | 458 |
| Winchester | 476 | 695 |
| Wolds | 330 | 350 |
| Woodhill | 650 | 762 |
| Wormwood Scrubs | 1,167 | 1,239 |
| Wymott | 997 | 1,046 |

[1] Dover and Haslar in their entirety and 112 of Lindholme's places are designated immigration removal centres (IRCs), which are managed by the Prison Service on behalf of immigration and nationality directorate

**Mrs. Gillan:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women were being held in prison on 24 June; how many prisoners were released on early release on 24 June; how many prisoners were eligible for early release on 24 June; and how many prisoners were released on 24 June. [9067]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** On 24 June 2005 there were 71,578 males and 4,501 females held in prison establishments in England and Wales, as recorded on the Prison Service IT system. There were an estimated 154 prisoners with a sentence length of three months to less than four years whose home detention curfew (HDC) eligibility date was 24 June 2005. On that date, 46 prisoners were released on HDC. Information on the number of prisoners discharged by other means on 24 June 2005 is not yet available. The number of prisoners with a sentence length of three months to less than four years will include some prisoners who are not eligible for HDC because of the nature of their current or previous offences. The figures also exclude a small number of prisoners in the population who are on remand at the end of the previous month, but are subsequently sentenced to a custodial sentence suitable for HDC and whose HDC eligibility date falls on that date. This occurs when they have spent a significant time on remand.

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was spent on television licences for prisons, broken down by establishment, in 2004. [10166]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** Prisoners have access to television in-cell as part of the Incentive and Earned Privileges Scheme. Prisoners rent these sets for a weekly charge of £1. The revenue generated is used to pay for the televisions and their replacements. Televisions in-cell are covered by Crown exemption and do not require a television licence. A small number of televisions in communal areas of a prison are licensed. The amount of money spent by each establishment on television licences for these sets is not centrally recorded.

**Mrs. Gillan:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prisoners aged *(a)* under 21 years, *(b)* 21 to 40 years, *(c)* 40 to 60 years and *(d)* over 60 years died of natural causes in each year since 2000, broken down by prison. [10184]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** The information requested with respect to apparent natural causes deaths in prisons in England and Wales is provided in the following table. Prisons, together with their local healthcare partners, assess the healthcare needs of their populations, whatever their age, and develop services to meet those needs. The National Offender Management Service, Prison Service and Department of Health are working closely together to improve health care provision for prisoners. Key achievements include developing better mental health provision, including NHS-funded in-reach teams; supporting improvements in primary care services; developing the prison health workforce and improving the prison health estate. NHS primary care trusts started to assume responsibility for the commissioning of prison health services in public prisons in England in April 2004. This process is expected to be completed by April 2006. All deaths in custody are subject to a coroner's inquest and (since April 2004) an investigation by the prisons and probation ombudsman (PPO). The PPO's recommendations are considered carefully and the reports are analysed to identify common trends, issues that need to be addressed and good practice examples that can be disseminated.

| | | *Number of apparent natural causes deaths* | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Establishment* | *Age Group* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005*[1] |
| Acklington | 40–59 | — | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | — |
| | 60+ | — | — | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Albany | 21–39 | — | — | — | 1 | — | — |
| | 40–59 | — | — | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| | 60+ | 1 | 3 | — | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Alicourse | 21–39 | — | 1 | — | — | — | — |

| Establishment | Age Group | Number of apparent natural causes deaths 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005[1] |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 40–59 | — | 2 | 1 | 1 | — | — |
| | 60+ | — | — | — | 1 | — | — |
| Ashwell | 40–59 | — | — | — | 1 | — | — |
| | 60+ | — | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| Bedford | 21–39 | — | — | 1 | — | — | — |
| Belmarsh | 21–39 | — | — | 1 | 1 | 1 | — |
| | 40–59 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — |
| | 60+ | — | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | — |
| Birmingham | 21–39 | — | 2 | — | 1 | — | — |
| | 40–59 | 1 | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| Blakenhurst | 21–39 | — | — | 1 | — | — | — |
| | 40–59 | — | 2 | — | — | 1 | — |
| | 60+ | — | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| Blundeston | 40–59 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — |
| | 60+ | — | — | 1 | — | — | — |
| Bristol | 21–39 | 1 | — | — | — | 2 | — |
| | 40–59 | — | — | — | — | 2 | — |
| | 60+ | — | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| Brixton | 60+ | 3 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Brockhill | 21–39 | — | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| Bullingdon | 21–39 | — | — | 1 | — | — | — |
| | 60+ | — | — | — | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| Camp Hill | 60+ | — | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| Canterbury | 40–59 | — | — | 1 | — | — | — |
| Cardiff | 40–59 | — | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| Channings Wood | 21–39 | — | — | — | 1 | — | — |
| | 60+ | — | — | 1 | — | — | — |
| Chelmsford | 40–59 | — | — | 1 | — | 1 | — |
| Coldingley | 40–59 | 2 | — | 1 | — | — | — |
| Dartmoor | 40–59 | 1 | — | — | 1 | — | — |
| | 60+ | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| | <21 | — | — | 1 | — | — | — |
| Doncaster | 21–39 | — | — | — | 1 | — | — |
| | 40–59 | — | — | 1 | 1 | 1 | — |
| | 21–39 | — | — | 1 | — | — | — |
| Dovegate | 40–59 | — | — | — | — | 1 | 1 |
| | 60+ | — | — | — | 1 | — | — |
| Downview | 21–39 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Drake Hall | 21–39 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — |
| | 40–59 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Durham | 21–39 | 1 | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| | 40–59 | — | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| | 60+ | 2 | 1 | — | 1 | 1 | — |
| East Sutton Park | 40–59 | — | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| Eastwood Park | 21–39 | — | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| | 40–59 | — | — | 1 | — | 2 | — |
| Edmunds Hill | 60+ | — | — | 1 | — | — | — |
| Elmley | 21–39 | — | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| | 40–59 | — | — | 1 | — | — | — |
| | 60+ | — | — | — | — | 2 | 1 |
| Everthorpe | 40–59 | — | 2 | — | — | — | — |
| Exeter | 21–39 | — | — | — | 1 | — | — |
| | 40–59 | — | 1 | — | — | — | — |

| Establishment | Age Group | Number of apparent natural causes deaths 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005[1] |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 60+ | — | — | — | — | — | 1 |
| Ford | 60+ | — | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| Forest Bank | 40–59 | — | — | 1 | — | — | — |
| Foston Hall | 60+ | — | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| Frankland | 40–59 | 3 | — | 1 | — | 1 | 1 |
| | 60+ | 3 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| Full Sutton | 21–39 | 1 | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| | 40–59 | — | — | 1 | — | — | — |
| | 60+ | — | — | — | 2 | — | — |
| Garth | 40–59 | 1 | — | 1 | 1 | — | — |
| | 60+ | — | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| Gartree | 40–59 | 1 | — | — | 1 | — | — |
| Gloucester | 21–39 | — | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| | 40–59 | 1 | — | — | — | — | 1 |
| | 60+ | — | — | 1 | — | — | — |
| Grendon | 40–59 | — | — | 1 | — | — | — |
| Guys Marsh | 21–39 | — | — | — | — | — | 1 |
| | 40–59 | — | — | — | 1 | — | — |
| Haslar | 21–39 | — | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| Haverigg | 40–59 | — | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| Hewell Grange | 40–59 | — | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| High Down | 21–39 | 1 | — | — | 1 | — | — |
| Hollesley Bay | 40–59 | — | — | 1 | — | — | — |
| | 60+ | — | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| Holloway | 21–39 | — | — | — | 1 | 1 | — |
| Holme House | 21–39 | — | — | — | 1 | — | — |
| | 40–59 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — |
| | 60+ | — | 2 | — | — | 1 | — |
| Hull | 21–39 | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| | 40–59 | — | 1 | — | — | 2 | — |
| | 60+ | — | — | — | 1 | 2 | — |
| Kingston | 40–59 | — | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | — |
| | 60+ | — | — | 1 | — | 3 | — |
| Kirkham | 21–39 | — | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| | 40–59 | — | — | — | — | — | 2 |
| Latchmere House | 40–59 | — | — | 1 | — | — | — |
| Leeds | 40–59 | — | — | 1 | 1 | — | 1 |
| | 60+ | — | — | — | — | — | 1 |
| Leicester | 40–59 | 1 | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| | 60+ | 1 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Lewes | 60+ | — | — | — | — | 1 | 1 |
| Leyhill | 40–59 | 1 | — | 1 | — | 1 | — |
| | 60+ | — | — | 1 | — | — | 1 |
| Lincoln | 60+ | — | 1 | — | — | 1 | — |
| Lindholme | 21–39 | — | 1 | — | — | 1 | — |
| Littlehey | 21–39 | — | — | — | 1 | — | — |
| | 40–59 | — | — | 1 | — | 1 | — |
| | 60+ | 4 | — | 1 | 2 | — | 3 |
| Liverpool | 21–39 | — | 1 | 1 | — | — | — |
| | 40–59 | — | — | 1 | 1 | — | — |
| | 60+ | 1 | — | — | 2 | 1 | — |
| Low Newton | 21–39 | — | — | — | — | 1 | — |

| Establishment | Age Group | Number of apparent natural causes deaths 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005[1] |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Lowdham Grange | 40–59 | — | — | — | — | — | 1 |
| Maidstone | 40–59 | — | 1 | 1 | — | — | — |
| | 60+ | — | — | — | 2 | 2 | — |
| Manchester | 21–39 | 2 | — | — | 1 | — | — |
| | 40–59 | — | — | 1 | 2 | — | — |
| | 60+ | — | 1 | 1 | — | — | 1 |
| Moorland | 21–39 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Mount, The | 21–39 | — | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| | 40–59 | — | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| New Hall | 21–39 | — | — | 1 | — | — | — |
| North Sea Camp | 40–59 | — | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| Norwich | 21–39 | — | — | 1 | 1 | — | — |
| | 40–59 | — | — | 1 | 1 | 1 | — |
| Nottingham | 21–39 | — | — | — | 1 | — | — |
| | 40–59 | — | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| | 60+ | 1 | — | 2 | — | — | — |
| Parc | 21–39 | — | — | 1 | — | — | 1 |
| | 40–59 | 1 | 1 | — | — | 1 | — |
| | 60+ | — | — | — | 3 | 1 | — |
| Parkhurst | 21–39 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — |
| | 40–59 | — | — | — | 1 | 1 | — |
| | 60+ | 2 | — | — | 1 | — | — |
| Prison escort and custody services, area 1 | 40–59 | — | — | 1 | — | — | — |
| Pentonville | 21–39 | — | 2 | 1 | — | — | 1 |
| | 40–59 | 1 | 1 | — | 1 | — | — |
| | 60+ | — | — | 3 | — | — | — |
| Preston | 21–39 | — | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| | 40–59 | — | — | — | — | 2 | — |
| | 60+ | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| Ranby | 40–59 | — | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| | 60+ | — | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| Risley | 40–59 | — | — | 1 | — | — | — |
| | 60+ | — | 4 | — | 1 | — | — |
| Rye Hill | 40–59 | — | — | 1 | — | 4 | 1 |
| | 60+ | — | — | — | 3 | 1 | — |
| Shepton Mallet | 40–59 | — | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| | 60+ | — | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| Shrewsbury | 60+ | 1 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Stafford | 60+ | — | — | — | 2 | 1 | — |
| Standford Hill | 40–59 | — | — | — | 1 | — | — |
| Stocken | 40–59 | — | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| | 60+ | — | — | 2 | — | — | — |
| Swaleside | 21–39 | 1 | — | 1 | — | — | — |
| | 40–59 | — | — | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| | 60+ | 1 | — | — | 1 | — | — |
| Swansea | 21–39 | — | — | — | 1 | — | — |
| | 40–59 | — | — | — | 1 | — | — |
| Usk/Prescoed | 40–59 | — | — | — | — | — | 1 |
| | 60+ | — | 1 | — | 1 | — | — |
| Verne, The | 40–59 | — | 1 | — | 1 | — | — |
| Wakefield | 21–39 | — | 1 | — | 2 | 1 | — |
| | 40–59 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | — |
| | 60+ | — | 2 | — | 1 | 2 | 1 |

| Establishment | Age Group | Number of apparent natural causes deaths 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005[1] |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Wandsworth | 21–39 | — | 1 | — | — | — | 2 |
| | 40–59 | 1 | — | 1 | 1 | — | 1 |
| | 60+ | — | 2 | — | — | — | |
| Wayland | 40–59 | — | 1 | — | — | 1 | — |
| Wealstun | 40–59 | — | — | — | 1 | — | — |
| Weare | 40–59 | — | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| Whatton | 40–59 | — | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| | 60+ | — | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| Whitemoor | 40–59 | 1 | — | — | 2 | 1 | — |
| | 60+ | — | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| Winchester | 40–59 | 1 | 1 | — | — | 2 | — |
| | 60+ | — | 1 | — | 1 | 1 | — |
| Wolds | 40–59 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — |
| | 60+ | — | — | 1 | — | — | — |
| | 21–39 | — | 1 | — | 1 | — | — |
| Woodhill | 40–59 | — | 1 | — | 1 | 1 | — |
| | 60+ | — | — | — | 1 | — | 2 |
| Wormwood Scrubs | 21–39 | — | — | — | 1 | — | — |
| | 40–59 | 1 | — | — | 1 | — | 1 |
| | 21–39 | — | — | — | — | — | 1 |
| Wymott | 40–59 | — | — | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| | 60+ | 4 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 6 | 2 |
| Total | — | 62 | 67 | 68 | 85 | 100 | 39 |

[1] To 4 July.

**Mrs. Gillan:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* remand and *(b)* sentenced prisoners aged over 60 years are held in prisons in England and Wales, broken down by (i) prison, (ii) sex and (iii) ethnicity. [10185]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** The information requested, as recorded on the Prison Service IT system, is provided in the tables. The breakdown by establishment and sex is for 31 May 2005. Information on the population by ethnic group is, at present, only available for 28 February 2003.

*Population of prisoners aged over 60 years in prison establishments, by sex, type of custody[1] and establishment—England and Wales, 31 May 2005*

| | Males | | Females | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Remand | Immediate custodial sentence | Remand | Immediate custodial sentence |
| Total | 124 | 1,404 | 5 | 22 |
| Acklington | — | 55 | — | — |
| Albany | — | 77 | — | — |
| Altcourse | 1 | 12 | — | — |
| Ashwell | — | 8 | — | — |
| Bedford | — | 4 | — | — |
| Belmarsh | 8 | 7 | — | — |
| Birmingham | 7 | 11 | — | — |
| Blakenhurst | 4 | 10 | — | — |
| Blantyre House | — | 3 | — | — |
| Blundeston | 1 | 2 | — | — |
| Bristol | 3 | 10 | — | — |
| Brixton | 7 | 9 | — | — |
| Brockhill | — | . . | 1 | — |
| Bronzefield | — | — | 1 | 3 |
| Bullingdon | 6 | 18 | — | — |
| Bullwood Hall | — | — | — | 1 |
| Camp Hill | — | 2 | — | — |
| Canterbury | — | 1 | — | — |
| Cardiff | 3 | 7 | — | — |
| Channings Wood | — | 37 | — | — |
| Chelmsford | 3 | 6 | — | — |
| Coldingly | — | 5 | — | — |
| Cookham Wood | — | — | — | 3 |
| Dartmoor | — | 22 | — | — |
| Doncaster | 1 | 10 | — | — |
| Dorchester | 1 | 2 | — | — |
| Dovegate | — | 13 | — | — |
| Downview | — | — | — | 3 |
| Durham | — | 5 | — | — |
| Eastwood Park | — | — | — | 3 |
| Elmley | 6 | 20 | — | — |
| Erlestoke | — | 4 | — | — |
| Exeter | 5 | 10 | — | — |
| Featherstone | — | 5 | — | — |
| Ford | — | 11 | — | — |
| Forest Bank | 1 | 1 | — | — |
| Foston Hall | — | — | 1 | 2 |
| Frankland | — | 44 | — | — |
| Full Sutton | — | 44 | — | — |
| Garth | — | 11 | — | — |
| Gartree | — | 13 | — | — |
| Gloucester | 2 | — | — | — |
| Grendon (Spring Hill) | — | 9 | — | — |
| Guys Marsh | — | 2 | — | — |
| Haverigg | — | 5 | — | — |
| Hewell Grange | — | 2 | — | — |
| Highdown | 5 | 6 | — | — |
| Highpoint South | — | 5 | — | — |

*Population of prisoners aged over 60 years in prison establishments, by sex, type of custody[1] and establishment—England and Wales, 31 May 2005*

| | Males | | Females | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Remand | Immediate custodial sentence | Remand | Immediate custodial sentence |
| Canterbury | — | 1 | — | — |
| Cardiff | 3 | 7 | — | — |
| Channings Wood | — | 37 | — | — |
| Chelmsford | 3 | 6 | — | — |
| Coldingly | — | 5 | — | — |
| Cookham Wood | — | — | — | 3 |
| Dartmoor | — | 22 | — | — |
| Doncaster | 1 | 10 | — | — |
| Dorchester | 1 | 2 | — | — |
| Dovegate | — | 13 | — | — |
| Downview | — | — | — | 3 |
| Durham | — | 5 | — | — |
| Eastwood Park | — | — | — | 3 |
| Elmley | 6 | 20 | — | — |
| Erlestoke | — | 4 | — | — |
| Exeter | 5 | 10 | — | — |
| Featherstone | — | 5 | — | — |
| Ford | — | 11 | — | — |
| Forest Bank | 1 | 1 | — | — |
| Foston Hall | — | — | 1 | 2 |
| Frankland | — | 44 | — | — |
| Full Sutton | — | 44 | — | — |
| Garth | — | 11 | — | — |
| Gartree | — | 13 | — | — |
| Gloucester | 2 | — | — | — |
| Grendon (Spring Hill) | — | 9 | — | — |
| Guys Marsh | — | 2 | — | — |
| Haverigg | — | 5 | — | — |
| Hewell Grange | — | 2 | — | — |
| Highdown | 5 | 6 | — | — |
| Highpoint South | — | 5 | — | — |

*Population of prisoners aged over 60 years in prison establishments, by sex, type of custody[1] and establishment—England and Wales, 31 May 2005*

| | Males | | Females | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Remand | Immediate custodial sentence | Remand | Immediate custodial sentence |
| Hollesley Bay (Warren Hill) | — | 7 | — | — |
| Holloway | — | — | 2 | 1 |
| Holme House | 1 | 7 | — | — |
| Hull | 3 | 43 | — | — |
| Kingston (Portsmouth) | — | 21 | — | — |
| Kirkham | — | 8 | — | — |
| Kirklevington | — | 5 | — | — |
| Latchmere House | — | 7 | — | — |
| Leeds | 2 | 9 | — | — |
| Leicester | 2 | 4 | — | — |
| Lewes | 3 | 16 | — | — |
| Leyhill | — | 22 | — | — |
| Lincoln | 3 | 10 | — | — |
| Lindholme | — | 2 | — | — |
| Littlehey | — | 64 | — | — |
| Liverpool | 3 | 15 | — | — |
| Long Lartin | — | 7 | — | — |
| Lowdham Grange | — | 5 | — | — |
| Maidstone | — | 26 | — | — |
| Manchester | 5 | 19 | — | — |
| Moorland Open | — | 2 | — | — |
| Mount | — | 9 | — | — |
| New Hall | — | — | — | 1 |
| North Sea Camp | — | 9 | — | — |
| Norwich | 2 | 25 | — | — |
| Nottingham | 5 | 3 | — | — |
| Onley | — | 1 | — | — |
| Parc | 1 | 14 | — | — |
| Parkhurst | — | 24 | — | — |
| Pentonville | 6 | 4 | — | — |
| Peterborough | 1 | 2 | — | — |
| Preston | 3 | — | — | — |
| Ranby | — | 2 | — | — |
| Risley | — | 38 | — | — |
| Rye Hill | — | 23 | — | — |
| Send | — | — | — | 2 |
| Shepton Mallet | — | 13 | — | — |
| Shrewsbury | 2 | 4 | — | — |
| Stafford | — | 31 | — | — |
| Standford Hill | 1 | 15 | — | — |
| Stocken | — | 3 | — | — |
| Styal | — | — | — | 3 |
| Sudbury | — | 16 | — | — |
| Swaleside | — | 21 | — | — |
| Swansea | 2 | 2 | — | — |
| Usk (Prescoed) | — | 32 | — | — |
| Verne | — | 10 | — | — |
| Wakefield | — | 51 | — | — |
| Wandsworth | 6 | 45 | — | — |
| Wayland | — | 22 | — | — |
| Wealstun | — | 8 | — | — |
| Weare | — | 3 | — | — |
| Wellingborough | — | 4 | — | — |
| Whatton | — | 48 | — | — |
| Whitemoor | — | 8 | — | — |
| Winchester | 6 | 10 | — | — |
| Wolds | — | 2 | — | — |
| Woodhill | 4 | 9 | — | — |
| Wormwood Scrubs | 4 | 10 | — | — |
| Wymott | — | 53 | — | — |

[1] Not including fine defaulters and non-criminals

## Probation Service

**Mr. Gerrard:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what targets were set for the Probation Service for 2004–05; and to what extent those targets were met by each probation area. [6099]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** Performance against targets set for the National Probation Service for 2004–05 can be found in the National Probation Service Performance Report 16 which was published on 17 May 2005.

Copies of the report can be found at:

http://www.probation.homeoffice.gov.uk/output/page34.asp.

**Anne Main:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the administration costs of the Hertfordshire Probation Area were in the last period for which figures are available. [11135]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** The total expenditure for Hertfordshire Probation Area in 2003–04 is £7,808.000. Information relating solely to administration expenditure is not available.

## Proceeds of Crime Act

**Mrs. James:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make a statement on assets recovered by H Division of South Wales Police under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002. [10669]

**Paul Goggins:** Information is not available in the form requested. The total value of confiscation orders obtained by the South Wales Police under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 and earlier legislation is as follows:

£

| | Amount |
|---|---|
| 2002–03 | 146,936 |
| 2003–04 | 581,462 |
| 2004–05 | 80,332 |

In addition the total value of cash forfeiture orders obtained by South Wales Police in 2004–05 under the 2002 Act was £39,617. The total value of orders obtained by the South Wales Regional Asset Recovery Team in 2004–05 was £279,637.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much has been seized in Southend as a consequence of prosecution under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002. [10512]

**Hazel Blears:** Information is not available in the form requested. The total value of confiscation orders obtained by Essex police under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 and earlier legislation is as follows:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2002–03 | 105,270 |
| 2003–04 | 560,734 |
| 2004–05 | 120,270 |

In addition the total value of cash forfeiture orders obtained by Essex police under the 2002 Act in 2004–05 was £72,535. Information on the value of orders obtained by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs in Essex is not available.

### Rape Trials

**Vera Baird:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department by what date he expects video interviews of complainants will become admissible as their evidence in chief in rape trials. [604]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** Video-recorded evidence in chief has been available since 24 July 2002 for all vulnerable witnesses, including children in the Crown court and for children in need of special protection in magistrates courts.

Before extending the availability of this measure to intimidated witnesses, including complainants in rape cases, we wish to assess the extra demands that this would place on the relevant criminal justice agencies. As part of this process we are evaluating, in three pilot areas, the use of a summary as an alternative to providing a full verbatim transcript of the video-recorded interview. The independent evaluation report of the pilot is due to be delivered at the end of August and this will inform the development of implementation plans for extending the availability of video-recorded evidence in chief. We will also consult the criminal justice agencies concerned before determining an implementation date. The implementation plan will incorporate a suitable period of notice to enable these agencies to prepare.

### Sentencing

**Mrs. Humble:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the *(a)* maximum, *(b)* minimum and *(c)* average sentences given to individuals convicted of offences involving abuse, ill treatment or neglect of a vulnerable adult in their responsibility was in each of the last five years. [9411]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** The criminal law contains a range of offences to protect all individuals from assaults and offences against the person. The following table shows the average sentences given in the last five years for ill treatment or wilfully neglecting a patient receiving treatment for a mental disorder; and for actual bodily harm and grievous bodily harm with and without intent. For the offences of ABH and GBH it is not possible to distinguish between offences committed against a vulnerable adult and against other victims.

In addition to these offences, further measures making it an offence to cause or allow the death of a vulnerable adult or child within the household were introduced in the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004; and the Mental Capacity Act 2005 has introduced an offence of ill-treatment or neglect of a person who lacks capacity. No statistics on these offences are yet available.

*Average custodial sentence lengths, in months, for specified offences, 1999–2003—England and Wales*

| | 1999 | | | 2000 | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Offence* | *Min* | *Max* | *Av* | *Min* | *Max* | *Av* |
| Ill treatment of patients | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| ABH | 0.5 | 60 | 7.8 | 0.2 | 60 | 8 |
| GBH with intent | 2 | [1]— | 46 | 4 | [1]— | 45 |
| GBH | 0.2 | 60 | 16 | 0.9 | 60 | 16 |

| | 2001 | | | 2002 | | | 2003 | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Offence* | *Min* | *Max* | *Av* | *Min* | *Max* | *Av* | *Min* | *Max* | *Av* |
| Ill treatment of patients | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| ABH | 0.2 | 60 | 8.5 | 0.2 | 60 | 9.2 | 0.5 | 60 | 9.2 |
| GBH with intent | 2 | [1]— | 48 | 6 | [1]— | 47 | 6 | [1]— | 50 |
| GBH | 0.2 | 60 | 16 | 1.4 | 60 | 17 | 0.9 | 60 | 18 |

[1] Life

*Notes:*

1. No offenders sentenced to custody
2. RDS NOMS 1/7/05

**Mrs. Humble:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the *(a)* maximum, *(b)* minimum and *(c)* average sentences given to individuals convicted of offences involving abuse, ill treatment or neglect of a child in their responsibility was in each of the last five years was. [9412]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** The table shows the minimum, maximum and average custodial sentences for those convicted of cruelty to persons under 16 in the last five years.

*Custodial sentence lengths, in months, for cruelty to or neglect of children 1999–2003*
*England and Wales*

| | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Minimum | 0.7 | 0.2 | 1 | 0.5 | 1.4 |
| Maximum | 60 | 120 | 96 | 96 | 84 |
| Average | 13.4 | 15.6 | 16.2 | 19.4 | 15.5 |

*Note:*

RDS NOMS 1 July 2005

### Target Shooting Ranges

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department who has responsibility for the issuing of licences for civilian target shooting ranges. [10086]

**Hazel Blears:** Civilian shooting ranges do not require a Home Office licence although clubs which wish to operate as an approved club under the terms of section 15 of the Firearms (Amendment)Act 1988 must have regular use of ranges with safety certificates for the category of firearms being used. There are currently no arrangements in place for those clubs seeking approval to have their ranges inspected and certified as safe. The Home Office is now working with the Ministry of Defence and shooting organisations to develop a scheme for future inspections.

### Treatment/Rehabilitation of Offenders

**Anne Main:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what funding the Department provided for each offender to complement the implementation of drug treatment and testing orders issued by the courts in the last year for which figures are available. [3633]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** £76 million was made available in 2004–05 to deliver 13,000 drug treatment and testing orders (DTTOs), of which 10,323 (79 per cent.) were made by the courts. £88 million has been allocated in 2005–06 for the delivery of 16,000 DTTOs/drug rehabilitation requirements (DRRs) of the new community order, which will gradually replace DTTOs from April 2005.

### Vandalism

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many convictions there were for acts of vandalism in each year since 1997. [6423]

**Hazel Blears:** There is no specific offence of vandalism. Most behaviour, which we understand as vandalism, would probably be covered by the offence of criminal damage, although the two might not always be exactly the same. The available information from the Home Office Court Proceedings database on the number of offenders found guilty of criminal damage is contained in the tables.

Statistics for 2004 will be available in the autumn.

*Number of offenders found guilty of criminal damage at all courts, England and Wales 1997 to 2003*[1]

| *Offence description* | *Principal statute* | *1997* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Other criminal damage Criminal damage (value of damage over 5,000) | Criminal Damage Act 1971 Explosive Substances Act 1883 Ancient Monuments & Archaeological Area Act 1979 Post Office Act 1953 | 8,461 | 9,083 | 8,901 | 8,138 |
| Criminal damage (value of damage 5,000 or less) and causing damage to an allotment through negligence or any unlawful act | Criminal Damage Act 1971 Allotments Act 1922 | 24,747 | 26,505 | 27,888 | 27,976 |

| *Offence description* | *Principal statute* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Other criminal damage Criminal damage (value of damage over 5,000) | Criminal Damage Act 1971 Explosive Substances Act 1883 Ancient Monuments & Archaeological Area Act 1979 Post Office Act 1953 | 8,478 | 8,744 | 8,867 |
| Criminal damage (value of damage 5,000 or less) and causing damage to an allotment through negligence or any unlawful act | Criminal Damage Act 1971 Allotments Act 1922 | 26,894 | 28,279 | 29,780 |

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

### Volunteering

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much financial support his Department made available to organisations which use time banking as a means of encouraging and rewarding volunteering in the last year for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [8000]

**Paul Goggins** *[holding answer 30 June 2005]:* In the last year, the Home Office has provided £175,371 to time banking organisations. This includes funding for Time Banks UK, the national umbrella organisation as well as individual time banks. The details of these organisations are as follows:

| *Organisation* | £ *Amount* |
|---|---|
| Time Banks UK | 58,488 |
| Gloucester City Time Bank | 47,341 |
| Fair share Regional Network in South West | 27,542 |
| Gloucestershire Neighbourhood Projects Network | 42,000 |
| Total | 175,371 |

Time Banks UK and Gloucestershire Neighbourhood projects Network's funding will continue in 2005–06.

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### Animal Testing

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will make a statement on the circumstances in which animal testing is *(a)* mandatory and *(b)* optional under (i) UK and (ii) EU law. [10811]

**Mr. Bradshaw** *[holding answer 11 July 2005]:* In order to provide the required human and environmental safety data on chemicals within the areas of Defra's competence in the UK, and in the EU, testing on animals is a mandatory requirement under the Existing Substances Regulations, the Notification of New Substances Regulations and Pesticide Authorisations. For veterinary medicines a certain amount of animal testing is required by Directive 2001/82/EC in order to demonstrate efficacy as well as human, animal and environmental safety.

Provision of animal test data is not optional but if sufficient information were available on a chemical through its historical use, through human exposure data, or from alternative non-animal testing methods, then expert judgment would be used by Regulatory Authorities to avoid unnecessary further testing on animals. Regulatory Authorities are fully cognisant of the European Convention for the Protection of Vertebrate Animals used for Experimental and other Scientific Purposes and will not require unnecessary testing on animals. They welcome any proposals for non-animal testing that provide equivalent assurance of safety.

### Bovine TB

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when she expects the pilot projects testing badger and cattle tuberculosis vaccines will report. [10328]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Research into a vaccine for badgers and cattle has now reached a stage where field trials are necessary.

The field study for the badger vaccine is likely to commence in 2006 and run for three years. The cattle vaccine study is likely to commence in late 2005 and run for five years. Both studies will report after their respective completion dates.

### Beef Imports

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what action she proposes to take in relation to the import of beef from the USA following the detection of BSE there. [10600]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** No additional action is proposed. Imports of beef from third countries including the USA, are subject to European Community rules. Each consignment has to come from an approved slaughterhouse or cutting plant and it must be accompanied by animal and public health certification signed by an official veterinarian.

The health certification has to confirm that the meat does not contain, and is not derived from, specified risk material (SRM). SRM are those parts of the animal that could potentially harbour BSE.

On arrival in the EU, each consignment is subjected to documentary and identity checks to ensure that import conditions have been met. At least 20 per cent. of consignments are also subject to physical checks.

In recent years the UK has imported little beef from the USA. This is because of unrelated EU controls, which ban meat from cattle that have been given growth-promoting hormones (routinely used in America). The UK food safety implications from this most recent finding are minimal.

### Biofuels

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she is taking to encourage the use of *(a)* meat and bone meal in electricity and heat generation, *(b)* tallow for biodiesel production and *(c)* digested slurry for electrical generation through methane recovery. [11279]

**Mr. Morley** *[holding answer 11 July 2005]:* The use of meat and bone meal, tallow and slurry in energy generation is permitted under the animal by-products regulation and the Government are keen to encourage the use of these valuable energy sources.

The renewables obligation requires licensed electricity suppliers to source at least part of their electricity from renewable generation. The use of meat and bone meal and the anaerobic digestion of slurry for the generation of electricity are eligible sources of renewable energy. Detailed guidance on the anaerobic digestion of slurry has been provided to industry. The Biomass Study Task Force, led by Sir Ben Gill, is looking at the barriers to developing biomass energy, including the use of slurry, and will recommend ways to overcome the problems. We will consider the way forward in the light of their recommendations. The Government are also looking at the scope for supporting renewable heat.

We are liaising effectively with industry, the European Commission and other member states to ensure that the negotiations on an implementing measure for the animal by-products regulation will result in rules on the use of tallow for biodiesel which are proportionate, practical, and provide the industry with the maximum amount of flexibility. The production of biodiesel, including that produced from tallow, is supported by the 20 pence per litre reduction in duty compared to fossil fuels. The Government are carrying out a feasibility study on a renewable transport fuel obligation. If adopted, this would require a specified proportion of the total fuel supply to be from biofuels.

### Carbon Emissions

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the level of domestic carbon emissions has been in each year since 1997; and what percentage of total emissions in each year these figures represent. [10329]

**Mr. Morley:** The following table shows UK carbon dioxide emissions from the domestic (residential) sector in million tonnes of carbon per year, and as a percentage of UK total carbon dioxide emissions for each year since 1997. These data include the domestic sector's share of emissions from energy supply and are from the UK Greenhouse Gas Inventory published in 2005.

| | *Residential* | *Total $CO^2$ emissions* | *Residential as a % of total emissions* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1997 | 37.7 | 153.9 | 24.5 |
| 1998 | 39.3 | 154.5 | 25.4 |
| 1999 | 38.3 | 151.7 | 25.2 |

| | Residential | Total $CO^2$ emissions | Residential as a % of total emissions |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2000 | 39.5 | 152.8 | 25.9 |
| 2001 | 41.7 | 157.4 | 26.5 |
| 2002 | 40.6 | 152.7 | 26.6 |
| 2003 | 41.2 | 156.1 | 26.4 |

## Cattle Ear Tags

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the reasons are for designating cattle ear tags as either primary or secondary. [10703]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** EC Regulation 1760/2000 requires cattle to be identified with an ear tag in each ear. Commission Regulation (EC) NO 911/2004 specifies that at least one of these ear tags must be made of plastic and be a minimum size to allow it to be read from a distance. This tag is known as the primary ear tag. The second ear tag can be made from other materials, such as metal, and does not have to meet the minimum size requirements of the primary ear tag.

## Farm Plastics

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the Government's policy is on the waste disposal of farm plastics; what support the Government give for the *(a)* recycling and *(b)* re-use of such plastics; and what recent discussions she has had with the Local Government Association concerning schemes to advance such recycling and re-use. [11214]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Government issued a consultation paper on the Waste Management (England and Wales) Regulations 2005 on 9 December 2004. Chapter 8 of this paper considered whether there should be a voluntary or statutory producer responsibility scheme for the collection and recovery of waste non-packaging farm plastics. Packaging plastics are already covered by the packaging regulations, but it is envisaged that any scheme would collect both packaging and non-packaging plastic waste. The consultation closed on 18 March 2005 and we are currently considering the responses to decide upon the best way forward.

In order to help prepare for a producer responsibility scheme, I have allocated £1 million of Business Resource Energy and Waste (BREW) funds and my officials are currently discussing with the Agricultural Waste Stakeholders Forum (AWSF) how this money should best be used.

The Local Government Association sit on the AWSF, and have also met with officials on the subject of farm plastics.

## Fishing Licences

**Mr. Michael Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the value of fines awarded by the courts for the offence of fishing without a licence in each region in England and Wales has been in each year since 2000. [8978]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Data provided by the Environment Agency are set out as follows.

The data recorded are for fines and costs awarded by the court (not necessarily paid by the defendant).

The data provided have been collated using the agency's dedicated database—Fisheries Offence Processing System (FOPS) which has been in use since the year 2000. The data for years prior to 2000 were provided by the various regional legal departments.

| | Concluded | Successful | Fine (£) | Costs (£) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *North West* | | | | |
| 1996–97 | 940 | 695 | 27,172 | 29,564 |
| 1997–98 | 603 | 576 | 21,800 | 32,187 |
| 1998–99 | 492 | 461 | 19,373 | 17,415 |
| 1999–2000 | 375 | 354 | 16,612 | 15,645 |
| 2000–01 | 447 | 434 | 23,159 | 21,332 |
| 2001–02 | 393 | 388 | 20,653 | 20,025 |
| 2002–03 | 191 | 186 | 20,025 | 10,250 |
| 2003–04 | 224 | 218 | 15,437 | 15,125 |
| 2004–05 | 606 | 587 | 37,375 | 37,276 |
| *Southern* | | | | |
| 1996–97 | — | 340 | 13,596 | 13,870 |
| 1997–98 | 272 | 268 | 12,600 | 5,620 |
| 1998–99 | 386 | 342 | 17,754 | 15,295 |
| 1999–2000 | 521 | 461 | 20,580 | 19,594 |
| 2000–01 | 403 | 362 | 20,318 | 20,570 |
| 2001–02 | 500 | 468 | 27,236 | 28,855 |
| 2002–03 | 404 | 391 | 21,209 | 21,835 |
| 2003–04 | 452 | 440 | 28,591 | 26,040 |
| 2004–05 | 504 | 482 | 37,627 | 32,245 |
| *North East* | | | | |
| 1996–97 | — | 469 | 16,705 | 22,795 |
| 1997–98 | 525 | 492 | 19,880 | 23,282 |
| 1998–99 | 529 | 512 | 21,494 | 19,758 |
| 1999–2000 | 504 | 531 | 18,388 | 19,724 |
| 2000–01 | 272 | 219 | 13,770 | 16,805 |
| 2001–02 | 433 | 421 | 15,005 | 19,410 |
| 2002–03 | 296 | 286 | 12,822 | 14,645 |
| 2003–04 | 507 | 506 | 22,311 | 25,760 |
| 2004–05 | 514 | 505 | 23,588 | 26,815 |
| *South West* | | | | |
| 1996–97 | — | 284 | 15,207 | 14,757 |
| 1997–98 | 242 | 200 | 8,000 | 14,835 |
| 1998–99 | 203 | 203 | 11,789 | 11,225 |
| 1999–2000 | 201 | 200 | 10,604 | 9,678 |
| 2000–01 | 175 | 172 | 9,208 | 7,765 |
| 2001–02 | 196 | 180 | 10,585 | 8,155 |
| 2002–03 | 136 | 129 | 7,371 | 6,800 |
| 2003–04 | 227 | 219 | 13,216 | 12,254 |
| 2004–05 | 201 | 197 | 12,603 | 11,605 |
| *Anglian* | | | | |
| 1996–97 | 777 | 589 | 23,328 | 20,276 |
| 1997–98 | 603 | 508 | 21,755 | 18,706 |
| 1998–99 | 519 | 452 | 20,477 | 15,300 |
| 1999–2000 | 575 | 513 | 29,480 | 23,930 |
| 2000–01 | 386 | 357 | 16,415 | 11,393 |
| 2001–02 | 482 | 447 | 20,384 | 18,473 |
| 2002–03 | 477 | 458 | 28,537 | 23,081 |
| 2003–04 | 552 | 545 | 33,675 | 30,020 |
| 2004–05 | 569 | 557 | 38,697 | 33,250 |
| *Midlands* | | | | |
| 1996–97 | — | 1,024 | 40,842 | 38,249 |
| 1997–98 | 1,400 | 1,350 | 43,000 | 16,508 |
| 1998–99 | 473 | 437 | 25,069 | 13,272 |
| 1999–2000 | 368 | 372 | 15,161 | 15,785 |
| 2000–01 | 707 | 706 | 31,071 | 32,531 |
| 2001–02 | 1,175 | 1,166 | 44,081 | 46,875 |
| 2002–03 | 712 | 684 | 35,000 | 38,448 |
| 2003–04 | 606 | 594 | 35,009 | 37,847 |
| 2004–05 | 523 | 522 | 28,471 | 31,940 |
| *Thames* | | | | |
| 1996–97 | — | 1,127 | 40,330 | 52,129 |
| 1997–98 | 944 | 722 | 30,200 | 34,888 |
| 1998–99 | 881 | 830 | 37,936 | 42,993 |
| 1999–2000 | 884 | 883 | 42,517 | 41,978 |
| 2000–01 | 761 | 757 | 51,042 | 44,405 |

| | Concluded | Successful | Fine (£) | Costs (£) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2001–02 | 953 | 908 | 48,267 | 46,318 |
| 2002–03 | 700 | 656 | 35,903 | 31,197 |
| 2003–04 | 747 | 724 | 44,288 | 41,504 |
| 2004–05 | 838 | 817 | 51,640 | 47,891 |
| *Wales* | | | | |
| 1996–97 | — | 140 | 10,745 | 12,559 |
| 1997–98 | 178 | 159 | 8,520 | 12,970 |
| 1998–99 | 232 | 211 | 19,317 | 11,765 |
| 1999–2000 | 183 | 164 | 12,313 | 14,554 |
| 2000–01 | 358 | 336 | 26,067 | 17,561 |
| 2001–02 | 216 | 205 | 12,614 | 11,275 |
| 2002–03 | 115 | 114 | 8,880 | 5,640 |
| 2003–04 | 246 | 243 | 20,106 | 15,180 |
| 2004–05 | 344 | 344 | 20,987 | 20,490 |
| *National* | | | | |
| 1996–97 | — | 4,668 | 187,925 | 204,199 |
| 1997–98 | 4,767 | 4,275 | 165,755 | 158,996 |
| 1998–99 | 3,715 | 3,448 | 173,209 | 147,023 |
| 1999–2000 | 3,611 | 3,478 | 165,655 | 160,888 |
| 2000–01 | 3,509 | 3,343 | 191,050 | 172,362 |
| 2001–02 | 4,348 | 4,183 | 198,825 | 199,384 |
| 2002–03 | 3,031 | 2,904 | 162,205 | 151,896 |
| 2003–04 | 3,561 | 3,489 | 212,633 | 203,730 |
| 2004–05 | 4,099 | 4,005 | 250,988 | 241,512 |

### Foot and Mouth

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* farmers and *(b)* contractors have outstanding claims from the 2001 foot and mouth disease outbreak. [7658]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Currently, there are 14 farmers and 15 contractors who claim moneys are outstanding from the 2001 foot and mouth disease outbreak.

Additionally, there are 10 personal injury claims relating to the outbreak, of which seven have been settled subject to agreement on costs. The Department is disputing valuation fees with 10 valuers engaged during the 2001 foot and mouth disease outbreak.

### Nappies

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many disposable nappies she estimates were *(a)* used and *(b)* disposed of by (i) landfill, (ii) incineration and (iii) other means in the last year for which figures are available. [4441]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** We do not collect information on the amount of disposable nappies used nor of the disposal route.

The strategy unit report 'Waste not Want not' estimated that in 2000–01 nappies comprised around 2 per cent. of household waste, equivalent to 350,000 tonnes. In 2003–04 72 per cent. of our household waste was sent to landfill and just under 9 per cent. went to incineration.

### Neasden Goods Depot

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment her Department has made of the level of pollution from Neasden Goods Depot; and if she will make a statement. [2500]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Neasden Goods Depot falls within an Air Quality Management Area declared by the London borough of Brent. Defra has provided supplementary credit approval to the London borough of Brent to help fund a detailed assessment of air pollution in the vicinity of the depot. This assessment has identified elevated levels of particulate matter ($PM_{10}$) in the vicinity of the goods depot. This appears to be caused mainly by waste management operations, regulated by the Environment Agency, located at the depot.

The Environment Agency has been taking action to improve the standard of operations at Neasden Goods Depot, more recently in conjunction with the London borough of Brent.

There are four sites at Neasden Goods Yard, three Waste Management Licences (WML) and one End of Life Vehicles (ELV) licence.

To date the Environment Agency has:

undertaken unannounced weekly inspections to all three sites holding a WML. During these, areas requiring attention to site infrastructure and operations are identified and improvements required;

issued warning letters when necessary;

served legal enforcement notices that have demanded specific actions be undertaken;

served legal enforcement notices that have suspended operations when appropriate; and

carried out comprehensive enforcement action against the site we believe to be the worst performing of the three that is contributing significantly to the pollution of the local environment.

The above actions have resulted in a number of improvements being made:

buildings are now constructed to contain the majority of waste handling operations at the three sites;

large areas of concrete hard standing has been laid (where previously, significant areas of the goods yard were mud and hardcore) at all four sites as well as the communal haul road;

improved drainage has been installed;

dust suppression systems have been installed, used and maintained; and,

daily road sweeping of service yard and section of public highway.

The Environment Agency has recently commissioned independent environmental consultants to undertake a dust-monitoring programme. The monitoring—planned from July to September 2005—will clarify the contribution that the licensed sites make to $PM_{10}$ levels in the locality. This dust survey compliments that which the local authority has already put in place.

In addition the London borough of Brent has improved the pavement infrastructure on the highway near the goods depot and is regularly washing the road to reduce emissions of PM caused by road traffic.

The Environment Agency continues its dialogue with all four operators, landlord and London borough of Brent. The result is a series of improvements have been delivered and further works is planned to tackle dust emissions.

London borough of Brent is continuing to monitor air pollution levels in the vicinity of Neasden Goods Depot to assess the results of the emissions control measures. Monitoring data are published on the world wide web at www.londonair.org.uk.

### Oil Leakages

**Mr. Peter Ainsworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the level of protection to the environment against oil leakage and loss of content provided by regulations relating to oil powered transformers. [10376]

**Mr. Morley** *[holding answer 7 July 2005]*: The Control of Pollution (Oil Storage) (England) Regulations 2001 apply to storage tanks associated with electricity transformers, but not to the smaller volume of oil in the transformer itself which is in use rather than storage. Large scale transformers operated as part of the national grid are normally protected by secondary containment in the form of a bund.

### Pollution

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what level of pollution is required to trigger the issue of an official smog warning; when such a warning was last issued; and what assessment she has made of the effect of this pollution on the atmosphere. [11178]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Defra publishes forecasts of high air pollution when it estimates that concentrations of specific air pollutants are likely to exceed guideline values. Similarly to weather forecasts, there is an element of uncertainty and expert judgement attached to air pollution forecasts.

Warnings use a health-based index system, which has been developed by the Department of Health's Committee on the Medical Effects of Air Pollutants (COMEAP). A COMEAP statement on the guideline values is available at http://www.advisorybodies.doh.gov.uk/comeap/statementsreports/airpol9.htm.

The thresholds for the guideline values are: nitrogen dioxide, 573 microgrammes per metre cubed, as an hourly average; sulphur dioxide, 532 microgrammes per metre cubed, as a 15 minute average; ozone, 180 microgrammes per metre cubed, as an hourly average and running eight hour average; particulate matter ($PM_{10}$ ), 75 microgrammes per metre cubed, as a 24 hour running average (measured byTEOM); and carbon monoxide, 17.4 microgrammes per metre cubed, measured as a running eight hour average.

A summary of the index and the associated concentration levels and severity of health impacts is available at: http://www.airquality.co.uk/archive/standards.phptfband

Defra warns of high air pollution through the air quality information archive at www.airquality.co.uk, Teletext, page 169 and the freephone service 0800 556677. On occasions when a notable air pollution episode is forecast, such as the first photochemical smog in any year, Defra may supplement these forecasts with a news release.

Defra last published a warning of high air pollution on 22 June 2005. This was for high levels of ozone (180–239 microgrammes per metre cubed) forecast in areas of eastern, southern England, the east Midlands and the south east.

It is accepted that both short term and long term exposure to air pollutants damages health. COMEAP (the Department of Health's expert advisory Committee of the Medical Effects of Air Pollutants) has published two reports estimating the impact of air pollutants on health in the UK. These are available at:

http://www.advisorybodies.doh.gov.uk/comeap/statementsreports/airpol7.htm; and http://www.advisorybodies.doh.gov.uk/comeap/statementsreports/longtermeffects.pdf

### Railway Line (Gerrards Cross)

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment has been made of the likely environmental impact of the removal of the fill material blocking the railway line at Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire; and if she will make a statement. [10408]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Environment Agency and local government planning and environmental health officers have liaised over the emergency removal of the construction materials in question and their temporary storage on agricultural land nearby.

Two principle issues have been identified:

It is recognised that there will be a period of inconvenience to local residents due to increased vehicle movements. There is the potential for dust generation, however this can be satisfactorily controlled by suppression methods.

The construction materials in question have previously been analysed and assessed as low risk. It is the view of the Environment Agency that no further analysis of the material is required prior to its removal and storage as the incident will not have altered its nature.

### Red Tractor Logo

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will make a statement on the use of the red tractor logo and food products carrying the logo. [11154]

**Jim Knight:** The red tractor logo is owned by the National Farmers Union and is administered by Assured Food Standards, a private company that was set up for this purpose. Assured Food Standards licenses the logo's use on food that has been produced in accordance with standards laid down in qualifying assurance schemes.

### River Itchen (Toxic Waste)

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment

has been made of the effect on fish stocks of the recent release of toxic matter into the River Itchen; and whether those responsible have been identified. [10429]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** A fish kill was reported on the lower Itchen at Gaiters Mill on Friday 24 June 2005. The Environment Agency are investigating possible causes. It has not been possible to establish the cause of the fish kill at this time. There is not currently any evidence of a toxic discharge.

The investigation is continuing.

### Rural Payments Agency

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many members of staff have been employed by the Rural Payments Agency in each month since its inception.[10812]

**Jim Knight** *[holding answer 11 July 2005]:* The number of staff members employed by the Rural Payments Agency (RPA) in each month since its inception are given in the following table. These figures relate to financial years.

*Staff numbers*

| | *2001–02* | *2002–03* | *2003–04* | *2004–05* | *2005–06* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| April | — | 3,234 | 3,429 | 3,768 | 3,545 |
| May | — | 3,286 | 3,342 | 3,706 | 3,475 |
| June | — | 3,359 | 3,355 | 3,703 | 3,403 |
| July | — | 3,333 | 3,405 | 3,753 | — |
| August | — | 3,391 | 3,388 | 3,795 | — |
| September | — | 3,421 | [2]3,889 | 3,775 | — |
| October | [1]3,161 | 3,413 | 3,831 | 3,724 | — |
| November | — | 3,486 | 3,791 | 3,708 | — |
| December | — | 3,445 | 3,799 | 3,699 | — |
| January | — | 3,431 | 3,785 | 3,670 | — |
| February | — | 3,459 | 3,800 | 3,630 | — |
| March | — | 3,459 | 3,790 | 3,606 | — |

[1] RPA was established on 16 October 2001. Figures are not available on a monthly basis until the 2002–03 financial year. The figure quoted is the monthly average between 16 October 2001 and 31 March 2002.
[2] Approximately 500 staff joined RPA following the merger with British Cattle Movement Service.

### Tallow

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what representations she has received about the application of the Waste Incineration Directive to tallow; and if she will make a statement. [1864]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The effect of Article 12 of the EU Animal By-Products Regulation is to require tallow derived from waste animal by-products to be incinerated or co-incinerated in accordance with the Waste Incineration Directive (WID). The Department has received representations about the burning of waste tallow as fuel (co-incineration) in WID-compliant plant from the United Kingdom Renderers' Association (UKRA). The right hon. John Gummer MP wrote, as Chairman of Bancroft International Limited, in support of UKRA's representations; and representations on the implications of the issue have been received from the National Fallen Stock Company. I understand that the burning of tallow as fuel is also among the issues being considered by the Biomass Task Force.

A statement of the Department's views on the issues raised by UKRA is available on the Department's website at http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/ppc/index.htm.

### Tenant Farming

**Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the Government's latest assessment is of the economic future of tenant farming in England. [9692]

**Jim Knight** *[holding answer 7 July 2005]:* The most recent forecasts of farm incomes are for the UK as a whole and were published by Defra on 27 January 2005. These included an estimate of aggregate income for 2004 and forecasts of incomes by farm type for 2004–05 (i.e. 2004 harvest). A copy of the publication can be found on the Defra website at http://statistics.defra.gov.uk/esg/statnot/account.pdf

The next publication of income forecasts is likely to be in the autumn, with the first estimate of aggregate income for 2005. Income forecasts for different farm types for 2005–06 (i.e. 2005 harvest) will be published at the end of January 2006.

We do not produce separate economic assessments for tenanted farms.

As part of our strategy for a sustainable food and farming sector, the Government are committed to maintaining a healthy and viable tenanted sector. The legislative changes that we are making as a result of the recommendations of the Tenancy Reform Industry Group will provide better opportunities for tenant farmers in England to develop the business potential of their farms and should help, in the longer term, to improve the economic value of the sector.

### Veterinary Surgeons

**Mr. Gale:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she is taking to ensure that veterinary surgeons employed by the state veterinary services in quarantine facilities are fully cognisant of the diagnosis and treatment of tropical diseases, with particular reference to heartworm. [10346]

**Mr. Bradshaw** *[holding answer 11 July 2005]:* Authorised quarantine facilities are required, as part of their authorisation, to engage the services of a veterinary surgeon. The appointment of a quarantine veterinary surgeon (QVS) is approved by Defra, based on an assessment and recommendation of a local

Veterinary Officer of the SVS. Assessment is focused on rabies diagnosis, welfare and security of the kennels rather than other diseases.

It is the responsibility of all veterinary surgeons to ensure that their own continuing professional development encompasses all they might encounter in day-to-day work. For QVSs who attend the quarantine premises six days each week, this would include tropical diseases.

Defra promotes awareness of any exotic disease through their passive surveillance programme DACTARI. This enables veterinary surgeons to report all travel-associated disease to the Department. The distribution of all reported disease is posted on the internet at http://defra.gov.uk/animalh/quarantine/pets/dactari.htm.

### Waste Disposal

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions she has had with her counterparts in *(a)* Germany, *(b)* France, *(c)* the Netherlands, *(d)* Denmark, *(e)* Italy and *(f)* Belgium on their definitions of (i) biodegradable waste, (ii) municipal waste, (iii) commercial waste, (iv) hazardous waste, (v) industrial waste, (vi) recycling, (vii) recovery, (viii) composting and (ix) waste minimisation. [10682]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** As confirmed in my reply of 15 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 433W to the hon. Member, "commercial waste" and "industrial waste" are national terms; and "waste minimisation" is not defined in either Community or national legislation. There have been no direct discussions, therefore, about these terms with the other member states referred to.

The other terms referred to are either defined or used without being defined in Community legislation. The UK has participated in discussions with other member states on these terms in the context of the negotiations on the directives which contain the terms. Such meetings take place under the auspices of the presidency of the Council. The UK has also participated in meetings of the Technical Adaptation Committee chaired by the European Commission and established under article 18 of the waste framework directive, article 9 of the hazardous waste directive, article 21 of the packaging and packaging waste directive, article 17 of the landfill directive, article 11 of the end of life vehicles directive and article 14 of the waste electrical and electronic equipment directive.

## DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

### Advertising

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how much the Office spent on advertising in each of the last five years. [10255]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister was created on 29 May 2002 the advertising spends since then has been as follows:

| | *2002–03* | *2003–04* | *2004–05* |
|---|---|---|---|
| TV | 2,829,248 | 2,879,286 | 3,216,961 |
| Radio | 303,581 | 90,508 | 407,795 |
| Press | 214,114 | 709,205 | 372,924 |
| Other | 0 | 808,011 | 1,041,190 |
| Total | 3,346,943 | 4,487,010 | 5,038,870 |

The majority of this spend has been on the Fire Safety publicity campaign.

### Council Tax

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will list the 10 local authorities with the *(a)* lowest and *(b)* highest council tax collection rates in England in 2004–05. [11391]

**Mr. Woolas:** The 10 local authorities with the *(a)* lowest and *(b)* highest in year council tax collection rates in England in 2004–05 are listed in the following table.

| *Highest collection rate* | *Percentage* |
|---|---|
| Surrey Heath | 99.5 |
| Vale of White Horse | 99.5 |
| Hambleton | 99.3 |
| Chiltern | 99.2 |
| North Hertfordshire | 99.2 |
| Tewkesbury | 99.2 |
| East Dorset | 99.2 |
| Eden | 99.2 |
| Rother | 99.1 |
| South Hams | 99.1 |
| *Lowest collection rate* | |
| Hackney | 84.4 |
| Manchester | 90.3 |
| Salford | 90.6 |
| Islington | 90.6 |
| Newham | 91.0 |
| Barking and Dagenham | 91.3 |
| Waltham Forest | 91.4 |
| Portsmouth UA | 91.4 |
| Middlesbrough UA | 91.9 |
| Nottingham City UA | 92.0 |

The data for Arun district council, Hart district council and Macclesfield borough council were excluded from this analysis as they failed to submit a signed return.

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what estimate his Department has made of the number of caravans which have obtained *(a)* class C and *(b)* class G council tax exemptions. [11392]

**Mr. Woolas:** This information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Decent Homes Standard

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister which local authorities with arm's length management organisations have failed to achieve two-stars in their performance inspection; and how much money allocated to achieve the Decent Homes Standard is being withheld in each case. [11159]

**Yvette Cooper:** Two arm's length management organisations (ALMOs) currently on the ALMO programme have failed to achieve the two star inspection rating necessary to qualify for additional Government funding. These are in Gateshead and Easington, which have conditional funding allocations of £63 million and £23.6 million respectively for 2004–06. Both ALMOs are currently working towards re-inspection. Their funding allocations will be released as soon as the ALMOs achieve the qualifying standard.

### Departmental IT Projects

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will list IT projects the Department is responsible for which have received a second consecutive red review and a letter from the chief executive of the Office of Government Commerce. [11597]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** There are no IT projects that the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister is responsible for which have received a second consecutive red review.

### Departmental Telephone Services

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what his Department's policy is on the private use of *(a)* official telephones and *(b)* the internet; and how such use is monitored. [8203]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** Staff in the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister are allowed to make occasional and reasonable private use of official telephones and the internet. Internet and telephone usage are monitored to prevent abuse and/or breaches of usage policy; this is managed through the periodic analysis of usage logs.

### English Partnerships

**Geraldine Smith:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what English Partnerships funding has been allocated to Lancaster city council since 1997; and for which projects the funding has been allocated. [10152]

**Yvette Cooper:** Grant payment to Lancaster city council from 1 April 1997 has been £235,833.

There were a number of projects under the Partnership Investment Programme and Land Reclamation Programme/Derelict Land Grant with spend between 1997 and 2000 which would have been passed to North West Development Agency to continue projects, all being grants to Lancaster city council:

*Grants to Lancaster city council*

| | *Project* | *Year* | *Cost (£)* |
|---|---|---|---|
| PIP | Luneside Regeneration Strategy | 1999–2000 | 105,000 |
| DLG | Morecambe Central Promenade | 1998–99 | [1]49,632 |
| DLG | Middleton Wood | 1998–99 | 55,480 |
| | | 1997–98 | 23,121 |
| LRP | Trowbarrow Quarry | 1998–99 | 2,281 |
| LRP | West End Park | 1998–99 | 319 |

[1] The end of a £4.4 million scheme approved in 1992 by DoE.

In addition to these grant payments further funding has been providing since 2003. £4.9 million capital investment was allocated to Luneside east in Lancaster by English Partnerships of which £510,000 has been spent to date, and £2.9 million capital investment since 2003 has been allocated to Morecambe West End, of which £2.515 million has been spent.

**Geraldine Smith:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what discussions have taken place between Lancaster city council and English Partnerships regarding funding for projects since March. [10153]

**Yvette Cooper:** As well as the day-to-day contacts regarding progress on the Luneside East Development, discussions are also currently ongoing between English Partnerships and Lancaster city council regarding an English Partnerships funding contribution towards the cost of a potential housing scheme in the West End of Morecambe.

**Geraldine Smith:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will make a statement on funding from English Partnerships for the West End Masterplan in Morecambe. [10155]

**Yvette Cooper:** English Partnerships has fully funded the costs of the masterplanning exercise as well as funding a number of acquisitions by the local authority within the West End of Morecambe. Spending to date has been £2.515 million out of an approved initial allocation of £2.9 million. English Partnerships has identified within its current regional business plan a further allocation of £3.6 million, which could be extended to £4.1 million by 2008–09, subject to approvals.

In total, English Partnerships plan to invest up to £7 million in the West End of Morecambe in support of the masterplan.

Discussions are ongoing with the various other partners (including the North West Development Agency, Lancaster city council, the local Registered Social Landlord—Adactus Housing Group and the Housing Corporation) regarding potential contributions to deliver the initial projects identified in the masterplan.

### E-projects (Funding)

**Robert Key:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what the *(a)* start-up and *(b)* annual running costs are of the Environment and Community Online Residents E-Services Communities Content Management System (CMS); how the scheme applies to (i) parish councils and (ii) the Neighbourhood Web Community CMS project in Wiltshire and Swindon; and if he will make a statement. [6558]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The information is as follows.

*(a)* The start-up cost of Environment and Community Online Resident E-Services (ENCORE) National e-Government project was of £3.5 million allocated from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister's Local e-Government National Project programme strand.

*(b)* The ENCORE Content Management System is Open Source software and is free of charge to LA's to install and run. Annual running costs will therefore be determined locally depending on hardware, internet connectively and staffing costs.

*Parish councils*

(i) The ENCORE Content Management System was built specifically for community groups. However, through the Local Directgov (the Home and Community franchise of Directgov) programme, the ODPM will be developing this system so that Parish councils can be equally e-enabled.

*Neighbourhood Web Community CMS project in Wiltshire and Swindon*

(ii) The Neighbourhood Web Community CMS project in Wiltshire and Swindon—the South Wiltshire Community Web, was originally funded through the ODPM Local e-Government Pathfinder programme stream. As part of the wider consultation with the local authority portal and website community the Directgov programme has initiated discussion with the South Wiltshire Community Web to reduce the risk of duplication, share experience and knowledge and also share the benefits of latest developments in the field.

### Fire Control Centres

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will establish an independent assessment of the final business case for regional emergency fire control centres. [10321]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** As with all Government projects the FiReControl project is subject to independent Gateway reviews by the Office of Government Commerce, which include a review of the business case at its different stages. The Gateway reviews are undertaken at critical stages in the project and provide assurance that they are on track to succeed.

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what the timetable is for the implementation of the fire control project; and if he will make a statement. [10322]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) on 6 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 393W.

### Fire Extinguishers

**Mr. Letwin:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will list fire extinguishing equipment used by the Fire Service that contains hydrofluorocarbons. [10315]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Fire Stations (Essex)

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will list fire stations which have *(a)* opened and *(b)* closed in Essex since 1997. [10569]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** At 31 March 2005 there were a total of 51 fire stations in Essex. This has remained the same since 31 March 1998 (i.e. covering 1997–98 financial year). However, there have been some name and location changes as follows:

Tilbury Fire Station changed its name to Orsett Fire Station and was officially opened 14 August 1997.

Maldon Fire Station closed, but moved to a new site and was opened 1 September 1997.

*Source:*

Essex Fire and Rescue Service.

### Flood Risks

**Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what discussions his Office has had with the Environment Agency on flood risk assessments of the Kettering area as part of his Office's Milton Keynes and South Midlands growth proposals. [10717]

**Yvette Cooper:** Officials from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister have held discussions with the Environment Agency throughout the development of the Milton Keynes and South Midlands sub regional strategy (MKSM). Kettering and Wellingborough borough councils have completed a joint strategic flood risk assessment (SFRA) for their administrative areas. This is currently being considered by the Environment Agency. Once approved, the assessment will be made available for information and general use.

### Floodplains

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what his policy is on development building on floodplains; and if he will make a statement. [11048]

**Yvette Cooper:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 7 June 2005, *Official Report*, columns 557–58W.

### House Fires

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many people died in house fires in *(a)* Lancashire and *(b)* Chorley in each of the last three years. [11139]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The information is as follows:

*(a)* Information on the number of deaths in house fires attended by Lancashire fire and rescue service is shown in the following table.

*Fire-related deaths in dwellings in Lancashire, 2002–04*

| | *Deaths* |
|---|---|
| 2002 | 24 |
| 2003 | 13 |
| 2004 (provisional) | 16 |

*Source:*

Fire and Rescue Service FDR1 returns to ODPM.

*(b)* Information for Chorley is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many times the fire brigade was called out to house fires in *(a)* Lancashire and *(b)* Chorley in each of the last three years. [11140]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The information is as follows:

*(a)* Information on the number of house fires attended by Lancashire fire and rescue service is shown in the following table.

*House fires attended by Lancashire FRS, 2002–04*

| | *Number of fires* |
|---|---|
| 2002 | 2,096 |
| 2003 | 2,169 |
| 2004 (provisional) | 2,077 |

*Note:*
Data includes estimates for incidents not recorded during periods of national industrial action in 2002 and 2003.
*Source:*
Fire and Rescue Service FDR1 returns to ODPM.

*(b)* Information for Chorley is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

## Housing

**Mr. Soames:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many key workers in West Sussex have benefited from the Starter Home Initiative, broken down by district council area. [10174]

**Yvette Cooper:** 248 key workers in West Sussex were helped to purchase homes under the Starter Home Initiative. The following table breaks down the figure by district council and by key worker group.

*Number of key workers assisted*

| *Local authority* | *Nurses/health workers* | *Teachers* | *Police* | *Others* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Adur | 8 | 7 | 1 | 0 |
| Arun | 5 | 10 | 2 | 2 |
| Chichester | 55 | 5 | 5 | 4 |
| Crawley | 17 | 10 | 6 | 1 |
| Horsham | 9 | 14 | 1 | 2 |
| Mid Sussex | 25 | 12 | 6 | 1 |
| Worthing | 18 | 12 | 9 | 1 |
| Total | 137 | 70 | 30 | 11 |

*Note:*
Other key workers helped under the Starter Home Initiative included social workers, fire fighters, occupational therapists, prison and probation service staff.

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will give high performing councils the freedom and flexibility to run their own housing services. [10305]

**Yvette Cooper:** All local housing authorities already have considerable freedom and flexibility to ran their own housing services.

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will *(a)* provide financial support and *(b)* make land owned by his Department available for social housing in Chorley. [10785]

**Yvette Cooper:** The Regional Housing Board is responsible for making recommendations to Ministers about the use of the single housing pot within the North West. As these recommendations are currently with the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister I am unable to comment further at this time. An announcement on allocations is expected shortly.

The Office of Deputy Prime Minister does not have any surplus land in Chorley.

**Mr. Paterson:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many new houses have been built in Ellesmere in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [10931]

**Yvette Cooper:** The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister only collects house building data at local authority level so there are no figures available for the town of Ellesmere. The annual numbers of new build completions reported for North Shropshire local authority since 2000–01 are tabled as follows:

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2000–01 | 246 |
| 2001–02 | 233 |
| 2002–03 | 192 |
| 2003–04 | 141 |
| 2004–05 | 296 |

*Source:*
Returns (P2/NHBC) to ODPM on building control completions

## Housing Development (Flood Risk)

**Mr. Todd:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister further to his answer of 23 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 1137W, on housing development (flood risk), when he expects to publish revised planning guidance on development and flood risk to which he refers. [11619]

**Yvette Cooper:** The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister expects to issue a draft of a new Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 25 for consultation later this year.

## Micro-bikes

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister which local authorities have made byelaws *(a)* prohibiting the use of micro-bikes in particular areas and *(b)* granting the power to seize vehicles causing noise nuisance. [10163]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The information requested is not held centrally and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

## Morecambe

**Geraldine Smith:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how much funding the North West Development Agency has provided for the West End Masterplan in Morecambe; and how much funding will be provided during 2005–08. [10156]

**Yvette Cooper:** The Northwest Regional Development Agency (NWDA) has made available £60,000 for a feasibility study into the establishment of an arts/creative industry campus in the West End by St. Martin's College. NWDA will also consider investing up to £3 million from 2006–07 onwards in projects that will encourage the growth and establishment of businesses in the area. This is subject to satisfactory progress implementing the masterplan, the completion of NWDA's appraisal and approval processes and the availability of resources.

## Population Growth

**Mr. Paterson:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what the projected growth of the population in *(a)* Oswestry borough and *(b)* North Shropshire district is for the next 10 years. [10933]

**Yvette Cooper:** The population projections from 2005 to 2015 are *(a)* Oswestry borough 40,600 (an increase of 2,100), and *(b)* North Shropshire district 63,600 (an increase of 4,300). The projections are based on Office for National Statistics mid-year estimates 2003.

### Right-to-buy Scheme

**Mrs. Dorries:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many housing association tenants in *(a)* the county of Bedfordshire and *(b)* the constituency of Mid-Bedfordshire are eligible for (i) the right-to-buy, (ii) the preserved right-to-buy, (iii) the right-to-acquire and (iv) voluntary purchase grants. [11016]

**Yvette Cooper:** No information is held centrally on the number of housing association tenants who have a right-to-buy in Bedfordshire or in the constituency of Mid-Bedfordshire.

Around 13,500 housing association tenants who have transferred with their homes from local authorities to housing associations in Bedfordshire have a preserved right-to-buy.

A further 1,332 housing association tenants in Bedfordshire may qualify for the right-to-acquire because the homes were provided with public funds since 1 April 1997. Some of the tenants whose properties have transferred from local authorities after the same date may also qualify for the right-to-acquire.

It is not possible to say how many housing association tenants in Bedfordshire are eligible for voluntary purchase grants. This scheme is offered at the discretion of housing associations, which bid to the Housing Corporation for funds to cover the discount offered to the tenant. Eligibility therefore depends on whether housing associations choose to participate in the scheme, which properties are included, and the availability of funding.

### Social Landlords

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will list the local authorities whose council homes were transferred to a registered social landlord and which have since been the subject of a further change in landlords; what the name of the *(a)* initial and *(b)* subsequent registered social landlords was in each case; and how many homes were affected in each case. [11158]

**Yvette Cooper:** On 18 May 2005 my right hon. Friend the Deputy Prime Minister, the First Secretary of State gave his consent under section 133 of the Housing Act 1988, after consulting the Housing Corporation, to the transfer of 2,553 dwellings from Hart Housing Association Ltd. to Oakfern Housing Association Ltd., both of which are members of Sentinel Housing Group Ltd. Residents of Hart Housing Association Ltd. and Oakfern Housing Association Ltd. were consulted about the proposals prior to consent being given.

The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister has received no other request by a registered social landlord to transfer the ownership of its housing stock to another registered social landlord.

### Special Constables

**Shona McIsaac:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will list the local authorities which offer a reduction in council tax for special constables. [11366]

**Mr. Woolas:** The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister does not hold this information centrally and it could only be obtained at disproportionate cost

### UK Accreditation Service

**Mr. Neil Turner:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister which certificates produced by the British Board of Agrément are audited and accredited by the UK Accreditation Service. [10498]

**Yvette Cooper:** A number of documents produced by the British Board of Agrément (BBA) solely as a result of testing against technical specifications are audited and accredited by the UK Accreditation Service.

Details of these are not held in the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister but are available from BBA.

**Mr. Neil Turner:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what processes the UK Accreditation Service uses to accredit *(a)* BRE Certification, *(b)* BM TRADA and *(c)* the British Board of Agreement. [10499]

**Yvette Cooper:** UKAS assesses and accredits these organisations against the criteria in the following internationally recognised standards:

*(a)* BRE Certification—EN 45011 and EN 45012;

*(b)* BM TRADA—EN 45011, EN 45012, ISO Guide 66, ISO 17024;

*(c)* British Board of Agreement—EN 45011 and EN 45012;

The UK Accreditation Service publishes the full scope of accreditation against each of these standards on its website;
(http://www.ukasxom/about_accreditation/accredited_bodies/certification_body_schedules.asp).

## HEALTH

### Electronic Data

5. **Mr. Pelling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether all NHS patients will be able to opt out of having their data held electronically under Connecting for Health. [11244]

**Mr. Byrne:** Doctors have a professional duty to keep accurate records and patients do not have the right to choose whether or how this is done. However, patients not wishing to have their data held electronically within the new NHS Care Records Service will have that choice.

### Patients' Needs (Lichfield)

13. **Michael Fabricant:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will visit Lichfield to meet stakeholders to discuss the future needs of patients using the hospital under construction in the city. [11252]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Either I, or one of my ministerial colleagues, would be delighted to visit the new hospital in Lichfield at an appropriate time.

The future needs of patients using the new hospital are a matter for Burntwood, Lichfield and Tamworth primary care trust and other local stakeholders.

### Dentistry

14. **Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what grants are available to help NHS dentists set up surgeries in residential areas. [11253]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** No specific grants have been made available to help national health service dentists set up surgeries in residential areas, but the £50 million made available in 2004–05 to boost local NHS capacity could be used in residential areas.

Primary care trusts may use their own budget to support the development of dental access in residential areas.

16. **Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the trends in NHS dentistry registration rates have been since 1997. [11255]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Some 24.3 million patients in England were registered with a national health service dentist in May 2005, compared with 26.4 million in 1997.

However, courses of dental treatment have increased by 6 per cent. from 31.3 million in 1997–98 to 33 million in 2004–05. This is a result of both the establishment of 53 dental access centres and the availability of dental access sessions offering NHS dentistry to patients who are not registered.

**Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the percentage of dental practices that are registering *(a)* children and *(b)* all adults in the (i) Eastleigh and Test Valley South, (ii) Southampton and (iii) Mid Hants primary care trust areas. [9794]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Information about dental practices registering patients is not centrally collected. However, information can be obtained from local primary care trusts or NHS Direct.

### Junior Doctors (Working Time Directive)

15. **Dr. Richard Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement on the effects of the European working time directive on continuity of patient care and junior doctor training in the NHS. [11254]

**Jane Kennedy:** Junior doctors' working patterns should strike a sensible balance between services designed around patients and services which support doctors working lives and their training. The modernising medical careers initiative will assist implementation of the working time directive and help make the best use of training opportunities for junior doctors.

### Myeloma

17. **Mr. McGovern:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement on the treatment of myeloma. [11256]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** In 2003, the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) published Improving Outcomes in Haematological Cancers. This guidance makes recommendations on treatment services for patients with haematological cancers, including myeloma. NICE recently updated the general practitioner referral guidelines which are designed to help GPs detect early signs of cancer, including myeloma.

### Cervical Smear Tests

18. **Helen Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps she is taking to ensure that women receive the results of cervical smear tests within a reasonable time. [11257]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** We are committed to reducing waiting times for the results of cervical screening tests. We have consulted experts on how best to achieve this, and have commissioned a formal options appraisal from the university of Sheffield. This is due to report in December.

### Primary Care Trusts

19. **Dr. Pugh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans the Government have to change the role and structure of primary care trusts. [11258]

**Jane Kennedy:** As we implement the next stage of the national health service reforms, including practice based commissioning and streamlining NHS management, primary care trusts will need to change and develop. These changes need to reflect local circumstances and form part of a structured programme for the NHS as a whole.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the responsibilities are of primary care trusts; and if she will make a statement. [9015]

**Mr. Byrne:** The responsibilities of primary care trusts (PCTs) are:

To assess the health needs of their population and to commission primary care and hospital based services to meet those needs;

To ensure the provision of primary and community services; and

To improve the health of their local population, reducing health inequalities.

As we implement the next stage of the national health service reforms, including practice based commissioning and streamlining NHS management, PCTs will need to change and develop.

**Peter Luff:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 30 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 1766W, on primary care trusts, what the average per capita funding for all primary care trusts in England was in 2004–05; and what the average per capita funding budgeted for 2005–06 is. [10805]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answer 11 July 2005]:* The average per capita funding for all primary care trusts in England in 2004–05 was £1,003. The average per capita funding allocated for 2005–06 is £1,097.

### Digital Hearing Aids

20. **Joan Walley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what her latest assessment is of the availability of NHS digital hearing aids. [11259]

**Mr. Byrne:** Since the end of March 2005, all 164 NHS hearing aid services in England are routinely providing people with digital hearing aids.

### Coronary Bypass Grafts

22. **Lynda Waltho:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement on waiting times for coronary bypass grafts. [11261]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Excellent progress has been made to reduce waiting times for heart surgery patients. Until recently, patients were waiting up to two years for a coronary bypass graft operation but now no one waits longer than three months for heart surgery.

### Alzheimer's/Dementia

23. **Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will take steps to ensure that appropriate and affordable medicines are available to people with *(a)* Alzheimer's and *(b)* dementia. [11262]

**Mr. Byrne:** I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave on 16 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 630W.

### Hepatitis C (Prison Inmates)

24. **Mr. Fabian Hamilton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she has made of the number of prison inmates infected with hepatitis C; and how many inmates are infected in each prison in England. [11263]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Information about the number of prisoners with hepatitis C is not collected centrally. The then Public Health Laboratory Service undertook an unlinked, anonymised survey of the prevalence of blood borne viruses amongst prisoners in England in 1997–98. This indicated that nine per cent., of adult men, 11 per cent., of women and 0.6 per cent., of male young offenders had evidence of previous exposure to hepatitis C.

### GP Practices

25. **Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many general practitioner practices there are in Kettering constituency; and what the average number of patients registered with a practice in Kettering is. [11264]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The information is not held in the format requested. The following table shows the average list size of general medical practitioners (excluding retainers and registrars),[1] and GP practices for Northhamptonshire Heartlands primary care trust.

| | *Numbers (headcount)* |
|---|---|
| All practitioners (excluding retainers and registrars)[1] | 145 |
| Patients | 287,476 |
| Average list size | 1,983 |
| GP practices | 35 |

[1] General Medical Practitioners (excluding retainers and registrars) includes contracted GPs, GMS others, and PMS others

*Source:*

NHS health and social care information centre general and personal medical services statistics.

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the number of people in each NHS region who are not registered with a GP; and if she will make a statement. [7068]

**Mr. Byrne:** It is not possible to estimate with any accuracy the number of people who are not registered with a general practice.

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information she has collated on how many general practitioners plan to retire in each year until 2010. [10029]

**Mr. Byrne:** The information is not collected centrally.

**Mrs. Dorries:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many full-time equivalent NHS general practitioners have been employed in the Mid-Bedfordshire constituency in each year since 1997; and if she will make a statement. [11092]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The number of full-time equivalent national health service general practitioners that have been employed in the Mid-Bedfordshire constituency in each year since 1997 are shown in the tables.

*General Medical Practitioners (excluding registrars and retainers)[1] for specified organisations, 1997 to December 2004*

| | | *Estimated full-time equivalents* | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | *1997* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* |
| QA6 | Bedfordshire HA | 285 | 286 | 287 | 289 | — |
| 5GD | Bedford PCT | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 73 |
| 5GE | Bedfordshire Heartlands PCT | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 123 |

| | | *Estimated full-time equivalents* | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *December 2004* |
| QA6 | Bedfordshire HA | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| 5GD | Bedford PCT | 75 | 82 | 91 | 94 |
| 5GE | Bedfordshire Heartlands PCT | 121 | 129 | 136 | 136 |

n/a = Data not applicable.

[1] General Medical Practitioners (excluding retainers and registrars) includes Contracted GPs, QMS Others and PMS Others.

*Notes:*
1. PCTs did not come into existence until 1 April 2000, prior to this data was only available at health authority level which does not compare with present day organisational structure.
2. FTE data has been estimated using the results from the 1992–93 GMP Workload Survey.
3. For 1994 to 2003—Contracted GPs—Full-time = 1.00 fte; three quarter time = 0.69 fte; job share = 0.65 fte; and half time = 0.60 fte; Other GP types Full-time = 1.00 fte; Part-time = 0.6 fte
4. For 2004—All GPs—Full-Time 1.0 fte; Part-time = 0.6 fte, and therefore may not be fully comparable with previous years.
5. Data as at 1 October 1997–99, 30 September 2000–04 and 31 December 2004.

*Source:*
NHS Health and Social Care Information Centre General and Personal Medical Services Statistics.

## Agency Nurses

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the health service spent on hiring agency nursing staff *(a)* in total and *(b)* broken down by NHS trust, in (i) 1995–96, (ii) 1996–97, (iii) 1997–98, (iv) 1998–99, (v) 1999–2000, (vi) 2000–01, (vii) 2001–02, (viii) 2002–03 and (ix) 2003–04; what the figures were at the latest date for which figures are available; and if she will make a statement. [8040]

**Mr. Byrne:** The table shows the total non-national health service salaries and wages expenditure for nursing, midwifery and health visiting for the years 1995–96 to 2003–04. Information on expenditure in each NHS trust in England in each year from 1995–96 to 2000–01 and 2001–02 to 2003–04 is available in the Library. Total NHS spend increased from £32 billion in 1995–96 to £63 billion in 2003–04.

*Non-NHS staff (agency, etc) (by NHS classification) salaries and wages expenditure—England*

| | *Nursing, midwifery and health visiting expenditure (£)* |
|---|---|
| 1995–96 | 166,631,982 |
| 1996–97 | 191,496,635 |
| 1997–98 | 216,338,567 |
| 1998–99 | 272,225,162 |
| 1999–2000 | 361,656,683 |
| 2000–01 | 435,431,882 |
| 2001–02 | 554,323,821 |
| 2002–03 | 589,738,042 |
| 2003–04 | 524,675,129 |

*Sources:*
Annual financial returns of NHS trusts, 1995–96 to 2003–04.
Annual financial returns of district and regional health authorities and the special health authorities for the London postgraduate teaching hospitals, 1995–96.
Annual financial returns of health authorities 1996–97 to 2001–02.
Annual financial returns of strategic health authorities 2002–3 to 2003–04.
Annual financial returns of primary care trusts 2000–01 to 2003–04.

## Ambulance Service Review

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health on what date *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials first received the completed review of ambulance services undertaken by Mr. Peter Bradley. [10036]

**Mr. Byrne:** An incomplete version of the review of ambulance services was submitted to ministers on 27 May 2005. The review group continued to finalise the report until close to its publication on 30 June 2005.

Departmental officials worked closely with the review group throughout the period of the ambulance review.

## Bowel Diseases

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans she has to increase the number of specialist nurses involved in the care of inflammatory bowel diseases. [9509]

**Mr. Byrne:** Information is not collected centrally on the number of nurses specialising in inflammatory bowel disease. Between September 2003 and 2004, the number of qualified nurses employed in the national health service has increased by 78,660, and training places for nurses have increased by 67 per cent. since 1996–97, increasing the pool of nurses from which specialist nurses can be drawn.

It is for local NHS organisations to determine the specific work force needed to best suit the local area.

## Care Assistants

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what her estimate is of the average hourly wage of a care assistant in the NHS. [11059]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answer 11 July 2005]:* Under Agenda for Change, the basic pay that staff receives will reflect the knowledge, responsibility, skills and effort required for their job, rather than their historic job title or occupational group. However, based on experience so far, most care assistants are assimilating at band two or three, depending on the nature of the job.

£

| *Pay Band* | *Annual* | *Hourly* |
|---|---|---|
| *Band minimum*[1] *(2005–06)* | | |
| 2 | 11,879 | 6.08 |
| 3 | 13,694 | 7.00 |
| *Band maximum (2005–06)* | | |
| 2 | 13,694 | 7.00 |
| 3 | 16,389 | 8.37 |

[1] Excludes special transitional points which apply only during assimilation to the new system.

## Community Equipment Services

**Andrew Selous:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the NHS has been charged for the lease of equipment loaned on a short-term basis to patients for use in their own homes in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [8709]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answer 4 July 2005]:* The national health service purchases the majority of its equipment to be used in peoples homes which is generally of a low individual value and arranges for its recycling where possible. This is in line with the Audit Commission's report, "Fully Equipped".

Although some major items may be acquired on a lease basis the Department does not collect centrally information on of how much the NHS has been charged.

### Emergency Response Services

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will estimate the cost to the NHS of inappropriate 999 calls in the most recent period for which figures are available. [10035]

**Mr. Byrne:** This information is not collected centrally.

### End-of-life Care

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 27 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 1356W, on end-of-life care, how much has been allocated to each strategic health authority. [10488]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The individual allocations for the end-of-life care programme for the year 2005–06 to each strategic health authority (SHA) are shown in the table.

| *Strategic health authority* | *Allocation (£)* |
|---|---|
| Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire | 149,000 |
| Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire | 109,000 |
| Essex | 113,000 |
| North West London | 142,000 |
| North Central London | 102,000 |
| North East London | 138,000 |
| South East London | 123,000 |
| South West London | 91,000 |
| Northumberland, Tyne and Wear | 115,000 |
| County Durham and Tees Valley | 94,000 |
| North and East Yorks and Northern Lincs | 113,000 |
| West Yorkshire | 159,000 |
| Cumbria and Lancashire | 148,000 |
| Greater Manchester | 209,000 |
| Cheshire and Merseyside | 195,000 |
| Thames Valley | 135,000 |
| Hampshire and Isle of Wight | 120,000 |
| Kent and Medway | 113,000 |
| Surrey and Sussex | 177,000 |
| Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire | 146,000 |
| South West Peninsula | 114,000 |
| Dorset and Somerset | 85,000 |
| South Yorkshire | 103,000 |
| Trent | 190,000 |
| Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland | 101,000 |
| Shropshire and Staffordshire | 104,000 |
| Birmingham and The Black Country | 187,000 |
| West Midlands South | 106,000 |

Allocations to the lead primary care trust within each SHA will be made during July 2005.

### Ethical Recruitment

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what measures are in place to ensure that the NHS abides by its code of practice on ethical recruitment. [10501]

**Mr. Byrne:** NHS Employers has taken over the monitoring of national health service compliance to the code of practice. It will continue to monitor compliance through data supplied on a regular basis by the international recruitment co-ordinators based in each strategic health authority.

### Financial Deficits (Trusts)

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* hospital trusts and *(b)* primary care trusts in Hertfordshire have financial deficits; and if she will make a statement. [11260]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The latest year for which audited financial information is available for national health service organisations is 2003–04. In 2003–04 there was one NHS trust and one primary care trust in Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire strategic health authority in deficit.

Audited information for 2004–05 will be available in the audited accounts in the autumn.

### Health Care Expenditure

**Hywel Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what health spending per head was in each region of England in the last period for which figures are available; and if she will make a statement. [11273]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answer 11 July 2005]:* Information on expenditure per head by region is available in table 3.10b of the Department's departmental report 2005 (Cm 6524) presented to Parliament on 21 June 2005.

### Health Outside Hospitals

**Tony Baldry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether community hospital services will form part of the regional public consultations on the health outside hospitals White Paper; [10281]

(2) whether one of the regional public consultations on the health outside hospitals White Paper will be based on Oxfordshire; [10282]

(3) whether primary care trust public consultations on local health services will form part of the health outside hospitals White Paper. [10290]

**Mr. Byrne:** We have not yet finalised the scope of the listening exercise for the health and care outside hospitals White Paper, but it will be wide-ranging in considering the needs of people who use services, people who deliver services and other stakeholders. The exact format of any regional events has yet to be determined, but the whole of the country, including Oxfordshire, will be covered. The listening exercise is intended to guide the formation of national policy on health and care outside hospitals, rather than to discuss or formally consult on specific aspects of local service provision.

### Waiting lists

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients in the Southend primary care trust area have waited more than *(a)* three months, *(b)* six months, *(c)* nine months, *(d)* 12 months, *(e)* 15 months, *(f)* 18 months and *(g)* 24 months for (i) heart operations, (ii) cancer treatment and (iii) hip replacements in each year since 2000–01; and if she will make a statement. [9967]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Finished in-year admissions episodes for patients who waited up to three months, more than three months, six months, nine months, 12

months, 15 months, 18 months and 24 months for heart operations, cancer treatment and hip replacements in each year since 2000–01 for Southend hospital trust are shown in the following tables.

*Counts of finished in-year admission episodes. Main operative procedure heart operations (OPCS-4 = K01-K71).*
*RAJ Southend hospital national health service trust*
*NHS hospitals, England 2000–01 to 2003–04*

*Heart operations*

| *Waiting time grouping* | *Finished in-year admission episodes* 2000–01 | 2001–02 | 2002–03 | 2003–04 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Up to three months | 750 | 838 | 1,103 | 1,098 |
| More than three up to six months | 109 | 147 | 128 | 103 |
| More than six up to nine months | 186 | 125 | 60 | 341 |
| More than nine up to 12 months | 127 | 188 | 201 | 59 |
| More than 12 up to 18 months | 11 | 18 | 15 | 4 |
| More than 18 up to 24 months | — | — | — | 1 |
| More than 24 months | — | — | — | — |
| Waiting time not known | 3 | — | — | 3 |
| Total finished in-year admission episodes | 1,186 | 1,316 | 1,507 | 1,609 |

*Counts of finished in-year admission episodes. Primary diagnosis cancer (ICD-10 = COO-D48.)*
*RAJ Southend hospital NHS trust*
*NHS hospitals, England 2000–01 to 2003–04*

*Cancer*

| *Waiting time grouping* | *Finished in-year admission episodes* 2000–01 | 2001–02 | 20002–03 | 2003–04 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Up to three months | 5,191 | 5,411 | 4,820 | 3,610 |
| More than three up to six months | 322 | 342 | 243 | 278 |
| More than six up to nine months | 102 | 107 | 79 | 77 |
| More than nine up to 12 months | 61 | 50 | 68 | 34 |
| More than 12 up to 18 months | 50 | 69 | 43 | 10 |
| More than 18 up to 24 months | 3 | 10 | 3 | 6 |
| More than 24 months | 4 | 5 | 3 | — |
| Waiting time not known | 744 | 816 | 773 | 1,248 |
| Total finished in-year admission episodes | 6,477 | 6,810 | 6,032 | 5,263 |

*Counts of finished in-year admission episodes. Main operative procedure hip replacement (OPCS-4 = W37-W39).*
*RM Southend Hospital NHS trust*
*NHS hospitals, England 2000–01 to 2003–04*

*Hip replacement*

| *Waiting time grouping* | *Finished in-year admission episodes* 2000–01 | 2001–02 | 2002–03 | 2003–04 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Up to three months | 45 | 44 | 43 | 46 |
| More than three up to six months | 23 | 38 | 35 | 24 |
| More than six up to nine months | 48 | 41 | 38 | 60 |
| More than nine up to 12 months | 50 | 43 | 80 | 91 |
| More than 12 up to 18 months | 71 | 87 | 106 | 25 |
| More than 18 up to 24 months | 17 | 15 | 8 | 8 |
| More than 24 months | 9 | 6 | 3 | 15 |
| Waiting time not known | — | — | — | 1 |
| Total finished in-year admission episodes | 263 | 274 | 313 | 270 |

*Notes*:
1. Finished in-year admissions:
A finished in-year admission is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider, excluding admissions beginning before 1 April at the start of the data year. Please note that admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.
2. Diagnosis (primary diagnosis):
The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 14 (seven prior to 2002–03) diagnosis fields in the Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) data set and provides the main reason why the patient was in hospital.
3. Main operation:
The main operation is the first recorded operation in the HES data set and is usually the most resource intensive procedure performed during the episode. It is appropriate to use main operation when looking at admission details, for example, time waited, but the figures for all operations count of episodes give a more complete count of episodes with an operation.
4. Ungrossed data:
Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data, that is, the data are ungrossed.
5. Time waited (days):
Time waited statistics from Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) are not the same as the published waiting list statistics. HES provides counts and time waited for all patients admitted to hospital within a given period whereas the published waiting list statistics count those waiting for treatment on a specific date and how long they have been on the waiting list. Also, HES calculates the time waited as the difference between the admission and decision to admit dates. Unlike published waiting list statistics, this is not adjusted for self-deferrals or periods of medical/social suspension.
*Source*:
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), Health and Social Care Information Centre

### Nurses (Bedfordshire)

**Mrs. Dorries:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many specialist nurses there are in Bedfordshire who deal with *(a)* coronary heart disease and *(b)* arrhythmia in young people. [11091]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The information requested is not collected centrally.

### Health Technical Memoranda

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what systems are in place to monitor compliance with Health Technical Memoranda (HTM), with particular reference to HTM 2022 on medical gas pipeline systems; and whether she expects these monitoring systems to change with the abolition of NHS Estates, as envisaged in the Department's review of arm's length bodies. [10027]

**Mr. Byrne:** NHS Estates does not monitor compliance to health technical memoranda (HTM), including HTM2022. It is the responsibility of the health care provider to be aware of all best practice guidance and to manage and monitor medical gas pipeline systems in line with their duty of care and governance arrangements.

### Hospital Beds

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she has made of the number of available beds required in total in the NHS in England to achieve a national average bed occupancy rate of 82 per cent. [10033]

**Mr. Byrne:** No such assessment has been made. Occupancy levels in national health service facilities vary, depending on the range and type of services they provide, and the way in which the admission and discharge of patients is managed. The Department does not have targets for occupancy levels, which are for the NHS locally to determine.

### Hospital-acquired Infections

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what targets for reduction will be attached to the hospital-acquired infections, other than methicillin resistant staphylococcus aureus, which are monitored under the mandatory surveillance schemes for NHS trusts. [10030]

**Jane Kennedy:** The first year's data will provide a baseline for trend analysis and it is too early to decide if targets would be appropriate.

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of colloidal silver as a treatment for *(a)* MRSA and *(b)* other hospital acquired infections; and what research she has commissioned into its use. [9516]

**Jane Kennedy:** Although colloidal silver has antibacterial properties for treating meticillin resistant *staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) and other hospital acquired infections it is not used as an alternative to antibiotics because of its toxicity when taken internally. We are not aware of any relevant studies on its efficacy.

### IVF Treatment

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans the Minister has to extend the availability of IVF treatment under the NHS. [10279]

**Caroline Flint:** Following the publication in February 2004 of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence's (NICE) clinical guideline on the assessment and treatment for people with fertility problems, we advised all primary care trusts to offer a minimum of one cycle of in vitro fertilization (IVF) by April 2005 to those who meet the clinical criteria, giving priority to couples with no children living with them. and to make progress to full implementation of the guideline in the longer term. The primary responsibility for the implementation of NICE guidelines rests with the national health service at local level and compliance with NICE guidance by NHS organisations will be considered by the Healthcare Commission during their review and performance assessment processes.

### Medicine Imports

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much medicine the Government imported in the last three years for which figures are available. [9925]

**Jane Kennedy:** The United Kingdom (UK) world trade in pharmaceuticals between 2002 and 2004 is shown in the following table.

*UK world trade—pharmaceuticals*

| | *Total imports (millions)* | *Total exports (millions)* | *Trade surplus balance* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2002 | 7,558 | 10,179 | 2,621 |
| 2003 | 8,378 | 11,941 | 3,563 |
| 2004 | 8,635 | 12,348 | 3,713 |

This information is collected and published by Her Majesty's Customs and Excise.

### Mental Health

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether patients who have killed staff within the South West London and St. George's Mental Health Trust were classified as extremely disturbed and subject to a recommendation that they should always be approached for treatment by two or more members of staff. [8683]

**Jane Kennedy:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on Tuesday 7 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 587W. There has been one incident where a member of staff at the South West London and St. George's Mental Health Trust was killed by a patient. This case attracted a large amount of media attention and is to be subject to an external independent inquiry. We would not wish to prejudice the findings of this inquiry, which will be made public as soon as is possible. In the meantime, we also have a duty to protect the patient confidentiality of the patient concerned.

**Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the use of electroconvulsive therapy is proportionately more common in the treatment of

people with mental health problems aged over 65 than in the treatment of people with mental health problems of all ages. [9973]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The latest information available on electro-convulsive therapy (ECT) is that contained in the Department's publication Statistical Bulletin Electro Convulsive Therapy: Survey covering the period from January 2002 to March 2002, England. This was a follow-up to an earlier survey of the period January to March 1999. Both surveys were undertaken to provide data on ECT that are not currently available elsewhere.

The 2002 survey confirmed the continuing downward trend in the number of administrations of ECT. It collected information from national health service and independent sector care settings, including nursing homes, on the total number of administrations of ECT in NHS and independent sector care settings including data on sex, age, ethnicity, legal status and method of consent. It found that in the period January to March 2002:

4.6 people per 100,000 of the population underwent ECT, compared with 5.8 in the 1999 survey period.

The prevalence rates for both men and women were lower in 2002 than in 1999. In 2002 2.8 per 100,000 men received treatment compared to 3.8 per 100,000 in 1999; additionally, 6.4 per 100,000 women were treated in the 2002 survey period, compared to 7.7 in 1999.

The incidence of the use of ECT was shown to rise with age in both of the survey periods. Overall, 13.5 per 100,000 population aged 65 and over underwent ECT in 2002; this compares to a prevalence rate of 5.6 in 45 to 64 year olds, 3.6 for 45 to 44 year olds and only 1.2 for 19 to 24 year olds.

In 1999, the statistics show a similar pattern with 15.1 per 100,000 population aged 65 and over undergoing ECT; this dropped to 8.0 per 100,000 in those aged 45 to 64, to 4.6 in those aged 25 to 44 and again to 1.5 in those aged 16 to 24.

Copies of the 2002 (ISBN: 1 84182 709 6) and 1999 (IBSN: 1 84182 089 X) surveys are available in the Library and on the Department's website at: www.dh.gov.uk/PublicationsAndStatistics/Statistics/StatisticalWorkAreas/StatisticalHealthCare/StatisticalHealthCareArticle/fs/en?CONTENT_ID=4086494&chk=QFbR7a.

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps she will take to ensure that the public are able to compare investment and commissioning decisions of primary care trusts in developing specialist old age mental health services, in accordance with section 2.2.8 of the report, Better Health in Old Age. [7195]

**Mr. Byrne:** For the first time this year, the Department will be supporting service mapping of older people's mental health services. This exercise is planned for autumn 2005. It is envisaged that similar data collections will be supported annually. Finance data on older people's mental health services will also be included for the first time in this autumn's national finance mapping of mental health services. The results for older adults will be available to the public on the internet.

### National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence

**Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will break down the membership of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence's Citizens' Council by *(a)* age, *(b)* gender and *(c)* ethnicity; and if she will make a statement. [9798]

**Jane Kennedy:** I refer the hon. Member to the response of I gave on 27 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 1374W.

### NHS (Independent Providers)

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether she has issued any guidance on the number of *(a)* NHS foundation trusts and *(b)* independent sector providers primary care trusts must offer to patients in their menu of four to five providers by the end of 2005; when this guidance was issued; and whether she plans to issue any further guidance. [3443]

**Mr. Byrne:** Under the policy framework for choice and booking at the point of referral, published by the Department in August 2004, primary care trusts (PCTs) are responsible for commissioning the menus of four or more providers from which patients needing planned hospital care will be able to choose from the end of this year.

Where a PCT has a contract with a nationally procured independent sector treatment centre (ISTC), the ISTC needs to be on the PCTs choice menus for those specialities covered by the contract. Other PCTs in the area should also consider offering the ISTC as a choice to their patients. We would also expect PCTs to include any independent sector provider with which they have an existing, locally negotiated, contract to provide an appropriate package of care.

"Creating a Patient Led NHS'" published in March 2005, set out our commitment to increase the choice of providers available to patients from April next year. In addition to the four or more locally commissioned providers, patients will be offered the choice of all national health service foundation trusts, all independent sector treatment centres and other nationally procured independent sector providers which meet NHS standards.

### NHS Direct

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the budget for NHS Direct has been in each year since 1997–98; how many calls NHS Direct received in each year; and what the maximum call capacity of NHS Direct was in each year. [7504]

**Mr. Byrne:** The budget for NHS Direct since its inception in 1998–99 is shown in the table.

| | *Revenue (£ millions)* |
|---|---|
| 1998–99 | 14 |
| 1999–2000 | 55 |
| 2000–01 | 90.1 |
| 2001–02 | 89.7 |
| 2002–03 | 106 |
| 2003–04 | 117.5 |
| 2004–05 | 121 |
| 2005–06 | 163 |

I understand from the chairman of NHS Direct that the number of calls answered in each year since 1998 are as shown in the table.

| Calendar year | Calls answered (thousands) |
|---|---|
| 1998 | 110 |
| 1999 | 1,650 |
| 2000 | 3,000 |
| 2001 | 5,001 |
| 2002 | 5,940 |
| 2003 | 6,420 |
| 2004 | 6,480 |

Information on maximum call capacity is not collected centrally.

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the national health service direct access tariff is. [10381]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answer 7 July 2005]:* Direct access tariffs require more work on data collection before mandatory tariffs are introduced.

## NHS Expenditure

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of the NHS annual budget was spent on *(a)* clinical research, *(b)* clinical research into the treatment and prevention of cancer and *(c)* research into the use of photo dynamic therapy as a treatment for cancer in the last period for which figures are available. [9958]

**Jane Kennedy** *[holding answer 6 July 2005]:* Research active organisations in the National Health Service were allocated £440 million research and development support funding in 2003–04[1], of which they report spending some £113 million on research related to cancer. These totals account respectively for 0.72 per cent. and 0.18 per cent. of total NHS expenditure in that year.

Details of individual NHS projects, including some concerned with photo dynamic therapy in the treatment of cancer, can be found on the national research register at www.dh.gov.uk/research. Project level expenditure data for 2003–04 are not held centrally.

[1] In addition to clinical research, the allocations to the NHS support health services research, public health research, and research to develop and apply new technology in the NHS.

## NHS Finance

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health which hospital trusts are in debt, listed in descending order of indebtedness; and what the size of each debt was in each case. [9651]

**Mr. Byrne:** The latest available audited information in national health service trusts that failed to break even in their financial accounts is for 2003–04, and is shown in the table. In 2003–04, the NHS as a whole finished with a small surplus of £73 million.

*NHS trusts[1] cumulative breakeven position—2003–04*

| NHS trust name | £000 Breakeven position |
|---|---|
| North Bristol NHS Trust | -48,766 |
| Royal United Hospital Bath NHS Trust | -26,752 |
| Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust | -23,812 |
| Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust | -20,820 |
| Barnet And Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust | -19,564 |
| United Bristol Healthcare NHS Trust | -17,260 |
| Maidstone And Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust | -17,057 |
| Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS Trust | -13,581 |
| East Kent Hospitals NHS Trust | -10,312 |
| Royal Wolverhampton Hospital NHS Trust | -8,201 |
| Plymouth Hospitals NHS Trust | -7,661 |
| Ashford and St. Peter's Hospitals NHS Trust | -7,466 |
| North Cumbria Acute Hospitals NHS Trust | -7,291 |
| The Royal West Sussex NHS Trust | -6,737 |
| Blackpool, Fylde And Wyre Hospitals NHS Trust | -5,886 |
| Kings Lynn And Wisbech Hospitals NHS Trust | -5,706 |
| South Manchester University Hospitals NHS Trust | -5,639 |
| Good Hope Hospital NHS Trust | -5,521 |
| Buckinghamshire Hospitals NHS Trust | -5,237 |
| Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust | -5,185 |
| Berkshire Healthcare NHS Trust | -5,112 |
| Southampton University Hospitals NHS Trust | -5,054 |
| Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust | -5,010 |
| Princess Alexandra Hospital NHS Trust | -4,927 |
| Essex Rivers Healthcare NHS Trust | -4,875 |
| Surrey and Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust | -4,805 |
| Milton Keynes General Hospital NHS Trust | -4,502 |
| Isle of Wight Healthcare NHS Trust | -4,167 |
| Northampton General Hospital NHS Trust | -4,038 |
| East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust | -3,934 |
| Royal Surrey County Hospital NHS Trust | -3,555 |
| Whittington Hospital NHS Trust | -3,498 |
| East Sussex Hospitals NHD Trust | -3,237 |
| Avon and Wiltshire MHP NHS Trust | -3,179 |
| Rob Jones And A Hunt Orthopaedic NHS Trust | -3,097 |
| Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust | -2,931 |
| Frimley Park Hospital NHS Trust | -2,885 |
| Buckinghamshire Mental Health NHS Trust | -2,597 |
| Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust | -2,597 |
| Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust | -2,589 |
| West Suffolk Hospitals NHS Trust | -2,490 |
| Epsom and St. Helier NHS Trust | -2,324 |
| Weston Area Health NHS Trust | -2,094 |
| East Sussex County NHS Trust | -1,970 |
| St. George's Healthcare NHS Trust | -1,940 |
| Queen Mary's Sidcup NHS Trust | -1,904 |
| North West London Hospitals NHS Trust | -1,802 |
| Hampshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust | -1,696 |
| Newcastle, North Tyneside and Northumberland MH NHS Trust | -1,677 |
| Barnet, Enfield and Haringey MH NHS Trust | -1,606 |
| Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust | -1,588 |
| Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust | -1,402 |
| West London Mental Health NHS Trust | -1,363 |
| St. Mary's NHS Trust | -1,351 |
| The Hillingdon Hospital NHS Trust | -1,318 |
| Airedale NHS Trust | -1,300 |
| North Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust | -1,254 |
| Barts and the London NHS Trust | -1,075 |
| North West Surrey MH NHS Partnership NHS Trust | -1,065 |
| Walsall Hospitals NHS Trust | -1,049 |
| Local Health Partnerships NHS Trust | -1,039 |
| King's College Hospital NHS Trust | -1,032 |
| West Middlesex University NHS Trust | -952 |
| Peterborough Hospitals NHS Trust | -805 |
| East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust | -721 |
| Worthing and Southlands Hospitals NHS Trust | -607 |
| North Hampshire Hospitals NHS Trust | -574 |
| Hammersmith Hospitals NHS Trust | -565 |
| Ealing Hospital NHS Trust | -559 |
| North Essex Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust | -546 |
| Kettering General Hospital NHS Trust | -424 |
| South London and Maudsley NHS Trust | -378 |
| Winchester and Eastleigh Healthcare NHS Trust | -358 |
| West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust | -321 |
| Mayday Healthcare NHS Trust | -317 |
| Addenbrooke's NHS Trust | -310 |
| Nuffield Orthopaedic NHS Trust | -307 |
| Cheshire and Wirral Partnership NHS Trust | -281 |

*NHS trusts[1] cumulative breakeven position—2003–04*

| *NHS trust name* | *£000 Breakeven position* |
|---|---|
| Chelsea and Westminster Healthcare NHS Trust | -269 |
| Hinchingbrooke Health Care NHS Trust | -263 |
| London Ambulance Service NHS Trust | -257 |
| Bedford Hospitals NHS Trust | -233 |
| Scarborough and NE Yorks NHS Trust | -229 |
| Sussex Ambulance Service NHS Trust | -206 |
| Mid Staffordshire General Hospitals NHS Trust | -201 |
| Christie Hospital NHS Trust | -115 |
| Papworth Hospital NHS Trust | -115 |
| Mid Essex Hospital Services NHS Trust | -101 |
| Sandwell MH Social Care NHS Trust | -82 |
| Royal Bournemouth and Christchurch NHS Trust | -78 |
| Dorset Ambulance NHS Trust | -77 |
| Surrey Ambulance Service NHS Trust | -69 |
| Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust | -52 |
| Royal Berkshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust | -42 |
| Trafford Healthcare NHS Trust | -29 |
| Kingston Hospital NHS Trust | -22 |

*Source:*

Summarisation schedule of 2003–04 final accounts

### Occupational Therapists

**Annette Brooke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many vacancies there were for occupational therapists working with *(a)* children and *(b)* adults on (i) 1 April 2004 and (ii) 1 April 2005 in (A) Dorset and (B) England; and if she will make a statement on the provision of occupational services in Dorset. [8344]

**Mr. Byrne:** Information is not collected centrally on the number of vacancies for occupational therapists working specifically with children or adults. The table shows the rate and number of vacancies for occupational therapists in England and by selected organisation within Dorset and Somerset strategic health authority (SHA) as at March 2004.

Occupational therapy services in Dorset are provided by the national health service organisations shown in the table plus three local authorities. The number of occupational therapists employed within Dorset and Somerset SHA has increased by 149 or 43 per cent. between 1997 and 2004, and the rate of vacancies lasting three months or more is 1.1 per cent. which compares well with the England average.

*Department of Health vacancies survey, March 2004. NHS three-month occupation therapy vacancies for England and Dorset and Somerset SHA area. Three-month vacancy rates, numbers and staff in post.*

| | | *Occupational therapists* | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | *March 2004* | | *September 2004* | |
| | | *Three month vacancy rate (percentage)* | *Three month vacancy number* | *Staff in post (full time equivalent)* | *Staff in post (headcount)* |
| England | | 5 | 693 | 13,879 | 16,371 |
| Q22 Dorset and Somerset SHA | | 1.1 | 4 | 396 | 494 |
| *Of which:* | | | | | |
| Bournemouth PCT | 5CE | * | 1 | 2 | 4 |
| Dorset Health Care NHS Trust | RDY | 2.6 | 2 | 92 | 106 |
| North Dorset PCT | 5CD | 0.0 | — | 53 | 68 |
| Poole hospitals NHS Trust | RD3 | 0.0 | — | 26 | 34 |
| Poole PCT | 5KV | * | — | 8 | 9 |
| Royal Bournemouth and Christchurch hospitals NHS Trust | RDZ | 2.9 | 1 | 37 | 47 |
| South and East Dorset PCT | 5FN | 0.0 | — | 20 | 30 |
| South West Dorset PCT | 5FP | * | — | 11 | 13 |
| West Dorset general hospitals NHS Trust | RBD | 0.0 | — | 14 | 20 |

*Sources:*

Health and Social Care Information Centre Vacancies Survey, March 2004.

Health and Social Care Information Centre Non-Medical Workforce Census, September 2004

### Physiotherapists

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the waiting time to see a physiotherapist was in each NHS trust area in each of the last 10 years. [10097]

**Mr. Byrne:** The information requested is not collected centrally.

### Primary Care

**Steve Webb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the Government achieved its target of delivering *(a)* 500 primary care centres and *(b)* 3,000 modernised general practitioner premises by December 2004; and if she will make a statement. [9377]

**Mr. Byrne:** The targets published in the NHS Plan were for 500 one-stop primary care centres to be provided and up to 3,000 family doctors' premises to be substantially refurbished or replaced by 2004. In December 2004, 510 one-stop primary care centres and the refurbishments or replacements of 2,850 general practitioner premises had been completed or were under construction. These have resulted from the £900 million invested in primary care buildings since 2000.

### Private Finance Initiative

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will set out for all private finance initiative projects granted approval by her Department since 1997 *(a)* their total value, *(b)* the revenue payments made to date and *(c)* the estimated revenue payments for the life of each private finance initiative contract. [1561]

**Mr. Byrne:** Information on all private finance initiative projects with a capital value of £10 million or greater given the go ahead by the Department since 1997 and details of unitary payments, equivalent of revenue payments, for schemes which have reached financial close are shown in the tables.

It is not possible to include details of the unitary payments for schemes yet to reach financial close as they are not finalised and are commercially sensitive.

*PFI schemes who have made unitary payments to end of 2003-04*

| Commissioning body | Capital value (£ million) | Total unitary payments to end of 2003-04 (£ million) | Estimated total unitary payments to end of contract (£ million) see note |
|---|---|---|---|
| The Royal Wolverhampton Hospitals | 13 | 0.1 | 136.3 |
| Northumbria Health Care NHS Trust | 18 | 1.5 | 62.3 |
| Royston, Buntingford and Bishops Stortford PCT | 15 | 1.9 | 85.3 |
| Luton and Dunstable Hospital | 15 | 2.2 | 90.5 |
| Northumbria Health Care NHS Trust | 29 | 2.2 | 166.8 |
| Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals* | 22 | 2.5 | 85.8 |
| East London and the City Mental Health | 15 | 3.0 | 63.3 |
| Guildford and Waverley PCT | 29 | 3.0 | 135.0 |
| Oxleas NHS Trust | 11 | 3.1 | 43.3 |
| North East London Mental Health | 11 | 3.5 | 49.4 |
| Berkshire Healthcare NHS Trust* | 30 | 4.2 | 189.3 |
| Cornwall Healthcare NHS Trust | 10 | 5.0 | 83.8 |
| St. George's Healthcare NHS Trust* | 46 | 7.3 | 367.3 |
| Queen Mary's Hospital Sidcup | 15 | 7.5 | 79.2 |
| West Middlesex University Hospital* | 60 | 9.7 | 519.6 |
| North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare NHS Trust | 28 | 10.7 | 141.9 |
| Queens Medical Centre Nottingham University NHS Trust | 17 | 10.8 | 137.2 |
| Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health | 18 | 11.0 | 319.2 |
| West Sussex Health and Social Care | 22 | 14.3 | 144.0 |
| County Durham and Darlington Acute Hospitals NHS Trust* | 48 | 15.1 | 369.0 |
| Leeds Mental Health Teaching* | 47 | 16.7 | 296.4 |
| Swindon and Marlborough NHS Trust* | 100 | 22.6 | 634.4 |
| Bromley Hospitals NHS Trust* | 118 | 25.5 | 845.2 |
| South Tees Acute Hospital* | 122 | 26.2 | 1,177.7 |
| King's College Hospital NHS Trust* | 76 | 29.8 | 920.3 |
| Hereford Hospitals NHS Trust* | 64 | 32.5 | 453.2 |
| County Durham and Darlington Acute Hospitals NHS Trust* | 61 | 36.6 | 513.3 |
| Buckinghamshire Hospitals* | 45 | 41.7 | 420.2 |
| South Manchester University Hospitals NHS Trust* | 67 | 46.1 | 875.9 |
| Calderdale and Huddersfield* | 65 | 51.2 | 714.4 |
| North Cumbria Acute Hospitals* | 67 | 51.5 | 518.9 |
| Worcestershire Acute Hospitals* | 87 | 54.9 | 765.6 |
| Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals* | 54 | 59.7 | 768.8 |
| Dartford and Gravesham Hospital* | 94 | 70.8 | 563.8 |
| Queen Elizabeth Hospital NHS Trust* | 96 | 75.0 | 756.0 |
| Norfolk and Norwich Health Care* | 158 | 105.5 | 1,620.7 |

*PFI schemes who have yet to make unitary payments (as at end 2003-04)*

| Commissioning body | Capital value (£ million) | Estimated total unitary payments to end of contract (£ million) |
|---|---|---|
| County Durham and Darlington Acute Hospitals NHS Trust | 10 | 94.1 |
| Mid Devon PCT | 10 | 66.6 |
| Doncaster and South Humber Healthcare NHS Trust | 12 | 76.7 |
| Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust | 14 | 68.7 |
| County Durham and Darlington Priority Services NHS Trust | 16 | 33.7 |
| Nottinghamshire Healthcare | 19 | 98.9 |
| Newbury PCT | 19 | 145.7 |
| Brent PCT | 21 | 130.5 |
| Daventry and South Northamptonshire | 24 | 94.1 |
| Salisbury Health Care NHS Trust | 24 | 109.2 |
| North Kirklees PCT | 25 | 94.0 |
| Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust | 26 | 138.7 |
| Kingston Hospital NHS Trust | 28 | 353.7 |
| Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust | 30 | 113.4 |
| East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust | 30 | 140.2 |
| Newcastle, North Tyneside and Northumberland MH NHS Trust | 31 | 227.8 |
| The Whittington NHS Trust | 32 | 158.5 |
| Gloucestershire Hospitals* | 32 | 148.7 |
| Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust* | 36 | 163.3 |
| New Forest PCT | 36 | 203.8 |
| Nuffield Orthopaedic NHS Trust | 37 | 286.3 |
| Buckinghamshire Hospitals | 47 | 459.0 |
| Newham Healthcare NHS Trust | 52 | 515.4 |
| North West London Hospitals* | 69 | 313.0 |
| Lewisham Hospital NHS Trust* | 72 | 280.9 |
| Wandsworth PCT | 75 | 434.1 |
| Cambridge University Hospitals | 76 | 316.1 |
| Avon and Western Wiltshire MH* | 83 | 287.9 |
| East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust* | 110 | 503.1 |
| Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals* | 134 | 872.2 |
| Dudley Group of Hospitals* | 137 | 1,081.9 |

*PFI schemes who have yet to make unitary payments (as at end 2003-04)*

| Commissioning body | Capital value (£ million) | Estimated total unitary payments to end of contract (£ million) |
|---|---|---|
| Barking, Havering and Redbridge* | 238 | 1,675.6 |
| Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust* | 265 | 891.4 |
| Newcastle Upon Tyne Hospitals* | 308 | 1,012.0 |
| Derby Hospitals NHS Trust* | 312 | 2,127.3 |
| University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust* | 379 | 3,090.0 |
| Central Manchester and Manchester Children's University Hospitals* | 420 | 2,975.5 |
| University College London Hospitals* | 422 | 2,014.2 |

*Notes:*

1. The figures are in nominal terms ie the Department has applied a deflator (RPI—the one normally used in contracts) to the baselines figure submitted to it by the Trust. Figures will vary as a result of changes in RPI.
2. Unitary payments are subject to satisfactory performance by the contractor and other factors such as refinancing.
3. Details of length of contracts for each scheme are only kept centrally for prioritised schemes (marked *). For other schemes in the table the contract length is assumed to be 30 years, the standard length introduced under the NHS Standard Form Contract in 1999.

### Public Engagement Contracts

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the value is of the contract tendered to run the public engagement exercise related to the forthcoming White Paper, health outside hospitals, announced by the Department on 23 June; and whether Opinion Leader Research is being considered for this contract. [9302]

**Mr. Byrne:** The value of the contract for the forthcoming White Paper on health outside hospitals has not yet been determined. Opinion Leader Research is one of the companies who have been asked to tender for the contract. The tendering process is being carried out on the Department's behalf by the Central Office of Information.

### Radiographers

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will estimate the average age of a radiographer employed in the NHS in each year since 1997, *(a)* broken down by gender and *(b)* in total. [3444]

**Mr. Byrne:** The information requested is shown in the table.

*NHS hospital and community health services: total qualified radiography staff in England by average age and gender as at 30 September in each specified year*

| | Radiographers total | Average age Male radiographers | Average age Female radiographers |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1997 | 38 | 36 | 38 |
| 1998 | 38 | 37 | 38 |
| 1999 | 38 | 37 | 39 |
| 2000 | 39 | 38 | 39 |
| 2001 | 39 | 38 | 39 |
| 2002 | 40 | 39 | 40 |
| 2003 | 40 | 39 | 40 |
| 2004 | 40 | 39 | 40 |

*Note:*

Age figures are rounded to nearest year

*Source:*

Health and Social Care Information Centre Non-Medical Workforce Census

### Sickness Absence

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research she has commissioned on reasons for levels of sickness absence among nursing staff. [9616]

**Mr. Byrne:** The Department's directly funded policy research programme (PRP) has commissioned a number of projects with a bearing on sickness absence in nursing, alongside related factors such as staff satisfaction and turnover. The PRP is also funding research on vaccinating health care workers against influenza. A PRP research study completed in 2001 found there was no simple correlation between ward staffing levels and costs, and levels of stress among nursing staff.

The main part of the Department's expenditure on health research is allocated to and managed by national health service organisations. Details of individual projects supported in the NHS, including a number concerned with aspects of nursing staff absenteeism, can be found on the national research register at www.dh.gov.uk/research.

The national back in work campaign, which is aimed at all NHS staff, has commissioned current work from the university of Leeds on understanding musculoskeletally related sickness absence and job loss in nurses and nursing assistants.

### Solpaflex

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make the drug Solpaflex available on NHS prescription; and if she will make a statement. [10614]

**Jane Kennedy:** Solpaflex is already available on national health service prescription.

### Statutory Instrument Sponsorship

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what statutory instruments have been sponsored by her Department since 1997. [10585]

**Jane Kennedy:** Lists of all statutory instruments (SIs) from 1 January 1998 to 30 June 2005, prepared by the Office of Public Sector Information (OPSI) have today been placed in the Library. These lists, prepared in alphabetical order by department, detail for each year from 1998 the number and title of each statutory instrument sponsored by the Department. There are separate lists for general and local SIs. SIs which have originated from departments but which were also Orders in Council are only listed under the Privy Council Office (PCO).

### Walk-in Centres

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 14 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 1244–45, on walk-in health centres, if she will publish the data on which she drew to establish that the cost per consultation in a walk-in-centre is falling relative to the cost per consultation with a GP. [7523]

**Mr. Byrne:** The reply drew upon data from the national evaluation of NHS walk-in centres, which were published in July 2002. This shows that consultation costs fall significantly as the walk-in service becomes established and patient as throughput grows. The report can be found on the university of Bristol website at www.epi.bris.ac.uk/wic.

## TRANSPORT

### A47 Soke Parkway

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress is being made with regard to the introduction of whisper-quiet road surfacing on the A47 Soke Parkway in Peterborough. [10714]

**Dr. Ladyman:** Quieter surfacing, in accordance with the Highways Agency's specification, will be provided on two lanes of the westbound carriageway of the A47 Soke Parkway through the Thomas Cook Interchange in this financial year.

### Arms Trafficking

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) if the Government will take steps to agree international standards for the administration of aircraft registers for the purposes of control over the transportation of arms; [10833]

(2) if he will seek to tighten rules on international aircraft insurance to deter companies from trafficking arms. [10834]

**Ms Buck:** International aviation is already subject to a well-developed and closely monitored regulatory regime established by the Convention on International Civil Aviation (the Chicago Convention). Under the Convention the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) establishes detailed standards and recommended practices for the airworthiness of aircraft, the operational standards of airlines, and many other aspects of aviation. These standards and recommended practices relate primarily to safety and security issues, and cover safety issues relating to the carriage of munitions and other dangerous goods. In addition the Convention itself provides that weapons and munitions of war may only be carried through the airspace of a state with the permission of that state.

To ensure that these standards are properly implemented, ICAO has established the Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme under which the regulatory regime of each Contracting State is audited at regular intervals, and the results made available to all other States. Where deficiencies are identified, the State concerned is required to draw up an Action Plan agreed with ICAO, and ICAO subsequently assesses the implementation of the Plan.

Within Europe there is already a regulatory regime on aviation insurance, with the relevant national authority required to ensure that airlines/carriers have sufficient insurance cover, and in line with EU law and our bilateral agreements with third countries we require foreign aircraft visiting the UK to demonstrate evidence of adequate cover. Further rules on insurance would impose an additional regulatory burden in already well-regulated States but might not be adequately implemented or enforced in countries with less stringent governance.

### Aviation Ministers

**Mr. Mullin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 4 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 16W, on aviation Ministers, if he will list the junior Ministers who have had responsibility for aviation policy since May 1997, indicating the dates between which they held such responsibilities. [10260]

**Ms Buck:** As I said in my answer of 4 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 16W to my hon. Friend, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has had responsibility for all forms of transport policy including aviation, since the formation of the Department on 29 May 2002. As my answer of 4 July 2005 stated, no post has been designated as "aviation Minister", but support has been provided to my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State by his ministerial team on all transport matters throughout this period.

### Biofuels

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has to introduce a biofuels sustainability certification scheme. [11224]

**Dr. Ladyman:** We are currently considering as part of our feasibility study into a possible Renewable Transport Fuels Obligation whether some form of carbon certification, or wider sustainability certification, might form a part of any obligation. The Low Carbon Vehicle Partnership, an action and advisory group funded by the Department and the Department of Trade and Industry, is also seeking to develop a voluntary accreditation system which will help guarantee the sustainability of biofuel production.

### Central Trains

**Mr. Andy Reed:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much Government funding has been allocated to Central Trains since 1997. [10495]

**Derek Twigg:** Annual payments to all train operators are set out in appendix 3 of the SRA's Annual Report and Accounts. A copy of the 2003–04 document has been placed in the Library of the House. For Central Trains, the annual report states that between 1996–97 and 2003–04 Central Trains received £785,665,000 in net franchise payments.

### Civil Aviation Authority

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how much the Civil Aviation Authority

has spent on payments to former employees in settlement of claims *(a)* in total and *(b)* for unfair dismissal in each of the last five years; [10404]

(2) what costs were incurred by the Civil Aviation Authority in defending legal actions against it from employees in *(a)* 2003 and *(b)* 2004. [10409]

**Ms Buck:** The figures for settlement of claims in each of the last five years are as follows:

| *(a) Total* | £ |
|---|---|
| 2001 | 6,490.87 |
| 2002 | 13,332.40 |
| 2003 | 1,169.00 |
| 2004 | 70,000.00 |
| 2005 | [1]0.00 |
| *(b) Unfair dismissal* | |
| 2001 | 6,490.87 |
| 2002 | 13,332.40 |
| 2003 | 1,169.00 |
| 2004 | 5,000.00 |
| 2005 | [1]0.00 |

[1] To date

The CAA's costs in 2003 and 2004 were £117,901 and £13,740 respectively.

## Conferences

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much the Department has spent on *(a)* organising and *(b)* sponsoring conferences in each of the last five years. [10246]

**Ms Buck:** This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

## Crossrail

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how many people are employed by Cross London Rail Links Ltd.; and how much Government financial support the company has received; [10362]

(2) how much Government financial support has been made available for Crossrail since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [10361]

**Derek Twigg:** In May 2001, Cross London Rail Links Ltd. was provided with ring-fenced funding of £154 million for the purpose of developing Crossrail.

Staffing is a matter for Cross London Rail Links Ltd. (CLRLL). I understand from CLRLL that it currently directly employs 75 staff. A further 38 staff work on secondment from Transport for London and four work on secondment from the Strategic Rail Authority.

**Angela Watkinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) whether the Crossrail route passes through the proposed London Olympic site at Pudding Mill Lane; [10291]

(2) whether a successful London Olympic bid would delay the completion of the Crossrail project. [10292]

**Derek Twigg** *[holding answer 7 July 2005]:* The Government have always said that Crossrail could not be completed before 2012 and that it could therefore not form part of the Olympics transport solution. That remains the case.

Crossrail construction works will be carried out at Pudding Lane station and a Crossrail tunnel portal will be constructed in that area and will therefore interact with works to construct the Olympics Masterplan.

Cross London Rail Links Ltd. has been and will continue to work closely with the London Development Agency over the interaction of the two projects, to ensure that they are compatible.

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many people are seconded from his Department to work on the Crossrail project. [10363]

**Derek Twigg:** None.

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the projected costs of implementation of Crossrail were in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [10366]

**Derek Twigg:** I understand from Cross London Rail Links Ltd. that the cost of the hybrid Bill scheme was estimated to be £10.063 billion in 2003; £10.370 billion in 2004; and £10;292 billion in 2005, in first quarter 2002 prices. Comparable figures are not available for before 2003.

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will list public affairs consultancies that have been employed to date in connection with the Crossrail bid, broken down by *(a)* sums paid and *(b)* projects; and if he will make a statement. [10367]

**Derek Twigg:** This is a matter for Cross London Rail Links Ltd. I understand from them that they employ one public affairs consultancy, A.S. Biss and Co. The company is employed to promote the understanding of the aims, objectives and benefits of the Crossrail scheme amongst stakeholders. CLRLL has paid the company £550,000 since 2002–03.

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will list events paid for by the corporate hospitality fund of the Crossrail project since 1997. [10368]

**Derek Twigg:** This is a matter for Cross London Rail Links Ltd. I understand from the company that it does not have a corporate hospitality fund but that it did provide occasional hospitality at a number of Crossrail briefings during 2003, 2004 and 2005.

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions he has had with the Treasury on *(a)* funding, *(b)* lender of last resort status and *(c)* underwriting for Crossrail. [10370]

**Derek Twigg** *[holding answer 7 July 2005]:* The Department for Transport has regular discussions with HM Treasury covering all aspects of the funding of Crossrail.

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make a statement on measures to be taken to encourage increased efficiency in Network Rail track management on routes identified to be used by Crossrail. [10372]

**Derek Twigg** *[holding answer 7 July 2005]:* Discussions are on-going with Network Rail on operational aspects on routes identified to be used by Crossrail.

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make a statement on the implications of the Crossrail project for London's Olympic bid. [10373]

**Derek Twigg** *[holding answer 7 July 2005]:* The Government have always said that Crossrail could not be completed before 2012 and that it could therefore not form part of the Olympics transport solution.

Cross London Rail Links Ltd. has been and will continue to work closely with the London Development Agency over the interaction of the two projects, to ensure that they are compatible.

## Driving Licences

**Dr. Pugh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many British citizens with full driving licences there were in each of the last 10 years. [11614]

**Dr. Ladyman:** The nationality of full driving licence holders is not recorded. The Following figures show the number of full licences held over the last 10 years by those resident in GB who have obtained a British driving licence.

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 1996–97 | 30,200,000 |
| 1998–2000 | 31,500,000 |
| 2001 | 33,017,201 |
| 2002 | 33,419,386 |
| 2003 | 33,817,214 |
| 2004 | 34,278,894 |
| 2005 | 34,420,452 |

## EU Travel

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate his Department has made of the number of British citizens who travelled to countries within the EU between June and September in each year since 2000; and if he will make a statement. [10190]

**John Healey:** I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Colin Mowl to Mr. Don Foster, dated 12 July 2005:*

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent question asking what estimate has been made of the number of British citizens who have travelled to countries within the EU between June and September in each year since 2000.I am replying in his absence. (10190)

Information is available for UK nationals who are resident in the UK. We do not have information for UK nationals resident overseas who may have visited countries within the EU. The attached table shows visits to the EU between June—September each year from 2000 to 2004.

The data have been split by EU15 and Accession countries, since the definition of EU countries has changed since 2000.

These estimates are based on International Passenger Survey data, and as with any statistical survey, are subject to sampling variability.

*International passenger survey. Visits to the EU by UK nationals who are UK residents, June to September 2000–04*[1]

| | *June to September* | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *2000* | | *2001* | | *2002* | | *2003* | | *2004* | |
| | *Visits 1,000* | *Sample size* | *Visits 1,000* | *Sample size* | *Visits 1,000* | *Sample size* | *Visits 1,000* | *Sample size* | *Visits 1,000* | *Sample size* |
| *EU 15* | | | | | | | | | | |
| Austria | 187 | 164 | 193 | 162 | 209 | 184 | 182 | 157 | 218 | 179 |
| Belgium | 484 | 405 | 560 | 466 | 517 | 427 | 546 | 470 | 525 | 466 |
| Denmark | 97 | 112 | 94 | 105 | 94 | 94 | 94 | 97 | 97 | 94 |
| Finland | 42 | 42 | 49 | 50 | 37 | 38 | 33 | 33 | 42 | 38 |
| France | 4,591 | 3,442 | 4,586 | 3,260 | 4,916 | 3,553 | 4,345 | 3,388 | 4,527 | 3,570 |
| Germany | 783 | 678 | 725 | 604 | 677 | 592 | 648 | 549 | 681 | 542 |
| Greece | 1,872 | 1,635 | 2,146 | 1,671 | 2,041 | 1,666 | 2,031 | 1,486 | 1,933 | 1,472 |
| Irish Republic | 1,150 | 628 | 996 | 640 | 1,058 | 718 | 1,052 | 759 | 1,111 | 871 |
| Italy | 979 | 857 | 973 | 832 | 1,017 | 830 | 1,134 | 854 | 1,212 | 912 |
| Luxembourg | 21 | 18 | 22 | 16 | 24 | 18 | 31 | 23 | 32 | 23 |
| Netherlands | 609 | 596 | 670 | 632 | 728 | 664 | 678 | 577 | 683 | 595 |
| Portugal | 697 | 522 | 787 | 570 | 816 | 573 | 874 | 601 | 759 | 537 |
| Spain | 5,301 | 4,030 | 5,561 | 3,862 | 5,663 | 4,104 | 6,123 | 4,291 | 6,360 | 4,452 |
| Sweden | 92 | 111 | 113 | 125 | 110 | 114 | 104 | 98 | 103 | 92 |
| *Accession 8* | | | | | | | | | | |
| Czech Republic | 77 | 71 | 117 | 101 | 114 | 99 | 174 | 147 | 211 | 160 |
| Estonia | 3 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 9 | 8 | 14 | 9 |
| Hungary | 55 | 47 | 46 | 41 | 36 | 36 | 48 | 42 | 67 | 59 |
| Latvia | 4 | 5 | 4 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 7 | 8 |
| Lithuania | 2 | 4 | | | 6 | 7 | 8 | 7 | 10 | 8 |
| Poland | 56 | 58 | 55 | 54 | 48 | 44 | 65 | 59 | 80 | 73 |
| Slovakia | 10 | 10 | 4 | 5 | 13 | 13 | 3 | 3 | 11 | 10 |
| Slovenia | 19 | 19 | 16 | 15 | 17 | 18 | 14 | 13 | 33 | 27 |
| *Accession 9 + 10* | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cyprus | 545 | 450 | 640 | 465 | 584 | 432 | 574 | 429 | 642 | 464 |
| Malta | 176 | 140 | 216 | 162 | 151 | 131 | 203 | 154 | 215 | 145 |

[1] EU definition: information is set out to show the original members and accession countries which have joined the EU since 1 May 2004.

### Fuel-efficient Cars

**Mr. Davey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he is taking to encourage people to buy cars that are fuel-efficient. [9220]

**Dr. Ladyman:** The main steps are summarised in the Government's 2002 Powering Future Vehicles Strategy. The progress we have made in encouraging people to choose more fuel efficient vehicles is described in the first two annual reports on the delivery of the strategy. All of these documents are available via the Department for Transport's website.

In 2001 we introduced a graduated vehicle excise duty system which rewards those who choose the most fuel-efficient vehicles. In 2002, we introduced a revised company car tax scheme, under which those who choose the most fuel efficient vehicles can save up to several thousand pounds a year. These changes have reinforced the actions of the motor industry to deliver fuel efficiency improvements under their voluntary agreements with the European Commission, improving the average fuel efficiency of new cars sold in the UK by some 10 per cent. over the last decade.

We have also this year launched a colour-coded fuel efficiency label which will be displayed on new vehicles in nearly all UK car showrooms by the end of the summer. This will highlight the savings that motorists can make by choosing more fuel efficient vehicles. We are also considering, subject to the necessary state aid approval from the European Commission, the introduction of a purchase grant scheme which will reward those who choose the very cleanest and most fuel-efficient vehicles.

### Heathrow

**Mr. Davey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what investigations his Department has carried out into the additional *(a)* air and *(b)* noise pollution that will result from a fifth terminal being built at Heathrow airport; and what plans he has to combat these increases; [10306]

(2) what discussions he has had with the British Airports Authority regarding the limitation of environmental damage in the construction of the fifth terminal at Heathrow; [10309]

(3) what assessment he has made of the effect the building of the fifth terminal at Heathrow will have on the surrounding transport infrastructure, with particular reference to the *(a)* M25 and *(b)* rail network. [10311]

**Ms Buck:** These matters were examined at the Planning Inquiry and the Inspector's conclusions and recommendation were set out in his report. The 20 November 2001 decision struck a balance between the benefits and the disbenefits of this development and imposed strict controls.

These include a limit on flights of 480,000 per annum, a noise contour cap, a requirement that the Heathrow Express and Piccadilly Lines are extended to Terminal 5 before it opens, a reduction in car parking spaces, including for employees, below the levels proposed by BAA, consultation on stricter controls on night flights and no widening of the M4.

### Interchange Box (St. Pancras Station)

**Anne Main:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what planning considerations are preventing the fitting out of the interchange box under St. Pancras Station. [10838]

**Derek Twigg:** Construction of the Thameslink Midland Road station box was authorised by the Channel Tunnel Rail Link Act 1996. The fitting out of the station does not require further authorisation.

### London Underground

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) if he will undertake a review of safety procedures for railway staff attending incidents on electric railway tracks following the incident on 29 June at King's Cross Station on the Piccadilly line; and if he will make a statement; [10843]

(2) if he will undertake a review of safety procedures for staff from the *(a)* Ambulance Service and *(b)* Fire Brigade when attending incidents on electric railway tracks following the incident on 29 June at King's Cross Station on the Piccadilly line; and if he will make a statement. [10844]

**Ms Buck** *[holding answer 11 July 2005]:* A formal investigation is now being undertaken by both London Underground (LU) and the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) to determine the causes of the incident at King's Cross on 29 June. This type of incident involving electric shocks is very rare and so far it has not proved possible to identify the power source for the shocks received by the emergency services staff.

Once the investigation is complete HSE and LU will review the findings to identify and implement any necessary changes to safety procedures to minimise the risk of a recurrence.

### M6 Toll Road

**Mr. George Osborne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when the Government will announce its decision on the proposed new M6 Toll Road. [10679]

**Dr. Ladyman:** The consultation exercise, "M6: giving motorists a choice" sought views on whether the Department should develop the option of an M6 Expressway between Birmingham and Manchester as an alternative to the current option to widen the M6 between junctions 11a and 19. The Government are considering the response to the consultation and will respond in due course.

### Pensioners (Free Travel)

**Mr. Meacher:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will extend the pensioner concessionary travel scheme to include use of trams. [11822]

**Ms Buck:** I refer my right hon. Friend to my answer of 4 July 2005, *Official Report*, columns 24–25W.

### Rail Services

**Mrs. James:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions he has had with the Strategic Rail Authority on the review of off-peak train services. [7296]

**Derek Twigg:** None. The SRA is not currently conducting a general review of off- peak rail services.

However, on 1 June the Strategic Rail Authority issued invitations to tender to bidders for the new Greater Western franchise and on 2 June issued a stakeholder consultation document. The current half-hourly 'inter-city' service between Cardiff and London Paddington is included in the timetabled specification that forms the base case. To determine the value for money of running these services and to assess options, each bidder is also being asked to provide a priced option for a reduction in the service frequency in the off peak, from half-hourly to hourly.

### Rolling Stock

**Greg Clark:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will break down by project the £600 million rolling stock and infrastructure investment referred to at page 19 of the Integrated Kent Franchise Stakeholder Briefing Document published in January. [11312]

**Derek Twigg:** This investment has been carried out as part of a single project: the new trains programme which has been carried out to replace Mark 1 slam-door rolling stock with modern trains. This project represents a total investment of over £600 million in Kent including works carried out to upgrade the power supply, lengthen platforms and provide new depot facilities.

### Vehicle Licensing

**Dr. Pugh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what percentage of cars licensed to run on British roads were first licensed prior to 1975. [11565]

**Dr. Ladyman:** In March 2005, there were 212,000 licensed cars first registered prior to 1975 making up 0.8 per cent. of the total licensed stock.

**Dr. Pugh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many British-owned motor vehicles are licensed to drive on British roads. [11566]

**Dr. Ladyman:** There are 32.9 million licensed vehicles in Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The vehicle registers do not hold information on the nationality of the vehicle keeper but before a vehicle can be registered an address in Great Britain or Northern Ireland must be supplied.

## INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### Asian Tsunami

**Mark Simmonds:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department has taken to assist the recovery of the tourism industry in South East Asia following the tsunami. [9250]

**Mr. Thomas:** DFID has not provided any direct assistance to support the recovery of the tourist industry after the Asian tsunami. Our response has focused upon saving lives, alleviating the suffering of displaced poor people, the restoration of basic services for homes and livelihoods.

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions he has had with the Sri Lankan Government on tsunami recovery work in Sri Lanka. [9574]

**Mr. Thomas:** Discussions were first held in January when the Secretary of State for International Development visited Sri Lanka to make an initial assessment of the situation and the impact of our emergency assistance. I visited Sri Lanka from 15–17 June to review progress and to consider how best we may maintain support. During my visit I held discussions with the Finance Secretary, the Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs, the President's spokesperson for Relief, Reconstruction and Reconciliation, the Heads of the Government's Task Forces for Relief and Reconstruction, and local government representatives. I also met officials leading the peace process. I discussed progress with other donors, and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and met some of the communities devastated by the tsunami.

International organisations and NGOs have mobilised sufficient resources to meet all identified relief and reconstruction needs. The immediate relief effort was successful and recovery work has now started. There has been good progress: some 30,000 transitional homes have been constructed for families who lost their homes; contracts have been signed to rebuild 176 of the 182 schools damaged and funds promised for the balance. Some 95 per cent. of the children affected by the tsunami are now back at school. Hospital reconstruction is also underway and fully financed. Roads, railways and power supplies (where these existed) have been restored.

Much remains to be done however. Increased effort is required to restore livelihoods. In addition the Government ban on rebuilding within a buffer zone stretching 100 to 200 metres from the sea is causing problems in some districts because of the scarcity of suitable alternative land. Furthermore the immense size of the reconstruction task is stretching the capacity of central and local government to manage and coordinate the reconstruction effort. Inevitably this contributes to bureaucratic delay in some instances and assistance reaching some communities sooner than others. The Government and LTTE agreement to establish a post-tsunami operational management structure should help ensure that communities in the north-east are better able to access external support.

The Government have commissioned an inquiry into the buffer zone regulation and has indicated that it may consider flexible implementation where appropriate. The Government also assures me that they will take the necessary steps to reduce delays in implementing reconstruction plans. I confirmed that Her Majesty's Government stands ready to provide support as needed. DFID staff in Sri Lanka are discussing options with Government and partners.

### China

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent discussions he has had with the Government of China about the one child policy. [10561]

**Mr. Thomas:** I have not had any recent discussions with the Government of China about the one child policy. DFID supports the work of the United Nations Population Fund, which seeks to demonstrate that an approach to reproductive health and family planning which delivers quality care to its recipients is a viable alternative to an administrative system driven by targets.

### Deforestation (Brazil)

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps *(a)* the EU and *(b)* the UK are taking to support the action plan of the Brazilian Government to prevent and control deforestation in the Legal Amazon. [10129]

**Mr. Thomas:** The Brazilian Government are working on a range of short and long-term responses to tackle deforestation in the Amazon. These actions are set out in the National Forestry Programme and its Sustainable Amazon Plan. The Sustainable Amazon Plan was a product of the £186 million multi-donor Pilot Programme for the Preservation of Rainforests (PPG7). DFID has directly contributed £14 million to PPG7 since 1993. DFID's support for PPG7 was completed in 2004–05, with the exception of a project to support the livelihoods of indigenous people, which will end in March 2007.

DFID provides support to Brazilian Government efforts through non-governmental organisations and international financial institutions. DFID's Partnership Programme Agreement with the World Wildlife Fund (£800,000 a year in 2005–06 to 2007–08) enables them to enhance their work on the environment and deforestation in Brazil. Through DFID's membership of the World Bank a $0.5 billion loan was approved to promote environmental sustainability in Brazil. The environment is also a focus of the European Commission's five-year £180 million co-operation with Brazil, providing £65 million in support of PPG7.

HMG are currently funding over £1 million of on-going initiatives to promote sustainable management of Brazil's forests and biodiversity. These include £239,800 from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's Global Opportunities Fund for a project aiming to combat deforestation by developing a scheme for "forest-friendly" soya production.

The UK, under the lead of DEFRA, has this year launched a high-level Sustainable Development Dialogue with Brazil on how best to promote sustainable development, including on deforestation in the Amazon region.

### Departmental Advertising

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much the Department spent on advertising in each of the last five years. [10232]

**Hilary Benn:** We do not hold a separate advertising budget; the majority of advertising relates to recruitment advertising in newspapers and journals. Figures for the five calendar years 2000–05 are as follows. Expenditure figures for the previous years are not available:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2000 | 751,972 |
| 2001 | 1,208,191 |
| 2002 | 914,571 |
| 2003 | 849,196 |
| 2004 | 700,077 |

### EU Sugar Regime

**Mark Simmonds:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the likely effect of the European Commission's proposals for changes to the EU sugar pricing and subsidy regime on African Caribbean Pacific countries; and if he will make a statement. [9266]

**Mr. Thomas:** The EU sugar regime is an anachronism and must be reformed. It supports EU growers and processors with expensive subsidies, to the disadvantage of efficient developing country exporters. The EU is one of the highest cost producers in the world, yet it is also the second largest exporter, thanks to these subsidies.

The existing system leads many African Caribbean, and Pacific (ACP) country producers to export raw sugar to the EU even when it is not profitable to do so, meaning that scarce government resources are often diverted to maintain a sugar industry. It also forces the EU to dump approximately five million tonnes of heavily subsidised sugar on the world market each year. This keeps the world price low, making it difficult for developing country producers to sell in their own markets locally, as well as making it harder for them to export. Reform should create an environment where growers make their decisions on the basis of their own competitiveness, not on how much money they will be paid in subsidies, and enable Least Developed Countries (LDC)s to benefit in a sustainable manner from the duty-free and quota-free access to Europe that they will receive for sugar by 2009 under the Everything But Arms initiative.

We are aware, however, that reform will have serious ramifications for some of the 18 African Caribbean, and Pacific (ACP) Sugar Protocol countries that receive preferential access to the European market. These countries will face a price cut of up to 39 per cent. for their sugar exports to Europe. Some of them export only a relatively small proportion of their sugar crop to Europe, but others are heavily dependent on the European market. In Guyana, for example, sugar production makes up 18 per cent. of GDP, most of which is exported to Europe. We believe that reform could cost the ACP up to €500 million per year in lost revenues and lost foreign exchange. This is why we have placed such an emphasis on the transitional assistance measures that are an integral part of the overall reform. The UK has been pushing for timely and adequate assistance to be made available, and we have been working with the ACP to help them to develop the country plans through which assistance will be delivered.

DFID funded a workshop in Trinidad in March involving the European Commission and the Caribbean Sugar Protocol countries to begin this process, and we will also be providing some £200,000, with similar levels

of joint funding from the European Commission, to help produce these country plans in the Caribbean. The Commission anticipates that the plans will provide for a combination of trade and aid measures to improve productivity in the sugar sector, to assist diversification into other sectors and to respond to the broader impacts of adjustment (such as on social services and macro-economic stability), with the balance between these varying country by country. We will continue to work with the ACP and the Commission to make transitional assistance available in good time and as, effective as possible.

### Good Governance (Africa)

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which countries in Africa are assessed as having good governance. [9630]

**Mr. Thomas** *[holding answer 5 July 2005]:* Africa needs effective states that govern justly, invest in their own people and are accountable to them. There is no perfect system—and we give priority to assessing and supporting improvements in governance over time rather than simple status at any point in time. The various aspects of governance also need to be considered.

The World Bank monitors standards of governance every year. Their data shows that 'voice and accountability' significantly improved in Ghana, Gambia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone and Tanzania between 1996 and 2004. Within the same time-span, 'government effectiveness' significantly improved in Botswana, South Africa, Tanzania and the Democratic Republic of Congo. And 'control of corruption' significantly improved in Gabon, Tanzania and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Further details of this report can be found in the document entitled "Governance Matters IV: New Data, New Challenges" of which I have arranged for copies to be deposited in the Libraries of the House.

### Horticulture

**Mark Simmonds:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to encourage horticulture in developing countries; and if he will make a statement. [9272]

**Mr. Thomas:** Horticulture is playing an increasingly important role in driving agricultural growth and providing sustainable livelihoods for millions of poor households.

In middle-income and many larger developing countries, household spending on fruit and vegetables is rising rapidly relative to that on basic food staples, providing new levels of demand for agricultural products. In India for example, horticulture already accounts for over half the value of agricultural output.

Elsewhere, high value fruit and vegetable exports continue to expand, providing export earnings and much needed employment. This is especially evident in sub-Saharan Africa, where the annual value of horticulture exports now exceeds $2 billion with particularly strong growth in Kenya, Malawi, Tanzania and Ghana. Small-scale production is playing a major part in this; in Kenya small-scale farmers produce 75 per cent. of fresh produce exports to the EU.

We are supporting research through our contribution to the Asian Vegetable Research and Development Centre (currently £300,000 in core funding) and our bilateral research programme is assisting the development of smallholder horticulture in Eastern and Southern Africa. We have also successfully persuaded the Science Council of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) to include horticulture within its research priorities for 2005–15.

We are also focusing on the challenges which increasingly stringent product standards (often set by the retail trade itself) present to developing country producers, particularly smallholders, seeking access to valuable European markets. We have recently begun a three-year programme working with retailers, importers, standard-setting bodies (in particular the Euro-Retailer Produce Working Group—Good Agricultural Practices (EUREPGAP) and producers, aimed at ensuring that standards and other procurement practices do not discriminate against small-scale producers.

We are also active in a number of countries. For example in Kenya, through a programme to promote the development of business services in horticulture, DFID has supported export horticultural development to the tune of £582,000 in the last two years. An additional £290,000 will be spent by June 2006. Much of these funds are spent assisting smallholders to cope with the process and cost of compliance with EUREPGAP standards.

### Iraq

**Andrew George:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much has been spent by the Government on reconstruction in Iraq, in each month since January. [8434]

**Hilary Benn:** Monthly expenditure by DFID on reconstruction assistance to Iraq since January 2005 has been as follows:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| January | 1,496,116 |
| February | 2,206,802 |
| March | 13,137,196 |
| April | 807,177 |
| May | 1,222,741 |
| June | 3,488,257 |

The March expenditure figure is substantially higher than that for other months due to a £10 million payment to the International Committee of the Red Cross for its 2005 Iraq Appeal. Variations in expenditure from month to month also reflect when invoices were received for completed work on different projects.

In addition, the Ministry of Defence (MoD) has continued expenditure in Iraq under its £30 million programme of quick impact projects (of which about £27 million has been spent since April 2003); and the

Foreign and Commonwealth Office has made disbursements under the joint FCO/MoD/DFID financed Global Conflict Prevention Pool for Iraq (on which over £23 million has been spent since April 2003). Monthly breakdowns of this spending are not available.

### Tanzania/Gambia

**Mrs. Dorries:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much aid the Government have given to *(a)* Tanzania and *(b)* Gambia in each year since 1997. [11008]

**Hilary Benn:** The following table provides a breakdown of the UK's bilateral aid and imputed multilateral shares to Tanzania and Gambia since 1997. Figures are taken from the published statistics on International Development 1997/98–2003/04 and the DAC online database.

| *Bilateral aid* | *£ thousand Total DFID programme* |
|---|---|
| *Gambia* | |
| 1997–98 | 1,311 |
| 1998–99 | 976 |
| 1999–2000 | 1,370 |
| 2000–01 | 1,748 |
| 2001–02 | 2,043 |
| 2002–03 | 894 |
| 2003–04 | 429 |
| *Tanzania* | |
| 1997–98 | 42,197 |
| 1998–99 | 50,105 |
| 1999–2000 | 64,323 |
| 2000–01 | 68,929 |
| 2001–02 | 64,998 |
| 2002–03 | 95,948 |
| 2003–04 | 80,482 |

*Source:*
Statistics on International Development

*£ million*

| | *Imputed multilateral shares* | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *EC* | *Other* | *UN* | *World Bank* | *Total* |
| 1997 | 0.14 | 0.10 | 0.28 | 0.34 | 0.86 |
| 1998 | 0.72 | 0.24 | 0.28 | 0.11 | 1.34 |
| 1999 | 0.22 | 0.02 | 0.27 | 0.00 | 0.51 |
| 2000 | 1.12 | 0.19 | 0.29 | 0.25 | 1.84 |
| 2001 | 0.47 | 0.54 | 0.28 | 0.62 | 1.91 |
| 2002 | 0.49 | 0.58 | 0.32 | 0.00 | 1.38 |
| | *EC* | *Other* | *UN* | *World Bank* | *Total* |
| 1997 | 5.59 | 3.17 | 1.13 | 7.37 | 17.26 |
| 1998 | 3.88 | 2.89 | 1.21 | 5.30 | 13.28 |
| 1999 | 5.73 | 1.68 | 1.28 | 0.00 | 8.69 |
| 2000 | 4.81 | 1.85 | 1.55 | 4.94 | 13.16 |
| 2001 | 11.38 | 1.77 | 1.96 | 10.61 | 25.72 |
| 2002 | 5.62 | 2.76 | 2.29 | 0.00 | 10.67 |

*Source:*
Imputed Multilateral Share/DAC online website

### Tsunami (Sri Lanka)

**Mark Simmonds:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions his Department has had with the Government of Sri Lanka regarding its decision to impose customs duty on vehicles brought into the country to assist tsunami aid work; and if he will make a statement. [7365]

**Mr. Thomas:** I refer the hon. Member to my response given to the hon. Member for Vale of York (Miss McIntosh) on 6 July 2005, *Official Report*, column. 469W.

### Work-related Stress

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many cases of work-related stress have been reported in his Department in each of the last three years; how much compensation was paid to employees in each year; how many work days were lost due to work-related stress in each year; at what cost; what procedures have been put in place to reduce work-related stress; at what cost; and if he will make a statement. [7866]

**Mr. Thomas:** The number of reported cases of work-related stress in DFID over the last three years was as follows:

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2002 | 33 |
| 2003 | 45 |
| 2004 | 27 |

The figures quoted were those reported to DFID's Staff Welfare and Counselling Services, but because of the confidentiality guarantees given to staff, we cannot ascertain whether all of those who reported that they were suffering from work-related stress (or sought advice on their condition) were absent from work as a result.

No compensatory payments have been made to any members of DFID's staff over the three year period.

DFID's electronic attendance management system does not differentiate between work-related stress and stress induced illnesses that may have been caused by other factors. Information on the number of working days lost as consequence of work-related stress could be made available only by incurring a disproportionate cost.

DFID recognises work-related stress as an occupational health and safety issue and is currently putting the Health and Safety Executive's Management

Standards for handling work-related stress into practice. A comprehensive risk assessment was carried out in 2004 and we are currently working towards implementing an improved Stress Prevention Strategy.

The overall pattern of results is positive. For the organisation as a whole, commitment has been assessed as high; stress levels are considered low or normal in most areas, and reported risks to physical and psychological health are within the normal range.

DFID has a Stress Management Policy and a number of measures have been put in place to deal with work-related stress, including stress management training; an Employee Assistance Programme; a Counselling Service; flexible working arrangements and an Occupational Healthcare Scheme. The cost of the work undertaken to date is estimated at approximately £25,000.

## EDUCATION AND SKILLS

### Academies (Admissions)

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what powers she has in relation to the admission arrangements of academies, with particular reference to Thomas Deacon Academy in Peterborough. [9674]

**Jacqui Smith:** Admissions arrangements for academies are agreed with the Secretary of State as a condition for the Funding Agreement, following local consultation. They are consistent with the School Admissions code of Practice and have to be fair, open and transparent. Academies also take part in local admissions forums and are also required by law to cater for children of all abilities.

### Adult Illiteracy

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the extent of adult illiteracy in England is; what criteria she uses to assess illiteracy; and if she will make a statement. [10583]

**Bill Rammell:** The "Skills for Life Survey: A national needs and impact survey of literacy, numeracy and ICT skills" (DfES, October 2003) provides the latest estimates of literacy levels across England. The survey assessed the literacy, numeracy and ICT skills of around 8,000 adults aged 16 and above in England.

The survey findings are shown in the following tables. The assessment levels correspond to the literacy and numeracy national standards: these were introduced in 2002 to provide a framework for all adult screening tests, diagnostic tools, programmes of study and qualifications. Learners are assessed for levels of literacy from entry level 1 to level 2. Level 2 is broadly equivalent to a higher grade GCSE (A*-C).

Overall around 16 per cent. of adults had literacy skills below level 1 and 47 per cent. had numeracy skills below this level.

*Overall literacy*
*Base: all respondents with literacy level (7874)*

| | *16 to 65-year-olds* | |
|---|---|---|
| | *Percentage* | *Number (million)* |
| Entry level 1 or below | 3 | 1.1 |
| Entry level 2 | 2 | 0.6 |
| Entry level 3 | 11 | 3.5 |
| (All entry level or below) | (16) | (5.2) |
| Level 1 | 40 | 12.6 |
| Level 2 or above | 44 | 14.1 |
| | 100 | 31.9 |

*Source for population figures:*
Census 01
Skills for Life survey, 2003

*Overall numeracy*
*Base: all respondents with numeracy level (8040)*

| | *16 to 65-year-olds* | |
|---|---|---|
| | *Percentage* | *Number (million)* |
| Entry level 1 or below | 5 | 1.7 |
| Entry level 2 | 16 | 5.1 |
| Entry level 3 | 25 | 8.1 |
| (All entry level or below) | (47) | (15.0) |
| Level 1 | 28 | 8.8 |
| Level 2 or above | 25 | 8.1 |
| | 100 | 31.9 |

*Source for population figures:*
Census 01
Skills for Life survey, 2003

A copy of the survey report is in the House of Commons Library and on the DfES website www.dfes.gov.uk.

### A-levels

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to her answer of 21 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 979W, on A-levels, if she will place a copy of her letter in the Library. [9996]

**Jacqui Smith:** A copy of the Secretary of State's remit letter to QCA of 29 March 2005 has been placed in the House Library.

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the average cost was per head of pupils studying for A levels in *(a)* schools funded by local education authorities and *(b)* colleges funded through learning and skills councils in the last year for which figures are available. [10428]

**Bill Rammell:** The Further Education (FE) funding system is different to schools. Funding is paid for learning aims as well as an entitlement per 16–18 payment.

Under the Learning and Skills Council's (LSC's) funding formula the basic cost to the public purse of delivering three A-levels in a sixth form college and an FE college to a student in the 2004/05 academic year was £3,045. This figure comprises £766 for the delivery of each A-level learning aim, and £747 for each student for the entitlement element of their learning programme.

Under the LSC's funding formula the basic cost to the public purse of delivering three A-levels to a student at an English maintained secondary school was £3,212. This figure comprises £785 for the delivery of each A-level learning aim, £750 for each student for the

entitlement element of their learning programme, and £107 for each student to meet additional employers' contributions to teachers' pensions.

These figures do not represent all funding that colleges and school sixth forms receive and are not directly comparable. For example the FE funding rates include consolidated funds for pay and staff training that are not reflected in the school sixth form rates. Also, in each case additional funding may also be available to take account of the higher costs of delivering learning in particular geographical areas, in higher cost subjects, or to students with particular disadvantages or individual needs.

### Children's Trusts

**Annette Brooke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what recent evaluation she has made of children's trusts. [10800]

**Beverley Hughes:** Children's trusts are being evaluated over three years through the national evaluation of children's trusts. The Phase 1 report of the national evaluation of children's trusts will be published in the summer. Other current national evaluations, for example of the Children's fund and of Sure Start, are also providing important messages about the development of children's trusts.

### Conferences

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much the Department spent on organising or sponsoring conferences in each of the last five years. [10264]

**Bill Rammell:** The Department organises a large number of events for different target audiences and purposes each year, ranging from small scale workshops to introduce practitioners to new procedures or initiatives, to larger scale events to promote policy initiatives or share good practice.

Records of events organised or sponsored by the Department are not held centrally and the information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Dance and Drama Awards Scholarships

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many Dance and Drama Awards scholarships, funded by the Learning and Skills Council, have been made in the last five years to residents of each of the nations of the UK. [10092]

**Bill Rammell:** The Dance and Drama Awards are open to students from all parts of the UK and the EU. Neither the DfES nor the LSC analyse information on the nationality of students in receipt of a Dance and Drama Award because to do so would be disproportionately expensive. The number of Further Education Dance and Drama Awards allocated to students between 2000–01 and 2004–05 was 4,427. This figure includes students from all parts of the UK and the EU.

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what account is taken of nation and region of residence in the granting of dance and drama awards scholarships as funded by the Learning and Skills Council. [10093]

**Bill Rammell:** Neither the DfES nor the LSC analyse information on the nationality of students in receipt of a dance and drama award because to do so would be disproportionately expensive. The average size of non-means tested awards made to schools on behalf of all students in receipt of a dance and drama award between 2000 and 2005 was £6,572. This includes students from all parts of the UK and the EU.

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the average size has been of awards made to residents of each of the nations of the UK from the Dance and Drama Awards scholarships funded by the Learning and Skills Council over the last five years. [10095]

**Bill Rammell:** Neither the DfES nor the LSC analyse information on the nationality of students in receipt of a Dance and Drama Award because to do so would be disproportionately expensive. The average size of non-means tested awards made to schools on behalf of all students in receipt of a Dance and Drama Award between 2000 and 2005 was £6,572. This includes students from all parts of the UK and the EU.

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what account is taken of *(a)* nation and *(b)* region of residence in the granting of awards from the Dance and Drama Fees and Maintenance Fund. [10734]

**Bill Rammell** *[holding answer 11 July 2005]:* All students in receipt of Dance and Drama Awards, who currently live in England, Scotland or Wales, are ordinarily resident in England, Scotland or Wales at the beginning of the academic year and who have been ordinarily resident in the British Isles for the last three years can apply for means tested help from the Fees and Maintenance Fund. Eligible European Union citizens in receipt of Dance and Drama Awards who do not meet the above requirements can apply for fee support only from the Fees and Maintenance fund.

English, Scottish and EU residents are assessed for support by Manchester LEA. The assessment is based on family income and if they meet the residency requirements above no further account is taken of nationality or region of residence.

The National Assembly for Wales holds the budget and is responsible for the student support costs for Welsh students and the Scottish Executive holds the budget and is responsible for the student support costs of Scottish students.

Students living in Northern Ireland who have been ordinarily resident in the British Isles for at least three years and who have a Dance and Drama Award apply for student support through the Department for Employment and Learning.

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the average size has been of awards made to residents of each of the nations of the UK from the Dance and Drama Fees and Maintenance Fund in each of the last five years. [10721]

**Bill Rammell:** UK students in receipt of a dance and drama award can apply for means tested support to help with their maintenance and with their tuition fee contribution. English, Scottish and Welsh students apply for this help through Manchester LEA while students from Northern Ireland apply direct to the Department for Employment and Learning.

The National Assembly for Wales holds the budget and is responsible for the student support costs for Welsh students and the Scottish Executive holds the budget and is responsible for the student support costs of Scottish students.

The average amount of support received by Welsh dance and drama award students who applied for means tested support between 2000 and 2005 was £3,000.

We only have figures on Scottish students from 2001, as prior to this Scottish students in receipt of a dance and drama award received discretionary support for maintenance costs through their local LEA. The average amount of support received by Scottish students who applied for means tested support between 2001 and 2005 was £2,900.

The average amount of means tested support paid to other students who applied during 2000–05 was £2,703.

### Education (Sutton)

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the Answer of 28 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 1446W, on spending per pupil, what the figures were for the London borough of Sutton. [10187]

**Jacqui Smith:** The information requested is contained within the following table:

*School based expenditure[1] per pupil[2] for Sutton LEA in 1985–86 and 2003–04[3,4]*

| £ per pupil[5] | 1985–86 | 2003–04 |
|---|---|---|
| LEA maintained primary schools | 750 | 2,640 |
| LEA maintained secondary schools | 1,140 | 3,550 |
| LEA maintained special schools[6] | — | 13,630 |

[1] School based expenditure includes only expenditure incurred directly by the schools. This includes the pay of teachers and school-based support staff, school premises costs, books and equipment, and certain other supplies and services, less any capital items funded from recurrent spending and income from sales, fees and charges and rents and rates. This excludes the central cost of support services such as home to school transport, local authority administration and the financing of capital expenditure.

[2] Pupil numbers include only those pupils attending LEA maintained schools and are drawn from the DfES Annual Schools Census adjusted to be on a financial year basis.

[3] 1999–2000 saw a change in data source when the data collection moved from the RO1 form collected by the ODPM to the Section 52 form from the DfES. 2003–04 is the latest year for which figures are available.

[4] The main difference between the 1985–86 and 2003–04 figures is that meals and milk is no longer excluded and that no adjustments for balances are now made. However, 1985–86 also includes all premature retirement compensation (PRC) and Crombie payments, mandatory PRC payments and other indirect employee expenses, while in 2003–04 only the schools element of these categories is included. Also, for some LEAs, expenditure that had previously been attributed to the school sectors was reported within the LEA part of the form in 2003–04 and would therefore be excluded, though this is not quantifiable from existing sources.

[5] Figures are reported in cash terms and rounded to the nearest 10 as reported by the LEA.

[6] Figures for 1985–86 are published in the Departments Statistics of Education, Finance and Awards volume 1985. The all England figure published in the earlier *Official Report*, column 1446W, was taken as an aggregate of the individual LEA level unit costs for special schools. The individual LEA special School data are no longer available and therefore are not included in the answer to this PQ.

### Enterprise Education

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what progress has been made in encouraging a common understanding of enterprise among secondary school teachers. [11497]

**Jacqui Smith:** Our guidance for teachers on the Teachemet website clearly sets out our definition on Enterprise Education. This definition is being reinforced at the 47 regional conferences we are currently running for all secondary schools in England, in which we emphasise the importance of whole-staff discussion of enterprise.

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what guidance she has issued on the priority to be given to entrepreneurship within the teaching of enterprise. [11501]

**Jacqui Smith:** In the past two years we have been working with over 700 Pathfinder schools in order to generate national guidance based on the experience of the schools on ways of effectively teaching enterprise. We have also been holding a series of Enterprise in Schools conferences in all of the 47 LSC areas. These conferences, with the guidance, have clarified and defined the importance of entrepreneurship as part of enterprise education.

### Examinations

**Mr. Cameron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what percentage of *(a)* secondary school students and *(b)* secondary modern school students aged 15 years at the start of the school year obtained the equivalent of Level 2 (five or more grade A*-C GCSEs) in (i) 2001, (ii) 2002, (iii) 2003 and (iv) 2004. [10768]

**Jacqui Smith:** The information requested can be found in the following table:

| | *All schools* | | *Modern schools* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Number of 15 year old pupils* | *Percentage of 15 year old pupils achieving five or more A*-C* | *Number of 15 year old pupils* | *Percentage of 15 year old pupils achieving five or more A*-C* |
| 2003/04 | 643,560 | 53.7 | 26,808 | 42.3 |
| 2002/03 | 622,122 | 52.9 | 25,563 | 40.9 |
| 2001/02 | 606,554 | 51.6 | 24,710 | 38.8 |
| 2000/01 | 603,318 | 50.0 | 24,724 | 36.8 |

*Notes:*

1. For 2003/04 results incorporate GCSEs, GNVQs and a wide range of other qualifications approved pre-16. For 2000/01–2002/03 results are based on GCSEs and GNVQs only.

2. As standard the results reported relate to pupils aged 15 at the start of the academic year i.e. 31 August.

3. The information for this answer is derived from data collected for the school and college achievement and attainment tables (formerly performance tables) that are published annually.

### Free School Milk

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many school children receive free school milk in *(a)* England and *(b)* Lancashire. [11078]

**Jacqui Smith:** The information requested is not collected centrally.

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many litres of milk are provided free each day in *(a)* English and *(b)* Lancashire schools. [11079]

**Jacqui Smith:** The information requested is not collected centrally.

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many schools are participating in the free school milk scheme; how many deliveries are made per week to these schools; and what percentage of milk supplied to schools under the scheme is sourced from *(a)* national suppliers and *(b)* overseas suppliers. [11354]

**Jacqui Smith:** The information requested is not collected centrally.

### Higher Education Initial Participation Rate

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills when she expects the report commissioned by her Department to assess the feasibility of disaggregating the Higher Education Initial Participation Rate by ethnicity, disability, social class and region to be published; and if she will make a statement. [11100]

**Bill Rammell:** Professor Brian Ramsden's report on whether the Higher Education Initial Participation Rate (HEIPR) should be disaggregated is expected to be published on 25 August 2005.

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills under what circumstances students whose domicile is *(a)* non-UK and *(b)* unknown are included in the Higher Education Initial Participation Rate; and how many students there were in each category in each year between 1999–2000 and 2003–04. [11101]

**Bill Rammell:** The Higher Education Initial Participation Rate (HEIPR) is a measure of initial participation for 17 to 30-year-old English domiciled first-time entrants to Higher Education and is produced in accordance with the recommendations of a National Statistics Quality review (National Statistics Quality Review Series—Report No. 24). No students recorded with non-UK or unknown domiciles have been included in the HEIPR in any year. The HEIPR includes only students recorded as English domiciled or "United Kingdom" domiciled and attending courses at English institutions, with the assumption that latter group are likely to be English.

The following table records the number of students included in the HEIPR who are listed as "United Kingdom" domiciled:

*Entrants with domiciles listed as "United Kingdom" counted in the HEIPR*

| *Academic year* | *1999/2000* | *2000/01* | *2001/02* | *2002/03* | *2003/04* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| No prior HE | 575 | 1,380 | 670 | 980 | 700 |
| Unknown prior HE[1] | 235 | 145 | 110 | 170 | 200 |

[1] Entrants with unknown prior HE status qualify in the HEIPR on a pro-rata basis, therefore only a proportion of these students will be included.

Figures rounded to the nearest 5.

*Note:*

It is normal practice to code United Kingdom students under their component domiciles (England, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland), rather than "United Kingdom". HESA guidance has since 1996/97 indicated that the "United Kingdom" code should not be returned for a student's domicile.

*Source:*

Information derived from Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) student record.

*Numbers of entrants counted within the HEIPR*

| *Academic year* | *Number of initial entrants (000)* |
|---|---|
| 1999/2000 | 246 |
| 2000/01 | 249 |
| 2001/02 | 255 |
| 2002/03 | 268 |
| 2003/04 | 269 |

*Source:*

Information derived from Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) student record and Learning and Skills Council Individualised Learner Record.

### Homework

**Mr. Gibb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the answer of 30 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 1702W, on out-of-hours learning, if she will ask Ofsted to calculate the proportion of *(a)* secondary schools and *(b)* primary schools that set homework consistent with the guidance set out in her Department's publication, Homework: Guidance for Primary and Secondary Schools. [11785]

**Jacqui Smith:** In their evaluation of the quality of teaching and how well pupils learn, Ofsted inspectors assess the effectiveness of a school's use of homework in reinforcing and extending what pupils have learnt at

school. We have no plans to expand Ofsted's responsibilities in the monitoring of homework provision in schools.

### Korean Studies

**Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many universities have Korean studies departments; and if she will make a statement. [11219]

**Bill Rammell:** The information is not held centrally, but the current course listings on the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) website www.ucas.com show that two institutions, the School of Oriental and African Studies (University of London) and Sheffield University, offer courses in Korean either as a single subject or in combination with other subjects.

My hon. Friend will be aware that the Higher Education Funding Council for England has submitted their report on strategically important and vulnerable subjects.

Japanese, Chinese and other Far East languages and area studies were highlighted as part of this work. We are listening to what the sector think of the recommendations in the report and will be responding in the autumn.

### Private Finance Initiative

**Mr. Cameron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what guidance her Department gives to local education authorities on the tendering of private finance initiative contracts under the Building Schools for the Future programme; and if she will place this guidance in the Library. [10773]

**Jacqui Smith:** A comprehensive suite of guidance documents for authorities benefiting from the transformational investment programme of Building Schools for the Future has been issued by both my Department and our delivery partners, Partnerships for Schools. In order to minimise procurement costs for local government, and to enable rapid project progress, Partnerships for Schools has in fact developed bespoke and standardised documentation for all aspects of procurement within the programme. The guidance specific to private finance initiative contracts can be found at:

www.p4s.org.uk/StandardDocuments.

I am of course happy to place copies of this guidance in the Library.

### Pupil Referral Units

**Mr. Cameron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what steps she is taking to increase access to pupil referral units; what the latest figure is for the waiting time for referral in West Oxfordshire; and if she will make a statement on her policy on pupil referral units. [11447]

**Jacqui Smith** *[holding answer 11 July 2005]:* It is for local authorities themselves to decide how best to meet the needs of pupils in their area who, for reasons of illness, exclusion or otherwise, are unable to attend mainstream schools. However, guidance issued to local authorities and schools in January 2005 about pupil referral units (PRUs) and alternative provision emphasised existing advice that education for this group of pupils must be of high standard and appropriate to their particular needs.

Local authorities use PRUs and a wide range of other educational provision to ensure this duty is adequately discharged. In 1997 there were 309 PRUs in England catering for 7,530 pupils compared to around 450 now catering for 14,470.

The Oxfordshire education authority's PRU and Integration Service (PRUIS) provides or arranges alternative educational provision for around 250 pupils, including pupils in West Oxfordshire, this academic year. Admissions to Oxfordshire PRUIS, including from West Oxfordshire, are handled by a committee which meets every six weeks. The time taken from a referral for a place at PRUIS depends on the particular needs of the individual pupil. However, the education for pupils who have been permanently excluded is usually arranged and implemented from the 16 day of exclusion.

### School Admissions

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what percentage of children were allocated their most preferred *(a)* primary and junior school and *(b)* secondary school in each English county in each of the last eight years. [11860]

**Jacqui Smith:** Information on pupils allocated their most preferred primary and secondary school is not collected centrally.

### School Meals

**Mr. Cameron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills whether her Department has held discussions with the London borough of Greenwich on its participation in the recent Channel 4 series on school meals and ongoing school meals initiatives. [10772]

**Jacqui Smith:** DfES officials met with officials from Greenwich on 13 April 2005 to discuss what the borough has learned from working with Jamie Oliver and what it has since done to take forward work on healthy eating.

**Mr. Michael Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many school children in Worcestershire *(a)* receive free school meals and *(b)* are eligible for free school meals, broken down by district. [11176]

**Jacqui Smith:** The information requested is shown in the table.

*Maintained nursery, primary and secondary schools: school meal arrangements—January 2005 (provisional)—Worcestershire local education authority broken down by district*

| | | *Maintained nursery and primary*[1] | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | *Pupils taking free school meals* | | *Pupils known to be eligible for school meals* | |
| | *Number on roll*[2] | *Number* | *Percentage* | *Number* | *Percentage* |
| Worcestershire LEA | 36,800 | 2,760 | 7.1 | 3,410 | 8.8 |
| *Districts* | | | | | |
| Bromsgrove | 6,210 | 270 | 4.4 | 320 | 5.1 |
| Malvern Hills | 5,640 | 290 | 5.1 | 360 | 6.5 |
| Redditch | 5,010 | 550 | 11.0 | 700 | 13.9 |
| Worcester | 7,360 | 640 | 8.7 | 800 | 10.9 |
| Wychavon | 8,900 | 370 | 4.1 | 450 | 5.1 |
| Wyre Forest | 5,680 | 640 | 11.3 | 780 | 13.7 |

| | | *Maintained secondary* | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | *Pupils taking free school meals* | | *Pupils known to be eligible for school meals* | |
| | *Number on roll*[2] | *Number* | *Percentage* | *Number* | *Percentage* |
| Worcestershire LEA | 41,200 | 2,450 | 6.0 | 3,400 | 8.3 |
| *Districts* | | | | | |
| Bromsgrove | 8,790 | 360 | 4.1 | 480 | 5.4 |
| Malvern Hills | 4,730 | 220 | 4.6 | 260 | 5.5 |
| Redditch | 7,660 | 640 | 8.3 | 840 | 10.9 |
| Worcester | 5,550 | 350 | 6.3 | 600 | 10.8 |
| Wychavon | 6,560 | 230 | 3.4 | 320 | 4.8 |
| Wyre Forest | 7,920 | 660 | 8.4 | 910 | 11.5 |

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Includes dually registered pupils and boarding pupils.
*Note:*
Totals may not appear to equal the sum of the component parts because numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if she will make a statement on the quality of hot school meals provided at Sacred Heart RC School, Chorley. [11650]

**Jacqui Smith:** The Department for Education and Skills does not collect information on the quality of individual schools' meals.

### School Violence

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many school violence episodes have occurred in Southend, West constituency schools in each year since 1997. [9933]

**Jacqui Smith:** The information requested is not collected centrally.

### Schools Adjudicator

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many school closures have been determined by the schools adjudicator in each of the last five years for which full annual figures are available. [10716]

**Jacqui Smith:** The numbers of proposals for mainstream school closures that were decided by the schools adjudicator between 2000 and 2004 are set out in the following table:

| | *Proposals approved* | *Proposals rejected* | *Total decisions* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2000 | 3 | 11 | 14 |
| 2001 | 13 | 1 | 14 |
| 2002 | 7 | 5 | 12 |
| 2003 | 18 | 12 | 30 |
| 2004 | 21 | 8 | 29 |

The figures include cases in which schools have been closed to permit the establishment of a new school on the same site. The figures include decisions on maintained nursery school closures but exclude special school closure decisions.

### Secondary Education

**Mrs. Dorries:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what plans she has for improvements to secondary education in Mid Bedfordshire. [11088]

**Jacqui Smith:** The Department's Strategy for Children and Learners sets out the range of departmental policies and initiatives which will raise the quality of education, teaching and learning in Bedfordshire and across the country over the next five years.

In Bedfordshire, as a whole, we have increased funding per pupil by £1,040 since 1997–98 and announced last November nearly £54 million of capital support for Bedfordshire and its schools over the next three years. We are supporting the Bedford Excellence Cluster of 20 schools, a 14–19 Pathfinder in South West Bedfordshire and the development of extended schools. We are also providing Leadership Incentive Grant funding to three schools and, through the Department's Innovations Unit, are working with a number of schools in Bedfordshire on furthering collaboration, in order to raise standards.

In the Mid Bedfordshire constituency specifically, we have supported the PFI funded expansion and redevelopment of Samuel Whitbread and Harlington Schools and have also approved specialist status for three of its four upper schools which receive extra funding to develop curriculum specialisms.

## State Boarding Schools

**Mark Tami:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many state boarding schools there are in England; and where they are located. [10668]

**Jacqui Smith:** The information requested is shown in the table.

*Number of maintained boarding schools—January 2005 (provisional V4)—by local education authority area*

| | Number of maintained boarding schools |
|---|---|
| England | 34 |
| North East | 1 |
| Darlington | 0 |
| Durham | 0 |
| Gateshead | 0 |
| Hartlepool | 0 |
| Middlesbrough | 0 |
| Newcastle upon Tyne | 0 |
| North Tyneside | 0 |
| Northumberland | 1 |
| Redcar and Cleveland | 0 |
| South Tyneside | 0 |
| Stockton-on-Tees | 0 |
| Sunderland | 0 |
| North West | 3 |
| Blackburn with Darwen | 0 |
| Blackpool | 0 |
| Bolton | 0 |
| Bury | 0 |
| Cheshire | 0 |
| Cumbria | 2 |
| Halton | 0 |
| Knowsley | 0 |
| Lancashire | 1 |
| Liverpool | 0 |
| Manchester | 0 |
| Oldham | 0 |
| Rochdale | 0 |
| Salford | 0 |
| Sefton | 0 |
| St. Helens | 0 |
| Stockport | 0 |
| Tameside | 0 |
| Trafford | 0 |
| Warrington | 0 |
| Wigan | 0 |
| Wirral | 0 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 1 |
| Barnsley | 0 |
| Bradford | 0 |
| Calderdale | 0 |
| Doncaster | 0 |
| East Riding of Yorkshire | 0 |
| Kingston Upon Hull, City of | 0 |
| Kirklees | 0 |
| Leeds | 0 |
| North East Lincolnshire | 0 |
| North Lincolnshire | 0 |
| North Yorkshire | 1 |
| Rotherham | 0 |
| Sheffield | 0 |
| Wakefield | 0 |
| York | 0 |
| East Midlands | 5 |
| Derby | 0 |
| Derbyshire | 0 |
| Leicester | 0 |
| Leicestershire | 2 |
| Lincolnshire | 2 |
| Northamptonshire | 0 |
| Nottingham | 0 |
| Nottinghamshire | 1 |
| Rutland | 0 |
| West Midlands | 3 |
| Birmingham | 0 |
| Coventry | 0 |
| Dudley | 1 |
| Herefordshire | 0 |
| Sandwell | 0 |
| Shropshire | 1 |
| Solihull | 0 |
| Staffordshire | 0 |
| Stoke-on-Trent | 0 |
| Telford and Wrekin | 1 |
| Walsall | 0 |
| Warwickshire | 0 |
| Wolverhampton | 0 |
| Worcestershire | 0 |
| East of England | 4 |
| Bedfordshire | 0 |
| Cambridgeshire | 0 |
| Essex | 1 |
| Hertfordshire | 2 |
| Luton | 0 |
| Norfolk | 1 |
| Peterborough | 0 |
| Southend-on-Sea | 0 |
| Suffolk | 0 |
| Thurrock | 0 |
| London | 0 |
| Inner London | 0 |
| Camden | 0 |
| City of London | 0 |
| Hackney | 0 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 0 |
| Haringey | 0 |
| Islington | 0 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 0 |
| Lambeth | 0 |
| Lewisham | 0 |
| Newham | 0 |
| Southwark | 0 |
| Tower Hamlets | 0 |
| Wandsworth | 0 |
| Westminster | 0 |
| Outer London | 0 |
| Barking and Dagenham | 0 |
| Barnet | 0 |
| Bexley | 0 |
| Brent | 0 |
| Bromley | 0 |
| Croydon | 0 |
| Ealing | 0 |
| Enfield | 0 |
| Greenwich | 0 |
| Harrow | 0 |
| Havering | 0 |
| Hillingdon | 0 |
| Hounslow | 0 |
| Kingston upon Thames | 0 |
| Merton | 0 |
| Redbridge | 0 |
| Richmond upon Thames | 0 |
| Sutton | 0 |
| Waltham Forest | 0 |
| South East | 12 |
| Bracknell Forest | 0 |
| Brighton and Hove | 0 |
| Buckinghamshire | 1 |
| East Sussex | 0 |
| Hampshire[1] | 3 |
| Isle of Wight | 0 |
| Kent | 3 |
| Medway | 0 |
| Milton Keynes | 0 |
| Oxfordshire | 1 |
| Portsmouth | 0 |
| Reading | 1 |
| Slough | 0 |

*Number of maintained boarding schools—January 2005 (provisional V4)—by local education authority area*

| | Number of maintained boarding schools |
|---|---|
| Southampton | 0 |
| Surrey | 2 |
| West Berkshire | 0 |
| West Sussex | 1 |
| Windsor and Maidenhead | 0 |
| Wokingham | 0 |
| South West | 5 |
| Bath and North East Somerset | 0 |
| Bournemouth | 0 |
| Bristol, City of | 0 |
| Cornwall | 0 |
| Devon | 1 |
| Dorset | 1 |
| Gloucestershire | 0 |
| Isles of Scilly | 1 |
| North Somerset | 0 |
| Plymouth | 0 |
| Poole | 0 |
| Somerset | 2 |
| South Gloucestershire | 0 |
| Swindon | 0 |
| Torbay | 0 |
| Wiltshire | 0 |

[1] Includes one FE college

## Student Finance

**Mr. Hood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what financial support *(a)* was offered to English part-time students for each year from 2001 to 2004 and *(b)* will be offered in 2005–06; and if she will make a statement; [11680]

(2) what research her Department has commissioned on university fees for English part-time students after 2006; and if she will make a statement. [11687]

**Bill Rammell:** This Government were the first to introduce statutory support for students studying on a part-time basis. From 2001 support for English part-time students was in the form of an income-assessed loan of £500 per annum; a fee waiver system was also available to students in certain circumstances.

In 2004/05 a new package of statutory support was introduced comprising a non-repayable fee grant of up to £575 and a non-repayable course grant of up to £250. The grants are means-tested in order to target funding most effectively at those from disadvantaged backgrounds.

For the academic year 2005/06 the maximum fee grant is being increased to £885. And we are improving the fee grant by linking the amount available to the intensity at which the student is studying.

We will continue to monitor the sector to ensure that we use available funding in the most effective way to support those part-time students who most need it.

## Teacher Recruitment

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the answer of 29 June 2005, *Official Report*, columns 1634–35W, on teacher recruitment, what proportion of the people recruited to teach *(a)* science, *(b)* mathematics and *(c)* modern foreign languages were from (i) the UK, (ii) the EU and (iii) other overseas nations in each year between 1994 and 2004. [11110]

**Jacqui Smith:** The information requested is not collected centrally.

## Truancy

**Mrs. Dorries:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the truancy level has been in the Bedfordshire local education authority for each year since 1997. [11003]

**Jacqui Smith:** The information requested is given below. The figures relate to unauthorised absence, which include all unexplained or unjustified absences, such as lateness, holidays during term-time not authorised by the school, absence where reason is not yet established and truancy.

*Number of pupils absent for at least one half day due to unauthorised absence, Bedfordshire LEA 1996/97 to 2003/04*

| | Primary | Secondary | Primary and Secondary |
|---|---|---|---|
| *1996/97* | | | |
| Number absent | 1,782 | 2,608 | 4,390 |
| As percentage of pupils of compulsory school age | 8.5 | 8.3 | 8.4 |
| *1997/98* | | | |
| Number absent | 1,942 | 3,319 | 5,261 |
| As percentage of pupils of compulsory school age | 9.3 | 10.4 | 9.9 |
| *1998/99* | | | |
| Number absent | 2,376 | 4,285 | 6,661 |
| As percentage of pupils of compulsory school age | 11.4 | 13.2 | 12.5 |
| *1999/2000* | | | |
| Number absent | 2,418 | 4,152 | 6,570 |
| As percentage of pupils of compulsory school age | 11.7 | 12.6 | 12.2 |
| *2000/01* | | | |
| Number absent | 2,274 | 4,445 | 6,719 |
| As percentage of pupils of compulsory school age | 10.9 | 13.2 | 12.3 |

*Number of pupils absent for at least one half day due to unauthorised absence, Bedfordshire LEA 1996/97 to 2003/04*

| | *Primary* | *Secondary* | *Primary and Secondary* |
|---|---|---|---|
| *2001/02* | | | |
| Number absent | 2,047 | 4,253 | 6,300 |
| As percentage of pupils of compulsory school age | 9.8 | 12.6 | 11.5 |
| *2002/03* | | | |
| Number absent | 2,068 | 4,510 | 6,578 |
| As percentage of pupils of compulsory school age | 9.9 | 13.3 | 12.0 |
| *2003/04* | | | |
| Number absent | 1,942 | 4,857 | 6,799 |
| As percentage of pupils of compulsory school age | 9.5 | 14.2 | 12.4 |

### Tuition Fees

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what representations she has received from teacher training institutions in respect of the likely effect of charging the full £3,000 tuition fees on student take-up of the Postgraduate Certificate in Education. [11096]

**Jacqui Smith:** The TTA received letters from the universities of Keele and East Anglia on this subject. Both institutions wanted to ensure that sufficient financial support was available for trainees in order to secure recruitment onto courses. However, the TTA has recently reviewed its range of financial incentives for trainee teachers on Postgraduate Certificate in Education courses to ensure such support is available.

### Uxbridge Academy

**Mr. Randall:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills whether she expects the proposed new 16 to 19 Academy based on Brunel University's Uxbridge campus to improve the London borough of Hillingdon's post-16 participation rate; and what balance of curriculum levels is intended for the Academy. [11500]

**Jacqui Smith:** We do expect the Brunel HSBC Education Trust Academy to increase post 16 participation rates in Hillingdon. It will be in a strong position to do this through its location on a university campus with access to Brunel University's facilities and expertise. It will also provide enrichment and placement opportunities for other schools.

Data from the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) shows that four of the six west London boroughs (Ealing, Hammersmith and Fulham, Hillingdon and Hounslow) have post-16 participation rates below the national average with participation rates in Hillingdon as low as 73 per cent. (2003). A particular issue in west London is the relatively low participation rate of white students (67 per cent.), particularly boys. This variation is also reflected in Higher Education participation rates where 30 ward areas within the six boroughs have been identified as having low participation.

The Academy aims to attract students who might not otherwise have remained in education at age 16. The curriculum to be offered by the Academy will principally cover education at levels 2 and 3. The sponsors expect about 50 per cent. of the intake to progress from level 1 to 2 and 50 per cent. to progress from level 2 to 3. They recognise that some students will require additional support before commencing level 3 courses in the Academy's specialisms of science, technology, maths and Chinese. There will be extensive discussions with education professionals and local providers to ensure that a suitable curriculum, which complements existing provision, is available for the students.

# Written Answers to Questions

*Wednesday 13 July 2005*

## WALES

### Carers' Equal Opportunities Act

**Dr. Francis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what discussions he has had with the First Secretary of the National Assembly for Wales Government concerning the implementation of the Carers' Equal Opportunities Act 2004 in Wales; and how good practice will be shared between England and Wales. [9419]

**Mr. Hain:** The provisions of the Carers Equal Opportunities Act 2004 commenced in April 2005.

The Welsh Assembly Government working with its Carers Strategy Review Panel, the Department of Health and the Social Care Institute for Excellence, continue to seek to ensure that information about examples of good practice in Wales or England are widely disseminated.

### Departmental Advertising

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much the Department spent on advertising in each of the last five years. [10239]

**Mr. Hain:** The Wales Office runs no publicity campaigns and hence has spent nothing on advertising in the last five years.

### Departmental Conferences

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much the Department has spent on organising or sponsoring conferences in each of the last five years. [10244]

**Mr. Hain:** The Wales Office has neither organised nor sponsored any conferences over the last five years.

### Digital Television

**Mrs. James:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales if he will make a statement on digital television coverage in Wales. [10667]

**Mr. Hain:** The vast majority of households in Wales can, with the appropriate equipment, receive digital television services via at least one of satellite, digital terrestrial or cable.

**Mrs. James:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what support will be given to pensioners and people on low incomes in Wales with the costs involved to upgrade to digital television. [10684]

**Mr. Hain:** The Government are committed to ensuring that the interests of the most vulnerable consumers are protected during digital switchover and has proposed that the BBC help establish and fund appropriate support. We will announce details of the scope of this assistance in due course.

As part of the process of detailed scheme design, a trial is planned for later this year in Bolton. The aim of the trial is to assess the effectiveness of various forms of assistance. Leaflets, telephone helplines and support from carers and social workers will be among the methods being piloted.

### Ministerial Duties

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales pursuant to his answer of 9 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 615W, on ministerial duties, whether he spent a total of more or less than 24 hours performing ministerial functions as the Secretary of State for Wales in the week commencing 9 May. [9742]

**Mr. Hain:** As I made clear in my answer of 25 May, I spend as much time as is required in fulfilling my role as Secretary of State for Wales. In any week this will represent considerably more than 24 hours, including the week of 9 May.

### Special Advisers

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales if he will list *(a)* the special advisers in his Department, *(b)* their specific areas of expertise and *(c)* the total cost of employing them in the latest year for which figures are available. [8817]

**Mr. Hain:** As Secretary of State for Wales I have two special advisers, both of whom provide assistance across all of the Department's policy areas.

They are paid on national salary scales, which apply to all Government Departments; the basic scale currently ranges from £37,366 to £50,148.

### Work-related Stress

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many cases of work-related stress have been reported in his Department in each of the last three years; how much compensation was paid to employees in each year; how many work days were lost due to work-related stress in each year; at what cost; what procedures have been put in place to reduce work-related stress; at what cost; and if he will make a statement. [7875]

**Mr. Hain:** Detailed sickness absence statistics are derived from medical and self-certificates, which are completed by staff or their GPs. While certain illnesses, such as "depression", "anxiety", "general debility" and even "stress" may be indicated on certificates, it is not possible to determine levels of "work-related stress". Consequently, we have no details on the number of working days lost due to work-related stress or the cost to the Department.

Since the establishment of this Department in July 1999, there have been no compensation payments to employees for work-related stress.

The Wales Office staff have available to them the resources of the National Assembly, and since June 2003, of the Department for Constitutional Affairs in tackling stress. These include a stress at work policy and a manager's toolkit to ensure that the policy is used effectively and at appropriate times, a stress helpline as part of the internal occupational welfare provision and a range of courses for managers and employees on managing stress in the workplace. All these new initiatives are based on best practice and on the Stress Management Standards issued by the Health and Safety Executive last year.

The Department offers flexible working patterns, enabling staff to adopt more effective working patterns to better balance their work and home life.

## LEADER OF THE HOUSE

### Parliamentary Business

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Leader of the House (1) if he will list Government Bills subject to a Programme Motion where each clause was not debated *(a)* in Standing Committee, *(b)* in Committee of the Whole House and *(c)* at Report stage as a result of insufficient time in each of the last five Sessions for which figures are available; [10502]

(2) if he will list Private Members' Bills where a Division took place on Second Reading and where the Bill subsequently did not receive Royal Assent in each Session since 1975; [10503]

(3) if he will list Select Committee reports which have been debated on the Floor of the House in each Session since 1976; [10504]

(4) on how many occasions in each parliamentary Session from 1976 to 2004 *(a)* the House of Lords passed amendments to (i) Private Members' Bills and (ii) Government Bills against the advice of the Government, *(b)* such amendments were (A) accepted by the Government in the House of Commons and (B) reversed in the House of Commons, *(c)* the reversal was accepted by the House of Lords and *(d)* the House of Lords insisted on its amendments; [10505]

(5) if he will list *(a)* Government Bills and *(b)* private Members' Bills where the Committee stage was taken on the Floor of the House in each Session since 1976; [10553]

(6) if he will list *(a)* Government Bills and *(b)* private Members' Bills where all stages were taken in one sitting in each session since 1976; [10554]

(7) what the average number of days of consideration for Government Bills in *(a)* the House of Commons and *(b)* the House of Lords was in each parliamentary Session since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [10555]

**Mr. Hoon:** The information requested is a matter of public record. I refer the hon. Member to the House of Commons Library.

## DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

### Compulsory Purchase Orders

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many compulsory purchase orders have been implemented in each local authority in Essex in each of the last five years. [10566]

**Yvette Cooper:** The Secretary of State has the power to confirm compulsory purchase orders, however once an order has been confirmed it is for the acquiring authority to implement it. The Government therefore do not hold any information on the number that have been implemented.

### Council Tax

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what conditions are necessary for a caravan to be eligible for *(a)* class C and *(b)* class G council tax exemption. [11394]

**Mr. Woolas:** The Council Tax (Exempt Dwellings) Order 1992 (SI 1992 No. 558) provides that dwellings, including caravans, are exempt from council tax under class C where they have been vacant for a continuous period of up to six months. The usual requirement that to qualify for a class C exemption the dwelling be substantially unfurnished does not however apply in the case of caravans.

Dwellings, including caravans, are exempt from council tax under class G where they are unoccupied and occupation is prohibited by law. The class G exemption does not apply when a caravan or other dwelling is in fact occupied.

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what plans the Valuation Office Agency has to use private sector firms during the council tax revaluation in England. [11536]

**Mr. Woolas:** The Valuation Office Agency has no plans to use private sector firms during the process of council tax revaluation in England.

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether breach of *(a)* planning regulation, *(b)* health and safety regulations and *(c)* building regulations are grounds for deeming occupation of an hereditament to be prohibited for (i) council tax and (ii) business rates liability. [11389]

**Mr. Woolas:** It is our view that where occupation of a dwelling is prohibited by planning, health and safety regulations but the dwelling is occupied illegally, it will not be exempt and the residents will be liable for council tax.

Similarly, where a hereditament is occupied and liable to business rates, then that liability remains, regardless of whether the premises are occupied in breach of planning regulations, health and safety regulations or building regulations, or not.

### Fire-related Deaths

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many fire-related deaths there were in dwellings in Hornsey and Wood Green in each year since 2000. [5721]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The available information on fire-related deaths in dwelling fires in Hornsey and Wood Green in the calendar years since 2000 is as follows:

*Fire-related deaths in dwelling fires, Hornsey and Wood Green*

| | Number |
|---|---|
| 2000 | 0 |
| 2001 | 2 |
| 2002 | 1 |
| 2003 | 1 |
| 2004 | 1 |

*Source:*
London Fire Brigade

London's five-year average (1999–2000 to 2003–04) for accidental dwellings fire deaths is 7.2 per million population, 23 per cent. higher than the average for England (5.9), but lower than the floor target of 1.25 times (7.3 deaths).

### First-time Buyers

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many first-time buyers there have been in each of the last 12 months for which figures are available; and how many of these he estimates were returners, who had previously been home owners. [11593]

**Yvette Cooper:** Estimates of the numbers of first-time buyers for the UK for each of the past 12 months are as follows:

| | Number |
|---|---|
| June 2004 | 33,600 |
| July 2004 | 36,300 |
| August 2004 | 31,100 |
| September 2004 | 28,500 |
| October 2004 | 29,000 |
| November 2004 | 24,900 |
| December 2004 | 24,100 |
| January 2005 | 18,200 |
| February 2005 | 18,100 |
| March 2005 | 22,600 |
| April 2005 | 25,100 |
| May 2005 | 25,600 |

*Notes:*
1. The figures exclude any first-time buyers who bought a property without the need for a mortgage.
2. The source of the data, the Survey of Mortgage Lenders, does not differentiate between genuine first-time buyers (those who have never been owner occupiers) and other first-time buyers (who have previously been owner occupiers).
However, estimates from the most recent "Survey of English Housing" data suggest that, currently, as many as 26 per cent. of so-called first-time buyers are in fact returning owner occupiers.
*Source:*
Council of Mortgage Lenders/Survey of Mortgage Lenders

### High Hedges

**Mr. Rogerson:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if his Department will place in the Vote Office copies of the document published in June entitled "High Hedges Complaints: Prevention and Cure", ISBN 1–851127–87–9. [10680]

**Yvette Cooper:** Copies of the document entitled "High Hedges Complaints: Prevention and Cure" have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses, and it is freely available on the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister website at www.odpm.gov.uk/treesandhedges. We are happy to provide copies to hon. Members on request and I am arranging for one to be sent to the hon. Gentleman. Against this background, we see no need to place copies in the Vote Office.

### Identity Cards

**Mr. Garnier:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what estimate he has made of the cost of equipping local authority premises with identity card readers. [9884]

**Mr. Woolas:** We have been working with the Home Office to identify areas where the Identity Cards Scheme could provide business benefits. On 28 June 2005, my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary placed in the Library a paper containing the latest estimates of benefits of the Identity Cards Scheme which shows that the benefits outweigh the costs once the scheme is fully operational. The cost of equipping premises will depend on the nature of the use of the Identity Cards Scheme and the type of identity check(s) necessary to deliver the business benefits. In some cases, benefits could be realised without the use of card readers and the cost of installing any readers needs to be considered alongside future plans to refresh or upgrade IT systems. As the design of the scheme matures, during and after the procurement exercise, so will our understanding of where the scheme will be of most benefit which will allow us to further refine our estimates of costs and benefits.

### Performance Criteria (County Councils)

**Mr. Swayne:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister (1) what representations he has received from county councils on the number of performance criteria to which they are subject; and if he will make a statement; [11337]

(2) what assessment he has made of the number of performance criteria to which county councils are subject; and what plans he has to reduce them. [11338]

**Mr. Woolas:** The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister has received a letter from Hampshire county council setting out the performance measures which the council reports against.

We are considering the requirements for the number of targets, indicators and standards for local government as part of our developing work on the performance framework, as set out in the document "Securing better outcomes: developing a new performance framework" published in March 2005. This work is being taken forward in the context of our 10 year vision for local government as set out in "The future of local government: Developing a 10 year vision" which was published in July 2004.

### Social Housing (Chorley)

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will make a statement on social housing needs in Chorley. [9581]

**Yvette Cooper** *[holding answer 4 July 2005]:* Between 2001 and 2005 the Housing Corporation via the Approved Development Programme spent over £3.7 million in Chorley on the provision of new affordable housing for both rent and low-cost home

ownership. A total of 53 new social rented homes were completed in Chorley over the same period through grant provided via the Housing Corporation. Chorley borough council spent approximately £0.3 million on improving its own stock.

We announced on 23 June 2005 that following evidence of strong tenant support Chorley is in the 2005 Housing transfer programme. This will ensure the remaining non decent council homes will be made decent by the 2010 deadline.

## EDUCATION AND SKILLS

### Further Education

**Mr. Rob Wilson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the cost of monetary incentives to encourage pupils to pursue post-16 education has been in each year since the incentives were introduced. [9985]

**Maria Eagle:** Education maintenance allowances (EMAs) are an incentive to encourage young people to stay on in further education post-16. They were piloted from September 1999 in 15 LEA areas, and these pilot areas were extended to include a total of 52 LEAs in September 2000. The scheme was rolled out nationally from September 2004. The costs in each financial year since 1999 have been:

*Education maintenance allowance*

| | *Expenditure (£ million)* |
|---|---|
| 1999–2000 | 11 |
| 2000–01 | 52 |
| 2001–02 | 109 |
| 2002–03 | 120 |
| 2003–04 | 142 |
| 2004–05 (Forecast) | 260 |
| 2005–06 (Projected) | 403 |

### Graduate Employment

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what estimate she has made of the proportion of graduates in jobs for which a degree was not an advertised requirement one year after completion of their studies for each year between 1994 and 2004. [10068]

**Bill Rammell:** We do not collect the information at the level of detail requested. The available information covers first degree graduates who were in employment six months after graduation. The earliest data relate to graduates in the academic year 2002/03. Respondents were asked if they would have been able to get the job they were doing without the qualification they obtained.

Of first degree graduates, known to be in employment and who responded to the question, 39 per cent. qualifying in 2002/03 and 37 per cent. qualifying in 2003/04 responded that they could have obtained their job without their degree qualification. Figures and percentages are given in the following table.

*Response by first degree qualifiers[1,2] in employment six months after graduation to the question: 'Would you have been able to obtain the job you are doing without your recently obtained qualification?' 2002/03 and 2003/04*

| | *2002/03* | | *2003/04* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Response* | *Number* | *Percentage* | *Number* | *Percentage* |
| No, the qualification was a formal requirement | 33,410 | 29 | 36,865 | 31 |
| No, the qualification was expected | 9,610 | 8 | 10,275 | 9 |
| Possibly, but the qualification gave me an advantage | 23,250 | 21 | 24,350 | 21 |
| Yes | 44,050 | 39 | 43,835 | 37 |
| Do not know | 2,985 | 3 | 3,080 | 3 |
| Total | 113,305 | 100 | 118,415 | 100 |
| Question not answered | 32,210 | — | 31,750 | — |
| Total employed | 145,515 | — | 150,160 | — |

[1] Figures cover home and EU full-time and part-time first degree graduates from UK HE institutions.
[2] Figures are rounded to the nearest 5, so constituent parts may not sum to totals.
*Source:*
Destination of Leavers from Higher Education (Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA))

The Department also commissioned a survey of 1995 graduates, tracking graduate careers 3 and a half years post-graduation, which asks about how the skills gained at university have since been put to use. For this cohort it is estimated that 65 per cent. of employed graduates—six months after leaving—are in jobs using their degree skills, and this rises to 70 per cent. after one year, and to nearly 80 per cent. within three and a half years[1]. This research is currently being updated tracking the careers of a cohort of 1999 graduates up to four years after leaving university—this will be published in the autumn.

In addition, projections of occupational demand show that of the 13.5 million total jobs expected to be filled by 2012, 50 per cent.—that is 6.8 million—are in occupations most likely to demand graduates[2].

[1] Data from Elias, P et al (1999) "Moving On: graduate careers three years after graduation". CSU/DfEE.

[2] Based on data from Wilson, R et al (2004) "Working Futures: new projections of occupational employment by sector and region", 2002–2012 IER, Warwick.

### Key Stage 2 Results

**Mr. Cameron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what percentage of 11-year-olds failed to reach level 2 at KS2 in reading, writing and mathematics in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [10771]

**Jacqui Smith:** The information requested is as follows:

*Percentage of pupils failing to achieve level 2*

| | 2004 | 2003 | 2002 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Reading | 8 | 7 | 7 |
| Writing | 8 | 8 | 7 |
| Mathematics | 5 | 5 | 4 |

These figures cover all schools, including independent schools and pupil referral units.

### Looked-after Children

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what plans she has to introduce measures to assist local authorities in reducing the number of placements experienced by looked-after children; [11797]

(2) what reports she has received and what discussions she has had relating to the effect of placing looked-after children from London and inner-cities in seaside communities. [11798]

**Maria Eagle:** Improving the stability of looked-after children's lives, and thus reducing the number of placements which they experience, is one of the Government's key objectives. The Department for Education and Skills has a public service agreement target that, by 2008, 80 per cent. of children under 16 who have been looked after for 2.5 years or more will have been in the same placement for at least two years or be placed for adoption. We are working closely with local authorities to ensure that this target can be met: we have issued a range of tools and guidance to help authorities commission placements for children more effectively; we have a programme of work in place to improve the support received by foster carers; we are looking at ways in which to encourage better use of friends and family placements; we are working to reduce unnecessary delays in public law cases; and we have introduced independent reviewing officers to chair individual children's reviews. These all have important contributions to make in securing improved stability for looked after children.

Kent Child Protection Committee sent the Department a report on child and public protection issues in Thanet at the end of June. We are currently considering the report carefully and will respond to the Committee in due course. At the same time, we are also considering a national report, commissioned by Ministers last year, on identifying ways of helping local authorities both to reduce their dependence on out-of-authority placements for looked after children, and to improve support for children who are placed out-of-authority.

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many looked-after children under 16 years of age *(a)* were prescribed contraceptive measures and *(b)* had pregnancy terminations (i) with and (ii) without parental consultation and approval in each of the last five years. [11802]

**Maria Eagle:** The information requested is not collected centrally.

### Student Finance

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what proportion of students were assessed to make *(a)* no contribution towards their fees, *(b)* a partial contribution towards their fees and *(c)* a full contribution towards their fees in each academic year between 1999–2000 and 2004–05. [10050]

**Bill Rammell:** Students on full-time undergraduate courses and their families are expected to make a contribution towards the cost of their tuition based on household income. Students from lower income backgrounds are wholly or partially exempt from paying tuition fees.

Available data on the percentage of students making a nil, partial or full contribution to their fees are given in the table.

*Percentage of students making a nil, partial, or full contribution to fees, academic years 1999–2000 to 2003–04*[1]

| | Percentage of students making a: | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Academic year* | *nil contribution to fees* | *partial contribution to fees* | *full contribution to fees* |
| 1999/2000 | 45 | 20 | 35 |
| 2000/01 | 42 | 19 | 39 |
| 2001/02 | 43 | 16 | 41 |
| 2002/03 | 43 | 15 | 42 |
| 2003/04 | 43 | 14 | 43 |

[1] Data do not include those students who decide not to apply for any support with their fees and instead make direct application to the institution.

*Source:*

F503G Survey of Local Education Authorities and SLC

Data in the answer cover the period from 1999/2000 to 2003/04. Information on the percentage of student contributions to tuition fees in 2004/05 is not yet available, but this will be included in a Statistical First Release due to be published in November 2005.

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### Cereal Disease

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the level of risk of cereal disease due to high temperatures and low rainfall; and if she will make a statement. [11155]

**Jim Knight:** The major indigenous diseases of UK wheat and barley crops are favoured by wet weather, particularly in spring and summer. With current production systems and cereal varieties, high temperatures and low rainfall reduce the incidence of cereal diseases. Other risks are monitored as part of the UK's surveillance programme for plant quarantine diseases. Generally, these risks are unlikely to increase as a result of high temperatures and low rainfall.

### Chicken Imports

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what quantity of

chickens have been imported into the UK in each of the last five years; and from which countries they have been imported. [10991]

**Jim Knight:** Imports of chicken, chicken offal and live chickens in each of the last five years are provided in the following table:

*Tonnes*

| *Chicken type/Country* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Chicken, fresh, chilled or frozen* | | | | | |
| Netherlands | 130,198 | 119,685 | 130,677 | 132,789 | 139,546 |
| France | 48,740 | 38,673 | 37,302 | 33,947 | 35,136 |
| Brazil | 16,855 | 19,834 | 15,506 | 18,615 | 39,577 |
| Germany | 13,416 | 18,831 | 17,564 | 17,436 | 20,842 |
| Belgium | 13,445 | 11,879 | 15,633 | 18,129 | 18,084 |
| Denmark | 14,180 | 12,051 | 15,667 | 15,363 | 10,154 |
| Irish Republic | 7,831 | 9,024 | 8,674 | 10,527 | 17,421 |
| Thailand | 7,191 | 8,187 | 7,125 | 11,286 | 2,559 |
| Spain | 6,591 | 7,379 | 7,427 | 7,261 | 6,061 |
| Portugal | — | — | 82 | 8,644 | 22,607 |
| Italy | 3,884 | 3,380 | 3,943 | 4,911 | 4,209 |
| Poland | 33 | 40 | 886 | 4,588 | 12,606 |
| Chile | 314 | 2,070 | 1,044 | 3,650 | 4,368 |
| Argentina | 13 | 169 | 513 | 1,768 | 1,330 |
| Hungary | 49 | 287 | 590 | 923 | 1,207 |
| Other | 76 | 263 | 417 | 2,282 | 3,152 |
| *Chicken, prepared or preserved* | | | | | |
| Thailand | 16,229 | 20,678 | 26,230 | 33,787 | 41,757 |
| Irish Republic | 7,055 | 11,501 | 12,497 | 21,967 | 18,748 |
| Netherlands | 15,866 | 11,339 | 10,878 | 12,565 | 13,427 |
| France | 9,065 | 6,539 | 6,754 | 6,894 | 9,986 |
| Brazil | 5,946 | 7,071 | 8,512 | 9,901 | 6,148 |
| Germany | 1,776 | 2,261 | 1,545 | 3,841 | 5,255 |
| Denmark | 579 | 634 | 752 | 1,053 | 2,209 |
| Croatia | 597 | 705 | 882 | 886 | 1,090 |
| Belgium | 800 | 617 | 774 | 912 | 714 |
| Slovenia | 673 | 751 | 769 | 984 | 382 |
| Italy | 299 | 1,562 | 115 | 1,043 | 370 |
| Portugal | — | — | — | 583 | 1,495 |
| Other | 187 | 251 | 1,173 | 1,042 | 1,659 |
| *Chicken offal, fresh, chilled or frozen* | | | | | |
| Netherlands | 1,117 | 6,442 | 10,173 | 9,159 | 10,294 |
| France | 339 | 243 | 3,318 | 213 | 269 |
| Irish Republic | 415 | 667 | 241 | 770 | 15 |
| Germany | — | 111 | 589 | 520 | 47 |
| Spain | 380 | 328 | 286 | 95 | 7 |
| Belgium | 33 | 70 | 416 | 171 | 96 |
| Austria | — | — | — | 170 | 389 |
| Other | 134 | 4 | 3 | 359 | 112 |
| *Live Chickens* | | | | | |
| Irish Republic | 199 | 74 | 17 | 128 | 594 |
| France | 2 | 13 | 3 | 55 | 32 |
| Germany | 4 | 13 | 39 | 5 | 15 |
| Belgium | 0 | 68 | — | — | — |
| Other | 5 | 5 | 9 | 3 | 9 |

*Note:*
1. Data prepared by Trade statistics, Food Chain Analysis 3, DEFRA.
2. 2004 data is subject to amendments.

*Source:*
H M Revenue and Customs

## Cormorants

**Ms Angela C. Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of her Department's policy on cormorant control following its first winter of operation. [12129]

**Jim Knight:** The cormorant model produced by the Central Science Laboratory is available on the Defra website:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-countryside/vertebrates/piscivorous.htm#cormorants

and provides predictions of the effect of different licensing strategies on winter cormorant numbers in England. Information on the actual number of birds removed under license, and any change in winter cormorant numbers as a result of the policy are not yet available. The model and its predictions will be reviewed and updated as new information becomes available.

The effects of the new procedures are currently being reviewed by the Department in the light of experience gained from last season. It is expected that the review will be completed by early September.

## EU Sugar Regime

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the EU Commission proposals for sugar reform; and if she will make a statement. [11049]

**Jim Knight:** The Commission's proposals were announced on 22 June and will be formally presented to the Agriculture and Fisheries Council on 18 July, when member states will give their initial reactions. In the

meantime we have submitted a detailed Regulatory Impact Assessment to the Scrutiny Committees and also made it publicly available as background to the consultation exercise which we launched on 30 June.

### Farm Single Payment Scheme

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether farmers will receive their single payment scheme payments in February 2006; whether compensation will be paid to those who receive their payments after the due time; and if she will make advance payments to farmers in the event of foreseen delays. [11138]

**Jim Knight:** The payment window set out in EU legislation for the single payment scheme runs from 1 December 2005 to 30 June 2006. Our forecast of a February 2006 payment date for England fits comfortably within that window and remains our position. Payments made within the window do not attract compensation.

We have not ruled out the possibility of making advance payments or similar measures but there are real legal and practical difficulties in doing so and we would not want to take action that would delay the main payment.

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many single payment scheme applicants indicated on their applications that they did not know what had been grown on their land in the years before they purchased it. [10324]

**Jim Knight:** The Rural Payments Agency (RPA) has received 120,082 application forms under the Single Payment Scheme. These are currently being processed. Until the RPA has captured all data and completed validation a substantive answer to this question cannot be provided.

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many Single Payment Scheme applicants have been penalised for submitting application forms after the relevant deadline. [10326]

**Jim Knight:** The Rural Payments Agency (RPA) has received 120,082 application forms under the Single Payment Scheme. These are currently being processed. Until RPA has captured all data and completed validation definitive figures are not available. To date a total of 8,494 applications have been received after the 16 May 2005 deadline. Those applications received after 16 May will be processed in accordance with the scheme rules.

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate she has made of the cost effects of Single Payment Scheme application forms which failed to meet the deadline of 16 May; and what proportion of these were forms first received by her Department prior to 16 May but returned to the applicant for completion or amendment. [10359]

**Jim Knight:** Until the Rural Payments Agency (RPA) has captured all data and completed validation definitive figures are not available. To date 8,494 applications have been received after the deadline of 16 May 2005. Of that number 2,387 applications initially received before 16 May 2005 were referred to applicants for amendment and were not received back until after the deadline.

The Single Payment Scheme is funded by the EU. RPA therefore does not make savings from any reductions to scheme payments.

### Tree Cover

**Mrs. Dorries:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the percentage tree cover in England was *(a)* on the latest date for which figures are available, *(b)* 10 years ago and *(c)* 20 years ago. [11175]

**Jim Knight:** A national woodland survey is carried out by the Forestry Commission at intervals of between 15 and 20 years. The most recent country reports were published in 2001 and 2002 and these were based on fieldwork completed between 1994 and 2000. The results of the previous survey to this were published in the 1980 Census of Woodland, from fieldwork carried out between 1979 and 1982. The results are given in the following table:

| | *National inventory 1995–99* | *1980 Census* |
|---|---|---|
| *England—Counties* | | |
| *North-east* | | |
| Cleveland | 6.4 | 5.8 |
| Durham | 6.4 | 5.7 |
| Northumberland | 16.0 | 15.1 |
| Tyne and Wear | 5.4 | 3.1 |
| *North-west* | | |
| Cheshire | 4.4 | 3.8 |
| Cumbria | 9.5 | 8.0 |
| Greater Manchester | 3.7 | 2.1 |
| Lancashire | 4.6 | 3.7 |
| Merseyside | 3.8 | 2.6 |
| *Yorkshire and the Humber* | | |
| Humberside | 2.6 | 2.7 |
| North Yorkshire | 7.3 | 6.7 |
| South Yorkshire | 7.4 | 6.7 |
| West Yorkshire | 5.2 | 4.6 |
| *East Midlands* | | |
| Derbyshire | 7.4 | 5.1 |
| Leicestershire | 3.8 | 3.0 |
| Lincolnshire | 3.2 | 3.2 |
| Northamptonshire | 6.1 | 5.0 |
| Nottinghamshire | 8.0 | 7.0 |
| *West Midlands* | | |
| Hereford and Worcester | 9.1 | 7.3 |
| Shropshire | 8.5 | 7.2 |
| Staffordshire | 7.8 | 6.2 |
| Warwickshire | 4.7 | 3.5 |
| West Midlands | 3.1 | 2.0 |
| *East* | | |
| Bedfordshire | 6.2 | 5.0 |
| Cambridgeshire | 3.6 | 1.9 |
| Essex | 5.3 | 4.1 |
| Hertfordshire | 9.5 | 7.6 |
| Norfolk | 9.8 | 7.9 |
| Suffolk | 8.3 | 7.4 |

| | National inventory 1995–99 | 1980 Census |
|---|---|---|
| *Greater London* | 3.9 | 3.8 |
| *South-east* | | |
| Berkshire | 14.5 | 13.5 |
| Buckinghamshire | 9.5 | 8.3 |
| East Sussex | 16.7 | 15.6 |
| Hampshire | 17.7 | 16.4 |
| Isle of Wight | 12.0 | 9.7 |
| Kent | 10.6 | 11.4 |
| Oxfordshire | 7.0 | 6.0 |
| Surrey | 22.4 | 18.8 |
| West Sussex | 18.9 | 17.4 |
| *South-west* | | |
| Avon | 6.3 | 5.1 |
| Cornwall | 7.5 | 5.1 |
| Devon | 9.9 | 8.0 |
| Dorset | 10.8 | 9.4 |
| Gloucestershire | 11.2 | 10.0 |
| Somerset | 7.0 | 5.6 |
| Wiltshire | 7.9 | 7.1 |
| *Wales—former counties* | | |
| Clwyd | 10.0 | 9.1 |
| Dyfed | 13.5 | 10.4 |
| Glamorgan (mid, south-west) | 18.6 | 15.3 |
| Gwent | 13.8 | 12.3 |
| Gwynedd | 12.6 | 11.0 |
| Powys | 14.8 | 12.7 |
| *Scotland—former regions* | | |
| Borders | 18.5 | 14.5 |
| Central | 20.1 | 13.4 |
| Dumfries and Galloway | 26.8 | 21.1 |
| Fife | 11.6 | 10.3 |
| Grampian | 18.1 | 15.0 |
| Highland | 13.6 | 9.2 |
| Lothian | 10.4 | 8.0 |
| Strathclyde | 23.5 | 15.2 |
| Tayside | 13.8 | 9.6 |
| Western Isles | 0.8 | n/a |
| Orkney | 0.0 | n/a |
| Shetland | 0.0 | n/a |
| *Northern Ireland* | 6.0 | 4.9 |

*Notes:*

1. Differences in methodology between the two surveys may account for some of the differences.
2. Available breakdown by local authority relates to the structure in 1980
3. Northern Ireland figure published by the Forest Service.

### Whaling

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will take sanctions against those cultures who *(a)* are undertaking and *(b)* intend to undertake illegal whaling. [7273]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** We are not aware of any countries which currently undertake (or intend to undertake) illegal whaling. All those members of the International Whaling Commission which conduct whaling operations do so legally. We continue to protest at the highest diplomatic level against those countries' activities; together with other like-minded countries, we made known our opposition to Japanese 'scientific' whaling in a recent joint demarche; in addition, together with colleagues from the French and German embassies, HM ambassador in Reykjavik issued a statement on 24 May repeating our strong opposition to Iceland's continuing 'scientific whaling' programme.

## INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### Ethiopia

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will make a statement on the current status of agreements to issue reduced price HIV retrovirals in Ethiopia. [11750]

**Hilary Benn:** In January 2005, the Government of Ethiopia launched a programme to provide anti-retroviral therapy (ART) free of charge for people living with HIV and AIDS. Under this programme, 200 health care facilities will provide ART free of charge to 41,000 people living with HIV and AIDS by the end of this year; by the end of 2006 it is expected that an additional 100,000 patients will benefit from free ART provided by over 300 health care facilities.

By 2010 it is expected that antiretroviral drugs to treat 320,000 patients in Ethiopia will be procured using funds pledged by the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria (GFATM), to which the UK has to date contributed £259 million.

Although Ethiopia's free ART programme will inevitably be heavily dependent on external assistance in the short term, plans to facilitate local manufacture of anti-retroviral drugs, increase government funding for HIV/AIDS programmes and introduce social health insurance schemes are expected to improve prospects for sustainability.

### Iraq

**Andrew George:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate his Department has made of the total monthly cost to the UK of civil operations in Iraq since March 2003. [8431]

**Hilary Benn:** Monthly DFID expenditure on humanitarian and reconstruction assistance to Iraq since March 2003 has been:

| Month | Bilateral projects | Payments to multilateral agencies | Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| *2003* | | | |
| March | — | 7,400,000 | 7,400,000 |
| April | 35,098 | — | 35,098 |
| May | 152,823 | 35,785,100 | 35,937,923 |
| June | 704,549 | 10,600,000 | 11,304,549 |
| July | 599,212 | 400,000 | 999,212 |
| August | 1,551,931 | 1,025,000 | 2,576,931 |
| September | 918,918 | 32,835,187 | 33,754,105 |
| October | 2,506,797 | — | 2,506,797 |
| November | 2,580,545 | 5,116,312 | 7,696,857 |
| December | 2,396,104 | — | 2,396,104 |
| *2004* | | | |
| January | 4,182,744 | 3,000,000 | 7,182,744 |
| February | 5,820,468 | 358,573 | 6,179,041 |
| March | 15,850,702 | 82,892,652 | 98,743,354 |
| April | 1,487,010 | — | 1,487,010 |
| May | 2,894,577 | — | 2,894,577 |
| June | 4,155,992 | — | 4,155,992 |
| July | 2,437,976 | — | 2,437,976 |
| August | 4,637,169 | — | 4,637,169 |
| September | 4,270,838 | — | 4,270,838 |
| October | 2,549,869 | — | 2,549,869 |
| November | 6,663,411 | — | 6,663,41 1 |
| December | 2,818,910 | 262,500 | 3,081,410 |
| *2005* | | | |
| January | 1,496,116 | — | 1,496,116 |
| February | 2,206,802 | — | 2,206,802 |

| Month | Bilateral projects | Payments to multilateral agencies | Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| March | 3,137,196 | 10,000,000 | 13,137,196 |
| April | 807,177 | — | 807,177 |
| May | 864,168 | 358,573 | 1,222,741 |
| June | 3,488,257 | — | 3,488,257 |

DFID has also disbursed £4.6 million for UK and overseas administrative costs for the programme. Total DFID spending on Iraq from March 2003 to June 2005 was £275 million. Variations in bilateral expenditure from month to month reflect when invoices were received for completed work on different projects.

Civil spending by other Government Departments over the same period included:

| | £ million |
|---|---|
| Foreign and Commonwealth Office | 89 |
| Global Conflict Prevention Pool (joint DFID, FCO and MOD) | 23 |

Other Government Departments met the salary costs of civil servants seconded to work in Iraq during the period between April 2003 and June 2004.

**Sir Menzies Campbell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much has been spent by coalition countries on the reconstruction of Iraq in each month since March 2003. [9020]

**Hilary Benn:** Monthly DFID expenditure on humanitarian and reconstruction assistance to Iraq since March 2003 has been:

| Month | Bilateral projects | Payments to multilateral agencies | Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| *2003* | | | |
| March | — | 7,400,000 | 7,400,000 |
| April | 35,098 | — | 35,098 |
| May | 152,823 | 35,785,100 | 35,937,923 |
| June | 704,549 | 10,600,000 | 11,304,549 |
| July | 599,212 | 400,000 | 999,212 |
| August | 1,551,931 | 1,025,000 | 2,576,931 |
| September | 918,918 | 32,835,187 | 33,754,105 |
| October | 2,506,797 | — | 2,506,797 |
| November | 2,580,545 | 5,116,312 | 7,696,857 |
| December | 2,396,104 | — | 2,396,104 |
| *2004* | | | |
| January | 4,182,744 | 3,000,000 | 7,182,744 |
| February | 5,820,468 | 358,573 | 6,179,041 |
| March | 15,850,702 | 82,892,652 | 98,743,354 |
| April | 1,487,010 | — | 1,487,010 |
| May | 2,894,577 | — | 2,894,577 |
| June | 4,155,992 | — | 4,155,992 |
| July | 2,437,976 | — | 2,437,976 |
| August | 4,637,169 | — | 4,637,169 |
| September | 4,270,838 | — | 4,270,838 |
| October | 2,549,869 | — | 2,549,869 |
| November | 6,663,411 | — | 6,663,411 |
| December | 2,818,910 | 262,500 | 3,081,410 |
| *2005* | | | |
| January | 1,496,116 | — | 1,496,116 |
| February | 2,206,802 | — | 2,206,802 |
| March | 3,137,196 | 10,000,000 | 13,137,196 |
| April | 807,177 | — | 807,177 |
| May | 864,168 | 358,573 | 1,222,741 |
| June | 3,488,257 | — | 3,488,257 |

In total, DFID has disbursed £271 million on humanitarian and reconstruction assistance in Iraq since March 2003. Variations in bilateral expenditure from month to month reflect when invoices were received for completed work on different projects. DFID also provides 19 per cent. of European Community development funding: EC assistance to Iraq totalled €318.5 million for 2003 and 2004, and €205 million has been approved for 2005.

The Global Conflict Prevention Pool (GCPP), funded jointly by DFID, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and the Ministry of Defence (MOD), disbursed £23 million on Iraq in 2003–04 and 2004–05. In addition, the FCO has spent £38 million on reconstruction activities in Iraq. The MOD has committed £30 million to Quick Impact Projects, most of which has been disbursed.

Comparable figures for other coalition countries are not available. We estimate that their spending on reconstruction programmes since March 2003 has totalled about US $10.3 billion, primarily from the USA (about $8.75 billion) and Japan (about $1.3 billion).

## Malaria

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what anti-malaria drugs the Government fund *(a)* directly, *(b)* through non-government organisations and *(c)* through the UN. [11600]

**Mr. Thomas:** UK support for anti-malarial drugs is through bilateral and multilateral channels—which includes UN agencies. We do not keep specific data on the volume on value of the anti-malarial drugs that go through these different channels.

DFID is a major donor to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria (GFATM). We have pledged more than £259 million through to 2008. Approximately 31 per cent. of GFATM funds go to malaria—and 49 per cent. of all GFATM funds are used for drugs and commodities, including anti-malarial treatments. These funds support both government and NGO programmes. The UK has provided £48.5 million to the Roll Back Malaria Partnership since 1998 and we are also a major donor to the World Bank which has recently announced the Booster programme for Malaria Control programmes.

Our bilateral programme supports malaria control in two ways. First there are malaria specific programmes—and some of these provide anti-malarial drugs. Second, national malaria control programmes (and thus anti-malarial drugs) are funded through our broader health sector programmes and poverty reduction budget support.

From 1998–99 to date, UK support at country level to specific malaria programmes was approximately £58 million. In addition we have provided approximately £59 million for projects targeted on malaria and other diseases that impact on malaria control. This funding is part of over £1.5 billion committed by the UK to health programmes since 1997.

The UK does not have a specific policy on which anti-malarial drugs it funds through its different programmes. We look to developing countries to

determine anti-malarial policies appropriate to local resistance patterns and also to the World Health Organisation as the international technical health agency to work with these countries to develop their policies. Recently many countries in sub-Saharan Africa have moved to a policy of recommending Artemisinin-based Combination Therapy (ACT) as first line treatment for malaria.

### Asian Tsunami

**Mark Simmonds:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment his Department has made of the extent to which aid to tsunami victims has reached the poorest people affected by the disaster; and what steps his Department is taking to ensure that aid reaches such people. [10320]

**Mr. Thomas:** The immediate response to the tsunami has been widely acknowledged as an effective response to all who suffered from the disaster and needed rapid support. We channelled the bulk of our immediate relief and recovery support through experienced humanitarian organisations whose targeting of beneficiaries will have helped ensure that the vulnerable and poor received assistance.

DFID has allocated up to £65 million to meet reconstruction needs. From this allocation £31 million has been committed to the Multi Donor Trust Fund in Indonesia, of which £6 million has so far been paid out. A further £5 million has been committed for technical assistance in Indonesia to help ensure timely, accountable and equitable provision of reconstruction assistance and rebuilding of livelihoods. A total of £2 million has been committed to Sri Lanka to help speed up implementation of reconstruction programmes and to ensure equitable distribution of assistance, and £3 million to India to provide technical assistance aimed at ensuring effective, transparent and equitable programming of tsunami reconstruction efforts. The remaining £24 million of the £65 million allocation for reconstruction has not yet been committed.

### UN Convention Against Corruption

**Mark Simmonds:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions his Department has had with other EU countries regarding UK ratification of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption; and if he will make a statement. [8388]

**Mr. Thomas:** DFID has regular discussions in many fora with our EU partners about anti-corruption measures, including the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC). These fora include the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development (OECD) where DFID has been leading the development of a set of principles to promote stronger donor action and collaboration against corruption, using UNCAC as the policy framework.

The UK very much hopes to ratify the UNCAC by the end of this year. Ratification now depends on Orders in Council. We are committed to introducing Orders in Council under Part Eleven of the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 by October. Orders in Council are also required under the Criminal Justice (International Co-operation) Act 1990 and should be introduced by December 2005. Scotland and Northern Ireland will need to produce corresponding orders before full ratification.

## CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

### Departmental Purchasing

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will list the companies from which her Department has purchased goods and services of a total value above £1 million in each of the last three years; and how much was spent in respect of each company. [11736]

**Mr. Caborn:** DCMS has only contracted with one company regarding goods and services in excess of £1 million in the last three years and that company is our Information Technology provider, Atos Origin (previously Schlumberger Sema). The amounts are as follows:

£

| | *Amount* |
|---|---|
| 2002–03 | 3,639,562 |
| 2003–04 | 3,922,710 |
| 2004–05 | 5,244,474 |

### Historic Houses

**Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) what steps are being taken to reduce the coincidence of regulation from different Government agencies which impacts on the management and operation of historic houses open to the public; [11211]

(2) what steps are being taken to co-ordinate efforts across Government Departments to support the historic environment and the work of organisations which work to preserve the built heritage, with particular reference to the Historic Houses Association. [11212]

**Mr. Lammy** *[holding answer 12 July 2005]:* With ODPM, Defra and DfES and HMT, we work closely with the historic and built environment sectors, including the Historic Houses Association. We are well aware of their concerns about the impact of regulation on private houses open to the public.

### Licensing

**Mr. Moss:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what complaints she has received from licence applicants under the Licensing Act 2003 concerning the requirements for statutory plans of premises. [9456]

**James Purnell:** I know that some applicants have concerns about meeting the requirements for plans to accompany licence applications under the 2003 Act. These issues have been formally raised in the High Level

Group of senior stakeholders which we established to monitor the implementation of the 2003 Act and identify actions to help ensure a smooth transition. As a result of discussions at the High Level Group, I recently wrote to all chief executives of local authorities to express the Group's hope that authorities would look favourably at using or amending existing plans and, where necessary, be as flexible as possible about allowing alternative scales.

### Plundered Material

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether it is her policy to legislate to enable the return of plundered material from the Second World War held in UK museums and galleries if advised to do so by the Spoliation Advisory Panel. [11661]

**Mr. Lammy:** Ministers are now considering their response to the Spoliation Advisory Panel's recent recommendation that the Government should legislate to enable the return of objects within the panel's Terms of Reference. Any legislation would be the result of extensive discussions with the museum sector and, particularly, with the National Museum Directors' Conference as well as with other interested parties and the panel itself.

### Sports (Participation)

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimates her Department has made of drop out rates for participation in sport among 16 and 17-year-olds in each year since 1997; and if she will make a statement. [10868]

**Mr. Caborn:** My Department does not have exact figures for each year since 1997. However, we can estimate that participation for young men drops from 91 per cent. to 81 per cent. between the 15 to 16-year-old age group and 16 to 19-year-old age group. For young women it drops from 78 per cent. to 65 per cent.

These figures are derived from Sport England's Young People and Sport Survey 2002 and The General Household survey 2002. Definitions of participation are slightly different across the two surveys but are broadly comparable to having taken part on at least one occasion in the previous four weeks.

## TRANSPORT

### Crossrail

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much office space is occupied by Cross London Rail Links Ltd.; and what rent has been paid for office space for this purpose in each year from 1997. [10364]

**Derek Twigg:** This is a matter for Cross London Rail Links Ltd. (CLRLL). I understand from CLRLL that it currently occupies 1,900m$^2$ of office space; and that, since the company's formation in 2001, it has paid the following rent for office space:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2001–02 | 878,000 |
| 2002–03 | 626,000 |
| 2003–04 | 746,000 |
| 2004–05 | 1,907,000 |

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the cost to his Department of the Crossrail project, broken down by *(a)* wages, *(b)* office costs and *(c)* other costs was in the last year for which figures are available. [10365]

**Derek Twigg:** The unit that deals with Crossrail sponsorship in the Department, which includes the Crossrail hybrid Bill team, had wage costs in the financial year 2004–05 of £642,267; office costs of £77,870; and other costs (primarily consultancy) of £1,937,094.

The Department provided £154 million to the Crossrail development company, Cross London Rail Links Ltd. in 2001.

### English Wine

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will ensure that English wine is made available at dinners, receptions and parties he hosts at which hospitality involving wine is appropriate *(a)* during the EU presidency and *(b)* generally; and if he will make a statement. [9154]

**Dr. Ladyman:** All procurement of food products by the Department is undertaken in line with the EC's procurement rules and to obtain value for money. Where possible British products are used. The organisers of events during the UK Presidency will be reminded of the availability of English wine. For ministerial meetings in Brussels and Luxembourg we are working with the Council Secretariat to try to provide British produce (as key ingredients) and drink for all meetings during the UK Presidency.

### EU Driver Licensing Committee

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 23 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 1129W, on the EU Driver Licensing Committee, who the members are of his Honorary Medical Advisory Panels; and what relevant *(a)* qualifications and *(b)* experience each has. [11796]

**Dr. Ladyman:** Membership of the Secretary of State's Honorary Medical Advisory Panels is made up of eminent medical practitioners and medical scientists, usually consultants, who are acknowledged national and sometimes international experts in their particular field. Nominations are sought through the relevant professional bodies and are considered and approved as

appropriate by the relevant medical Royal College. Two lay members also sit on each Panel. Members of the Medical Advisory Panels working on diabetes, eyesight and epilepsy and their qualifications are as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| *Advisory Panel Members* | |
| *Diabetes Mellitus and Driving* | |
| Professor B. M. Frier BSc. Ed MD FRCP | Chairman since 2001 |
| Dr. S. G. Gilbey BA MD MRCP FRLP | Member since 1997 re-appointed 2002 |
| Dr. A. B. Stevens BAO MD FRCP AFOM | Member since 1997 re-appointed 2002 |
| Dr. D. Kerr DM FRCP FRCPE | Member since 2001 |
| Dr A. E. Gold BSc. Ed MD MRCP | Member since 2001 |
| Professor J. Saunders MA MD FRCP | Member since 2002 |
| Dr. D. T. E. Gunnah MD BSc. FRCP | Member since 2002 |
| Ms M. Jackson | Lay member since 2001 |
| Mrs B. Hatton | Lay member since 2001 |
| *Visual Disorders and Driving* | |
| Mr. M. H. Miller MD FRCS FRCOphth | Chairman since 2001 |
| Mr. J. Elston BSc. MD FRCS FRCOphth | Member since 1998 |
| Dr. G. McIlwaine FRCS(ED) FRCOphth FRCS(Glas) | Member since 2000 |
| Mr. A. Viswanathan BSc. (Hons) FRCOphth MD | Member since 2002 |
| Mr. I. G. M. Duguid MD FRCS | Member since 2002 |
| Mr. F. D. Ghanchi MS(Ophth) MB BS FRCOphth | Member since 2002 |
| Mr A Elliott FRCP FRCS FRCOphth | Member since 2003 |
| Dr. C. W. Fowler PhD FCOptom | Member since 2003 |
| Dr. C. Dickinson BSc. PhD | Member since 2004 |
| Dr. G. Plant MD FRCP | Member since 2005 |
| Mrs. M. Cornwell | Lay member since 2001 |
| Mr. R. Yates | Lay member since 2001 |
| *Disorders of the Nervous System and Driving* | |
| Professor C. P. Warlow MD BA MBCHIR FRCB FRCP Ed FRCP(London) FRCP(Glas) MRCP(UK) | Chairman since 2004 |
| Professor C. J. Mathias Dphil DSc FRCP FMedSci | Member since 2004 |
| Dr. P. E. M. Smith MD FRCP | Member since 2004 |
| Dr. A. Johnson PhD CSTAT | Member since 1996 |
| Professor A. D. Mendelow PhD FRCS Ed | Member since 1998 |
| Professor D. T. Wade FRCP MD MA | Member since 1998 |
| Professor M. Brada BSc. FRCP FRCR | Member since 1998 |
| Mr. R. S. C. Kerr BSc. MS FRCS | Member since 1998 |
| Dr. A. Zeman BA DM MRCP | Member since 2001 |
| Professor I. R. Whittle PhD Ed MD FRCS Ed FRACS | Member since 1998 |
| Professor G. Cruickshank FRCS | Member since 2001 |
| Dr. L. Nashef MD MRCP | Member since 2001 |
| Mrs. M. Cooper | Lay member since 2001 |
| Mrs. J. Wightman | Lay member since 2001 |

## Magnetic Levitation

**Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what consideration is being given to magnetic levitation as the propulsion system for the possible new North-South railway. [11873]

**Derek Twigg:** The Government have asked Sir Rod Eddington to advise on the long-term impact of transport decisions on UK productivity, stability and growth. His work will assess the effects of potential new infrastructure such as a North-South high speed line. At this very early stage, what technology might be appropriate is yet to be decided. Affordability, value for money and deliverability will be key considerations.

## Railways

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what representations he has received on proposals to change the timetabling for trains running along the Hastings to London Victoria line. [10620]

**Derek Twigg** *[holding answer 7 July 2005]:* The Department has received correspondence from Members of Parliament and other stakeholders, and a petition requesting that current service levels are kept and enhanced.

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his plans are for the improvement of rail *(a)* infrastructure and *(b)* services in Hampshire in each of the next three years; and if he will make a statement. [11509]

**Derek Twigg:** Improvements to the rail infrastructure and service in Hampshire will be considered as part of the ongoing business of the operators. In addition, Network Rail are undertaking a Route Utilisation Strategy and the DfT/SRA are working on franchise replacements for Greater Western and South Western that contain services operating in Hampshire.

## Road Schemes (North-west)

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will list the major road schemes in *(a)* the north-west and *(b)* Lancashire which are planned to start in (i) 2005–06 and (ii) 2006–07; and what the estimated cost is of each. [11825]

**Dr. Ladyman:** Major local road schemes in *(a)* the north-west and *(b)* Lancashire are listed in the following table. The cost of each scheme is the most recent estimated cost. The current estimated planned start dates listed are those suggested by the local highway authority.

| | *Provisionally approved*[1] | *Fully approved* | *Current estimated planned start date by local highway authority* | *Recent cost estimate (£ million)* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *(a) North West Scheme* | | | | |
| Edge Lane West, Liverpool | December 2004 | — | October 2006 | 15.85 |
| Hall Lane Area Improvements, Liverpool[2] | December 2000 | — | Late 2006 | 12.2 |
| A58 Blackbrook Diversion, St Helens | December 2002 | — | 2005–06 | 8.45 |
| The Carlisle Northern Development Route | — | October 2004 | 2006–07 | [3]78.8 |
| Wigan Inner Relief Route[2] | December 2002 | — | 2005–06 | 19.5 |
| Ashton Northern Bypass Stage 2, Tameside[2] | December 2002 | — | 2005–06 | 8.29 |
| The Glossop Spur, Tameside[2] | December 2002 | — | 2006–07 | 8.081 |
| *(b) Lancashire Scheme* | — | — | — | 0 |

## Road Traffic Accidents/Statistics

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many road traffic accidents occurred in each of the last five years on the A127 between the M25 and Southend; and what proportion of these resulted in personal injury. [11413]

**Dr. Ladyman:** The Department for Transport does not collect statistics on damage-only accidents.

The number of injury accidents which occurred on the A127 between the M25 and Southend in the last five years for which data are available are shown in the following table.

| | *Fatal accidents* | *Serious accidents* | *Slight accidents* | *All accidents involving personal injury* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2000 | 3 | 35 | 38 | 204 |
| 2001 | 2 | 38 | 40 | 209 |
| 2002 | 2 | 22 | 24 | 182 |
| 2003 | 8 | 32 | 40 | 185 |
| 2004 | 4 | 28 | 32 | 172 |

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many road traffic accidents occurred in each of the last five years on the A13 between the M25 and Southend; and what proportion of these resulted in personal injury. [11414]

**Dr. Ladyman:** The Department for Transport does not collect statistics on damage-only accidents.

The number of injury accidents which occurred on the A13 between the M25 and Southend in the last five years for which data are available are shown in the following table.

| | *Fatal accidents* | *Serious accidents* | *Slight accidents* | *All accidents involving personal injury* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2000 | 2 | 45 | 300 | 347 |
| 2001 | 9 | 44 | 284 | 337 |
| 2002 | 4 | 43 | 287 | 334 |
| 2003 | 5 | 44 | 257 | 306 |
| 2004 | 4 | 37 | 222 | 263 |

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many road traffic accidents occurred in each of the last five years in Castle Point; and what proportion of these resulted in personal injury. [11415]

**Dr. Ladyman:** The Department for Transport does not collect statistics on damage-only accidents.

The number of road traffic accidents which occurred in the district of Castle Point in the last five years for which data are available are shown in the following table.

| | *Fatal accidents* | *Serious accidents* | *Slight accidents* | *All accidents involving personal injury* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2000 | 2 | 48 | 271 | 321 |
| 2001 | 2 | 40 | 260 | 302 |
| 2002 | 3 | 44 | 240 | 287 |
| 2003 | 3 | 35 | 239 | 277 |
| 2004 | 3 | 26 | 232 | 261 |

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many road traffic accidents occurred in each of the last five years on Canvey Island; and what proportion of those resulted in personal injury. [10949]

**Dr. Ladyman:** The Department for Transport does not collect statistics on damage-only accidents.

The number of road traffic accidents involving personal injury which occurred on Canvey Island in each of the last five years for which data are available are shown in the table.

| | *Fatal accidents* | *Serious accidents* | *Slight accidents* | *All accidents involving personal injury* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2000 | 1 | 17 | 102 | 120 |
| 2001 | 0 | 17 | 100 | 117 |
| 2002 | 0 | 15 | 91 | 106 |
| 2003 | 1 | 15 | 85 | 101 |
| 2004 | 1 | 8 | 89 | 98 |

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many accidents occurred in each of the last five years on the A130 between the A127 and its end on Canvey Island; and what proportion of these resulted in personal injury. [10950]

**Dr. Ladyman:** The Department for Transport does not collect statistics on damage-only accidents.

The number of injury accidents which occurred on the A130 between the A127 and its end on Canvey Island in the last five years for which data are available are shown in the table.

| | *Fatal accidents* | *Serious accidents* | *Slight accidents* | *All accidents involving personal injury* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2000 | 2 | 10 | 46 | 58 |
| 2001 | 0 | 9 | 42 | 51 |
| 2002 | 0 | 5 | 36 | 41 |
| 2003 | 1 | 10 | 48 | 59 |
| 2004 | 0 | 8 | 52 | 60 |

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what the traffic levels were on the *(a)* A11 (M11 to Norwich), *(b)* A19 Dishforth to Tyne Tunnel, *(c)* A42 Pepperhill to Cobham Widening, *(d)* A2/M2 and A249 (M2 to Sheppey) and *(e)* A20 Trunk Road to Roundhill tunnels in the last year for which figures are available before construction works began; and what forecast has been made of likely levels after construction works are completed; [8239]

(2) what the traffic levels were on the *(a)* A249 Iwade Bypass to Queensborough Improvement, *(b)* A249 Stockbury (M2) to Sheerness, *(c)* A30 Exeter to Bere Regis, *(d)* A30 Pennygillam to Bulsworthy and *(e)* A303/A30 (M3 to Honiton) in the last year for which figures are available before construction works began; and what forecast has been made of the likely levels after construction works are completed; [8241]

(3) what the traffic levels were on the *(a)* M1 junction 30 to 31, *(b)* M1 junction 31 to 32, *(c)* M1 junction 32 to 34 southbound and *(d)* M1 junction 6a to 10 in the last year for which figures are available; and what forecast has been made of likely levels after construction works are completed; [8282]

(4) what the traffic levels were on the *(a)* M1 junctions 21 to 30, *(b)* M25 widening, *(c)* M27 junctions 11 to 12, *(d)* M27 junctions 3 and 4 and *(e)* M5 junctions 19 and 20 in the last year for which figures are available; and what forecast has been made of likely levels after construction works are completed; [8284]

(5) what the traffic levels were on the *(a)* A1 Darrington to Dishforth, *(b)* A1 Peterborough to Blyth, *(c)* A1(M) Alconbury to Peterborough, *(d)* A1(M) Ferrybridge to Hook Moor and *(e)* A1(M) Wetherby to Walshford in the last year for which figures are available before construction works began; and what projections have been made of likely levels after construction works are completed; [8286]

(6) what the traffic levels were on the *(a)* A66 Penrith to Temple Sowerby, *(b)* A66 Temple Sowerby Bypass and Improvements at Winderwath, *(c)* A66 Temple Sowerby to Appleby and *(d)* A69 Haydon Bridge Bypass in the last year for which figures are available; and what forecast has been made of likely levels after construction works are completed; [8309]

(7) what the traffic levels were on the *(a)* M1 junctions 34 North to junction 37, *(b)* M1 junctions 37 to 39, *(c)* M1 junctions 39 to 42, *(d)* M1 junction 10 to 13 and *(e)* M1 junction 19 in the last year for which figures are available; and what forecast has been made of likely future levels after construction works are completed; [8310]

(8) what the traffic levels were on the *(a)* A483 Pant to Llanymynech Bypass, *(b)* A50 Trentham Lakes North Improvements, *(c)* A505 Dunstable Northern Bypass (A5 to M1 Link), *(d)* A57/A628 Mottram in Longdendale, Hollingworth and Tintwistle Bypass and *(e)* A595 Parton to Lillyhall Improvement in the last year for which figures are available; and what forecast has been made of likely future levels after construction works are completed; [8314]

(9) what the traffic levels were on the *(a)* A45/A46 Tollbar End Improvement, *(b)* A453 Widening (M1 Junction 24 to A52 Nottingham), *(c)* A46 Newark Widmerpool Improvement, *(d)* A47 Acle Straight and *(e)* A47 Blofield to North Burlingham Dualling in the last year for which figures are available; and what forecast has been made of likely levels after construction works are completed; [8316]

(10) what the traffic levels were on the *(a)* A14 Ellington to Fen Ditton, *(b)* A14 Haughley New Street to Stowmarket Improvement, *(c)* A2/A282 Dartford Improvement, *(d)* A21 South Pembury to Hastings Route Improvements and *(e)* A21 Tonbridge to Pembury in the last year for which figures are available; and what forecast has been made of likely levels after construction works are completed; [8317]

(11) what the traffic levels were on the *(a)* A1 Adderstone to Belford, *(b)* A1 Dishforth to Barton, *(c)* A1 Morpeth to Felton, *(d)* A1(M) Bramham to Wetherby and *(e)* A120 Braintree to Marks Tey in the last year for which figures are available; and what forecast has been made of likely levels after construction works are completed; [8319]

(12) what the traffic levels were on the *(a)* A590 High and Low Newton Bypass, *(b)* A63 Osgodby Bypass, *(c)* A64 Rillington Bypass, *(d)* A64 York to Scarborough Proposed Dualling and *(e)* A66 Appleby to Brough in the last year for which figures are available; and what forecast has been made of likely future levels after construction works are completed. [8321]

**Dr. Ladyman:** A table has been placed in the Libraries of the House showing traffic levels for the Highways Agency road schemes where data are available.

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what estimate he has made of total carbon dioxide emissions from traffic on the *(a)* A11 (M11 to Norwich), *(b)* A19 Dishforth to Tyne Tunnel, *(c)* A2 Pepperhill to Cobham Widening, *(d)* A2/M2 and A249 (M2 to Sheppey) and *(e)* A20 Trunk Road to Roundhill tunnels in the last year for which figures are available before construction works began; how many accidents occurred on each road in that year; how many (i) fatalities and (ii) serious injuries occurred; and when each scheme is due to (A) begin and (B) be completed; [8240]

(2) what estimate he has made of total carbon dioxide emissions from traffic on the *(a)* A249 Iwade Bypass to Queensborough Improvement, *(b)* A249 Stockbury (M2) to Sheerness, *(c)* A30 Exeter to Bere Regis, *(d)* A30 Pennygillam to Bulsworthy and *(e)* A303/A30 (M3 to Honiton) in the last year for which figures are available before construction works began; how many accidents there were on each road in that year; how many resulted in (i) fatalities and (ii) serious injuries; what forecast has been made of likely levels after construction works are completed; and when each scheme is due to (A) begin and (B) be completed; [8242]

(3) what estimate has been made of carbon dioxide emissions from traffic on the *(a)* M1 junction 34 North to 37, *(b)* M1 junction 37 to 39, *(c)* M1 junction 39 to 42, *(d)* M1 junction 10 to 13 and *(e)* M1 junction 19 in the last year for which figures are available; how many accidents there were on each stretch of road in that year; how many resulted in (i) fatalities and (ii) serious injuries; what forecast has been made of likely levels after construction works are completed; and when each scheme is due to (A) begin and (B) be completed; [8281]

(4) what estimate has been made of carbon dioxide emissions from traffic on the *(a)* M1 junction 30 to 31, *(b)* M1 junction 31 to 32, *(c)* M1 junction 32 to 34 southbound and *(d)* M1 junction 6a to 10 in the last year for which figures are available; how many accidents there were in each stretch of road in that year; how many resulted in (i) fatalities and (ii) serious injuries; what forecast has been made of the likely levels after construction works are completed; and when each scheme is due to (A) begin and (B) be completed; [8283]

(5) what estimate has been made of carbon dioxide emissions from traffic on the *(a)* A1 Darrington to Dishforth, *(b)* A1 Peterborough to Blyth, *(c)* A1(M) Alconbury to Peterborough, *(d)* A1(M) Ferrybridge to Hook Moor and *(e)* A1(M) Wetherby to Walshford in the last year for which figures are available before construction works began; how many accidents there were on each road in that year; how many resulted in (i) fatalities and (ii) serious injuries; what forecast has been made of likely levels after construction works are completed; and when each scheme is due to (A) begin and (B) be completed; [8285]

(6) what estimate he has made of carbon dioxide emissions from traffic on *(a)* M1 junctions 21 to 30, *(b)* M25 widening, *(c)* M27 junctions 11 and 12, *(d)* M27 junctions 3 and 4 and *(e)* M5 junctions 19 and 20 in the last year for which figures are available; how many accidents there were on each road in that year; how many resulted in *(a)* fatalities and (ii) serious injuries; what forecast has been made of likely levels after construction works are completed; and when each scheme is due to (A) begin and (B) be completed; [8287]

(7) what estimate has been made of carbon dioxide emissions from traffic on the *(a)* A66 Penrith to Temple Sowerby, *(b)* A66 Temple Sowerby Bypass and Improvements at Winderwath, *(c)* A66 Temple Sowerby to Appleby and *(d)* A69 Haydon Bridge Bypass in the last year for which figures are available; how many accidents there were on each road in that year; how many resulted in (i) fatalities and (ii) serious injuries; what forecast has been made of likely levels after construction works are completed; and when each scheme is due to (A) begin and (B) be completed; [8308]

(8) what estimate he has made of carbon dioxide emissions from traffic on the *(a)* A45/A46 Tollbar End Improvement, *(b)* A453 Widening (M1 Junction 24 to A52 Nottingham, *(c)* A46 Newark to Widmerpool Improvement, *(d)* A47 Acle Straight and *(e)* A47 Blofield to North Burlingham dualling in the last year for which figures are available; how many accidents there were on each road in that year; how many resulted in (i) fatalities and (ii) serious injuries; what forecast has been made of likely levels after construction works are completed; and when each scheme is due to (A) begin and (B) be completed; [8315]

(9) what estimate he has made of carbon dioxide emissions from traffic on the *(a)* A1 Adderstone to Belford, *(b)* A1 Dishforth to Barton, *(c)* A1 Morpeth to Felton, *(d)* A1(M) Bramham to Wetherby and *(e)* A120 Braintree to Marks Tey in the last year for which figures are available; how many accidents there were on each road in that year; how many resulted in (i) fatalities and (ii) serious injuries; and when each scheme is due to (A) begin and (B) be completed; [8318]

(10) what estimate he has made of carbon dioxide emissions from traffic on the *(a)* A483 Pant to Llanymynech Bypass, *(b)* A50 Trentham Lakes North Improvements, *(c)* A505 Dunstable Northern Bypass (A5 to M1 Link), *(d)* A57/A628 Mottram in Longdendale, Hollingworth and Tintwistle Bypass and *(e)* A595 Parton to Lillyhall Improvement in the last year for which figures are available; how many accidents occurred on each stretch of road in each year; how many resulted in (i) fatalities and (ii) serious injuries; what forecast has been made of likely future levels after construction works are completed; and when each scheme is due to (A) begin and (B) be completed. [8320]

**Dr. Ladyman:** A table has been placed in the Libraries of the House showing carbon dioxide emission estimates for the Highways Agency road schemes where data are available.

A table has been placed in the Libraries of the House showing, for the Highways Agency road schemes where data are available, how many accidents occurred on each road in that year; how many fatalities and serious injuries occurred; and when each scheme is due to begin and be complete.

### Robin Hood Airport

**Mr. MacShane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will instruct relevant agencies to create a motorway link to the Robin Hood Airport, Doncaster. [10202]

**Dr. Ladyman:** Any new road would be for Doncaster metropolitan borough council, the local highway authority to promote. They are currently looking into the need for a new link road and may wish to discuss their findings with my officials later this year.

### Safety Cameras

**Mr. David Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what guidance is given to local authorities with regard to their participation in safety camera partnerships. [11710]

**Dr. Ladyman:** The Department issues a Handbook of Rules and Guidance for the National Safety Camera Programme for England and Wales. The Handbook for 2005–06 can be found in the Library of the House and on the Department for Transport website, www.dft.gov.uk

### Special Advisers

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will list *(a)* the special advisers in his Department, *(b)* their specific areas of expertise and *(c)* the total cost of employing them in the latest year for which figures are available. [8824]

**Ms Buck:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 4 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 36W.

### Trains

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for what reason 30 train units were diverted by the Strategic Rail Authority to other train operating companies from South West Trains; what research was carried out into the consequences of the reduction in capacity; what plans he has to provide replacements for the 30 units; and if he will make a statement. [11289]

**Derek Twigg:** The original agreement to supply Desiro rolling stock to SWT was linked to a 20-year franchise being awarded, and assumed significant infrastructure works to accommodate these units. The interim three-year franchise did not provide for such investment, and therefore 30 units could not be deployed in the short-term.

The current franchise replacement process will seek to address the provision of capacity for the SWT area and the appropriate deployment of rolling stock.

### Vehicle Licensing

**Dr. Pugh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many British petrol engined vehicles licensed for use on British roads were built prior to 1993. [11567]

**Dr. Ladyman:** At 31 March 2005, there were 3,235,000 licensed petrol propelled vehicles that were first registered before 1993. This represents 13.7 per cent. of all petrol propelled vehicles.

## TRADE AND INDUSTRY

### Clearing Banks

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will refer the banks' practice of taking three days to clear cash from one account to another to the Office of Fair Trading; and if he will make a statement. [11033]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** In the first instance questions regarding competition or consumer issues in the banking sector are a matter for the independent competition authorities, in this case the Office of Fair Trading.

The Office of Fair Trading chairs the Payment Systems Task Force, which includes representatives from the banking industry, consumers, business and government. The Task Force recommended in May that a faster payments service be introduced for telephone and internet banking payments, with the ability to accept standing order payments. Instead of taking three days, payments would either be made same day, or overnight. The industry will report back to the Task Force with a full specification by the end of this year, with full implementation two years after that.

### Design and Artist Copyright Society

**Derek Wyatt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many meetings his Department has had with representatives of the *(a)* art market and *(b)* Design and Artist Copyright Society since 1 April. [11529]

**Alan Johnson** *[holding answer 11 July 2005]:* The Department has had one meeting with the British Art Market Federation and two with the Design and Artists Copyright Society.

### Directorate Staff

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many members of each Directorate have taken voluntary redundancy since October 2003; and for what reasons. [10518]

**Alan Johnson:** The following table shows the number of staff in each Directorate who have taken voluntary early severance and voluntary early retirement since October 2003.

Their reasons for doing so are not recorded.

| *Directorate* | *Voluntary early:* *Severance* | *Retirement* |
|---|---|---|
| Business Relations | 51 | 84 |
| Business Support | 3 | 0 |
| Consumer and Competition Policy Directorate | 7 | 19 |
| Corporate Law and Governance | 4 | 16 |
| Energy Industries and Technology Unit | 8 | 23 |
| Energy Markets Unit | 3 | 9 |
| Employment Relations | 8 | 15 |
| Energy Resources and Development Unit | 4 | 8 |
| Energy strategy Unit | 2 | 2 |
| Europe and World Trade | 7 | 10 |
| Finance and Resource Management | 5 | 13 |
| Human Resources and Change Management | 3 | 15 |
| Industry Economics and Statistics | 2 | 3 |
| Innovation Group | 14 | 23 |
| Information and Workplace Services | 8 | 22 |
| Legal | 16 | 12 |
| Ministerial and Parliamentary Support Team | 8 | 13 |
| Office of Manpower Economics | 2 | 5 |
| Office of Science and Technology | 6 | 8 |
| Project Work Team | 6 | 6 |
| Regions | 3 | 9 |
| Small Business Service | 13 | 23 |
| Strategy Communications Unit | 7 | 6 |
| Shareholder Executive | 2 | 3 |
| UK Trade and Investment | 35 | 28 |
| Women and Equality Unit | 5 | 3 |
| Export Control and Non-Proliferation | 4 | 9 |
| Other small directorates[1] | 2 | 9 |

[1] This represents British National Space Centre, Internal Audit, Low Pay Commission and the Strategic Policy Analysis Unit where the numbers are small and there is a risk staff could be identified.

### I-dialling

**Helen Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what steps he is taking to tackle the problems arising from i-dialling. [10841]

**Alun Michael:** By i-dialling I take it that the hon. Member means rogue diallers on the internet running up large bills for consumers. The Government asked Ofcom to carry out a review of premium rate services regulation to ensure that the right level of protection is in place to protect consumers. Ofcom has now produced its report with recommendations designed to improve the effectiveness of premium rate regulation. We are working with the premium rate regulator, ICSTIS, and Ofcom to implement these recommendations as soon as possible. This Department is currently consulting on implementing recommendation 6 from the Ofcom report on increasing the maximum fine for breaches of the ICSTIS code from £100,000 to £250,000.

### Late Payments

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will introduce measures to amend the Late Payment of Commercial Debts Act 1998 to ensure the strict application of the 30 day limit and increased compensation for late payments. [11881]

**Barry Gardiner:** The Government are determined to improve the UK's payment culture. That is why we introduced legislation giving suppliers a statutory right to claim interest on late paid bills. The Late Payment of Commercial Debts (Interest) Act 1998 provides a useful tool for companies suffering from late payment to use 'if they wish' to claim compensation and interest on late debts. The legislation sets a default period of 30 days if there is no other agreed credit period. The default period does not constitute a statutory credit period and therefore its strict application cannot be enforced.

The interest rate, at 8 per cent. over the Bank of England base lending, rate is the highest in Europe for late payment legislation. In comparison the EC directive

on late payment sets a rate of 7 per cent. over the ECB rate. The legislation also allows for a compensation amount up to £100 to be claimed in addition to the interest.

In a recent survey the Credit Management Research Centre of Leeds university found that overall, 62 per cent. of firms reported that they do specify their rights to customers under the late payment legislation and that 75 per cent. of large firms are more likely to do so.

The Government want more companies to agree credit terms and define payment periods up front, using the legislation as a backup measure to their normal trading relationship.

### Peninsula Power Ltd.

**Mr. Cox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what payments have been made to date by the South West Regional Development Agency to or on behalf of Peninsula Power Ltd. and its officers, directors or shareholders; what the reasons for the payments were in each case; and if he will make a statement. [11697]

**Alun Michael:** I have asked the chief executive of the Agency to write to the hon. Member: a copy of that letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

### Post Offices

**Mr. Peter Robinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many post offices in Northern Ireland have closed in each of the past 10 years. [11715]

**Barry Gardiner:** This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. (POL) and the chief executive has been asked to reply direct to the hon. Member.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many post offices were in operation in Southend in each of the last 10 years. [10537]

**Barry Gardiner:** This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. (POL) and the chief executive has been asked to reply direct to the hon. Member.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what recent discussions he has had with the Royal Mail about delivery of mail in Southend. [10538]

**Barry Gardiner:** DTI Ministers and officials meet with representatives from Royal Mail on a regular basis to discuss a wide range of issues, including delivery performance issues.

We are pleased to see that Royal Mail's quality of service has improved overall over the past year. We have received assurances from Allan Leighton and Adam Crozier that the Board will continue to give quality of service top priority.

### Premium Rate Telephone Lines

**Helen Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what progress has been made on implementing Ofcom's 2004 recommendations on regulating premium rate telephone lines. [10840]

**Alun Michael:** The recommendation on traffic monitoring and information sharing by operators was implemented on 24 May. The key recommendation, that network operators should not make payments to service providers for at least 30 days after calls have been made, will be implemented very shortly through an emergency change to the ICSTIS code of practice. This Department is currently consulting on raising the fines for breaches of the ICSTIS code, and we expect the other recommendations to be implemented by early in 2006 at the latest.

## TREASURY

### Automated Telling Machines

**Mr. Kemp:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) if he will make an assessment of the implications for the financial services of changes in the number of ATM providers which charge for cash withdrawals; [11404]

(2) what estimate he has made of *(a)* the number and *(b)* the percentage of ATMs which charged for cash withdrawals in (i) 1999, (ii) 2002 and (iii) 2004. [11405]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** In 1999 most banks and building societies had agreements with a subset of other banks and building societies from which their customers could obtain free ATM withdrawals. If customers used any other ATMs they would be charged by their bank or building society. There were no independently owned LINK ATMs as only banks and building societies were able to access the LINK network directly.

Since 1999, virtually all UK banks and building societies have made a commitment to offer their ATMs free of charge to customers of other UK banks and building societies. There are now over 30,000 free ATMs in the UK. In 2000 LINK was opened up to independent ATM operators. Some of the ATMs deployed by these operators charge for ATM withdrawals. The majority of these charging ATMs are in new locations where previously there was no cash machine. In October 2002 LINK figures show that there were 10,066 charging ATMs in the UK and in October 2004 there were 19,659. However, less than 4 per cent. of withdrawals are made at charging cash machines.

The Government have responded to the Treasury Committee's recent report on Cash Machine Charges (Treasury Committee's Fifth Report of Session 2004–05) and the Treasury Committee is expected to publish the response shortly, once it has been re-appointed following the General Election. The Government's response sets out policy on the issue in more detail.

### Bedfordshire (Statistics)

**Mrs. Dorries:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average earnings of a full-time employee in the constituency of Mid-Bedfordshire were in April in each year since 2000. [11014]

**John Healey:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Len Cook to Mrs. Nadine Dorries, dated 13 July 2005:*

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question what the average gross earnings of full time employees in the constituency of Mid-Bedfordshire were in April in each year since 2000. (11014)

Average earnings are estimated from the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings and are provided for employees on adult rates of pay whose pay was unaffected by absence during the pay period, by their place of work. This is the standard definition used for Annual Survey of Hours and Earning tables. The Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings does not collect data on the self employed and people who do unpaid work.

I attach a table showing the mean and median gross weekly earnings for full time employees in Mid-Bedfordshire in each year since 2000. These results are also available on the National Statistics website on table 9:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/STATBASE/Product.asp?vlnk=13101

The Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, carried out in April of each year, is the most comprehensive source of earnings information in the United Kingdom. It has a one per cent sample of all employees.

*Gross weekly earnings, means and medians, for full-time employees in Mid-Bedfordshire Parliamentary Constituency for 2000–04*

| | *Median (£)* | *CV*[1] | *Mean (£)* | *CV*[1] |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2000 | 394.1 | 7.1 | 483.3 | 6.6 |
| 2001 | 401.9 | 8.9 | 473.6 | 6.6 |
| 2002 | 423.4 | 7.8 | 492.9 | 6.9 |
| 2003 | 457.8 | 7.2 | 554.4 | 6.8 |
| 2004 excluding[2] | 498.4 | 8.9 | 585.8 | 7.1 |
| 2004 including[2] | 497.5 | 8.9 | 581.7 | 7.1 |

[1] Guide to quality: The Coefficient of Variation (CV) is given to indicate the quality of a figure, the smaller the CV value the better the quality. Figures that have a CV value greater than 20 per cent. are considered to be unreliable. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV, e.g. for an average of 200 with a CV of 5 per cent. we would expect the population average to be within the range 180 to 220.

[2] In 2004 a number of supplementary surveys were introduced to improve the coverage of ASHE. Data is presented for 2004 both including and excluding these supplementary surveys. The data excluding supplementary surveys enables a direct comparison to 2003.

*Notes:*

1. The Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE) carried out in April of each year, is the most comprehensive source of earnings information in the United Kingdom. It is a 1 per cent. sample of all employees.
2. The ASHE replaces the New Earnings Survey (NES) from October 2004. The main difference between the ASHE and NES being that estimates are weighted to population totals from the Labour Force Survey.
3. Average gross weekly earnings for adult full-time employees whose pay for the survey period was not affected by absence.

*Source :*

Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, ONS.

### Bulk Annuity Market

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will investigate the workings of the bulk annuity market. [11843]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The Treasury continues to work closely with the Financial Services Authority, the Department for Work and Pensions and other stakeholders to maintain an up-to-date understanding of the market for private pension provision in the UK. This includes the market for individual and bulk annuities.

### Departmental Staff

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many full-time equivalents have worked for the Department for each of the last five financial years for which figures are available. [11524]

**John Healey:** The information requested is given in Table C of Civil Service Statistics 2004 which is available on the internet at http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/management_information/statistical_information/statistics/publications/xls/report_2004/table_c.xls.

This table shows the numbers of staff by Department and agency between 1998 and 2004, on a full-time equivalent basis. Copies of Civil Service Statistics are also available in the Library.

### Drug Imports

**Paul Flynn:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what changes have taken place in the level of imports into the UK of *(a)* heroin, *(b)* cocaine and *(c)* cannabis in each year since 1998. [10852]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The methodologies used to estimate the amounts of illegal drugs imported do not currently enable us to identify year on year changes.

The National Criminal Intelligence Service has previously published estimates of the amounts of heroin and cocaine smuggled into the UK annually. It is likely that imports of heroin and cocaine during the period you refer to fell within the range of these estimates: 25–35 tonnes of heroin and 35–45 tonnes of cocaine. No similar estimates have been produced for cannabis imports.

Reports on the prevalence of the use of illegal drugs during this period suggests that, since 1998, quantities of heroin imported have probably remained broadly stable and amounts of cocaine imported have increased.

In the case of cannabis, research into the UK cannabis market suggests that levels of imports have remained broadly stable or even declined as cultivation within the UK has increased.

**Paul Flynn:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his estimate is of the percentage of imported illegal drugs that have been intercepted by Customs and Excise in each of the past 10 years. [10900]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The methodologies used to estimate the amounts of illegal drugs imported do not currently enable us to identify year on year changes.

The National Criminal Intelligence Service has previously published estimates of the amounts of heroin and cocaine smuggled into the UK annually. It is likely that imports of heroin and cocaine during the period

you refer to fell within the range of these estimates: 25–35 tonnes of heroin and 35–45 tonnes of cocaine. No similar estimates have been produced for cannabis imports.

Reports on the prevalence of the use of illegal drugs during this period suggests that, since 1998, quantities of heroin imported have probably remained broadly stable and amounts of cocaine imported have increased.

In the case of cannabis, research into the UK cannabis market suggests that levels of imports have remained broadly stable or even declined as cultivation within the UK has increased.

The following table gives details of HM Revenue and Customs seizures of drugs over the 10 years up to 2003–04, the last complete year for which figures are available.

*Kgs*

| *Financial year* | *Heroin* | *Cocaine* | *Other Class A* | *Ecstasy* | *Cannabis* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2003–04 | 1,626 | 20,727 | 116 | 1,245 | 57,617 |
| 2002–03 | 2,070 | 8,767 | 44 | 668 | 59,034 |
| 2001–02 | 1,489 | 6,075 | 113 | 1,330 | 67,061 |
| 2000–01 | 2,043 | 7,420 | 305 | 1,060 | 41,776 |
| 1999–2000 | 2,707 | 2,525 | 1,900 | 800 | 77,853 |
| 1998–99 | 594 | 3,540 | 1,542 | [1]— | 62,028 |
| 1997–98 | 1,821 | 2,356 | 1,548 | [1]— | 80,380 |
| 1996–97 | 664 | 1,273 | 1,604 | [1]— | 77,350 |
| 1995–96 | 1,249 | 752 | 1,016 | [1]— | 49,811 |
| 1994–95 | 906 | 1,391 | 994 | [1]— | 63,677 |

[1] Not separately recorded

### Electoral Numbers

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will list the 50 parliamentary constituencies with the *(a)* highest and *(b)* lowest number of electors; and if he will make a statement. [10702]

**John Healey:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply. I have placed a copy of his letter in the Library.

### English Wine

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will ensure that English wine is made available at dinners, receptions and parties he hosts at which hospitality involving wine is appropriate *(a)* during the EU presidency and *(b)* generally; and if he will make a statement. [9157]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** English wine was served at both the G7 Finance Ministers' Meeting in February and the pre-G8 Summit Finance Ministers' Meeting in June. We will endeavour to supply wine from all parts of the United Kingdom, and British produce more generally, at meetings during the presidency of the EU. We are also working with the Council Secretariat to try to provide British produce (as key ingredients) and drink for all ECOFIN Council meetings during the UK presidency in Brussels and Luxembourg.

For other dinners, receptions and parties, British wine and British products are used where possible and appropriate, in line with the EC's procurement rules and achieving value for money for the Department.

### Financial Advisers

**Mr. Fabian Hamilton:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what criteria are used by the Financial Services Authority to determine whether a financial adviser has mis-sold a financial product. [11457]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** Financial advisers that are authorised by the Financial Services Authority (FSA) are required to comply with the FSA's Conduct of Business Rules with regard to the promotion of financial products. The FSA does not arbitrate on individual complaints made against financial firms.

### Government Finance

**John Hemming:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what the latest forecast is of Government deficit in financial year 2005–06; and what the forecast deficit for 2005–06 was on each date that a forecast has been made since January 2003; [11298]

(2) what the latest forecast is of Government income in financial year 2005–06; and what the forecast income for 2005–06 was on each date that a forecast has been made since January 2003; [11299]

(3) what the latest estimate is of Government expenditure in financial year 2005–06; and what the forecast expenditure for 2005–06 was on each date that a forecast has been made since January 2003. [11300]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** Latest forecasts for 2005–06 for the Government deficit, Government revenue and total managed expenditure can be found in Tables C4 and C11 in Budget 2005. Earlier forecasts for 2005–06 can be found in Chapter C of previous Budgets and Annex B of earlier pre-Budget reports.

### Historic Environment

**Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what the Government's policy is on sustaining the historic environment, with particular reference to policy on organisations which work to support the built heritage through *(a)* grant aid, *(b)* tax concessions and *(c)* conditional exemption and acceptance in lieu; [11209]

(2) what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on *(a)* the introduction of Historic Properties Maintenance Relief for listed Grade 1 and 2 star buildings open to the public and *(b)* extension to listed buildings of VAT relief for the costs of repairs. [11210]

**Dawn Primarolo** *[holding answer 12 July 2005]:* The Government take their responsibilities to the built heritage very seriously, and for many years successive governments have been making funds available, both directly and through the tax system, to assist with the care, repair and maintenance of historic buildings.

Treasury officials meet their Department for Culture, Media and Sport counterparts regularly to discuss a wide range of issues and the Government are aware of the concerns of the historic environment sector. All taxes are kept under constant review and any changes are considered by the Chancellor as part of the Budget process.

### International Finance Facility

**Tony Baldry:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make a statement on the progress of the International Finance Facility following the recent meeting of G8. [11967]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** At the recent G8 Summit, Heads of State agreed to continue work on the implementation of the IFF and the pilot IFF for Immunisation (IFFIm).

The IFF has the support of almost 80 countries. The IFFIm will be launched imminently, disbursing $4 billion to save an additional 5 million children's lives in the years to 2015.

### KPMG

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make KPMG partners personally liable for the loss of VAT in the light of the decision by the London Tribunal Centre in the case of RAL (Channel Islands) Ltd., RAL Ltd., RAL Services Ltd.; RAL Machines Ltd.—And—The Commissioners of Customs and Excise. [9673]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The case of RAL (Channel Islands) Ltd. was referred to the European Court of Justice, which found in favour of HMRC on 12 May 2005. As a result there has been no loss of tax in this case. The Government are committed to protecting the tax system against tax avoidance, and continue to keep under review a range of options to prevent loss of tax.

### Mortgage Endowment Policies

**Mr. Fabian Hamilton:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for what reasons the Financial Services Authority is advising mortgage endowment policy holders to take legal action against their financial advisers for mis-selling policies. [11440]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The FSA is not advising policyholders to take any particular course of action. The FSA has provided information on its website and through its consumer factsheets about the options available to consumers if they currently face a projected shortfall on their endowment mortgage or if they believe they have been mis-sold an endowment policy.

**Mr. Fabian Hamilton:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will set out the criteria against which the relevant regulatory authorities make judgments on allegations of the mis-selling of mortgage endowment policies. [11458]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The Financial Ombudsman Service (FOS) is an independent body that adjudicates consumer complaints against FSA authorised firms. It does not have a fixed set of criteria to use when determining whether a financial advisor has mis-sold a product. Rather, the FOS considers what is fair and reasonable to all parties, having regard to the individual circumstances of the case, the law, and any regulatory rules or advice in place at the time.

The Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS) is the statutory compensation fund of last resort, which can provide compensation to eligible claimants where the investment firm responsible for the liability is itself unable to do so (usually because it has ceased to exist or is insolvent). With mortgage endowment claims, as with other mis-selling claims, FSCS looks to see whether there has been a breach of obligations giving rise to a civil liability for actual financial loss.

**Mr. Fabian Hamilton:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what Government support is available to financial advisers threatened with legal action for the alleged mis-selling of mortgage endowment policies. [11459]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The Government does not provide support to financial advisors threatened with legal action for the alleged mis-selling of mortgage endowment policies. However, the Financial Services Authority requires all authorised firms to hold sufficient Professional Indemnity Insurance.

### Pension Funds

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans he has to review taxes on pension funds in the UK. [10872]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** Following consultation the Government have simplified the taxation of pensions with effect from 6 April 2006. The new pensions tax regime will replace the numerous existing complex regimes with a universal regime for tax privileged pension savings. This new regime will provide greater flexibility to some 15 million pension savers. The pensions industry has welcomed the new regime as a removal of unnecessary obstacles to planning and saving towards retirement for the vast majority of people.

The Government will keep this aspect of the tax system, as with all others, under review.

### Public Sector Employment

**Spelman:** To ask the Chancellor of the er how many and what proportion of all those oyment were employed by the public sector in ear since 1996, in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* England, Wales, *(d)* Scotland, *(e)* Northern Ireland and *(f)* each Government Office Region. [11418]

**John Healey:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Len Cook to Mrs. Caroline Spelman, dated 13 July 2005:*

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about how many and what proportion of people in employment were employed by the public sector, in each year since 1996 in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* England, *(c)* Wales, *(d)* Scotland, *(e)* Northern Ireland and *(f)* each Government Office Region. (11418)

The attached table shows the estimates you have requested.

The most reliable source of public sector employment estimate—using the National Accounts definition of the public sector—is based on returns made to ONS by public sector organisations. The first two columns of the attached table show figures from this source for the number and proportion of people employed in the public sector in the UK respectively for the period 1996 to 2004. These estimates were published previously in a web-based report in March 2005 entitled Public Sector Employment.

A disaggregration of public sector employment by region is currently only available from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) households on the basis of respondents' own self-classification of whether they work in the public sector. However this produces an overestimate of the proportion of total employment which is in the public sector as seen by comparing the second and third columns. Nevertheless if this degree of overestimation is similar in each region the regional differences shown in the table are meaningful. The third to sixteenth columns of the table show the UK and regional figures for the proportion of public sector employment from 1996 to 2004 on this basis. ONS has work in hand to improve the public/private sector classification of employment in the LFS. Data from the LFS, as with any statistical sample survey, is subject to sampling variability.

*Number and proportion of people employed in the public sector, 1996–2004, not seasonally adjusted*

| | *Data from public sector organisations*[1] | | *Region/Country of residence (%)* | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *UK Number (000)* | *UK (%)* | *UK* | *North-east* | *North-west* | *Yorkshire and Humberside* | *East Midlands* | *West Midland* |
| 1996 | 5,269 | 20.2 | 23.8 | 27.2 | 24.2 | 23.9 | 22.0 | 21.4 |
| 1997 | 5,175 | 19.5 | 22.7 | 26.3 | 23.9 | 23.1 | 21.1 | 20.5 |
| 1998 | 5,163 | 19.3 | 22.4 | 26.5 | 23.1 | 23.3 | 20.6 | 19.7 |
| 1999 | 5,206 | 19.2 | 22.6 | 26.5 | 22.4 | 22.9 | 20.1 | 20.9 |
| 2000 | 5,288 | 19.2 | 22.7 | 24.6 | 24.6 | 24.4 | 19.9 | 21.3 |
| 2001 | 5,378 | 19.4 | 22.9 | 27.0 | 25.1 | 23.3 | 19.3 | 21.1 |
| 2002 | 5,484 | 19.7 | 23.2 | 27.8 | 24.8 | 23.5 | 20.7 | 22.1 |
| 2003 | 5,634 | 20.0 | 23.4 | 28.0 | 25.4 | 24.8 | 20.9 | 22.0 |
| 2004 | 5,746 | 20.3 | 24.3 | 28.3 | 25.3 | 26.8 | 23.5 | 22.7 |

| | *Region/Country of residence (%)* | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Eastern England* | *London* | *South East* | *South West* | *England* | *Wales* | *Scotland* | *Northern Ireland* |
| 1996 | 21.7 | 25.3 | 20.7 | 22.7 | 22.9 | 27.2 | 28.4 | 30.1 |
| 1997 | 19.6 | 23.3 | 19.6 | 21.9 | 21.8 | 26.2 | 27.7 | 30.5 |
| 1998 | 19.5 | 22.5 | 19.9 | 22.1 | 21.5 | 26.6 | 27.2 | 30.0 |
| 1999 | 20.5 | 22.9 | 20.0 | 21.3 | 21.6 | 27.6 | 27.1 | 29.7 |
| 2000 | 20.7 | 21.1 | 19.9 | 22.0 | 21.8 | 29.0 | 26.8 | 29.5 |
| 2001 | 21.0 | 22.5 | 19.9 | 21.9 | 22.0 | 27.9 | 27.0 | 28.8 |
| 2002 | 20.2 | 22.7 | 20.2 | 22.5 | 22.3 | 29.0 | 27.2 | 30.3 |
| 2003 | 20.6 | 21.6 | 20.3 | 23.2 | 22.5 | 28.6 | 27.4 | 29.9 |
| 2004 | 22.4 | 22.4 | 21.6 | 22.9 | 23.5 | 27.3 | 27.9 | 31.0 |

[1] Data from Public Sector Organisations for 1996 to 2003 refer to June (Q2) each year and for 2004 they refer to March (Q1).

*Notes:*

1. Data from the Labour Force Survey for 1996 to 2003 refer to June to August (summer) each year and for 2004 they refer to March to May (spring).
2. LFS public private split is self-allocated by respondents and hence LFS figures are not on the official, National Accounts based definition of public sector.

*Sources:*

Estimates from public sector organisations and quarterly Labour Force Survey, Office for National Statistics.

## Tax Credits

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many full-time equivalent staff are employed by the tax credit helpline. [10266]

**Dawn Primarolo:** I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Yeovil (Mr. Laws) on 6 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 436W.

**Mr. George Osborne:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many letters have been received by HM Revenue and Customs in relation to *(a)* overpayments and *(b)* underpayment of tax credits in the last two years; and how many of these letters have not been answered. [11454]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Figures on the number of requests to reconsider the recovery of an overpayment are not available for 2003–04. For the number of requests received in 2004–05 I refer the hon. Gentleman to the reply I gave to the hon. Member for Lanark and Hamilton, East (Mr. Hood) on 4 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 107W. For the number of cases still awaiting a decision at 31 May 2005 I refer the hon. Gentleman to the reply I gave to the hon. Member for Chorley (Mr. Hoyle) on 4 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 95W.

The Department does not hold figures relating to letters received in respect of underpayments of tax credits.

**Mr. George Osborne:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what guidance has been given to tax credit helpline staff on advising tax credit claimants to take out bank loans to cover the repayment costs of tax credit overpayments; [11456]

(2) how many tax credit claimants he estimates have been advised by Revenue and Customs to take out bank loans to cover the repayment costs of tax credit overpayments. [11564]

**Dawn Primarolo:** HMRC Contact Centre guidance does not say that claimants should be advised to take out a loan to cover their tax credit repayments.

HMRC has issued a reminder to relevant staff to ensure that they are all aware of the correct position.

### Valuation Office Agency

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many full-time equivalent staff are employed in each office of the Valuation Office Agency. [11538]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The following table shows the number of staff in each location of each Valuation Office Group. These figures exclude staff employed in the District Valuer Business Stream, Chief Executive's Office and other specialist offices.

This report was run as at 1 April 2005.

| *Group VOA* | *Office* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|
| Birmingham | Birmingham | 103.22 |
| | Coventry | 52.76 |
| Birmingham total | | 155.98 |
| East Anglia | Colchester | 53.24 |
| | Chelmsford | 53.84 |
| | Ipswich | 42.31 |
| | Norwich | 52.47 |
| East Anglia total | | 201.87 |
| East Midlands | Derby | 60.09 |
| | Leicester | 51.78 |
| | Lincoln | 40.47 |
| | Northampton | 46.76 |
| | Nottingham | 66.21 |
| East Midlands total | | 265.32 |
| Leeds | Halifax | 37.57 |
| | Harrogate | 33.51 |
| | Leeds | 106.19 |
| | York | 35.26 |
| Leeds total | | 212.53 |
| Liverpool | Chester | 31.24 |
| | Crewe | 31.00 |
| | Liverpool | 81.58 |
| Liverpool total | | 143.82 |
| London-City | City London | 50.75 |
| | Gloucester | 48.67 |
| | Taunton | 1.00 |
| | Tower Hamlets | 19.98 |
| London-City total | | 120.40 |
| London-North | Barking | 48.44 |
| | Enfield | 67.22 |
| | Harrow | 68.39 |
| London-North total | | 184.05 |
| London-South | Bromley | 58.08 |
| | Lambeth | 46.35 |
| | Wimbledon | 61.39 |
| London-South total | | 165.83 |
| London-Westminster | Westminster | 88.25 |
| London-Westminster total | | 88.25 |
| Manchester | Manchester | 142.43 |
| | Stockport | 47.08 |
| Manchester total | | 189.51 |
| Newcastle | Alnwick | 17.96 |
| | Durham | 36.86 |
| | Middlesbrough | 33.26 |
| | Newcastle | 75.81 |
| Newcastle total | | 163.89 |
| North Wales | Bangor | 27.70 |
| | Wrexham | 44.99 |
| North Wales total | | 72.68 |
| North West | Carlisle | 21.26 |
| | Lancaster | 35.30 |
| | Preston | 59.47 |
| | Ulverston | 24.57 |
| North West total | | 140.59 |
| Reading | Aylesbury | 39.78 |
| | Guildford | 33.95 |
| | Oxford | 35.66 |
| | Reigate | 37.16 |
| | Reading | 50.09 |
| Reading total | | 196.65 |
| Sheffield | Grimsby | 24.49 |
| | Hull | 40.11 |
| | Sheffield | 70.57 |
| Sheffield total | | 135.16 |
| South East | Chatham | 5.00 |
| | Eastbourne | 38.36 |
| | Folkestone | 42.42 |
| | Worthing | 50.01 |
| South East total | | 178.69 |
| South Wales | Cardiff | 54.94 |
| | Carmarthen | 29.74 |
| | Merthyr Tydfil | 24.11 |
| | Newport | 30.99 |
| | Swansea | 30.08 |
| South Wales total | | 169.85 |
| South West | Barnstaple | 7.00 |
| | Bournemouth | 46.72 |
| | Dorchester | 8.44 |
| | Exeter | 56.07 |
| | St. Austell | 36.70 |
| | Taunton | 34.35 |
| South West total | | 189.28 |
| St. Albans | Bedford | 39.84 |
| | Cambridge | 36.12 |
| | Peterborough | 20.15 |
| | St. Albans | 51.79 |
| St. Albans total | | 147.91 |
| Wessex | Basingstoke | 35.97 |
| | Isle of Wight | 2.81 |
| | Southampton | 77.35 |
| Wessex total | | 116.14 |
| Western | Bristol | 55.07 |
| | Gloucester | 36.08 |
| | Swindon | 36.51 |
| Western total | | 127.66 |
| West Midlands | Kidderminster | 26.93 |
| | Shrewsbury | 29.80 |
| | Stoke-on-Trent | 60.30 |
| | Worcester | 35.05 |
| | Wolverhampton | 45.80 |
| West Midlands total | | 197.87 |
| Grand total | | 3,563.93 |

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 15 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 386W, on council tax, what criteria the Valuations Office Agency will use to assess whether to enter a property for inspection. [11572]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Valuation Office Agency staff will make arrangements to undertake internal inspections of properties only where information cannot be gathered by an external inspection or through other sources.

### Wage Statistics

**Mr. Hands:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average gross weekly wage of full-time workers in *(a)* Hammersmith and Fulham, *(b)* Greater London and *(c)* the United Kingdom was in the most recent year for which figures are available. [10901]

**John Healey:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Len Cook to Mr. Greg Hands, dated 13 July 2005:*

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question what the average gross earnings of full time workers in *(a)* Hammersmith and Fulham *(b)* Greater London and *(c)* the United Kingdom were in the most recent year for which figures are available. (10901)

Average earnings are estimated from the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings and are provided for employees on adult rates of pay whose pay was unaffected by absence during the pay period, by their place of work. This is the standard definition used for Annual Survey of Hours and Earning tables. The Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings does not collect data on the self employed and people who do unpaid work.

I attach a table showing the average gross weekly earnings for full time employees in Hammersmith and Fulham, Greater London and the United Kingdom in 2004. These statistics are also available on the National Statistics website on table 7:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/STATBASE/Product.asp?vlnk=13101

The Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, carried out in April of each year, is the most comprehensive source of earnings information in the United Kingdom. It has a one per cent sample of all employees.

*Means and medians for full-time employees in the United Kingdom, London (Government Office Region) and Hammersmith and Fulham, 2004*

| | *Median* | *CV percentage*[1] | *Mean* | *CV percentage*[1] |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| United Kingdom | 422.1 | 0.2 | 504.9 | 0.3 |
| London | 540.8 | 0.6 | 680.1 | 0.8 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 548.3 | 4.4 | 650.7 | 3.2 |

[1] Guide to quality: The Coefficient of Variation (CV) is given to indicate the quality of a figure, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV, e.g. for an average of 200 with a CV of 5 per cent., we would expect the population average to be within the range 180 to 220.

*Notes:*

1. The Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, (ASHE), carried out in April of each year, is the most comprehensive source of earnings information in the United Kingdom. It is a 1 per cent. sample of all employees.
2. The ASHE replaces the New Earnings Survey (NES) from October 2004. The main difference between the ASHE and NES being that estimates are weighted to population totals from the Labour Force Survey.
3. Average gross weekly earnings for adult full-time employees whose pay for the survey period was not affected by absence.

*Source:*

Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, ONS

## NORTHERN IRELAND

### Organised Crime

9. **Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what discussions he has had with the *(a)* Police Service of Northern Ireland and *(b)* Irish Government on combating organised crime. [10661]

**Mr. Woodward:** Regular discussions on organised crime are held at ministerial and senior official level with the Chief Constable and senior officers of the Police Service of Northern Ireland.

### Devolved Government

12. **Anne Snelgrove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent assessment he has made of the prospects for restoring devolved Government in Northern Ireland. [10664]

**Mr. Mackay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will make a statement on the future of devolved Government in the Province. [10662]

**Mr. Hain:** I refer the hon. Members to the answer I gave earlier to the hon. Members for Wirral, South (Ben Chapman), for Congleton (Ann Winterton) and for Glasgow, South (Mr. Harris).

**Mr. Malik:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent assessment he has made of the prospects for restoring devolved Government in Northern Ireland. [10659]

**Mr. Hain:** The Government are committed to the restoration of a fully inclusive, devolved, power-sharing Executive in Northern Ireland at the earliest possible opportunity, which is, in turn, dependent on a complete and verifiable end to all paramilitary and criminal activity, and the decommissioning of illegally held weapons.

### Crime

13. **Mr. Bailey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps he is taking to reduce crime and the fear of crime in Northern Ireland. [10665]

14. **Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps he is taking to reduce crime and the fear of crime in Northern Ireland. [10666]

**Mr. Hanson:** Reducing crime and the fear of crime in Northern Ireland is a key Government priority. Through partnership working involving the Police Service of Northern Ireland, other agencies and local communities, recorded crime decreased last year by 7.7 per cent.

The Government have a co-ordinated approach to reducing crime, the fear of crime and antisocial behaviour. In June I was pleased to announce an additional £9 million to support the Community Safety Partnership.

### Paramilitaries

**Mr. McGrady:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent discussions he has had with paramilitary organisations in Northern Ireland regarding ceasefires, weaponry and structures. [10663]

**Mr. Hanson:** The Government are determined that paramilitary crime will come to an end. Together with the law enforcement agencies, we will ensure that measures are taken aimed at bringing that about.

But we must also continue to provide a way out of paramilitarism into normal politics for those who wish to take it.

### Taxis

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much the Department has spent on taxis in each of the last five years. [6499]

**Angela E. Smith:** The 11 Northern Ireland Departments and the Northern Ireland Office have been unable to provide the information requested, as it is not readily available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

### Teachers

**Lady Hermon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what plans he has to introduce fair employment monitoring of teachers in Northern Ireland. [11370]

**Angela E. Smith:** There is no requirement in the Fair Employment and Treatment (Northern Ireland) Order 1998 to monitor teachers.

Under Article 71 of the legislation the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland has a duty to keep under review the exemption of teachers and, in December 2004, it published the results of an Investigation Report. In it the commission recommended that teachers should be included in the monitoring and review requirements of the Order.

The commission's recommendations will be considered in the context of developing policy in the single Equality Bill for Northern Ireland.

## PRIME MINISTER

### Antisocial Behaviour Committee

**Mr. Allen:** To ask the Prime Minister if he will make it his policy to disclose to hon. Members a summary of proceedings of the Ministerial Committee on Antisocial Behaviour of the Cabinet. [9218]

**The Prime Minister:** The proceedings of Cabinet and Cabinet Committee meetings are not generally disclosed, in order to ensure the protection of information whose disclosure would harm the frankness and candour of internal discussion.

### Business Appointments

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Prime Minister whether any *(a)* Minister and *(b)* civil servant has failed to follow the advice of the Advisory Committee on Business Appointments. [11862]

**The Prime Minister:** Information relating to Ministers and civil servants whose applications are required to be submitted to the Advisory Committee on Business Appointments is set out in the Advisory Committee's annual report. Copies of these reports are in the Libraries of the House. The annual report for 2004–05 will be published shortly.

### Ministerial Residences

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Prime Minister which Ministers of the Crown have *(a)* one, *(b)* two and *(c)* three or more residences consequent on his or her office. [11037]

**The Prime Minister:** The flats above numbers 10 and 11 Downing Street have traditionally been the residences of the Prime Minister and the Chancellor of the Exchequer. The flats in Admiralty House and the Government House in Pimlico, which in the past have been assigned to a variety of Ministers, are currently occupied by the Deputy Prime Minister, the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the Leader of the House of Commons and the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions.

In addition, I have the use of Chequers, the Foreign Secretary has the use of Chevening and the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Deputy Prime Minister have the use of Dorneywood. Ministers in the Northern Ireland Office have the use of accommodation in Hillsborough Castle and Stormont.

### Swill Feed

**Mr. Boris Johnson:** To ask the Prime Minister if he will list the items of correspondence between the Prime Minister's Unit and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs during March 2001 relating to the ban in 2001 on the feeding of swill. [10706]

**The Prime Minister:** Information relating to internal discussion and advice is generally not disclosed as to do so could harm the frankness and candour of internal discussion.

## DEFENCE

### Aircraft Carriers

**John Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions he has had with the French Government in connection with the Royal Navy's two aircraft carriers. [8628]

**Mr. Ingram:** My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence and the other Defence Ministers routinely meet with their French opposite numbers and the United Kingdom's Future Aircraft Carrier programme has frequently been discussed in that context.

**John Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) where the Royal Navy's two aircraft carriers will be built; [8629]

(2) if he will ensure that the Royal Navy's two aircraft carriers are built in the UK. [8626]

**Mr. Ingram:** It is Government policy to construct Royal Navy warships in the UK. Given that both we and France are embarking on major, complex carrier procurement projects, we are examining areas of mutual benefit and opportunities to deliver economies. Co-operation through industry-to-industry links may offer

potential benefits to both sides and we are running a joint study to assess what these could be. It is for industry to put forward proposals which will be judged on their merits and in light of national policies.

### BAE Systems

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the timescale is of each current contract with BAE Systems. [7617]

**Mr. Ingram:** The Ministry of Defence has some 1,100 contracts with BAE Systems. This figure excludes BAE subsidiary companies. It would incur disproportionate cost to provide details of the timescale of each contract.

### Consultants

**Mrs. Dean:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has to issue guidance on effective commissioning for those in the public and voluntary sectors who are commissioning work from external consultants. [7029]

**Mr. Touhig:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Financial Secretary to the Treasury (John Healey) on 27 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 1286.

### Defence Export Services

**Harry Cohen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list the *(a)* Defence Industry Days and *(b)* overseas exhibitions at which the Defence Export Services Organisation (i) has organised and (ii) is organising a presence during 2005; and what the cost is in each case. [9334]

**Mr. Ingram:** Defence Industry Days do not give rise to significant costs to the Ministry of Defence because the costs, other than those incurred by Defence Export Services Organisation staff in attending, are borne by defence companies. Three such events have been held in 2005; in Spain on-board HMS Albion; in South Africa on-board HMS Portland; and in Trinidad and Tobago on-board HMS Liverpool.

The information requested in respect of overseas exhibitions is shown in the following table. The costs given are indicative, and based on readily identifiable information only.

*Overseas exhibitions*

| *Country* | *Exhibition* |
|---|---|
| Australia[1] | Avalon |
| France[1] | Paris Air Show |
| Singapore[1] | Imdex |
| Singapore[1] | GSA |
| Turkey[1] | IDEF[2] |
| UAE[1] | Dubai Air Show[2] |
| Brazil[3] | LAAD |
| India[3] | Aero India |
| UAE[4] | IDEX |

[1] Below £50,000.
[2] Estimated costs (exhibitions are yet to be attended).
[3] £50,000 to £100,000.
[4] £100,000 to £150,000.

Consideration is still being given to possible further events which may be held later in the year.

**Malcolm Bruce:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what commercial services the Defence Export Services Organisation provides to companies in relation to identifying potential agents in export markets.[10677]

**Mr. Ingram:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 5 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 259W. Any information provided to UK companies by the Defence Export Services Organisation is concerned only with the selection of suitable agents. It is not our policy not to advise on agents' commission.

### Departmental Review (Fraud)

**Malcolm Bruce:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the outcome was of the internal Departmental Review following the allegation passed to his Department by the Serious Fraud Office in March 2001. [6424]

**Mr. Ingram:** The allegations of fraud relayed by the Serious Fraud Office in March 2001 were established to be of no direct relevance to the Ministry of Defence.

### Deployment

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many UK forces personnel there are on operational duty, broken down by country; and if he will make a statement. [8691]

**Mr. Ingram:** I refer the hon. Member to my response on 27 June 2005, *Official Report*, columns 1210–11. In addition, the United Kingdom has the following forces deployed on other UN missions:

| *Country* | *Number* |
|---|---|
| Liberia | 3 |
| DRC | 6 |
| Georgia | 7 |
| Sudan | 3 |

### English Wine

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will ensure that English wine is made available at dinners, receptions and parties he hosts at which hospitality involving wine is appropriate *(a)* during the EU presidency and *(b)* generally; and if he will make a statement. [9152]

**Mr. Touhig:** All procurement of food and drink for events hosted by the Secretary of State for Defence is undertaken in line with the European Community's procurement rules, and aims to obtain value for money for the Department. British produce is given equal consideration wherever possible, however this may be dependent on contractual obligations to existing suppliers at some venues.

With regard to formal meetings of the Council of the European Union in Brussels, we are working with the council secretariat to try to provide British produce (as key ingredients) and drink for all EU council meetings during the UK presidency.

### Falkland Islands

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the future requirements for UK forces in the Falklands. [5010]

**Mr. Ingram:** The United Kingdom forces based in the Falkland Islands demonstrate the Government's continued commitment to the security of UK Overseas Territories in the South Atlantic. The level of forces is reviewed regularly and will continue to be maintained at a sufficient level to provide a credible deterrent.

### Frigates

**Dr. Julian Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list the length of service of each Royal Navy frigate *(a)* withdrawn from service in each year since 1997 and *(b)* scheduled for withdrawal from service from 2005 onwards. [10295]

**Mr. Ingram** *[holding answer 7 July 2005]:* The length of service for each Royal Navy frigate decommissioned since 1997 was as follows:

| | *Years* |
|---|---|
| HMS Battleaxe | 17 |
| HMS Boxer | 18 |
| HMS Beaver | 16 |
| HMS Brave | 17 |
| HMS London | 14 |
| HMS Coventry | 15 |
| HMS Sheffield | 14 |
| HMS Norfolk | 15 |
| HMS Marlborough | 14 |

When HMS Grafton is withdrawn from service in 2006 she will have been in service for nine years. On present plans, the expected life of the other Royal Navy frigates currently in service will be around 28 years.

### Future Combat Vehicle Conference

**Ann Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the outcome was of the 5th Annual Future Combat Vehicle Conference held in London on 8–9 June; and if he will make a statement. [6846]

**Mr. Ingram:** From the Department's perspective, the Royal United Services Institute 5th Annual Future Combat Vehicle Conference was extremely successful since it enabled us to engage with a wide audience of allies and industry, including the major defence contractors and many small and medium enterprises. Through presentations by the Chief of the General Staff, Capability Manager (Battlespace Manoeuvre) and the Director of Equipment Capability (Ground Manoeuvre), we were able to set out our thinking on future armoured vehicle requirements, particularly in the context of Medium Weight Capability, and explain the position, challenges and future plans for our current programmes.

### Future Rapid Effects System

**Ann Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what financial allocation has been made for the Future Rapid Effects System project for each of the next nine years. [10441]

**Mr. Ingram:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 21 March 2005, *Official Report*, column 571W.

### HMS Invincible

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the planned decommissioning date for HMS Invincible is; and when this decision was taken. [10318]

**Mr. Ingram:** HMS Invincible will be decommissioned in August 2005. She will then be placed at very low readiness from October 2005 prior to her withdrawal from service in 2010. The decision was taken in 2003.

### International Fleet Review

**Dr. Julian Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list the maritime countries which *(a)* declined and *(b)* were not offered an invitation to participate in the International Fleet Review. [10819]

**Mr. Ingram:** Navies from the following countries were invited to participate in the International Fleet Review:

Algeria
Argentina
Australia
Bahamas[1]
Bahrain
Bangladesh[1]
Barbados[1]
Belgium
Brazil
Brunei
Bulgaria
Canada
Chile
China[1]
Colombia[1]
Croatia
Denmark
Dominican Republic[1]
Ecuador
Egypt[1]
Estonia
Finland
France
Germany
Ghana
Greece
Iceland[1]
India
Indonesia
Iraq
Ireland
Israel
Italy
Jamaica[1]
Japan
Jordan
Kenya
Kuwait[1]
Latvia

Libya[1]
Lithuania
Malaysia
Malta[1]
Mexico
Morocco
Netherlands
New Zealand
Nigeria
Norway
Oman
Pakistan
Panama
Peru[1]
Philippines[1]
Poland
Portugal
Qatar
Romania
Russia
Saudi Arabia
Serbia and Montenegro
Singapore
Slovenia[1]
South Africa
South Korea
Spain
Sri Lanka
Sweden
Syria[1]
Thailand
Trinidad and Tobago[1]
Tunisia[1]
Turkey[1]
Ukraine[1]
United Arab Emirates
United States of America
Uruguay
Venezuela[1]
Vietnam[1]

[1] Did not attend.

No other maritime countries in addition to those listed were invited.

### Lisanelly Barracks

**Lady Hermon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans his Department has for the future of Lisanelly Barracks in Omagh; and if he will make a statement. [11345]

**Mr. Ingram:** Following the decision by the General Officer Commanding Northern Ireland, in consultation with the Chief Constable of the PSNI, that the 1st Battalion King's Own Scottish Borderers will not be replaced when they complete their tour in August 2006, a study is under way to look at the wider implications of this change, including the implications for our estate.

The conclusion of this work will be announced in due course, but no decision has yet been taken on the future of Lisanelly Barracks.

### Royal Navy

**Dr. Julian Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list the *(a)* Royal Navy and *(b)* Royal Fleet Auxiliary vessels which have been given the reduced support status referred to in paragraph 2.9 of the National Audit Office report on military readiness. [9695]

**Mr. Ingram** *[holding answer 7 July 2005]:* The process of designating ships to receive the reduced level of support referred to by the National Audit Office enables the Royal Navy to maintain its ability to mount a medium scale operation at short notice and maximise its ability to undertake priority peacetime tasks. The Royal Navy ships placed on reduced support status are as follows:

HMS Invincible
HMS Ark Royal
HMS Albion
HMS Cardiff
HMS Exeter
HMS Liverpool
HMS Cumberland
HMS Grafton
HMS Marlborough
HMS Monmouth
HMS Richmond
HMS St. Albans
HMS Sutherland
HMS Atherstone
HMS Brecon
HMS Cottesmore
HMS Dulverton
HMS Middleton
HMS Pembroke
HMS Penzance
HMS Ramsey
HMS Shoreham
HMS Walney
HMS Leeds Castle.

No RFA ships are on reduced support status.

### Medal Office

**Peter Luff:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many staff employed at the former Army Medal Office in Droitwich Spa transferred to the new Medal Office at RAF Innsworth. [11480]

**Mr. Touhig** *[holding answer 11 July 2005]:* 21 staff employed at the former Army Medal Office in Droitwich Spa transferred to the new Medal Office at RAF Innsworth.

### Military Vehicles

**Ann Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* FV430 series, *(b)* Scimitar, *(c)* Sultan, *(d)* Samson, *(e)* Samaritan, *(f)* Spartan, *(g)* Striker, *(h)* Sabre, *(i)* Scorpion and *(j)* Saxon vehicles are in working order. [10439]

**Mr. Ingram:** I will write to the hon. Member and a copy of my letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

### Minehunters

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which minehunters are to be fitted with the very shallow water unmanned underwater vehicle system (REMUS); what the in-service date is; whether all minehunters will be fitted with this system; and if he will make a statement. [2973]

**Mr. Ingram:** The very shallow water unmanned vehicle system (REMUS) is a man portable system. It is not intended to be fitted to any minehunters, although it will be possible to deploy it from these, and other, vessels. The system is expected to be in service in 2006.

### Nuclear Deterrent

**Dr. Julian Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to his oral answer of 4 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 6, to the hon. Member for Sunderland South (Mr. Mullin) on the nuclear deterrent, when he expects to reply substantively to the question tabled by the hon. Member for New Forest East on 21 June, ref 7290. [10820]

**John Reid:** I replied to the hon. Member on 5 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 260W.

### Ordnance

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what quantity of ordnance stored by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its suppliers is; and at what sites it is stored. [9579]

**Mr. Ingram:** The majority of ordnance stored by the Ministry of Defence equates to 183,611m$^3$ held by the Defence Storage and Distribution Agency (DSDA) at the following locations: Defence Munitions Centres Beith, Crombie, Kineton, Glen Douglas, Gosport, Longtown and Eastriggs and Plymouth.

Munitions are also held at Defence Munitions Compounds Catterick, Chelsfield, Honington, Sennybridge and Tidworth.

Ordnance is also held on Royal Navy vessels, Royal Fleet Auxiliary supply vessels, with Field Army units, airfields and individual barracks. The information on these quantities is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The MOD is not party to information on quantities held and at what locations by suppliers.

### Parliamentary Questions

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what the *(a)* average and *(b)* maximum time was in which Ministers in his Department wrote to hon. Members following a commitment to do so in reply to parliamentary questions in the last Session; and if he will make a statement; [6239]

(2) on how many occasions in each of the last eight years Ministers in his Department have not written to hon. Members in reply to parliamentary questions following an undertaking to do so; and if he will make a statement. [6313]

**Mr. Touhig:** The information requested is not readily available and could be collated only at disproportionate cost.

The Ministry of Defence is currently in the process of building a new parliamentary business database which will store much more comprehensive information on parliamentary questions and ministerial correspondence received by the Department. It is hoped that this will be in operation by the end of the summer recess.

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what procedures his Department has in place to *(a)* monitor and *(b)* ensure the fulfilment of commitments made by Ministers to write to hon. Members in reply to parliamentary questions; and if he will make a statement; [6312]

(2) whether his Department has a set time period after which it considers commitments made by Ministers to write to hon. Members in reply to parliamentary questions to have lapsed; and if he will make a statement; [6311]

(3) what guidelines his Department has in place with regard to following up commitments made by Ministers to write to hon. Members in reply to parliamentary questions; and if he will make a statement. [6238]

**Mr. Touhig:** Defence Ministers strive to answer all parliamentary questions within the timescales set by Parliament. The Ministry of Defence's parliamentary branch monitors the progress of all parliamentary questions tabled to Defence Ministers. Every effort is made to use "I will write" responses sparingly and to follow them up as soon as possible.

The Ministry of Defence follows the Cabinet Office guidance on answering parliamentary questions and guidance from the Office of the Leader of the House of Commons on the handling of "I will write" responses. Where, regrettably, responses remained outstanding when the House was dissolved for the General Election at the end of the last Parliament, the parliamentary question was considered to have lapsed. It is open to the Member concerned to re-table the question.

### Prisoners of War

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Hendon (Mr. Dismore) of 27 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 1209W, on Prisoners of War (Compensation), what account Ministers took of the document in formulating their advice to hon. Members. [10201]

**Mr. Touhig:** As I made clear in that answer, the document was not written in connection with the formulation of policy on the Ex Gratia Scheme and thus was not relevant to the formulation of advice given to hon. Members.

## RAF Aircraft

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many aircraft are in flight with the Royal Air Force, broken down by type. [9578]

**Mr. Ingram:** The following tables shows the numbers of aircraft planned to be in service with the RAF by the end of the present financial year, broken down by type.

*Fixed wing aircraft*

| *Aircraft type* | *Total fleet* |
|---|---|
| Tornado F3 | 97 |
| Tornado GR | 139 |
| Harrier GR | 84 |
| Harrier FA2 | 12 |
| Jaguar | 45 |
| Typhoon | 29 |
| Hawk (includes the Red Arrows) | 117 |
| Hercules C-13OJ | 25 |
| Hercules C-130K | 25 |
| C-17A Globemaster | 4 |
| VC10 | 16 |
| TriStar | 9 |
| BAel25 | 6 |
| BAel46 | 2 |
| Islander CC2 | 2 |
| Canberra PR9 | 4 |
| Canberra T4 | 1 |
| Nimrod MR2 | 21 |
| Nimrod RI | 3 |
| Sentry E3-D | 7 |
| Dominie | 11 |
| Tucano MK1 | 114 |

*Rotary wing aircraft*

| *Aircraft type* | *Total fleet* |
|---|---|
| Sea King HAR3 | 19 |
| Sea King HAR 3A | 6 |

*Battle of Britain memorial flight*

| *Aircraft type* | *Total fleet* |
|---|---|
| Spitfire | 5 |
| Hurricane | 2 |
| Chipmunk | 2 |
| Dakota | 1 |
| Lancaster | 1 |

*Commercially owned military registered aircraft*

| *Aircraft type* | *Total fleet* |
|---|---|
| Firefly | 24 |
| Griffin | 11 |
| King Air | 7 |
| Single Squirrel | 37 |
| Twin Squirrel | 3 |
| Tutor | 94 |

## Regimental Mergers/Uniforms

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will reconsider the new name for the planned merger of the Queen's Lancashire Regiment, King's Own Borders Regiment and King's Regiment. [11172]

**Mr. Ingram:** The title of the King's, Lancashire and Border Regiment has been chosen by the Regimental Councils of the three antecedent regiments themselves and fully meets the requirements of precedent and history. It is unlikely that this will change, although it is subject to confirmation, along with the new titles of the other new regiments, by the Army Honours and Distinctions Committee, who will in turn refer it to the Executive Committee of the Army Board and thence through Ministers to HM the Queen for her final approval.

**Ann Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 29 June 2005, *Official Report*, columns 1568–69W, on regimental uniforms, (1) what the annual tax credit is; whether it varies with rank; and what the average cost of commissioning *(a)* Service uniform, *(b)* Blues and *(c)* Mess dress were, excluding the Foot Guards and Highland Regiments, in the last year for which figures were available; [10442]

(2) when he expects the next increase in Army officers' outfit allowance to be made. [10443]

**Mr. Touhig:** The Ministry of Defence does not calculate the average cost of uniform because this is a private transaction between an officer and their tailor. Nevertheless, the officers outfit allowance is awarded on first commissioning to offset this expenditure.

There are no current plans to increase the officers outfit allowance, although consideration will be given to adjusting the allowance in the light of changes to the organisation of the infantry as part of the Future Infantry Structure.

An annual tax credit is awarded to all officers to assist with the cost of maintaining, repairing and, when necessary, replacing uniform. The annual rate for all dismounted male officers below the rank of Colonel—and therefore all officers serving with an infantry regiment—is £589.29, against which an officer receives income tax relief.

## Sensitive Documents

**Dr. Julian Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his policy is on the use of private companies to destroy sensitive departmental documents. [10294]

**Mr. Ingram** *[holding answer 7 July 2005]:* The Ministry of Defence has a policy on the minimum standards to be applied for the destruction of protectively-marked material which comply with the standards laid down for Government by the Cabinet Office. A number of private companies have been certified as meeting those standards and are listed in a government-wide catalogue of security equipment and services. Subordinate commanders are permitted to decide whether to destroy protectively-marked documents using their own resources, or utilise those of an approved private company listed in the Government-wide catalogue.

**Dr. Julian Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what assessment he has made of the potential risk to national security posed by the failure to destroy Naval Support Command documents recently discovered abandoned in an Essex garage; [10297]

(2) if he will make a statement on past arrangements for secure disposal of sensitive documents from Naval Support Command by IMTEC Data Services. [10296]

**Mr. Ingram** *[holding answer 7 July 2005]:* The company involved were IMTEC Holding plc. Under the contract with the company documents were to be scanned onto CD ROM and subsequently disposed of by shredding once this scanning was complete. This was the first time that the team concerned had used the company.

The material was reviewed by the MOD prior to despatch to the company to remove any sensitive data. It is considered that the risk to national security to be very low as a consequence of the failure to destroy the documents as required.

### Ship Disposal

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on progress on disposal of *(a)* HMS Grafton, *(b)* HMS Marlborough and *(c)* HMS Norfolk; and whether it is intended to sell each of the ships complete with their weapons systems. [10796]

**Mr. Ingram:** Following discussions with a number of countries, the Ministry of Defence has agreed to sell these three Type 23 Frigates to the Government of Chile. A Letter of Intent is in place, supported by a deposit. Final negotiations are now being undertaken. The precise equipment fit of the ships at the point of transfer to Chile has yet to be finalised.

### Surveys

**Mr. Moore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library copies of the exit surveys for the *(a)* Naval Service and *(b)* Royal Air Force since 1997. [8619]

**Mr. Touhig:** The exit surveys in question are currently being studied to ensure that they do not contain information on individuals that it would be inappropriate to disclose. When this process is completed I will inform the hon. Member.

### Trafalgar Review

**Derek Wyatt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* hon. Members and *(b)* Members of the European Parliament were invited to Her Majesty the Queen's Trafalgar review. [9091]

**Mr. Ingram** *[holding answer 4 July 2005]:* 50 hon. Members (including Ministers) and three Members of the European Parliament were invited to attend Her Majesty the Queen's Trafalgar review on 28 June 2005.

**Derek Wyatt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many unelected guests were invited to Her Majesty the Queen's Trafalgar review; and at what cost to the public purse. [9092]

**Mr. Ingram** *[holding answer 4 July 2005]:* The number of unelected guests invited to the review on 28 June 2005 was 383, which included royal family members and heads of navies. The cost to the public purse was £13,750.

### Trident

**Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what the cumulative costs have been of the Trident nuclear deterrent in each year since it became operational; [9737]

(2) what the running cost of the Trident nuclear deterrent was in 2004–05; and if he will make a statement; [9801]

(3) what proportion of Royal Navy spending was allocated to the Trident nuclear deterrent in 2004–05. [9800]

**John Reid:** The latest annual statement to Parliament about the acquisition cost of the Trident programme was made on 18 January 2005, *Official Report*, column 30WS.

Since the Trident nuclear deterrent became operational in 1994, the annual expenditure for capital and running costs has ranged between 2 and 4 per cent. of the annual defence budget, up to and including financial year 2004–05.

Specifically the running costs for financial year 2004–05 were 2 per cent. of the annual defence budget. Royal Navy spending allocated to the Trident nuclear deterrent amounted to 3 per cent. of the financial year 2004–05 Royal Navy spending plan.

## SCOTLAND

### Departmental Advertising

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much the Office spent on advertising in each of the last five years. [10235]

**David Cairns:** The Office spent the following on advertising:

| | *Amount (£)* |
|---|---|
| 2000–01 | 270,494 |
| 2001–02 | 186,564 |
| 2002–03 | 10,390 |
| 2003–04 | 0 |
| 2004–05 | 0 |

Most of the expenditure in 2000–01 and 2001–02 relates to electoral registration matters. Since 2001, this has been the responsibility of the Electoral Commission.

### Departmental Staff

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many full-time equivalents have worked for the Department for each of the last five financial years for which figures are available. [11527]

**David Cairns:** Details of staff numbers from 1999–2000 to 2004–05 are set out in the Scotland Office Annual Reports for 2004 and 2005. The internet address for the reports is http://www.scotlandoffice.gov.uk/our-communications/

### EU Structural Funds

**David Mundell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he has had with the Scottish Executive on the designation of the South of Scotland as NUTS2 for the purpose of post-2006 EU structural funding. [10817]

**David Cairns:** My right hon. Friend has regular discussions with Scottish Ministers on a wide range of matters. Eurostat—which has overall responsibility for reviewing NUTS boundaries—has advised the Office for National Statistics (ONS) that they would follow the terms of the NUTS Regulation strictly before permitting any adjustment to NUTS boundaries. ONS has confirmed that the timetable for NUTS review will start in mid 2006 and terminate at the end of 2007 for implementation from 1 January 2008. Even if any changes were made to current boundaries, this could not take place in time to alter eligibility for any Structural and Cohesion Funds programmes for 2007–13.

### G8 Summit

**Mark Lazarowicz:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will ask his ministerial colleagues to make a financial contribution to the Scottish Executive to meet the costs likely to be incurred by public authorities in Edinburgh as a result of the events organised to coincide with the G8 Summit at Gleneagles. [9784]

**Mr. Darling:** As I indicated to my hon. Friend at questions on 5 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 152, the Government agreed to provide £20 million to the Scottish Executive towards the cost of policing the G8 Summit.

## HOME OFFICE

### Abortion

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women have been proceeded against for procuring abortions under section 58 or 59 of the Offences Against the Person Act 1861 in each year since 1976. [10552]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** The information requested is contained in the table. Statistics on court proceedings for 2004 will be published in the autumn.

*Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts under the Offences Against the Person Act 1861, Secs. 58 and 59[1], England and Wales 1976 to 2003*

| | *Procuring illegal abortions* | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Male* | | *Female* | | *Total* | |
| | *Proceeded against* | *Found guilty* | *Proceeded against* | *Found guilty* | *Proceeded against* | *Found guilty* |
| 1976 | 3 | 3 | — | 1 | 3 | 4 |
| 1977 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 2 |
| 1978 | 1 | 2 | 2 | — | 3 | 2 |
| 1979 | 1 | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| 1980 | — | 1 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 4 |
| 1981 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 1982 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 1983 | 1 | 1 | — | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| 1984 | 3 | 2 | — | — | 3 | 2 |
| 1985 | 2 | — | — | — | 2 | — |
| 1986 | 1 | 2 | — | — | 1 | 2 |
| 1987 | 2 | — | — | — | 2 | — |
| 1988 | 4 | 2 | 2 | — | 6 | 2 |
| 1989 | 5 | 1 | — | — | 5 | 1 |
| 1990 | 1 | 2 | — | — | 1 | 2 |
| 1991 | 2 | 2 | — | — | 2 | 2 |
| 1992 | 1 | 1 | — | — | 1 | 1 |
| 1993 | 2 | — | — | — | 2 | — |
| 1994 | 3 | — | 3 | — | 6 | — |
| 1995 | 2 | — | — | — | 2 | — |
| 1996 | 2 | 1 | — | — | 2 | 1 |
| 1997 | 3 | 4 | — | 1 | 3 | 5 |
| 1998 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 3 |
| 1999 | 1 | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| 2000 | 1 | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| 2001 | 1 | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| 2002 | 3 | — | — | — | 3 | — |
| 2003 | 3 | 1 | — | — | 3 | 1 |

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

### Airwave

**Mr. Henderson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much funding he allocated for extending Airwave into the Channel Tunnel. [11585]

**Hazel Blears:** Airwave is not being extended into the Channel Tunnel as other arrangements are in place.

### Antisocial Behaviour Orders

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many antisocial behaviour orders have been issued in the Milton Keynes area; and how many have been breached. [10775]

**Hazel Blears:** The Home Office has been able to determine from copies of antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) issued since one June 2000 the local authority

area in which restrictions were imposed. From this date up to 31 December 2004 (latest available) the number of ASBOs issued at all courts, as reported to the Home Office, where restrictions were imposed within the local government authority area of Milton Keynes borough council, is 20. Data on breaches of ASBOs are available at criminal justice system area level only, in this case Thames Valley, and relate to the total issued by the courts.

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many antisocial behaviour orders have been made in respect of children who suffer from *(a)* Tourett's syndrome, *(b)* autism and *(c)* Asperger's syndrome; [6456]

(2) how many antisocial behaviour orders have been made in respect of people who were begging; [6457]

(3) how many antisocial behaviour orders have been made in respect of women who were loitering or soliciting; [6458]

(4) how many antisocial behaviour orders have been made since 1999. [6459]

**Hazel Blears** *[holding answer 22 June 2005]:* Information is not collected centrally about the characteristics of persons issued with an antisocial behaviour order (ASBO).

Data collated by the Home Office for statistical purposes do not identify the circumstances that led to the issuing of an ASBO.

The number of ASBOs issued at all courts, as reported to the Home Office, from 1 April 1999 to 31 December 2004 (latest available) is 4,649.

However, it is for the courts to decide on whether to make an order in each individual case.

### Assault Prosecutions

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the prosecution rate for *(a)* alleged common assaults and *(b)* alleged assaults with aggravating factors was in the most recent period for which figures are available. [4347]

**Fiona Mactaggart** *[holding answer 14 June 2005]:* Data on the number of prosecutions in 2003 for *(a)* alleged common assaults and *(b)* alleged assaults with aggravating factors are provided in the following table.

Statistics on court proceedings for 2004 will be published in the autumn.

*Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts for various assault offences, England and Wales 2003*[1]

| *Offence* | *Statute* | *Proceeded against* |
|---|---|---|
| Common assault and battery | Criminal Justice Act 1988 s.39 | 57,528 |
| Religiously aggravated common assault | Crime and Disorder Act 1998 s.29(1)*(c)*and(3) | 4 |
| Racially aggravated common assault | Crime and Disorder Act 1998 s.29(1)*(c)*and(3) | 750 |
| Racially or religiously aggravated common assault | Crime and Disorder Act 1998 s.29(1)*(c)*and(3) | 62 |
| Racially aggravated actual bodily harm | Offences against the Person Act 1861 s.47 (in part) as amended by Crime and Disorder Act 1998 s.29 (1) *(b)* and (2) | 482 |
| Religiously aggravated actual bodily harm | Offences against the Person Act 1861 s.47 (in part) as amended by Crime and Disorder Act 1998 s.29 (1) *(b)* and (2) | 22 |
| Racially or religiously aggravated actual bodily harm | Offences against the Person Act 1861 s.47 (in part) as amended by Crime and Disorder Act 1998 s.29 (1) *(b)* and (2) | 40 |
| Racially aggravated malicious wounding or GBH | Offences Against the Person Act 1861 s.20 as amended by Crime and Disorder Act s.29 (1) *(a)* and (2) | 62 |
| Religiously aggravated wounding or inflicting grievous bodily harm (inflicting bodily injury with or without weapon) | Offences Against the Person Act 1861 s.20 as amended by Crime and Disorder Act s.29 (1) *(a)* and (2) | 1 |
| Racially or religiously aggravated malicious wounding or GBH | Offences Against the Person Act 1861 s.20 as amended by Crime and Disorder Act s.29 (1) *(a)* and (2) | 20 |
| Total | | 58,971 |

[1] These data are on a principal offence basis

### Drug Rehabilitation

**Anne Main:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of *(a)* drug treatment testing orders and *(b)* drug rehabilitation requirements in (i) England and Wales and (ii) Hertfordshire were effected by non-governmental bodies in the last year for which figures are available. [10865]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** This information is not available centrally and could be collected only at disproportionate cost. The treatment and testing components of drug treatment and testing orders (DTTOs) and drug rehabilitation requirements (DRRs) in England are commissioned by local Drug Action Teams (DATs). Probation areas are responsible for the supervision and enforcement of DTTOs/DRRs and the delivery of some interventions. Welsh probation areas are funded to meet full DTTO/DRR costs.

**Anne Main:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much his Department allocated for the implementation of *(a)* drug treatment testing orders and *(b)* drug rehabilitation requirements in the last year for which figures are available. [10866]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** £76 million was made available in 2004–05 to deliver 13,000 drug treatment and testing orders (DTTOs). £88 million has been allocated in 2005–06 for the delivery of 16,000 DTTOs/drug rehabilitation requirements (DRRs) of the new community order, which will gradually replace DTTOs from April 2005.

**Anne Main:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was allocated per capita for offenders referred to a non-governmental voluntary body for the provision of *(a)* drug treatment testing orders and *(b)* drug rehabilitation requirements; what estimate he has made of the cost per capita for such offenders in the last year for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [11136]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** A proportion of Drug Treatment Testing Orders (DTTO)/Drug Rehabilitation Requirement (DRR) funding is not specifically allocated to cover the costs of offenders referred to non-governmental voluntary bodies. Funding for DTTO/DRR treatment and testing in England is allocated via the Pooled Treatment Budget to local Drug Action Teams (DATs) who decide what treatment and testing to commission in their locality and from what sources. Different arrangements exist in Wales where areas have responsibility for commissioning DTTO/DRR treatment and testing provision locally from their probation funding allocations. Information about the cost per capita of offenders on DTTOs/DRRs referred to non-governmental voluntary bodies is not available centrally and could be collected only at a disproportionate cost.

### Early Release Scheme

**Mr. Fraser:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will abolish the Early Release Scheme. [1365]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** There are three early release schemes: the Home Detention Curfew Scheme, the Early Removal Scheme for foreign national prisoners subject to deportation and parole for prisoners serving a determinate sentence of four years and over. There are no plans to abolish the Home Detention Curfew Scheme or the Early Removal Scheme. Under the provisions of the Criminal Justice Act 2003, offenders are sentenced according to the risk they present to the public. Sexual and violent offenders who present a significant risk will receive an extended sentence, under which the entire custodial period set by the court may be spent in prison if the Parole Board believes it is necessary: or an inter-determinate sentence, under which the offender must spend a minimum period of time in prison, and can be kept in prison indefinitely if the Parole Board believes it is necessary. Other offenders, who do not present this risk, are released on licence halfway through the sentence. Offenders must now remain on licence until the end of sentence, under reforms brought in under the Act.

### House Building (East Midlands)

**Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when future projections of house building numbers in Northamptonshire contained in the Milton Keynes and South Midlands Sub-Regional Spatial Strategy will be taken into account in the formula grant funding calculation for the county's police force. [11193]

**Hazel Blears:** House building numbers are not used in the police funding formula. Estimates of population are used and are updated annually. The police funding formula will reflect changes in resident population in each police authority. The Government recently consulted on the use of population projections in three-year settlements; the Government's proposals following this consultation will be announced shortly.

### Juvenile Offenders

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many secure unit places for juvenile offenders there are in England and Wales; and if he will make a statement. [8080]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** The Youth Justice Board is responsible for commissioning and purchasing places in the juvenile secure estate. It currently contracts with local authorities for the use for 235 places in secure children's homes in England and Wales.

### Limitation Acts

**Mr. Byers:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans he has to amend the provisions of the Limitation Acts to permit claims from those who have suffered from historic physical and sexual abuse. [7418]

**Bridget Prentice:** I have been asked to reply.

Under the current law the provisions governing claims for trespass against the person mean that a claim for child abuse must be brought within six years of the date on which the cause of action arose, although this period will not start to run until the child reaches the age of majority. Under the proposals in the Law Commission's 2001 report "Limitation of Actions", a claim in relation to child abuse would have to be brought within a period of three years from the date on which a claimant knew (or ought reasonably to have known) the facts giving rise to the cause of action, the identity of the defendant, and that any injury, loss or damage was significant. The court would have a discretion to disapply this limitation period if it considered that it would be unjust not to allow the claim to proceed. In July 2002, the Government announced their acceptance in principle of the Law Commission's recommendations subject to further consideration of certain aspects. Legislation will be introduced to implement those recommendations which are accepted when an opportunity arises.

### Mother and Baby Units (Prisons)

**Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many places have been available in mother and baby units in prisons in England and Wales in each year since 1997; [7746]

(2) how many pregnant female offenders have applied for their children to remain with them in prison after birth in each year since 1997; [7747]

(3) how many babies have been born to women in prison for non-violent offences in each year since 1997; [7748]

(4) how many babies have been born to women in prison in each year since 1997; and how many remained with their mothers in prison in each year. [7749]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** The number of places available in prison mother and baby units in England and Wales in each year since 1997 is as follows:

1997—68
1998—68
1999—68
2000—68
2001—68
2002—68
2003—68
2004—102
2005—84

The remainder of the data requested is currently neither routinely, or centrally available. However, the numbers of babies born to women in prison and applications for a place on a mother and baby unit is being collated nationally from 1 April 2005, on a quarterly retrospective basis. Data obtained in 2005 shows that, in 2004, 114 women gave birth while serving a prison sentence. All pregnant prisoners who give birth to a baby whilst serving a prison sentence do so in a local hospital.

## Murder Rate

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many persons were *(a)* charged with and *(b)* convicted of (i) murder and (ii) manslaughter in England and Wales in each year since 1975. [10508]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** Statistics on persons charged are not centrally collected.

The available information from the Home Office Court Proceedings database is contained in the table. Statistics on court proceedings for 2004 will be published in the autumn.

*Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for certain offences under the Offences Against the Person Act 1861[1], England and Wales 1975 to 2003*

| | *Murder* | | *Manslaughter[2,3]* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Total proceeded against* | *Total found guilty* | *Total proceeded against* | *Total found guilty* |
| 1975 | 406 | 107 | 677 | 758 |
| 1976 | 470 | 104 | 634 | 779 |
| 1977 | 333 | 115 | 599 | 679 |
| 1978 | 419 | 105 | 331 | 524 |
| 1979 | 473 | 137 | 265 | 471 |
| 1980 | 472 | 169 | 319 | 485 |
| 1981 | 442 | 126 | 297 | 449 |
| 1982 | 410 | 154 | 302 | 495 |
| 1983 | 412 | 132 | 254 | 447 |
| 1984 | 434 | 156 | 277 | 410 |
| 1985 | 483 | 173 | 283 | 484 |
| 1986 | 515 | 179 | 268 | 449 |
| 1987 | 496 | 166 | 290 | 501 |
| 1988 | 550 | 231 | 393 | 555 |
| 1989 | 506 | 189 | 421 | 637 |
| 1990 | 484 | 180 | 435 | 520 |
| 1991 | 584 | 201 | 397 | 565 |
| 1992 | 609 | 182 | 354 | 579 |
| 1993 | 598 | 211 | 379 | 503 |
| 1994 | 526 | 192 | 317 | 496 |
| 1995 | 591 | 214 | 349 | 514 |
| 1996 | 629 | 257 | 381 | 529 |
| 1997 | 529 | 275 | 433 | 541 |
| 1998 | 622 | 256 | 400 | 549 |
| 1999 | 625 | 252 | 422 | 484 |
| 2000 | 617 | 261 | 451 | 505 |
| 2001 | 807 | 285 | 448 | 565 |
| 2002 | 713 | 324 | 425 | 619 |
| 2003 | 719 | 277 | 437 | 561 |

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Covers: manslaughter, infanticide, child destruction, causing death by dangerous driving, diminished responsibility and causing death by careless driving when under the influence of drink or drugs.

[3] Found guilty figures may include those prosecutions for murder that were reduced to manslaughter.

## Overseas Prisoners

**Mr. Tyrie:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what records are kept in relation to the presence in UK territory, airspace or airports, for transit or for longer temporary periods, of prisoners detained by states other than the UK. [7903]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** The Council of Europe Convention on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons, the Commonwealth Scheme for the Transfer of Convicted Offenders, and bilateral prisoner transfer agreements to which the UK is a party, enables a contracting party to transit through UK airports to another contracting party, or to a third party, where transfer has been agreed in accordance with the relevant international agreement.

One or two requests for transit are received each year. Transit enables a prisoner and escort to transfer from one commercial flight to another at Heathrow or Gatwick airport. The prisoner and foreign escort remain in UK territory for a matter of hours and overnight transit is not allowed. Records of transit applications are not kept once the transit has been completed.

## Parenting Skills

**Mr. Streeter:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment his Department has made of the value of teaching parenting skills to parents in combating juvenile antisocial behaviour and crime; and if he will make a statement. [3038]

**Fiona Mactaggart** *[holding answer 13 June 2005]:* Parenting is strongly relevant to juvenile antisocial and criminal behaviour and can be associated with increased risk or it can be a factor which protects children and young people from being involved in such behaviour. There is evidence, however, particularly from the United States, that parenting interventions which

include the improvement of parenting skills can be effective in reducing antisocial and criminal behaviour.

An independent evaluation of the Youth Justice Board's parenting programme published in 2002 found that most parents valued the parenting programmes they had undertaken and wished they had received such support earlier. The study observed a reduction in offending but the lack of a comparison group meant that this could not be attributed to parenting programmes.

Youth Offending Teams have adapted programmes underpinned by evidence of effectiveness and some have developed their own programmes based on such evidence. Since 2002 the Youth Justice Board has introduced an effective practice quality assurance review process as part of a management system to improve the quality and volume of parenting interventions being delivered by Youth Offending Teams.

## Police

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prisoners are held in each prison in Lancashire; and how many prison officers are employed in each prison. [11071]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** The information requested is provided in the following table . The figures for the population of each establishment are as recorded on the Prison Service IT system on 31 May 2005. Figures for the number of prison officers at each establishment are for 30 June 2005, and include both full and part-time officers.

*Population and number of officers in prison establishments in Lancashire*

| *Establishment* | *Population* | *Number of prison officers* |
|---|---|---|
| Garth | 640 | 225 |
| Kirkham | 530 | 98 |
| Lancaster | 239 | 86 |
| Lancaster Farms | 514 | 242 |
| Preston | 604 | 233 |
| Wymott | 1,042 | 253 |

**Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects to announce the basis of the calculation for the new police authority funding formula due in 2006–07. [11208]

**Hazel Blears** *[holding answer 12 July 2005]:* We expect a 12 week consultation period on options for formula change to begin in late July with the aim of introducing a revised formula for the 2006–07 funding settlement.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the Independent Police Complaints Commission's target is for *(a)* examination of and *(b)* reporting on a complaint against the police from the date of registration of the complaint; and what the average time taken has been since the IPCC was set up. [10913]

**Hazel Blears** *[holding answer 11 July 2005]:* The Independent Police Complaints Commission is responsible for the management of the police complaints system. I will ensure that the chairman receives a copy of the question and replies to the hon. Member directly. Copies of the letter containing the IPCC's response will be placed in the Library.

## Prisoners

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 15 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 491W, on prison education, how many offenders were in custody in each year between 2002–03 and 2004–05. [7372]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** The population of prison establishments in England and Wales on 30 June in each year in question, as recorded on the Prison Service IT system, is provided in the table. The figures include remand prisoners.

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2002 | 71,218 |
| 2003 | 73,657 |
| 2004 | 74,488 |

Information on Scotland and Northern Ireland is a matter for my colleagues in the Scottish Executive and Northern Ireland Office.

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prisoners are held in *(a)* Garth and *(b)* Wymott prisons; and how many prison officers there are in each per prisoner. [6612]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** The population of HMP Garth was 640 and the population of HMP Wymott 1,042 on 31 May 2005, as recorded on the Prison Service IT system.

There are 225 prison officers working at HMP Garth, resulting in a ratio of 0.35 officers per prisoner. There are 252 prison officers working at HMP Wymott, with a ratio of 0.24 officers per prisoner. These figures include both full and part-time officers, and are for 31 May 2005.

**Mr. Gerrard:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many assaults on staff there were at Rye Hill Prison during 2004–05; [6094]

(2) how many assaults on prisoners there were at Rye Hill Prison during 2004–05. [6095]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** At HMP Rye Hill during the financial year 2004–05 there were 33 assaults upon staff and 12 assaults upon prisoners that were proven at adjudication hearings.

**Mr. Gerrard:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cases there were of prisoners *(a)* absconding and *(b)* escaping at Rye Hill Prison during 2004–05. [6096]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** During the financial year 2004–05 one prisoner escaped from a hospital escort being undertaken by staff from HMP Rye Hill. There were no absconds during this period.

**Mr. Gerrard:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cases there were of doors unlocked at Rye Hill Prison during 2004–05. [6097]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** Internal incident reports compiled at Rye Hill show that during 2004–05 a total of eight security gates or doors, including one cell door, were reported as being found unlocked.

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the proportion of prisoners who have spent time in care. [7294]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** Information from the 2001 Criminality Survey notes that 27 per cent. of prisoners had spent time in care as a child. This is closely in line with the equivalent figure of 26 per cent. as found by the 1991 National Prison Survey.

**John Hemming:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of the prison population has spent time in the care of a local authority. [7884]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** Information from the 2001 Criminality Survey notes that 27 per cent. of prisoners had spent time in care as a child This is closely in line with the equivalent figure of 26 per cent. as found by the 1991 National Prison Survey.

**Mrs. Dean:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of *(a)* male and *(b)* female prisoners he estimates have (i) alcohol and (ii) drug abuse problems. [5780]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** This information is not collected centrally.

Epidemiological studies show that:

(a) 63 per cent. of sentenced males (39 per cent. females) report hazardous drinking in the year prior to prison; and

(b) on average, 55 per cent. of prisoners report a serious drug problem (51 per cent. of male remand prisoners and 54 per cent. of female remands admitted drug dependency—ONS 1997).

**Mr. Malins:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans he has to increase opportunities for prisoners to play team sport; and if he will make a statement. [2702]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** The importance of physical education in prisons is well recognised. All prisons are required to deliver PE that meets the need of the regime, supports the delivery of education and vocational training, contributes to the resettlement of prisoners and delivers programmes that have been specifically developed to support offending behaviour interventions. The percentage, balance and contents that each PE programme contains will depend upon national and local needs. In 2004–05 some 7.9 million hours of PE were delivered within prisons in the public sector. The total number of hours achieved in contracted establishments is not centrally held, although all prisoners in contracted prisons are offered the opportunity to undertake PE on a frequent basis.

The importance of team games is well recognised and each prisons PE programme should include a range of team sports that are delivered in line with the respective sports governing body guidelines. A wide range of governing body coaching and performance awards are delivered across the prison estate to encourage participation in team sports. In addition each prison should have a nominated Community Sport Liaison Officer. Part of their role is to encourage participation, where this is appropriate, in local sports leagues.

**Mrs. Gillan:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prisoners were recalled for failing to adhere to home detention curfew conditions during the first five months of 2005 in each prison region. [9010]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** The information requested, as recorded on the Prison Service IT system, is provided in the table. The figures refer to the region in which the establishment is located from which the prisoner was discharged, and relate to all prisoners subject to the Home Detention Curfew Scheme who had their licences revoked in the period in question.

*HOC recalls by prison region1 England and Wales, 2005*

| | *January* | *February* | *March* | *April* | *May* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| All establishments | 193 | 160 | 239 | 229 | 228 | 1,049 |
| East Midlands (North) | 18 | 5 | 19 | 8 | 10 | 60 |
| East Midlands (South) | 12 | 11 | 24 | 19 | 19 | 85 |
| Eastern | 7 | 11 | 14 | 13 | 24 | 69 |
| Kent | 11 | 6 | 13 | 15 | 17 | 62 |
| London | 8 | 9 | 12 | 18 | 8 | 55 |
| North-east | 5 | 6 | 9 | 7 | 6 | 33 |
| North-west | 29 | 22 | 31 | 25 | 27 | 134 |
| South-west | 17 | 20 | 21 | 15 | 14 | 87 |
| Surrey and Sussex | 9 | 4 | 7 | 5 | 9 | 34 |
| Thames Valley, IOW, Hampshire | 13 | 12 | 11 | 11 | 8 | 55 |
| Wales | 8 | 3 | 4 | 8 | 7 | 30 |
| West Midlands | 17 | 15 | 26 | 26 | 26 | 110 |
| Yorkshire and Humberside | 17 | 22 | 27 | 39 | 34 | 139 |
| High Security Estate | 7 | 4 | 9 | 8 | 4 | 32 |
| Contracted out | 14 | 9 | 11 | 11 | 14 | 59 |
| Others | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 5 |

[1] based on information recorded on the Prison Service IT system at week ending 25 June 2005. Further updates and amendments may be made to records on this system in future, resulting in revised figures.

## Probation Service

**Mr. Llwyd:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff *(a)* joined and *(b)* left the Probation Service in England and Wales during (i) 2003–04 and (ii) 2004–05, broken down by grade. [4262]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** The information requested is provided in the table.

*Number of Joiners[1] and Leavers in the National Probation Service for England and Wales in 2003–04 and 2004–05*

| | *Persons joining the National Probation Service* | | *Persons leaving the National Probation Service* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *2003–04* | *2004—05* | *2003–04* | *2004–05* |
| Deputy Chief Officers | 3.0 | 0.0 | 6.0 | 3.0 |
| Assistant Chief Officers[2] | 20.7 | 6.8 | 36.9 | 18.5 |
| Senior Probation Officers | 8.9 | 12.1 | 75.0 | 68.2 |
| Probation Officers[3] | 984.7 | 577.8 | 484.4 | 417.1 |
| Probation Service Officers | 945.8 | 857.0 | 504.2 | 531.5 |
| All Other Staff | 1,147.1 | 896.2 | 751.1 | 724.7 |
| Total | 3,110.2 | 2,349.7 | 1,861.6 | 1,763.0 |

[1] Figures shown in FTE.
[2] Includes Area Managers.
[3] Includes Senior Practitioners and Trainee Probation Officers.

**Mr. Llwyd:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many vacancies there were in each probation area on 31 March of each year between 2001 and 2005, broken down by grade. [4210]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** The information requested was not collected by the Probation Service until the implementation of the quarterly workforce information report during the financial year 2003–04 and therefore, we are unable to respond to the request for the years 2001 to 2003.

The information for 2004 and 2005 is given in the table.

*The number of vacancies[1,2] in the National Probation Service of England and Wales 2004 and 2005.*

| | *31 March 2004* | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Senior probation staff* | *Probation officers* | *Probation Service officers* | *Trainee probation officers* | *All other staff* |
| Avon and Somerset | 1.0 | 16.3 | 31.8 | 3.0 | 40.8 |
| Bedfordshire | 2.0 | 3.4 | 4.0 | 0.0 | 1.5 |
| Cambridgeshire | 0.5 | 3.0 | 1.0 | 0.0 | 2.1 |
| Cheshire | 0.0 | 4.5 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 5.0 |
| Cumbria | 1.0 | 3.6 | 5.4 | 0.0 | 4.5 |
| Derbyshire | 0.0 | 4.5 | 2.6 | 0.0 | 1.6 |
| Devon and Cornwall | 2.5 | 7.8 | 13.6 | 1.0 | 13.5 |
| Dorset | 0.6 | 7.4 | 8.1 | 1.0 | 2.3 |
| Durham | 1.0 | 0.0 | 0.5 | 5.0 | 2.1 |
| Essex | 0.7 | 5.8 | 14.9 | 2.0 | 5.6 |
| Gloucestershire | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Hampshire | 1.0 | 14.3 | 17.4 | 0.0 | 3.0 |
| Hertfordshire | 1.2 | 5.9 | 3.4 | 2.0 | 1.8 |
| Humberside | 0.0 | 0.4 | 4.3 | 0.0 | 7.8 |
| Kent | 3.2 | 0.9 | 30.9 | 9.0 | 30.3 |
| Lancashire | 0.0 | 6.3 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 8.0 |
| Leicestershire and Rutland | 0.7 | 4.5 | 12.6 | 0.0 | 4.7 |
| Lincolnshire | 0.2 | 5.0 | 3.4 | 1.0 | 10.8 |
| London[3] | 19.0 | 27.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 39.0 |
| Greater Manchester[3] | 9.0 | 31.0 | 17.0 | 0.0 | 113.7 |
| Merseyside | 1.0 | 0.1 | 7.0 | 0.0 | 21.8 |
| Norfolk | 0.2 | 3.4 | 5.8 | 0.0 | 3.3 |
| Northamptonshire | 1.0 | 5.0 | 6.0 | 0.0 | 7.3 |
| Northumbria | 0.0 | 4.2 | 1.0 | 0.0 | 8.0 |
| Nottinghamshire | 0.0 | 0.0 | 4.6 | 0.0 | 9.1 |
| Staffordshire | 1.0 | 6.4 | 4.5 | 0.0 | 3.2 |
| Suffolk | 0.0 | 0.5 | 3.2 | 0.0 | 1.6 |
| Surrey | 2.9 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 2.0 | 2.1 |
| Sussex | 1.9 | 9.2 | 9.9 | 6.0 | 3.5 |
| Teesside | 2.1 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 10.1 |
| Thames Valley | 0.5 | 11.6 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 1.8 |
| Warwickshire | 1.9 | 2.0 | 2.7 | 0.0 | 1.6 |
| West Mercia | 3.4 | 5.0 | 6.9 | 0.0 | 5.7 |
| West Midlands | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Wiltshire | 1.0 | 1.5 | 3.6 | 0.0 | 8.5 |
| North Yorkshire | 1.0 | 6.5 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 6.3 |
| South Yorkshire | 0.0 | 4.4 | 9.8 | 1.0 | 5.5 |
| West Yorkshire | 10.1 | 22.0 | 29.3 | 0.0 | 17.1 |
| Dyfed-Powys | 2.0 | 1.4 | 4.2 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Gwent | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| North Wales | 1.6 | 3.2 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 2.9 |
| South Wales | 4.6 | 7.1 | 9.2 | 0.0 | 7.1 |
| Total | 75.9 | 229.9 | 250.9 | 29.0 | 424.7 |

| | 31 March 2005 | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Senior probation staff* | *Probation officers* | *Probation Service officers* | *Trainee probation officers* | *All other staff* |
| Avon and Somerset | 4.0 | 23.0 | 24.0 | 0.0 | 16.7 |
| Bedfordshire | 0.5 | 1.6 | 1.0 | 0.0 | 12.1 |
| Cambridgeshire | 1.6 | 6.9 | 9.6 | 0.0 | 0.2 |
| Cheshire | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 5.6 |
| Cumbria | 1.0 | 1.2 | 3.0 | 0.0 | 1.3 |
| Derbyshire | 0.2 | 4.5 | 1.5 | 0.0 | 3.0 |
| Devon and Cornwall | 0.6 | 4.0 | 2.1 | 0.0 | 8.6 |
| Dorset | 0.0 | 0.0 | 5.9 | 0.0 | 3.4 |
| Durham | 1.0 | 0.0 | 1.0 | 0.0 | 2.0 |
| Essex | 0.5 | 0.0 | 1.8 | 0.0 | 4.5 |
| Gloucestershire | 0.0 | 3.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 2.9 |
| Hampshire | 0.0 | 0.0 | 7.0 | 0.0 | 7.5 |
| Hertfordshire | 2.0 | 4.6 | 7.5 | 2.0 | 0.0 |
| Humberside | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Kent | 3.0 | 5.5 | 3.0 | 0.0 | 13.6 |
| Lancashire | 0.0 | 0.0 | 11.6 | 0.0 | 11.0 |
| Leicestershire and Rutland | 1.0 | 7.6 | 6.7 | 1.0 | 4.5 |
| Lincolnshire | 0.0 | 0.0 | 1.5 | 0.0 | 2.5 |
| London[3] | — | — | — | — | — |
| Greater Manchester[3] | — | — | — | — | — |
| Merseyside | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Norfolk | 0.0 | 6.0 | 2.0 | 0.0 | 5.3 |
| Northamptonshire | 1.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 5.0 |
| Northumbria | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Nottinghamshire | 0.0 | 0.0 | 9.7 | 0.0 | 3.1 |
| Staffordshire | 0.0 | 4.0 | 6.0 | 0.0 | 10.4 |
| Suffolk | 3.0 | 2.6 | 1.9 | 1.0 | 2.5 |
| Surrey | 2.5 | 3.0 | 7.0 | 0.0 | 6.0 |
| Sussex | 2.1 | 10.0 | 5.4 | 0.0 | 2.5 |
| Teesside | 1.0 | 0.0 | 2.6 | 0.0 | 6.2 |
| Thames Valley | 3.5 | 21.2 | 11.5 | 0.0 | 16.2 |
| Warwickshire | 1.2 | 0.0 | 1.8 | 0.0 | 1.5 |
| West Mercia | 1.0 | 0.2 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 8.5 |
| West Midlands | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Wiltshire | 2.0 | 4.0 | 1.6 | 0.0 | 3.0 |
| North Yorkshire | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| South Yorkshire | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| West Yorkshire | 3.7 | 13.0 | 20.0 | 1.0 | 14.5 |
| Dyfed-Powys | 3.5 | 1.4 | 0.4 | 0.0 | 1.0 |
| Gwent | 1.0 | 2.0 | 8.4 | 0.0 | 0.5 |
| North Wales | 0.0 | 0.4 | 3.5 | 0.0 | 1.3 |
| South Wales | 0.0 | 0.0 | 12.0 | 0.0 | 11.5 |
| Total | 40.9 | 129.7 | 182.0 | 6.0 | 198.3 |

[1] Figures shown in wte

[2] At the end of 2004, the NPS changed the way in which it collected vacancy data, consequently, the information for March 2004 shows the vacancies within a notional complement of staff and those for March 2005 show vacancies as being posts that Areas are actively recruiting into.

[3] The information for March 2005 is not currently available for these probation areas.

**Mr. Llwyd:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the staffing establishment for each probation area was on 31 March of each year between 2001 and 2005, broken down by grade. [4261]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** The information requested was not collected by the Probation Service until the implementation of the quarterly workforce information report during the financial year 2003–04 and therefore, we are unable to respond to the request for the years 2001 to 2003.

The information for 2004 and 2005 is given in the tables.

*Staffing establishment[1, 2] for the National Probation Service for England and Wales*

| | 31 March 2004 | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Senior probation staff* | *Probation officers* | *Probation service officers* | *Trainee probation officers* | *All other staff* |
| Avon and Somerset | 7.0 | 103.4 | 220.6 | 26.0 | 134.1 |
| Bedfordshire | 18.0 | 44.6 | 39.8 | 0.0 | 72.7 |
| Cambridgeshire | 24.6 | 51.4 | 65.7 | 19.0 | 60.1 |
| Cheshire | 27.6 | 86.7 | 0.0 | 33.0 | 114.8 |
| Cumbria | 17.0 | 39.3 | 38.3 | 17.0 | 49.8 |
| Derbyshire | 23.3 | 79.4 | 108.2 | 30.0 | 92.4 |
| Devon and Cornwall | 31.4 | 114.9 | 139.9 | 33.0 | 129.4 |
| Dorset | 11.9 | 51.2 | 59.5 | 16.0 | 59.3 |
| Durham | 19.0 | 0.0 | 96.1 | 23.0 | 38.4 |
| Essex | 42.9 | 74.6 | 168.5 | 43.0 | 70.1 |
| Gloucestershire | 18.2 | 37.2 | 39.3 | 14.0 | 59.9 |
| Hampshire | 38.7 | 139.9 | 125.4 | 50.0 | 167.1 |
| Hertfordshire | 23.0 | 49.0 | 52.3 | 25.0 | 66.0 |
| Humberside | 28.0 | 110.8 | 115.8 | 37.0 | 141.1 |
| Kent | 51.2 | 103.8 | 149.4 | 39.0 | 110.7 |
| Lancashire | 0.0 | 190.1 | 0.0 | 39.0 | 139.9 |
| Leicestershire and Rutland | 33.3 | 97.4 | 144.8 | 39.0 | 92.1 |

*Staffing establishment[1, 2] for the National Probation Service for England and Wales*

| | 31 March 2004 | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Senior probation staff* | *Probation officers* | *Probation service officers* | *Trainee probation officers* | *All other staff* |
| Lincolnshire | 19.6 | 41.0 | 81.3 | 19.0 | 68.1 |
| London | 197.0 | 665.5 | 0.0 | 244.0 | 727.0 |
| Greater Manchester | 72.7 | 314.9 | 298.1 | 114.0 | 461.2 |
| Merseyside | 33.0 | 205.4 | 199.1 | 78.0 | 219.2 |
| Norfolk | 24.1 | 60.1 | 79.2 | 22.0 | 57.0 |
| Northamptonshire | 15.0 | 48.0 | 68.0 | 21.0 | 79.5 |
| Northumbria | 0.0 | 213.6 | 168.1 | 70.0 | 175.5 |
| Nottinghamshire | 0.0 | 0.0 | 118.0 | 44.0 | 148.8 |
| Staffordshire | 25.4 | 120.8 | 80.6 | 36.0 | 133.4 |
| Suffolk | 26.7 | 58.5 | 61.6 | 15.0 | 44.3 |
| Surrey | 21.1 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 17.0 | 66.1 |
| Sussex | 40.8 | 85.8 | 99.7 | 30.0 | 84.4 |
| Teesside | 20.3 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 32.0 | 78.1 |
| Thames Valley | 37.0 | 145.0 | 0.0 | 41.0 | 182.7 |
| Warwickshire | 16.7 | 36.6 | 28.7 | 16.0 | 61.9 |
| West Mercia | 43.9 | 82.0 | 93.8 | 41.0 | 99.6 |
| West Midlands | 60.5 | 346.3 | 215.1 | 134.0 | 454.8 |
| Wiltshire | 21.5 | 28.6 | 39.0 | 16.0 | 31.6 |
| North Yorkshire | 30.6 | 45.0 | 40.3 | 32.0 | 83.3 |
| South Yorkshire | 0.0 | 166.5 | 186.7 | 63.0 | 180.1 |
| West Yorkshire | 89.7 | 224.2 | 307.0 | 98.2 | 292.7 |
| Dyfed-Powys | 13.5 | 30.2 | 36.2 | 15.0 | 42.3 |
| Gwent | 15.1 | 54.1 | 68.8 | 23.0 | 75.5 |
| North Wales | 18.4 | 49.1 | 0.0 | 24.0 | 52.8 |
| South Wales | 37.0 | 135.3 | 138.1 | 53.0 | 155.5 |
| Total | 1,457.6 | 4,827.8 | 5,416.8 | 1,820.2 | 5,673.1 |

| | 31 March 2005 | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Senior probation staff* | *Probation officers* | *Probation service officers* | *Trainee probation officers* | *All other staff* |
| Avon and Somerset | 37.4 | 115.9 | 185.2 | 38.0 | 133.4 |
| Bedfordshire | 23.0 | 43.0 | 32.2 | 17.0 | 77.9 |
| Cambridgeshire | 25.4 | 50.9 | 66.4 | 19.0 | 60.8 |
| Cheshire | 28.3 | 86.4 | 90.0 | 30.0 | 121.0 |
| Cumbria | 17.0 | 41.0 | 45.1 | 18.0 | 54.3 |
| Derbyshire | 20.3 | 87.2 | 111.9 | 33.0 | 103.7 |
| Devon and Cornwall | 33.7 | 116.6 | 140.2 | 40.0 | 130.1 |
| Dorset | 15.1 | 55.2 | 62.1 | 18.0 | 66.3 |
| Durham | 24.7 | 71.1 | 117.3 | 24.0 | 83.1 |
| Essex | 46.1 | 74.1 | 189.9 | 43.0 | 96.1 |
| Gloucestershire | 22.8 | 36.4 | 41.7 | 11.0 | 62.1 |
| Hampshire | 42.6 | 146.3 | 121.1 | 51.0 | 171.4 |
| Hertfordshire | 22.0 | 53.1 | 61.9 | 18.0 | 62.2 |
| Humberside | 27.8 | 119.9 | 141.2 | 35.0 | 116.3 |
| Kent | 45.6 | 99.9 | 160.8 | 44.0 | 115.9 |
| Lancashire | 58.0 | 192.4 | 142.7 | 55.0 | 144.9 |
| Leicestershire and Rutland | 35.0 | 99.7 | 175.4 | 33.0 | 98.0 |
| Lincolnshire | 19.8 | 44.6 | 74.0 | 18.0 | 74.3 |
| London | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] |
| Greater Manchester | 70.6 | 335.7 | 331.1 | 114.0 | 474.9 |
| Merseyside | 35.0 | 232.2 | 213.1 | 71.0 | 212.5 |
| Norfolk | 24.7 | 57.9 | 83.3 | 26.0 | 66.4 |
| Northamptonshire | 18.0 | 54.5 | 63.4 | 19.0 | 65.7 |
| Northumbria | 38.6 | 225.2 | 170.1 | 60.0 | 182.7 |
| Nottinghamshire | 30.0 | 135.9 | 167.9 | 42.0 | 140.7 |
| Staffordshire | 25.8 | 126.9 | 91.0 | 35.0 | 143.6 |
| Suffolk | 25.8 | 57.7 | 70.7 | 19.0 | 36.3 |
| Surrey | 21.5 | 45.2 | 106.9 | 14.0 | 65.1 |
| Sussex | 33.9 | 94.9 | 125.0 | 36.0 | 81.5 |
| Teesside | 24.4 | 62.8 | 125.5 | 30.0 | 73.9 |
| Thames Valley | 38.0 | 137.8 | 215.7 | 48.0 | 181.4 |
| Warwickshire | 16.4 | 36.5 | 35.2 | 16.0 | 65.0 |
| West Mercia | 46.4 | 91.7 | 101.0 | 33.0 | 103.9 |
| West Midlands | 69.1 | 377.2 | 327.4 | 117.0 | 395.6 |
| Wiltshire | 15.8 | 27.5 | 41.1 | 16.0 | 46.2 |
| North Yorkshire | 39.6 | 54.0 | 60.1 | 21.0 | 65.4 |
| South Yorkshire | 41.4 | 166.7 | 207.4 | 53.0 | 187.6 |
| West Yorkshire | 110.2 | 221.7 | 302.4 | 88.6 | 305.5 |
| Dyfed-Powys | 16.0 | 30.7 | 39.9 | 15.0 | 46.2 |
| Gwent | 14.7 | 50.6 | 65.1 | 33.0 | 62.7 |
| North Wales | 23.6 | 59.6 | 80.2 | 21.0 | 57.3 |
| South Wales | 45.9 | 145.6 | 160.3 | 47.0 | 170.0 |
| Total | 1,558.3 | 5,009.2 | 5,816.9 | 1,766.6 | 5,625.4 |

[1] Figures shown in wte.

[2] Staffing establishment has been interpreted as 'Staff in Post' as opposed to the funded staffing establishment.

[3] The information for March 2005 is not currently available for this Probation Area.

**Mr. Gerrard:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many service level agreements there are *(a)* in each probation region and *(b)* for each regional offender manager for the current financial year. [6100]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** At present there are a total of 11 draft Service Level Agreements between Probation Boards and Regional Offender Managers. These are in two regions, the North West region has five Draft Service Level Agreements and the East region has six Draft Service Level Agreements. Work is currently being undertaken to have Service Level Agreements in place in all regions of England and Wales for the financial year 2006–07.

**Mr. Gerrard:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans he has to redefine the role of probation boards. [6101]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** Work on the future organisational design of the National Offender Management Service has still to be concluded.

**Mrs. Dorries:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been employed in the Probation Service in *(a)* Bedfordshire county and *(b)* Mid-Bedfordshire in each year since 1997. [11089]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** Information is not available for the full period requested. Data are not available prior to 1 April 2003. The figures presented in the table show full time equivalent (FTE) figures at the close of each quarter from 1 April 2003 to 31 March 2005. Staffing information is collected by probation area, and is not collected centrally in sufficient detail to allow figures for Bedfordshire county and Mid Bedfordshire to be presented separately. The staffing figures are provided for the Bedfordshire probation area only.

*Bedfordshire probation area*

| | *FTE in post* |
|---|---|
| 30 June 2003 | 173.8 |
| 30 September 2003 | 183.7 |
| 31 December 2003 | 189.0 |
| 31 March 2004 | 196.1 |
| 30 June 2004 | 188.2 |
| 30 September 2004 | 176.0 |
| 31 December 2004 | 182.0 |
| 31 March 2005 | 193.1 |

**Jeremy Corbyn:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans there are to ensure that magistrates in Crown courts are fully resourced in terms of experienced probation officers in *(a)* the 2005–06 financial year and *(b)* future financial years. [5640]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** The National Probation Service business plan for 2005–06 makes clear the priority to be attached to meeting the needs of the courts. The importance of delivering good quality court reports on time had already been made clear in two probation circulars issued in the second half of 2004–05 and it will remain a priority for the service in the coming years.

The 2005–06 business plan requires probation chief officers to ensure that good liaison arrangements exist with sentencers and court staff so that any difficulties in relation to the provision of reports can be identified and tackled. At the end of March 2005 there were 818 National Probation Service staff allocated to court duties.

### Ritual Sacrifice (Children)

**Dr. Kumar:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimates have been made of the numbers of children being trafficked into the UK for the purpose of ritual sacrifice. [7291]

**Hazel Blears:** Initial inquiries made by the team investigating the 'Adam' murder found that a number of African boys had not returned to school following the summer break in 2001.

Educational welfare officers notified the Metropolitan police of 300 boys who had not returned to school following the summer recess. Of these, 161 boys were screened in for further inquiries.

There has been considerable media speculation that these children were trafficked for the purpose of ritual abuse.

The Metropolitan police have made it clear that they believe this type of crime to be extremely rare, and that there is no evidence to suggest that the same fate has befallen any other child.

**Dr. Kumar:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps he is taking to prevent the trafficking of children into the UK for the purpose of ritual sacrifice. [7292]

**Hazel Blears:** Initial inquiries made by the team investigating the 'Adam' murder found a number of African boys had not returned to school following the summer break in 2001.

The Metropolitan Police Service has stated clearly that they have no evidence that any of these boys have come to any harm. They believe this type of crime to be extremely rare and there is no evidence whatsoever to suggest that the same fate has befallen any other child.

### Self-harm

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps he is taking to ensure that adequate counselling is in place for staff working in the Prison Service who deal with a fatality or a serious case of self-harm. [6815]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** The public sector Prison Service has in place an established package of measures to support staff in such circumstances. In particular, all staff have access to post trauma counselling if they have been involved in a traumatic incident on duty. This includes attending the scene of a serious self-harm or suicide. Staff can self-refer for counselling, or be referred by management. The process is handled by the public sector Prison Service occupational welfare service, who source a local, external counsellor who is accredited by the British Association of Counselling and Psychotherapy or equivalent professional body.

### Sentencing Guidelines Council

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans he has to ask the Sentencing Guidelines Council to *(a)* create aggravating factors, *(b)* lengthen jail sentences and *(c)* increase fines for assaults against public sector workers; and if he will make a statement. [7429]

**Fiona Mactaggart** *[holding answer 27 June 2005]:* The Government made a commitment to ensuring tougher sentences for those involved in attacks on public sector workers. The Sentencing Guidelines Council, which was established by the Criminal Justice Act 2003, has a remit to issue sentencing guidelines for the range of criminal offences, which courts must take into account.

The Council issued a guideline entitled 'Seriousness—Overarching Principles' on 16 December last year. It outlined a number of aggravating factors that would indicate a higher than usual level of culpability on the part of the offender (such as vulnerability of the victim), or a greater than usual degree of harm caused by the offence. One aggravating factor set out in the guideline is that

> "the offence is committed against those working in the public sector or providing a service to the public".

The Sentencing Advisory Panel is currently preparing a public consultation paper on sentencing for assaults and other offences against the person. It will consider the most common offences, aggravating or mitigating factors, and the degree to which such factors should impact on sentence. The Panel will report to the Council, which will, in due course, produce a guideline.

### Victims of Crime

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what provisions have been made to protect the victims of crime and their families from the individuals responsible for the crimes when they are released *(a)* temporarily, *(b)* conditionally and *(c)* permanently. [3565]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** Local probation boards have a statutory duty to work with victims of sexual or violent offences where the offender receives a custodial sentence of 12 months or more. Victims are provided with a single point of contact with the Probation Service, through Victim Liaison Officers (VLOs), from whom they can receive information and make representations about key stages in an offender's sentence, such as temporary leave and release on licence.

When an offender is being considered for release on temporary licence, a prison governor will seek information from the supervising probation officer about appropriate licence conditions. The probation officer, having consulted the VLO, may recommend that there be conditions not to contact the victim or not to enter a specified area where the victim resides.

Prior to the offender's conditional release, the supervising probation officer, having taken into account the victim's representations, may recommend that conditions be imposed forbidding contact with the victim, members of the victim's family or other named individuals, or may prevent the offender entering a specified geographical area.

During the period of the licence, the VLO will maintain contact with victims and their families. If, after offenders have been released, victims have concerns about offenders breaching conditions not to contact them or entering an exclusion zone, they should inform the VLO. The VLO will, in turn, notify the offender's supervising officer of this breach and the offender may either be warned about his/her behaviour or recalled to custody.

The Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA), introduced in April 2001, play an important role in assessing and managing the risk of harm an offender presents to a specific person, such as a victim of his/her previous offending. A VLO will liaise with the MAPPA Responsible Authority, which in turn has a duty of care to existing victims, and should take all reasonable steps to protect people from being re-victimised.

Once statutory supervision of an offender ends, the conditions put in place to protect victims will no longer apply. Where, however, an offender is regarded as posing a risk of harm to an individual, such as a victim of a previous offence, MAPPA may recommend that the police continue to monitor that offender.

The probation VLO should also provide victims with information about voluntary organisations, such as Victim Support, which may offer support once statutory supervision of the offender comes to an end.

### Violent Crime Reduction Bill

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what criteria were used in making the decision not to include measures to create aggravating factors for assaults against public sector workers in the Violent Crime Reduction Bill; and if he will make a statement. [6205]

**Fiona Mactaggart** *[holding answer 21 June 2005]:* The Government are committed to ensuring tougher sentences for those involved in attacks on public sector workers. But we are not convinced that further legislation is necessary to achieve this. The Sentencing Guidelines Council, which was established by the Criminal Justice Act 2003, has a remit to issue sentencing guidelines, which courts must take into account. Sentencing guidelines in respect of an offence or category of offences must include criteria for determining the seriousness of the offence or offences. The council issued a guideline on 'seriousness' at the end of last year; this included aggravating factors applicable to offences generally such as the vulnerability of the victim. One aggravating factor is that "the offence is committed against those working in the public sector or providing a service to the public". The Sentencing Advisory Panel is currently preparing a public consultation paper on sentencing for assaults and other offences against the person. It will consider the most common offences, aggravating or mitigating factors, and the degree to which such factors should impact on sentence. The panel will report to the council, which will, in due course, produce a guideline.

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what restrictions on shooting sports are contained within the provisions of the Violent Crime Reduction Bill. [11222]

**Hazel Blears:** Part two of the Bill is aimed at tackling the misuse of firearms and imitation firearms and will not greatly affect legitimate shooting sports. Although the age for acquiring and possessing an air weapon will increase from 17 to 18, young people will still be able to use air weapons under adult supervision, at approved shooting clubs or, if they are 14 or over, on private premises with the owner's consent.

### Young Offenders

**Mr. Mallin:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department at which young offender institutions prisoners are *(a)* taught and *(b)* able to play (i) football, (ii) cricket and (iii) rugby. [2711]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** A large number of establishments hold young offenders and juveniles. The sports activity each establishment is able to offer obviously varies because of the space and facilities available.

A broad survey conducted as a result of the hon. Member's question indicates that at every establishment holding males under 21, football is available. Cricket and rugby are available at around 50 per cent. of these establishments. The rugby played is predominantly touch rugby. Sport is less readily available or in demand in the female estate. A number of female establishments make football available to prisoners, and there is a small amount of cricket and touch rugby played. All sport is supervised and a good deal is coached. Some establishments offer refereeing courses. Others have teams playing competitive matches in leagues. In 2004–05 some 7.9 million hours of physical education were delivered within prisons in the public sector. The total number of hours achieved in contracted establishments is not centrally held, although all prisoners in contracted prisons are offered the opportunity to undertake PE on a frequent basis.

**Alison Seabeck:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects the full range of special measures provided for in the Youth Justice and Criminal Evidence Act 1999 to be available to use. [9675]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** The special measures contained in sections 23 to 30 of the Youth Justice and Criminal Evidence Act 1999 have been rolled out in stages since July 2002. Details of the remaining partially implemented and unimplemented provisions are set out in the table together with the current plan for implementation.

| *Special measure* | *Current implementation plan* |
|---|---|
| Live links (section 24) | Since 24 July 2002 this measure has been available to all vulnerable or intimidated witnesses, which include children, in the Crown court and child witnesses in need of special protection in magistrates courts. Following the roll out of live link facilities in magistrates courts we plan to make this measure available to all vulnerable or intimidated witnesses in magistrates courts in the near future. An implementation date will be announced in due course. |
| Video recorded evidence in chief (section 27) | This measure has been available since 24 July 2002 in the Crown court for all vulnerable witnesses, which include children and in magistrates courts for children in need of special protection. Before extending the availability of this measure to intimidated witnesses we wish to assess the extra demands that this would place on the relevant criminal justice agencies. As part of this process we are evaluating a pilot that is testing an interview summary as an alternative to full verbatim transcripts of video-recorded interviews. The pilot's independent evaluation report is expected at the end of August and will inform the development of our implementation plans, which will include consultation with the criminal justice agencies. |
| Video recorded cross-examination (section 28) | It was announced on 21 July 2004 that this measure would be reviewed as part of a wider review of child evidence (21 July 2004, *Official Report*, column 40WS). The review group is due to report to Ministers later this month. |
| Examination through an intermediary (section 29) | This measure is currently available in six criminal justice areas in England and Wales (Merseyside, West Midlands, South Wales, Devon and Cornwall, Thames Valley and Norfolk). These pilots are being evaluated until March 2006 after which the timetable for national roll out will be developed. |

## CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

### Compensation

**Mr. Djanogly:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what steps she *(a)* has taken and *(b)* plans to take to regulate the advertising of claim management companies. [10210]

**Bridget Prentice:** The Government are taking forward a wide-ranging programme of work to tackle perceptions of a compensation culture and to improve the compensation system for valid claims. A Ministerial Steering Group has been established to drive this forward, supported by an Action Group of expert stakeholders. The programme of work includes action to tackle irresponsible advertising that raises false hopes of compensation and encourages people to bring unnecessary claims.

**Mr. Djanogly:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what measures she intends to introduce to tackle the compensation culture. [10378]

**Bridget Prentice:** The Government are taking forward a wide-ranging programme of work to tackle perceptions of a compensation culture and to improve the compensation system for valid claims. A Ministerial Steering Group has been established to drive this forward, supported by an Action Group of expert stakeholders. The programme of work will include measures in the Compensation Bill to enable claims management companies to be effectively regulated and to clarify the existing common law on negligence to make clear that those who take reasonable care or exercise reasonable skill cannot be held liable for untoward incidents.

### Defence Costs

**Mr. Djanogly:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many orders to contribute to defence costs were made at the end of cases in *(a)* the Crown court and *(b)* magistrates courts in each of the last 10 years; and what percentage this represented of all cases heard in each year. [9777]

**Bridget Prentice:** The Legal Services Commission has collected data relating to Recovery of Defence Costs Orders (RDCOs) only since the Criminal Defence Service (Recovery of Defence Costs Orders) Regulations came into force on 2 April 2001. Under these regulations, an RDCO cannot be made in magistrates courts; therefore the data in the table only relates to Orders made in the Crown court or above. There is currently no system for either means testing or recovery of costs in the magistrates courts, although RDCOs made in the Crown court can cover costs incurred in magistrates courts. However, the Criminal Defence Service Bill now before Parliament is seeking to re-introduce means testing for representation before both the magistrates courts and Crown courts.

| | *RDCOs* | *Defendants* | *Percentage*[1] | *Total value (£)* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2001-02 | 244 | 115,000 | 0.2 | 194,147 |
| 2002-03 | 401 | 124,000 | 0.3 | 763,757 |
| 2003-04 | 615 | 124,000 | 0.5 | 2,120,275 |
| 2004-05 | 442 | 116,000 | 0.4 | 1,082,182 |

[1] figures for RDCOs as total proportion of all defendants

Between 1989 and 2001 applications for criminal legal aid were subject to a means test based on a system of contributions. Less than 1 per cent. of applications were refused legal aid on grounds of means and only 5 per cent. of defendants were ordered to make any contribution towards the cost of their legal aid. A more detailed statistical breakdown of these figures is not readily available and can be provided only at disproportionate cost to this Department.

### Departmental Advertising

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how much the Department spent on advertising in each of the last five years. [10258]

**Bridget Prentice:** Since it was set up in June 2003 my Department has conducted three media advertising campaigns:

a regional poster campaign on buses to promote recruitment to the lay magistracy

radio and press adverts to target court fine defaulters (under the title Operation Payback)

press adverts to promote postal voting fraud prevention.

The expenditure is itemised in the following table:

| | *Project* | *Expenditure on advertising (£)* |
|---|---|---|
| 2003 | Operation Payback (Phase 1) | 230,000 |
| | Magistrate recruitment | 342,000 |
| 2004 | Operation Payback (Phase 2) | 292,000 |
| | Magistrate recruitment | 102,000 |
| 2005 | Postal voting | 185,270 |

### Departmental Conferences

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how much the Department and its predecessor spent on organising or sponsoring conferences in each of the last five years. [10242]

**Bridget Prentice:** The information is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

### Identity Cards

**Mr. Garnier:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what estimate she has made of the cost of equipping premises for which her Department is compatible with identity card readers. [9890]

**Bridget Prentice:** We have been working with the Home Office to identify areas where the Identity cards Scheme could provide business benefits. On 28 June 2005, my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary placed in the Library a paper containing the latest estimates of benefits of the Identity Cards Scheme which shows that the benefits outweigh the costs once the scheme is fully operational. The cost of equipping premises will depend on the nature of the use of the Identity Cards Scheme and the type of identity check(s) necessary to deliver the business benefits. In some cases, benefits could be realised without the use of card readers and the cost of installing any readers needs to be considered alongside future plans to refresh or upgrade IT systems. As the design of the scheme matures, during and after the procurement exercise, so will our understanding of where the scheme will be of most benefit which will allow us to further refine our estimates of costs and benefits.

### Lay Magistrates (Northern Ireland)

**Mr. Dodds:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs in how many cases lay magistrates were involved in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years. [11612]

**Bridget Prentice:** The new judicial office of lay magistrate in Northern Ireland was established on 1 April 2005. Case disposal statistics from 1 April 2005 are not currently available. However, during the period April 2004 to March 2005, 2,057 youth defendants were disposed of in the youth courts in Northern Ireland and 5,007 cases were disposed of in the family proceedings courts.

### Legal Aid

**Mr. Djanogly:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs whether she plans to extend the contracting system for legal aid to the Crown court. [9778]

**Bridget Prentice:** At present, the contracting system in the Crown court is limited to Very High Cost Criminal Cases—cases that are expected to last for 41 days or more. These cases are managed under contract by the Complex Crime Unit at the Legal Services Commission.

The procurement of criminal defence services, including the management of high cost cases in the Crown court, will be covered by the independent review of Legal Aid Procurement by Lord Carter of Coles which was announced on 6 July. Lord Carter will produce a plan by early 2006 showing how to deliver modern procurement methods that contribute to a more proportionate way of spending legal aid, while ensuring reasonable client choice and sufficient quality.

**Mr. Hood:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how much money was allocated to *(a)* criminal legal aid and *(b)* civil legal aid in England in *(a)* 2003 and *(b)* 2004; and if she will make a statement. [11491]

**Bridget Prentice:** Funding for legal aid is not allocated separately to England. The Legal Services Commission provides funding to England and Wales. However, spending in England and Wales on the Criminal Defence Service (CDS) and the Community Legal Service (CLS) during 2003–04 and 2004–05 was as follows:

*£ million*

| | *CLS* | *CDS* |
|---|---|---|
| 2004–05 | 845 | 1,192 |
| 2003–04 | 898 | 1,179 |

**Mr. Hood:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how much money was allocated to spending on legal aid in England in *(a)* 2003, *(b)* 2004 and *(c)* 2005; and if she will make a statement. [11492]

**Bridget Prentice:** Legal aid is not separately allocated to England. Spending on legal aid in England forms part of overall spending in England and Wales. Spending in England and Wales for each of the last full financial years for which figures are available are as follows:

*£ million*

| | |
|---|---|
| 2004–05[1] | 2,038 |
| 2003–04 | 2,076 |
| 2002–03 | 1,909 |

[1] Figures for 2004–05 are estimates and subject to audit.

**Mr. Hood:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what plans the Department has to reform legal aid spending in England and Wales following the recent review of the legal aid process; and if she will make a statement. [11494]

**Bridget Prentice:** I refer the hon. Member to my written statement of 5 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 4WS, announcing the publication of "A Fairer Deal for Legal Aid", which sets out the Government's plan for legal aid reform in England and Wales.

### Legal Claims

**Mr. Djanogly:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what steps she has taken to review the use of insurance in relation to legal claims. [10377]

**Bridget Prentice:** As part of its programme of work to tackle perceptions of a compensation culture and to improve the compensation system for valid claims, the Government are working with the insurance industry and other stakeholders to promote the availability of affordable liability insurance.

### Small Claims Court

**Mr. Djanogly:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what steps assessment she has made of the effects of raising the financial limit for the small claims track. [10211]

**Bridget Prentice:** The Better Regulation Task Force in its report, 'Better Routes to Redress' recommended that research should be carried out into the potential impact of raising the small claims limit for personal injury cases from the current limit of £1,000. The Government indicated that they would carry out this research and would also consider other options for dealing with these claims in a more proportionate and cost effective way. That research is currently under way and consultation will take place on any proposals which may emerge.

### Statutory Instruments (Sponsorship)

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs if she will list the statutory instruments sponsored by the Department and its predecessor since 1997. [10546]

**Bridget Prentice:** Lists of all statutory instruments (SIs) from 1 January 1998 to 30 June 2005, prepared by the Office of Public Sector Information (OPSI) have today been placed in the Library. These lists, prepared in alphabetical order by department, detail for each year from 1998 the number and title of each statutory instrument sponsored by the department. There are separate lists for General and Local SIs. SIs which have been originated by departments but which were also Orders in Council are only listed under the Privy Council Office (PCO).

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Benefits/Pensions (Payment Methods)

**Malcolm Bruce:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer given on 20 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 707W, on benefits/pensions (payments methods), in what format information is available on the number of complaints that have been received regarding the introduction of direct payment for the payment of pensions and benefits. [9608]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** No record is held on the number of complaints received specifically about the introduction of direct payment.

Data collected by the Pension Service, Disability and Carer's Service and the Jobcentre Plus Chief Executive's Office shows that between April 2004 and March 2005 around 2,500 letters were classified as being wholly or mainly about direct payment issues. But these could have been about a number of issues related to direct payment, including straightforward requests for information. They were not necessarily complaints.

In addition, Ministers received around 1,500 letters on the subject of direct payment over the same period. Again these letters could have covered any aspect of direct payment and were not necessarily complaints.

97 per cent. of customers are now paid by direct payment and 93 per cent. have said that they are happy receiving their payments this way. To put the number of possible "complaints" into context, over 15 million customers are paid by direct payment and between April 2004 and March 2005 DWP made over 455 million payments into customer's accounts.

**Malcolm Bruce:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer given on 25 May 2005, *Official Report*, column 117W, on benefits payment, if he will list those publications which provide benefit and pension recipients with information on direct payment; and which of these publications *(a)* advise customers who do not think they can use an account to contact his Department and *(b)* provide information on the exceptions service. [9612]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** Direct payment is referred to in a number of departmental, stakeholder and other Government publications. To identify all of these publications and their references to direct payment could be obtained only at disproportionate cost because the information is not held centrally

Now that the Department has completed its main programme of converting existing customers to direct payment, those customers who need to tell us that they do not think they can use an account are likely to be making a new claim for a benefit or pension.

Information on direct payment is included in all our current claim packs. Customers are given the opportunity to request information on being paid by other methods within these claim packs. The Department will then contact any customers that request more information to discuss the options available to them.

**Malcolm Bruce:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps the *(a)* Pensions Agency and *(b)* Benefits Agency have taken to disseminate information about the exceptions scheme in accessible formats for customers who cannot read print. [3157]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** We do not specifically market payment by cheque because we do not believe cheques are appropriate for the vast majority of our customers. Payment into an account is the safest, most reliable way to receive payment and in most cases provides the greatest range of access to cash and other financial services.

The Pension Service has a local service, whose staff will visit customers who cannot read print, and request assistance.

Jobcentre Plus make direct payment information available in large print and in Braille. Staff have been trained to deliver information about the methods of payment available to suit the needs of the customer. This can be by phone or face to face interview at the customer's home if necessary. The Jobcentre Plus website is accessible to visually impaired customers via JAWS software (Job Access with Speech) which translates information into synthesized speech.

Disability and Carers Service will also provide information in large print, Braille or audio and will arrange to visit those customers who request assistance.

**Malcolm Bruce:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what records the *(a)* Pensions Agency and *(b)* Benefits Agency keeps of the preferred formats of customers who are unable to read print. [3158]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** Pension Service staff keep either manual or electronic records of customers' preferred formats, as available. In the longer term, the relevant benefits systems will incorporate an automatic indicator as to a customer's preferred format. Similarly, Jobcentre Plus, which brought together the Benefits Agency and the Employment Service in 2002, advises offices to keep records of a customer's preference for non-standard formats. Such records will be electronic where IT systems are able to support this and clerical where they are not.

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many emergency payments have been made by *(a)* the Benefits Agency and *(b)* the Pensions Service in each year since 2000; what the total value was of the emergency payments made by each body; and whether the payments were made by (i) cheque, (ii) direct payment and (iii) cash. [10278]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The information is not available in the format requested.

There is no legislation under which the Department or its Agencies make specifically termed emergency payments. However, Social Fund Crisis Loans can be made to people who find themselves in an emergency situation. Jobcentre Plus, which replaced part of the Benefits Agency, administers the Social Fund for its own and The Pension Service's customers.

The following table shows the volume and value of Crisis Loans since 2000.

| *April to March each year:* | *Crisis Loan awards* | *Crisis Loan expenditure (£ million gross)* |
|---|---|---|
| 2000–01 | 930,000 | 65.3 |
| 2001–02 | 991,000 | 74.9 |
| 2002–03 | 1,064,000 | 84.6 |
| 2003–04 | 1,059,000 | 85.1 |
| 2004–05[1] | 1,000,000 | 81.9 |

[1] Will appear in the SoS Annual Report for the Social Fund which has not yet been published.

*Source:*
Secretary of State Annual Reports for the Social Fund

## Child Support Agency

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average time taken by the Child Support Agency to reply to a letter from a member of the public is in the last year for which figures are available. [804]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive, Mr. Stephen Geraghty. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Stephen Geraghty to Mr. Nigel Evans, dated 13 July 2005:*

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what the average time taken by the Child Support Agency to reply to a letter from a member of the public is in the last year for which figures are available.

The Agency receives a great many letters from the public every day. These range from simple enquiries to complaints. For the majority of letters we do not record how long it takes to reply to them. I am sorry to say that I am not therefore able to answer the question in terms of all letters received from clients.

However, we do have targets to resolve or agree a resolution plan in 68% of client complaints within 15 working days of receipt. I can tell you that 74.3% of complaints were resolved or a resolution plan was agreed in 2004–05.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when the internal audit recommendation in 2003–04 regarding an effective audit trail for CS2 was made; and when such a trail was established. [8753]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The internal audit recommendation regarding an effective audit trail for CS2 was made in December 2003. An interim audit trail is operating in CS2 currently. The current plans indicate that full audit trail functionality will be implemented in spring 2006 following a further release of the software.

## Housing Benefit

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many prosecutions for housing benefit fraud were undertaken by each local authority in each year since 1997; how many were successful; and how many people were imprisoned as a result. [5488]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The available information has been placed in the Library. Information regarding imprisonment is not available.

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people received housing benefit in each London borough in the last period for which figures are available; and how much was paid in total in each. [2482]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The information is in the following tables.

*Average housing benefit caseloads in London local authorities: February to November 2004*

| *Local authority* | *Number* |
|---|---|
| Barking and Dagenham | 16,600 |
| Barnet | 19,600 |
| Bexley | 10,600 |
| Brent | 25,800 |
| Bromley | 14,300 |
| Camden | 27,800 |
| City of London | 1,100 |
| Croydon | 23,100 |
| Ealing | 21,800 |
| Enfield | 20,200 |
| Greenwich | 23,900 |
| Hackney | 31,600 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 19,200 |
| Haringey | 28,600 |
| Harrow | 11,200 |
| Havering | 10,200 |
| Hillingdon | 14,800 |
| Hounslow | 15,600 |
| Islington | 28,800 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 15,600 |
| Kingston upon Thames | 6,700 |
| Lambeth | 34,200 |
| Lewisham | 28,000 |
| Merton | 9,600 |
| Newham | 32,100 |
| Redbridge | 12,500 |
| Richmond upon Thames | 7,900 |
| Southwark | 35,000 |
| Sutton | 8,800 |
| Tower Hamlets | 31,000 |
| Waltham Forest | 19,500 |
| Wandsworth | 21,900 |
| Westminster | 20,700 |
| London | 648,300 |

*Notes:*

1. The data refers to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest 100.
3. Figures for any non-responding authorities have been estimated.
4. Housing benefit figures exclude any extended payment cases.

*Source:*

Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit Management Information System Quarterly 100 per cent. caseload stock-count taken in February, May, August and November 2004.

*Housing benefit expenditure in London local authorities, in nominal terms, 2002–03*

| | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| Barking and Dagenham | 53.3 |
| Barnet | 96.4 |
| Bexley | 40.2 |
| Brent | 143 |
| Bromley | 58.1 |
| Camden | 134.9 |
| City Of London | 4.8 |
| Croydon | 102.3 |
| Ealing | 106.1 |
| Enfield | 105.8 |
| Greenwich | 84.6 |
| Hackney | 155.5 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 87.9 |
| Haringey | 148.6 |
| Harrow | 58.9 |
| Havering | 33.2 |
| Hillingdon | 69.9 |
| Hounslow | 64.5 |
| Islington | 119.2 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 77.4 |
| Kingston upon Thames | 31.1 |
| Lambeth | 146.6 |
| Lewisham | 104.7 |
| Merton | 38.7 |
| Newham | 155.7 |
| Redbridge | 64.7 |
| Richmond upon Thames | 35.3 |

*Housing benefit expenditure in London local authorities, in nominal terms, 2002–03*

| | £ million |
|---|---|
| Southwark | 132.2 |
| Sutton | 34.1 |
| Tower Hamlets | 131.5 |
| Waltham Forest | 83.4 |
| Wandsworth | 100.5 |
| Westminster | 135.7 |
| Total London | 2,939.0 |

*Notes:*

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 100,000.

2. Figures presented are audited, but may change in future if local authorities' audited accounts are amended after a decision or appeal.

*Source:*

Local authority claims for Housing Revenue Account subsidy and Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit subsidy.

### Incapacity Benefit

**Mr. Frank Field:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average entry wage has been of those returning to work after claiming incapacity benefit as a proportion of the ongoing wage for men and women aged *(a)* 18 to 24, *(b)* 25 to 29, *(c)* 30 to 34, *(d)* 35 to 39, *(e)* 40 to 44, *(f)* 45 to 49, *(g)* 50 to 54 and *(h)* 55 to 58 in (i) the UK and (ii) Pathways to Work pilot areas from 1979 to the most recent year for which figures are available. [11577]

**Margaret Hodge** *[holding answer 11 July 2005]:* The information is not available.

### Income Support

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females aged (i) 16 to 24, (ii) 25 to 30, (iii) 30 to 39 and (iv) 40 years and over were on income support in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [10477]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The information is in the table.

*Income support claimants in Great Britain by age and gender at dates shown*

| As at February: | All claimants | 16–24 | 25–29 | 30–39 | 40–59 | 60 and over |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *2000* | | | | | | |
| All | 3,805,700 | 336,100 | 318,600 | 700,500 | 858,200 | 1,592,400 |
| Male | 1,298,700 | 83,400 | 85,100 | 219,500 | 400,500 | 510,200 |
| Female | 2,507,000 | 252,700 | 233,500 | 480,900 | 457,700 | 1,082,200 |
| *2001* | | | | | | |
| All | 3,890,000 | 329,500 | 301,700 | 698,200 | 893,500 | 1,667,200 |
| Male | 1,341,700 | 81,600 | 80,700 | 222,900 | 417,200 | 539,400 |
| Female | 2,548,300 | 247,900 | 221,000 | 475,300 | 476,300 | 1,127,800 |
| *2002* | | | | | | |
| All | 3,940,700 | 321,100 | 282,700 | 687,300 | 925,300 | 1,724,300 |
| Male | 1,377,000 | 80,100 | 76,000 | 223,400 | 430,800 | 566,700 |
| Female | 2,563,700 | 241,000 | 206,700 | 463,900 | 494,500 | 1,157,600 |
| *2003* | | | | | | |
| All | 3,959,500 | 305,900 | 268,300 | 678,400 | 951,700 | 1,755,200 |
| Male | 1,399,300 | 67,700 | 73,000 | 223,600 | 441,500 | 593,300 |
| Female | 2,560,300 | 238,200 | 195,300 | 454,700 | 510,200 | 1,161,800 |
| *2004* | | | | | | |
| All | 2,204,000 | 302,100 | 262,200 | 665,100 | 969,100 | 5,500 |
| Male | 807,200 | 64,800 | 71,600 | 221,100 | 447,400 | 2,300 |
| Female | 1,396,800 | 237,300 | 190,600 | 444,000 | 521,700 | 3,100 |
| *2005* | | | | | | |
| All | 2,137,000 | 292,600 | 251,100 | 620,400 | 972,500 | [1]500 |
| Male | 778,600 | 60,300 | 66,800 | 207,200 | 444,100 | [1]200 |
| Female | 1,358,400 | 232,300 | 184,300 | 413,200 | 528,400 | [1]300 |

[1] Figures are based on very few sample cases and therefore subject to a high degree of sampling variation.

*Notes:*

1. Figures have been rounded to the nearest hundred.

2. From November 2003 IS figures are affected by the introduction of pension credit, which replaced minimum income guarantee on 6 October 2003 and extended income support entitlement to customers aged 60+. Pension credit cases are not included in the figures in the table.

*Source:*

Information Directorate, 5 per cent. samples

### Pension Rights

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how the Government calculated the funding required to compensate those workers who have lost occupational pension rights; and if he will make a statement. [11916]

**Mr. Timms:** The Financial Assistance Scheme (FAS) will give assistance not compensation to people whose defined benefit occupational pension schemes started to wind up underfunded, with insolvent employers, before the start of the Pension Protection Fund. The aim is not to replace all members' losses, but to give significant help to those most seriously affected, and the Government believe that its commitment of £400 million of public funds over 20 years is an appropriate provision for that. The £400 million figure reflects information available, at the time of the original announcement on FAS in May 2004, about the extent of relevant pension scheme failures. It also reflects a judgment on what it was reasonable to provide from public funds.

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

### Democratic Republic of Congo

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make an assessment of the flow of arms into the Democratic Republic of Congo, including those that may have been trafficked *(a)* through the UK and *(b)* via UK brokers. [11431]

**Ian Pearson:** A UN arms embargo in the Democratic Republic of Congo has been in place since July 2003, and was strengthened in April 2005 by UN Security Council Resolution 1596. Despite efforts to enforce the embargo, it has been reported that rebel groups operating in eastern DRC are receiving limited supplies of new arms and ammunition. Any information received that alleges that arms may have been trafficked through the UK, or that UK companies or individuals are violating the embargo, is passed on to the relevant UK investigatory authorities for action. To date, there have been no prosecutions in the UK.

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the status of the UN arms embargo relating to the Democratic Republic of Congo. [11432]

**Ian Pearson:** The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has been subject to an arms embargo since July 2003. On 18 April 2005, the UN Security Council decided in its resolution 1596 (2005) to broaden the scope and geographical range of the arms embargo. The embargo prohibits the transfer of arms to any part of DRC, subject to certain exemptions for humanitarian activities and for official DRC and UN troops. It also provides for a travel ban and assets freeze on individuals who violate the embargo.

### EU Human Rights Obligations

**Mr. Andrew Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether there is a common definition of torture for the purpose of compliance with the human rights obligations of EU member states. [10917]

**Ian Pearson:** All EU member states are parties to the UN Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. Article 1 of the convention sets out an internationally agreed definition of acts that constitute torture, stating that:

> "the term torture means any act by which severe pain or suffering, whether physical or mental, is intentionally inflicted on a person for such purposes as obtaining from him or a third person information or a confession, punishing him for an act he or a third person has committed or is suspected of having committed, or intimidating or coercing him or a third person, or for any reason based on discrimination of any kind, when such pain or suffering is inflicted by or at the instigation of or with the consent or acquiescence of a public official or other person acting in an official capacity. It does not include pain or suffering arising only from, inherent in or incidental to lawful sanctions."

**Mr. Andrew Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what obligations EU member states are under to investigate allegations of torture. [10918]

**Ian Pearson:** All EU member states are parties to the UN Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. Article 12 of the convention states that:

> "each State Party shall ensure that its competent authorities proceed to a prompt and impartial investigation, wherever there is reasonable ground to believe that an act of torture has been committed in any territory under its jurisdiction."

EU member states also have similar obligations by reason of their being parties to the European Convention on Human Rights.

### EU Presidency

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the *(a)* total cost of and *(b)* selection procedure for the UK's EU presidency logo. [11752]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** The cost of producing the logo for the UK's six month Presidency of the European Union is £10,000. The total cost associated with this project is £35,000 and includes costs such as design integrity guidelines and trade marking. Following a competitive tender, the design was chosen by a panel which included representatives from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Department for Culture Media and Sport and the Cabinet Office and chaired by the Design Council Chief Executive. Approval of the final design was given by Ministers.

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government are taking during the UK's EU presidency *(a)* to inform the UK public about the workings of the EU and *(b)* to involve the public in such workings. [11820]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** The Government's communication priority during the UK's EU presidency is to ensure EU citizens are informed on the work of the presidency, including the EU's role in addressing the presidency policy priorities. Over the six months of the presidency, we will be informing and engaging people through the official presidency website, publications and the media. In addition, a number of meetings of the European Parliament and Council will be open to the public, as well as televised and broadcast.

### Iraq

**Harry Cohen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his Department contributed to *(a)* the drafting of the new Iraqi constitution and *(b)* the draft petroleum law; and if he will make a statement. [11410]

**Dr. Howells:** The UK has no direct input into the drafting of the Iraqi Constitution. It is up to the Iraqis themselves to decide what goes into it. The Iraqi Constitutional Committee is drafting the text, which will be submitted to a referendum in October.

The Petroleum Law is also a matter for the Iraqis to decide. The UK Government has not contributed to any part of the drafting process.

**Harry Cohen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many advisers were seconded from the private sector in the UK to *(a)* the Iraq Coalition Provisional Authority and

*(b)* other relevant Iraqi administrative bodies to work on oil industry issues; from which organisations each was seconded; how they were funded; what the costs were; and if he will make a statement. [11518]

**Dr. Howells:** The UK seconded two advisers, one an independent consultant (formerly BP and Shell) and one from BP, to the Coalition Provisional Authority to work on oil industry issues. Total costs for the advisers, met by the UK Government, were £147,700.

### Social Models

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the timetable is for the European Commission research and report into sustainable social models. [11751]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** As my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister said on 1 July, the Commission will produce a paper on the challenges for the European social model in the 21st century in advance of the informal summit to be held in the autumn. This builds on the mandate given to the Commission by the European Council in March 2005, to produce a report on the sustainability of the social model in Europe.

### Statutory Instrument Sponsorship

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what statutory instruments have been sponsored by his Department since 1997.[10565]

**Mr. Straw:** As the information the hon. Member has requested is lengthy, it has been placed in the Library of the House.

### Zimbabwe

**Lady Hermon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with *(a)* Commonwealth and *(b)* African Union counterparts regarding the human rights situation in Zimbabwe. [11232]

**Ian Pearson:** My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister discussed Zimbabwe with African Leaders at the G8 Summit in Gleneagles.

My noble Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Lord Triesman of Tottenham) and my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for International Development (Hilary Benn) attended the recent African Union Summit in Libya where they discussed Zimbabwe with African and other leaders, including the African Union Chairperson Alpha Konare and United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan. We continue to make clear our view that African leaders should engage with the Government of Zimbabwe to seek an end to the ongoing human rights abuses.

We remain in regular dialogue with our Commonwealth partners. Many have joined us in condemning the appalling human rights violations of the Government of Zimbabwe, most recently statements by the Governments of Australia and New Zealand condemning the human rights situation and calling for further international action.

## HEALTH

### Alliance Medical

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health who is responsible for health and safety assessment of the site occupied by Alliance Medical in Middlesbrough. [8260]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answer 30 June 2005]:* The location and suitability of the site were agreed between the host national health service trust and Alliance Medical Ltd. (AML). AML is contractually obliged to comply with existing health and safety legislation and is responsible for patient and staff safety inside the mobile unit.

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the pay rates are for staff working for Alliance Medical; and what the rates are for equivalent staff working in the NHS; [8723]

(2) what percentage of staff working for Alliance Medical are former NHS employees; [8724]

(3) what percentage of staff working for Alliance Medical are not UK citizens. [8727]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answer 4 July 2005]:* The Department does not hold the information requested about staff working for Alliance Medical Ltd. who are expected not to recruit staff who have been employed by the national health service in the preceding six-month period.

Rates of pay for most non-medical staff working in the national health service are based on the new pay and reward system, Agenda for Change. Details of Agenda for Change, including current pay bands and rates, are available at:

www.dh.gov.uk/PolicyAndGuidance/HumanResourcesAndTraining/ModernisingPay/AgendaForChange/fs/en

### Anti-psychotics

**Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what monitoring her Department *(a)* has undertaken and *(b)* plans to undertake of the prescription of (i) olanzapine, (ii) risperidone and (iii) other anti-psychotics for people with dementia. [10075]

**Jane Kennedy:** The Department does not collect information on the prescribing of these drugs specifically for people with dementia.

### Bowel Diseases

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funding has been provided for research into *(a)* ulcerative colitis and *(b)* Crohn's disease from the Department's research and development programme. [9510]

**Jane Kennedy:** The Department's national research programme spend on projects related to inflammatory bowel disease in the period from 1994 to 2004 was £503,000. This figure includes part of the cost of a project on combined measles, mumps and rubella vaccine safety in relation to juvenile Crohn's disease.

Over 75 per cent. of the Department's total expenditure on health research is devolved to and managed by national health service organisations. Details of completed and ongoing projects, including a number concerned with ulcerative colitis and with Crohn's disease, can be found on the national research register at www.dh.gov.uk/research.

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps she is taking to improve services for patients suffering from *(a)* ulcerative colitis and *(b)* Crohn's disease. [9512]

**Mr. Byrne:** It is for primary care trusts to commission appropriate local services according to local need in order to improve care for people with long-term conditions, as set out in the NHS Improvement Plan.

### Breast Milk Substitute Advertising

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many complaints have been made to the Advertising Standards Authority (ASA) about breast milk substitute advertising in the UK in the last three years; and whether the ASA has issued a ruling in response to all complaints. [10435]

**Caroline Flint:** I am not in a position to answer this question as issues relating to advertising complaints are the responsibility of the Advertising Standards Authority (ASA), which is an independent body. Any questions relating to the number of complaints made about breast milk substitute advertising should be referred directly to the head of complaints at the ASA.

### Charities (Care Standards Annual Fees)

**Geraldine Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what help her Department makes available for small charities to meet the Care Standards annual fees; [10149]

(2) if she will exempt charities from paying Care Standards annual fees. [10150]

**Mr. Byrne:** There are no special arrangements available for small charities to meet annual fees. However, in setting the fees in 2002–03, the cost of registering and inspecting different types and sizes of service providers, was taken into account.

The Government cannot exempt charities from paying annual fees as this would be unfair to other care providers. All providers benefit from the assurance that regulation gives, including the voluntary sector.

### Child Deaths (Passive Smoking)

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she has made of the number of children who died as a result of breathing in their mother's cigarette smoke in the last year for which figures are available. [10577]

**Caroline Flint:** This information is not collected centrally.

### Deafblind Services (Milton Keynes)

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement on the level of social service provision for deafblind people in Milton Keynes. [10777]

**Mr. Byrne:** Information about the level of social service provision is not held centrally. It is for the local social services to decide how resources should be allocated between services, taking account of local circumstances and priorities.

### Departmental Advertising

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the Department spent on advertising in each of the last five years. [10230]

**Jane Kennedy:** The table shows the expenditure on major information campaigns and advertising commissioned by the Department's communications directorate for the past five years—2000–01 to 2004–05. The figures include the costs of campaign-related publishing, television radio, poster, newspaper and magazine advertising.

*Advertising expenditure*

| *Financial year* | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| 2000–01 | 20.80 |
| 2001–02 | 20.41 |
| 2002–03 | 23.13 |
| 2003–04 | 38.98 |
| 2004–05 | 32.7 |

### Digestive Conditions

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* completed consultant episodes and *(b)* deaths relating to digestive conditions and diseases there have been in each year since 1997, broken down by gender. [9289]

**Mr. Byrne:** The information requested is shown in the following tables.

*Count of finished admission episodes for selected diagnoses (based on ICD-10 codes)—primary diagnosis-digestive conditions and diseases, national health service hospitals, England 1997–98 to 2003–04*

| *Diagnosis grouping of digestive conditions and diseases* | *Female* | *Male* | *Not known* |
|---|---|---|---|
| *1997–98* | | | |
| K00-K14 Diseases of oral cavity, salivary glands and jaws | 96,604 | 72,764 | 1,924 |
| K20-K31 Diseases of oesophagus, stomach and duodenum | 129,042 | 145,394 | 1,118 |
| K35-K38 Diseases of appendix | 16,608 | 19,531 | 206 |
| K40-K46 Hernia | 44,619 | 99,988 | 486 |
| K50-K52 Non infective enteritis and colitis | 51,055 | 42,480 | 577 |
| K55-K63 Other diseases of intestines | 105,452 | 87,267 | 1,056 |
| K65-K67 Diseases of peritoneum | 3,890 | 2,173 | 38 |
| K70-K77 Diseases of liver | 7,810 | 10,785 | 63 |
| K80-K87 Disorders of gall bladder, biliary tract and pancreas | 62,437 | 34,410 | 583 |
| K90-K93 Other diseases of the digestive system. | 21,757 | 23,945 | 276 |

*Count of finished admission episodes for selected diagnoses (based on ICD-10 codes)—primary diagnosis-digestive conditions and diseases. national health service hospitals, England 1997–98 to 2003–04*

| *Diagnosis grouping of digestive conditions and diseases* | *Female* | *Male* | *Not known* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Total | 539,274 | 538,737 | 6,329 |
| *1998–99* | | | |
| K00-K14 Diseases of oral cavity, salivary glands and jaws | 104,361 | 80,455 | 76 |
| K20-K31 Diseases of oesophagus, stomach and duodenum | 138,348 | 155,011 | 92 |
| K35-K38 Diseases of appendix | 16,169 | 19,656 | 13 |
| K40-K46 Hernia | 47,613 | 110,809 | 31 |
| K50-K52 Non infective enteritis and colitis | 53,980 | 44,120 | 25 |
| K55-K63 Other diseases of intestines | 114,389 | 95,205 | 48 |
| K65-K67 Diseases of peritoneum | 4,075 | 2,232 | 1 |
| K70-K77 Diseases of liver | 8,217 | 11,009 | 24 |
| K80-K87 Disorders of gall bladder, biliary tract and pancreas | 64,068 | 35,467 | 22 |
| K90-K93 Other diseases of the digestive system. | 23,476 | 25,215 | 10 |
| Total | 574,696 | 579,179 | 342 |
| *1999–2000* | | | |
| K00-K14 Diseases of oral cavity, salivary glands and jaws | 100,946 | 78,878 | 189 |
| K20-K31 Diseases of oesophagus, stomach and duodenum | 140,408 | 155,131 | 266 |
| K35-K38 Diseases of appendix | 16,247 | 20,001 | 60 |
| K40-K46 Hernia | 47,082 | 107,483 | 115 |
| K50-K52 No infective enteritis and colitis | 57,202 | 46,396 | 132 |
| K55-K63 Other diseases of intestines | 122,087 | 100,538 | 242 |
| K65-K67 Diseases of peritoneum | 3,922 | 2,253 | 9 |
| K70-K77 Diseases of liver | 8,370 | 11,550 | 20 |
| K80-K87 Disorders of gall bladder, biliary tract and pancreas | 67,094 | 36,141 | 111 |
| K90-K93 Other diseases of the digestive system. | 24,712 | 26,441 | 47 |
| Total | 588,070 | 584,812 | 1,191 |
| *2000–01* | | | |
| K00-K14 Diseases of oral cavity, salivary glands and jaws | 96,013 | 77,028 | 181 |
| K20-K31 Diseases of oesophagus, stomach and duodenum | 137,892 | 151,473 | 173 |
| K35-K38 Diseases of appendix | 16,799 | 20,628 | 34 |
| K40-K46 Hernia | 48,124 | 109,565 | 210 |
| K50-K52 No infective enteritis and colitis | 58,473 | 46,975 | 273 |
| K55-K63 Other diseases of intestines | 125,202 | 103,438 | 279 |
| K65-K67 Diseases of peritoneum | 4,166 | 2,384 | 9 |
| K70-K77 Diseases of liver | 8,689 | 11,825 | 31 |
| K80-K87 Disorders of gall bladder, biliary tract and pancreas | 71,811 | 38,170 | 42 |
| K90-K93 Other diseases of the digestive system. | 24,750 | 26,782 | 36 |
| Total | 591,919 | 588,268 | 1,268 |
| *2001–02* | | | |
| K00-K14 Diseases of oral cavity, salivary glands and jaws | 93,393 | 76,893 | 190 |
| K20-K31 Diseases of oesophagus, stomach and duodenum | 131,380 | 141,036 | 303 |
| K35-K38 Diseases of appendix | 15,754 | 19,617 | 32 |
| K40-K46 Hernia | 47,273 | 106,413 | 180 |
| K50-K52 No infective enteritis and colitis | 59,254 | 47,700 | 201 |
| K55-K63 Other diseases of intestines | 119,458 | 100,099 | 263 |
| K65-K67 Diseases of peritoneum | 4,087 | 2,395 | 10 |
| K70-K77 Diseases of liver | 8,840 | 12,339 | 12 |
| K80-K87 Disorders of gall bladder, biliary tract and pancreas | 73,258 | 38,616 | 100 |
| K90-K93 Other diseases of the digestive system. | 24,822 | 26,833 | 39 |
| Total | 577,519 | 571,941 | 1,330 |
| *2002–03* | | | |
| K00-K14 Diseases of oral cavity, salivary glands and jaws | 93,698 | 76,489 | 46 |
| K20-K31 Diseases of oesophagus, stomach and duodenum | 129,021 | 138,630 | 22 |
| K35-K38 Diseases of appendix | 15,799 | 19,851 | 5 |
| K40-K46 Hernia | 47,077 | 109,781 | 13 |
| K50-K52 No infective enteritis and colitis | 63,130 | 50,681 | 9 |
| K55-K63 Other diseases of intestines | 120,665 | 102,297 | 17 |
| K65-K67 Diseases of peritoneum | 4,043 | 2,430 | 1 |
| K70-K77 Diseases of liver | 9,050 | 12,806 | 5 |
| K80-K87 Disorders of gall bladder, biliary tract and pancreas | 76,394 | 39,785 | 2 |
| K90-K93 Other diseases of the digestive system. | 24,726 | 26,984 | 6 |
| Total | 583,603 | 579,734 | 126 |
| *2003–04* | | | |
| K00-K14 Diseases of oral cavity, salivary glands and jaws | 94,478 | 77,583 | 48 |
| K20-K31 Diseases of oesophagus, stomach and duodenum | 126,202 | 133,943 | 30 |
| K35-K38 Diseases of appendix | 16,467 | 19,995 | 2 |
| K40-K46 Hernia | 46,526 | 111,920 | 12 |
| K50-K52 No infective enteritis and colitis | 65,417 | 51,607 | 12 |
| K55-K63 Other diseases of intestines | 124,667 | 105,118 | 19 |
| K65-K67 Diseases of peritoneum | 4,016 | 2,301 | — |
| K700-K77 Diseases of liver | 9,304 | 13,808 | 2 |
| K80-K87 Disorders of gall bladder, biliary tract and pancreas | 80,244 | 42,072 | 8 |
| K90-K93 Other diseases of the digestive system. | 25,354 | 28,334 | 2 |
| Total | 592,675 | 586,681 | 135 |

*Notes:*
1. A finished admission episode is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. Please note that admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.
2. The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 14 (seven prior to 2002–03) diagnosis fields in the hospital episode statistics (HES) data set and provides the main reason why the patient was in hospital.
3. Figures are grossed for both coverage and missing/invalid clinical data, except for 2002–03 and 2003–04, which are not yet adjusted for shortfalls.
4. "Not known"—records from which data compiled do not clearly indicate the sex of the patient.
*Source:*
HES, Health and Social Care Information Centre.

*Number of deaths from diseases of the digestive system[1] England and Wales, 1997–2003[2]*

| | *Male* | *Female* |
|---|---|---|
| 1997 | 6,849 | 8,303 |
| 1998 | 7,147 | 8,267 |
| 1999 | 7,385 | 8,437 |
| 2000 | 7,429 | 8,618 |
| 2001[3] | 8,040 | 9,479 |
| 2002[3] | 8,320 | 9,520 |
| 2003[3] | 8,447 | 9,750 |

[1] Defined using the International Classification of Diseases Ninth Revision codes 520–579 for 1997–2000 and the International Classification of Diseases Tenth Revision codes KOO-K93 for 2001 to 2003.

[2] Data is for deaths occurring in each calendar year.

[3] Data for 2001 onwards may not be directly comparable to that for earlier years due to the introduction of ICD-10 for mortality coding (see: "Office for National Statistics (2002) Report: Results of the ICD-10 Bridgecoding study, England and Wales 1999. Health Statistics Quarterly 14, 75–83.")

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funding has been provided for research into digestive diseases and conditions from *(a)* the Medical Research Council and *(b)* the Department's research and development programme. [9291]

**Jane Kennedy:** The main agency through which the Government supports medical and clinical research is the Medical Research Council (MRC). The MRC is an independent body funded by the Department of Trade and Industry via the Office of Science and Technology.

In 2003–04, the MRC spent £4.6 million on research relevant to digestive diseases and conditions[1].

The Department funds research to support policy and to provide the evidence needed to underpin quality improvement and service development in the national health service. The Department's national research programme spend on projects related to digestive diseases and conditions in 2003–04 was £1.3 million.

Over 75 per cent. of the Department's total expenditure on health research is devolved to and managed by NHS organisations. Details of completed and on-going projects supported by this funding can be found on the national research register at www.dh.gov.uk/research.

[1] Areas of research counted for this purpose include: inflammatory bowel disease, Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis, cholangitis, irritable bowel syndrome, intestinal disease, gastrointestinal diseases, peptic ulcers, abdominal pain, pancreatitis, gastroenteritis, gastric and intestinal mucosa, dysentery, colonic diseases.

**Digital Hearing Aids (Bedfordshire)**

**Mrs. Dorries:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting time for digital hearing aids was in *(a)* the County of Bedfordshire and *(b)* England in 2004–05. [11018]

**Mr. Byrne:** This information is not held centrally.

**Domiciliary Care**

**Mr. Crabb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) under what circumstances a local authority can refuse to disregard housing costs and council tax when calculating charges for domiciliary care; [5643]

(2) whether local authorities in England are required to disregard housing costs and council tax when calculating charges for domiciliary care. [5645]

**Mr. Byrne:** The Department issued guidance "Fairer Charging for Home Care and other non-residential Social Services" to all local councils in November 2001, revised in September 2003. It stated that where councils charge for domiciliary care services they should take into account the income of the service user. Paragraph 80vii of the guidance explains that income should be assessed net of housing costs and council tax.

The guidance was issued under section seven of the Local Authority Social Services Act 1970. In the case Regina *v.* Islington London borough council ex parte Rixon (1998), the Court took the view that councils must follow such guidance unless they had a good reason not to.

**Drug and Alcohol Rehabilitation (Leeds)**

**John Battle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans she has to increase funding for drug and alcohol rehabilitation in *(a)* Leeds West, *(b)* Leeds and *(c)* West Yorkshire. [1726]

**Mr. Byrne:** For drug treatment services, allocations from the pooled drug treatment budget for this year and the next two years are shown in the tables.

*Allocation for Leeds, which includes Leeds West*

| | *Amount (£)* | *Percentage increase over previous year* |
|---|---|---|
| 2005–06 | 4,974,000 | n/a |
| 2006–07 | 7,041,000 | 41.55 |
| 2007–08 | 7,948,000 | 12.88 |

n/a = Not available.

*Allocation for West Yorkshire, which includes; Bradford, Calderdale, Kirklees, Leeds and Wakefield*

| | Amount (£) | Percentage increase over previous year |
|---|---|---|
| 2005–06 | 13,479,000 | n/a |
| 2006–07 | 19,338,000 | 41.55 |
| 2007–08 | 21,828,000 | 12.88 |

n/a = Not available.

Additional funding is spent on drug treatment from mainstream funding, but the Department does not collect this information centrally.

All funding for alcohol treatment is via the mainstream and the Department does not collect this information centrally.

### Emergency Response Services

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average cost of each response to an emergency call by *(a)* an emergency care practitioner and *(b)* a fully-equipped ambulance has been in the most recent period for which figures are available. [10024]

**Mr. Byrne:** This information is not collected centrally.

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many fully-equipped ambulances have been operated by NHS Ambulance Trusts in England in each year since 1997; and if she will estimate the size of the fleet in 2010. [10025]

**Mr. Byrne:** This information is not collected centrally.

As a result of the Department's strategic review of ambulance services, we expect the number of ambulance vehicles to increase over the next few years. The size of the fleet and fleet mix will vary across the country depending on operational and geographical requirements.

### Finished Consultant Episodes

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many finished consultant episodes there were where obesity was the primary diagnosis in *(a)* each NHS region, *(b)* each strategic health authority and *(c)* England in each year since 2002–03. [10178]

**Caroline Flint:** The information requested is shown in the tables.

*Count of finished consultant episodes where primary diagnosis is obesity for data year 2002–03 and 2003–04*

| Region | 2002–03 | 2003–04 |
|---|---|---|
| England | 1,442 | 1,898 |
| Unknown | 22 | — |
| Northern and Yorkshire | 348 | 493 |
| Trent | 164 | 157 |
| West Midlands | 102 | 169 |
| North-west | 241 | 301 |
| Eastern | 56 | 96 |
| London | 258 | 348 |
| South East | 156 | 201 |
| South West | 95 | 133 |

*Count of finished consultant episodes where primary diagnosis is obesity for data year 2002–03 and 2003–04, by strategic health authority*

| Strategic health authority | 2002–03 | 2003–04 |
|---|---|---|
| Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire | 42 | 63 |
| Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire | 20 | 21 |
| Essex | 16 | 12 |
| North West London | 59 | 80 |
| North Central London | 51 | 97 |
| North East London | 32 | 34 |
| South East London | 58 | 80 |
| South West London | 58 | 57 |
| Northumberland, Tyne and Wear | 68 | 81 |
| County Durham and Tees Valley | 20 | 26 |
| North and East Yorkshire and N Lincolnshire | 66 | 142 |
| West Yorkshire | 199 | 243 |
| Cumbria and Lancashire | 17 | 29 |
| Greater Manchester | 91 | 165 |
| Cheshire and Merseyside | 133 | 110 |
| Thames Valley | 27 | 16 |
| Hampshire and Isle of Wight | 106 | 147 |
| Kent and Medway | * | 19 |
| Surrey and Sussex | 14 | * |
| Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire | 55 | 70 |
| South West Peninsula | 33 | 35 |
| Dorset and Somerset | * | 28 |
| South Yorkshire | 107 | 111 |
| Trent | 35 | 32 |
| Leicestershire, Northumberland and Rutland | 21 | 21 |
| Shropshire and Staffordshire | 17 | 54 |
| Birmingham and the Black Country | 72 | 111 |
| West Midlands (Coventry, Warwickshire, Herefordshire and Worcestershire) | 13 | * |

*Note:*

Due to reasons of confidentiality, figures between one and 10 have been suppressed and replaced with '*'.

*Source:*

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), Health and Social Care Information Centre

### General Practitioners

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many GP vacancies there have been in each of the last five years; and how many applicants there were for each vacancy. [7197]

**Mr. Byrne:** The requested information is shown in the table. The increase in vacancies over this period arises from the increase in new general practitioner principal posts as the GP workforce has been expanded. The estimated three-month vacancy rate showing hard-to-fill GP principal posts decreased between 2003 and 2004.

*All reported GP vacancy numbers in England, 2000 to 2004*

| | England total reported vacancies | Average number applicants of per vacancy |
|---|---|---|
| 2000 | 1,143 | 8.5 |
| 2001 | 2,345 | 6.9 |
| 2002 | 2,487 | 4.4 |
| 2003 | 3,245 | 3.3 |
| 2004 | 3,076 | 3.7 |

*Notes:*

1. Numbers relate to GP principal vacancies occurring at any time in the 12 month survey period of 1 April to 31 March each year.
2. Numbers were collected directly from primary care trusts

(PCTs) from 2003; previous years' vacancy numbers were collected from health authorities. Over this period, a varying, small number of PCTs and health authorities did not respond to the survey.

*Source:*

Department of Health GP recruitment, retention and vacancy surveys, 2000 to 2004.

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many general practitioners there were in each strategic health authority area per *(a)* 100,000 weighted population and *(b)* 100,000 unweighted population in the most recent period for which figures are available. [10028]

**Mr. Byrne:** The information requested is shown in the table.

*General medical practitioners (excluding retainers and registrars)1 by strategic health authority per 100,000 unweighted population2, and per 100,000 weighted population3, as at 31 December 2004—England*

| | | | | *Number (headcount)* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | *All practitioners (excluding retainers and registrars)1* | *All practitioners (excluding retainers and registrars)1 per 100,000 unweighted population2* | *All practitioners (excluding retainers and registrars)1 per 100,000 unweighted population3* |
| | England | 31,798 | 63.78 | 63.81 |
| | *North East* | | | |
| Q10 | County Durham and Tees Valley | 751 | 65.48 | 58.42 |
| Q09 | Northumberland, Tyne and Wear | 927 | 66.58 | 59.64 |
| | *North West* | | | |
| Q15 | Cheshire and Merseyside | 1,540 | 65.41 | 59.62 |
| Q13 | Cumbria and Lancashire | 1,177 | 61.33 | 56.96 |
| Q14 | Greater Manchester | 1,526 | 60.29 | 54.36 |
| | *Yorkshire and the Humber* | | | |
| Q11 | North and East Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire | 1,037 | 63.20 | 63.16 |
| Q23 | South Yorkshire | 827 | 64.99 | 59.76 |
| Q12 | West Yorkshire | 1,397 | 66.65 | 64.02 |
| | *East Midlands* | | | |
| Q25 | Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland | 894 | 56.53 | 62.26 |
| Q24 | Trent | 1,628 | 60.96 | 59.17 |
| | *West Midlands* | | | |
| Q27 | Birmingham and The Black Country | 1,401 | 61.63 | 56.98 |
| Q26 | Shropshire and Staffordshire | 879 | 58.76 | 58.56 |
| Q28 | West Midlands South | 974 | 62.82 | 64.32 |
| | *East of England* | | | |
| Q02 | Bedford and Hertfordshire | 1,001 | 61.99 | 67.43 |
| Q03 | Essex | 932 | 57.19 | 60.28 |
| Q01 | Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire | 1,475 | 66.48 | 68.49 |
| | *London* | | | |
| Q05 | North Central London | 811 | 66.46 | 70.86 |
| Q06 | North East London | 921 | 60.16 | 60.80 |
| Q04 | North West London | 1,176 | 64.80 | 70.08 |
| Q07 | South East London | 1,007 | 66.61 | 69.71 |
| Q08 | South West London | 846 | 64.56 | 73.12 |
| | *South East* | | | |
| Q17 | Hampshire and Isle of Wight | 1,135 | 63.16 | 67.29 |
| Q18 | Kent and Medway | 912 | 57.00 | 58.23 |
| Q19 | Surrey and Sussex | 1,644 | 63.95 | 66.84 |
| Q16 | Thames Valley | 1,329 | 62.91 | 71.38 |
| | *South West* | | | |
| Q20 | Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire | 1,619 | 73.89 | 78.09 |
| Q22 | Somerset and Dorset | 886 | 73.41 | 72.50 |
| Q21 | South West Peninsula | 1,146 | 71.57 | 68.34 |

[1] General medical practitioners (excluding retainers and registrars) includes contracted GPs, GMS others and PMS others.

[2] ONS population data as at 2003

[3] Department of Health populations adjusted for age and need using components of the weighted capitation formula

Sources:

1. NHS Health and Social Care Information Centre General and Personal Medical Services Statistics
2. 2001 ONS Population Census
3. Department of Health

**Mr. Paterson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many full-time equivalent GPs are practising in each of the major towns of the North Shropshire constituency. [10934]

**Mr. Byrne:** The information requested is not held centrally. Shropshire and Staffordshire Strategic Health Authority reports that the number of whole-time equivalent (wte) general practitioners practising in major towns in North Shropshire is as shown in the table.

| *Town* | *Wte GPs* |
|---|---|
| Clive | 3.50 |
| Baschurch | 3.00 |
| Shawbury | 2.00 |
| Ellesmere | 4.50 |
| Hodnet | 2.50 |
| Market Drayton | 8.00 |
| Wem/Prees | 5.25 |
| Whitchurch | 6.75 |

### Health Care (Merton)

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what action she is taking in response to the London borough of Merton's referral of the Better Healthcare Closer to Home Proposals; and if she will make a statement. [10436]

**Jane Kennedy:** The Secretary of State has received a referral from the London borough of Merton on the reconfiguration decisions made by the local national health service. The issues raised are now being considered.

### Healthy Start Initiative

**Mr. Kidney:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when the "Healthy Start" initiative will be implemented; and what provision has been made for additional training on nutrition and practical healthy eating on a low income to health visitors and midwives before the scheme starts. [11205]

**Caroline Flint:** The "Healthy Start" scheme, which will replace the current welfare food scheme, will be implemented in stages. Subject to parliamentary approval, phase one of "Healthy Start" is expected to be implemented in Devon and Cornwall in November 2005. Phase two of the scheme is expected to be implemented from mid-2006 across the rest of Great Britain.

A training programme for health professionals will be developed prior to the implementation of "Healthy Start", aimed at providing health professionals with the information they need to support and promote the new scheme. The training will be set in the context of wider public health issues and will take into account the nutritional needs of families on low-income.

### Hepatitis C

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will take steps to increase awareness of the symptoms of hepatitis C among *(a)* general practitioners and *(b)* other doctors. [10867]

**Caroline Flint:** The Department launched a hepatitis C awareness campaign for health care professionals in June 2004, with the distribution of an information pack to all general practitioners and practice nurses in England, and to a range of other health professionals. A new national health service hepatitis C awareness website—www.hepc.nhs.uk—was also established. There have been a range of features about hepatitis C published in medical journals. Awareness-raising activities are continuing.

### Inspection Fees (Charities)

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost to the Healthcare Commission of carrying out statutory inspections on the Sussex MS Treatment Centre in Southwick, West Sussex, was in the last period for which figures are available. [5915]

**Caroline Flint** *[holding answer 20 June 2005]:* I understand from the Chairman of the Healthcare Commission that the information is not available in the form requested.

### IVF Treatment

**Mr. Marsden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many free cycles of IVF are offered in each primary care trust area; [11834]

(2) what *(a)* targets and *(b)* timescales she has set for primary care trusts to reach the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence recommendation to provide three free cycles of IVF treatment. [11835]

**Caroline Flint:** The Department does not collect information centrally on the number of national health service funded in vitro fertilization (IVF) treatments carried out. Following the publication in February 2004 of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence's (NICE) clinical guideline on the assessment and treatment for people with fertility problems, we advised all primary care trusts (PCTs) to offer a minimum of one cycle of IVF by April 2005 to those who meet the clinical criteria, giving priority to couples with no children living with them, and to make progress to full implementation of the guideline in the longer term.

The primary responsibility for the implementation of NICE'S guidelines rests with the NHS at local level. NICE guidelines are one of a range of factors that PCTs must take into account, in liaison with patients' groups and local health bodies, in deciding their policy on the provision of treatment services for the locality. This policy will reflect local needs and priorities.

Compliance with NICE guidance by NHS organisations will be considered by the Healthcare Commission during their review and performance assessment processes.

### Lancashire Ambulance Trust

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when the *(a)* non-executive members and *(b)* chairman of Lancashire Ambulance Trust will be elected; and if she will take steps to ensure that the views of local hon. Members on the process are sought. [10799]

**Mr. Byrne:** The Secretary of State has delegated appointments to all local national health service bodies to the NHS appointments commission. I have asked the Chairman, Sir William Wells to reply direct to the hon. Member.

### Mental Health

**Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps are being taken to ensure people with mental health problems *(a)* aged 50 to 64, *(b)* aged 65 to 74, *(c)* aged 75 years or over are offered alternatives to drug treatment; [9899]

(2) what measures are in place to promote good mental health among people aged *(a)* over 50 and *(b)* over 65 years. [9900]

**Mr. Byrne:** The needs of older people with mental health problems are the focus of a standard in the national service framework for older people. Where an older person has severe mental illness due to a psychotic illness, he or she will require the packages of care set out in the national service framework (NSF) for mental health, and the same standards should apply as for working age adults. Non-drug treatments such as psychological therapies are listed among the range of effective interventions for people with mental health problems in both the NSF for mental health and for older people.

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) regularly considers the use of non-drug treatments in the development of clinical guidelines for the treatment of a range of mental health problems such as depression and dementia.

The NSFs for mental health and older people include standards on mental health promotion, which requires health and social services to promote mental health for all and combat discrimination against individuals and groups with mental health problems, and promote their social inclusion.

**David Davis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what action she intends to take to address the shortfall of funding for the Yorkshire Mental Health Trusts identified by the Commission for Health Improvement. [11544]

**Mr. Byrne:** Primary care trusts (PCTs) are responsible for commissioning health services to meet the needs of their local population, including mental health services. In the current financial year, PCTs across Yorkshire and Humberside received resource revenue allocations totalling £5.5 billion. This will increase to £7.1 billion in 2007–08.

### MMR Vaccinations

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps her Department is taking to increase stocks of MMR vaccine; and if she will make a statement. [3366]

**Caroline Flint:** The Department has been working with both manufacturers of the measles, mumps and rubella vaccine to increase supplies into the United Kingdom. Additional amounts of the vaccine have been received and will continue to be received throughout the year.

**Mr. Beith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether her Department's guidance restricts the use of MMR vaccinations for 15 to 24-year-olds; and what provision has been made for those in this age group who have not previously had a full course of MMR vaccine and are either *(a)* moving to an area of the country where relevant infections have occurred on a significant scale and *(b)* advised to be vaccinated before enrolling at university or working in residential accommodation. [9449]

**Caroline Flint** *[holding answer 7 July 2005]:* The Department continues to advise that all children receive two doses of the measles, mumps and rubella vaccine as part of the routine childhood immunisation programme. We are also advising 15 to 24-year-olds to ensure they are properly protected against measles, mumps and rubella. This advice is the same for all parts of the county, and all within this age group.

### MRI Scans (Durham)

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many complaints have been made about the operation of the NHS scanner at the University Hospital North Durham; [9397]

(2) how many complaints have been made about scanning services provided by the University Hospital North Durham. [9398]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answer 4 July 2005]:* Information on the numbers of complaints under the national health service complaints procedure about specific services is not held centrally.

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to her answer to question reference 8726, what systems are in place to ensure the scanner at University Hospital North Durham is fully utilised. [10975]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answer 11 July 2005]:* This information is not held centrally. It is a matter for the national health service trust concerned in partnership with its local primary care trusts as service commissioners.

### Myasthenia Gravis

**Dr. Tony Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement on myasthenia gravis and the support available for those diagnosed with the disease. [11568]

**Mr. Byrne:** The national health service and social services provide a range of health and social care services specifically tailored to the varying individual needs of those living with myasthenia gravis, allowing them to manage their condition, maintain independence and achieve the best possible quality of life.

### NHS Dentistry

**Mr. Andrew Turner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 14 June 2005, *Official Report*, columns 141–156, on dentistry, how many NHS dentists were in place in each of the primary care trusts covering *(a)* the Isle of Wight, *(b)* Milton Keynes, *(c)* South West Devon, *(d)* Torbay, *(e)* Plymouth Devonport, *(f)* Teignbridge, *(g)* Romsey, *(h)* North

West Hampshire, *(i)* Broxbourne and *(j)* Hitchin and Harpenden constituency (i) in 1997 and (ii) at the most recent date for which information is available; and what proportion of the resident (A) under 18 and (B) over 18 years population was known to be registered with an NHS dentist (1) in 1997 and (2) at the most recent date for which information is available in each case. [9955]

**Ms Rosie Winterton** *[holding answer 5 July 2005]:* The information requested has been placed in the Library.

## NHS Research Ethics Committees

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will list the NHS research ethics committees which are operational; and in what areas they operate. [10054]

**Jane Kennedy:** The national health service research ethics committees and the areas in which they operate are shown in the following list. Under the central booking system, committees can be allocated research proposals outside of their geographical area. In such cases, the ethics committee gives a single opinion for all sites covered by the proposal.

Research ethics committees

Airedale Local Research Ethics Committee

Barking and Havering Local Research Ethics Committee

Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Local Research Ethics Committee

Barnsley Local Research Ethics Committee

Bexley and Greenwich Local Research Ethics Committee

Blackpool, Wyre and Fylde Local Research Ethics Committee

Bolton Local Research Ethics Committee

Bromley Local Research Ethics Committee

Brompton, Harefield and NHLI Research Ethics Committee

Calderdale and Huddersfield Local Research Ethics Committee

Camden and Islington Community Local Research Ethics Committee

Charing Cross Hospital Research Ethics Committee

Cheshire Local Research Ethics Committee 2

Cornwall Research Ethics Committee

County Durham and Darlington Local Research Ethics Committee

Coventry Research Ethics Committee

Doncaster Local Research Ethics Committee

Dudley Local Research Ethics Committee

East Birmingham Local Research Ethics Committee

East Lancashire Local Research Ethics Committee

East London and The City HA Local Research Ethics Committee 2

East Surrey, Crawley and Horsham Local Research Ethics Committees

East Sussex Local Research Ethics Committee

Frenchay Research Ethics Committee

Gateshead and South Tyneside Local Research Ethics Committee

Harrogate Health Care NHS Trust Local Research Ethics Committee

Hartlepool and North Tees Local Research Ethics Committee

Hereford and Worcester Local Research Ethics Committee

Lewisham Local Research Ethics Committee

Lincolnshire Local Research Ethics Committee

Mid and South Buckinghamshire LREC

Milton Keynes Local Research Ethics Committee

Moorfields Eye Hospital Local Research Ethics Committee

Morecambe Bay Research Ethics Committee

North and Mid Essex Local Research Ethics Committee

North and Mid Hampshire Local Research Ethics Committee

North Birmingham Local Research Ethics Committee

North Cumbria Local Research Ethics Committee

North Manchester Local Research Ethics Committee

North Nottinghamshire Local Research Ethics Committee

North Somerset Research Ethics Committee

North West Surrey Local Research Ethics Committee

North West Wales Local Research Ethics Committee

Northampton Local Research Ethics Committee

Northumberland Local Research Ethics Committee

Oldham Local Research Ethics Committee

Orkney Local Research Ethics Committee

Peterborough and Fenland Local Research Ethics Committee

Redbridge and Waltham Forest Local Research Ethics Committee

Rotherham Local Research Ethics Committee

Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Trust Research Ethics Committee

Salisbury Research Ethics Committee

Sandwell and West Birmingham Local Research Ethics Committee

Scarborough and North East Yorkshire Local Research Ethics Committee

Shropshire Local Research Ethics Committee

Solihull Local Research Ethics Committee

South Devon Research Ethics Committee

South Sheffield Research Ethics Committee

South Tees LREC

Southmead Research Ethics Committee

St. Helens and Knowsley LREC

Stockport Local Research Ethics Committee

Swindon Research Ethics Committee

Tameside and Glossop Local Research Ethics Committee

Walsall Local Research Ethics Committee

West Kent Research Ethics Committee

West Sussex Local Research Ethics Committee

Whittington Hospital Local Research Ethics Committee

Wolverhampton Local Research Ethics Committee

Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh LREC

Yorkhill Local Research Ethics Committee

Hounslow and Hillingdon Local Research Ethics Committee

Baling and West London Mental Health Trust Research Ethics Committee

South Staffordshire Local Research Ethics Committee

Berkshire Local Research Ethics Committee

Brent Medical Ethics Committee

Cambridge Local Research Ethics Committee

Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Trust /

Guy's Research Ethics Committee

King's College Hospital Local Research Ethics Committee

Riverside Research Ethics Committee

St. Thomas' Hospital Research Ethics Committee

The Royal Marsden NHS Trust Local Research Ethics Committee

Wandsworth Local Research Ethics Committee

Huntingdon Local Research Ethics Committee
Oxfordshire Research Ethics Committee A
Royal Free Hospital and Medical School Local Research Ethics Committee
Bath Research Ethics Committee
Bedfordshire Local Research Ethics Committee
Bradford Local Research Ethics Committee
Cheshire Local Research Ethics Committee 1
Derbyshire Local Research Ethics Committee
Dorset Research Ethics Committee
East Kent Local Research Ethics Committee
East London and The City HA Local Research Ethics Committee 3
Gloucestershire Local Research Ethics Committee
Hammersmith, Queen Charlotte's and Chelsea Research Ethics Committee
Harrow Research Ethics Committee
Hertfordshire 2 Research Ethics Committees
Hull and East Riding Local Research Ethics Committee
Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and South East Hampshire LREC
Leeds (East) Research Ethics Committee
Leicestershire Local Research Ethics Committee (1)
Leicestershire Local Research Ethics Committee (2)
Liverpool Local Research Ethics Committee
Liverpool Children's Research Ethics Committee
London-Surrey Borders REC
Newcastle and North Tyneside Local Research Ethics Committee 2
North and East Devon Research Ethics Committee
North Sheffield Local Research Ethics Committee
North Staffordshire Local Research Ethics Committee
Norwich Local Research Ethics Committee
Nottingham Research Ethics Committee (1)
Nottingham Research Ethics Committee (2)
Oxfordshire Research Ethics Committee B
Oxfordshire Research Ethics Committee C
Preston, Chorley and South Ribble Local Research Ethics Committee
Salford and Trafford Local Research Ethics Committee
Sefton LREC
Somerset Research Ethics Committee
South Birmingham Local Research Ethics Committee
South Humber Local Research Ethics Committee
South London and Maudsley/IOP Ethical Committee (Research)
South Manchester Local Research Ethics Committee
South West Devon Research Ethics Committee
South West Surrey Local Research Ethics Committee
Southampton Local Research Ethics Committee B
St. Mary's Local Research Ethics Committee
Suffolk Local Research Ethics Committee
Sunderland Local Research Ethics Committee
The National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery and Institute of Neurology Joint Medical REC
UCLH Local Research Ethics Committee Alpha
Warwickshire Local Research Ethics Committee
West Essex Local Research Ethics Committee
York Research Ethics Committee
South Essex Local Research Ethics Committee
Wakefield District REC
Brighton and Mid Sussex Local Research Ethics Committee
Central and South Bristol Research Ethics Committee
Central Manchester Local Research Ethics Committee
East London and The City HA Local Research Ethics Committee 1
Eastern MREC
Hertfordshire 1 REC
Leeds (West) Local Research Ethics Committee
London MREC
Newcastle and North Tyneside Local Research Ethics Committee 1
North West MREC
South West MREC
Southampton Local Research Ethics Committee A
Trent MREC
UCLH Local Research Ethics Committee A
West Midlands MREC
Metropolitan MREC
Northern and Yorkshire MREC
South East MREC
Thames Valley MREC

### Nurse Prescribers

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps she is taking to improve the education and training opportunities for nurses who are independently prescribing drugs. [10023]

**Jane Kennedy:** All health professionals, including nurses, have a professional responsibility to keep their skills and knowledge up-to-date. National health service organisations have a responsibility to enable this, to ensure patient safety and to provide a high quality service. Nurse prescribers take part in audit, review and continuing professional development activities, both individually and within their care teams.

The Department funds the work of the National Prescribing Centre. The centre's aim is,

"to promote and support high quality, cost-effective prescribing and medicines management across the NHS, to help improve patient care and service delivery".

It provides a variety of education and training opportunities to qualified non-medical prescribers.

### Obesity

**Dr. Naysmith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement on the development of slimming on referral by Greater and Central Derby Primary Care Trust and Slimming World; what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of this project; how many primary care trusts offer such referral schemes; and what steps she intends to take to promote trusts' awareness and adoption of such schemes. [11896]

**Caroline Flint:** The Government are aware of the work of Slimming World in Greater and Central Derby Primary Care Trust (PCT). The White Paper, "Choosing Health", made a commitment to assess the role the independent sector, including Slimming World and how validated programmes, such as slimming on referral, can play in providing effective behaviour change programmes.

### Older People (Medication)

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many primary care *(a)* groups and *(b)* trusts have schemes in place enabling older people to get help from pharmacists in using their medicines; [6661]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 16 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 642W, on the National Service Framework for Older People, if she will set out for each data collection period since collection began the number and frequency of medication reviews for older people *(a)* in general practitioner surgeries and *(b)* care homes; [8422]

(3) pursuant to the answer of 16 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 642W, on the National Service Framework for Older People, which primary care trusts are taking part in the medicines management collaborative; [8423]

(4) pursuant to the answer of 16 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 642W, on the National Service Framework for Older People, how the quality of medicine reviews are measured; and if she will publish the results. [8424]

**Mr. Byrne:** Information on the number and frequency of medication reviews for older people is not collected centrally.

The medicines partnership and the medicines management collaborative published "Room for Review" 2002, which was widely disseminated and endorsed by the Department. "Room for Review" provides a clear definition to the national health service of a medication review. It also provides guidance on different levels of medication reviews that can be undertaken. The level of review will depend on the complexity of the patients' clinical condition. Strategic health authorities, through their performance management role, ensure that primary care trusts within their areas are providing quality services to their patients.

146 primary care organisations, in four waves, starting in 2001, have taken part in the medicines management collaborative programme. Further details are available at www.npc.co.uk

### Orlistat

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many prescription items of orlistat were dispensed in the community in England in each of the last three years for which figures are available; and how many children received the drug in each of those years. [8244]

**Jane Kennedy:** The numbers of prescription items dispensed in the community in England are shown in the table.

| | *Total* | *Children*[1] |
|---|---|---|
| 2002 | 541,378 | 3,000 |
| 2003 | 485,653 | 2,000 |
| 2004 | 493,309 | 2,000 |

[1] Children are defined as 0 to 15-year-olds and as 16 to 18-year-olds in full-time education. Figures for items dispensed to children are derived by sampling and are rounded to the nearest thousand.

### Pain Management

**Mr. Andrew Turner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she has made of the cost to the economy of sickness absence as a result of pain in 2004–05; if she will take steps to ensure a national standard for the availability of pain management and treatment under the NHS; if she will list pain clinics; and how many patient treatment episodes for pain there were in the most recent year for which figures are available. [9310]

**Mr. Byrne:** It is not possible to estimate the cost to the economy because information about sickness absence as a result of pain as pain is not collected. We do not intend to develop a national standard for the availability of pain management and treatment under the national health service as the Department published "Standards for Better Health" in July 2004, geared to ensuring that high quality care is available to all patients, no matter what condition they are suffering from.

Information about pain clinics is not collected centrally. Figures for patient treatment episodes for pain are not available because, pain is not coded separately in the hospital episode statistics.

### Personal Care Assistance (Coventry)

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the baseline minimum is for people to receive assistance in financing personal care in Coventry. [11590]

**Mr. Byrne:** Currently, people in England with less than £20,500 are entitled to financial help from social services in meeting the cost of their residential care, which will usually include personal care. People with resources of £12,500 or less do not pay for their residential care.

Councils like Coventry, have discretionary powers to decide whether to charge for personal care provided in non-residential settings. The Department has issued statutory guidance, "Fairer Charging Policies for Home Care and other non-residential Social Services" to councils. Section VIII of the guidance advises that if charges are levied, in assessing service users' ability to pay, councils should not set resource limits lower than those for residential care. In addition, charges should not reduce the user's resources below basic levels of income support, plus a buffer of not less than 25 per cent.

### Physiotherapy Graduates

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many physiotherapy students graduated in the United Kingdom in 2004. [10823]

**Mr. Byrne:** Information is not collected centrally on the number of physiotherapy students graduating each year in England.

Information for Wales is a matter for the devolved Administration.

### Pregnancy (Smoking)

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the medical effects of smoking by the pregnant woman on the health of an unborn child. [10609]

**Caroline Flint:** The medical effects of smoking by the mother on the health of an unborn child are set out in the national health service leaflet, "S is for smoking and pregnancy." A copy is available in the Library.

### Research and Development

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the total expenditure of her Department's research and development programme has been in each year since it was established; and what proportion of the total NHS budget this equated to in each year. [9513]

**Jane Kennedy:** The Department's total expenditure on research and development (R&D)[1], from the year in which the current system of R&D allocations to national health service providers began and the proportion of the Department's total net expenditure this represents, is shown in the table.

[1] The Department's policy research programme, NHS research and development and research carried out by the Department's arm's length bodies.

| | *Total R&D spend (£ million)* | *R&D as a proportion of total net Departmental spend (percentage)* |
|---|---|---|
| 1997–98 | 486 | 1.38 |
| 1998–99 | 481 | 1.05 |
| 1999–2000 | 501 | 1.02 |
| 2000–01 | 510 | 1.01 |
| 2001–02 | 538 | 0.80 |
| 2002–03 | 574 | 0.86 |
| 2003–04 | 604 | 0.96 |

*Notes:*
1. Expenditure before 1998–99 is on a cash basis.
2. Spend figures from 1999–2000 are on a resource budgeting basis, and total net spend for these years includes NHS pensions.
3. Figures are not therefore directly comparable across the period.

### School Fruit and Vegetable Scheme

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she intends to publish the full evaluation of the school fruit and vegetable scheme undertaken by the National Foundation of Educational Research; and what funds her Department has allocated to the scheme beyond 2005–06. [6505]

**Caroline Flint:** The Big Lottery Fund commissioned the National Foundation for Educational Research to carry out the evaluation of the school fruit and vegetable scheme. The Big Lottery Fund expect to publish the final report on their website by the end of August.

An announcement on future funding for the school fruit and vegetable scheme will be made once we have considered the findings from the evaluation.

### Seroxat

**Paul Flynn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what her Department's advice is on the prescribing of *(a)* Seroxat and *(b)* other selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors. [11319]

**Jane Kennedy:** On 6 December 2004, a letter was sent to all health professionals in the United Kingdom from the Chairman of the Committee on Safety of Medicines announcing the results of the review of the safety of selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs), including Seroxat and providing prescribing advice for all SSRIs. A copy is available in the Library.

On the same day, the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) published guidelines on the management of depression in primary care. These guidelines state that antidepressants, including SSRIs, are not recommended for the initial treatment of mild depressive illness because the risk-benefit ratio is poor.

### Simvastatin

**Paul Flynn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of the respondents to the consultation on the proposed reclassification of simvastatin as an over-the-counter drug were in favour of the proposal. [10850]

**Jane Kennedy:** Of the 100 responses received, about one third were supportive of the proposal, one third opposed and one third were not opposed but raised issues. This was the position put to the Committee on Safety of Medicines (CSM), which also had access to the full responses when giving its advice. The consultation raised no issues not already considered by the CSM when their advice to consult on making simvastatin 10 milligrammes (mg) available over the counter was formulated. An error in the summary placed on the website following the announcement of the decision to allow simvastatin 10 mg to be sold in pharmacies had no bearing on the robustness of the deliberations of the CSM.

Responses received to the consultation on the proposed reclassification of simvastatin as an over-the-counter medicine have been made available electronically or summarised on the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency's (MHRA) website at:

http://medicines.mhra.gov.uk/inforesources/publications/arm18responses.htm.

To ensure complete transparency, the MHRA publishes the responses to all such consultations—most recently for chloramphenicol eye drops.

### Skin Cancer

**Mark Tami:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what guidance her Department provides regarding the prevention of skin cancer caused by over-exposure to the sun; [9215]

(2) how much has been spent by her Department on *(a)* advertisements and *(b)* materials to educate individuals on the effects of over-exposure to the sun. [9227]

**Caroline Flint:** In 2003–04, the United Kingdom health departments provided £400,000 funding to Cancer Research UK to run the "SunSmart" sun awareness campaign from 2003–04 for an initial three year period. The campaign aims to raise awareness of skin cancer, the symptoms to look out for and the simple steps on how to prevent it. Posters and information cards have been distributed to health professionals, all

general practitioners' surgeries and schools, to reach as many people as possible with the five point "SunSmart" message:

Stay in the shade between 11.00 am. and 3 pm.

Make sure you never burn

Always cover up

Remember to take extra care with children

Then use factor 15+ sunscreen

"SunSmart" encourages people to protect themselves in the sun, thereby reducing their risk of skin cancer. This public education approach using primary care stakeholders has been very successful in Australia, where changes in attitude towards sun exposure and symptom recognition have reduced skin cancer mortality.

The "SunSmart" campaign works primarily through the distribution of materials, public relations and strategy development, underpinned by research to provide an evidence base.

As Cancer Research UK does not use paid advertising in newsletters or papers as a primary communication tool, costs reflect activities such as promotional merchandise, web presence, sun awareness week activities, purchasing of distribution opportunities and conference presence. Estimates of the value of the coverage and reach generated by the campaign in 2004 are as follows:

Number of articles generated: 932

This is an increase of 485 articles—more than double that generated in 2003

76 per cent. of all United Kingdom adults were reached

The advertising equivalent rate is £6, 687,296

494 million people with an opportunity to see

Reach stayed the same as 2003 at 76 per cent.*

Frequency of message increased from 10.4 to 13.9 per adult

*Note:*

The above does not include reach of free resource materials, but to print and radio coverage at nil cost.

Costs of materials include components for their development and design, printing, storage and distribution. Other costs relate to staff, including on costs, are shown in the table.

£

| | *Total contract* | *Staff costs* | *Advertising and promotion* | *Materials* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2003–04 | 110,000 | 26,000 | 14,500 | 61,000 |
| 2004–05 | 170,000 | 45,000 | 37,000 | 88,000 |
| 2005–06 | 175,000 | 48500 | 39,500 | 87,000 |
| 2006–07 | 180,000 | Unbudgeted at this stage | | |

## Smoking

**John Cummings:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if she will include in her consultation on the elements of forthcoming health improvement legislation relating to restrictions on smoking the option of designated smoking rooms in workplaces, including licensed premises; [11489]

(2) if she will include in her consultation on elements of forthcoming health improvement legislation relating to restrictions on smoking the designation of well-ventilated smoking rooms which are separated from both bar and eating areas. [11490]

**Caroline Flint:** The Government's proposals were set out in the White Paper, "Choosing Health", in November 2004 for legislation for the vast majority of enclosed public places and workplaces to be smokefree.

Consultation on these proposals began on 20 June, when the consultation paper, "Smokefree elements of the Health Improvement and Protection Bill", was published. A copy is available in the Library.

## Southend Primary Care Trust

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* NHS clerical, administrative and management staff, *(b)* NHS hospital doctors and GPs and *(c)* NHS nurses and midwives there were in Southend Primary Care Trust in each year since 1990. [10533]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The available information is shown in the table.

Information for Southend Primary Care Trust (PCT) is only available from 2001, when the PCT came into existence. Figures by strategic health authority (SHA) are shown from 1992 for medical staff. Information about non-medical staff is only available from 1995.

*NHS hospital and community health services (HCHS): Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff, clerical and administrative staff, managers and senior managers, HCHS Doctors1, General Medical Practitioners2 and Practice Nurses for specified organisations*

| | | *1992* | *1993* | *1994* | *1995* | *1996* | *1997* | *1998* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Q03 | *Essex* | | | | | | | |
| | All Doctors | 1,920 | 1,783 | 1,750 | 1,999 | 2,002 | 2,164 | 2,177 |
| | *Of which:* | | | | | | | |
| | HCHS Doctors[1] | 1,091 | 949 | 911 | 1,157 | 1,171 | 1,315 | 1,315 |
| | All General Medical Practitioners[2] | 829 | 834 | 839 | 842 | 831 | 849 | 862 |
| | All Specified Non-medical Staff | .. | .. | .. | 9,375 | 9,626 | 9,997 | 9,658 |
| | *Of which:* | | | | | | | |
| | Qualified Nurses | .. | .. | .. | 7,399 | 7,334 | 7,766 | 7,359 |
| | Managers and Senior Managers | .. | .. | .. | 606 | 536 | 489 | 511 |
| | General Clerical and Administrative Staff | .. | .. | .. | 1,370 | 1,756 | 1,742 | 1,788 |
| | GP Practice Nurses | 659 | 638 | 653 | 653 | 645 | 687 | 658 |
| | *Of which:* | | | | | | | |
| 5AK | *Southend on Sea PCT* | | | | | | | |
| | All Doctors | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| | *Of which:* | | | | | | | |
| | HCHS Doctors[1] | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |

*NHS hospital and community health services (HCHS): Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff, clerical and administrative staff, managers and senior managers, HCHS Doctors1, General Medical Practitioners2 and Practice Nurses for specified organisations*

| | 1992 | 1993 | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| All General Medical Practitioners[2] | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] |
| All Specified Non-medical Staff | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] |
| *Of which:* | | | | | | | |
| Qualified Nurses | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] |
| Managers and Senior Managers | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] |
| General Clerical and Administrative Staff | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] |
| GP Practice Nurses | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] |

| | | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Q03 | *Essex* | | | | | | |
| | All Doctors | 2,256 | 2,232 | 2,279 | 2,406 | 2,494 | 2,709 |
| | *Of which:* | | | | | | |
| | HCHS Doctors[1] | 1,383 | 1,360 | 1,415 | 1545 | 1,575 | 1,739 |
| | All General Medical Practitioners[2] | 873 | 872 | 864 | 861 | 919 | 970 |
| | All Specified Non-medical Staff | 10,311 | 10,635 | 10,780 | 11,529 | 11,655 | 12,213 |
| | *Of which:* | | | | | | |
| | Qualified Nurses | 7,510 | 7,646 | 8,171 | 8,757 | 8,608 | 8,898 |
| | Managers and Senior Managers | 563 | 565 | 581 | 837 | 967 | 1,140 |
| | General Clerical and Administrative Staff | 2,238 | 2,424 | 2,028 | 1,935 | 2,080 | 2,175 |
| | GP Practice Nurses | 682 | 686 | 696 | 733 | 731 | 775 |
| | *Of which:* | | | | | | |
| 5AK | *Southend on Sea PCT* | | | | | | |
| | All Doctors | [3] | [3] | 84 | 83 | 91 | 112 |
| | *Of which:* | | | | | | |
| | HCHS Doctors[1] | [3] | [3] | 0 | 1 | 3 | 1 |
| | All General Medical Practitioners[2] | [3] | [3] | 84 | 82 | 88 | 111 |
| | All Specified Non-medical Staff | [3] | [3] | 240 | 261 | 281 | 269 |
| | *Of which:* | | | | | | |
| | Qualified Nurses | [3] | [3] | 210 | 213 | 215 | 193 |
| | Managers and Senior Managers | [3] | [3] | 17 | 24 | 42 | 50 |
| | General Clerical and Administrative Staff | [3] | [3] | 13 | 24 | 24 | 26 |
| | GP Practice Nurses | [3] | [3] | 82 | 85 | 78 | 71 |

[1] Excludes Medical Hospital Practitioners and Medical Clinical Assistants, most of whom are GPs working part time in hospitals
[2] General Medical Practitioners includes Contracted GPs, QMS Others, GP Registrars, GP Retainers and PMS Others. Prior to September 2004 this group included QMS Unrestricted Principals, PMS Contracted GPs, PMS Salaried GPs, Restricted Principals, Assistants, Salaried Doctors (Para 52 SFA), PMS Other, Flexible Career Scheme GPs, GP Registrars, GP Retainers and GP Returners.
[3] Data not applicable.

*Note:*
Data each year as at 30 September, except GP and Practice Nurse data as at 1 October 1992–1999,30 September 2000–2004.

*Sources:*
NHS Health and Social Care Information Centre General and Personal Medical Services Statistics.
NHS Health and Social Care Information Centre Non-Medical Workforce Census.
NHS Health and Social Care Information Centre Medical and Dental Workforce Census.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been spent by Southend primary care trust on salaries and wages costs for *(a)* general and senior managers, *(b)* nurses and midwives and *(c)* administrative and clerical staff in each financial year since 1997–98. [10534]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Expenditure on salaries and wages by Southend primary care trust (PCT) for the occupational groups requested are shown in the following table.

| | *Senior managers and managers* | *Nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff* | *Administrative and clerical* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2000–01 | 687,377 | 0 | 95,032 |
| 2001–02 | 921,055 | 4,571,231 | 638,711 |
| 2002–03 | 1,532,287 | 4,998,534 | 880,626 |
| 2003–04 | 1,468,100 | 5,298,229 | 918,969 |

*Notes:*
1. The Department collects primary care trust expenditure information on national health service and non NHS staff. The table shows the total expenditure on the occupational categories requested.
2. Southend PCT was created on 1 April 2000. Therefore, expenditure cannot be shown from 1997–98 until this date.
3. The table contains the relevant information for 2000–01 to 2003–04, which is the latest available.
4. Expenditure in the first year is nil or lower than in later years. This is due to the fact that the PCT was setting up services.

### Wem and Ellesmere Medical Practices

**Mr. Paterson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the population in the catchment area of the *(a)* Wem Medical Practice and *(b)* Ellesmere Medical Practice has been in each of the last five years for which figures are available; [10935]

(2) what the age structure of the population in the catchment area of the *(a)* Wem Medical Practice and *(b)* Ellesmere Medical Practice has been in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [10936]

**Mr. Byrne:** The information is not available centrally in the format requested.

Table 1 shows the total number of patients registered at Ellesmere and Wem medical practices at September 2004. This is the only year that the Department holds this information at this level.

*Table 1: Registered patients[1] by age band, as at 30 September 2004—actual numbers*

| *Medical practice* | *Ellesmere* | *Wem* |
|---|---|---|
| Total | 7,219 | 8,889 |
| *(Age)* | | |
| 0–4 | 329 | 406 |
| 5–14 | 921 | 1,096 |
| 15–44 | 2,536 | 3,203 |
| 45–64 | 2,014 | 2,381 |
| 65–74 | 722 | 948 |
| 75–84 | 544 | 645 |
| 85+ | 153 | 210 |

[1] The number of registered patients is the total number of patients registered at each practice, and for whom that practice is responsible.

*Source:*
National Health Service Health and Social Care Information Centre general and personal medical services statistics.

Table 2 shows 2001 census-based resident population estimates for Shropshire County Primary Care Trust (PCT) and the age breakdown of those figures. Figures from before 2001 are not available.

*Table 2: 2001 census-based resident population estimates for Shropshire county PCT by age band*

| | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Total population | 283,254 | 285,388 | 286,745 |
| *Age* | | | |
| Less than 1 year | 2,761 | 2,658 | 2,800 |
| 01–04 | 12,429 | 12,102 | 11,657 |
| 05–09 | 16,775 | 16,821 | 16,801 |
| 10–14 | 18,355 | 18,819 | 18,771 |
| 15–19 | 17,784 | 17,881 | 18,508 |
| 20–24 | 12,919 | 13,357 | 13,584 |
| 25–29 | 15,241 | 14,078 | 13,224 |
| 30–34 | 19,217 | 18,939 | 18,297 |
| 35–39 | 21,197 | 21,398 | 21,506 |
| 40–44 | 19,694 | 20,461 | 20,847 |
| 45–49 | 18,808 | 18,893 | 19,185 |
| 50–54 | 21,195 | 20,507 | 19,778 |
| 55–59 | 19,362 | 20,644 | 21,565 |
| 60–64 | 16,198 | 16,550 | 47,143 |
| 65–69 | 14,205 | 14,573 | 14,933 |
| 70–74 | 12,941 | 13,097 | 13,201 |
| 75–79 | 10,800 | 10,719 | 10,668 |
| 80–84 | 7,157 | 7,634 | 8,084 |
| 85–89 | 4,090 | 4,077 | 3,961 |
| Over 90 | 2,126 | 2,180 | 2,232 |

*Note:*
Figures are on a resident basis within the PCT boundary.

# Written Answers to Questions

*Thursday 14 July 2005*

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### Bovine TB

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the level of illegal culling of badgers by farmers as a method of controlling the spread of bovine TB; and if she will make a statement. [11579]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Information about the level of illegal culling of badgers by farmers is not generally available. However, the Independent Scientific Group on cattle TB is monitoring suspected unlawful activities within the survey areas of the Randomised Badger Culling Trial. Within those areas, seven suspected incidents of illegal badger culling have been identified since February 2002 and reported to the police authorities.

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will make a statement on the recent meeting between the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Local Environment, Marine and Animal Welfare and the South West National Farmers Union on bovine tuberculosis. [7274]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** I met representatives of the South West National Farmers Union on 16 June to discuss the problem of bovine tuberculosis in cattle. This was a positive and constructive discussion. The NFU outlined a number of ideas, subsequently published in a national NFU document on 4 July 2005. The NFU document will be considered as the Government develops its TB strategy as will cost benefit analysis work based on the Irish badger culling trials and other data.

### Climate Change

**Colin Challen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the statement by the hon. Member for Scunthorpe on 29 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 1376, what assessment her Department has made of the Pew Centre report on climate change. [11634]

**Mr. Morley:** The report I referred to is "International Climate Efforts Beyond 2012: A Survey of Approaches" by the Pew Centre on Global Climate Change which was published in December 2004. The report offers a broad survey of alternative approaches for international climate change efforts beyond 2012 and is therefore a useful background document.

The report describes more than 40 proposals for a future climate change regime either published or publicly presented in recent years. Some of these proposals are comprehensive in nature, setting forth a complete approach for a future regime. Others address a particular issue in the negotiations.

The report starts with a very useful overview of core issues in designing and negotiating future international climate efforts. The second section suggests criteria that could be used in assessing alternative approaches. The third section describes how the different proposals seek to address the core issues identified earlier. The fourth section then summarises each proposal. The report does not make judgments about individual proposals.

### Cormorants

**Ms Angela C. Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when she expects to publish the Central Science Laboratory's cormorant population model; and whether the model will be published in a peer-reviewed journal. [12124]

**Jim Knight:** The cormorant model produced by the Central Science Laboratory is already available on the Defra website http://www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-countryside/vertebrates/piscivorous.htm#cormorants together with comments from independent peer reviewers. The model is currently being updated in the light of more recent information on the trend in cormorant numbers following a short contract to The British Trust for Ornithology. A paper describing the model and its application will be submitted to a peer reviewed scientific journal this autumn.

### Fishing Licences

**Mr. Michael Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the value of rod licence sales has been in each region in England and Wales since 2000. [8979]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The information requested is as follows:

*Rod licence sales 2000–01 to 2004–05*

| | 2001–01 | | 2001–02 | | 2002–03 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Number | Income (£) | Number | Income (£) | Number | Income (£) |
| Anglian | 170,525 | 2,203,779 | 180,490 | 2,322,255 | 180,637 | 2,472,067 |
| Midlands | 223,727 | 2,883,144 | 234,736 | 2,972,015 | 240,897 | 3,226,235 |
| N. East | 150,182 | 1,921,645 | 150,364 | 1,877,586 | 160,101 | 2,099,149 |
| N. West | 115,633 | 1,667,808 | 115,689 | 1,582,431 | 119,535 | 1,775,397 |
| S. West | 77,881 | 1,025,145 | 81,192 | 1,027,946 | 79,902 | 1,087,743 |
| Southern | 93,015 | 1,169,381 | 100,320 | 1,223,309 | 106,534 | 1,367,112 |
| Thames | 173,245 | 2,297,131 | 181,492 | 2,392,807 | 199,545 | 2,691,077 |

*Rod licence sales 2000–01 to 2004–05*

| | *2001–01* | | *2001–02* | | *2002–03* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Number* | *Income (£)* | *Number* | *Income (£)* | *Number* | *Income (£)* |
| Welsh | 62,339 | 922,744 | 63,156 | 857,911 | 61,520 | 939,239 |
| Others | 19,883 | 328,285 | 37,340 | 612,462 | 39,729 | 450,779 |
| Total | 1,086,430 | 14,419,060 | 1,144,779 | 14,868,720 | 1,188,400 | 16,108,795 |

| | *2003–04* | | *2004–05* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Number* | *Income (£)* | *Number* | *Income (£)* |
| Anglian | 192,986 | 2,778,349 | 186,949 | 2,873,141 |
| Midlands | 254,811 | 3,584,736 | 237,996 | 3,615,985 |
| N. East | 170,842 | 2,342,215 | 164,197 | 2,416,992 |
| N. West | 125,711 | 1,962,661 | 122,238 | 2,038,813 |
| S. West | 84,559 | 1,223,408 | 81,482 | 1,263,371 |
| Southern | 112,778 | 1,538,838 | 109,631 | 1,586,957 |
| Thames | 210,585 | 2,969,776 | 202,154 | 3,052,041 |
| Welsh | 64,767 | 1,042,057 | 63,773 | 1,072,348 |
| Others | 44,888 | 562,566 | 49,798 | 673,582 |
| Total | 1,261,927 | 18,004,606 | 1,218,218 | 18,593,227 |

*Source:*
Environment Agency

### Livestock Industry

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will make a statement on the future of the livestock industry, with specific reference to the cattle disease compensation tables. [10792]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** At present, the amount of compensation paid for cattle slaughtered as a consequence of a disease outbreak varies according to the disease involved. The Government intend to introduce a consistent approach to determining compensation payments across four cattle diseases (bovine TB, brucellosis, BSE and Enzootic Bovine Leukosis) during 2005. Information is being collected on real market prices in order to allow the payment of compensation on the basis of table valuations.

Payments that reflect actual market prices being achieved for healthy animals of the same category will be fair to both the farmer and the taxpayer, as the proposed new arrangements will address the overvaluation of cattle slaughtered because of bovine TB, the evidence for which is extensive.

### Nappies

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proportion disposable nappies represented of total municipal solid waste in the last year for which figures are available; and what estimate she has made of the contribution the landfilling of disposable nappies made to the production of greenhouse gases by the UK in that year. [11681]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** We do not collect information on the amount of disposable nappies used nor of the disposal route.

The Strategy Unit report "Waste Not Want Not" estimated that in 2000–01 nappies comprised around 2 per cent. of household waste, equivalent to 350,000 tonnes. In 2003–04 72 per cent. of our household waste was sent to landfill and just under 9 per cent. went to incineration.

The Environment Agency have estimated that disposable nappies contribute 0.02 per cent. to the production of greenhouse gases by the UK.

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much public money has been spent on reusable nappy schemes in the last five years, broken down by *(a)* scheme and *(b)* amount. [11686]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Information on local authority reusable nappy schemes is not held centrally.

The cost of the reusable nappy programme managed by the Waste and Resources Action Programme is £2.8 million for the three years from 2003–06.

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) for how long she expects funding to continue for reusable nappies as part of the WRAP Real Nappy Programme; [11718]

(2) how much funding has been made available for the WRAP Real Nappy Programme to date; and whether the Government plans to continue funding this programme after April 2006. [11719]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The current funding with WRAP finishes the end of March 2006. We are currently in discussion with WRAP about their programmes, including the Real Nappy Work after this date.

The cost of the re-usable nappy programme managed by WRAP is £2.8 million for the three years 2003–06.

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many tonnes of disposable nappy waste have been diverted by WRAP's Real Nappy Programme to date; how this figure was calculated; what percentage of new re-usable users under the programme continued to use re-usables; and what methodology was used to count them. [11720]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The aim of the WRAP programme is to convert 155,000 households to re-usable nappies by April 2006, thereby diverting 35,000 tonnes per annum of disposable nappy waste from landfill.

The main features of the programme are pump priming grant aid for small and medium enterprises and new entrants to the nappy laundering business, combined with promotional initiatives targeted at new parents. It is too soon to evaluate the effectiveness of each activity, but funded schemes are reporting progress quarterly, and the benefits of national awareness-raising and advertising will be captured in opinion research to be conducted at the end of the year.

### Recycling

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, if her Department will take steps to encourage the *(a)* reduction, *(b)* re-use and *(c)* recycling of plastic carrier bags. [10853]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The waste strategy for England and Wales—Waste Strategy 2000—emphasises the need to gain more value from waste through re-use, recycling, composting and the recovery of energy. Government are already encouraging retailers to work with the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) to address levels of plastic bag consumption, and have asked WRAP to investigate the feasibility of a national Bag for Life scheme as part of their Waste Minimisation Programme. Some of the large supermarket chains have already introduced Bag for Life, whereby a charge is made to the customer for a strong and durable plastic bag which is replaced by the retailer when it eventually wears out. The scheme encourages a change in behaviour through the reuse of bags, and the plastic from worn-out bags is recycled. WRAP is investigating the implementation of such a scheme on a national basis.

### Smoking

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate the Government have made of the effect of a public smoking ban on cigarette litter in the streets. [4298]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Government have not made any estimate of the effect a ban on smoking in public would have on cigarette litter in the streets. However, restrictions on smoking in the workplace do appear to have increased the amount of such litter. The Local Environmental Quality Survey of England, conducted by ENCAMS on behalf of Defra, monitors the prevalence of smoking-related litter, including cigarette ends, cigarette packages, matches and lighters, based on an assessment of over 10,000 sample sites. Over the first three years of the survey, there has been an overall increase in the proportion of sites that have some form of smoking-related litter present:

| | *Percentage of sites* |
|---|---|
| 2001–02 | 63 |
| 2002–03 | 60 |
| 2003–04 | 79 |

Defra is already taking action to reduce smoking-related litter. Section 27 of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005, which came into force on 7 June, provides clarification that smoking-related materials are litter for the purposes of part 4 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990. Therefore offenders can be prosecuted or issued with a fixed penalty notice. In February next year, ENCAMS will be launching a public awareness campaign aimed at reducing cigarette butt litter, encouraging smokers to take greater responsibility for the litter they create. In addition, the campaign will specifically look to employers who allow their staff to smoke outside their premises to provide practical means of disposing of cigarette ends responsibly.

### Waste Strategy

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she is taking to educate the public on the role of energy from waste combustion as part of the Waste Strategy. [11682]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Waste Strategy 2000 sets out the Government's aim to minimise waste and recover value from waste in line with the waste hierarchy. Energy from waste has an important role to play, but public education and engagement to date has mainly focused on activities that the public can directly participate in, such as waste minimisation, reuse and recycling. DEFRA has published an independent study into the environmental and health effects of waste management, to improve understanding of waste treatment options including energy from waste. In both their waste management and land use planning functions local authorities should engage their communities when planning for energy from waste or other facilities.

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when she expects the 10 demonstration plants to encourage new technologies to treat biodegradable municipal waste will begin operating. [11683]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The first demonstration plants for more innovative waste management practices, run in partnership with industry and local authorities, will begin operating in 2006. However, lead times will vary in individual cases, depending on local circumstances and the different kinds of technologies involved.

The package of measures put in place by DEFRA to encourage technological innovation also includes current work to: disseminate expertise and advice to local authorities and the waste industry; establish a programme of longer-term research into alternative options for dealing with residual waste; and provide extensive guidance on alternative technology options already used successfully in other countries.

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what mechanism is used to monitor compliance by EU member states with the *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2009 and *(c)* 2016 biodegradable municipal waste diversion targets of Article 5 of the Landfill Directive; and what recent information she has received on the extent of compliance in each case. [10678]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The monitoring authorities in the four constituent countries of the UK will use a 'mass balance calculation' to monitor the amount of biodegradable municipal waste sent to landfill in any year by each waste disposal authority. The mass balance approach calculates the amount of biodegradable waste landfilled by subtracting the weight of biodegradable materials diverted from landfill from the local authority's total biodegradable waste arisings.

The Government are currently undertaking an information gathering project with the LGA and other local government stakeholders to assess the current and future diversion capacity in England. The information from this project will give a clear indication about how the targets are being met. The intention is to review this project annually, to allow the Government to closely monitor and evaluate progress towards the targets.

Each EU member state is able to choose the mechanism to demonstrate compliance with Article 5(2) of the Landfill Directive and the UK is not aware of the methods chosen by other member states. I am not aware of any mechanism to monitor compliance prior to each target year.

The details requested by the hon. Member on the extent of compliance by EU member states with Article 5(2) of the Landfill Directive has been published in the "Report from the Commission ... on the national strategies for the reduction of biodegradable municipal waste going to landfills pursuant to Article 5(1) of the Directive 1999/31/EC on the landfill of waste; reference COM(2005) 105 final". The report is available at http://www.wales.gov.uk/keypubassemeuropeancomm2/content/euleg050411/index-e.htm. In summary, Austria, Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands and the Flemish Region already fulfil the targets set by the directive or have already taken the necessary measures to fulfil them.

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the performance of *(a)* the Government, *(b)* the Environment Agency and *(c)* the waste management industry in raising awareness amongst producers of hazardous waste of the application of hazardous waste acceptance criteria from 16 July. [10681]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** As part of the programme to implement the requirements of the Landfill and Hazardous Waste Directives (the 'LHIP'), Government and the Environment Agency put in place a communications group to coordinate actions to raise awareness of the controls, especially amongst hazardous waste producers. The waste industry has been closely involved both with this group and the wider Hazardous Waste Forum.

The programme involves a considerable number of actions by all players, including the provision of advice and guidance by the agency, industry and Envirowise, the organisation of seminars, and the production of leaflets and a dedicated website.

While no specific assessment of the performance of these communications activities has been undertaken, the Environment Agency has recently conducted an awareness survey of more than 1,000 small and medium sized businesses in England and Wales in 10 key sectors. The results of the survey will enable further communication activities to concentrate on certain sectors and for priority to be given to channels of communication and products considered to be most effective.

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether the Government support the use of mechanical biological treatment as part of the Waste Strategy. [11684]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Waste Strategy 2000 sets out the Government's aim to minimise waste and recover value from waste in line with the waste hierarchy. It includes targets to increase material recovery through recycling and composting, but does not support any particular technology to achieve them. Local authorities also have targets to divert biodegradable municipal waste from landfill under the landfill allowances trading scheme. Local authorities are responsible for and best placed to decide the most appropriate waste management facilities for their areas, based on local circumstances and their statutory obligations.

## Waste Fats

**Mr. Whittingdale:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what measures the Government are taking to prevent the accumulation of fats, oil and grease in the sewerage system; [11142]

(2) what measures the Government are taking to prevent the discharge of fats, oil and grease in to drains by supermarkets and catering establishments; [11143]

(3) if she will make it her policy to require supermarkets and catering establishments to install grease retention equipment; [11144]

(4) what assessment she has made of the cost to water companies of clearing accumulated fats, oil and grease; [11145]

(5) how many prosecutions have taken place under the Water Act 2003 Section III (1) for the discharge of fats, oil and grease into the sewerage system. [11146]

**Mr. Morley:** Sewerage undertakers have powers to control and reduce discharges of fat and oil into sewers. It is an offence under section 111 of the 1991 Act for a person to empty into a sewer, or any drain or sewer connecting with a public sewer, matter which is likely to injure, cause a nuisance to, or interfere with the free flow of the sewer or drain's contents, or to affect the treatment and disposal of its contents.

Sewerage undertakers are expected to take action where problems arise and to encourage appropriate preventative measures. In problem areas sewerage undertakers may work with local authority environmental health officers to identify suspect premises. In some areas there are voluntary schemes for installing grease control measures. At present there is no intention to require supermarkets and catering establishments to install grease retention equipment.

The Government do not assess the cost of clearing accumulated fats, oil and grease separately from the overall costs of operating and maintaining sewers and sewage treatment works. The Office of Water Services reports on these overall costs in its annual 'Financial performance and expenditure of the water companies in England and Wales' report.

My Department does not hold information on prosecutions under the Water Act Section III (1) for the discharge of fats, oil and grease into the sewerage system.

### Zoo Licences

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her timetable is for producing a database of zoo licences in England. [12709]

**Jim Knight:** My Department established a database of zoo licences in England last year. A summary of the information compiled was published on my Department's website in March this year and can be found at http://www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-countryside/gwd/pdf/zoos-list0503.pdf. The website will be updated later this year.

## CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

### Sickness Absence

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many days the Department has lost due to sickness in the past five years for which figures are available. [11496]

**Mr. Caborn:** Cabinet Office publishes an annual report Analysis of Sickness Absence in the Civil Service. The most recently published figures for the calendar year 2003 were announced by Ministerial Statement on 1 November 2004, and copies placed in the Libraries of the House.

DCMS is committed to managing sickness absence effectively building on best practice in the public sector. This includes a health and welfare programme, stress management guidance, a full range of flexible work patterns to support work-life balance, access to welfare services, an onsite gym and yoga classes.

### Swimming Pools

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the Answer of 30 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 1658W, on swimming pools, how many of the swimming pools mentioned were provided by *(a)* public and *(b)* private operators. [12246]

**Mr. Caborn:** The table identifies how many of the swimming pools in London are owned by local authorities, by commercial companies or by other organisations.

| | *Ownership type* | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *London borough* | *Public* | *Private* | *Other (eg school; health authority)* | *Unknown* | *Total number of pools* |
| Barking and Dagenham | 5 | 2 | 1 | — | 8 |
| Barnet | 7 | 13 | 2 | — | 22 |
| Bexley | 9 | 5 | — | — | 14 |
| Brent | 5 | 3 | — | — | 8 |
| Bromley | 14 | 9 | 5 | — | 28 |
| Camden | 10 | 11 | 4 | — | 25 |
| City of London | 2 | 11 | 1 | — | 14 |
| Croydon | 8 | 10 | 7 | 3 | 28 |
| Ealing | 7 | 14 | 4 | 1 | 26 |
| Enfield | 9 | 3 | 4 | — | 16 |
| Greenwich | 12 | 2 | 2 | — | 16 |
| Hackney | 3 | 2 | — | — | 5 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 3 | 9 | 6 | — | 18 |
| Haringey | 9 | 4 | 3 | — | 16 |
| Harrow | 4 | 2 | 5 | — | 11 |
| Havering | 4 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 12 |
| Hillingdon | 5 | 11 | 4 | — | 20 |
| Hounslow | 10 | 6 | — | — | 16 |
| Islington | 9 | 5 | — | — | 14 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 5 | 11 | — | — | 16 |
| Kingston upon Thames | 4 | 7 | — | 1 | 12 |
| Lambeth | 7 | 3 | — | 1 | 11 |
| Lewisham | 7 | 1 | 1 | — | 9 |
| Merton | 6 | 6 | 2 | — | 14 |
| Newham | 8 | 2 | — | — | 10 |
| Redbridge | 5 | 2 | 4 | — | 11 |
| Richmond | 7 | 6 | 6 | — | 19 |
| Southwark | 6 | 4 | 6 | 1 | 17 |
| Sutton | 3 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 12 |
| Tower Hamlets | 6 | 5 | — | — | 11 |
| Waltham Forest | 9 | 3 | 3 | — | 15 |
| Wandsworth | 11 | 4 | 5 | — | 20 |
| Westminster | 7 | 26 | 7 | — | 40 |

## TRANSPORT

### Biofuels

**Dr. Pugh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many licensed British vehicles are adapted to run on biofuels. [11586]

**Dr. Ladyman:** This information is not available.

### Bridge Strengthening (Costs)

**Kelvin Hopkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what costs *(a)* have been and *(b)* are

expected to be incurred in strengthening bridges by (i) the Highways Agency, (ii) Railtrack and (iii) local authorities to cater for the introduction of (A) 38 tonne, (B) 40 tonne and (C) 44 tonne lorries. [11836]

**Dr. Ladyman:** Strengthening bridges to carry 38 tonne and 44 tonne lorries is subsumed in strengthening to carry 40 tonne lorries with 11.5 tonne axle loads as this is more demanding in engineering terms.

The Highways Agency has so far spent £590 million in strengthening motorway and trunk road bridges to carry 40 tonne lorries, and currently expects to spend a further £80 million before the programme is completed.

There is no obligation on Network Rail (the successor to Railtrack) to strengthen its bridges carrying roads to accommodate 40 tonne lorries. If this carrying capacity was required, it would be for the local highway authority to provide the funding.

The costs of local highway authorities in strengthening bridges to carry 40 tonne lorries are not collated centrally. However, since 2001 the Department for Transport has provided £147 million to local authorities in England outside London to strengthen bridges on their primary routes to take these vehicles. Local authorities bid for this funding on an annual basis through their annual progress reports on their local transport plans.

### Crossrail

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the likely cost of the Crossrail project; what assessment has been made of the cost-effectiveness of the project; and if he will make a statement. [10371]

**Derek Twigg** *[holding answer 7 July 2005]:* The latest estimate of the cost of Crossrail is contained in the Estimate of Expense submitted with the Crossrail hybrid Bill. A review of the Crossrail project "Review of the Crossrail Business Case", which included an assessment of the costs and benefits of the project, was published by the Department for Transport in July 2004.

Subsequent assessments have confirmed that the benefits of the project can be expected to outweigh the costs. The Department for Transport's latest assessment using its existing appraisal methodology is that the project would have a benefit to cost ratio of between 1.6:1 and 1.8:1.

### Diesel Vehicles

**Dr. Pugh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what proportion of the British lorry and commercial vehicle fleet is powered by diesel fuel. [11587]

**Dr. Ladyman:** As at 31 March 2005, 65 per cent. of licensed commercial vehicles other than lorries were powered by diesel fuel. For lorries the proportion was 99 per cent.

### Driving Tests

**Mr. Michael Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 11 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 668W, how many *(a)* passes and *(b)* failures of motor car driving tests there were in each test centre in Worcestershire in each of the last five years. [12200]

**Dr. Ladyman:** The table shows the results of practical car driving tests conducted at test centres in Worcestershire in each of the last five years.

*Motor car driving test pass/fail stats 2000–05 in Worcestershire*

| | Fail | Pass | Total | Percentage pass |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Worcester DTC* | | | | |
| 2000–01 | 2,368 | 1,987 | 4,355 | 45.6 |
| 2001–02 | 2,430 | 2,379 | 4,809 | 49.5 |
| 2002–03 | 2,436 | 2,378 | 4,814 | 49.4 |
| 2003–04 | 2,868 | 2,729 | 5,597 | 48.8 |
| 2004–05 | 3,961 | 3,150 | 7,111 | 44.3 |
| *Kidderminster DTC* | | | | |
| 2000–01 | 1,463 | 1,455 | 2,918 | 49.9 |
| 2001–02 | 1,388 | 1,561 | 2,949 | 52.9 |
| 2002–03 | 1,631 | 1,839 | 3,470 | 53.0 |
| 2003–04 | 2,166 | 1,856 | 4,022 | 46.1 |
| 2004–05 | 3,006 | 2,522 | 5,528 | 45.6 |
| *Redditch DTC* | | | | |
| 2000–01 | 1,592 | 1,507 | 3,099 | 48.6 |
| 2001–02 | 1,666 | 1,457 | 3,123 | 46.7 |
| 2002–03 | 1,914 | 1,577 | 3,491 | 45.2 |
| 2003–04 | 2,158 | 1,685 | 3,843 | 43.8 |
| 2004–05 | 2,747 | 1,872 | 4,619 | 40.5 |

### Liquefied Petroleum Gas

**Dr. Pugh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what percentage of *(a)* private vehicles and *(b)* commercial vehicles are adapted to run on LPG fuel. [11578]

**Dr. Ladyman:** This information is not available.

### Night Flights (Heathrow)

**Dr. Cable:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what caused the disruption that led to an increase in flights leaving London Heathrow between 23.30 and 06.00 on the night of *(a)* 29 June and *(b)* 19 June; and if he will make a statement. [10088]

**Ms Buck:** The information requested is as follows.

*(a)* On the nights of 28/29 June and 29/30 June there was an increase in departures from Heathrow due to severe weather (including hail and thunderstorms) which significantly affected air traffic across British, European, Oceanic and some Trans Atlantic routes. This contributed to severe terminal congestion at Heathrow.

*(b)* On the afternoon and evening of 19 June there were severe delays to aircraft using Heathrow due to computer software problems at the Air Traffic Control Centre at Swanwick which led to air traffic flow restrictions. This necessitated more aircraft than usual being allowed to take-off and to land after 11.30 pm. The problems were resolved by the following morning.

The rules under which aircraft may be granted dispensations from the night restrictions have applied for many years. They were confirmed as part of the present night restrictions regime at Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted announced on 10 June 1999.

### Rail Services

**Mrs. Riordan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when the review of train services across the Northern train franchise region will be completed. [9738]

**Derek Twigg:** The review has been under way for some months now. We anticipate development of detailed options over the summer which would be fully consulted upon towards the end of the year.

### Road Schemes

**Colin Challen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the *(a)* expected cost when first submitted for approval and *(b)* most recently-estimated or final cost is of each road scheme (i) in the Targeted Programme of Improvements and (ii) submitted for funding through the Local Transport Plan Process between 1999–2000 and 2004–05. [11269]

**Dr. Ladyman:** The information requested has been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

### Speed Cameras

**Mr. Scott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much money has been collected in fines from motorists as a result of the speed camera at the southern end of the M11. [11964]

**Dr. Ladyman:** The Department's information on fines following offences detected by safety cameras relates to the totals for safety camera partnerships, and not to individual camera sites. Information on the total fine receipts and number of fines for each partnership for the latest audited year 2003–04 is available on the Department's website of responses to freedom of information requests.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many speed cameras are planned for each side of the A102 between the A11 and the A13. [12268]

**Dr. Ladyman:** The Department is not aware of any proposals to implement further speed camera sites on the A102 at the present time.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will list the locations of the speed cameras on both sides of the *(a)* A13 and *(b)* A127 between the M25 and Southend; and if he will list the planned locations of new speed cameras for both sides of the (i) A13 and (ii) A127 between the M25 and Southend. [12271]

**Dr. Ladyman:** The information is not held by the Department. The Essex Safety Camera Partnership publishes details of the number and location of all safety camera sites, available through its website www.essexsafetycameras.co.uk.

The Department is not aware of any proposals to implement further speed, camera sites on either the A13 or A127 at the present time.

### V5 Registration

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will *(a)* extend the deadline for replacement of V5 registration certificates and *(b)* publicise the need for replacement licences through additional channels. [12137]

**Dr. Ladyman:** The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency and its agents will continue to accept V5 registration documents supporting registration or licensing activities, provided the document is the last one issued.

The introduction of the new V5 registration certificate to meet EU requirements has already been the subject of an extensive publicity campaign. Advertisements have featured in a television campaign, the national and motoring press, as well as on major on-line sites. Information leaflets explaining the initiative have also been dispatched with DVLA mail. There are no plans to publicise the scheme further.

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the number of vehicle owners who should have applied for the new V5C licence have not done so. [12154]

**Dr. Ladyman:** The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency estimated that as of 1 June 2005, the number of old style V5 Vehicle Registration Documents remaining to be converted to the V5C Registration Certificate was approximately 800,000 (accounting for about 2.5 per cent. of vehicle keepers).

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will arrange for people whose vehicles which have been off the road since before Statutory Off Road Notification was introduced, and are exempted from Vehicle Excise Duty, to apply for a free replacement of the V5 registration by a EU model V5C registration certificate. [12136]

**Dr. Ladyman:** The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency has already made arrangements for all vehicle keepers who have not received the V5C registration certificate to be able to exchange their old V5 registration document free of charge. If a keeper is unable to produce the old V5 registration document, a fee of £19 is payable.

## TREASURY

### Constituency Statistics

**Mr. Betts:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will list for each parliamentary constituency the ratio of those aged 18 years and over at the last census to the number of registered electors, in order of the size of the ratio. [10815]

**John Healey** *[holding answer 12 July 2005]*: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Jil Matheson to Mr. Clive Betts, dated 14 July 2005:*

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent parliamentary question concerning the ratio of the population, aged 18 and over, recorded in the 2001 census to the number of residents who were registered to vote in each parliamentary constituency. I am replying in his absence. (10815)

I am placing in the House of Commons Library, a table supplying the requested information.

In order to give an estimate of the number of electors on census day (29 April 2001), a weighted average is taken of the 1 February 2001 and 1 December 2001 electoral data. Data are given for parliamentary electorates. Data for the local/European electorate, by parliamentary constituency are not readily available for 2001

It should be noted that the ratio of residents who are registered to vote in each constituency is not a reliable estimate of the registration rate of the eligible population: the resident population aged 18 and over is not the same as the number of people eligible to vote.

The UK parliamentary electorate excludes residents of countries other than the UK and the Commonwealth and includes UK citizens resident abroad. In addition not everyone who is usually resident is entitled to vote (foreign citizens from outside of the EU and Commonwealth, prisoners, etc. are not eligible) and people who have more than one address may register in more than one place. Also there is inevitably some double counting of the registered electorate as electoral registration officers vary in how quickly they remove people from the registers after they have moved away from an area or after they have died. This latter is the main reason why in some constituencies the population aged 18 and over is less than those registered to vote. These factors may have a different impact from place to place.

Furthermore, you should note that the Office for National Statistics (ONS) has revised the mid-2001 population estimates since the publication of the 2001 census results. In September 2003, revisions were made that added approximately 193,000 to the population of England and Wales. This revision primarily related to the addition of a number of young males that were not captured by the census. In September 2004, ONS made further revisions as a result of concluding studies designed to improve population estimates in the areas that proved hardest to count in the 2001 census in England and Wales. The results of this work showed that the one number census (ONC) worked well in most areas, but that there were a few cases where it was not able sufficiently to adjust for exceptional circumstances. The analysis showed that there was a need for revisions to the 2001 census based population figures of around 107,000 for England and Wales as a whole. The adjustments were included in the new mid-year population estimates for 2001, published in 2004. The census database itself was not revised following the publication of these adjustments. More details on these issues can be found at: www.statistics.gov.uk/lastudies .

Any comparison of these data with figures for other years should be made carefully as electoral legislation and other changes (such as EU expansion) can change the size of the electorate.

## Council Tax (Wales)

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what use the Valuation Office Agency made of private sector firms during the council tax revaluation in Wales. [11535]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The Valuation Office Agency did not make use of private sector firms during the council tax revaluation in Wales

## Departmental Purchasing

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will list the companies from which his Department has purchased goods and services of a total value above £1 million in each of the last three years; and how much was spent in respect of each company. [11740]

**John Healey:** The information for the Treasury including the Debt Management Office is set out in the following table:

£000

| | 2002–03 | 2003–04 | 2004–05 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Exchequer Partnership plc | 10,139 | 19,020 | 19,328 |
| Partnerships UK plc | 1,788 | 4,239 | 3,915 |
| Stationery Office Ltd. | 1,529 | 1,918 | [1]— |
| Robson Associates | 1,247 | 1,129 | 1,235 |
| Computacenter (UK) Ltd. | [1]— | [1]— | 1,841 |
| Paymaster (1836) Ltd. | [1]— | [1]— | 1,091 |

[1] Value of purchases in that year was less than £1 million.

*Notes:*

1. All figures are inclusive of VAT.

2. The Treasury and the Debt Management Office have a combined accounts payable function so the figures include purchases by either body.

## Earning (Tees Valley)

**Vera Baird:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average weekly earnings is of a *(a)* male and *(b)* female full-time worker in (i) Tees Valley and (ii) the UK in the last period for which figures are available. [11903]

**John Healey:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Len Cook to Vera Baird, dated 14 July 2005:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what were the average weekly earnings of a *(a)* male and *(b)* female full-time worker in (i) Tees Valley and (ii) the UK. (11903)

Average earnings are estimated from the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings and are provided for employees on adult rates of pay whose pay was unaffected by absence during the pay period, by their place of work. This is the standard definition used for Annual Survey of Hours and Earning tables. The Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings does not collect data on the self employed and people who do unpaid work.

I attach a table showing the average gross weekly earnings for full-time employees in Tees Valley, the constituent Unitary Authorities of Tees Valley and the United Kingdom in 2004. The Unitary Authority and UK statistics are also available on the National Statistics website on table 7: http://www.statistics.gov.uk/STATBASE/Product.asp?vlnk = 13101

The Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, carried out in April of each year, is the most comprehensive source of earnings information in the United Kingdom. It has a one per cent. sample of all employees.

*Means and medians for full-time male and female employees in the United Kingdom, Tees Valley and unitary authorities in the Tees Valley area*

| | Median | CV (percentage)[1] | Mean | CV (percentage)[1] |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Male* | | | | |
| United Kingdom | 462.0 | 0.2 | 556.8 | 0.3 |
| Tees Valley | 426.8 | 4.2 | 496.6 | 3.0 |
| Darlington UA | 413.6 | 9.4 | 459.8 | 5.3 |
| Hartlepool UA | 372.7 | 15.0 | 472.5 | 9.6 |
| Middlesbrough UA | 392.8 | 6.1 | 474.2 | 7.4 |
| Redcar and Cleveland UA | 514.8 | 6.4 | 537.3 | 5.4 |
| Stockton-on-Tees UA | 436.7 | 6.3 | 519.8 | 6.0 |
| *Female* | | | | |
| United Kingdom | 358.0 | 0.4 | 420.2 | 0.3 |
| Tees Valley | 306.1 | 4.9 | 354.0 | 3.8 |
| Darlington UA | 321.5 | 8.7 | 339.1 | 4.9 |
| Hartlepool UA | 250.2 | 15.0 | 286.9 | 10.0 |
| Middlesbrough UA | 319.4 | 11.0 | 372.9 | 5.1 |
| Redcar and Cleveland UA | 297.5 | 16.0 | 397.9 | 17.0 |
| Stockton-on-Tees UA | 283.9 | 9.5 | 341.2 | 5.9 |

[1] Guide to quality:
The Coefficient of Variation (CV) is given to indicate the quality of a figure, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality.
The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV e.g. for an average of 200 with a CV of 5 per cent. we would expect the population average to be within the range 180 to 220.

*Notes:*
1. The Annual purvey of Hours and Earnings, (ASHE), carried out in April of each year, is the most comprehensive source of earnings information in the United Kingdom. It is a 1 per cent. sample of all employees.
2. The ASHE replaces the New Earnings Survey (NES) from October 2004. The main difference between the ASHE and NES being that estimates are weighted to population totals from the Labour Force Survey.
3. Average gross weekly earnings for adult full-time employees whose pay for the survey period was not affected by absence.

*Source:*
Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, ONS

## GM Crops

**Mr. Meacher:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what action the UK Government have taken *(a)* to detect animal feed shipments contaminated with the unapproved BX10 variety of GM maize, *(b)* to prevent such illegal shipments from reaching the UK and *(c)* to train and equip UK port authorities to detect unapproved GM contaminants in food and feed imports. [11811]

**Caroline Flint:** I have been asked to reply.

The detection method and reference material which was provided by the European Commission's Joint Research Centre to allow testing by member states has been forwarded to public analyst laboratories in the United Kingdom which will carry out testing for local authorities. To date, two local authorities have reported negative results for analysis carried out on imports for Btl0.

The requirement for certification of United States of America imports is in place, following the introduction of national regulations setting out the necessary enforcement powers at the end of April. Before this date, enforcement bodies were able to use general food safety powers to detain imports of the relevant products. consignments were released when the importer provided evidence that Btl0 was not present.

UK enforcement officers authorised to inspect, detain or seize food or feed are required to have specific qualifications and training. General enforcement guidance on the control of imported food and feed and, specific advice on the control of unapproved Btl0 genetically modified contamination has also been issued by the Food Standards Agency (FSA) to the relevant enforcement authorities. Analysis and detection of GM contamination would be carried out by the public analyst or agricultural analyst formally appointed by the local enforcement authority.

The FSA will carry out its own surveillance work and plans for this are currently being developed. The outcome of this work will be used to inform the Commission's review of this new requirement in October.

## Household Numbers

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the number of households in *(a)* England, *(b)* Wales, *(c)* Scotland and *(d)* Northern Ireland, broken down by Government Office Region. [12012]

**John Healey:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Colin Mowl to Mrs. Caroline Spelman, dated 14 July 2005:*

The National Statistician and Registrar General for England and Wales has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking for an estimate of the number of households in *(a)* England, *(b)* Wales, *(c)* Scotland and *(d)* Northern Ireland, broken down by Government Office Region for the most recent year for which figures are available. I am replying in his absence. (12012)

The 2001 Census provides the most recent figures available for the number of households. Government Office Regions only occur in England, but Scotland,

Wales and Northern Ireland are regarded as an equivalent for statistical purposes. The attached table shows the number of households in each Government Office Region in England and the total households for Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. The figures have been extracted from Table S027 in the Census 2001 National Report, which provides household figures.

*Number of households in each Government Office Region in England and total households for Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, from 2001 Census*

| *Area* | *All households* |
|---|---|
| North-east | 1,066,292 |
| North-west | 2,812,789 |
| Yorkshire and The Humber | 2,064,748 |
| East Midlands | 1,732,482 |
| West Midlands | 2,153,672 |
| East | 2,231,974 |
| London | 3,015,997 |
| South-east | 3,287,489 |
| South-west | 2,085,984 |
| Wales | 1,209,048 |
| Scotland | 2,192,246 |
| Northern Ireland | 626,718 |

*Source:*
Table S027 Census 2001 National Report.

### Inland Revenue

**Mr. Gerrard:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he *(a)* has taken and *(b)* proposes to take to ensure that the provisions of the Data Protection (Processing of Sensitive Personal Data) (Elected Representatives) Order 2002 are fully applied by Inland Revenue offices in relation to communications to the Inland Revenue by hon. Members on behalf of their constituents. [12192]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Guidance is provided for staff of the Inland Revenue, now HM Revenue and Customs, in relation to hon. Members' communications with the department on behalf of their constituents. This guidance takes account both of the relevant data protection legislation, and the special legislation which governs information held by the department.

### Sickness Absence

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many days the Department has lost due to sickness in the past five years for which figures are available. [11475]

**John Healey:** The information on average working days sickness absence covering the years 1999 to 2003 for the Treasury and HM Revenue and Customs is available from the "Analysis of Sickness Absence in the Civil Service" published by the Cabinet Office. Table A of the report gives details of both the average working days absence per staff year and the number of staff years on which that calculation is based on. Reports for 1999, 2000, 2001 and 2002 are also available in the Library and on the Cabinet Office website at:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/management_information/conditions_of_service/caje/publications/index.asp#sickness

### Sudden Adult Death Syndrome

**Jenny Willott:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will change the method by which deaths are recorded in order to identify deaths caused by sudden adult death syndrome; and if he will make a statement. [11561]

**John Healey:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the national statistician who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Colin Mowl to Jennifer Willott, dated 14 July 2005:*

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent question concerning the method by which deaths are recorded in order to identify deaths caused by sudden adult death syndrome. I am replying in his absence. (11561)

In England and Wales, deaths that are sudden and of unknown cause must be referred to the coroner for investigation. If, after investigation, the coroner certifies the death as due to sudden adult death syndrome, or states that the death was sudden and no cause could be identified, it is coded to R96 in the tenth revision of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases. These deaths are counted as sudden adult deaths.

If a more specific pathology or disease process is identified at autopsy, the coroner should write it on the death certificate. ONS will then use this information to code the cause of death. In these cases, the fact that the death was sudden is not systematically recorded at present. In preparing a first session draft bill to reform the death certification and coroner service, the Government will review what additional information should be recorded at death.

### Tax Credits

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many of his staff have been *(a)* dismissed and *(b)* moved to other jobs as a result of their responsibility for the problems surrounding the implementation of tax credits; and if he will make a statement. [11036]

**Dawn Primarolo:** None.

**Mr. George Osborne:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many tax credit awards were made to people with incomes in excess of *(a)* £50,000, *(b)* £52,500, *(c)* £55,000 and *(d)* £57,500 in (i) 2003–04 and (ii) 2004–05; and if he will make a statement. [11450]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Estimates of the average number of tax credit awards broken down by income for 2003–04 awards is available in the HMRC publication "Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics. Finalised annual awards 2003–04." This publication can be found on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-quarterly-stats.htm.

Table 2.9 of this publication shows the average number of in-work benefiting families in each band of income used to taper awards In 2003–04, after taking into account their final family circumstances and income. This shows that there was an estimated average of 112,000 families with such incomes over £50,000, after taking into account the disregard.

A further breakdown of incomes over £50,000 show that for 72,000 of these families the income was over £52,500, for 36,000 it was over £55,000 and for 7,000 it was over £57,500. These figures exclude families whose tax credits awards were tapered to zero. The relevant incomes have been measured net of the disregard of the first £2,500 increase over 2001–02 incomes.

Statistics on finalised 2004–05 awards cannot be compiled until all families report their 2004–05 incomes; they are due to be published in May 2006.

**Mr. George Osborne:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the largest overpayment in a single year to one recipient under the tax credit system was. [11455]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The information requested is not available except at disproportionate cost.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many awards of *(a)* children's tax credit, *(b)* working families tax credit and *(c)* disabled person's tax credit were made in 2002–03; and what the cost per award of administration was in that year. [11844]

**Dawn Primarolo:** An estimated 3.9 million families benefited from children's tax credit in 2002–03. The cost per award of administration for children's tax credit is not available.

Estimates of the number of recipient families for working families' and disabled person's tax credits for 2002–03 appear in the published Quarterly Enquiries. These publications can be found on the Inland Revenue website, at

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/menu.htm

The costs of managing and paying working families' and disabled person's tax credits for 2002–03 are shown in the Inland Revenue Trust Accounts, Note 4, for the year ending 31 March 2003.

### Travel Concessions

**Mr. Clelland:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 11 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 699W, on travel concessions, what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Transport on the contribution to the relief of traffic congestion that might be made by abolishing the taxation applied to employer-provided travel concessions. [12110]

**John Healey:** There have been no specific discussions on the relationship between traffic congestion and tax relief for employer-provided travel concessions. However, the Treasury continues to discuss a range of transport issues with the DfT on an ongoing basis.

### Water Rates

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what role the Valuation Office Agency plays in the assessment of rateable values for water rates. [12015]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The rateable values, used for water rates, were contained In the 1973 rating list. This rating list was effective from 1 April 1973 to 31 March 1990 and the Valuation Office Agency was, at this time, responsible for assessing the rateable values and maintaining this list. With the introduction of community charge, on 1 April 1990 (replaced by council tax on 1 April 1993), all rating assessments on domestic property ceased to exist, but water companies use these historic rateable values in levying charges for water and sewerage rates. There is now no mechanism for the Valuation Office Agency to amend rateable values shown in the 1973 rating list.

## SOLICITOR-GENERAL

### Corruption

25. **Hugh Bayley:** To ask the Solicitor-General If he will make a statement on his role in combating corruption. [11941]

**The Solicitor-General:** The Attorney General is responsible for superintending the work of the Director of Public Prosecutions as head of the CPS and the Director of the Serious Fraud Office. Both these departments have responsibility for prosecuting corruption cases. The Serious Fraud Office also has power to investigate allegations of corruption. By statute. Law Officer consent must be given before corruption offences can be prosecuted.

### ASBOs

27. **Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Solicitor-General how many prosecutions there have been for breaches of antisocial behaviour orders since their introduction. [11943]

**The Solicitor-General:** Of the 1,892 ASBOs issued in England and Wales up to December 2003, 793 or 42 per cent. Were breached.[1] The CPS does not have discrete data for the number of prosecutions for breaches of antisocial behaviour orders since their introduction in 1999.

[1] Official Home Office statistics are based on data obtained from the courts proceedings database and compared to the database on number of ASBOs issued. Data is available up to December 2003. Breaches are counted on a person basis, i.e. multiple breaches (occurring at the same time), or where the order has been breached on more than one occasion, are all counted as one breach.

28. **Ben Chapman:** To ask the Solicitor-General how many prosecutions for breaches of antisocial behaviour orders the Crown Prosecution Service has brought in *(a)* Wirral South and *(b)* Merseyside. [11944]

**The Solicitor-General:** Of the 71 ASBOs issued in Merseyside up to December 2003, 22 or 31 per cent. were breached. Statistics for Wirral South are not available.[1] The CPS does not have discrete data for the number of prosecutions for breaches of antisocial behaviour orders.

[1] Official Home Office statistics are based on data obtained from the courts proceedings database and compared to the database on number of ASBOs issued. Breaches are counted on a person basis, i.e. multiple breaches (occurring at the same time), or where the order has been breached on more than one occasion, are all counted as one breach.

### Alvis

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Solicitor-General what the timetable is for the Serious Fraud Office completing its investigations into the allegations of corruption with respect to the sale of Alvis vehicles to Indonesia in the 1990s; and if he will make a statement. [11678]

**The Solicitor-General:** The SFO cannot confirm or deny whether a specific matter has been referred to it or is under investigation until such a time as is considered appropriate.

The SFO has been designated the lead authority for vetting allegations of overseas corruption by UK companies or individuals. Currently the SFO is vetting thirteen cases where such corruption offences have been alleged.

### Crown Prosecution Service

**Ms Keeble:** To ask the Solicitor-General what steps he is taking to expedite decision-making within the Crown Prosecution Service. [11942]

**The Solicitor-General:** Each case handled by the CPS is reviewed individually to make sure that both the evidence and the public interest support a prosecution. This process continues throughout the life of the case. Circumstances may change during the lifetime of a case, for example as new evidence emerges, and the prosecutor's decision must take account of these changing realities regardless of when they come to light.

The introduction of statutory charging has helped to expedite CPS decision making. By involving prosecutors earlier in the process, they are able to ensure that key decisions are taken as early in the life of a case as possible and, in particular, that cases which are not viable are identified at the very outset of the prosecution process. The establishment of CPS Direct means that the CPS is able to give advice and make immediate charging decisions 24-hours a day, 365 days a year.

**Simon Hughes:** To ask the Solicitor-General what percentage of cases referred to the Crown Prosecution Service were not proceeded with because of the unwillingness of witnesses to give evidence in each of the last five years. [11939]

**The Solicitor-General:** During the year ending March 2005, 1.7 per cent. of all CPS prosecutions resulted in an unsuccessful outcome through the unwillingness or non-attendance of witnesses. Comparable figures are not held for previous years.

**Vera Baird:** To ask the Solicitor-General if he will take steps to ensure that letters from the Crown Prosecution Service explaining the discontinuance of a criminal prosecution are written in clear non-technical language. [11900]

**The Solicitor-General:** All crown prosecutors are required to attend a two day training course about writing letters to explain the reasons for their decisions. They are also provided with a comprehensive guidance manual which requires written communication to be clear, accurate, succinct, objective, human and to avoid jargon. Guidance also instructs crown prosecutors to use plain English.

Chief crown prosecutors have responsibility for ensuring that letters issued meet the appropriate standards of quality and timeliness. Area performance, including the direct communication with victims initiative, is reviewed at regular intervals with the Director of Public Prosecutions.

The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) Business Development Directorate is currently conducting a review of the direct communication with victims initiative, and will assess whether any further measures are required to ensure the quality and timeliness of written communications.

### Iraq

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Solicitor-General pursuant to the answer of 27 June, *Official Report*, column 1180W, on Iraq, whether the Government gave permission for the Butler Review to disclose that the Attorney General made an oral presentation to the Cabinet of his advice on the legality of the war in Iraq. [11810]

**The Solicitor-General:** The content of the report of the Butler Review of Intelligence of Weapons of Mass Destruction was the responsibility of the Butler Committee.

### Recidivism

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Solicitor-General pursuant to his Answer of 7 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 456W, on theft, how many young people subject to the diversion scheme did not re-offend in each of the last three years. [7219]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** I have been asked to reply.

The information is not readily available in the form requested. Information on reconviction rates for juvenile offenders are published annually by both disposal and by offence, but not for combinations of these. The table shows the actual one year reconviction rates for those young offenders sentenced or released from custody in the first quarter of 2001, 2002, and 2003.

Further data on reconviction rates for juvenile offenders are available in Home Office Online Report 08/05, published February 2005

*Percentage of juveniles who were not reconvicted within one year*

| | *Pre-court disposals* | *Theft and handling offences* |
|---|---|---|
| 2001 cohort | 81.0 | 65.7 |
| 2002 cohort | 80.9 | 64.2 |
| 2003 cohort | 80.3 | 64.3 |

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS

### Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what breaches of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention have occurred since 1980; and if he will make a statement. [9068]

**Dr. Howells:** Article VI of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC) permits any State Party to the convention to lodge a complaint with the Security Council of the United Nations if they find that any other State Party is in breach of obligations deriving from the provisions of the convention. To date no complaints of breaches of the obligations of the convention have been submitted to the United Nations. As one of the Depositary Governments of the BTWC, the UK views the issue of compliance with the convention as being of central importance and routinely monitors the compliance of all States Parties to the convention.

### Central Africa

**Mark Simmonds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment

the Government have made of Burundi's and Rwanda's violations of their obligations under international conventions on refugees; and if he will make a statement. [11818]

**Ian Pearson:** We have received several reports that the actions of the Rwandan and Burundian Governments in returning Rwandans from Burundi may have contravened international law. The facts remain unclear.

We have been in touch with both countries' Governments and have reminded them of their international legal obligations under the 1951 refugee convention, to which both countries are signatories. We pressed them to consider fully individuals' right to asylum and to co-operate fully with staff of the UN High Commission for Refugees and other UN agencies.

**John Bercow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of reports that large-scale arms deliveries from Eastern Europe and the Balkans continue to be made to the Great Lakes Region despite the UN Security Council mandatory embargo. [11867]

**Ian Pearson:** Despite recent international efforts to strengthen and enforce the UN and EU arms embargoes, and the creation in 2004 of a UN group of experts to monitor implementation and examine reported breaches, there is some evidence that rebel groups in the Democratic Republic of Congo continue to receive supplies of arms and ammunition.

The UK takes the enforcement of these embargoes very seriously and will examine carefully the latest reports of breaches of the arms embargo before assessing what further action might be appropriate. Any information we receive relating to the potential involvement of UK entities in alleged sanctions-breaches is reported promptly to the relevant UK authorities for their investigation.

**John Bercow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what action has been taken by his Department to stem the flow of arms to the Great Lakes Region. [11868]

**Ian Pearson:** We were instrumental in securing the adoption of Security Council resolution 1596 on 18 April 2005 which, among other measures, extended the UN embargo to cover the whole of the Democratic Republic of Congo's (DRC) territory and introduced a travel ban and assets freeze to be imposed on individuals violating the embargo.

We have repeatedly raised our concerns with the Governments of the DRC and its neighbours about illicit flows of arms, urging them to prevent arms transiting their territory and to tighten border security. We have been in touch with the Rwandan and Ugandan Governments most recently, on 30 June and 1 July respectively.

**John Bercow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of reports that British-based firms have been involved in delivering arms to the Great Lakes Region. [11869]

**Ian Pearson:** We take seriously any allegations that UK entities may have been involved in the illicit supply of arms to embargoed destinations. Any evidence we receive is passed promptly to the relevant UK authorities for their investigation. Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs made inquiries into these allegations in 2003 but found no evidence of any offences.

All export licence applications are rigorously assessed on a case by case basis against the Consolidated EU and National Arms Export Licensing Criteria. Export or trade licences issued recently for military-listed equipment going from the UK to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) have been consistent with the exemptions to the UN and EU embargoes on the DRC, which allow the export of non-lethal equipment for humanitarian or protective use as well as equipment for the UN mission in the DRC and the integrated army and police of the DRC.

**John Bercow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the operation of the arms embargo in the Democratic Republic of Congo. [11865]

**Ian Pearson:** The UK continues to observe and support strongly the UN and EU arms embargoes on the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Despite international efforts to enforce the embargoes, and the creation of a UN group of experts to monitor implementation and examine reported breaches, there is some evidence that rebel groups operating in eastern DRC continue to receive supplies of arms and ammunition.

We continue to work to strengthen enforcement of the embargoes, and are working with Security Council partners to identify and impose assets freezes and travel bans on those who are found to have violated the UN embargo.

### Correspondence

**Mr. Salmond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he will reply to the letter dated 12 May from the hon. Member for Banff and Buchan regarding the subject of sex tourism. [10985]

**Ian Pearson** *[holding answer 11 July 2005]:* I replied to the hon. Member on 13 July. I apologise for the delay.

### Corruption

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment his Department has made of comparative levels of corruption within African Governments; whether a grading system exists for assessing such corruption; and if he will make a statement. [11744]

**Ian Pearson:** In the course of their normal reporting, our overseas posts comment on the impact and perceived extent of corruption in their host countries. However, there is no official grading system to compare levels of corruption. The only international ranking of which I am aware is Transparency International's annual Corruption Perceptions Index, last published in

October 2004. The index is available on the Transparency International's website: http://www.transparency.org/

### Ethiopia

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on his policy towards the Ethiopian Government in the context of the latest elections. [11753]

**Ian Pearson:** Ethiopia's 15 May general elections were a step forward in the democratisation process. However, we were extremely concerned by the subsequent violence and detentions of large numbers of opposition supporters. We have made our concerns clear to the Government of Ethiopia and have urged all parties to respect the democratic process. The Ethiopian National Electoral Board is still investigating allegations of irregularities in a number of constituencies. We urge all parties to continue to participate in this process in a constructive manner. International observers, including the European Union Observer Mission, continue to monitor the election process closely.

### Iran

**Mark Simmonds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions have taken place with his EU counterparts regarding the future of the EU3 negotiations with Iran on its nuclear programme following the recent Iranian election. [11816]

**Dr. Howells:** Discussions continue between Iran and the UK, France and Germany (the 'E3'), supported by the EU high representative, under the framework agreed in Paris in November 2004. Iran's President-elect, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, has said that the process should go on, and the E3 remain fully committed to it.

The E3 have agreed to present further ideas, including on long-term arrangements for Iran's nuclear programme. Officials are currently working on these. We will remain in close touch with our partners in the EU and elsewhere as our ideas develop. Long- term arrangements must provide objective guarantees that Iran's nuclear programme is exclusively for peaceful purposes.

### Madagascar

**Mr. Mullin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when and for what reason his Department last decided to close the embassy in Madagascar; and when and for what reason it was re-opened. [11766]

**Ian Pearson:** The British embassy in Madagascar was closed in February 1976 as part of a round of economies following a reduction in public expenditure announced in the 1975 Budget.

The embassy was subsequently reopened in 1979. The reasons behind this decision included: Madagascar's then strategic position in the Indian ocean during the cold war; the fact that following UK entry into the EEC there were deemed to be commercial opportunities in Madagascar that British companies were missing and a high profile consular case that required work from UK-based staff.

### Non-proliferation Treaty/Weapons Conventions

**Mark Lazarowicz:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what measures the Government are taking to ensure the full implementation of the *(a)* Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty and *(b)* Biological and Chemical Weapons Conventions. [10104]

**Dr. Howells:** The Government continues to attach the utmost importance to the full implementation of all the Non-Proliferation Treaties. We continue to work with other countries and the International Atomic Energy Agency to strengthen the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. The UK, as a Co Depository Government of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC), actively supports all appropriate measures that would strengthen the Convention and the UK is chairing the 2005 intersessional meetings of the BTWC. As a State Party to the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), the UK contributes actively to the work of Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW). The UK led negotiations on an OPCW Action Plan on the implementation of the CWC.

### Sudan

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the decision of the EU to appoint a special representative to the Sudan. [11430]

**Ian Pearson:** The decision as to whether to appoint an EU special representative to Sudan (EUSR) is still awaiting final approval of the Council of Ministers. An EUSR will bolster the EU's efforts to support the peace process there, both by supporting the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in Darfur and working, notably with the African Union (AU), to help resolve the crisis in Darfur. The UK is in favour of this proposal. The EU is already heavily engaged in Sudan. They are providing significant support to the AU mission in Darfur, including planning experts, technical, financial, material and logistic support to AU mission in Sudan and supporting the civilian policing aspects of the mission, and the European Commission has committed $765 million of development and humanitarian assistance. The deadline for applications closed on 7 July. The candidates will be interviewed, with the appointment taking effect in September.

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate his Department has made of the weekly level of fatalities in southern Sudan; and if he will make a statement. [11743]

**Ian Pearson:** Signature of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) on 9 January 2005 brought to an end more than 20 years of civil war in the south, which claimed an estimated 2 million lives. Since signature of this Agreement, a permanent ceasefire has been in place, which will be monitored by a UN Peace Support Operation. Signature of the CPA also opened up access to urgently needed development assistance to southern Sudan, which will help improve the quality of life of the people there.

But there is much to do. The health system is fragmented and there is no consolidated mortality/morbidity reporting. Estimates in the 2003 World Bank

Status Report on South Sudan describe access to health care in the south as the worst in the world; and states that there are no infant or crude mortality rates given the deteriorated state of health care across the south. Pockets of civilian-directed violence also remain, particularly in areas of Equatoria occupied by the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA).

The UK has allocated £112.5 million of assistance this year to the whole of Sudan, much of which will go to the south. We have funded vaccination campaigns to reduce the number of deaths due to disease. We are also pressing the new presidency of the Government of National Unity, inaugurated on 9 July, fully to implement the CPA, including its commitment to disarm, repatriate or expel foreign insurgency groups, including the LRA.

## TRADE AND INDUSTRY

### I-dialling

**Helen Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what steps he is taking to increase consumer awareness of i-dialling scams. [10842]

**Alun Michael:** By i-dialling I take it that the hon. Member means rogue Premium Rate diallers on the internet running up large bills for consumers. The Independent Committee for the Supervision of Standards of Telephone Information Services (ICSTIS) regulates Premium Rate Services through its Code of Practice. Recommendation 10 of the Ofcom Review of Premium Rate Regulation encourages ICSTIS to develop its role in providing consumer information and to draw up a set of guidelines to govern its activities in this area. ICSTIS is currently finalising these guidelines following consultation and they are expected to be in place shortly. In addition the telecoms operators have been working hard to raise customer awareness of internet dialler scams and to ensure that customers are informed about how best to protect themselves. Advice is posted on BT's website at http://www.bt.com/premiumrates/ and on the websites of other companies.

### Northamptonshire Footwear Industry

**Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what his latest assessment is of *(a)* the economic strength of the Northamptonshire footwear manufacturing industry and *(b)* the competitive pressures it faces from China and elsewhere; and what steps his Department is taking to promote Northamptonshire's boot and shoe trade. [11198]

**Alun Michael:** The European Commission has opened two anti-dumping investigations into *(a)* footwear with a protective toecap from China and India; and *(b)* footwear with uppers of leather, originating in China and Vietnam. The purpose of the investigations will be to determine whether or not dumping has occurred. Dumping is considered unfair trade and the European Commission may impose anti-dumping duties to counteract it.

UK Trade and Investment is the Government organisation that supports companies in the UK doing business internationally. UK Trade and Investment services are available to companies through locally-based teams, including the International Trade team based at Northamptonshire Chamber of Commerce and Business Link.

No specific assessment has been made of the Northamptonshire footwear manufacturing industry or of the competitive pressures facing the industry from imports, but details of the Government's manufacturing strategy are available on the DTI website.

### Royal Mail (Misdelivery)

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what steps he is taking to ensure that mail is delivered to the correct address by the Royal Mail; and if he will make a statement. [12288]

**Barry Gardiner:** Ensuring mail is delivered to the correct address is an operational matter for Royal Mail. I have received assurances from Allan Leighton and Adam Crozier that the Board will continue to give quality of service top priority.

Royal Mail Board members are incentivised to improve the company's quality of service and meet its regulatory targets. Postcomm has powers to impose penalties on Royal Mail if it fails to meet these targets.

### Telephone Boxes

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many telephone boxes he expects to be available in each of the next five years. [10795]

**Alun Michael:** Approximately 68,000 BT public call boxes exist at present. However, it is impossible to predict how many public call boxes will be available in each of the next five years. Under an Office of Communications (Ofcom) Direction implementing the Universal Service Obligation, local authorities can veto the removal of the last callbox on a site, which comprises any area within a walking distance of 100 metres from the call box.

## ELECTORAL COMMISSION

### Election Expenditure

**Mr. Prisk:** To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what the total amount spent by the Electoral Commission *(a)* prior to the 2005 Election and *(b)* during the 2005 election was on (i) television advertising, (ii) telephone hotlines, (iii) websites, (iv) screen adverts at train stations, (v) posters, (vi) postcards, (vii) postage, (viii) advertisements on buses and bus stops and (ix) radio advertising as part of the About my Vote and Don't Do Politics campaign. [11665]

**Peter Viggers:** The Electoral Commission informs me that expenditure in the specified categories as part of the About my Vote and Don't Do Politics campaign is as set out in the following table:

| | (a) Pre-election campaign 2003-04[1] | 2004-05[2] | (b) Election campaign[3] |
|---|---|---|---|
| (i) Television advertising | 1,391,127 | 3,349,279 | 1,916,051 |
| (ii) Telephone hotlines | 38,360 | 125,970 | 86,045 |
| (iii) Websites (www.aboutmyvote.co.uk) | 54,571 | 19,905 | 2,033 |
| (iv) Screen adverts at train stations | 0 | 0 | 23,969 |
| (v) Posters | 0 | 0 | 4,953 |
| (vi) Postcards | 0 | 0 | 88 |
| (vii) Postage | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| (viii) Adverts on buses and at bus stops | 0 | 0 | 9,466 |
| (ix) Radio advertising | 0 | 0 | 749,860 |

[1] 2003–04 *(a)* costs include initial campaign production and spring 2004 registration campaign.
[2] 2004–05 *(a)* costs include 20 June 2004 election campaign and spring 2005 registration campaign.
[3] Election campaign costs *(b)* include general election campaign costs incurred from 1 April 2005.

## HEALTH

### Ambulance Services

**Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will amend the targets for ambulance trusts to reflect clinical outcomes rather than vehicle response times. [11434]

**Mr. Byrne:** The recently published review of ambulance services, "Taking Healthcare to the Patient: Transforming NHS Ambulance Services", recommends that while national performance requirements should continue to focus on speed of response for those patients with immediately life-threatening conditions, category A, national performance requirements for category B response times should over time be replaced by clinical and outcome indicators. This change should happen once the evidence base, technology and professional consensus are sufficiently developed to make this possible. Ministers have accepted these recommendations.

"Taking Healthcare to the Patient: Transforming NHS Ambulance Services" is available in the Library.

### Asthma (Bedfordshire)

**Mrs. Dorries:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* adults and *(b)* children in Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire NHS primary care trust have been recorded as suffering from asthma in each year since 1997. [11021]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The Department publishes information about the number of admitted care episodes in national health service hospitals where asthma was the primary diagnosis. The table shows the finished admission episodes for asthma for under 18 and over 18 age groups for residents in Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire strategic health authority (SHA) in each year between 1997–98 to 2003–04.

Information about the incidence of asthma is not currently available. However, the Health and Social Care Information Centre is due to publish data shortly about the numbers of people in each primary care trust (PCT) area recorded with asthma in 2004–05, which will be available on its website shortly.

*Primary diagnosis: asthma (ICD-10 codes J45-J46), finished admission episodes, Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire SHA of residence, national health service hospitals, England 1997–98 to 2003–04*

| | Adults (aged over 18) | Children (aged 0–17) | Age not known | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1997–98 | 988 | 1,229 | 1 | 2,218 |
| 1998–99 | 1,014 | 1,169 | — | 2,183 |
| 1999–2000 | 943 | 1,025 | 1 | 1,969 |
| 2000–01 | 716 | 821 | — | 1,537 |
| 2001–02 | 811 | 1,007 | — | 1,818 |
| 2002–03 | 919 | 884 | — | 1,803 |
| 2003–04 | 898 | 735 | — | 1,633 |

*Notes:*
1. A finished admission episode is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. Please note that admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.
2. The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 14—seven prior to 2002–03—diagnosis fields in the hospital episode statistics (HES) data set and provides the main reason why the patient was in hospital.
3. Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data—i.e. the data is un-grossed.

*Source:*
HES, Health and Social Care Information Centre.

### Bedford Hospital NHS Trust

**Mrs. Dorries:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions she has had regarding the anticipated overspend of Bedford Hospital NHS Trust; and if she will make a statement. [11004]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** It is the responsibility of strategic health authorities to deliver both overall financial balance for their local health communities and to ensure each and every body achieves financial balance.

Officials have been in discussion with Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire SHA to ensure it is taking appropriate action in relation to the anticipated deficit position of Bedford Hospital National Health Service Trust.

**Mrs. Dorries:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many incidents of violence were recorded against NHS staff in Bedford Hospital NHS Trust in each year since 1997; and how many people were prosecuted in each year as a result. [11007]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The table shows the number of reported violent incidents against national health service staff in the Bedford Hospital NHS Trust for the years 2000–01, 2001–02 and 2002–03. Information is not available prior to 2000. The information is from the

violence, accidents and harassments in the NHS survey. As the survey has been discontinued, figures for 2004 are not available. The Department does not collect information about the number of prosecutions resulting from violent assaults.

*NHS hospital and community health services: recorded incidents, on staff, of violent attacks and assaults in the Bedford Hospitals NHS Trust in each specified period*

| *RC1 Bedford Hospitals NHS Trust* | *Number of reported violent incidents* |
|---|---|
| 2000-01 | 33 |
| 2001-02 | 126 |
| 2002-03 | 86 |

*Notes:*
1. Covers 1 April to 31 March for the specific years.
2. This data collection was discontinued in 2003.

*Source:*
Survey of violence, accidents and harassments in the NHS.

## Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire SHA

**Mrs. Dorries:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people are employed by the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire strategic health authority; and in what roles. [11026]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The number of people employed by the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire strategic health authority (SHA) and their roles is shown in the table.

*National health service hospital and community health services: Non-medical staff directly employed by the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire SHA as at 30 September 2004*

| | *Headcount* |
|---|---|
| Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire SHA (Q02) | 84 |
| Support to clinical staff | 2 |
| Support to doctors and nurses | 2 |
| NHS infrastructure support | 82 |
| Central functions | 28 |
| Managers and senior managers | 54 |

*Source:*
Health and Social Care Information Centre non-medical workforce census 2004.

## Birth Centres

**Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether she has developed booking criteria for admission to birth centres; [11433]

(2) if she will commission research into the effectiveness of birth centres. [11435]

**Mr. Byrne:** The Department has not developed any booking criteria for admission to birth centres.

The Department generally funds research to support policy and to provide the evidence needed to underpin quality improvement and service development in the national health service. Through its service delivery and organisation research and development programme, the Department is in the process of commissioning a three-year study about the effectiveness, acceptability and efficiency of birth centres. It is anticipated that the tender for this research will be advertised in September 2005.

## Care Homes

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many inspections of care homes have been carried out in London in each year since 1997; how many were announced; how many were unannounced; and how many led to the deregistration of care homes. [8311]

**Mr. Byrne:** The Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) is responsible for inspecting all care homes in England in accordance with statutory regulations and national minimum standards.

I understand from the Chair of CSCI that in 2003–04, there were 5,083 inspections completed in London. 2,559 (50.3 per cent.) were announced, 2,524 (49.7 per cent.) were un-announced.

In 2004–05, there were 5,173 inspections completed in London 2,815 (54.4 per cent.) were announced, 2,378 (45.6 per cent.) were un-announced.

Information prior to 2003–04 is not available because different regulatory arrangements applied.

## Dentistry

**Mrs. Dorries:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many registered dentists were practising in the *(a)* County of Bedfordshire and *(b)* constituency of Mid-Bedfordshire in each year since 1997; [11019]

(2) how many full-time dentists there have been in the *(a)* county of Bedfordshire and *(b)* constituency of Mid-Bedfordshire in each year since 1997. [11020

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Information relating to numbers of full-time dentists is not held centrally, as dentists can vary the amount of hours they work as well as their national health service commitment. The numbers of dentists in the county of Bedfordshire and the constituency of Mid-Bedfordshire, as at 31 March each year since 1997, are shown in the table.

*General dental service (GDS) and personal dental service (PDS) number of dentists in the specified areas as at 31 March each year*

| | *Parliamentary constituency: Mid-Bedfordshire* | *County: Bedfordshire* |
|---|---|---|
| 1997 | 16 | 119 |
| 1998 | 17 | 120 |
| 1999 | 19 | 132 |
| 2000 | 23 | 146 |
| 2001 | 20 | 151 |
| 2002 | 25 | 166 |
| 2003 | 22 | 154 |
| 2004 | 23 | 160 |
| 2005 | 23 | 169 |

*Notes:*
1. The figures are based on the numbers of dentists with open GDS or PDS contracts.
2. The dentists include principals, assistants and trainees.
3. Prison contracts have been excluded.
4. The areas have been defined using practice postcodes within the specified area.
5. The figures provide a snapshot of the number of individual dentists with an open contract at 31 March.
6. A dentist with a GDS or PDS contract may provide as little or as much NHS treatment as he or she chooses or has agreed with the primary care trust (PCT). The Dental Practice Board has no information concerning the amount of time dedicated to NHS work by individual dentists.
7. The Dental Practice Board has no information concerning the amount of time dedicated to NHS work by individual dentists.

8. The figures take into account any notifications received up to 5 July 2005.
9. Areas have been defined using the Office of National Statistics "All Fields Postcode Directory—November 2004"
10. Figures have been provided by the NHS Health and Social Care Information Centre. The data source is the Dental Practice Board and the figures are based on the numbers of individual dentists with open GDS or PDS contracts as at 31 March 2005.
11. The postcode of the dental practice was used to allocate dentists to specific geographic areas. Specific geographic areas have been defined using the Office of National Statistics "All Fields Postcode Directory—November 2004".

*Source:*
Dental Practice Board

**Mr. Ellwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement on the adequacy of provision of NHS dentists in Bournemouth East. [4826]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Over the years, 2003–04 and 2004–05, the Department allocated £1.6 million to the Dorset and Somerset strategic health authority (SHA) to improve access, choice and quality in national health service dentistry. In 2004–05, Bournemouth primary care trust (PCT), which serves the Bournemouth East area, received from this sum £108,000 for capital grants and £46,000 revenue for access.

The SHA advises that this money has been used to improve access and increase capacity, including the recruitment of additional 1.5 NHS dentists. This secured 3,000 additional NHS patient registrations between 1 April 2004 and 31 March 2005.

Two new dentists have also been secured through international recruitment, and a new practice with four dentists will start to treat patients from September 2005.

The PCT has plans to improve access further. Two Polish dentists recently started work at a Bournemouth dental practice in Southbourne. Both dentists were recruited through the Department's overseas recruitment programme and were placed with an existing local dental practice that was able to develop additional dental surgeries with partial grant aid from the FCT. These dentists are registering new patients now and will each accept 2,000 new NHS patients under the personal dental service (PDS) contract agreed with the owner of the dental practice.

The PCT has also been working to establish a new four surgery dental practice in Tuckton. Planning permission has been obtained and building work at the practice is at an advanced stage. The practice will treat patients from early September 2005 but will be able to book advanced appointments from early August 2005. The PDS contract agreed with the practice and approved by the Department will provide for 8,000 patients to register with an NHS dentist.

The PCT has a further plan, at advanced stage of development, to establish a new four chair dental practice in Boscombe. This should enable a further 8,000 patients to register with an NHS dentist.

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what measures are being put in place to increase the provision of NHS dentistry in Peterborough constituency. [10715]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The Peterborough constituency has been provided with £209,000 in access money. This will deliver an increase of 17,500 patient registrations. In addition, eight out of 26 dental practices have converted to the personal dental service.

There is a dental access centre based at 5 Midgate, Peterborough. Both the North Peterborough and Peterborough South primary care trusts are participating in the Department's international recruitment campaign. This has resulted in the recruitment of four Polish dentists, who are already working in the Peterborough constituency, with a further three Polish recruits due to start later this year.

### Drug Rehabilitation (Bedfordshire)

**Mrs. Dorries:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many drug rehabilitation places are available for residents within the county of Bedfordshire. [11006]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The number of drug rehabilitation places for residents in the county of Bedfordshire is not held centrally. However, the number of people in contact with structured drug treatment services in Bedfordshire for the year 2003–04 is 903.

### End of Life Decision Making

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many times the Government have consulted on end of life decision-making since 1997; [10938]

(2) how many times her Department has consulted *(a)* formally and *(b)* informally on end of life decision making since 1997. [10876]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The Government had extensive dialogue with a range of groups in respect to the passage of the Mental Capacity Act, which deals with, among other things, end of life decisions for those who lack capacity. As part of this work, the Department for Constitutional Affairs issued two formal consultation documents "Who Decides?—making decisions on behalf of mentally incapacitated adults" (1997) and "Making Decisions: Helping people who have difficulty for themselves" (2002). The consultations covered a range of issues and diverse comments were received in response to these.

During the passage of the Mental Capacity Act and as part of regular policy dialogue, the Government receive a wide range of representations from a variety of stakeholders on end of life issues.

### General Anaesthetics (Consent)

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will seek to introduce legislation requiring a parent or guardian to sign the consent form for general anaesthetic for a minor. [10424]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Young people under 16 can give consent to medical treatment if they are able to understand fully what is involved in the proposed procedure. Departmental guidance encourages young people to include their parents in their decisions in such situations.

**Hampshire and Isle of Wight Strategic Health Authority**

**Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reasons the recent vacancy for the post of chief executive at the Hampshire and Isle of Wight strategic health authority was not publicly advertised. [9791]

**Caroline Flint:** Strategic health authorities (SHAs) are statutory bodies. Appointments of chief executives are made by the relevant SHA chair and board and, as such, are a matter for local determination.

SHAs are obliged to advertise publicly a chief executive vacancy when they are appointing to the position on a substantive basis. The chief executive position at Hampshire and the Isle of Wight has been taken up on an interim basis only.

**Health Trusts**

**Harry Cohen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health to which health trusts she has recently written in relation to *(a)* performance and *(b)* financial position; and if she will make a statement. [9785]

**Mr. Byrne:** I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave the hon. member for North West Hampshire (Sir George Young) today.

**Hepatitis B**

**Dr. Gibson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation sub-group on hepatitis B has made recommendations on universal vaccination for hepatitis B. [10939]

**Caroline Flint:** The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) was updated recently on progress made by its working group on hepatitis B immunisation. JCVI felt that further work was required before any recommendations on future policy could be made.

**Hospital Building**

**Steve Webb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many hospital building schemes are planned to start construction in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006, *(c)* 2007 and *(d)* 2008. [9376]

**Mr. Byrne:** The start of schemes is subject to successful approval of the full business case. Detailed information on schemes with a capital value below £25 million is not held centrally. In 2005, one scheme has started and another seven are due to start. It is anticipated that nine will start in 2006 and eight in 2007. Timetables for later schemes are not yet finalised.

**Hospital-acquired Infections**

**Anne Main:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the implications of initiatives to achieve greater throughput of patients on wards and in units for the spread of MRSA and other hospital-acquired infections. [9180]

**Jane Kennedy:** Controlling healthcare associated infections is complex and, as the national health service is treating more patients, this increased activity means that we need to work even harder to reduce the risk of infection.

Implementing "Winning Ways: Working together to reduce Healthcare Associated Infection in England" (December 2003) and "Towards cleaner hospitals and lower rates of infection" (July 2004) will address these concerns. For instance on bed occupancy, chief executives are required to ensure that infection control teams work with bed managers to optimise bed use, assess the infection impact of bed management policies and implement changes to local policy to minimise the risk of infection.

**Hospitals (Hendon)**

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health which hospitals will be available to patients in Hendon to choose from when patient choice becomes operational; for which forms of treatment; and if she will make a statement. [5836]

**Mr. Byrne:** Primary care trusts are responsible for commissioning the lists of four or more providers from which patients needing planned hospital care will be able to choose from the end of this year when they are referred by their general practitioner. Barnet primary care trust is responsible for commissioning the choice options for patients in Hendon.

**Identity Checks**

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of *(a)* the cost and *(b)* merits of checking the biometric identities of individuals accessing health services; and what her preferred method is. [9943]

**Jane Kennedy:** We have been working with the Home Office to identify areas where the identity cards scheme could provide business benefits. On 28 June 2005, my right, hon. Friend the Home Secretary (Mr. Clarke) placed in the Library a paper containing the latest estimates of benefits of the identity cards scheme which shows that the benefits outweigh the costs once the scheme is fully operational. The cost of equipping premises will depend on the nature of the use of the identity cards scheme and the type of identity checks necessary to deliver the business benefits. In some cases, benefits could be realised without the use of card readers and the cost of installing any readers needs to be considered alongside future plans to refresh or upgrade information technology systems. As the design of the scheme matures, during and after the procurement exercise, so will our understanding of where the scheme will be of most benefit which will allow us to further refine our estimates of costs and benefits.

**Infection Control Teams**

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many infection control teams have dedicated budgets. [10026]

**Jane Kennedy:** The information requested is not collected centrally.

**Infection Surveillance Data**

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 13 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 104W, on Infection Surveillance Data, if she will

order an independent inquiry into the infection control procedures of all hospitals revealed to have a higher rate of *clostridium difficile* infection than Stoke Mandeville hospital when these data are published. [7522]

**Jane Kennedy:** The inquiry into the *Clostridium difficile* outbreak at Stoke Mandeville hospital will help to refine policy and develop tools for better control of *Clostridium difficile* throughout the health service. The priority will be implementing these recommendations rather than further inquiries.

### IVF Treatment

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate she has made of the number of women who have suffered a stroke following IVF treatment; and if she will make a statement; [10591]

(2) if she will introduce legislation to require that women contemplating IVF treatment be warned about the possible adverse consequences, including the risk of a stroke; and if she will make a statement; [10592]

(3) how many women aged *(a)* 16 to 24, *(b)* 25 to 30, *(c)* 30 to 35, *(d)* 36 to 40 and *(e)* over 40 years suffered adverse consequences following IVF treatment in each of the last three years for which figures are available; [10615]

(4) if she will list the possible adverse consequences of IVF treatment; and if she will make a statement. [10616]

**Caroline Flint:** Information on side effects following in vitro fertilisation (IVF) treatment, including the incidence of strokes, is not collected centrally. However, the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA), which has monitored incidents involving IVF treatment since 2002, has advised me that it has not recorded an incidence of stoke following IVF since monitoring began.

As with any medical treatment, there are potential side effects of IVF. These include ovarian hyperstimulation syndrome, emotional stress, depression, mood swings, bleeding and infection after surgical egg collection and the medical and social implication of a multiple pregnancy and birth. Serious side effects are rare.

It is vital that patients contemplating IVF treatment are given all relevant information about their treatment, including any side effects associated with it. The provision of information and the opportunity of receiving counselling are already required by section 13 of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 1990, which sets out the conditions on which a treatment licence is granted. This is reinforced by the HFEA's code of practice, which requires clinics to provide information on possible side effects and the risks posed to the patient and any resulting child.

### Locum Doctors

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement on the procedures for locum doctor registration. [10892]

**Mr. Byrne:** A doctor performing locum work is required to register with the General Medical Council in the same way as any other doctor.

### Malnourishment

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she has made of the *(a)* number and *(b)* percentage of people (i) admitted to and (ii) discharged from hospital who were malnourished in each of the last five years for which figures are available, broken down by age; and if she will make a statement. [10160]

**Caroline Flint:** Information on numbers admitted is shown in tables 1 to 3.

*1: Finished in-year admission episodes to national health service hospitals in England where the patient's main diagnosis was malnutrition, 1999–2000 to 2003–04*

| Age | 1999–2000 | 2000–01 | 2001–02 | 2002–03 | 2003–04 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 0–4 | 10 | 18 | 9 | 16 | 13 |
| 5–14 | 6 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 3 |
| 15–44 | 55 | 35 | 47 | 46 | 58 |
| 45–64 | 65 | 50 | 50 | 69 | 61 |
| 65–74 | 30 | 37 | 40 | 36 | 33 |
| 75–84 | 42 | 36 | 46 | 44 | 48 |
| 85 and over | 25 | 28 | 38 | 26 | 32 |
| Not known | — | — | 4 | 1 | — |
| Total | 233 | 209 | 237 | 242 | 248 |

*2: Total finished in-year admission episodes to NHS hospitals in England, 1999–2000 to 2003–04*

| Age | 1999–2000 | 2000–01 | 2001–02 | 2002–03 | 2003–04 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 0–4 | 1,139,850 | 1,112,999 | 1,110,269 | 1,086,383 | 1,122,920 |
| 5–14 | 505,771 | 501,346 | 503,144 | 502,133 | 497,229 |
| 15–44 | 3,654,812 | 3,651,228 | 3,546,442 | 3,593,471 | 3,730,027 |
| 45–64 | 2,406,369 | 2,446,966 | 2,402,645 | 2,480,240 | 2,573,578 |
| 65–74 | 1,503,423 | 1,522,896 | 1,498,519 | 1,543,585 | 1,616,827 |
| 75–84 | 1,321,341 | 1,348,834 | 1,355,858 | 1,432,390 | 1,529,096 |
| 85 and over | 548,747 | 563,670 | 570,183 | 595,137 | 616,383 |
| Not known | 35,837 | 58,587 | 53,731 | 34,377 | 29,744 |
| Total | 11,116,150 | 11,206,526 | 11,040,791 | 11,267,716 | 11,715,804 |

*3: Malnutrition cases per 100,000 finished in-year admission episodes, NHS hospitals in England, 1999–2000 to 2003–04*

| Age | 1999–2000 | 2000–01 | 2001–02 | 2002–03 | 2003–04 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 0–4 | 0.9 | 1.6 | 0.8 | 1.5 | 1.2 |
| 5–14 | 1.2 | 1.0 | 0.6 | 0.8 | 0.6 |
| 15–44 | 1.5 | 1.0 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 1.6 |
| 45–64 | 2.7 | 2.0 | 2.1 | 2.8 | 2.4 |
| 65–74 | 2.0 | 2.4 | 2.7 | 2.3 | 2.0 |
| 75–84 | 3.2 | 2.7 | 3.4 | 3.1 | 3.1 |
| 85 and over | 4.6 | 5.0 | 6.7 | 4.4 | 5.2 |
| Not known | — | — | 7.4 | 2.9 | — |
| Total | 2.1 | 1.9 | 2.1 | 2.1 | 2.1 |

Information on numbers discharged is shown in tables 4 to 6.

*4: In-year discharge episodes from NHS hospitals in England where the patient's main diagnosis was malnutrition, 1999–2000 to 2003–04*

| Age | 1999–2000 | 2000–01 | 2001–02 | 2002–03 | 2003–04 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 0–4 | 11 | 18 | 9 | 16 | 13 |
| 5–14 | 6 | 5 | 3 | 5 | 3 |
| 15–44 | 55 | 37 | 49 | 46 | 58 |
| 45–64 | 70 | 55 | 50 | 73 | 60 |
| 65–74 | 32 | 43 | 44 | 42 | 34 |
| 75–84 | 46 | 46 | 54 | 51 | 46 |
| 85 and over | 28 | 38 | 44 | 28 | 34 |
| Not known | — | — | 4 | 2 | — |
| Total | 248 | 242 | 257 | 263 | 248 |

*5: Total in-year discharge episodes from NHS hospitals in England, 1999–2000 to 2003–04*

| Age | 1999–2000 | 2000–01 | 2001–02 | 2002–03 | 2003–04 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 0–4 | 1,148,890 | 1,118,540 | 1,118,885 | 1,093,996 | 1,130,883 |
| 5–14 | 510,745 | 505,787 | 507,561 | 504,697 | 499,947 |
| 15–44 | 3,696,750 | 3,698,665 | 3,591,473 | 3,633,192 | 3,771,729 |
| 45–64 | 2,441,235 | 2,484,610 | 2,439,402 | 2,513,429 | 2,609,408 |
| 65–74 | 1,532,063 | 1,554,291 | 1,528,904 | 1,570,343 | 1,645,021 |
| 75–84 | 1,358,048 | 1,388,971 | 1,396,899 | 1,468,666 | 1,566,713 |
| 85 and over | 570,416 | 588,409 | 595,936 | 617,733 | 638,690 |
| Not known | 31,982 | 59,116 | 54,595 | 34,953 | 29,922 |
| Total | 11,290,129 | 11,398,389 | 11,233,655 | 11,437,009 | 11,892,313 |

*6: Malnutrition cases per 100,000 in-year discharge episodes, NHS hospitals in England, 1999–2000 to 2003–04*

| Age | 1999–2000 | 2000–01 | 2001–02 | 2002–03 | 2003–04 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 0–4 | 1.0 | 1.6 | 0.8 | 1.5 | 1.1 |
| 5–14 | 1.2 | 1.0 | 0.6 | 1.0 | 0.6 |
| 15–44 | 1.5 | 1.0 | 1.4 | 1.3 | 1.5 |
| 45–64 | 2.9 | 2.2 | 2.0 | 2.9 | 2.3 |
| 65–74 | 2.1 | 2.8 | 2.9 | 2.7 | 2.1 |
| 75–84 | 3.4 | 3.3 | 3.9 | 3.5 | 2.9 |
| 85 and over | 4.9 | 6.5 | 7.4 | 4.5 | 5.3 |
| Not known | — | — | 7.3 | 5.7 | — |
| Total | 2.2 | 2.1 | 2.3 | 2.3 | 2.1 |

*Source:*
Hospital episode statistics, health and social care information centre.

**Mental Health Services (Teenagers)**

**Mr. Rob Wilson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement on mental health services for teenagers. [11388]

**Mr. Byrne:** The Department is currently investing about £300 million to improve and expand child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS). In September 2004, the Department, in conjunction with the Department for Education and Skills, sets out its vision for improving CAMHS in the children's national service framework (NSF). Although the NSF covers the whole range of CAMHS patients from young children to, typically, 17-year-olds, there are some recommendations which are particularly relevant to teenage users of mental health services. These include: consultation with young people about the design of patient-centred services, providing a choice of appropriate locations for young people to visit for their treatment, and ensuring a smooth and flexible transition from CAMHS to adult mental health services, taking into account the wishes of the patient.

In line with the commitments set out in the NHS plan (2000), early intervention in psychosis services have now been created across England to provide assessment and care for young individuals experiencing a first onset of

psychosis. The development of early intervention services is being supported by a major programme of research to evaluate their implementation and benefits for service users.

## MRSA

**Mr. Burns:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of MRSA there were in the Mid Essex Hospital Trust area in each of the last five years for which statistics are available. [10304]

**Jane Kennedy** *[holding answer 12 July 2005]:* The Department introduced mandatory reporting of methicillin resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) bacteraemias (blood stream infections) for national health service acute trusts from 1 April 2001. The number of MRSA reports for the three years which figures are available is shown in the table.

| | *Number of reports* |
|---|---|
| April 2001 to March 2002 | 44 |
| April 2002 to March 2003 | 33 |
| April 2003 to March 2004 | 43 |
| April 2004 to March 2005 | 41 |

## NHS Financial Performance

**Mr. Yeo:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when the *(a)* Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridge Strategic Health Authority, *(b)* Suffolk West Primary Care Trust and *(c)* West Suffolk Hospitals Trust first reported financial problems in West Suffolk to her Department. [9338]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire Strategic Health Authority and the West Suffolk Hospitals National Health Service Trust have recently reported a financial deficit in 2003–04. The Suffolk West Primary Care Trust reported a financial deficit in 2002–03.

**Sir George Young:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will list the *(a)* NHS trusts and *(b)* primary care trusts to whom she has recently written about their financial performance. [9690]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answer 5 July 2005]:* The following list shows all the national health service organisations that have recently received a letter regarding financial management from me or the NHS chief executive.

*Organisation*:

Airedale NHS Trust
Bedford Hospitals NHS Trust
Bedfordshire Heartlands PCT
Bexley Care Trust
Birmingham Women's Health Care NHS Trust
Blackwater Valley and Hart PCT
Bolton Hospitals NHS Trust
Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust
Broadland PCT
Buckinghamshire Mental Health NHS Trust
Burntwood, Lichfield and Tamworth PCT
Burton Hospitals NHS Trust
Cambridge City PCT
Cannock Chase PCT
Canterbury and Coastal PCT
Cent Manchester/Manchester Child NHS Trust
Central Cornwall PCT
Central Suffolk PCT
Chelmsford PCT
Cherwell Vale PCT
Cotswold and Vale PCT
Dacorum PCT
Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust
East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust
East Elmbridge and Mid Surrey PCT
East Hampshire PCT
East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust
East Lincolnshire PCT
East Sussex Hospitals NHS Trust
Eastbourne Downs PCT
Eastleigh and Test Valley South PCT
Fareham and Gosport PCT
George Eliot Hospital NHS Trust
Good Hope Hospital NHS Trust
Guildford and Waverley PCT
Hammersmith Hospitals NHS Trust
Hampshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust
Havering PCT
Heatherwood and Wexham Park Hospitals NHS Trust
Hertsmere PCT
Hillingdon PCT
Hounslow PCT
Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust
Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust
Ipswich PCT
Isle of Wight PCT
Kennet and North Wiltshire PCT
Kensington and Chelsea PCT
Kettering General Hospital NHS Trust
King's College Hospital NHS Trust
Kings Lynn and Wisbech Hospitals NHS Trust
Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust
Luton PCT
Maidstone Weald PCT
Maldon and South Chelmsford PCT
Mid Essex Hospital Services NHS Trust
Mid Staffordshire General Hospitals NHS Trust
Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust
Mid-Hampshire PCT
Milton Keynes PCT
Morecambe Bay Hospitals NHS Trust
New Forest PCT
Newbury and Community PCT
Newcastle-Under-Lyme PCT
North and East Cornwall PCT
North Birmingham PCT
North Devon PCT
North East Oxfordshire PCT
North Hampshire PCT
North Hertfordshire and Stevenage PCT

North Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust
North Norfolk PCT
North Somerset PCT
North Stoke PCT
North West London Hospitals NHS Trust
Plymouth Hospitals NHS Trust
Queen Elizabeth Hospital NHS Trust
Queen Mary's Sidcup NHS Trust
Royal Bournemouth and Christchurch NHS Trust
Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS Trust
Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust
Royal United Hospital Bath NHS Trust
Royal Wolverhampton Hospital NHS Trust
Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust
Selby and York PCT
Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust
South and East Dorset PCT
South Cambridgeshire PCT
South Stoke PCT
South Tees Hospitals NHS Trust
South Warwickshire Gen Hospitals NHS Trust
South West Oxfordshire PCT
South Western Staffordshire PCT
South Wiltshire PCT
Southampton University Hospitals NHS Trust
Southern Norfolk PCT
Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust
St. George's Healthcare NHS Trust
St. Albans and Harpenden PCT
Staffordshire Moorlands PCT
Suffolk Coastal PCT
Suffolk West PCT
Surrey and Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust
Sussex Downs and Weald PCT
Swale PCT
The Lewisham Hospital NHS Trust
The Royal Nat Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Trust
The Royal West Sussex NHS Trust
Trafford Healthcare NHS Trust
United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust
Vale of Aylesbury PCT
Walsall Hospitals NHS Trust
Waltham Forest PCT
Wandsworth PCT
Watford and Three Rivers PCT
West Dorset General Hospitals NHS Trust
West Gloucestershire PCT
West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust
West Middlesex University NHS Trust
West Midlands Ambulance NHS Trust
West Norfolk PCT
West of Cornwall PCT
West Suffolk Hospitals NHS Trust
West Wiltshire PCT
Weston Area Health NHS Trust
Witham, Braintree and Halstead Care Trust
Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Trust
Wycombe PCT
Wyre Forest PCT
Yorkshire Wolds and Coast PCT

### Nursing Homes (Southend)

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much money has been allocated for the improvement and renovation of nursing homes in the Southend West constituency in 2005–06. [9928]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** This information is not collected. Care homes are private businesses making commercial/decisions on when and how much to spend on improvements and renovations. However, over the last three years the Government have provided for an average of 3 per cent., per annum growth in real terms in spending on social services. Local councils have the freedom to use these resources to provide services for older people in care homes, taking account of local circumstances and priorities.

### Older People (Medication Review)

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she will publish part two of the Taskforce on Medicine Partnership's evaluation of Room for Review. [6660]

**Jane Kennedy:** Part one of the evaluation of Room for Review was published on 21 March 2005. A copy is available through the Medicines Partnership's website at: www.medicines-partnership.org/medication-review/room-for-review/impact-evaluation. Part two of the evaluation will be published in summer 2005.

### Physiotherapist Vacancies

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many vacancies there were for physiotherapists in England and Wales in 2004. [10774]

**Mr. Byrne:** The national health survey collects information on the number of vacancies lasting three months or more for physiotherapists in England. As at March 2004, there were 626 three-month vacancies for physiotherapists which represents a rate of 4.1 per cent., a fall from 4.7 per cent. the previous year.

Information for Wales is a matter for the devolved Administration.

### Pregnancy-related Deaths

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many women aged *(a)* 14 to 16 years, *(b)* 17 to 21 years, *(c)* 22 to 24 years, *(d)* 25 to 30 years, *(e)* 31 to 35 years and *(f)* 36 to 40 years have died from pregnancy-related diseases in each year since 1976. [11046]

**Mr. Byrne:** The confidential enquiry into maternal deaths (CEMD) collects information relating to women dying from pregnancy-related conditions. Data is collected over three-year periods and is shown in the tables. From 1976 to 1987, this covered England and Wales only and also included only deaths directly related to obstetric complications. From 1988, however, data became available for the whole of the United Kingdom, which comprises both deaths directly and indirectly related to obstetric complications.

*CEMD data—England and Wales only. Deaths directly due to obstetric complications*

| Age | Year 1976–78 | 1978–81 | 1982–84 | 1986–87 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Under 20 | 18 | 16 | 9 | 12 |
| 20–24 | 38 | 34 | 27 | 24 |
| 25–29 | 83 | 49 | 39 | 34 |
| 30–34 | 44 | 40 | 28 | 36 |
| 35–39 | 22 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| Over 40 | 22 | 11 | 8 | 5 |
| Total | 227 | 176 | 138 | 139 |

*CEMD data—UK. Deaths directly and indirectly due to obstetric complications*

| Age | Year 1988–90 | 1991–93 | 1994–96 | 1997–99 | 2000–02 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Under 20 | 17 | 7 | 15 | 19 | 16 |
| 20–24 | 38 | 30 | 40 | 35 | 30 |
| 25–29 | 74 | 87 | 71 | 61 | 70 |
| 30–34 | 57 | 61 | 70 | 66 | 79 |
| 35–39 | 31 | 36 | 53 | 50 | 47 |
| Over 40 | 18 | 7 | 11 | 13 | 19 |
| Total | 238 | 228 | 268 | 242 | 201 |

### Primary Care Funding (Isle of Wight)

**Mr. Andrew Turner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health under what statutory powers *(a)* money is provided by her Department for the development of primary care premises in Sandown, Isle of Wight, *(b)* decisions about the allocation of money are made by a premises development group (PDG), *(c)* the composition of the group is determined, *(d)* conditions are laid down by the PDG after funding has been agreed and *(e)* the PDG can withdraw funding. [11180]

**Caroline Flint** *[holding answer 11 July 2005]:* The majority of funding for premises development became part of the unified allocations in April 2004. Unified allocations are made by the Secretary of State under the National Health Service Act 1977.

The Government are committed to improving the infrastructure of primary care by modernising service delivery, access and choice in the NHS. Increased funding has been made available to primary care trusts (PCTs) to implement these service improvements. Consequently, the modernisation of primary health care premises is determined locally by consultation between PCTs and general practitioner practices.

We asked each strategic health authority to establish a mechanism for distributing premises development funding within their local health community. In the Isle of Wight, the chosen method was the premises development group whose composition and conditions is set out by the local PCTs.

### Residential/Nursing Homes

**Mrs. Moon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will take steps to involve pharmacists in developing and providing accredited training for care staff in residential and nursing homes. [10738]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answer 12 July 2005]:* Medication is one of the four key areas of the knowledge and skills sets being developed by Skills for Care in England. The chief pharmacist for the Commission for Social Care Inspection and the Royal Pharmaceutical Society are helping with this development work.

### Right to Life

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make it her policy to promote the equal status and rights of people with disabilities, including the right to life. [10599]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The Government are fully committed to the national health service offering equal access for all, irrespective of disability, race, gender, sexual orientation, faith and age.

### Smog Warning

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the effect of pollution sufficient to trigger a smog warning on the respiratory system. [11179]

**Caroline Flint:** The Department is advised on the consequences for health of exposure to air pollutants by the Committee on the Medical Effects of Air Pollutants (COMEAP). COMEAP has published a series of reports dealing with a variety of pollutants and their effects on health. These are available on the COMEAP website at http://www.advisorybodies.doh.gov.uk/comeap/. The effects of different levels of air pollutants have been considered and a statement on this has also been published on the COMEAP web site[1].

This advice has been provided to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and forms the basis for its decisions regarding the provision of information in the form of smog warnings.

[1] COMEAP statement on banding of air quality:
http://www.advisorybodies.doh.gov.uk/comeap/statementsreports/airpol9.htm.

### Social Care Institute for Excellence

**Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what has been the cost to the Department of the Social Care Institute for Excellence in each year since its inception; and what assessment she has made of its effectiveness. [10077]

**Mr. Byrne:** The costs to the Department of the Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE) in each year since its inception are shown in the table.

| | *Grant (£ million)* |
|---|---|
| 2001–02 | 1.043 |
| 2002–03 | 3.195 |
| 2003–04 | 4.750 |
| 2004–05 | [1]4.430 |

[1] In addition, £2.843 million was allocated mid-year.

*Note:*
Figures in the table are rounded to nearest £1,000.

There has been a formal service level agreement in place between the SCIE and the Department since October 2001. This confirms the annual accountability arrangements for reviewing the SCIE's effectiveness and appropriate use of Departmental funding, as prescribed under powers granted in section 64 of the Health

Services and Public Health Act 1968. The use and purpose of allocated annual Departmental grants and agreed performance indicators are stipulated and these are set against agreed policy objectives and future funding needs. The most recent annual accountability review took place on 22 June 2005.

The Government are satisfied with these governance arrangements and acknowledges the SCIE's significant contribution to improving the experience of social care users.

### Speech Therapists

**Mr. Lidington:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health in respect of *(a)* each primary care trust and *(b)* for England, what the average waiting time was between (i) a child and (ii) an adult being referred for (A) speech therapy and (B) occupational therapy and receiving treatment in the last period for which figures are available; and if she will make a statement. [12387]

**Mr. Byrne:** The information requested is not collected centrally.

### Virus Outbreaks

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many small round structured virus outbreaks were reported to the Health Protection Agency in each year since 2000. [10176]

**Caroline Flint:** The numbers of outbreaks of norovirus, formerly known as small round structured virus, in England and Wales, reported to the Health Protection Agency, are shown in the table.

*Outbreaks of norovirus in England and Wales*

| | *Number of outbreaks* |
|---|---|
| 2000 | 285 |
| 2001 | 191 |
| 2002 | 687 |
| 2003 | 220 |
| 2004[1] | 312 |
| Total | 1,695 |

[1] Provisional data.

## CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

### Community Justice Centre (Liverpool)

**Mr. Djanogly:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs (1) what has been the sentence in each case heard before the Community Justice Centre in Liverpool where no community sentence was awarded since its establishment; [11692]

(2) how much has been spent to date on the foundation and running of the Community Justice Centre in Liverpool. [11690]

**Ms Harman:** Since 9 December 2004, over 350 cases have been heard by His Honour Judge David Fletcher. Non-community sentences can be broken down into:

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| Fines and compensation | 89 |
| Imprisonment | 26 |
| Discharge | 17 |
| ASBO crack house closure | 2 |
| ASBO other | 6 |
| Football banning orders | 2 |
| Supervision order | 1 |
| Destruction of drugs | 1 |
| Caution | 1 |

Other disposals:

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| Found not guilty | 1 |
| Order to continue | 1 |
| Committed to the Crown court | 1 |
| Remitted to the magistrates court | 1 |
| Case withdrawn | 47 |
| Case discontinued | 13 |
| Miscellaneous | 13 |

To end of June 2005 a total of £2,952,108 has been spent on the foundation, development and delivery of the North Liverpool Community Justice Centre.

### Departmental Purchasing

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs if she will list the companies from which her Department has purchased goods and services of a total value above £1 million in each of the last three years; and how much was spent in respect of each company. [11729]

**Bridget Prentice:** It is not possible for the Department to provide the detailed information requested on how much was spent on purchasing goods and services of a total value above £1 million in each of the last three years; and how much was spent in respect of each company without incurring disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Staff

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many full-time equivalents have worked for the Department for each of the last five financial years for which figures are available. [11528]

**Bridget Prentice:** I refer the hon. Member to table C of Civil Service Statistics 2004 which is available on the internet at http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/management_information/statistical_information/statistics/publications/xls/report_2004/table_c.xls.

This table shows the numbers of staff by Department and agency between 1998 and 2004, on a full-time equivalent basis. Copies of Civil Service Statistics are also available in the Library.

### English Wine

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs if she will ensure that English wine is made available at dinners, receptions and parties she hosts at which hospitality

involving wine is appropriate *(a)* during the EU presidency and *(b)* generally; and if she will make a statement. [9161]

**Ms Harman:** Any procurement for any functions I host is undertaken in line with the EC's procurement rules and to obtain value for money for the Department. Where possible British products are used.

### General Election (Internet)

**Mr. Hood:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what assessment she has made of the role of the internet during the 2005 general election. [11654]

**Ms Harman:** The Government have not undertaken an assessment of this area.

However, outside government, there has been some research done into the use of the internet at the 2005 general election. The Hansard Society has recently published its report on this issue: "Spinning the web: online campaigning in the 2005 general election".

### Lay Magistrates (Northern Ireland)

**Mr. Dodds:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many of the newly appointed lay magistrates in Northern Ireland have been involved in *(a)* more than 10 cases, *(b)* more than five cases and *(c)* no cases. [11613]

**Bridget Prentice:** Case disposal statistics are not available for the period from 1 April 2005, the date upon which the new judicial office of lay magistrate was established in Northern Ireland. However, of the 272 appointments made by the Lord Chancellor, 200 lay magistrates have sat in court since April 2005.

### Postal Voting

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many convictions for postal ballot fraud there have been in each constituency in the UK for each of the past 10 years, listed in descending order; and if she will make a statement. [10802]

**Ms Harman:** This information is not collected centrally. However, I refer my hon. Friend to my previous answer on 13 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 181W, for information on the number of electoral fraud convictions since 1995. I am unaware of any convictions for postal ballot fraud in parliamentary elections; but there have been a very small number of convictions arising from fraud in local elections, in the order of one or two a year.

### Sickness Absence

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many days the Department has lost due to sickness for each of the last five financial years for which figures are available. [11517]

**Bridget Prentice:** The number of sickness absence days is recorded by the Department. The figures are contained in the annual report "Analysis of Sickness Absence in the Civil Service" published by the Cabinet Office. Table A of the report gives details of both the average working days absence per staff year and the number of staff years on which that calculation is based on. The most recent of which (for calendar year 2003) was announced by ministerial statement on 1 November and copies placed in the Libraries of the House. Reports for 1999, 2000, 2001 and 2002 are also available in the Library and on the Cabinet Office website at: http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/managementjnformation/conditions_of_service/caje/publications/index.asp#sickness.

The Department is committed to managing sickness absence effectively and to putting in place recommendations of the recently published "Managing Sickness Absence in the Public Sector".

## NORTHERN IRELAND

### Education (Equality Scheme)

**Mrs. Iris Robinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland when the consultation on the Department of Education's equality scheme and equality impact assessment timetable appeared on the Department's website. [11382]

**Angela E. Smith:** The Department of Education's consultation document on the review of the equality scheme and equality impact assessment timetable was placed on the departmental internet site on 24 March 2005.

### Equality Impact Assessments

**Mrs. Iris Robinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland under what circumstances an equality impact assessment would not be conducted when *(a)* new policies and practices are introduced and *(b)* existing ones are revised. [10967]

**Mr. Hanson:** To comply with their statutory equality duty under s75*(1)* of the Northern Ireland Act 1998, public authorities are required to carry out equality screening, and if necessary equality impact assessment of policies, in accordance with their equality schemes and the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland's "Guide to the Statutory Duties" which is available on the Commission's Website at www.equalityni.org . The results of screening would determine whether or not an equality impact assessment was considered necessary.

### Police Service

**Lady Hermon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland when he expects to announce the conclusions of the research programme tasked with ascertaining the necessary vision standards for new Police Service Northern Ireland recruits. [11235]

**Mr. Woodward:** Following the introduction of new Home Office guidelines relating to eyesight standards for police recruitment in England and Wales, the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) had specific concerns as they took no cognizance of handling firearms safely, as this is not a requirement for officers being recruited in England and Wales. The PSNI

therefore felt it necessary to initiate a research project, tasked with ascertaining the justifiable requirements for visual standards for recruits to PSNI.

The researchers have completed the practical aspect of this study and are now in the final stages of analysing the results. The findings of their research will be considered in conjunction with the standards that have been adopted in England and Wales.

An exact timescale for the publication of the research is not yet known.

### Police Stations

**Lady Hermon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what criteria were used by his Department when deciding on the closure of rural police stations; and what public consultation had been undertaken prior to the announcement of the proposed closures. [11346]

**Mr. Woodward:** The closure of police stations is a matter for the chief constable, in consultation with the Policing Board.

The estate strategy, endorsed by the PSNI chief officers and the Northern Ireland Policing Board, lists 61 stations to be reviewed over the next five year period.

On 30 June 2005, the Policing Board approved the closure of the following stations:

Ardglass, Castlewellan, Moy, Ballygawley, Caledon, Castlerock, Moneymore, Dromore (Co Tyrone) and Plumbridge.

The Policing Board agreed to review the following stations in September 2005:

Ballinamallard, Derrygonnelly, Irvinestown, Kinawley, Rosslea, Lisbellaw, Newtownbutler and Tempo.

The 9 stations approved for closure are:

| *Down* | *Londonderry* | *Tyrone* |
|---|---|---|
| Ardglass | Castlerock | Dromore |
| Castlewellan | | Plumbridge |
| | | Ballygawley |
| | | Caledon |
| | | Moy |
| | | Moneymore |

Each district commander is required to conduct the review of his/her station(s) within the terms of the estate review. When closure recommendations are made, local commanders embark on a process of consultation with local communities on both the proposals and on the best way to continue to deliver services locally.

Consultation is by way of public debate/formal presentation/public meeting/private briefings/publicity or a combination of these. The alternative strategies for delivery of policing are outlined at this stage, for example, mobile police stations/ motor cycles/ community police teams/identified local beat officers.

DCU commanders conduct a full consultation with their local district policing partnership in every case. In many cases the agreed way for providing police services for the future is formally agreed with the DPP.

On completion of this process, a DCU commander makes a recommendation to the chief constable regarding the future of a particular station and a business case is submitted to the Northern Ireland Policing Board for consideration and endorsement. The chief constable then engages in a formal consultation process with the Policing Board and this process of consultation is currently ongoing.

### Press Officers

**Dr. McCrea:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many press officers each Department employed in each year since 1999; and what the cost was in each year. [11115]

**Angela E. Smith:** The following figures indicate the number of press officers in post in each Department for the year 2004–05. Press officer duties include media liaison; print management; internet; and advertising, as well as servicing Ministers.

It is not possible to produce figures for the other years requested without incurring disproportionate costs

*Staff numbers*

| *Department* | *Principal information officer* | *Deputy principal information officer* | *Information officer* |
|---|---|---|---|
| DARD | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| DCAL | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| DE | 0.75 | 1 | 0 |
| DETI | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| DFP | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| DEL | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| DHSSPS | 1 | 1 | 1.80 |
| DOE | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| DRD | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| DSD | 1 | 2 | 0.80 |
| OFMDFM | 2 | 3.6 | 3 |
| NIO | 2 | 5 | 4.5 |
| Total staff | 13.75 | 18.60 | 14.10 |

Estimated total paybill: £1.9 million.

The table shows the number of full time equivalent staff as at 31 March 2005.

The estimated total paybill includes actual salary at March 2005, allowances paid between April 2004 and March 2005 inclusive and overtime payments made between April 2004 and March 2005 inclusive.

### School Tests (Reliability Indices)

**Mrs. Iris Robinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) what quantifiable validity or reliability indices have been used on *(a)* the 11-plus transfer test and *(b)* the proposed pupil profile; [11381]

(2) what technical analysis has been carried out on *(a)* the 11-plus transfer test and *(b)* the proposed pupil profile. [11383]

**Angela E. Smith:** The Northern Ireland Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment (CCEA) conducts the 11 plus transfer tests on behalf of the Department of Education. CCEA commissions an external agency to develop the tests which undergo extensive and rigorous testing and analysis to ensure their validity in terms of the elements of the subjects specified for the tests, that they reflect the relevant

programmes of study and that the standard is consistent from year to year. In addition a series of reliability measures are used to ensure internal consistency of the tests. The agency is recognised internationally for its expertise in test development and its staff adhere to a code of practice governing all aspects of test development. CCEA also employs a number of additional quality assurance procedures.

The pupil profile currently being developed will provide a range of useful information on each child's progress, aptitudes, interests and aspirations. It will be based on well-supported teacher assessment rather than a regime of annual testing. CCEA has been developing and trialling the pupil profile over the last two years to ensure that it is robust, manageable and useful for parents, pupils and teachers. Details of the evaluation of the trials to date will shortly be published on the CCEA website. Development work will continue in 2005–06. CCEA will ensure that the pupil profile will meet standards of validity and reliability by benchmarking them against the Assessment Reform Group's principles for effective teacher assessment.

## INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### Asian Tsunami

**Richard Burden:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of *(a)* progress with relief and reconstruction work following the impact of the tsunami on Phi Phi, Thailand and *(b)* the levels of assistance being given to support residents of Phi Phi who lost their homes and wish to return. [9589]

**Mr. Thomas:** The Government of Thailand have made it clear that they do not want any external financial assistance for post-tsunami recovery, and because of Thailand's relative wealth, DFID do not operate an aid programme there. We have therefore made no assessment of the Thai Government's recovery programme on Phi Phi.

### Correspondence

**Sir Gerald Kaufman:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development when he expects to reply to the letter to him dated 1 June from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton, with regard to Mr. Michael Addie. [10688]

**Hilary Benn:** The letter of 1 June from my right hon. Friend for Manchester, Gorton, on behalf of his constituent Mr. Michael Addie was received in DFID on 10 June. A reply was issued on 12 July. I apologise for the delay.

### Cotton Subsidies

**Mark Simmonds:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions he has had with the US Administration regarding the impact of cotton subsidies on African Caribbean Pacific countries. [9273]

**Mr. Thomas:** The EU and US cotton subsidies are among the clearest examples of trade distortion by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). The UK was among the EU member states who pushed hard for maximum reductions in EU trade distorting subsidies to cotton in the 2003 reforms of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) both as an end in its self and to push the US to address their subsidies.

The West African countries most adversely affected by depressed world prices (with support from EU donors including the UK) have been successful in getting special attention paid to cotton in the context of the Doha Development Agenda and a special sub-group on cotton has been set up in the World Trade Organisation (WTO) agriculture negotiations. Brazil also successfully challenged US cotton subsidies in the WTO, with the result that the US has to end some of its subsidies. We have pushed the US to comply with this ruling. DFID also provides support to International NGOs who work with developing countries in preparing for WTO agriculture negotiations, including on cotton.

### Uganda

**Mark Simmonds:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his policy is on the level of UK development assistance to Uganda, in the event of a change to the Ugandan constitution to enable the President to serve a third term. [11828]

**Hilary Benn:** The UK has set aside £70 million of development assistance for Uganda in 2005–06. £50 million of this has been allocated for Poverty Reduction Budget Support (PRBS). Our PRBS agreement with the Government links disbursement to criteria on macro-economic and sector performance and governance. All the criteria that determine disbursement levels are taken from the commitments in the Government of Uganda's own Poverty Eradication Action Plan and are designed to ensure our support is transparent and predictable. We intend to take a decision on the level of disbursement in 2005–06 in September when we will assess performance against all the agreed indicators.

The issue of lifting the limit on presidential tenure, like other proposed changes to the constitution, is for Ugandans to decide. We trust the process for doing this will carry the confidence of the Ugandan people and Parliament. The governance criteria in our PRBS agreement are focused on the quality of the overall transition process leading up to elections in March 2006.

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### Abductions

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were prosecuted for abduction in London in each year since 1997. [8326]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** Data from the Home Office Court Proceedings database on the number of people

prosecuted for abduction in London, 1997 to 2003 is contained in the table.

Statistics for 2004 court proceedings will be available in the autumn.

*Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts for abduction or kidnapping in London, 1997 to 2003*[1,2]

| *Offence description* | *Principal statute* | *1997* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Abduction of children | Child Abduction Act 1984 S.1 &2 as amended by the Children Act 1989 | 19 | 11 | 18 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 14 |
| Abduction of female having interest in property | Sexual Offences Act 1956 S.1 7 (in part) | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| Abduction of female by force | Sexual Offences Act 1956 S.1 7 (in part) | 2 | — | 2 | — | — | — | — |
| Abduction of unmarried girl under 16 | Sexual Offences Act 1956 S.20 | 2 | 2 | 3 | — | — | 3 | 1 |
| Abduction of unmarried girl under 18 | Sexual Offences Act 1956 S.1 9 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Abduction of female defective | Sexual Offences Act 1956 S.21 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Kidnapping | Common Law | 76 | 68 | 92 | 71 | 128 | 130 | 152 |

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Includes Metropolitan and City of London police force areas.

### Acceptable Behaviour Contracts

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how evidence is tested prior to the drafting of an acceptable behaviour contract; [11375]

(2) what sanctions apply in respect of an acceptable behaviour contract if the conditions are breached. [11376]

(3) what rights the recipient of an acceptable behaviour contract has to challenge the evidence on which the contract was based. [11377]

**Hazel Blears:** An acceptable behaviour contract (ABC) is agreed and signed at a meeting with the individual involved in the antisocial behaviour and one or more lead agencies. This meeting should be used as an opportunity for the individual and his or her family (if the individual involved is a young person) to discuss the impact their behaviour has had on others. The meeting may also be used as an opportunity to challenge any evidence put forward in support of making the ABC. ABCs are not statutory orders and therefore it is for local authorities to decide details such as what evidence may be used to support an ABC and how this evidence is tested. Our publication "A guide to antisocial behaviour orders and acceptable behaviour contracts" provides guidelines on ABCs for local authorities.

Breach of an ABC is not a criminal offence but should be taken seriously. The action taken is a matter for local authorities and should be determined by the nature of the breach.

### Airwave

**Mr. Henderson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the *(a)* Airwave health monitoring study by Imperial College London and *(b)* the Airwave Patterns of Use Study by the University of Birmingham Institute of Occupational and Environmental Medicine have been published; and if he will place copies in the Library. [11583]

**Hazel Blears:** The Imperial College work is a long-term study. The results will not be available for several years. The University of Birmingham work has now been completed and the report will be published as soon as possible.

### Alcohol-related Crime (Bedfordshire)

**Mrs. Dorries:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many alcohol-related crimes there have been in *(a)* the constituency of Mid-Bedfordshire and *(b)* the county of Bedfordshire since 1997. [11024]

**Hazel Blears:** It is not possible to identify offences that are alcohol-related from the recorded crime data collected centrally.

### Antisocial Behaviour Orders

**Mrs. Gillan:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) whether any antisocial behaviour orders have been *(a)* applied for and *(b)* granted in respect of an individual who uses a wheelchair; [11359]

(2) how many antisocial behaviour orders have been issued with a condition since 1999; and what the most common conditions were; [11362]

(3) how many antisocial behaviour orders with *(a)* one condition, *(b)* two conditions, *(c)* three conditions, *(d)* five to 10 conditions, *(e)* more than 10 conditions and *(f)* 20 or more conditions were issued in each year since 1999. [11363]

**Hazel Blears:** Data collated by the Home Office for statistical purposes do not identify the personal circumstances of antisocial behaviour order (ASBO) recipients.

An ASBO prohibits a recipient from doing anything described in the order but the number or types of conditions imposed are not collated for statistical purposes.

**Mrs. Gillan:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what evidence his Department has evaluated on the effects of antisocial behaviour orders on individuals with a disability; [11360]

(2) what advice has been given to *(a)* courts, *(b)* the police and *(c)* local authorities on the effects of issuing an antisocial behaviour order to an individual with a disability. [11361]

**Hazel Blears:** Our publications "A guide to anti-social behaviour orders and acceptable behaviour contracts" and "Guidance on publicising antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs)" together with information provided by our TOGETHER website and Action Line, provides comprehensive guidance for all practitioners, including courts, police authorities and local authorities.

This guidance sets out that, where an individual has a known or suspected disability, a needs assessment should always be carried out. In addition, the courts and

practitioners are familiar with disability discrimination legislation which provides a general safeguard when taking court action against an individual that has a disability.

We have not received any evidence to suggest that ASBOs may disproportionately affect individuals with a disability.

**Dr. Kumar:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many antisocial behaviour orders have been issued in *(a)* criminal and *(b)* civil courts in (i) England, (ii) the Teesside region and (iii) Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency. [11367]

**Hazel Blears:** The available information is given in the table.

*Number of ASBOs issued at all courts in England, as notified to the Home Office, and where restrictions are imposed in local authority areas within the Teesside region, from 1 June 2000 up to 31 December 2004 (latest available)*

| | *On conviction* | *On application* | *Total issued* |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Area* | | | |
| Teesside region[1] | 5 | [2]48 | [2]53 |
| *Of which:* | | | |
| Hartlepool Borough Council | 1 | 6 | 7 |
| Middlesbrough Borough Council[3] | 3 | 26 | 29 |
| Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council[3] | 1 | 9 | 10 |
| Stockton on Tees Borough Council | 0 | 6 | 6 |
| England | 2,019 | [4]2,464 | [4]4,4834 |

[1] The Teesside region includes Hartlepool, Redcar and Cleveland, Middlesbrough and Stockton on Tees local authority areas.
[2] From 1 April 1999 to 31 May 2000 data were collected on aggregate numbers only by police force area (pfa). Includes one ASBO issued within Cleveland pfa during this period.
[3] Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland parliamentary constituency is located within the local government authority areas of Middlesbrough borough council and Redcar and Cleveland council.
[4] Includes 104 ASBOs issued from 1 April 1999 to 31 May 2000.

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether an individual's physical or mental condition which affects their ability to carry out normal day-to-day actions is taken into account by *(a)* courts, *(b)* local authorities and *(c)* the police when deciding whether to apply for an antisocial behaviour order; and whether any antisocial behaviour orders have been (i) applied for and (ii) granted in respect of individuals. [11379]

**Hazel Blears:** Our publications "A guide to antisocial behaviour orders and acceptable behaviour contracts" and "Guidance on publicising antisocial behaviour orders" together with information provided by our TOGETHER website and Action Line, provides comprehensive guidance for all practitioners, including courts, police authorities and local authorities.

This guidance sets out that, where an individual has mental health problems or a known or suspected disability, a needs assessment should always be carried out. In addition, the courts and practitioners are familiar with disability discrimination legislation which provides a general safeguard when taking court action against an individual that has a disability.

Information is not collected centrally about the characteristics or circumstances of persons issued with an antisocial behaviour order.

**Mr. Fabian Hamilton:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans he has to involve local communities in obtaining antisocial behaviour orders. [11446]

**Hazel Blears:** Antisocial behaviour orders are community-based orders designed to protect individuals or whole communities from behaviour that has caused, or is likely to cause, harassment, alarm or distress to others. They involve local communities in the collection of evidence and in helping to enforce breaches. They also encourage local people to take an active role in protecting their communities and making them safer places in which to live.

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how he expects that the civil renewal strategy will impact on applications for antisocial behaviour orders. [11378]

**Hazel Blears:** The Government's plan for civil renewal, "Together We Can", is about empowering citizens to work with public bodies to set and achieve common goals. It will encourage more citizens to work with local agencies to obtain antisocial behaviour orders to tackle persistent problems where that is appropriate, and also involve more local people in developing strategies and activities for positive community action to help conflict resolution and youth inclusion. In providing co-operative and restorative options to deal with potential antagonism between citizens, the plan will contribute to the reduction of the level of antisocial behaviour and the need for antisocial behaviour orders.

## Asylum/Immigration

**Mr. Geoffrey Robinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many new asylum claims following unsuccessful first claims were successful in each of the last three years. [7665]

**Mr. McNulty:** The numbers for the last three years are as follows:

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2002 | 49 |
| 2003 | 36 |
| 2004 | 42 |

This information is based on internal management information and, as such, is not published within the official statistics.

Cases are considered on their individual merits, consideration being given to changed circumstances and fresh information which justifies a reversal of the previous decision. Furthermore, there is provision for consideration of a submission, which amounts to a fresh claim, if it is significantly different from the material that has previously been considered.

**Bob Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) to which destinations in Iraq asylum seekers deported from the UK are sent; [9137]

(2) what measures are taken to ensure that asylum seekers from the Kurdish area of Iraq deported from the UK are given safe passage to their home area; and if he will make a statement. [9139]

**Mr. McNulty:** The Government announced their intention in February 2004 to commence enforced returns to Iraq, but this has yet to start. The overriding reason has been the need to co-ordinate our operational logistics and preparations with the changes in the administrations in Iraq since this announcement was made. The enforced return of any individual to Iraq will be directed to areas assessed as sufficiently stable and where the Home Office is satisfied that the individual concerned will not be at risk. Great care will be taken with all travel arrangements.

A programme of assisted voluntary returns is operated by the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) on behalf of the Home Office. Iraqi citizens continue to return to Iraq voluntarily on the overland route from Jordan to Baghdad with the assistance of the IOM. The Home Office does not record the destination of returnees in its statistics.

**John Bercow:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Sudanese asylum seekers have had their cases closed and are awaiting deportation. [10896]

**Mr. McNulty:** I regret that information on the number of people who have exhausted all appeal rights and are awaiting removal from the UK is not available, and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. Some individuals whose asylum application was unsuccessful may have left the UK without informing the immigration service.

Once an individual's asylum claim has been refused and any subsequent appeals dismissed, there are still a number of potential barriers to removal including, but not limited to:

judicial or human rights applications;

lack of documentation (without which an applicant cannot be returned);

absence of a travel route, lack of co-operation from receiving countries or scheduled flight services (resulting in lengthy documentation processes or use of charter flights);

maintaining contact with failed asylum seekers who have moved or changed address to avoid detection.

Information on the total number of cases awaiting an initial decision or appeal outcome, and on applications, initial decision outcomes, and appeal outcomes by nationality, is published quarterly and annually on the Home Office website at http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html.

**John Bercow:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) if he will list the countries from which asylum claims have been refused on the grounds of the internal flight alternative; [10897]

(2) what proportion of asylum claims were refused on the grounds of the internal flight alternative in the last period for which figures are available. [10898]

**Mr. McNulty:** Each asylum and human rights claim is considered on its individual merits in accordance with our obligations under the 1951 UN Refugee Convention and the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR). Applications may be refused for more than one reason. We do not record on electronic databases whether refusals were related to the availability of internal relocation as a means of avoiding persecution in any particular country. The information requested could be obtained only at disproportionate cost by examination of individual case files.

**John Bercow:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what his policy is on the European Charter of Fundamental Rights, with particular reference to the prohibition of refoulement of asylum seekers. [11032]

**Mr. McNulty:** The Charter of Fundamental Rights is a political declaration, which sets out fundamental rights, freedoms and principles, including right to asylum (Article 18 of the Charter) and non-refoulement (Article 19 (2)), which already exist in the EU acquis.

UK law and practise is fully in accordance with the non-refoulement principle. Each asylum and human rights claim is considered on its individual merits in accordance with our obligations under the 1951 UN Refugee Convention and the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR). Claimants who meet the definition of a refugee in the 1951 Convention are granted asylum. If they do not qualify for asylum, but there are other circumstances that make them particularly vulnerable and engage our obligations under the ECHR, they are granted humanitarian protection or discretionary leave. If their application is refused, they have a right of appeal to the independent Asylum and Immigration Tribunal. In this way we ensure that we provide protection to those who need it.

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what inquiries are made in the country of origin about the cases put by asylum seekers against their deportation. [11166]

**Mr. McNulty:** Each application is considered against the background of the latest available country information from a wide range of reliable sources including intergovernmental organisations (such as the UN), governmental sources (including the Foreign and Commonwealth Office) and human rights organisations (for example Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch). Further inquiries in the country of origin are sometimes undertaken when additional information is needed in order to reach a decision.

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether adjudicators in asylum cases are expected to have knowledge or experience of the country from which the asylum seeker they are considering comes from and may be deported to; and how the Government provides them with up-to-date information. [11167]

**Bridget Prentice:** I have been asked to reply.

Immigration Judges (formerly known as Adjudicators) are not expected to have knowledge or experience of the country from which a particular asylum seeker comes. The appeal system is adversarial, so the burden rests with the parties to produce all evidence they wish the Immigration Judge to take into account in reaching his determination. The Home Office

is a party to every asylum appeal and, as such, is under a duty to place all relevant evidence before the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal.

**Lady Hermon:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will review his decision to exclude Northern Ireland as a destination for asylum seeker dispersal; and if he will make a statement. [11351]

**Mr. McNulty:** Northern Ireland is not currently a dispersal area. Those making their application for asylum in Northern Ireland may, if they wish, receive support, including accommodation, there. The Government keep their policy in relation to dispersal under review but there is no intention, at this stage, to begin dispersing to Northern Ireland asylum seekers who have claimed asylum elsewhere in the United Kingdom.

**John Bercow:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the prospects for the safety of *(a)* Hatem Mohammed Hussain, *(b)* Bergu Mohammed, *(c)* Bakery Elzin Mohammed, *(d)* Bakhet Adam Ali and *(e)* Ismail Mohamed Jabar if they return to Khartoum. [11411]

**Mr. McNulty:** It is not usual practice to disclose information about individual immigration cases to anybody other than their nominated representatives or constituency MP.

**John Bercow:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the number of Sudanese asylum seekers who have returned to the UK after deportation to Khartoum in each of the last two years. [11427]

**Mr. McNulty:** Information on the number of Sudanese asylum seekers who have returned to the UK after deportation to Khartoum in each of the last two years is not collected.

Information on the numbers of asylum applications and removals of failed asylum seekers is published in the quarterly asylum statistics on the Home Office Research Development and Statistics Directorate website at http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html.

**David Davis:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum seekers in the United Kingdom are awaiting the result of *(a)* an initial decision and *(b)* an appeal. [11543]

**Mr. McNulty:** The available information is as follows.

Asylum numbers are continuing to fall dramatically year on year, and provisional figures for the whole of 2004 show UK asylum applications fell by 33 per cent. including dependants, twice the rate of the rest of Europe.

This has been achieved through measures such as the closure of Sangatte, rolling out detection technology, posting immigration officers in France and Belgium, ending appeals in the UK for nationals of safe countries, introducing new visa regimes and bringing in tough legislation to deal with abuse of the system and delays.

Consequently the number of cases awaiting an initial decision has continued to fall, to 8,700 cases at the end of March 2005, the lowest level for more than a decade (and less than half the level of a year earlier); of these 4,400 cases were classified as work in progress i.e. the application had been outstanding for six months or less.

Information on asylum initial decision outcomes and appeal outcomes is published quarterly and annually on the Home Office Research Development and Statistics Directorate website at http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html.

**Mr. Hood:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many illegal immigrants have been deported since January 2005 in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* Scotland. [11688]

**Mr. McNulty:** Information on people removed from within Scotland would not be available, except by examination of individual case files at disproportionate cost.

Statistics on the number of illegal entrants who are removed from the UK are published in the annual "Control of Immigration: Statistics United Kingdom". Information for 2005 is not scheduled to be published until the summer of 2006.

Information on the number of asylum seekers removed from the UK is published every quarter on the Home Office website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html.

The latest available figure cover the first quarter of 2005. Statistics for the second quarter of 2005 will be published in August.

### Correspondence

**Mr. Mullin:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on what date he responded to the letter from Clive Stafford Smith dated 15 May, regarding Omar Deghayes; and if he will place a copy of his response in the Library. [11270]

**Mr. McNulty:** I wrote to Mr. Stafford Smith on 8 July. I do not consider it would be appropriate to place a copy of a letter about a particular case to an individual's legal representative in the Library.

### Crime (London/Young People)

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the proportion of crime in London that was carried out by first time offenders in each of the last five years. [8298]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** No estimate has been made of the proportion of crime in London that was carried out by first time offenders.

**Mr. Hepburn:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many young people of school age have been placed in custody in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England and Wales in each year since 1997. [8355]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** The available information, which relates to young people under-18 in the North East and in England and Wales, is shown in the following table. Figures are not available for the period before April 2000, when the Youth Justice Board assumed

responsibility for the secure estate for young people. No separate breakdown of figures for Jarrow or South Tyneside is available.

*Number of young people in custody*

| *Year*[1] | *North East* | *England and Wales* |
|---|---|---|
| 2000 (from April) | 546 | 9,612 |
| 2001 | 586 | 13,436 |
| 2002 | 662 | 13,061 |
| 2003 | 613 | 12,201 |
| 2004 | 596 | 12,721 |
| 2005 (up to 11 July) | 334 | 6,608 |

[1] Table shows all episodes of custody that started within the year in question. In some cases the young person was sent to custody (on remand or under sentence) twice or more during the year.

### Criminal Prosecutions

**Mr. Djanogly:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the target is for criminal prosecutions in the year 2005–06. [9623]

**Fiona Mactaggart** *[holding answer 4 July 2005]:* The Home Office does not set a target for criminal prosecutions.

However the Home Office does have a Public Service Agreement to improve the delivery of justice by increasing the number of crimes for which an offender is brought to justice to 1.25 million by 2007–08. The interim target for 2005–06 is to bring 1.15 million offences to justice. For an offence to be brought to justice, it must result in a conviction, caution, formal warning for cannabis, fixed penalty notice or be admitted by the offender who asked for the offence to be taken into consideration by the court. Only notifiable offences are counted.

### Criminal Records Bureau

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to his answer of 4 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 125W, on the Criminal Records Bureau, what functionality has been added to the IT system in each of the last two years. [11659]

**Andy Burnham:** There has been no functionality added to the Criminal Records Bureau IT system during the last two years to enable an analysis of disclosure applications by employment group. The functionality would be linked to the data that is planned to be captured on the new version of the disclosure application form.

### Drug Rehabilitation

**Anne Main:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many referrals were made to the Hertfordshire probation area regarding *(a)* drug treatment testing orders and *(b)* drug rehabilitation requirements in the last period for which figures are available. [11134]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** The number of referrals made to Hertfordshire probation area for drug treatment and testing orders (DTTOs) and drug rehabilitation requirement (DRRs) for April and May 2005 was:

268 DTTO referrals were made to Hertfordshire probation area in 2004–05 (April 2004 to March 2005).

*DTTO referrals*

| 2005 | *Number DTTO referrals* | *Number DRR referrals* |
|---|---|---|
| April | 10 | 0 |
| May | 12 | 0 |

### Drunk and Disorderly Prosecutions

**Mr. Wallace:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many prosecutions were made for the offence of being drunk and disorderly in Lancashire in each year between 1985 and 2005; [10797]

(2) how many arrests for offences involving drinking and disorderly behaviour have taken place in *(a)* Lancaster and Wyre and *(b)* Lancashire in each year since 1997; to which custody suite arrestees were taken; and how many cases subsequently went to magistrates court. [11847]

**Hazel Blears:** The information contained in the table gives the number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts for "being guilty while drunk of disorderly behaviour", Lancashire police force area 1985 to 2003.

Statistics on court proceedings for 2004 will be published in the autumn.

The penalty notice for disorder scheme (PNDs) provides for persons who commit specified penalty offences to be issued with a fixed penalty notice instead of being prosecuted. The number of persons issued with a penalty notice for "being guilty while drunk of disorderly behaviour", Lancashire police force area is:

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2004 | 2,869 |
| 2005 (January to May) | 1,752 |

The information requested on arrests is not available centrally.

*Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates' courts for "being guilty while drunk of disorderly behaviour"[1], Lancashire police force area 1985 to 2003*

| | *Proceeded against* |
|---|---|
| 1985 | 1,746 |
| 1986 | 1,556 |
| 1987 | 1,697 |
| 1988 | 1,459 |
| 1989 | 1,169 |
| 1990 | 1,106 |
| 1991 | 906 |
| 1992 | 848 |
| 1993 | 622 |
| 1994 | 732 |
| 1995 | 922 |
| 1996 | 1,231 |
| 1997 | 1,618 |
| 1998 | 1,673 |
| 1999 | 1,827 |
| 2000 | 2,165 |
| 2001 | 2,366 |
| 2002 | 2,210 |
| 2003 | 2,180 |

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

## Extradition

**Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will ensure ministerial scrutiny of any information provided by US authorities when requesting the extradition of a British subject under the US-UK Extradition Treaty 2003; and if he will ensure that ministerial approval is required of any British subject's extradition to the USA. [11610]

**Andy Burnham:** The US-UK Extradition Treaty 2003 is not yet in force, although certain provisions in it have been given effect in the 2003 Extradition Act which came into force on 1 January 2004. Part 2 of that Act provides the framework for the scrutiny of requests from countries outside the EU. Requests which are certified by the Home Office as valid are submitted to the court, whose role includes establishing that the request is for conduct which is extraditable in UK law, and that extradition would not breach the person's human rights. Unless discharged by the court, they are then passed to Ministers for consideration of issues relating to the death penalty, speciality and earlier extradition if applicable, and for final decision. There is an avenue of appeal against the decisions of both Ministers and the courts. These procedures apply regardless of the person's nationality.

**Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will suspend the extradition of any British subjects to the USA under the new US-UK Extradition Treaty 2003 until the US Senate ratifies the treaty. [11611]

**Andy Burnham:** No. There are full and adequate safeguards in the Extradition Act 2003 to ensure that extraditions approved under its procedures are fair, and these apply regardless of the requested person's nationality. The 2003 treaty has not yet been ratified by the USA, and until its ratification the 1972 US-UK Extradition Treaty remains in force.

## Hacking

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many incidents of *(a)* internal and *(b)* external hacking reported by each department contributing to the Unified Reporting and Alert Scheme were categorised as (i) access denied, (ii) browsing, (iii) password abuse, (iv) privilege abuse, (v) data stolen or disclosed, (vi) files deleted or damaged, (vii) fraud and (viii) other in each year since 2002. [10136]

**Hazel Blears:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 1 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 123W.

## Home Detention Curfews

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many participants there were in the home detention curfew scheme in each month since its inception; and if he will make a statement. [8046]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** The information requested is provided in the table. The figures refer to the number of persons recorded as participating in the home detention curfew scheme on the last Friday of each month.

*Number of persons under home detention curfew supervision, England and Wales*

| | |
|---|---|
| *1999* | |
| February | 1,351 |
| March | 2,215 |
| April | 2,035 |
| May | 1,872 |
| June | 1,891 |
| July | 2,097 |
| August | 2,134 |
| September | 2,069 |
| October | 1,964 |
| November | 2,006 |
| December | 1,990 |
| *2000* | |
| January | 1,900 |
| February | 1,820 |
| March | 1,969 |
| April | 2,028 |
| May | 1,988 |
| June | 1,971 |
| July | 1,971 |
| August | 1,896 |
| September | 1,898 |
| October | 1,908 |
| November | 1,859 |
| December | 1,757 |
| *2001* | |
| January | 1,586 |
| February | 1,607 |
| March | 1,663 |
| April | 1,573 |
| May | 1,596 |
| June | 1,618 |
| July | 1,638 |
| August | 1,639 |
| September | 1,626 |
| October | 1,591 |
| November | 1,738 |
| December | 1,694 |
| *2002* | |
| January | 1,672 |
| February | 1,707 |
| March | 1,965 |
| April | 2,103 |
| May | 2,300 |
| June | 2,327 |
| July | 2,292 |
| August | 2,410 |
| September | 2,384 |
| October | 2,431 |
| November | 2,584 |
| December | 3,097 |
| *2003* | |
| January | 3,055 |
| February | 3,019 |
| March | 3,128 |
| April | 3,135 |
| May | 3,112 |
| June | 3,174 |
| July | 3,262 |
| August | 3,772 |
| September | 3,682 |
| October | 3,574 |
| November | 3,613 |
| December | 3,779 |
| *2004* | |
| January | 3,523 |
| February | 3,444 |
| March | 3,602 |

*Number of persons under home detention curfew supervision, England and Wales*

| | |
|---|---|
| *1999* | |
| April | 3,615 |
| May | 3,588 |
| June | 3,663 |
| July | 3,609 |
| August | 3,574 |
| September | 3,465 |
| October | 3,430 |
| November | 3,351 |
| December | 3,363 |
| *2005* | |
| January | 3,215 |
| February | 3,221 |
| March | 3,417 |
| April | 3,356 |
| May | 3,337 |

### Identity Cards

**Mark Fisher:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the proposed identity card scheme requires each citizen to be issued with an unique secret pin number. [10711]

**Andy Burnham:** Information on the card will be protected using a form of credential. This may be a pin number, password, biometric or combination of these.

**Mark Fisher:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many kilobytes of memory capacity the chip within the proposed identity card will contain. [10712]

**Andy Burnham:** We do not yet have a precise figure for the memory capacity of the chip as this will be one of the factors to be settled as part of the procurement exercise for the National Identity Card Scheme. This will follow once the Bill has been approved by Parliament.

**Mark Fisher:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the encrypted data held on identity cards will be protected by a personal identification number. [11152]

**Andy Burnham:** Information on the card will be protected using a form of credential. This may be a PIN, password, biometric or combination of these.

### London Probation Service

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* sex offenders, *(b)* drug users, *(c)* domestic violence offenders and *(d)* mentally ill persons are being dealt with by the London probation service; and if he will make a statement. [2901]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** London probation area has a current caseload (including licences) of 40,568, of this 1,505 offenders were sentenced for sexual offences, a further 5,549 offenders with drug offences, (this includes 1,789 Drug Treatment and Testing Orders/DRRs at the end of April 2005). In addition there will clearly be offenders who have not been sentenced for drugs offences but will have substance misuse problems. There are currently just under 200 offenders attending a group programme for domestic violence. Finally, London probation currently have a caseload of 176 offenders subject to mental treatment as a requirement in a community order and 44 offenders on conditional release from a psychiatric institution.

### Magistrates Courts

**Mrs. Gillan:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many staff were provided by Premier to West London magistrates court in the week beginning 30 May; and how many they are contracted to provide; [4888]

(2) what representations he has received from the chief magistrate about *(a)* the staffing levels and *(b)* the quality of service provided by Premier to conduct custody cases to and from court houses; and if he will make a statement; [4889]

(3) how many representations his Department has received about *(a)* the staffing levels and *(b)* the quality of service provided by Premier to conduct custody cases to and from court houses since it obtained the contract; and how many complaints were received in the two previous years; [4890]

(4) whether the number of staff provided by Premier at Horseferry Road magistrates court on Friday 10 June was lower than the normal number provided; and if he will make a statement. [4895]

**Fiona Mactaggart** *[holding answer 20 June 2005]:* Premier Prison Services Ltd. hold the contract for the escort of prisoners in London and the South East.

11 written representations have been received from London courts since the start of the new contract on 29 August 2004 about a range of subjects including staffing levels and the quality of the service from Premier. Representations have also been received from members of the judiciary, other parts of the criminal justice system as well as the chief magistrate.

Premier are required to provide sufficient staff to the courts to deliver the services, which include escorting prisoners to and from court, staffing the court cell areas and staffing courtrooms where custody cases are being heard. Staffing levels are not specified; the service standards are.

At West London magistrates court, Premier have provided the following figures for the numbers of staff working at the court to staff the custody areas and courtrooms:

| | *Staffing for week commencing 30 May*[1] | *Usual average staffing*[1] |
|---|---|---|
| Monday 30 May 2005[2] | 7 | 7 |
| Tuesday 31 May 2005 | 11 | 9 |
| Wednesday 1 June 2005 | 14 | 9 |
| Thursday 2 June 2005 | 12 | 9 |
| Friday 3 June 2005 | 15 | 9 |
| Saturday 4 June 2005 | 6 | 7 |

[1] These figures include custody officers whose normal duty is to escort prisoners to and from court, but who were available at times during the day to staff the courtrooms.

[2] Bank holiday.

On Saturday 4 June Premier did not have sufficient staff available until 09.45 and this led to a delay in court proceedings. This is regretted and Premier have confirmed that they have taken action to prevent this from recurring.

At Horseferry Road magistrates court on Friday 10 June 2005, Premier provided 10 custody officers. The usual average staffing for a Friday is 11 custody officers.

The number of staff required in any courthouse depends on the court listing and the nature of the hearings and the contractors are required to adjust it to meet the demand.

### Offences Against the Person Act

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cases under *(a)* section 18 and *(b)* section 20 of the Offences Against the Persons Act 1861 were brought before the courts in each year since 2000 in (i) Essex and (ii) England; and how many people were convicted in each year. [1225]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** The data contained in the table gives the number of defendants proceeded against and found guilty at all courts for offences under the Offences Against the Person Act 1861, Secs 18 and 20, England and Essex police force area 2000 to 2003.

Statistics on court proceedings for 2004 will be published in the autumn.

*Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts under the Offences Against the Person Act 1861[1], England and Essex police force area 2000 to 2003*

| | | England | | Essex police force area | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Statute* | *Year* | *Proceeded against* | *Found guilty* | *Proceeded against* | *Found guilty* |
| Offences Against the Person Act 1861 , Sec 18 | 2000 | 6,851 | 1,249 | 95 | 18 |
| | 2001 | 7,567 | 1,310 | 115 | 26 |
| | 2002 | 6,885 | 1,379 | 92 | 24 |
| | 2003 | 6,958 | 1,391 | 101 | 25 |
| Offences Against the Person Act 1861 , Sec 20 | 2000 | 5,955 | 3,948 | 121 | 59 |
| | 2001 | 5,521 | 3,910 | 106 | 54 |
| | 2002 | 5,285 | 4,046 | 87 | 65 |
| | 2003 | 4,888 | 3,970 | 75 | 63 |

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

### Parliamentary Questions

**Mr. Malins:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he will reply to question reference 4785 tabled by the hon. Member for Woking. [12294]

**Hazel Blears:** I replied to the hon. Member on 12 July 2005.

### Police

**Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans he has for the reorganisation of police forces in England and Wales. [11385]

**Hazel Blears:** At the Association of Chief Police Officers on 19 May, the Home Secretary made it clear that he did not believe that the current structure of 43 forces was the most effective and efficient arrangement for organising policing in England and Wales. He also made it clear that he had no blueprint for amalgamations, but that the initiative for such amalgamations should be driven locally. To inform the way forward, the Home Secretary has commissioned Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary to examine the issue of force structures. As well as looking at the case for structural changes, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary will also be examining the case for greater collaboration and co-operation between forces.

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make a statement on the age profile of Lancashire police. [11069]

**Hazel Blears:** The age profile of Lancashire police on the 31 March 2004 is given in the following table:

*Age profile police officers Lancashire 2003–04*

| | *25 years and under* | *26 to 40 years* | *41 to 55 years* | *Over 55 years* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| ACPO ranks | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| Chief Superintendent | 0 | 2 | 8 | 1 |
| Superintendent | 0 | 4 | 14 | 0 |
| Chief Inspector | 0 | 11 | 30 | 0 |
| Inspector | 0 | 36 | 140 | 2 |
| Sergeant | 0 | 247 | 292 | 0 |
| Constable | 223 | 1,697 | 904 | 2 |

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans he has to monitor the recruitment and retention of transsexual police officers. [10793]

**Hazel Blears:** The Gender Recognition Act 2004 enables transsexual people who have taken decisive steps to live fully and permanently in their acquired gender to apply for legal recognition of that gender.

Police recruitment and other employment monitoring data is recorded and monitored in terms of male or female gender. We have no plans to monitor the recruitment and retention of transsexual police officers.

### Prisons

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the projected prison population in England and Wales is in *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2007, *(c)* 2008 and *(d)* 2009. [3872]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** The latest prison population projections are published in the Home Office Statistical Bulletin 01/05 "Prison Population Projections, 2005–2011, England and Wales". Figures for the years 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009 for 10 scenarios can be found in this document. The scenarios range from 'High' to 'Low'. Projected total prison population figures

(corresponding to end of June) for High and Low scenarios for the relevant years are presented in the table.

| | *High scenario* | *Low scenario* |
|---|---|---|
| 2006 | 78,060 | 74,720 |
| 2007 | 82,140 | 76,190 |
| 2008 | 84,300 | 76,970 |
| 2009 | 86,190 | 76,590 |

**Mrs. Dean:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prisoners are receiving treatment for *(a)* drug abuse and *(b)* alcohol dependency. [5777]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** The information is as follows.

*(a)* Data for 2004–05 show the following numbers of drug misusers receiving treatment:

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| Clinical Services | [1]53,903 treatments |
| CARATs[2] | 59,025 initial assessments |
| Drug Rehabilitation Programmes | 7,609 entrants |

[1] Mainly detoxification.
[2] Counselling, Assessment, Referral, Advice and Throughcare Services

*(b)* No records are kept centrally of those prisoners who receive treatment for alcohol dependency.

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what procedures are in place to help those released from women's prisons to find accommodation and employment when they have no family or friendship support in the location where the prison is situated; and what research on the subject he has commissioned. [8407]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** The Prison Service's strategy for the resettlement of prisoners is set out in Prison Service Order 2300. It involves collaboration with other agencies, voluntary and statutory, at a local and national level. Housing advice projects of various kinds are under way in all women's prisons; and steps are being taken to strengthen further the housing advice and support in those establishments.

While all resettlement work is expected to address, where appropriate, the issue of employment, and Jobcentre plus advisers are in place at all women's prisons, the Prison Service is working with a number of voluntary agencies on specific projects aimed at supporting into work those women at risk of re-offending, which may include women who lack family and friendship support. The Prison Service undertook a resettlement survey in 2003–04 and the results have supported the development of policy and practice across the whole prisons estate.

**Mrs. Gillan:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what further discussions he has had with the Jamaican authorities about prisoner transfers since March. [9058]

**Dr. Howells:** I have been asked to reply.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials met with the new Jamaican high commissioner on 26 April 2005 where the subject of Prisoner Transfer Agreement (PTA) was raised. Agreeing a PTA with Jamaica remains an objective for the Government and we shall continue to raise the matter with the Jamaicans as and when appropriate.

**Mr. Andrew Turner:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to his answer to the hon. Member for Elmet (Colin Burgon) of 27 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 1005, on new prisons, if he will list the sites which *(a)* are and *(b)* have been in the last three years under consideration for new prisons; for what type of prison in each case; and what stage consideration has reached in each case. [10228]

**Fiona Mactaggart** *[holding answer 11 July 2005]:* Although a number of sites have recently been identified as potentially suitable for new prisons, no decision to buy a site has been made. If a site is under consideration for acquisition details could not be disclosed for commercial reasons. Any Member in whose constituency where we have decided to buy a site or where we are planning to build a new prison will be kept up to date on developments by the Home Office

We have opened two new prisons: HMP Bronzefield in June 2004, a 450-place women's prison near Heathrow; and HMP Peterborough in March 2005, a 840-place prison which includes places for up to 360 women in modern accommodation.

In addition, the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) owns two sites at Merseyside and Thamesmead, London, but no decision has been taken to build on them.

NOMS also owns land on the Isle of Wight and at HMP Full Sutton. Consideration was given three years ago to developing these sites to provide additional accommodation. There are no immediate plans to develop these sites.

### Project Iris

**Mr. Wallace:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what size data files are being used to store individuals' entry and biometric records for use with the Immigration and Nationality Directorate's Project Iris. [11848]

**Mr. McNulty:** The specification of the system states that it must perform to requirements with a database of two million enrolees and there must be no architectural limitations to expansion. The size of individual data files has not been specified within the system, however the iris code itself is 512b.

### Prostitution

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were *(a)* arrested and *(b)* successfully prosecuted for (i) kerb-crawling, (ii) prostitution and (iii) running a brothel in each London borough in each of the last five years. [2491]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** The information requested on arrests is not available centrally. Information on arrests collected centrally is based on persons arrested for "notifiable" offences by main offence group (i.e. sexual offences, violence against the person and burglary etc)

and at police force area only and therefore does not identify individual offences nor constituency areas or local authorities.

The information requested for successful prosecutions for kerb-crawling, prostitution and running a brothel is attached table which has also been placed in the Library.

### Rape Trials

**Vera Baird:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans there are for allowing out of court video taped cross-examination of vulnerable witnesses to be admitted into criminal trials. [603]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** The review of both this provision and a wider review of child evidence was launched by Baroness Scotland of Asthal on 1 December 2004. The review group will report to Ministers in the summer.

### Rec. 61 Form

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been stopped and issued with a Rec. 61 form by Haringey borough police since its inception, broken down by *(a)* ethnicity and *(b)* police station. [7421]

**Hazel Blears** *[holding answer 27 June 2005]:* The Home Office does not collect this data centrally. Information obtained from the Metropolitan police is that since one October 2004, when they implemented recommendation 61, there have been a total of 2,577 recorded stops in Haringey up to the end of May 2005. This is broken down as follows by ethnicity:

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| White | 1,438 |
| Black | 914 |
| Asian | 112 |
| Other | 79 |
| N/R | 34 |

### Safety Cameras

**Mrs. Dorries:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much has been raised in fines from speed cameras in the county of Bedfordshire since 2000. [11022]

**Paul Goggins:** Information on the revenue raised from speed offences detected by camera is not available.

However the table shows, for the Bedfordshire police force area, the number of fixed penalties ordered to be paid and the number of court fines for such offences in the calendar years 2000 to 2003 (latest available).

Information for 2004 will be available early in 2006.

Not all fines and fixed penalties will have been paid.

*Fixed penalty and court proceedings data for speeding offences detected by cameras[1, 2] within the Bedfordshire police force area, 2000–03*

*Number of offences*

| | *Fixed penalties* | | *Court proceedings*[3] | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Number of tickets*[4] | *Estimated revenue (£)*[5] | *Number of fines* | *Total amount of fine (£)* | *Average fine (£)* |
| 2000 | 12,600 | 597,500 | 671 | 69,400 | 103 |
| 2001 | 10,800 | 650,500 | 1,022 | 108,000 | 106 |
| 2002[2] | 38,800 | 2,325,500 | 473 | 53,900 | 114 |
| 2003 | 65,900 | 3,954,400 | 1,316 | 119,300 | 91 |

[1] Offences under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and The Motor Vehicles (Speed Limits on Motorways) Regulations 1973.
[2] Bedfordshire police joined the Safety Camera Funding Scheme in 2002.
[3] Includes cases where fixed penalty notices were originally issued but not paid and subsequently referred to court.
[4] Only covers tickets paid where there is no further action.
[5] Estimate based on 40 fixed penalty charge to October 2000. Charge raised to 60 from November 2000.

**Mrs. Dorries:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many tickets issued following infringements caught on speed cameras have been challenged and upheld in each year since their introduction in *(a)* the constituency of Mid-Bedfordshire and *(b)* the county of Bedfordshire since 1997. [11023]

**Paul Goggins:** Information is not available centrally on the number of people prosecuted for speeding offences detected by camera who elect to challenge a fixed penalty notice.

### Secure Training Centres

**Simon Hughes:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the without-profit cost of one bed for one night in a secure training centre; and what cost, including VAT, is charged by contractors. [11694]

**Fiona Mactaggart** *[holding answer 12 July 2005]:* Letting contracts for secure training centres involves an extensive competitive process to ensure value for money. Costs are benchmarked against a public sector comparator. The information requested relates to contracts with the secure training centre operators and is confidential.

### Tetra

**Mr. Crabb:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the total value of the contract with O2 Airwave is to provide a Tetra telecommunications network for the emergency services. [11607]

**Hazel Blears:** O2 have been contracted to provide a radiocommunication system for the police service. The total forecast cost is £2.3 billion (at 1999 prices) over the life of the contract. Contracts for replacing the fire and ambulance service radiocommunications systems have not yet been placed.

**Mr. Crabb:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what future performance-related payments are available to O2 Airwave in connection with the contract to provide a Tetra telecommunications network for the emergency services. [11608]

**Hazel Blears:** O2 have been contracted to provide a radiocommunication system for the police service. There are no performance-related payments in the contract. Contracts for replacing the fire and ambulance services current radiocommunications systems have not yet been placed.

### Under-age Drinking

**Mr. Crabb:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what sum in fines was imposed in 2003 for sales of alcohol to under 18s. [11830]

**Hazel Blears:** The sum of fines imposed in 2003 for sales of alcohol to under 18s was £89,385.

### Women's Royal Voluntary Service

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will publish details of the arrangement with the Women's Royal Voluntary Service whereby, in return for a reduction in grant aid, the WRVS is given help with its property portfolio; and which properties are involved. [11786]

**Paul Goggins:** An independent review of Women's Royal Voluntary Service (WRVS) in 1997 identified that WRVS' financial dependence on Government and restrictions on its property holdings were major barriers to its goals of modernisation and independence.

To help achieve these goals it was agreed with WRVS that the grant-in-aid be reduced over 10 years to £1 million a year by 2007–08 and that the reversionary interest in the properties held on trust be transferred to WRVS absolutely. The property transfer was completed in 2004.

The Home Office dissolved the arrangement whereby the WRVS held properties on trust for the Home Secretary and transferred the Home Secretary's beneficial interest in the properties to WRVS (a list of properties is attached at Annex A, which has been placed in the Library). As a result, WRVS agreed to their grant-in-aid reduction. (The table, which has also been placed in the Library shows the Home Office grant-in-aid payments and planned payments from 1995 to 2008).

### Young Offenders

**Mr. Hepburn:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many young people of school age *(a)* found guilty of a crime and *(b)* placed in custody had a previous history of being in care in (i) Jarrow constituency, (ii) South Tyneside, (iii) the North East and (iv) England in each of the last five years. [10196]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** This information is not collected centrally.

**Mr. Hepburn:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many young people of school age have died while in custody in *(a)* the North East and *(b)* England in each year since 1997; and how many died of self-inflicted injuries in each year. [10198]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** The following table gives details up to 31 December 2003. There were two deaths in custody in 2004 and one in 2005. One of the 2004 deaths related to an establishment in the North East. It would not be appropriate to assign a cause to these deaths until the inquests have taken place.

| | *North East* | | *England* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Self inflicted* | *Other* | *Self inflicted* | *Other* |
| 1997 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 1998 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| 1999 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| 2000 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| 2001 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| 2002 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| 2003 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 0 | 0 | 13 | 0 |

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many young people of school age have been placed in custody in *(a)* Southend West constituency, *(b)* Essex, *(c)* Greater London and *(d)* England and Wales in the last five years for which figures are available. [10516]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** The available information relates to young people under 18 in: the East of England (figures for Southend West alone and Essex alone cannot be provided); Greater London; and England and Wales. It is shown in the following table. Figures are not available for the period before April 2000, when the Youth Justice Board assumed responsibility for the secure estate for young people.

*Young people in custody*

| *Year*[1] | *East of England* | *Greater London* | *England and Wales* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2000[2] | 603 | 1,080 | 9,612 |
| 2001 | 850 | 1,828 | 13,436 |
| 2002 | 769 | 2,255 | 13,061 |
| 2003 | 836 | 1,940 | 12,201 |
| 2004 | 882 | 2,117 | 12,721 |
| 2005[3] | 468 | 1,069 | 6,608 |

[1] Table shows all episodes in custody that started within the year in question. In some cases the young person was sent to custody (on remand or under sentence) twice or more during the year.

[2] From April.

[3] Up to 11 July.

**Mr. Malins:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many hours on average were spent per week by prisoners at each young offender institution on *(a)* education and *(b)* sport in the last period for which figures are available. [2712]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** The following table shows the average number of hours that young offenders spent specifically on education in 2004–05. Information on time spent by young offenders in sport is not collected separately but is captured under the general heading of "other purposeful activity".

| *Establishment name* | *Education hours (weekly average)* |
|---|---|
| Ashfield | 18.3 |
| Aylesbury | 6.2 |
| Brinsford | 11.3 |

| *Establishment name* | *Education hours (weekly average)* |
|---|---|
| Castington | 14.6 |
| Coldingley | 11.6 |
| Deerbolt | 12.3 |
| Feltham | 10.6 |
| Glen Parva | 6.4 |
| Huntercombe | 13.4 |
| Lancaster Farms | 14.0 |
| Northallerton | 11.5 |
| Onley | 10.2 |
| Portland | 7.4 |
| Reading | 8.1 |
| Rochester | 9.1 |
| Stoke Heath | 8.6 |
| Swinfen Hall | 11.8 |
| Thorn Cross (Open) | 19.6 |
| Warren Hill | 14.4 |
| Werrington | 21.9 |
| Wetherby | 12.2 |
| Young Offenders Estate Average | 12.1 |

**Mr. Clappison:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individual support orders have been made for 10 to 17-year-olds under the provisions of the Criminal Justice Act 2003 since the Act came into force. [9428]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** Seven Individual Support Orders (ISO) have been made since the provisions under the Criminal Justice Act 2003 came into force on 1 May 2004.

We are keen to increase the take-up of ISOs. On 29 June we announced an additional £500,000 to be made available to the Youth Justice Board this financial year for ISOs.

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of children released from young offender institutions were provided with accommodation in the last year for which figures are available. [9653]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** The Youth Justice Board sets youth offending teams a key performance indicator of ensuring that all young people serving custodial sentences have suitable accommodation to go to on release.

"Suitable accommodation" means accommodation which, so far as is reasonably practicable, meets the needs of the young person, including health needs and any arising from disability. The youth offending team should satisfy itself as to the character and suitability of the landlord or other provider; and, so far as is reasonably practicable, take into account the young person's wishes and feelings, and education, training or employment needs.

85.5 per cent. of young people who completed a custodial term in 2004–05 went to suitable accommodation on release.

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 21 June 2005, *Official Report*, columns 990–93W, if he will place in the Library a copy of the work published in November 2004 by the Public Policy Research Bureau for the Youth Justice Board. [9992]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** The report by the Public Policy Research Bureau on Safer Schools Partnerships was published on the Youth Justice Board website in November 2004. I am arranging for copies of the report to be placed in the Library.

## EDUCATION AND SKILLS

### Examination Standards

5. **Anne Main:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if she will take steps to make GCSEs and A levels more challenging. [11921]

**Ruth Kelly:** Our White Paper, "14–19 Education and Skills" sets out our proposals to strengthen GCSEs and A levels.

We will restructure English and maths GCSEs to ensure that students cannot get a grade C or better without passing a functional skills unit.

At A level we will introduce a new section in papers covering Advanced Extension Award type material and an Extended Project requiring a high degree of planning, preparation, research and autonomous working.

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what research has been conducted by her Department into the consistency of examination standards in *(a)* the national tests taken at seven, 11 and 14 years and *(b)* GNVQs. [10915]

**Jacqui Smith** *[holding answer 11 July 2005]:* None. While the Department has not undertaken or commissioned research about the consistency of standards over time in national curriculum tests or GNVQ examinations, it takes a close interest in research conducted by others.

### Special Schools

13. **Sir Nicholas Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what plans she has to review her policy on special schools. [11929]

**Beverley Hughes:** "Removing Barriers to Achievement", our SEN strategy, already provides a clear vision for improving support and outcomes for children with SEN. It sets out action to ensure that children with SEN receive the help they need as quickly as possible, from schools and other services.

The SEN strategy was informed by a review of special schools. Special schools have a vital role teaching children with the most severe and complex needs, and sharing expertise with mainstream schools.

### Education and Skills White Paper

14. **Justine Greening:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what representations she has received on the Government's 14 to 19 White Paper. [11930]

**Ruth Kelly:** I refer the hon. Member to the reply given earlier to the hon. Member for Croydon, Central.

**Mr. Graham Stuart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills What representations she has received on the Government's 14 to 19 White Paper. [11934]

**Ruth Kelly:** I refer the hon. Member to the reply given earlier to the hon. Member for Croydon Central (Mr. Pelling).

### Adult Education

15. **Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what assessment she has made of the likely effect on funding for an attendance at adult education classes in the Kettering constituency and in Northamptonshire as a result of her Department's emphasis on the 14 to 19 Skills Agenda. [11931]

**Phil Hope:** Giving young people the skills they need to progress in employment and to gain higher level skills is essential. Similarly we are committed to ensure that adults have the skills they need for employability. I am confident that there will be a wide range of adult education provision in Kettering and that the needs of the local community will continue to be met.

### Youth Services Green Paper

16. **Mrs. Humble:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what steps she is taking to consult young people on the proposals in the Green Paper on youth services. [11932]

**Beverley Hughes:** Young people are the most important audience for the Green Paper. We will seek their views in a number of ways including through the publication of a young people's questionnaire, discussions with youth organisations and consultation groups with disadvantaged young people who might not otherwise respond.

In addition, we plan to use a variety of youth websites including Need2Know, Connexions Direct, Youthnet UK and the Grange Hill and Hollyoaks websites.

### Antisocial Behaviour

19. **Ben Chapman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills If she will make a statement on the role of education in schools in combating antisocial behaviour. [11935]

**Jacqui Smith:** Raising educational attainment plays a crucial role in reducing antisocial behaviour and crime by promoting positive values and improving life chances. Our National Primary and Secondary Strategies are improving the quality of teaching and learning in schools. We are also implementing a complementary and comprehensive programme of measures to strengthen schools' capacity to improve pupils' behaviour and attendance.

### Key Stage Literacy Standards

20. **Michael Jabez Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what assessment she has made of standards of literacy in primary schools. [11936]

**Jacqui Smith:** Primary schools, supported by the National Literacy Strategy, have the highest standards of literacy ever. In 2004 78 per cent. of 11-year-olds reached the target level 4 of the National Curriculum in the Key Stage 2 English tests, an increase of 15 percentage points since 1997.

In the Progress in International Reading Literacy Study published in 2003, England's 10-year-olds achieved the third highest scores in reading of the 35 countries which took part.

### Apprenticeships

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many school leavers are expected to take up apprenticeships in Milton Keynes in 2005–06. [9902]

**Phil Hope:** This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council. Mark Haysom, the Council's Chief Executive, will write to the hon. Member with this information and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Library.

*Letter from Mark Haysom to Mr. Mark Lancaster, dated 13 July 2005:*

I am responding to your recent Parliamentary Question regarding the number of school leavers expected to take up an Apprenticeship place in Milton Keynes in 2005–2006.

I referred your question to my colleagues at the local LSC office with responsibility for the Milton Keynes, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire area.

Information regarding the uptake of places on Apprenticeships amongst 16 to 18 year olds is recorded for the Milton Keynes, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire area as a whole. It will therefore not be possible to provide an exact figure in response to your question.

However, my colleagues have calculated a rough indication of the potential numbers involved, based upon the information currently available.

The local LSC is anticipating and preparing for a 4% increase in the number of 16 to 18 year olds undertaking Apprenticeships in 2005–06, for the whole of the Milton Keynes, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire area.

A total figure for the number of participants for this year for Milton Keynes, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire is not yet available. However, using the available figures, currently at Period 10 for the year 2004–05, officers at the local office have extracted the number of apprentices with a Milton Keynes postcode.

As an increase of 4% is anticipated locally, the local LSC office is expecting approximately 624 school leavers to take up Apprenticeships within Milton Keynes in 2005–06.

Clearly this figure cannot be precise and should be regarded as an indication of the potential numbers involved. Ultimately the number of participants will depend upon actual demand from young people and the availability of places from participating employers.

I hope, however, that the information above will be of interest to you and prove helpful.

### Dance and Drama Fees and Maintenance Fund

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many Dance and Drama Fees and Maintenance Fund awards have been made in the last five years to residents of each of the nations of the UK. [10722]

**Bill Rammell:** Between 2000 and 2005 Manchester LEA processed 4,156 applications for support from the means-tested fund. Of these 129 were from Welsh students and 113 were from Scottish students. The remainder were students from England and the EU, and we do not have a breakdown of these figures.

Students must apply for means-tested support for each year of their course, so any student on a course of more than one year's duration will have made more than one application.

### Practical Food Skills

**Paul Flynn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if she will make practical food skills a mandatory part of the national curriculum at Key Stages 1, 2 and 3. [11479]

**Jacqui Smith:** Food technology is already a requirement for all pupils at key stages 1 and 2. Pupils learn practical food skills as well as basic food hygiene and safety, diet and nutrition. At Key Stage 3, food technology is an optional strand of design and technology. The Department strongly advises schools to offer food technology at Key Stage 3 and around 90 per cent. do provide it for their pupils. Practical food skills are part of the food technology curriculum at Key Stages 3 and 4.

### Pupil Mobility

**Mr. Marsden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what assessment she has made of the merits of targeting funding to schools or local education authorities with high levels of pupil mobility; [10748]

(2) what representations she has received from *(a)* teachers' bodies, *(b)* local education authorities and *(c)* individual teachers on the effect of high levels of pupil mobility on teachers; [10750]

(3) what assessment her Department has made of the costs to schools of high levels of pupil mobility; [10746]

(4) what assessment her Department has made of the impact of high levels of pupil mobility on other children within affected schools; [10751]

(5) what assessment her Department has made of the effectiveness of value added measures of school performance in reflecting the work of schools with high levels of pupil mobility; [10745]

(6) what pupil mobility rates were in each education authority in England in the last period for which figures are available; [10749]

(7) what information her Department collects about pupil mobility at individual school level. [10747]

**Jacqui Smith:** We have been considering with our education partners, including representatives of head teachers and local authorities, whether there should be a mobility factor in the national school funding distribution formula, because of schools in some areas facing higher levels of pupil turnover than in others. We expect to announce our decisions on this issue soon. Local authorities are already allowed to take account of mobility in their funding formulae for schools.

This work has not included consideration of the costs to schools of high levels of pupil mobility or the impact of pupil mobility on other children in affected schools.

We have not commissioned any research looking specifically at the impact of pupil mobility on others, but we did commission a research study "Pupil Mobility in Schools—Dobson et al 1999—DfEE research report number 168" which investigated the general issue of pupil mobility.

In the current primary school achievement and attainment tables, a mobility indicator is provided alongside each school's value added measure. This provides context for the value added measure by showing the extent to which pupils eligible for the key stage 2 tests were not in the school for the whole of their key stage 2 education.

In the secondary tables, a pilot of "contextual value added" is taking place in 2005. This will directly take account of a range of contextual factors which are outside the school's control and which are correlated with outcomes even after taking account of prior attainment. Mobility will be one of the factors included, since pupils who move between schools outside of normal transitions make lower progress than non-mobile pupils. A similar pilot is planned for primary schools in 2006.

The Department does not collect information from individual schools that is specifically about pupil mobility. However pupils' dates of entry to schools are collected as part of the Pupil Level Annual Schools census. Based upon these dates of entry various mobility rates can be calculated depending upon the definition used.

The Department published a school level mobility indicator as part of the 2004 Primary School (Key Stage 2) Achievement and Attainment Tables.

This indicator shows the percentage of pupils who were registered at the school for their entire key stage 2 education. However, this indicator has not been defined or calculated at LEA level.

### School Meals

**Helen Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) if she will provide guidance to schools on the method of allocation of the extra funding for school meals announced by the Government in March in time for schools to make adequate plans for the school year beginning in September; [11131]

(2) what proportion of the extra funding for school meals of £240 million over three years will be directly available to schools to improve the food quality of school meals. [11132]

**Jacqui Smith:** Over the three years 2005–06 to 2007–08, all maintained schools in England will receive a share of the £220 million set aside to help local education authorities and schools strengthen their support for healthy eating and to provide better quality food. Of this, £30 million each year will go to schools to help meet transitional costs involved in developing and improving their "whole school" approach to food. £30/50/50 million will go to LEAs to enable them to support schools with this process, with an emphasis on schools in deprived areas and schools starting from a low base.

The first instalment of this additional funding will be available to schools and LEAs this autumn. Further details about the distribution of both grants between individual local authorities and schools will be announced shortly.

### School Playing Fields

**Dr. Gibson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills which schools in Norfolk have requested permission to sell playing fields. [12085]

**Jacqui Smith:** Section 77 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 requires local authorities and schools to obtain the written consent of the Secretary of State before they can dispose of any part of a school's playing field. Schools are only allowed to dispose of genuinely surplus areas of playing field.

The following schools in Norfolk have applied to sell areas of playing field larger than a small sports pitch for the under 10s, that is larger than 2,000 sq m:

Fakenham High School—applied in November 2003 to sell 16,000 sq m of sports pitch. The School Playing Fields Advisory Panel, which carries out the initial assessment of applications, determined that the application did not meet the published criteria and the application was subsequently withdrawn.

Heckingham First School—a closed school which applied in October 2000 to sell 2,500 sq m of sports pitch. The application was approved on 18 December 2000.

Hewett School—applied in September 2001 to sell 36,000 sq m of sports pitch to fund a new sports hall and other sports improvements. The application was approved on 6 August 2002.

Redgate Middle School—applied in April 2000 to sell 7,300 sq m of sports pitch to fund a new sports hall. The application was approved on 26 September 2000.

West Dereham VC Primary School—a closed school which applied in September 1999 to sell 2,835 sq m of sports pitch. The application was approved on 24 January 2000.

### Schools (Violence)

**Mr. Davey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what assessment she has made of the level of violence in schools; what guidance she has provided on this issue to *(a)* teachers, *(b)* governors, *(c)* parents and *(d)* local authorities; and if she will make a statement; [11888]

(2) what steps are taken *(a)* to protect staff from violent and dangerous students and *(b)* to keep students who are judged to be of harm to themselves and others out of the classroom. [11890]

**Jacqui Smith:** In 2003/04 there were just under 88,000 exclusions from maintained school for physical violence, of which 80 per cent. were for violence to other pupils. This total is equivalent to just over 1 per cent. of the relevant pupil population. But any level of violence in schools is too high. So we have made it clear that head teachers may permanently exclude pupils for violence even when this is a first offence. It is even more important to help schools create an environment that reduces the risk of violence to an absolute minimum. To achieve that we have:

given every secondary school access to high-quality behaviour management guidance and training materials supported by expert advice from local authority-based behaviour management consultants;

funded extra support for schools facing the greatest challenges through our Excellence in Cities and Behaviour Improvement Programmes;

provided £120 million for school security improvements since 1997;

given schools a legal toolkit on how to ban aggressive parents from the site and have them removed and prosecuted if they flout the ban; and

helped to establish over 400 Safer Schools Partnerships that base police officers in schools.

In addition, we are:

giving every primary school access to high-quality guidance, training and curriculum materials for developing pupils' social, emotional and behavioural skills and developing similar materials for secondary schools;

developing specific violence prevention advice and training in collaboration with associations representing heads and other school staff;

working with the Home Office on legislation to give heads the power to search pupils for offensive weapons; and

asking an expert group of heads and teachers to consider what else could be done to promote discipline and a culture of respect in all schools.

Our guidance and training materials are primarily designed for head teachers and school staff. But they are readily available to local authorities and governors and accessible to parents through the DfES website.

### Bullying

**Mr. Davey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what estimate she has made of the number of *(a)* children and *(b)* teachers who were victims of bullying in schools in (i) London and (ii) England in 2004–05. [11889]

**Jacqui Smith:** Data on bullying among children is not collected centrally and there is no reliable basis for an estimate of prevalence. Bullying cases appear to be reported more often now than previously but we have no hard evidence that bullying is increasing or that it is affecting more children. Indeed, as children and young people increasingly feel safe at school to report bullying, and confident that it will be tackled effectively and sensitively, it is likely reporting will rise.

However, any level of bullying is too high and we are determined to help schools tackle the problem. Our guidance pack "Bullying: Don't Suffer in Silence," the anti-bullying Charter and the anti-bullying website www.dfes.gov.uk/bullying offer detailed advice on preventing and addressing bullying. We also offer specific advice to schools on tackling homophobic and racist bullying.

We have raised awareness of the importance of children who are being bullied telling an adult about what is happening, through our public information film "Tell Someone" and our leaflets and postcards for children and their parents. Our recent "Beat Bullying" blue wristband campaign was launched in partnership with Radio One, during the first national anti bullying week in November 2004. By the end of December, 1 million children and young people had answered our call to "Make a Stand, Wear a Band" and make a visible commitment that they are not prepared to tolerate bullying and will stand by their friends.

Data on bullying among teachers is not collected centrally as we do not employ teachers and other school staff directly. Similarly, there is no reliable basis for an estimate of prevalence.

### Secondary School Teachers (Early Retirement)

**Mr. Rob Wilson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the cost of the early retirement scheme for teachers in secondary schools on grounds of ill-health was in the last eight years in each local education authority. [9988]

**Jacqui Smith:** The available information is in the following table. This shows the number and annual value of pension payment award at the time of retirement made on grounds of ill-health in the maintained secondary sector in England.

*New awards and total amount of pension awarded[1] to teachers in the secondary sector on the grounds of ill health[2] for the last eight financial years by local education authority*

| | *Ill health retirements[2]—secondary sector in England* | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *1996–97* | | *1997–98* | | *1998–99* | | *1999–2000* | |
| | *New awards* | *Total amount of pension awarded[1] (£000)* | *New awards* | *Total amount of pension awarded[1] (£000)* | *New awards* | *Total amount of pension awarded[1] (£000)* | *New awards* | *Total amount of pension awarded[1] (£000)* |
| *North East* | | | | | | | | |
| Gateshead | 10 | 83 | 10 | 96 | [3]— | [3]— | 7 | 78 |
| Newcastle upon Tyne | 13 | 105 | 10 | 94 | 11 | 95 | 13 | 131 |
| North Tyneside | 10 | 83 | 5 | 42 | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— |
| South Tyneside | 9 | 69 | 14 | 109 | 6 | 42 | [3]— | [3]— |
| Sunderland | 23 | 186 | 16 | 153 | 6 | 43 | 8 | 76 |
| Hartlepool | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— |
| Middlesbrough | 19 | 136 | 6 | 47 | 10 | 89 | 6 | 47 |
| Redcar and Cleveland | 11 | 86 | 9 | 67 | [3]— | [3]— | 7 | 81 |
| Stockton on Tees | 8 | 66 | 12 | 105 | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— |
| Former Durham | 35 | 295 | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— |
| Darlington | [4]— | [4]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— |
| Durham (post 1 April 1997) | [4]— | [4]— | 19 | 184 | 16 | 145 | 13 | 127 |
| Northumberland | 10 | 90 | 11 | 101 | 12 | 116 | [3]— | [3]— |
| *North West* | | | | | | | | |
| Cumbria | 22 | 172 | 19 | 149 | 12 | 89 | 16 | 137 |

*New awards and total amount of pension awarded[1] to teachers in the secondary sector on the grounds of ill health[2] for the last eight financial years by local education authority*

| | *Ill health retirements[2]—secondary sector in England* | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *1996–97* | | *1997–98* | | *1998–99* | | *1999–2000* | |
| | *New awards* | *Total amount of pension awarded[1] (£000)* | *New awards* | *Total amount of pension awarded[1] (£000)* | *New awards* | *Total amount of pension awarded[1] (£000)* | *New awards* | *Total amount of pension awarded[1] (£000)* |
| Former Cheshire | 38 | 344 | 20 | 178 | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— |
| Cheshire (post 1 April 1998) | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— | 9 | 83 | 7 | 92 |
| Halton | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— |
| Warrington | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— |
| Bolton | 16 | 148 | 14 | 149 | [3]— | [3]— | 5 | 43 |
| Bury | 15 | 141 | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— |
| Manchester | 24 | 207 | 12 | 106 | 16 | 135 | 10 | 89 |
| Oldham | 24 | 214 | 7 | 64 | 5 | 56 | [3]— | [3]— |
| Rochdale | 9 | 59 | 7 | 71 | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— |
| Salford | 16 | 130 | 6 | 65 | 8 | 65 | [3]— | [3]— |
| Stockport | 11 | 75 | 11 | 115 | 6 | 66 | 0 | 0 |
| Tameside | 5 | 35 | 7 | 56 | [3]— | [3]— | 5 | 54 |
| Trafford | 14 | 129 | 5 | 43 | [3]— | [3]— | 9 | 76 |
| Wigan | 13 | 101 | 11 | 87 | 9 | 87 | 7 | 58 |
| Former Lancashire | 70 | 527 | 46 | 350 | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— |
| Lancashire (post 1 April 1998) | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— | 18 | 148 | 26 | 240 |
| Blackburn with Darwen | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— |
| Blackpool | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— | [3]— | [3]— | 6 | 58 |
| Knowsley | 6 | 48 | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— |
| Liverpool | 24 | 193 | 14 | 120 | 6 | 53 | 10 | 89 |
| St. Helens | 15 | 126 | 13 | 110 | 5 | 41 | 5 | 53 |
| Sefton | 16 | 132 | 16 | 109 | 8 | 68 | [3]— | [3]— |
| Wirral | 16 | 116 | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | 11 | 130 |
| *Yorkshire and the Humber* | | | | | | | | |
| City of Kingston Upon Hull | 19 | 130 | 9 | 67 | 5 | 49 | 6 | 60 |
| East Riding of Yorkshire | 17 | 144 | 10 | 66 | [3]— | [3]— | 10 | 86 |
| North East Lincolnshire | 15 | 137 | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— |
| North Lincolnshire | 6 | 51 | 10 | 86 | 9 | 94 | 8 | 77 |
| North Yorkshire (post 1 April 1996) | 27 | 231 | 13 | 107 | [3]— | [3]— | 12 | 132 |
| York | 8 | 60 | [3]— | [3]— | 6 | 48 | 5 | 53 |
| Barnsley | 14 | 121 | [3]— | [3]— | 7 | 77 | 8 | 69 |
| Doncaster | 13 | 111 | 8 | 69 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 42 |
| Rotherham | 11 | 88 | 11 | 80 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 37 |
| Sheffield | 23 | 183 | 11 | 91 | 15 | 142 | 19 | 166 |
| Bradford | 38 | 292 | 21 | 186 | 12 | 106 | 13 | 106 |
| Calderdale | 8 | 73 | 11 | 79 | [3]— | [3]— | 6 | 51 |
| Kirklees | 23 | 213 | 16 | 124 | 15 | 137 | 9 | 87 |
| Leeds | 26 | 226 | 19 | 160 | 8 | 66 | 18 | 187 |
| Wakefield | 11 | 76 | [3]— | [3]— | 10 | 119 | 5 | 36 |
| *East Midlands* | | | | | | | | |
| Former Derbyshire | 24 | 183 | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— |
| Derbyshire (post 1 April 1997) | [4]— | [4]— | 15 | 137 | 11 | 108 | 13 | 109 |
| Derby | [4]— | [4]— | 7 | 58 | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— |
| Former Leicestershire | 32 | 284 | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— |
| Leicestershire (post 1 April 1997) | [4]— | [4]— | 16 | 125 | 9 | 77 | 20 | 188 |
| Leicester | [4]— | [4]— | 9 | 73 | 5 | 48 | 7 | 69 |
| Rutland | [4]— | [4]— | 0 | 0 | [3]— | [4]— | 0 | 0 |
| Lincolnshire | 33 | 233 | 14 | 120 | 15 | 113 | 13 | 129 |
| Northamptonshire | 36 | 286 | 25 | 208 | 16 | 121 | 10 | 90 |
| Former Nottinghamshire | 45 | 391 | 36 | 288 | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— |
| Nottinghamshire (post 1 April 1998) | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— | 24 | 207 | 19 | 169 |
| Nottingham | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— | 5 | 48 | [3]— | [3]— |
| *West Midlands* | | | | | | | | |
| Former Hereford and Worcester | 41 | 365 | 15 | 130 | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— |
| Herefordshire | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— |
| Worcestershire | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— | 9 | 85 | 11 | 94 |
| Former Shropshire | 16 | 141 | 13 | 124 | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— |
| Shropshire (post 1 April 1998) | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— | 6 | 62 | [3]— | [3]— |
| Telford and Wrekin | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— |
| Former Staffordshire | 28 | 248 | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— |
| Staffordshire (post 1 April 1997) | [4]— | [4]— | 20 | 172 | 17 | 128 | 13 | 137 |
| Stoke on Trent | [4]— | [4]— | 6 | 52 | [3]— | [3]— | 12 | 135 |
| Warwickshire | 16 | 122 | 14 | 117 | 11 | 106 | 10 | 95 |
| Birmingham | 46 | 383 | 31 | 258 | 28 | 259 | 34 | 314 |
| Coventry | 17 | 134 | 7 | 64 | 11 | 101 | 10 | 81 |
| Dudley | 9 | 67 | 11 | 80 | 12 | 116 | 5 | 49 |
| Sandwell | 13 | 119 | 8 | 75 | [3]— | [3]— | 8 | 67 |

*New awards and total amount of pension awarded[1] to teachers in the secondary sector on the grounds of ill health[2] for the last eight financial years by local education authority*

| | *Ill health retirements[2]—secondary sector in England* | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *1996–97* | | *1997–98* | | *1998–99* | | *1999–2000* | |
| | *New awards* | *Total amount of pension awarded[1] (£000)* | *New awards* | *Total amount of pension awarded[1] (£000)* | *New awards* | *Total amount of pension awarded[1] (£000)* | *New awards* | *Total amount of pension awarded[1] (£000)* |
| Solihull | 17 | 137 | 7 | 42 | 8 | 76 | [3]— | [3]— |
| Walsall | 18 | 148 | 6 | 50 | [3]— | [3]— | 9 | 76 |
| Wolverhampton | 14 | 102 | 14 | 113 | 7 | 101 | 5 | 43 |
| *East of England* | | | | | | | | |
| Former Cambridgeshire | 18 | 150 | 14 | 114 | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— |
| Cambridgeshire (post 1 April 1998) | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— | 5 | 47 | 8 | 74 |
| Peterborough | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— |
| Norfolk | 29 | 267 | 19 | 168 | 20 | 182 | 21 | 160 |
| Suffolk | 30 | 241 | 18 | 187 | 30 | 282 | 16 | 145 |
| Former Bedfordshire | 15 | 128 | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— |
| Bedfordshire (post 1 April 1997) | [4]— | [4]— | 6 | 56 | 13 | 78 | 5 | 32 |
| Luton | [4]— | [4]— | 5 | 41 | 5 | 46 | [3]— | [3]— |
| Former Essex | 46 | 380 | 20 | 203 | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— |
| Essex (post 1 April 1998) | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— | 12 | 126 | 15 | 185 |
| Southend on Sea | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— |
| Thurrock | [3]— | 21 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | [3]— | [3]— |
| Hertfordshire | 39 | 347 | 20 | 166 | 14 | 128 | 23 | 200 |
| *London* | | | | | | | | |
| City of London | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Camden | 6 | 53 | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— |
| Greenwich | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— |
| Hackney | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 6 | 46 | 6 | 69 | 0 | 0 | [3]— | [3]— |
| Islington | [3]— | [3]— | 6 | 48 | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— |
| Kensington and Chelsea | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | 0 | 0 |
| Lambeth | [3]— | [3]— | 7 | 54 | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— |
| Lewisham | 11 | 99 | 5 | 53 | 6 | 55 | 6 | 53 |
| Southwark | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— |
| Tower Hamlets | 5 | 33 | 5 | 56 | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— |
| Wandsworth | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | 0 | 0 | [3]— | [3]— |
| City of Westminster | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | 0 | 0 |
| Barking and Dagenham | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— |
| Barnet | 6 | 68 | 6 | 52 | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— |
| Bexley | 5 | 41 | [3]— | [3]— | 6 | 74 | [3]— | [3]— |
| Brent | 8 | 68 | 6 | 53 | 5 | 53 | [3]— | [3]— |
| Bromley | 11 | 91 | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— |
| Croydon | 6 | 58 | 7 | 65 | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— |
| Ealing | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— |
| Enfield | 12 | 85 | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | 6 | 57 |
| Haringey | 10 | 104 | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— |
| Harrow | 6 | 45 | [3]— | [3]— | 0 | 0 | [3]— | [3]— |
| Havering | 9 | 83 | 7 | 58 | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— |
| Hillingdon | [3]— | [3]— | 6 | 39 | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— |
| Hounslow | 9 | 67 | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | 5 | 36 |
| Kingston upon Thames | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— |
| Merton | 7 | 97 | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— |
| Newham | 10 | 96 | 5 | 43 | 5 | 37 | 8 | 105 |
| Redbridge | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— |
| Richmond upon Thames | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— |
| Sutton | 6 | 66 | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— |
| Waltham Forest | 8 | 64 | 7 | 60 | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— |
| *South East* | | | | | | | | |
| Former Berkshire (post 1 April 1998) | 17 | 120 | 15 | 155 | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— |
| Bracknell Forest | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— | [3]— | [3]— | 0 | 0 |
| Windsor and Maidenhead | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— |
| West Berkshire | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— |
| Reading | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— | 0 | 0 | [3]— | [3]— |
| Slough | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— | [3]— | [3]— | 5 | 31 |
| Wokingham | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— | [3]— | [3]— | 0 | 0 |
| Former Buckinghamshire | 24 | 230 | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— |
| Buckinghamshire (post 1 April 1997) | [4]— | [4]— | 10 | 70 | 5 | 50 | 5 | 65 |
| Milton Keynes | [4]— | [4]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— |
| Former East Sussex | 21 | 186 | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— |
| East Sussex (post 1 April 1997) | [4]— | [4]— | 13 | 101 | 10 | 88 | 7 | 52 |
| Brighton and Hove | [4]— | [4]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— |
| Former Hampshire | 56 | 479 | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— |
| Hampshire (post 1 April 1997) | [4]— | [4]— | 20 | 181 | 18 | 219 | 25 | 261 |
| Portsmouth | [4]— | [4]— | 6 | 51 | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— |
| Southampton | [4]— | [4]— | [3]— | [3]— | 11 | 86 | 8 | 81 |
| Isle of Wight | 10 | 71 | 5 | 42 | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— |
| Former Kent | 52 | 403 | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— |
| Kent (post 1 April 1998) | [4]— | [4]— | [3]— | [3]— | 22 | 239 | 24 | 229 |

*New awards and total amount of pension awarded[1] to teachers in the secondary sector on the grounds of ill health[2] for the last eight financial years by local education authority*

| | *Ill health retirement[1,2]—secondary sector in England* | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *1996–97* | | *1997–98* | | *1998–99* | | *1999–2000* | |
| | *New awards* | *Total amount of pension awarded[3] (£000)* | *New awards* | *Total amount of pension awarded[3] (£000)* | *New awards* | *Total amount of pension awarded[3] (£000)* | *New awards* | *Total amount of pension awarded[3] (£000)* |
| Medway | [4] | [4] | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] | 5 | 39 |
| Oxfordshire | 23 | 188 | 11 | 91 | 13 | 117 | 10 | 93 |
| Surrey | 32 | 291 | 20 | 154 | 13 | 123 | 9 | 78 |
| West Sussex | 30 | 225 | 15 | 118 | 8 | 61 | 9 | 70 |
| *South West* | | | | | | | | |
| Isles of Scilly | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Bath and North East Somerset | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] |
| City of Bristol | 8 | 69 | 11 | 92 | 5 | 46 | [3] | [3] |
| North Somerset | [3] | [3] | 6 | 59 | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] |
| South Gloucestershire | 10 | 83 | 6 | 67 | 5 | 41 | [3] | [3] |
| Cornwall | 31 | 227 | 20 | 170 | 8 | 60 | 25 | 214 |
| Former Devon | 37 | 344 | 38 | 327 | [4] | [4] | [4] | [4] |
| Devon (post 1 April 1998) | [4] | [4] | [4] | [4] | 13 | 131 | 14 | 120 |
| Plymouth | [4] | [4] | [4] | [4] | 7 | 63 | [3] | [3] |
| Torbay | [4] | [4] | [4] | [4] | [3] | [3] | 6 | 66 |
| Former Dorset | 38 | 305 | [4] | [4] | [4] | [4] | [4] | [4] |
| Dorset (post 1 April 1997) | [4] | [4] | 5 | 42 | 6 | 49 | 9 | 87 |
| Poole | [4] | [4] | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] |
| Bournemouth | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] | 6 | 63 | [3] | [3] |
| Gloucestershire | 28 | 211 | 12 | 66 | 10 | 90 | 6 | 49 |
| Somerset | 24 | 201 | 14 | 138 | 10 | 107 | 12 | 112 |
| Former Wiltshire | 25 | 221 | [4] | [4] | [4] | [4] | [4] | [4] |
| Wiltshire (post 1 April 1997) | [4] | [4] | 5 | 44 | [3] | [3] | 13 | 132 |
| Swindon | [4] | [4] | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] |
| England | 2,002 | 16,662 | 1,239 | 10,617 | 928 | 8,517 | 971 | 9,086 |

| | *2000–01* | | *2001–02* | | *2002–03* | | *2003–04* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *New awards* | *Total amount of pension awarded[3] (£000)* | *New awards* | *Total amount of pension awarded[3] (£000)* | *New awards* | *Total amount of pension awarded[3] (£000)* | *New awards* | *Total amount of pension awarded[3] (£000)* |
| *North East* | | | | | | | | |
| Gateshead | [3] | [3] | 6 | 57 | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] |
| Newcastle upon Tyne | 10 | 123 | 11 | 139 | 7 | 79 | 6 | 59 |
| | 5 | 49 | 7 | 78 | 11 | 146 | [3] | [3] |
| South Tyneside | 6 | 75 | [3] | [3] | 8 | 113 | 5 | 58 |
| Sunderland | 9 | 92 | 8 | 107 | 5 | 57 | 8 | 98 |
| Hartlepool | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] | 0 | 0 | [3] | [3] |
| Middlesbrough | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] | 12 | 141 | [3] | [3] |
| Redcar and Cleveland | 10 | 123 | 5 | 63 | 8 | 99 | 8 | 109 |
| Stockton on Tees | 6 | 63 | 11 | 116 | 9 | 105 | [3] | [3] |
| Former Durham | [4] | [4] | [4] | [4] | [4] | [4] | [4] | [4] |
| Darlington | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] | 6 | 77 |
| Durham (post 1 April 1997) | 15 | 145 | 14 | 154 | 10 | 125 | 15 | 239 |
| Northumberland | 7 | 60 | 7 | 72 | 11 | 105 | 11 | 129 |
| *North West* | | | | | | | | |
| Cumbria | 16 | 153 | 17 | 165 | 11 | 151 | 11 | 128 |
| Former Cheshire | [4] | [4] | [4] | [4] | [4] | [4] | [4] | [4] |
| Cheshire (post 1 April 1998) | 14 | 178 | 16 | 169 | 15 | 203 | 18 | 236 |
| Halton | 0 | 0 | 7 | 94 | [3] | [3] | 8 | 123 |
| Warrington | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] | 9 | 121 | 6 | 77 |
| Bolton | 10 | 116 | 7 | 78 | 8 | 76 | 6 | 83 |
| Bury | 8 | 77 | [3] | [3] | 7 | 80 | [3] | [3] |
| Manchester | 15 | 172 | 11 | 96 | 10 | 149 | 7 | 76 |
| Oldham | 6 | 59 | 6 | 84 | 6 | 86 | [3] | [3] |
| Rochdale | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] | 7 | 86 | [3] | [3] |
| Salford | 9 | 77 | 7 | 78 | 9 | 97 | 5 | 75 |
| Stockport | 7 | 83 | 8 | 84 | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] |
| Tameside | 5 | 57 | 7 | 75 | [3] | [3] | 5 | 50 |
| Trafford | 12 | 125 | 5 | 68 | 5 | 70 | 5 | 58 |
| Wigan | 8 | 108 | 13 | 132 | 8 | 102 | [3] | [3] |
| Former Lancashire | [4] | [4] | [4] | [4] | [4] | [4] | [4] | [4] |
| Lancashire (post 1 April 1998) | 36 | 369 | 30 | 321 | 36 | 441 | 27 | 325 |
| Blackburn with Darwen | 6 | 77 | 5 | 45 | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] |
| Blackpool | 5 | 48 | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] | 5 | 69 |
| Knowsley | 7 | 79 | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] | 6 | 82 |
| Liverpool | 9 | 93 | 17 | 107 | 9 | 106 | 7 | 100 |
| St. Helens | [3] | [3] | 6 | 74 | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] |
| Sefton | 7 | 81 | [3] | [3] | 9 | 144 | 10 | 129 |
| Wirral | 6 | 50 | 11 | 133 | 9 | 106 | 9 | 109 |

| | 2000–01 | | 2001–02 | | 2002–03 | | 2003–04 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | New awards | Total amount of pension awarded[5] (£000) | New awards | Total amount of pension awarded[5] (£000) | New awards | Total amount of pension awarded[5] (£000) | New awards | Total amount of pension awarded[5] (£000) |
| *Yorkshire and the Humber* | | | | | | | | |
| City of Kingston Upon Hull | 9 | 97 | 6 | 56 | 5 | 58 | [3]— | [3]— |
| East Riding of Yorkshire | 8 | 80 | 6 | 76 | 9 | 87 | 5 | 85 |
| North East Lincolnshire | 5 | 60 | [3]— | [3]— | 5 | 58 | 6 | 57 |
| North Lincolnshire | [3]— | [3]— | 6 | 57 | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— |
| North Yorkshire (post 1 April 1996) | 20 | 199 | 29 | 308 | 14 | 167 | 9 | 101 |
| York | 7 | 56 | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | 0 | 0 |
| Barnsley | 9 | 88 | 6 | 69 | 11 | 152 | 10 | 118 |
| Doncaster | 7 | 77 | 5 | 63 | 9 | 105 | [3]— | [3]— |
| Rotherham | 10 | 99 | 6 | 50 | 7 | 85 | 11 | 147 |
| Sheffield | 15 | 157 | 8 | 90 | 7 | 73 | 8 | 112 |
| Bradford | 18 | 144 | 19 | 223 | 21 | 222 | 22 | 264 |
| Calderdale | [3]— | [3]— | 5 | 57 | 6 | 50 | [3]— | [3]— |
| Kirklees | 11 | 108 | 26 | 293 | 14 | 161 | 13 | 165 |
| Leeds | 27 | 279 | 23 | 255 | 28 | 312 | 26 | 348 |
| Wakefield | 9 | 98 | 11 | 120 | 11 | 118 | 11 | 149 |
| *East Midlands* | | | | | | | | |
| Former Derbyshire | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— |
| Derbyshire (post 1 April 1997) | 15 | 134 | 12 | 177 | 15 | 166 | 15 | 195 |
| Derby | 6 | 60 | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | 5 | 81 |
| Former Leicestershire | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— |
| Leicestershire (post 1 April 1997) | 9 | 86 | 12 | 132 | 7 | 77 | 16 | 200 |
| Leicester | 9 | 98 | 5 | 51 | 6 | 55 | 5 | 50 |
| Rutland | 0 | 0 | [3]— | [3]— | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Lincolnshire | 10 | 78 | 14 | 144 | 12 | 147 | 14 | 145 |
| Northamptonshire | 22 | 217 | 20 | 207 | 8 | 81 | 12 | 142 |
| Former Nottinghamshire | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— |
| Nottinghamshire (post 1 April 1998) | 22 | 235 | 22 | 255 | 18 | 188 | 22 | 318 |
| Nottingham | 8 | 85 | [3]— | [3]— | 7 | 65 | 8 | 103 |
| *West Midlands* | | | | | | | | |
| Former Hereford and Worcester | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— |
| Herefordshire | 5 | 52 | [3]— | [3]— | 5 | 47 | [3]— | [3]— |
| Worcestershire | 17 | 175 | 10 | 106 | 14 | 169 | 8 | 104 |
| Former Shropshire | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— |
| Shropshire (post 1 April 1998) | 5 | 56 | [3]— | [3]— | 6 | 60 | [3]— | [3]— |
| Telford and Wrekin | [3]— | 24 | 6 | 62 | [3]— | [3]— | 9 | 112 |
| Former Staffordshire | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— |
| Staffordshire (post 1 April 1997) | 27 | 296 | 27 | 276 | 31 | 375 | 13 | 171 |
| Stoke on Trent | 10 | 102 | 9 | 100 | 6 | 68 | [3]— | [3]— |
| Warwickshire | 5 | 57 | 16 | 141 | 9 | 91 | 5 | 63 |
| Birmingham | 29 | 314 | 26 | 296 | 21 | 274 | 19 | 257 |
| Coventry | 10 | 91 | 7 | 84 | [3]— | [3]— | 6 | 67 |
| Dudley | 10 | 83 | 10 | 97 | 8 | 91 | [3]— | [3]— |
| Sandwell | 8 | 98 | 8 | 66 | 8 | 101 | 9 | 127 |
| Solihull | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | 5 | 61 | 9 | 107 |
| Walsall | [3]— | [3]— | 5 | 64 | 6 | 78 | 9 | 103 |
| Wolverhampton | [3]— | [3]— | 7 | 76 | 8 | 102 | [3]— | [3]— |
| *East of England* | | | | | | | | |
| Former Cambridgeshire | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— |
| Cambridgeshire (post 1 April 1998) | 10 | 79 | 9 | 107 | 6 | 60 | 11 | 140 |
| Peterborough | 5 | 44 | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— |
| Norfolk | 19 | 165 | 28 | 312 | 17 | 214 | 13 | 144 |
| Suffolk | 20 | 217 | 29 | 322 | 17 | 174 | 13 | 171 |
| Former Bedfordshire | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— |
| Bedfordshire (post 1 April 1997) | 10 | 94 | 7 | 79 | 7 | 74 | [3]— | [3]— |
| Luton | 5 | 55 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 61 | [3]— | [3]— |
| Former Essex | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— |
| Essex (post 1 April 1998) | 31 | 294 | 18 | 164 | 12 | 134 | 13 | 169 |
| Southend on Sea | 5 | 44 | 5 | 47 | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— |
| Thurrock | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— |
| Hertfordshire | 15 | 129 | 20 | 215 | 18 | 193 | 17 | 218 |
| *London* | | | | | | | | |
| City of London | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Camden | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— |
| Greenwich | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— |
| Hackney | 5 | 64 | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | 0 | 0 |
| Islington | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— |
| Kensington and Chelsea | [3]— | [3]— | 0 | 0 | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— |
| Lambeth | [3]— | [3]— | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | [3]— | [3]— |
| Lewisham | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | 7 | 85 | [3]— | [3]— |
| Southwark | 6 | 53 | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | 0 | 0 |
| Tower Hamlets | 6 | 72 | 7 | 55 | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— |
| Wandsworth | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | 8 | 108 |
| City of Westminster | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— |

| | 2000–01 | | 2001–02 | | 2002–03 | | 2003–04 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | New awards | Total amount of pension awarded[1] (£000) | New awards | Total amount of pension awarded[1] (£000) | New awards | Total amount of pension awarded[1] (£000) | New awards | Total amount of pension awarded[1] (£000) |
| Barking and Dagenham | [3] | [3] | 0 | 0 | 5 | 82 | [3] | [3] |
| Barnet | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] | 6 | 75 |
| Bexley | 5 | 44 | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] |
| Brent | [3] | [3] | 8 | 91 | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] |
| Bromley | 6 | 66 | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] | 7 | 97 |
| Croydon | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] | 7 | 74 |
| Ealing | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] | 5 | 44 | [3] | [3] |
| Enfield | [3] | [3] | 7 | 79 | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] |
| Haringey | [3] | [3] | 6 | 52 | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] |
| Harrow | [3] | [3] | 0 | 0 | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] |
| Havering | 7 | 58 | 5 | 40 | [3] | [3] | 5 | 87 |
| Hillingdon | [3] | [3] | 8 | 72 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 59 |
| Hounslow | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] |
| Kingston upon Thames | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] | 5 | 65 | 0 | 0 |
| Merton | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] |
| Newham | 7 | 64 | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] |
| Redbridge | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] | 7 | 91 |
| Richmond upon Thames | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] | 0 | 0 |
| Sutton | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] | 6 | 78 | [3] | [3] |
| Waltham Forest | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] |
| *South East* | | | | | | | | |
| Former Berkshire (post 1 April 1998) | [4] | [4] | [4] | [4] | [4] | [4] | [4] | [4] |
| Bracknell Forest | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] |
| Windsor and Maidenhead | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] | 6 | 68 |
| West Berkshire | 0 | 0 | 5 | 55 | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] |
| Reading | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] | 0 | 0 |
| Slough | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] | 5 | 75 | [3] | [3] |
| Wokingham | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] |
| Former Buckinghamshire | [4] | [4] | [4] | [4] | [4] | [4] | [4] | [4] |
| Buckinghamshire (post 1 April 1997) | [3] | [3] | 9 | 82 | [3] | [3] | 6 | 104 |
| Milton Keynes | 7 | 84 | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] |
| Former East Sussex | [4] | [4] | [4] | [4] | [4] | [4] | [4] | [4] |
| East Sussex (post 1 April 1997) | 11 | 83 | 10 | 73 | [3] | [3] | 9 | 89 |
| Brighton and Hove | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] | 5 | 53 |
| Former Hampshire | [4] | [4] | [4] | [4] | [4] | [4] | [4] | [4] |
| Hampshire (post 1 April 1997) | 28 | 274 | 21 | 200 | 18 | 234 | 18 | 238 |
| Portsmouth | 7 | 81 | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] |
| Southampton | [3] | [3] | 7 | 76 | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] |
| Isle of Wight | 5 | 62 | 7 | 80 | 12 | 116 | 12 | 157 |
| Former Kent | [4] | [4] | [4] | [4] | [4] | [4] | [4] | [4] |
| Kent (post 1 April 1998) | 27 | 309 | 19 | 206 | 16 | 187 | 23 | 258 |
| Medway | 6 | 57 | 7 | 91 | [3] | [3] | 9 | 106 |
| Oxfordshire | 16 | 157 | 11 | 109 | 7 | 61 | 8 | 92 |
| Surrey | 10 | 103 | 15 | 158 | 14 | 170 | 13 | 168 |
| West Sussex | 12 | 115 | 12 | 156 | 10 | 105 | 8 | 67 |
| *South West* | | | | | | | | |
| Isles of Scilly | [3] | [3] | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Bath and North East Somerset | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] |
| City of Bristol | 7 | 65 | 8 | 89 | [3] | [3] | 5 | 66 |
| North Somerset | [3] | [3] | 5 | 69 | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] |
| South Gloucestershire | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] | 0 | 0 | [3] | [3] |
| Cornwall | 19 | 168 | 15 | 150 | 19 | 199 | 16 | 185 |
| Former Devon | [4] | [4] | [4] | [4] | [4] | [4] | [4] | [4] |
| Devon (post 1 April 1998) | 19 | 173 | 13 | 125 | 18 | 185 | 17 | 216 |
| Plymouth | 11 | 100 | 11 | 106 | 10 | 149 | 5 | 44 |
| Torbay | 5 | 50 | 5 | 55 | 6 | 64 | [3] | [3] |
| Former Dorset | [4] | [4] | [4] | [4] | [4] | [4] | [4] | [4] |
| Dorset (post 1 April 1997) | 10 | 98 | 12 | 135 | 7 | 85 | 8 | 91 |
| Poole | [3] | [3] | 7 | 74 | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] |
| Bournemouth | [3] | [3] | 8 | 79 | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] |
| Gloucestershire | 5 | 75 | 14 | 161 | 10 | 133 | 5 | 60 |
| Somerset | 10 | 96 | 17 | 185 | 13 | 154 | 13 | 148 |
| Former Wiltshire | [4] | [4] | [4] | [4] | [4] | [4] | [4] | [4] |
| Wiltshire (post 1 April 1997) | 5 | 49 | 7 | 95 | 6 | 74 | 14 | 208 |
| Swindon | [3] | [3] | 5 | 50 | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] |
| England | 1,176 | 11,971 | 1,162 | 12,597 | 1,029 | 12,147 | 971 | 12,350 |

[1] Annual value of pension payment award at the time of retirement.

[2] Changes in the statutory regulations governing ill-health retirement came into force on 1 April 1997. To qualify for ill-health retirement benefits a teacher must now be regarded as permanently unfit to teach.

[3] Greater than 0 or less than 5

[4] Not applicable

*Source:*

Database of Teacher Records

## DEFENCE

### Co-operative Engagement Capabilities

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he plans to fit the Co-operative Engagement Capability to each Royal Navy ship; and if he will make a statement. [10783]

**Mr. Ingram:** We are conducting an assessment of the options for providing the Co-operative Engagement Capability. Our studies will be considering the numbers and types of platforms across the joint land, air and maritime environments which may contribute to providing the capability, and no decisions have yet been taken.

### Equipment Sourcing (China)

**Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which items of *(a)* Army, *(b)* Navy and *(c)* RAF kit are sourced in China; and if he will make a statement. [11878]

**Mr. Ingram:** It is assumed my hon. Friend refers specifically to clothing as opposed to other items of equipment used by the Armed Forces. The Defence Logistics Organisation, which is responsible for the procurement of clothing for the Armed Forces has not let any contracts for clothing directly to Chinese companies, although contractors have let sub-contracts to Chinese based companies.

Clothing items for use by the Army, Navy and RAF that have been supplied under sub-contract from China to date, are jackets, trousers, smocks, coveralls, underwear, shirts, one item of headwear and one of footwear, in the main these are for tri-service use.

### Food Budget

**Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of the armed forces' food budget was sourced from UK farmers *(a)* in 1997 and *(b)* in the last year for which figures are available. [10719]

**Mr. Ingram:** For the period 1997–2001 the annual food budget for the British Armed Forces Worldwide Food Supply was approximately £70 million. An average of £30 million was spent per year on meat, fresh produce, dairy and eggs of which 50 per cent. by value was purchased from UK farmers and growers.

During the period 2002–04 the annual food budget increased to approximately £94 million. Of around £33 million spent on meat, fresh produce, dairy and eggs, 47 per cent. by value, was purchased from UK farmers and growers.

### Iraq

**Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many 16 and 17-year-old soldiers are serving in Iraq; and if he will make a statement. [11879]

**Mr. Touhig:** It is not British Army policy to deploy soldiers under the age of 18 on overseas operations. Detailed operational information for non-UK forces is a matter for the coalition authorities.

**Sir Menzies Campbell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on how many occasions in each month between July 2001 and February 2002 *(a)* coalition aircraft and *(b)* UK aircraft patrolling the southern No-Fly Zone in Iraq (i) detected violations of the No-Fly Zone, (ii) detected a direct threat to coalition aircraft and (iii) released ordnance, broken down by (A) amount and (B) type of ordnance released; and if he will make a statement. [11371]

**Mr. Ingram:** British and American aircraft patrolling the No-Fly Zones in order to monitor compliance with UN SCR 688 were regularly threatened by Iraq's air-defence system, and subjected to anti-aircraft fire and surface-to-air missile attacks. Between July 2001 and February 2002, the coalition response was as follows:

In July 2001, there were two aircraft violations in the Southern No-Fly Zone, and a further 23 ground-based threats detected. Five US air-to-ground (AGM) missiles were released. In August 2001, there were two aircraft violations and at least a further nine ground-based threats identified. 10 UK Paveway laser-guided bombs and 28 US Glide Bomb Unit (GBU) and AGM missiles were released. In September 2001, there was one aircraft violation and a further 23 threats identified. Seven UK Paveways and 27 US GBU and AGM missiles were released. In October 2001, there were eight threats identified. Two UK Paveways and 16 US GBU missiles were released. In November 2001, six threats were identified. Two US GBUs were released. There were three threats identified but no ordnance was released in December 2001. In January 2002, there were 11 threats identified and 15 US GBUs dropped in response. In February 2002, there were at least two threats recorded but there was no coalition ordnance dropped in the Southern No-Fly Zone.

All UK operations in support of the No-Fly Zones were carried out in lawful-self defence, directed at targets which were an actual or imminent threat to coalition aircraft or were contributing to such a threat, and directed only against elements of the Iraqi integrated air-defence system.

### Medal Office

**Peter Luff:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost was of establishing the new Medal Office at RAF Innsworth. [11482]

**Mr. Touhig:** As at end of June 2005 the cost of establishing the Ministry of Defence Medal Office at RAF Innsworth was some £601,000. It is possible there will be some further staff related costs.

### Northern Ireland

**Mr. Peter Robinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many operational Army bases there were in Northern Ireland in each of the last 10 years. [11657]

**Mr. Ingram:** The information requested on the number of operational Army bases in Northern Ireland is not readily available broken down by each of the last 10 years and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

However, the following information on military sites (military bases, training areas, joint PSNI/military bases, communications sites and observation towers) is available at the dates set out in the following table:

| Date | Open sites | Closed sites |
|---|---|---|
| 1 September 1994[1] | 106 | — |
| 22 December 1999[2] | 72 | 34 |
| 31May2004[3] | 46 | 60 |
| 11 July2005[4] | 40 | 66 |

[1] Number of sites at announcement of 1st IRA Ceasefire.

[2] Number of sites open/closed at publication of Government's Security Strategy Paper.

[3] Number of sites open/closed as detailed in Second Report of the Independent Monitoring Commission.

[4] Latest position on open/closed sites.

### Nuclear Deterrence

**Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will meet Mr. Robert McNamara to discuss the contribution the UK may make to nuclear disarmament and nuclear war proliferation; and if he will make a statement. [9804]

**John Reid:** I have no appointment to meet Mr. Robert McNamara. The UK has a very strong record on nuclear disarmament and we have reduced the explosive power of our nuclear forces by over 70 per cent. since the end of the Cold War. We are committed to the global elimination of nuclear weapons. We are most concerned about nuclear proliferation and active in efforts to combat it. This is demonstrated by the negotiations we, France and Germany, in association with the EU, are conducting with Iran concerning its nuclear programme, and by the assistance we and the US gave to Libya in implementing its announcement of December 2003 to abandon its nuclear weapon and other WMD programmes.

### Recruitment

**Mr. Ancram:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department has spent on recruiting civilians for the UK regular forces in each quarter since 2002. [7528]

**Mr. Touhig:** The total Naval Service and RAF costs of recruiting from civilian life since financial year 2002–03 were as follows:

*£ million*

| | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Total cost |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Naval Service* | | | | | |
| 2002–03 | 5.890 | 8.100 | 7.064 | 8.873 | 29.927 |
| 2003–04 | 6.505 | 7.319 | 8.466 | 8.892 | 31.182 |
| 2004–05 | 6.353 | 9.477 | 7.741 | 8.683 | 32.254 |
| *RAF* | | | | | |
| 2002–03 | 6.717 | 7.142 | 8.394 | 8.757 | 31.010 |
| 2003–04 | 7.303 | 9.863 | 9.041 | 9.356 | 35.563 |
| 2004–05 | 6.263 | 9.132 | 8.420 | 12.251 | 36.066 |

The Army's recruitment costs are not held centrally on a quarterly basis; details could be provided only at a disproportionate cost. Nevertheless the annual amount spent on recruitment over the same period was:

| | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| 2002–03 | 62.594 |
| 2003–04 | 66.154 |
| 2004–05 | 74.727 |

The expenditure includes:

Marketing costs (national and local advertising, exhibitions, specialist advertising and marketing research),

Personnel costs (associated costs of recruiting staffs),

Infrastructure (maintenance and rents/leases etc of Armed Force Career Offices),

Outreach activities (cost of face-to-face recruiting).

**Mr. Hood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the effect of *(a)* £8,000 golden hellos and *(b)* other incentives on recruitment to the Scottish infantry regiments since January; and if he will make a statement. [10283]

**Mr. Touhig:** The Golden Hello and Army Vocational Bursary Scheme were launched in October 2003. The scheme aims to encourage entrants into selected Army Operational Pinch Points in the Royal Engineers, Royal Logistic Corps, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, Intelligence Corps and Army Medical Services (AMS). Awards range from £500 to £8,000. As at 6 July 2005, the Army had awarded 247 golden hellos at attestation. These awards, which are only available to soldier entrants, are paid on the completion of Phase 2 training and all candidates must complete the minimum four-year engagement. To date the scheme has not been as successful as envisaged and it is currently under review.

Other awards, in the form of Scholarships and Undergraduate Bursaries, are open to officer entrants but golden hellos are available only for professionally qualified applicants for the Army Medical Services.

The Army does not market any recruitment incentives for the Infantry.

## DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

### Business Rate

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what the gross cost is of providing transitional relief in the business rates revaluation in England in 2005–06 before downward phasing is applied. [11998]

**Mr. Woolas:** Our estimate of the cost of the non-domestic rates transitional arrangements for 2005–06 before downward phasing is applied is £520 million.

### Caravans

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what definition the Department uses of a caravan for Traveller number counts. [11393]

**Yvette Cooper:** The guidance issued to local authorities for the completion of the July 2005 Count of Gypsy and Traveller caravans states that the following should be recorded:

all mobile homes, caravans, trailers and other living vehicles on Gypsy/Traveller sites and encampments, whether or not they meet the strict legal definition of a caravan;

touring caravans on Gypsy/Traveller sites and encampments even if not lived in permanently;

tents, benders or yurts where these are the "permanent" living accommodation of Gypsies or Travellers.

### Conferences

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how much the Department spent on organising or sponsoring conferences in each of the last five years. [10263]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Council Tax

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what the total collectable council tax was in each local authority in 2004–05, net of council tax benefit. [12236]

**Mr. Woolas:** Details of the total collectable council tax in each local authority in 2004–05, net of council tax benefit, are published on the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister's website and can be found under the heading "Information For Taxpayers—Council Tax" at: http://www.local.odpm.gov.uk/finance/ct.htm.

### Departmental Offices

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister in which Government office building *(a)* he and *(b)* the Minister of State for Communities and Local Government bases his private office. [7445]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** There are ODPM ministerial offices in both 26 Whitehall and Eland House, Bressenden Place.

### Departmental Telecommunications

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister pursuant to the Answer of 5 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 300W, on departmental telecommunications, how many mobile phones have been reported by Ministers as *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen in each year since the establishment of his Department. [11960]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister was created on 29 May 2002. The number of mobile telephones that have been reported *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen, by Ministers in each year since the establishment of the Office are as follows:

| | *Number of mobile phones lost* | *Number of mobile phones stolen* |
|---|---|---|
| 30 May 2002 to 31 March 2003 | 0 | 0 |
| 1 April 2003 to 31 March 2004 | 1 | 0 |
| 1 April 2004 to 31 March 2005 | 0 | 0 |
| 1 April to 12 July 2005 | 0 | 0 |

### Emergency Fire Control Centre

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what independent assessment has been made of plans for a regional emergency fire control centre in the North West. [11186]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The FiReControl project is a result of several independent reports into the Fire and Rescue Service, including: the Mott MacDonald "Future of the Fire Service Control Rooms and Communications' April 2000; "The Future of the Fire Service: reducing risks, saving lives", the Independent Review of the Fire Service by Sir George Bain; Mott Macdonald "The Future of Fire and Rescue Service Control Rooms in England and Wales: Update 2003" and Her Majesty's Fire Service Inspectorate (HMFSI) "Best Value Review of Fire Control and Communications" 2003.

The proposal is for a national network of fire control centres, which supports resilience requirements and delivers efficiencies. There has been no separate assessment of a regional fire control centre in the North West.

### English Partnerships Projects

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what projects English Partnerships have funded in Chorley since 1997. [11187]

**Yvette Cooper:** English Partnerships funded a number of projects in Chorley up until 31 March 1999 when the regional development agencies were set up and responsibility for the projects passed to North West Development Agency. These included the following projects under the Land Reclamation/Derelict Land Grant Schemes—Valley Park Settlement Tanks, Top Lodge and Copper Works Wood and miscellaneous small Derelict Land Grant payments. Payments were also made under the Commission for New Towns obligations for Red Bank Link Road and the transfer of Community Related Assets. Additional funding for the Housing Needs survey was also provided.

### Environmental Health Officers (London)

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many food providers failed environmental health inspections in the last 12 months in each London borough. [2490]

**Jane Kennedy:** I have been asked to reply.

I am advised by the Food Standards Agency (FSA) that the information requested is not available centrally. A summary of enforcement action taken for each London borough during 2003 is shown in the table.

| *London borough* | *Number of formal enforcement actions reported by London boroughs to the FSA for the period 1 January 2003 to 31 December 2003* |
|---|---|
| Barking and Dagenham | 154 |
| Barnet | 1,004 |
| Bexley | 857 |
| Brent | 948 |
| Bromley | 549 |
| Camden | 998 |
| City of London | 283 |
| Croydon | 515 |
| Ealing | 389 |
| Enfield | 1,214 |
| Greenwich[1] | 106 |
| Hackney | 150 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 1,154 |

| London borough | Number of formal enforcement actions reported by London boroughs to the FSA for the period 1 January 2003 to 31 December 2003 |
|---|---|
| Haringey | 701 |
| Harrow | 252 |
| Havering | 578 |
| Hillingdon | 695 |
| Hounslow | 131 |
| Islington | 795 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 315 |
| Kingston-upon-Thames | 446 |
| Lambeth | 1,451 |
| Lewisham | 455 |
| Merton | 506 |
| Newham | 471 |
| Redbridge | 362 |
| Richmond-upon-Thames | 560 |
| Southwark | 1,418 |
| Sutton | 446 |
| Tower Hamlets | 1,007 |
| Waltham Forest | 512 |
| Wandsworth | 347 |
| Westminster | 1,584 |
| Total | 21,353 |

[1] Greenwich submitted partial data for the period 1 January 2003 to 31 December 2003.

*Notes:*

1. Data are collected under the Food Safety Act 1990 and the European Union's Official Control Directive 89/397. Local authorities (LAs) are required by the directive to report the number of establishments receiving formal enforcement actions in a given year.
2. "Formal enforcement action" includes written warnings, improvement notices, voluntary closures, and food seizures, surrenders or detentions, formal cautions, prosecutions, prohibition orders and emergency prohibition orders. There may have been more actions but, in accordance with EU guidance for the collection of the official control data (OCD), each type of enforcement action is only recorded once per premises per year.
3. London boroughs undertake both food hygiene and food standards work. The data supplied to the FSA by London boroughs relating to formal enforcement actions do not differentiate between these two separate areas of food law enforcement.
4. Data exclude inspections to vessels.

*Source:*

FSA, OCD database.

## Fire Crews (Attacks)

**Mr. Clappison:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many fire officers have been the victims of offences of violence suffered in the course of their employment in each of the last 20 years. [7588]

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many attacks have taken place on fire crews in Lancashire in each of the last three years. [7654]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** Fire and Rescue Authorities have always been asked to report assaults on firefighters but reliable statistics are only available from 2004 when a total of 633 attacks were reported, of which six were on fire crews in Lancashire as indicated.

| Fire and Rescue Service | Number of reported assaults 2004–05 |
|---|---|
| Buckinghamshire | 1 |
| Cheshire | 23 |
| Cleveland | 54 |
| Cumbria | 2 |
| Dorset | 1 |
| Greater Manchester | 188 |
| Hampshire | 6 |
| Isle of Wight | 1 |
| Kent | 10 |
| Lancashire | 6 |
| Lincolnshire | 1 |
| Merseyside | 135 |
| Mid and West Wales | 5 |
| Norfolk | 1 |
| Nottinghamshire | 33 |
| South Wales | 37 |
| South Yorkshire | 20 |
| Staffordshire | 1 |
| Tyne and Wear | 2 |
| West Midlands | 106 |
| Total | 633 |

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what steps he is taking to reduce attacks on fire crews. [6689]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 makes it an offence to obstruct or interfere with an employee of a fire and rescue authority carrying out his or her duties. In addition assault is a criminal offence and there is a hierarchy of criminal offences where injury results. It is important that such incidents are reported and that the fire and rescue authorities collaborate with the police so that offenders are prosecuted and punished appropriately.

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister (1) if he will take steps to ensure accurate collection of statistics on the number of attacks against fire crews; [6690]

(2) what steps he plans to take to ensure that individual members of fire crews *(a)* are encouraged to volunteer information about attacks and *(b)* understand the importance of reporting incidents. [6691]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister issued Fire Service Circular 5 of 2005 on 15 February 2005, advising chief fire officers of revised arrangements for reporting Fires and Incidents of Special Interest (FOSIs). This reinforces earlier guidance about reporting and requires information to be supplied about attacks on firefighters. A copy of this circular has been placed in the Library of the House. Ensuring that their employees report all such incidents is a matter for fire and rescue authorities.

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will take steps to increase the monitoring and evaluation of campaigns and community-based projects with those who have attacked and who may attack fire crews. [6692]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister has commissioned external consultants to evaluate the range of youth diversion/youth intervention schemes currently undertaken by the fire

and rescue services and others in order to identify examples which we can disseminate as good practice for fire and rescue authorities to use.

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what steps *(a)* have been taken and *(b)* are planned to increase the amount of training provided to fire crews for dynamic risk assessment; and what part such training will play in the strategy for reducing attacks on fire crews. [6693]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The amount of training required to deal with attacks on firefighters, including training in dynamic risk assessment, is a matter for fire and rescue authorities who tailor the training to meet the need. National standards for firefighters (known as the firefighter "role map") include a number of elements relating to dynamic risk assessment. I understand that the Chief Fire Officers Association (CFOA) has set up a task and finish group, to review practice relating to assaults on firefighters and to make recommendations. Conflict management training along the lines of that given to police and ambulance workers is being piloted in South Wales and other initiatives are being considered by the CFOA Group.

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what *(a)* short-term and *(b)* long-term plans he has for (i) continuation and (ii) extension of (A) training of fire crews in dealing with attacks on them and (B) initiatives with (1) local schools and (2) the community in respect of such attacks. [6694]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** In relation to A, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 14 July 2005 (Ref: 6693). In relation to B, fire and rescue authorities have a new duty under Section 6 of the Fire and Rescue Service Act 2004 to promote fire safety. Under the arrangements for Integrated Risk Management Planning, it is for individual authorities to decide how to fulfil that duty, following consultation, but I know that many schemes and partnerships exist where the Fire and Rescue Service engages with the local community and schools. These can have a direct impact on behaviour.

### Firelink Project

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what the timetable is for the implementation of the Firelink Project; and if he will make a statement. [11184]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister expects to award contract in November 2005. The overall time scale for implementation will depend on the outcome of the procurements and will reflect the successful suppliers' proposals.

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether either of the bidding companies for the Firelink Project provided the basis to proceed to contract following their best and final offer submissions in April. [11185]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** Neither bidding company provided the basis to move to award the Firelink contract. The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister is continuing discussions with both bidding companies to resolve issues associated with their bids prior to inviting revised best and final offers.

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister when he expects to make a decision on Firelink. [11594]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister expects to award the Firelink contract in November 2005.

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether regionalisation of fire control centres is dependent on the Firelink project; and if he will make a statement. [11595]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** FiReControl will use the digital national radio solution provided by Firelink as its primary bearer for voice and data. The Firelink project is working closely with the FiReControl project as part of an integrated programme to deliver an integrated, resilient command and control system for the Fire and Rescue Service in England.

### Housing

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many houses have been built in each year since 1995; how many of these houses were subjected to air pressure tests during the course of their construction; and what the results were. [11278]

**Yvette Cooper:** Statistics published by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister show about 1.5 million dwellings were built in England and Wales in the decade to April 2005. Statistics on pressure tests are not collected. I am aware that pressure tests have been carried out on about 150 houses built to comply with the Building Regulations as amended in April 2002. The approved documents supporting that amendment covered air tightness for the first time. While there was no evidence of overall non-compliance, the evidence is that the pressure test results were unsatisfactory. This has prompted consideration of stronger requirements for testing and improved technical guidance.

**Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what assurances he is seeking from Pendle borough council before agreeing its proposals to transfer its housing stock. [11876]

**Yvette Cooper:** The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister is seeking an assurance that the gap funding requested by Pendle borough council to support its transfer is the minimum necessary to deliver the proposed transfer.

### Kanes Food

**Peter Luff:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will make it his policy to conduct a public inquiry into the planning application by Kanes Food at Middle Littleton to expand their existing operations. [11646]

**Yvette Cooper:** Wychavon district council has submitted the planning application by Kanes Foods Ltd. to the Secretary of State as a departure from the local plan. We are currently considering whether it is necessary to call in the planning application for the Secretary of State to decide himself, instead of leaving the decision to the local planning authority. A public inquiry will be held if the application is called in. I will advise the hon. Member of our decision.

### Local Authorities

**Mr. Hands:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what the Government's policy is on what should constitute a threshold for a key decision made by a local authority. [6758]

**Mr. Woolas:** It is a matter for each local authority to decide its threshold for key decisions, having regard to the statutory guidance which the Government have issued under the Local Government Act 2000. This guidance states that in setting such thresholds a local authority will need to bear in mind the underlying principles of accountable decision making that there should be a presumption towards openness so that local people have knowledge sufficiently in advance of all those decisions which will be of genuine concern to local communities.

### Local Government Finance

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister pursuant to the answer of 30 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 1653W, on local government finance, if he will list the local authorities to which the questionnaire was sent; and what criteria were used to select the local authorities. [11559]

**Mr. Woolas:** The questionnaire was sent to local authorities with representatives on a practical implementation working group on council tax revaluation set up by the ODPM and on a software suppliers forum that exists to consider possible software issues arising from changes to the council tax and business rates regime. The local authorities concerned are Birmingham city council, City of London, Derby city council, the London borough of Redbridge, Sedgemoor district council, Slough borough council, Somerset county council, the London borough of Tower Hamlets and Weymouth and Portland borough council.

### Millennium Dome

**Mr. Sheerman:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister pursuant to the answer of 27 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 1313W, on the millennium dome, what discussion he has had with English Partnerships on making the car park for which it is responsible available for use now. [9802]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** No such discussions have been held. The future use of English Partnerships' land next to or near the millennium dome that was previously used for car parking has been settled through the usual planning process, in the context of the commercial deal between English Partnerships and Meridian Delta Ltd. and Anschutz Entertainment Group for the future use of the dome and land on the Greenwich Peninsula.

Car parking on the land referred to in the answer of 27 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 1313W, could only be made available for a relatively short period of time because Anschutz Entertainment Group has rights during the next two years to carry out works to this and other adjacent land in preparation for its own car parking use in respect of the arena when it opens in spring 2007.

### Mobile Phone Masts

**Stephen Hammond:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what criteria were used in making the decision to exempt the installation of mobile phone masts up to 15 m high from the normal planning permission requirements. [11503]

**Yvette Cooper:** The permitted development rights granting general planning permission for telecommunications apparatus below 15 m were introduced by the "Town and Country Planning General Development (Amendment) Order 1985".

In 2000, the Stewart Report recommended that all base stations, including those up to 15 m, should be subject to the normal planning process in order to improve local consultation. The arrangements we put in place following the Stewart Report provide for the same consultation on base stations up to 15 m in height as is required by full planning permission.

### Publications

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will list the publications issued by his Department in each of the last seven years; and what the *(a)* circulation, *(b)* cost and *(c)* purpose of each was. [10570]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister was created on 29 May 2002.

The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Research

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will list the research projects commissioned since the creation of the Department; and what the timetable is for the publication of each piece of research that has yet to be completed. [11997]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** A list of all research projects commissioned by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister is available from the Research Management Database (RMD) at http://www.rmd.odpm.gov.uk.

Under the ODPM Publication Scheme, we are committed to publishing research project reports within six months of project completion or, at the latest, when quality checks, including relevant peer review, are completed or when a policy decision based on its findings is publicised. Information on the project completion date is contained in the Research Management Database.

There are agreed publication timetables for a number of statistical research projects. This information is regularly updated and available at: http://www.odpm.gov.uk/stellent/groups/odpm_about/documents/page/odpm_about_609298.hcsp

### Social Landlords

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will list the registered social landlords which have broken *(a)* a rent guarantee made to

tenants and *(b)* Housing Corporation rent guidelines since 1998; and how many homes were affected in each case. [11157]

**Yvette Cooper:** I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given on 8 June 2005, *Official Report*, columns 560–62W. Only those registered social landlords which have received housing from local authorities as part of the large scale voluntary transfer programme have made rent guarantees to tenants.

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will list the registered social landlords which have been put under supervision by the Housing Corporation; how many homes each is responsible for; and what the duration of the supervision period is in each case. [11162]

**Yvette Cooper:** The information cannot be provided in the form requested. The Housing Corporation's regulatory regime was set up in the late 1970s and records held do not date back this far. The corporation holds information on resolved supervision cases from 2000 onwards but the information does not identify stock figures at the time of supervision. It also holds information on current supervision cases, which does identify stock figures. This information has been made available in the Library of the House.

### Water Supply

**Mr. Peter Ainsworth:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what representations he has *(a)* sought and *(b)* received from Sutton and East Surrey Water plc regarding its ability to meet the future demand for water supply arising from the proposed increase in new housing completions in their catchment area. [12197]

**Yvette Cooper:** My right hon. Friend the Deputy Prime Minister has neither sought or received such representations. Water companies from across the South East and the Environment Agency are working with the South East England Regional Assembly to consider future water supply requirements as part of the process of preparing the South East Plan.

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Benefit Fraud

**Dr. Pugh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of benefit fraud cases involved the claimant using a false name in the last period for which figures are available. [6849]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** Precise figures are not available. The Counter Fraud Investigation Service (CFIS) which investigates the majority of benefit fraud does not keep a separate record of such cases.

The National Investigation Service (NIS) whose investigations focus on the most serious benefit frauds secured 175 convictions in 2004–05 for cases involving false identities. We estimate that half of these cases involved using false identities in order to claim benefit and half were attempts simply to obtain national insurance numbers.

In 2004–05 the Department and local authorities together conducted a total of 13,261 successful prosecutions for benefit fraud.

**Mr. Crabb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many calls there were to the benefit fraud hotline in each month of the last year for which figures are available. [8187]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The information is in the table:

*Calls made to the national benefit fraud hotline, 2004–05*

| | Number |
|---|---|
| *2004* | |
| April | 17,538 |
| May | 20,640 |
| June | 28,696 |
| July | 36,984 |
| August | 23,814 |
| September | 23,540 |
| October | 17,902 |
| November | 27,017 |
| December | 12,936 |
| *2005* | |
| January | 19,817 |
| February | 25,706 |
| March | 23,923 |
| Total | 278,513 |

*Note:*
The number of calls made includes all calls registered as hitting the telephone system including calls not answered e.g. where the caller may have hung up before being answered.
*Source:*
National Benefit Fraud Hotline

**Mr. Crabb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the total budget for the benefit fraud hotline was for each year since the service commenced. [8189]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The available information is in the table.

*National benefit fraud hotline budget allocation*

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2001–02 | 1,086,000 |
| 2002–03 | 959,277 |
| 2003–04 | 957,977 |
| 2004–05 | 1,192,843 |

*Notes:*
1. Figures include goods, services and staffing costs.
2. The national benefit fraud hotline (NBFH) commenced in August 1996. Information around budget allocation is available only from year ending 2001–02. Prior to this NBFH fell under "BA Security", and figures on funding and budget costs are no longer available.
3. The operational costs of administering the national benefit fraud hotline include the costs of administering the report-a-cheat-online service. These costs cannot be separated.
*Source:*
National Intelligence Unit and Resource Management and IT

**Mr. Crabb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much fraudulently-claimed benefit was recovered as a result of calls made to the benefit fraud hotline in each year since the service commenced. [8190]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The information requested is not available.

**Mr. Crabb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many convictions have resulted from calls to the benefit fraud hotline in each year since the service started. [8215]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The information is in the table.

*Convictions resulting from calls to the national benefit fraud hotline*

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 1999–2000 | 335 |
| 2000–01 | 492 |
| 2001–02 | 703 |
| 2002–03 | 706 |
| 2003–04 | 619 |
| 2004–05 | 655 |

*Note:*
Full information on the number of convictions resulting from calls to the national benefit fraud hotline is available only from April 1999.
*Source:*
Fraud Information by Sector system

### Benefits (16-hour Rule)

**Richard Burden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the impact of the 16-hour rule on measures to encourage people on benefits to take-up training opportunities; and what discussions he has had with colleagues in other departments on the subject. [9108]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The part-time (16-hour) study rule is used to determine whether certain courses are part-time or full-time. People opting to study full-time in both higher and further education are the responsibility of the education system.

However, we recognise the need to increase the skills of jobseekers to meet the needs of their local labour market and currently fund various training schemes and employment programmes that are targeted towards those at a disadvantage in the labour market. The new deals and work based learning for adults are examples of this and participants receive a training allowance equivalent to their benefit and, in most circumstances, a top-up payment.

We are currently working with the Learning and Skills Council to make greater use of their provision and, from September 2006, will be piloting the adult learning option. The pilot will be aimed at people whose lack of skills is the barrier preventing them from getting a job. Pilot participants will undertake full-time learning and receive a training allowance.

### Child Support Agency

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what definition the Child Support Agency uses of the term sensitive case; how many cases the Sensitive Case Team has dealt with in each year since its establishment; how many times unauthorised access to sensitive cases has been detected; and how many checks have been made on sensitive cases. [2013]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive, Mr. Stephen Geraghty. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Stephen Geraghty to Mr. David Laws, dated 14 July 2005:*

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what definition the Child Support Agency uses of the term sensitive case; how many cases the Sensitive Case Team has dealt with in each year since its establishment; how many times unauthorised access to sensitive cases has been detected; and how many checks have been made on sensitive cases.

Within the Child Support Agency all Nationally Sensitive cases are dealt with by a team located in Falkirk. Sensitive cases are those cases that require special handling in order to restrict access to information and to protect the account from unauthorised amendments. Sensitive cases cover a wide range of circumstances including partners at risk of violence, people on witness protection, transsexuals and VIPs.

A yearly breakdown of the number of Nationally Sensitive cases is unavailable. However, there are currently 410 live cases, of which 238 are on the old scheme and 172 on the new scheme.

Since the inception of the Nationally Sensitive Case team within the Child Support Agency there have been no instances of unauthorised access to these cases detected. Information is not available as to how many checks have been carried out on Nationally Sensitive cases. However, they are all subject to 100 per cent checking which means that every time the case is actioned it is checked to ensure the Nationally Sensitive marking is still relevant.

I hope you find this information of use.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how much compensation has been sought from EDS by the Child Support Agency; how much has been received; and on what grounds compensation has been sought; [3632]

(2) if he will list payments *(a)* made to and *(b)* withheld from EDS for the new Child Support Agency computer system. [3866]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the chief executive, Mr. Stephen Geraghty. He will write to the hon. Member.

*Letter from Stephen Geraghty to Mr. David Laws, dated 14 July 2005:*

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Questions about the Child Support Agency the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You also asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how much compensation has been sought from EDS by the Child Support Agency; how much has been received; and on what grounds compensation has been sought. You also asked the Secretary of State to list payments *(a)* made to and *(b)* withheld from EDS for the new Child Support Agency computer system.

The Department has not sought compensation from EDS as such. The Child Support Agency contract with EDS allows the Department to adjust payments according to the degree of IT functionality delivered and the level of service received against targets. We have previously reported in response to a Parliamentary Question on 18 November 2004, Official Report, column 1,874W that payments made to EDS between 3 March 2003 and 19 September 2004 under the Child Support Reform contract amounted to £62.08 million. During the same period the Department withheld £12.1 million as a result of service and performance issues.

The Department is currently in financial negotiations with EDS about the payments which should be made in total for the Child Support Agency computer system. I regret that I am unable to

provide specific detail in relation to payments made and withheld since 19 September as the release of this information could prejudice commercial interests.

I am sorry that we are not able to be more helpful at present.

**Anne Main:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many people in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* St. Albans are still waiting to be moved to assessment under the new Child Support Agency regulations; and what assessment he has made of the time taken for the transition to be completed; [5099]

(2) what the average level of overpayment has been by parents in St. Albans who are being assessed under the old Child Support Agency regulations whose cases have not yet been re-evaluated under the new regulations; and if he will make a statement. [5100]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** Although at the end of May 2005 there were around 955,000 cases being progressed under the old scheme in Great Britain information about the number of people waiting to be moved to the new scheme is not available. This is because not all of these cases will be appropriate to move to the new scheme. For example, this figure includes cases which involve payment of arrears where there is no on-going liability for maintenance.

Unfortunately information is not available at constituency or local authority level.

Those customers who have not been transferred to the new system are neither overpaying nor underpaying. Non-resident parents currently assessed under the old scheme are still liable to pay child support for their children in accordance with the legislation that applies to them.

We have recently appointed a new chief executive and as a priority have asked him to carry out a wide ranging review of the Agency's operations and structures. He will be reporting his findings to us in the summer and will set out his proposals to improve the Agency's performance, including the transfer of cases to the new system.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he was first informed that there would not be enough storage space on the new Child Support IT system for all cases; and what action he has taken to ensure that there will be. [8742]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive, Mr. Stephen Geraghty. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Stephen Geraghty to Mr. David Laws, dated 14 July 2005:*

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, when he was first informed that there would not be enough storage space on the new Child Support IT system for all cases; and what action he has taken to ensure that there will be.

The new IT system (CS2) will have sufficient storage space for all cases, and we are not aware of any storage capacity limitations that will affect the Child Support Agency's ability to support its caseload on the new system.

I hope that you find this answer useful.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what progress there has been in agreeing a clear definition of system availability for the new child support system with EDS. [9331]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the chief executive, Mr. Stephen Geraghty. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Stephen Geraghty to Mr. David Laws, dated 14 July 2005:*

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what problems there have been agreeing a clear definition of system availability for the new child support system with EDS.

System availability is covered clearly in the Child Support Reform contract between the Department and EDS. Within that contract reference is made to when the system is not available. "Unavailability" is defined as users being unable to access the system or unable to work correctly because the system is not working to agreed specification (requirements). The "system" is defined as all of the listed components of the EDS IT solution for Child Support Reform.

I hope you find this response helpful.

## Council Tax Benefit

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans the Government has to reform council tax benefit; and if he will make a statement. [7507]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** We need to consider the findings of the Lyons Inquiry into Local Government Funding, which is due to report later this year, but we certainly want to ensure that help with council tax is made easier for individuals to access.

## Crisis Loans

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average time scale is for dealing with crisis loan applications; and if he will make a statement. [6361]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The actual average clearance time for crisis loans in 2004–05 was 1.3 working days. This is within the current internal target of clearing crisis loans within an average of two working days. The minimum clearance time that can be recorded is one day.

**Michael Connarty:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will increase staffing and resources to administer the new centralised system of telephone applications for crisis loans. [10765]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive, Lesley Strathie. She will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Lesley Strathie to Mr. Michael Connarty, dated 14 July 2005:*

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question concerning whether staffing and resources will be increased to administer the new centralised system of telephone applications for Social Fund Crisis Loans. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

There are no plans to increase resources, as dealing with Crisis Loans by telephone is no more expensive than the previous method of interview in person. Managers are expected to ensure that sufficient staff are deployed on telephone lines to meet required demand and to provide the facility for face to face interviews for people who do not wish to use the telephone.

For the future, we are designing a standard operating model, which will specify common procedures, technology and resources for all aspects of Social Fund delivery, and this will take account of fluctuating demand.

I hope this is helpful.

### Earnings-related Pensions

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to his answer of 14 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 260W on earnings-related pensions, (1) what assumptions he made about *(a)* income brought to account for pension credit and *(b)* pension credit take up in projecting the future cost of pension credit; [8002]

(2) what the estimated costs *(a)* in real terms and *(b)* as a percentage of gross domestic product are of (i) the basic state pension, (ii) Serps/S2P, (iii) pension credit and (iv) other pension benefits in (A) 2010, (B) 2020, (C) 2030, (D) 2040 and (E) 2050, consistent with the projections of extra cost. [8003]

**Mr. Timms:** The information is in the table.

For the purposes of pension credit estimates pensioner incomes are assumed to rise in line with earnings in the long-term. Take-up rates of pension credit are held constant from 2009 onwards within demographic group (defined by age, gender and marital status).

*Change in expenditure for over 65's (Great Britain only)*

| | 2010 | 2020 | 2030 | 2040 | 2050 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Basic state pension (extra costs) | 18 | 38 | 69 | 109 | 151 |
| Percentage GDP | 1.3 | 2.1 | 3.2 | 4.2 | 4.7 |
| Pension credit (savings) | 8 | 12 | 19 | 27 | 37 |
| Percentage GDP | 0.5 | 0.7 | 0.9 | 1.1 | 1.2 |
| Winter fuel payments (savings) | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Percentage GDP | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 |
| Total additional expenditure | 10 | 25 | 50 | 80 | 113 |
| Percentage GDP | 0.7 | 1.4 | 2.3 | 3.1 | 3.5 |

*Notes:*
1. This table shows a breakdown of additional costs or savings.
2. Figures are in £ billion in 2005–06 price terms, and consistent with 2005 budget long term assumptions.
3. Totals may not sum due to rounding
4. No change in expenditure is assumed to occur in the State Second Pension.
5. Long term projections of expenditure (for the United Kingdom) on pensioners under the current system are published on the departmental internet site.

### Gangmasters

**Jim Sheridan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what assessment has been undertaken of Operation Gangmaster since the introduction of the Gangmasters (Licensing) Act 2004; and if he will make a statement; [9601]

(2) whether the responsibility for Operation Gangmaster will be transferred to the Gangmasters Licensing Authority established under the Gangmasters (Licensing) Act 2004; [9602]

(3) how many investigations there have been into second stage processing carried out by Operation Gangmaster since its establishment; [9603]

(4) how many labour providers in second stage processing have been *(a)* investigated, *(b)* arrested and charged and *(c)* convicted for offences under Operation Gangmaster since its establishment. [9604]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** A full evaluation of Operation Gangmaster was completed in April 2004, and operational evaluations are regularly carried out. We have no plans to transfer the responsibility for Operation Gangmaster to the Gangmasters Licensing Authority.

There are no offences directly related to Operation Gangmaster. Any enforcement action is taken under legislation available to participating departments. In the last year three labour providers have been arrested. Two have been charged with facilitation offences but have not yet appeared before the courts. One has been convicted for benefit fraud offences. Operation Gangmaster does not make any distinction between first and second stage processing.

### Housing Benefit

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many claimants have received local housing allowance through pathfinder pilots; and how many of these received the allowance at a protected rate to prevent them receiving a lower amount than under their previous entitlement to housing benefit. [10148]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** As at February 2005, around 44,700 claimants had their benefit assessed under the local housing allowance scheme. Out of these, 1,200 received a protected rate.

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what assessment he has made of whether private sector landlords in the housing benefit pathfinders have reduced the rents which they charge in order *(a)* to secure more tenants and *(b)* to keep existing tenants; and if he will make a statement; [5467]

(2) how many and what percentage of those living in the private rented sector and receiving housing benefit directly have built up arrears in rental payments in the pathfinder areas; [5468]

(3) what assessment he has made of the effects of the introduction of *(a)* local housing allowance and *(b)* direct payments in the housing benefit pathfinder areas on private sector landlords' participation in the market; and if he will make a statement; [5476]

(4) what assessment he has made of whether people moved to housing benefit pathfinder areas to take advantage of local housing allowances; and if he will make a statement. [5479]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The Department has commissioned a comprehensive, independent evaluation of the local housing allowance (LHA) pathfinders. This will provide information on the impact of the LHA, and the reactions of claimants and landlords to the LHA and direct payments.

The first interim findings of the evaluation are being published over the summer and the results of the final evaluation will be published at the end of next year.

In April we published "Delivering the Local Housing Allowance: A summary of the early experiences of implementing the Local Housing Allowance in the nine Pathfinder areas" reporting on the operational experience after six months of live running of the LHA. A copy is available in the Library.

Further reports and summaries covering the early experiences of claimants and landlords will be published shortly.

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what percentage of housing benefit payments have been made direct to landlords in each of the nine pathfinder areas. [5469]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** Information for housing benefits payments made direct to landlords in each of the nine pathfinder areas is not available. The information is available for local housing allowance claimants only, and is shown in the table.

*Local housing allowance (LHA) payments made direct to landlords in each pathfinder area and as a percentage of LHA payments*

| | *Number* | *Percentage* |
|---|---|---|
| Blackpool | 1,362 | 17 |
| Brighton and Hove | 995 | 12 |
| Conwy | 251 | 13 |
| Coventry | 184 | 5 |
| Edinburgh | 575 | 10 |
| Leeds | 775 | 13 |
| Lewisham | 413 | 11 |
| NE Lincolnshire | 630 | 15 |
| Teignbridge | 125 | 7 |
| All pathfinders | 5,310 | 12 |

*Source:*
DWP administrative data for pathfinder areas. February 2005

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what impact the introduction of the local housing allowances in the housing benefit pathfinders has had on the average length of time taken to process new claims. [5472]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** Isolating the impact of the local housing allowances on the average length of time taken to process new claims is not possible as processing times are influenced by a number of factors many of which are independent of the local housing allowance.

Average processing times in the private rented sector have been improving in the majority of Pathfinder areas since the introduction of the local housing allowance, as shown in the table.

There has been some reduction in the average processing times for all local authorities in the recent periods compared to the annual average in 2003–04.

*Average processing times for private sector new claims in Pathfinder areas and across all LA's*

*Calendar days*

| | *Private new claim* | |
|---|---|---|
| *Pathfinder area* | *2003–04* | *2004–05* |
| Blackpool | 32 | 26 |
| Brighton and Hove | 35 | 35 |
| Conwy | 44 | 33 |
| Coventry | 63 | 57 |
| Edinburgh | 107 | 90 |
| Leeds | 33 | 80 |
| Lewisham | 54 | 36 |
| North East Lincolnshire | 53 | 36 |
| Teignbridge | 42 | 33 |
| All LAs ( including non-pathfinder) | 58 | 52 |

*Notes:*
1. The reported averages are weighted averages (by new claim workload).
2. The 2003–04 average figures for Pathfinder areas are derived from all four quarters data.
3. The 2004–05 average figures for Pathfinder areas are derived from first three quarters data. Fourth quarter data is not yet available.
4. Leeds recently had problems with its software system which had a negative impact on the processing times for 2004–05.
5. Wherever data is missing, we have used the figures available nearest to that quarter.
6. Private sector claims includes local housing allowance (LHA) and non LHA deregulated claims and regulated new claims (excludes housing association new claims)

*Source:*
DWP administrative data for Pathfinder areas and HBMIS.

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how the Department intends to increase the quality of communication between claimants, landlords and housing benefit offices in the pathfinders areas. [11701]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The Department has developed a communications strategy for all Pathfinders which sets out best practices for communication with key stakeholders such as landlords. The strategy includes DWP branded products such as landlord fact sheets and landlord newsletters, which pathfinder local authorities can distribute where appropriate.

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions why local housing allowances cannot be paid via Post Office card accounts. [11699]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The Post Office card account is a simple account with very limited functions. It was specifically designed to receive payments of benefits and pensions administered by central Government.

Local housing allowance is paid by local authorities. The customer is responsible for paying rent to their landlord and this may be more or less than the allowance. The Post Office card account does not have

a facility for the account holder to make payments to a third party by standing order, so is not a suitable account to receive payments of local housing allowance.

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps the Department is taking to ensure accountability and impartiality on the part of those who make the final decisions concerning vulnerability requests for local housing allowance. [11700]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** Local authorities develop and use local policies to help determine whether a tenant is capable of taking the responsibility to receive their local housing allowance and to then make the necessary arrangements to pay their rent to the landlord. If following representation from a tenant or someone on their behalf, the local authority decides that direct payments to a tenant are not appropriate the local authority will then pay the eligible rent directly to the landlord. The policies used are based on guidelines produced by the Department and in many cases are developed and operated in conjunction with local advice agencies.

Local authorities make these decisions based on information and evidence produced by the tenant or those working on their behalf. The local authority is accountable for the decisions it makes, which are also subject to appeal.

## Incapacity Benefit

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the *(a)* notional size and *(b)* relationship to notional incapacity benefit levels of the proposed rehabilitation support and disability support allowances as set out in the estimates and calculations of the future of incapacity benefits consultation paper is. [6320]

**Margaret Hodge:** We intend to publish a Green Paper setting out our proposals for the future of welfare to work support for people with health conditions and disabilities later this year. This will reflect the proposals in the Consultation Paper. However, the structure and rates for any new benefit have not yet been determined.

## Jobseeker's Allowance

**Julie Morgan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people aged over 50 years claimed jobseeker's allowance in financial years *(a)* 2001–02, *(b)* 2002–03, *(c)* 2003–04 and *(d)* 2004–05; how many of these (i) were eligible for new deal 50 plus and (ii) participated in new deal 50 plus; and what percentage of claimants (A) remained on jobseeker's allowance (B) found work (C) moved onto income support and (D) moved onto incapacity benefit in each case. [7894]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The information is not available in the form requested. The available information is in the following tables.

*Jobseeker's allowance claimants aged 50 and over by duration of claim*[1]

| | *All claimants* | *Under six months* | *Six months and over*[2] |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2001–02 | 400,100 | 238,200 | 161,900 |
| 2002–03 | 393,200 | 235,600 | 157,600 |
| 2003–04 | 379,600 | 227,100 | 152,600 |
| 2004–05 | 340,700 | 199,100 | 141,600 |

[1] If the claim has ended in the year, age has been calculated at the end of the claim. If the claim is ongoing at the end of the year, age has been calculated at the end of the year.

[2] People who have been claiming jobseeker's allowance for six months or more are eligible for new deal 50 plus. Additionally around 15 per cent. of those people claiming jobseeker's allowance for less than six months may also be eligible for new deal 50 plus as a result of another qualifying benefit claim preceding their jobseeker's allowance claim.

*Notes:*

1. Figures are for Great Britain and are rounded to the nearest 100, totals may not sum due to rounding.
2. Years are defined as 1 March to 28/29 February in each year.
3. A person is only counted once each year regardless of how many times they have flowed on and off jobseeker's allowance in that year, but they may appear in more than one year. The claim with the longest duration within each year has been used.
4. Due to late notification of commencements on the jobseeker's allowance payment system (JSAPS) for the most recent quarter i.e. to the end of February 2005, the total number of claims for 2004–05 can be expected to increase.
5. Durations for claims that have not ended by the end of the relevant financial year have been calculated at that point in time. Due to only having data up to the end of February 2005, the number of claimants in the six months and over category is an underestimate for the 2004–05 year i.e. anyone starting after 1 September 2004 whose claim is still live at the year end has had a duration of less than six months calculated. As more data comes in over the following months the durations of these claims will become over six months.

*Source:*

Department for Work and Pensions Information Directorate. 5 per cent. samples subject to a degree of sampling variation.

*Number of people moving into employment through new deal 50 plus*

| *April to March* | *People claiming employment credit*[1] | *People moving into work through new deal 50 plus*[2] |
|---|---|---|
| 2001–02 | 33,950 | — |
| 2002–03 | 31,080 | — |
| 2003–04 | — | 22,160 |
| 2004–05 | — | 17,070 |

[1] Until April 2003 new deal 50 plus figures were measured in terms of employment credit starts. Those with gross personal income of more than £15,000 a year were not entitled to the employment credit on entering work.

[2] On 6 April 2003 the new deal 50 plus employment credit was replaced by the back to work element of the working tax credit. Figures do not include people claiming the back to work element of working tax credit who have not had assistance from jobcentre plus.

*Source:*

Information Directorate, DWP

## Parliamentary Questions

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he will reply to question reference 5234 tabled by the hon. Member for Monmouth on 14 June. [10319]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** A reply was given to the hon. Member on 6 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 483W.

### Pathways to Work Pilots

**Mr. Frank Field:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will list the reports that *(a)* have been and *(b)* are scheduled to be published as part of the evaluation of the Pathways to Work pilots. [10137]

**Margaret Hodge:** The Department has published the following reports as part of the evaluation of the Pathways to Work pilots.

"Incapacity Benefit Reforms—Early findings from qualitative research", the National Centre for Social Research, DWP report no. 202 (published September 2004). "Incapacity Benefit Reforms—The Personal Adviser Role and Practices", the National Centre for Social Research, DWP report no. 212 (published November 2004). "IB Reforms Pilot: Findings from a longitudinal panel of clients", Social Policy Research Unit, DWP report no. 259 (published 7 July 2005).

These reports are available in the Library.

The Department is scheduled to publish another report in September 2005:

"Incapacity Benefit Reforms—The Personal Adviser Role and Practices—stage 2", the National Centre for Social Research.

The programme of evaluation continues through until 2008. Further reports will be published in the DWP research series.

### Pension Protection Fund

**Richard Burden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the impact of Pension Protection Fund regulations on the incomes of members of schemes affected who have taken early retirement. [9107]

**Mr. Timms:** The Pension Protection Fund provides 90 per cent. level of compensation for those members who, immediately before the assessment date, are under the scheme's normal pension age. This includes early retirees. However, those members who took early retirement, but have then reached the scheme's normal pension age before the assessment date, will receive 100 per cent. level of compensation.

The compensation cap applies to all members who receive 90 per cent. level of compensation. The compensation cap is age related and is currently £27,777.78 at age 65 (effectively £25,000 at 90 per cent. level). The compensation cap is adjusted, according to age, in accordance with actuarial factors published by the Board of the PPF.

We have based this split on those over and under the scheme's normal pension age because we believe those over that age are less likely to be able to make good or cope with a sudden reduction in income. We also considered it would be unfair if, for example, two members of the same age (e.g. 58 years) received different levels of compensation simply because one member chose to take early retirement while the other chose to continue to work.

The compensation members receive from the PPF may not be equivalent to the pension they may have been expecting to receive from the scheme. However, it is important to remember that PPF compensation is effectively an emergency backstop that only takes effect when the scheme's sponsoring employer or employers have become insolvent and when the scheme itself can not afford to pay benefits at the same level as the PPF.

It is also true that in previous years should a pension scheme have to wind up underfunded the scheme's current pensioners had first claim to the assets of the scheme. This was advantageous to pensioners but in some cases led to all other members of the scheme (including those just a few years or even months from retirement) losing almost all of their pension. This was a situation that became worse the more a scheme was in deficit when it was wound up. This was frequently criticised and perceived as unfair.

We believe the PPF levels of compensation strike the right balance between the amount of compensation payable and the amount that would be required to be paid into the PPF via the levies. In total, more money will be paid out by the PPF than could have been paid by the scheme.

There are two groups of individuals who, regardless of age, are not subject to the 90 per cent. compensation level; individuals who, before the assessment date, are already in receipt of a survivors' pension and those in receipt of an early pension on the grounds of ill health.

### Pension Service/Benefits Agency

**Mrs. James:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent assessment has been made of customer service performance at the Swansea Pension Service Centre; and if he will make a statement. [11399]

**Mr. Timms:** The most recent assessment of customer service at Swansea pension centre, in May 2005, found that over 95 per cent. of customers contacted as part of a monthly survey were either satisfied or very satisfied with the service they had received.

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many open days have been held in the last 12 months for staff and volunteers of independent advice services providing assistance to claimants by *(a)* the Benefits Agency and *(b)* the Pensions Service; how many people have attended such open days; and if he will make a statement on (i) feedback received and (ii) resultant action. [10270]

**Mr. Timms:** Jobcentre Plus, which brought together the Benefits Agency and the Employment Service in 2002, conducts approximately 1,560 open days over a 12 month period. These vary widely in size and target audience but are all aimed at getting people back to work, either by helping them look for the right types of employment or to provide the more practical help they may need when finding a job. Local service teams of the Pension Service have attended a number of local events with staff and volunteers from independent advice services, aimed at maximising take-up of benefits and services for older people. Detailed information on the number of open days held by Jobcentre Plus or the Pension Service, the number of people attending and feedback obtained is not held centrally.

### Pensioners/Benefits

**Julie Morgan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the cost has been to public funds of

*(a)* the winter fuel payment, *(b)* free TV licences for the over 75s, *(c)* the pension credit and *(d)* increases in the state pension was in each year since 1997–98. [10316]

**Mr. Timms:** The information is in the table[1, 2]

[1] Figures for *(a)*, *(c)* and *(d)* are for Great Britain. Figures for *(b)* are for the United Kingdom. With the exception of free TV licences for the over-75s, benefit expenditure in Northern Ireland is the responsibility of the Northern Ireland Social Security Agency.

[2] Figures are rounded to the nearest million.

*£ million, cash terms*[1]

| | *(a) Winter fuel payment*[2] | *(b) Free TV licences for the over-75s* | *(c) Pension credit*[3] | *(d) Increases in the state pension*[4, 5, 6] |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1997–98 | 191 | — | 3,773 | — |
| 1998–99 | 194 | — | 3,619 | — |
| 1999–2000 | 759 | — | 3,781 | — |
| 2000–01 | 1,749 | 306 | 4,095 | — |
| 2001–02 | 1,681 | 365 | 4,486 | 1,294 |
| 2002–03 | 1,705 | 374 | 4,484 | 2,199 |
| 2003–04 | 1,935 | 405 | 4,935 | 2,622 |
| 2004–05 | 1,953 | 427 | 6,051 | 2,732 |

[1] Includes £100 over-80s payment from 2003–04.

[2] 1997–99—income support for pensioners; 1999 to 2000 October 2003—[3] Figures are calculated by comparing what would have happened if basic state pension had been increased in line with the retail prices index since 1997 with what actually happened.

[4] Expenditure on state pensions will have risen for other reasons including a growing population, improved contributions records and the gradual maturing of past policy changes. These effects are not included in the figures as they would have occurred had 1997 policies been continued.

[5] Additional spending on the state second pension over the period, other than due to factors given under 6 above, is negligible.

[6] Benefit expenditure information is published on the internet at http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd4/expenditure.asp

*Sources:*

*(a)*, *(b)* and *(c)*: DWP benefit expenditure tables, Budget 2005; *(d)* basic state pension forecasting model. The figure for 2003–04 free TV licences for the over-75s, shown in the table, is a revised one subsequent to Budget 2005 DWP benefit expenditure information being published.

**Mr. McFadden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many state retirement pensioners there are in Wolverhampton, South-East; and what percentage this is of the total electorate in the constituency. [10993]

**Mr. Timms:** As at 31 September 2004, there were 13,100 recipients of the state pension in the Wolverhampton, South-East parliamentary constituency of whom 5,100 were males and 8,000 were females. This represents around 24 per cent. of the electorate.

*Notes:*

1. Recipient figures are taken from a 5 per cent. sample and are therefore subject to a high degree of sampling variation.

2. Parliamentary constituencies are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant Office for National Statistics postcode directory.

*Sources:*

1. Number of recipients—IAD Information Centre, 5 per cent. sample as at September 2004.

2. 2005 electoral data—Wolverhampton city council's website.

**Mr. Hood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in the Lanark and Hamilton East constituency received a state pension in 2005; and if he will make a statement. [10059]

**Mr. Timms:** As the Lanark and Hamilton East constituency came into being at the last general election, statistical information on benefit entitlements of its constituents is not yet available.

**Julie Morgan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions by how much the state pension has risen in each financial year since 1997–98. [10313]

**Mr. Timms:** The information is in the following table:

| *Uprating date (April each year)* | *Standard rate of basic state pension (£)* | *Basic state pension percentage increase on previous year* | *Additional state pension percentage increase on previous year* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1997 | 62.45 | 2.1 | 2.1 |
| 1998 | 64.70 | 3.6 | 3.6 |
| 1999 | 66.75 | 3.2 | 3.2 |
| 2000 | 67.50 | 1.1 | 1.1 |
| 2001 | 72.50 | 7.4 | 3.3 |
| 2002 | 75.50 | 4.1 | 1.7 |
| 2003 | 77.45 | 2.6 | 1.7 |
| 2004 | 79.60 | 2.8 | 2.8 |
| 2005 | 82.05 | 3.1 | 3.1 |

*Note:*

Increases in the rate of the basic state pension are rounded to the nearest 5 pence.

## Pensions

**Mrs. Riordan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will make a statement on the discussions he has had with trade unions on public sector workers' pensions; and if he will make a statement. [9388]

**Mr. Timms:** My right hon. Friend has had no discussions with trade unions about public service pensions. Negotiations on public sector pensions are a matter for my right hon. Friends the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury and the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry.

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much money has been saved in each year since 2001 through starting retirement pension payday on the Monday after a person's birthday rather than on the birthday itself; and if he will make a statement. [11725]

**Mr. Timms:** There have been no overall savings under the current regulations which provide for the payment of state pension in whole weeks at the start and end of a claim.

If payment were to have been made for part weeks at the start of a claim only, and there had been no recovery of overpaid benefit at the end of a claim, we estimate additional expenditure of up to £20 million would have been incurred in each year since 2001.

## Regulated Tenancies

**Ms Gisela Stuart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether local housing allowance *(a)* applies and *(b)* is planned to apply to regulated tenancies. [10945]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The local housing allowance currently applies only to claimants in the deregulated private sector. We have no plans to include regulated tenancies in the scheme.

### Return to Work

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he is taking to encourage *(a)* unemployed people and *(b)* people on income support to return to work; and if he will make a statement. [10476]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** Since 1997 the Government's priority has been to tackle the scourge of unemployment, inactivity and poverty through investment in, and reform of, the welfare state. The UK now has one of the strongest labour markets in the world, with the best combination of employment and unemployment of the major world economies. More people are moving from welfare back into work with employment up almost 200,000 in the last year and by over 2 million since 1997. With more people in jobs than ever before, we now spend £5 billion less on unemployment benefits than we did in 1997.

A central part of our strategy is to ensure that work pays, establishing a real incentive for people to move off benefit and into work.

The national minimum wage was introduced in April 1999 as part of our overall strategy, establishing minimum standards of pay in the labour market. In October 2004 the minimum wage was increased from £4.50 per hour to £4.85 for workers aged 22 and over and from £3.80 per hour to £4.10 per hour for people aged 18–21 inclusive.

Building on the success of working families' tax credit (WFTC), disabled person's tax credit and the children's tax credit, from April 2003 the Government introduced two new tax credits, the child tax credit (CTC) and the working tax credit (WTC). Entitlement to the tax credits is based on the particular circumstances of an individual or family.

The adviser discretion fund was introduced in July 2001, giving jobcentre plus advisers direct access to funds to remove immediate barriers to employment and thus help people move quickly into work. In addition, from October 2003, access to the fund was further extended to all incapacity benefit customers in Pathways to Work pilot areas from the first day of their claim.

Job grant was also introduced in October 2004 to help people manage until they receive their first wages. It replaced both the lone parents run-on and the original job grant schemes.

Additionally the housing benefit and council tax benefit extended payments allow maximum housing benefit and council tax benefit to continue for the first four weeks after starting work. Help with mortgage interest in the first four weeks of employment may also be available through mortgage interest run-on in the income-related benefits.

Today, Britain is working again. We are transforming the welfare state from a passive one-size-fits-all model to an active system that delivers both rights and responsibilities, tailoring help to the individual and providing the support and incentives people need to move from welfare and into work.

### Tax Credit (Overpayments)

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many adjustments of *(a)* council tax benefit and *(b)* housing benefit payments have resulted from corrected overpayments of tax credit; and what research is being carried out on (i) the number, (ii) costs and (iii) effects of such adjustments. [6326]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** It is the actual amount of a tax credit award that is in payment that is taken into account when assessing entitlement to housing benefit and council tax benefit. There is, therefore, no retrospective reassessment of those benefits because a tax credit award has been overpaid during a past period.

The housing benefit or council tax benefit claim does, however, need to be reassessed if the amount of a tax credit changes because, for example, of an overpayment of the tax credit. This is to ensure that housing benefit or council tax benefit takes account of the actual amount of tax credit in payment.

No assessment has been made of the cost implications to local authorities of readjusting payments of housing benefit or council tax benefit because of the correction of an overpaid tax credit award. This is because such a change is only one of many that may mean a housing benefit or council tax benefit claim needs to be reassessed. However, local authorities have received additional administration subsidy in recognition of the ongoing costs to local authorities of administering claims which include tax credits.

# Written Answers to Questions

*Monday 18 July 2005*

## LEADER OF THE HOUSE

### New Members

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Leader of the House if he will co-ordinate a series of Tuesday morning briefings for new hon. Members by each principal Government Department on its work, with the exception of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. [12558]

**Mr. Hoon:** My right hon. Friends would obviously be more than happy to arrange briefing meetings at mutually convenient times with any new hon. Members on the work of their Department.

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### GM Food

**Mr. Meacher:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what help the UK Government plans to provide to *(a)* farmers and *(b)* milk retailers to ensure adequate supplies of important non-GM animal food. [11831]

**Mr. Morley:** The Government have no plans to provide specific help to farmers or milk retailers to ensure adequate supplies of imported non-GM feed for animals. This is a matter of choice, not safety, and market forces will operate to deliver feed derived from non-GM sources if there is sufficient demand from farmers and retailers. Legislation is already in place to ensure that animal feed derived from GM crops is labelled to enable farmers to make appropriate choices.

### Methane Energy

**Paul Flynn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate she has made of the amount of energy that will be generated from methane from *(a)* waste sites, *(b)* coal mines and *(c)* other sources in each of the next three years. [11318]

**Mr. Morley:** Estimates for energy generated from methane sources for the next three years are shown as thousand tonnes of oil equivalent (kTOE) in the following table:

| *Methane source* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Operating deep mines | 18 | 17 | 14 |
| Abandoned mines | 30 | 43 | 45 |
| Landfill gas (electricity) | 1,338 | 1,441 | 1,545 |
| Landfill gas (heat) | 14 | 14 | 14 |
| Sewage gas (electricity) | 170 | 178 | 187 |
| Sewage gas (heat) | 64 | 72 | 79 |
| Anerobic digestion on farms | minimal | minimal | minimal |

*Notes:*
1. Estimates from coal mines are based on current generation and projections for mine closures. Number of mines generating is less than number of mines open.
2. Estimates of energy generation from landfill and sewage gas are derived by linear interpolation, consistent with the most recent projections published by the Department of Trade and Industry for 2005 and 2010.
3. The number of digesters currently used for anaerobic digestion on farms in the UK is thought to be very small.

### Nappies

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the cost to date of the Environment Agency's Life Cycle Assessment on reusable and disposable nappies is; what estimate has been made of the cost of the further proposed LCA; when she expects the further LCA to be completed; and who will carry out the work. [11685]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The cost of the Environment Agency's Life Cycle Assessment was £200,000, which, as well as the consultant and survey costs, includes Agency staff time.

The scope of the further work is currently being discussed with the Environment Agency and the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP). Until this is determined in detail then it is not possible to determine the cost and who will carry out the work.

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what measures she has put in place for assessing the *(a)* environmental and *(b)* economic effects of the WRAP Real Nappy Programme; and whether it will be (i) independently audited and (ii) made publicly available. [11717]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** From a waste management perspective, Government's view is that use of real nappies will help the UK to meet tough EU Landfill Directive targets, which are designed to reduce environmental damage and improve resource productivity by reducing reliance on landfill.

The Environment Agency's recently published Life Cycle Assessment has helped to provide an understanding of the environmental impact of disposables and the traditional type of re-usable nappy. The main conclusion of the study is that the overall environmental impact of disposable and reusable nappies is similar.

The study, carried out in 2002–03, showed that terry (towelling) nappies were the main type of reusable nappy used. However, this does not reflect recent increases in the proportion of other types of reusable nappies. Further work will be undertaken to look at the environmental impacts of more modern reusables.

WRAP reports annually on its overall progress in meeting targets, including work under the Real Nappy Programme. Future assessments will be based, for example, on information from funded schemes and from opinion research to be conducted at the end of the year.

### Poultry Industry

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her policy

is in respect of the draft EU Directive on the welfare of broiler chickens, with particular reference to minimum space allocations per bird. [5886]

**Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans she has to reduce the stocking densities of broiler chickens; and if she will make a statement. [6138]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The European Commission has recently published proposals for a Council Directive laying down minimum rules, including a two-tier stocking density, for the protection of chickens kept for meat production.

The Government are looking forward to working, during the UK's presidency of the EU Council of Ministers, with the Commission and other member states to progress the proposed directive. We will be holding a full public consultation on the proposals shortly.

**Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment she has made of the threat to the UK poultry industry from avian flu. [12109]

**Mr. Bradshaw** *[holding answer 14 July 2005]:* If there is an outbreak of disease in an exporting country Defra takes appropriate emergency safeguard action in accordance with Community legislation. This may include a ban on imports of animals and animal products from all, or parts, of that country.

Safeguard measures in relation to Avian influenza (AI) were put in place for affected Asian countries in January 2004 and have since been extended to 30 September 2005. Restrictions were placed on South African imports in August 2004 and have now been extended to 31 December 2005.

The assessment of risk to the UK poultry flock of Avian influenza began in 2004 and is continuously reviewed. When there is an outbreak in a country a specific risk assessment is carried out by DEFRA experts. These assessments are published in the Vet Record Quarterly and also on DEFRA's own public website http://defraweb/animalh/diseases/monitoring/).

In the event of an outbreak of Avian influenza in poultry in this country DEFRA would immediately invoke its exotic animal disease generic contingency plan, which sets out measures for the management of an outbreak of Avian influenza. The plan has been the subject of a formal public consultation exercise, in particular taking on board comments from the UK poultry industry.

## Rainforest

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate her Department has made of the loss of rainforest habitat in square miles in each year since 1997; and if she will make a statement. [11741]

**Mr. Morley:** Information on forest loss is published by the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations. The FAO estimate that the net percentage of forest cover lost worldwide between 1990 and 2000 was 2.37 per cent. This represents an estimated total worldwide loss in forest cover between 1990 and 2000 of 362, 834 miles[2].

This information is only available for all types of forest cover and in set assessment cycles. The last assessment cycle was to 2000, it is not possible to isolate figures from 1997, or just for rainforests.

Please see the table which summarises the current global data available for forest resources by region.

Forest cover date for individual countries may be found in the "Global Forest Resources Assessment 2000 Main Report". This is published by the FAO and is available online via the following web link:http://www.fao.org/forestry/fo/fra/main/index.jsp

*Forest resources by region*

| | *Forest area 2000* | | | | | | *Area change 1990–2000 (total forest)* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Region* | *Land area ha* | *Natural forest ha* | *Forest plantation ha* | *Total forest ha* | *Total forest Percentage* | *ha/capita* | *ha/year* | *Percentage* |
| Africa | 2,978,394 | 641,830 | 8,036 | 649,866 | 21.8 | 0.8 | -5,262 | -0.8 |
| Asia | 3,084,746 | 431,946 | 115,847 | 547,793 | 17.8 | 0.2 | -364 | -0.1 |
| Europe | 2,259,957 | 1,007,236 | 32,015 | 1,039,251 | 46.0 | 1.4 | 881 | 0.1 |
| North and Central America and the Caribbean | 2,136,966 | 531,771 | 17,533 | 549,304 | 25.7 | 1.1 | -570 | -0.1 |
| Oceania | 849,096 | 194,775 | 2,848 | 197,623 | 23.3 | 6.6 | -365 | -0.2 |
| South America! | 1,754,741 | 875,631 | 10,455 | 885,618 | 50.5 | 2.6 | -3,711 | -0.4 |
| Total world | 13,063,900 | 3,682,722 | 186,733 | 3,869,455 | 29.6 | 0.6 | -9,391 | -0.2 |

*Note:*
Table taken from appendices to: "Global Forest Resources Assessment 2000—Main Report".

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will make a statement on UK policy towards protection of rainforest habitat. [11742]

**Mr. Morley:** The UK Government are concerned about the loss of rainforest habitats, and we are working with rainforest countries to promote sustainable development around the world. We recognise the efforts of Brazilian and other Governments to address the problems in the Amazon region and are working together to promote sustainable forest management and the implementation of policies on the ground.

To that end, Defra is working closely in conjunction on this issue with the Department for International Development and the Foreign Office.

The UK Government are involved with a number of initiatives. In Brazil the Government have contributed £14 million to the multi-donor pilot programme for the preservation of Brazilian rain forests. In addition the UK is a major contributor to the global environment facility (GEF) that is creating and maintaining protected areas in the region through the Amazon region protected areas programme. The managers of the GEF have approved or endorsed funding for 29 projects in Brazil, with a value of approximately £150 million.

The UK continues to support projects in the Amazon through multilateral organisations, including the European Commission and the World Bank.

The UK Government also recognises the role that trade can play in promoting sustainable rainforest management. Within the EU Britain is taking a leading role in championing an action plan on forest law enforcement, Governance and trade, which is aimed at combating illegal logging and international trade in illegally harvested timber. And since 1976 Britain has been a signatory to the Washington Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species.

## Recycling

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much and what percentage of domestic waste was recycled in each London borough in each of the last five years. [11358]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Results from the last five available years of tonnages of household waste collected for recycling and corresponding household waste recycling rates are from the joint Defra/Greater London Authority (GLA) Municipal Waste Management Survey.

The four London joint waste disposal authorities have been included in the following table:

| | *1999–2000* | | *2000–01* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *London authority* | *Recycling (tonnage)* | *Recycling rate (percentage)* | *Recycling (tonnage)* | *Recycling rate (percentage)* |
| Barking and Dagenham | 2,226 | 3 | 2,532 | 4 |
| Barnet | 10,245 | 8 | 10,332 | 8 |
| Bexley | 18,398 | 18 | 18,305 | 17 |
| Brent | 6,165 | 6 | 7,122 | 7 |
| Bromley | 20,530 | 13 | 23,064 | 13 |
| Camden | 12,691 | 13 | 16,061 | 16 |
| Croydon | 15,377 | 13 | 16,455 | 12 |
| Ealing | 15,095 | 12 | 15,083 | 12 |
| East London Waste Authority | 18,571 | 5 | 17,300 | 4 |
| Enfield | 8,521 | 9 | 8,454 | 8 |
| Greenwich | 4,840 | 4 | 7,091 | 5 |
| Hackney | 1,740 | 2 | 1,043 | 1 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 4,849 | 7 | 5,362 | 8 |
| Haringey | 4,449 | 5 | 4,973 | 5 |
| Harrow | 8,723 | 10 | 9,418 | 11 |
| Havering | 6,931 | 8 | 5,383 | 6 |
| Hillingdon | 10,936 | 11 | 13,345 | 13 |
| Hounslow | 14,961 | 14 | 13,130 | 13 |
| Islington | 1,864 | 2 | 4,386 | 5 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 8,694 | 13 | 5,458 | 8 |
| Kingston-upon-Thames | 13,302 | 18 | 13,165 | 20 |
| Lambeth | 7,810 | 8 | 9,745 | 9 |
| Lewisham | 4,558 | 4 | 5,211 | 5 |
| London Corporation | 8 | 0 | 13 | 0 |
| Merton | 10,438 | 11 | 11,991 | 18 |
| Newham | 2,563 | 3 | 2,370 | 3 |
| North London Waste Authority | 48,299 | 7 | 55,896 | 8 |
| Redbridge | 6,851 | 8 | 7,015 | 9 |
| Richmond upon Thames | n/a | n/a | 14,020 | 15 |
| Southwark | 3,162 | 3 | 3,104 | 3 |
| Sutton | 24,182 | 27 | 20,754 | 25 |
| Tower Hamlets | 1,816 | 3 | 2,058 | 3 |
| Waltham Forest | 7,373 | 9 | 7,934 | 9 |
| Wandsworth | 7,262 | 7 | 7,397 | 7 |
| West London Waste Authority | 72,225 | 9 | 73,578 | 11 |
| Western Riverside Waste Authority | 39,834 | 11 | 29,240 | 8 |
| Westminster City | 6,122 | 7 | 6,388 | 7 |

| | *2001–02* | | *2002–03* | | *2003–04* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *London authority* | *Recycling (tonnage)* | *Recycling rate (percentage)* | *Recycling (tonnage)* | *Recycling rate (percentage)* | *Recycling (tonnage)* | *Recycling rate (percentage)* |
| Barking and Dagenham | 2,045 | 3 | 2,090 | 3 | 3,553 | 5 |
| Barnet | 11,478 | 8 | 17,936 | 13 | 22,888 | 16 |
| Bexley | 22,793 | 20 | 25,915 | 23 | 22,532 | 21 |
| Brent | 6,997 | 7 | 7,725 | 8 | 9,919 | 10 |

| London authority | 2001–02 Recycling (tonnage) | 2001–02 Recycling rate (percentage) | 2002–03 Recycling (tonnage) | 2002–03 Recycling rate (percentage) | 2003–04 Recycling (tonnage) | 2003–04 Recycling rate (percentage) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Bromley | 22,816 | 14 | 23,121 | 15 | 29,296 | 20 |
| Camden | 11,208 | 12 | 13,857 | 14 | 18,281 | 19 |
| Croydon | 14,777 | 12 | 15,740 | 13 | 17,377 | 14 |
| Ealing | 13,186 | 13 | 15,526 | 15 | 15,494 | 15 |
| East London Waste Authority | 29,015 | 6 | 29,645 | 6 | 37,707 | 8 |
| Enfield | 13,323 | 13 | 15,019 | 14 | 16,585 | 16 |
| Greenwich | 8,362 | 7 | 9,591 | 7 | 12,966 | 12 |
| Hackney | 1,073 | 1 | 2,426 | 3 | 5,151 | 6 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 5,448 | 8 | 5,667 | 10 | 8,901 | 16 |
| Haringey | 4,404 | 5 | 4,365 | 5 | 8,715 | 9 |
| Harrow | 9,624 | 13 | 8,767 | 12 | 12,377 | 16 |
| Havering | 8,399 | 9 | 4,104 | 5 | 7,349 | 8 |
| Hillingdon | 20,036 | 20 | 24,853 | 28 | 32,095 | 34 |
| Hounslow | 13,516 | 16 | 16,269 | 20 | 15,329 | 20 |
| Islington | 4,513 | 6 | 4,864 | 6 | 5,624 | 7 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 5,621 | 9 | 5,162 | 9 | 8,517 | 15 |
| Kingston-upon-Thames | 12,903 | 18 | 13,515 | 18 | 14,342 | 19 |
| Lambeth | 8,761 | 8 | 9,312 | 10 | 10,200 | 11 |
| Lewisham | 6,473 | 6 | 7,148 | 7 | 8,939 | 8 |
| London Corporation | 9 | 0 | 50 | 1 | 442 | 8 |
| Merton | 10,623 | 15 | 11,580 | 15 | 10,732 | 16 |
| Newham | 3,290 | 3 | 5,247 | 5 | 2,938 | 2 |
| North London Waste Authority | 52,668 | 7 | 72,533 | 10 | 94,459 | 12 |
| Redbridge | 8,202 | 10 | 11,101 | 13 | 8,509 | 9 |
| Richmond upon Thames | 15,414 | 19 | 17,910 | 23 | 18,684 | 24 |
| Southwark | 3,828 | 4 | 4,755 | 4 | 7,518 | 7 |
| Sutton | 13,669 | 16 | 16,498 | 19 | 21,652 | 25 |
| Tower Hamlets | 2,138 | 3 | 2,684 | 3 | 4,088 | 5 |
| Waltham Forest | 6,669 | 8 | 8,975 | 11 | 9,982 | 12 |
| Wandsworth | 7,765 | 8 | 9,558 | 10 | 15,662 | 18 |
| West London Waste Authority | 80,370 | 11 | 94,967 | 14 | 107,389 | 16 |
| Western Riverside Waste Authority | 29,739 | 8 | 32,213 | 10 | 46,202 | 15 |
| Westminster City | 6,870 | 9 | 7,455 | 10 | 9,065 | 11 |

n/a = not available

Further details regarding London waste and recycling issues are obtainable from www.capitalwastefacts.com.

**David Davis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many recycling points there are in *(a)* the East Riding of Yorkshire council and *(b)* Kingston-upon-Hull city council per 1,000 population. [11542]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Results from the 2003–04 Defra Municipal Waste Management Survey are listed as follows.

| | *(a) East Riding of Yorkshire* | *(b) Kingston-upon-Hull city council* |
|---|---|---|
| Recycling sites | 124 | 52 |
| Civic amenity sites | 10 | 1 |
| Total sites | 134 | 53 |
| Recycling sites per 1,000 population | 1.0 | 0.5 |

## Water Resources

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to her answer of 20 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 674W, on the Water Resources Treatment and Action Programme, if she will place in the Library her Department's response to the European Commission investigation into UK compliance with the provisions under Article 3(1) and Annex 1A and Articles 5(2), 5(3), 10 and Annex 1B of Council Directive 91/271/EEC concerning urban waste water treatment. [7663]

**Mr. Morley:** Following careful consideration, I regret to inform you that we have decided not to place a copy of the response in the Library of the House.

The information is being withheld as the Department considers its disclosure would have an adverse effect on international relations between the UK and the Commission and on the course of justice. This is because the information relates to open infraction proceedings and ongoing investigations. For the same reasons disclosure would not be in the public interest at this stage of the proceedings.

**Dr. Kumar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what long-term measures the Department is taking to tackle water shortages; and if she will make a statement. [11335]

**Mr. Morley:** The Environment Agency is the statutory body with a duty to manage water resources in England and Wales. As part of the Agency's management role it has national and regional water resource strategies which set out the pressures over the next 25 years.

Water companies have duties to maintain adequate supplies of water. They have 25 year water resource plans which complement the Agency strategies and seek to reconcile supply with anticipated demand. These water resource plans are produced voluntarily at present but will become a statutory requirement under the provisions of the Water Act 2003.

Each water company also has a drought plan which sets out how the company will continue to meet its duties to supply adequate quantities of wholesome water during drought periods with as little recourse as possible to drought orders and permits. These too are produced voluntarily at present but will become a statutory requirement as part of the implementation of the Water Act 2003 later this year.

## TRANSPORT

### Advertising

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much the Department spent on advertising in each of the last five years. [10237]

**Ms Buck:** For details on the Department's advertising expenditure for the past three financial years, I refer the hon. Member to my reply to the hon. Member for Sutton and Cheam (Mr. Burstow) today (UIN 9498).

Figures for advertising expenditure for the prior two financial years could be provided only at disproportionate cost, due to departmental re-organisations.

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much the *(a)* Department and *(b)* non-departmental bodies for which the Department is responsible has spent on advertising in the last three years, broken down by media type. [9498]

**Ms Buck:** The requested figures are set out in the table. The majority of advertising investment by my Department is in support of the THINK! road safety campaign. Among non-departmental bodies for which the Department is responsible, major advertising investment has been by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency, most recently to explain changes to the car tax rules. These changes have resulted in 700,000 fewer unlicensed vehicles on our roads and have recovered £77 million of tax revenue.

| | *2002–03* | *2003–04* | *2004–05* |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Department for Transport (Central)* | | | |
| TV | 5,600,000 | 6,000,000 | 4,750,000 |
| Radio | 2,600,000 | 2,500,000 | 2,160,000 |
| Press | 205,000 | 538,000 | 186,000 |
| Other | 1,100,000 | 1,300,000 | 1,660,000 |
| *Non-departmental bodies for which the Department is responsible* | | | |
| TV | 2,190,000 | 4,670,000 | 3,290,000 |
| Radio | 1,800,000 | 1,040,000 | 1,740,000 |
| Press | 3,160,000 | 2,900,000 | 3,500,000 |
| Other | 1,300,000 | 2,210,000 | 1,340,000 |

### Carbon Dioxide Emissions

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what assessment has been made of carbon dioxide emissions from traffic on the *(a)* A66/A174/A1053 Darlington to Teesport, *(b)* A69 (Newcastle to Carlisle), *(c)* A69 Carlisle to Newcastle, *(d)* M1 Junction 30 to end (A1) and M62 and *(e)* M1 Lofthouse to Bramham link road in the last year for which figures are available before construction works began; how many accidents occurred on each road in that year; how many resulted in (i) fatalities and (ii) serious injuries; what forecast has been made of likely levels after construction works are completed; and when each scheme is due to (A) begin and (B) be completed; [8756]

(2) what assessment has been made of carbon dioxide emissions from traffic on the *(a)* M1/M10 (London to M6, Junction 19), *(b)* M11 London to Cambridge, *(c)* M18 Goole to Rotherham, *(d)* M180 Thorne to Brigg and *(e)* M2 Junctions 5–6 to Bredgar Section in the last year for which figures are available before construction works began; how many accidents occurred on each road in that year; how many resulted in (i) fatalities and (ii) serious injuries; what forecast has been made of likely future levels after construction works are completed; and when each scheme is due to (A) begin and (B) be completed; [8758]

(3) what assessment has been made of carbon dioxide emissions from traffic on the *(a)* A46 Leicester to Lincoln, *(b)* A47 Thorney Bypass, *(c)* A47/A12 Peterborough to Lowestoft, *(d)* A5 Weeford to Fazeley Improvement and *(e)* A5/A483/A458 Shrewsbury to Chester to Welshpool in the last year for which figures are available before construction works began; how many accidents occurred on each road in that year; how many resulted in (i) fatalities and (ii) serious injuries; what forecast has been made of the likely levels after construction works are completed; and when each scheme is due to (A) begin and (B) be completed; [8762]

(4) what assessment has been made of carbon dioxide emissions from traffic on the *(a)* A50 from A6 Island to Main Street, *(b)* A50 Stoke to Derby link, *(c)* A50/A500 Nottingham to Stoke, *(d)* A500 City Road and Stoke Junction Improvement and *(e)* A556 Knutsford to Bowdon in the last year for which figures are available before construction works began; how many accidents occurred on each road in that year; how many resulted in (i) fatalities and (ii) serious injuries; what forecast has been made of the likely levels after construction works are completed; and when each scheme is due to (A) begin and (B) be completed; [8764]

(5) what assessment has been made of carbon dioxide emissions from traffic on the *(a)* M20 Junction 10 Improvement, *(b)* M23 Hooley Junction Improvement, *(c)* M25 Heathrow Terminal 5, *(d)* M25 Junctions 12 to 15 widening and *(e)* M25 to Dover—M26/M20/A20 in the last year for which figures are available before construction works began; how many accidents occurred on each stretch of road in that year; how many resulted in (i) fatalities and (ii) serious injuries; what forecast has been made of the likely levels after construction works are completed; and when each scheme is due to (A) begin and (B) be completed; [8766]

(6) what assessment has been made of carbon dioxide emissions from traffic on the *(a)* A66 Carkin Moor to Scotch Corner Improvement, *(b)* A66 Dualling Bowes Bypass, *(c)* A66 Dualling Cross Lanes to Greta Bridge, *(d)* A66 Dualling Stephen Bank to Carkin Moor and *(e)* A66 Greta Bridge to Stephen Bank Improvement in the last year for which figures are available; how many accidents occurred on each road in that year; how many resulted in (i) fatalities and (ii) serious injuries; what forecast has been made of the likely levels after construction works are completed; and when each scheme is due to (A) begin and (B) be completed; [8767]

(7) what assessment has been made of carbon dioxide emissions from traffic on the *(a)* M62 Junctions 25 to 27 and *(b)* A259(T)/A2070 Hastings to Ashford in the last year for which figures are available before construction works began; how many accidents occurred on each road in that year; how many resulted in (i) fatalities and (ii) serious injuries; what forecast has been made of the likely levels after construction works are completed; and when each scheme is due to (A) begin and (B) be completed; [8769]

(8) what assessment he has made of carbon dioxide emissions from traffic on the *(a)* A34 Bicester to Winchester, *(b)* A38 Burton Bypass, *(c)* A419 Swindon to Gloucester, *(d)* A421 Great Barford Bypass and *(e)* A43/A45 (M40 Bicester to A14 Thrapston) in the last year for which figures are available before construction works began; how many accidents occurred on each road in that year; how many resulted in (i) fatalities and (ii) serious injuries; what forecast has been made of likely levels after construction works are completed; and when each scheme is due to (A) begin and (B) be completed. [8771]

**Dr. Ladyman:** A table has been placed in the Libraries of the House showing emission estimates for the Highways Agency road schemes where data is available.

A table has been placed in the Libraries of the House showing, for the Highways Agency road schemes where data is available, how many accidents occurred on each road in that year; how many fatalities and serious injuries occurred; and when each scheme is due to begin and be completed.

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of carbon dioxide emissions from traffic on the *(a)* A13 between the M25 and Southend, *(b)* A127 between the M25 and Southend and *(c)* A130 from the A127 to its end on Canvey Island. [10948]

**Dr. Ladyman:** No such assessment has been made.

**Mark Durkan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will make a statement on the UK's carbon dioxide reduction targets; and what her policy is on *(a)* disaggregating the targets between devolved regions of the UK and *(b)* devolving responsibility for meeting those targets to the devolved regions. [11310]

**Mr. Morley:** Estimates that were published in March 2005 show that the UK is on course to meet its Kyoto protocol commitment to reduce emissions of a basket of six greenhouse gases, including carbon dioxide, by 12.5 per cent. Below base level years by 2008–12. The data released in March also indicates that, even without the further action currently being considered under the review of the UK Climate Change Programme, the UK will be about 20 per cent. below base year levels in 2010. This is a significant achievement.

The UK have set itself an ambitious domestic goal to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 20 per cent. below 1990 levels by 2010. Our most recent projections show that, on the basis of existing policies, emissions of carbon dioxide will fall by about 13 per cent. below the 1990 level by 2010. We therefore recognise that more needs to be done. Our review of the UK Climate Change Programme is examining how existing policies are performing and is considering additional measures that we could implement to put the UK back on track to achieving the domestic goal. The outcome of this review will be announced before the end of the year.

Many of the means by which emissions can be reduced have been devolved to the Scottish, Welsh and Northern Irish administrations, but the UK Government maintain overall responsibility for the Kyoto target and for ensuring that a programme is put in place for delivering it. The devolution legislation do contain powers that could be used to bind the administrations to the UK's international target but the Government do not propose to use these powers because it is confident that significant reductions can be, and are being, delivered through working in partnership.

The Scottish, Welsh and Northern Irish administrations are also committed to the UK's domestic carbon dioxide goal. The nature of the 20 per cent. goal is different, in that it is not a legally binding target, and the UK Government and the administrations aim to achieve it through a balanced, partnership approach rather than through a set of quantified, contributions from the different parts of the UK.

## Concessionary Travel

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the cost of extending free travel to carers of people with disabilities. [12240]

**Ms Buck:** None. Local authorities will remain able to offer concessions to carers of people with disabilities. This will continue to be at their discretion, based on their judgment of local needs and circumstances and their overall financial priorities.

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what factors were used to calculate the distribution of Government support for the half-fare concession for the over-60s; and if he will place in the Library the assessment of each relevant authority against those factors. [9874]

**Mr. Woolas:** I have been asked to reply.

The Government provides funding for concessionary fares through the Revenue Support Grant system.

Concessionary fares is one of the services covered in the district-level Environmental, Protective and Cultural Services Formula Spending Share formula. This formula looks at the relative need to spend by authorities on all services covered by the formula. It is not possible to disaggregate this formula.

Formula Spending Shares are neither the Government's assessment of how much an authority should spend on a particular service nor are they grant. Instead they are simply the formulae used to derive the amount of Formula Grant (i.e. Revenue Support Grant, Redistributed Business Rates and Police Grant, where appropriate).

Formula Grant supports authorities over a wide-range of services. It is not intended to entirely support any of those services as authorities can also raise income from council taxes. It is therefore not possible to work out how much grant an authority received with respect to concessionary fares.

Details of the 2005–06 calculations of formula grant are already available in the Library of the House.

### Consultants

**Mrs. Dean:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has to issue guidance on effective commissioning for those in the public and voluntary sectors who are commissioning work from external consultants. [7030]

**Ms Buck:** I refer my hon. Friend to the answer of 27 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 1286W, given by my hon. Friend the Chief Secretary to the Treasury.

### Crossrail (Exeter and Plymouth)

**Linda Gilroy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the potential impact of Crossrail on *(a)* reliability and *(b)* speed of train services to Exeter and Plymouth. [12983]

**Derek Twigg:** During normal operations on the great western main line into Paddington, Crossrail will operate on the northern pair of tracks, known as the relief lines. Crossrail services will not affect the southern pair of lines, known as the main lines, on which services to Exeter and Plymouth operate, and there is no intention of displacing existing traffic from the relief to the main lines.

### Departmental Bills

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what Bills have been sponsored by his Department in each session since 1979. [10391]

**Ms Buck:** The Department for Transport was formed on 29 May 2002 since when it has been responsible for the following Bills:

*Session 2002–03*

Railways and Transport Safety Act 2003

*Session 2003–04*

Traffic Management Act 2004

*Session 2004–05*

Railways Act 2005

Road Safety Bill

Crossrail Bill

*Session 2005–06*

Road Safety Bill *[Lords]*;

Merchant Shipping [Pollution] Bill *[Lords]*;

Civil Aviation Bill;

Crossrail Bill

### Departmental Targets

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will list the targets that each Executive Agency his Department is responsible for has set for itself during the next 12 months. [12270]

**Ms Buck:** Targets set by the Highways Agency are published in its business plan. The Maritime and Coastguard Agency's targets are published on its website. Targets for the Driver, Vehicle and Operator (DVO) Group Agencies are published in the DVO Group's Corporate Plan, which can be found on the Department's website.

### EU Contractors

**Mr. Davidson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will list companies based in other EU member states that are providing *(a)* bus services, *(b)* train services, *(c)* maintenance services to Network Rail, *(d)* London Underground services and *(e)* London Underground maintenance services. [9367]

**Dr. Ladyman:** None.

### Foreign Hauliers

**Harry Cohen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make a statement on changes to charges imposed on foreign hauliers using UK roads. [11408]

**Dr. Ladyman:** I refer the hon. Gentleman to the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State to the House on 5 July 2005, *Official Report*, columns 171–73.

### International Car Free Day

**Colin Challen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps his Department is taking to support International Car Free Day on 22 September. [12105]

**Ms Buck** *[holding answer 14 July 2005]:* The Department sponsors the UK Co-ordinator of the "In Town, Without My Car!" campaign to oversee the process by which local authorities in England and Wales register to participate in International Car Free Day.

Each local authority have been sent a newsletter and information about European Mobility Week which will take place between 16 and 22 September and they have been invited to register to participate in the event.

Regional workshops are being held and information disseminated via the DFT website linked to the campaign. A Good Practice Guide is also available free of charge to members of the public.

The results of the campaign are registered on the website of www.22september.org and are used to monitor progress and the effectiveness of individual initiatives.

### Road Accidents (Horses)

**Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many road accidents involving horses occurred in each year since 2000. [13060]

**Dr. Ladyman:** The numbers of personal injury road accidents in Great Britain involving at least one ridden horse are shown in the following table.

| | Fatal accidents | Serious accidents | Slight accidents | All personal injury accidents |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2000 | 2 | 29 | 121 | 152 |
| 2001 | 4 | 19 | 130 | 153 |
| 2002 | 1 | 25 | 123 | 149 |
| 2003 | 4 | 34 | 115 | 153 |
| 2004 | 2 | 30 | 106 | 138 |

### Tonnage Tax

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 11 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 677W, on tonnage tax, what the final date is for companies to make returns for the year 2003–04; and what the penalties are for failure to make a return. [12439]

**Dr. Ladyman:** Regulations provide that companies/groups should make end of period adjustment returns within 30 days after the end of each relevant four month period. The returns for the last such period in 2003–04 should therefore have been made by the end of October 2004. A person commits an offence if, without reasonable excuse, he fails to make a return required by the regulations, and he is liable on summary conviction to a fine up to the statutory maximum and on indictment to a fine.

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 11 July 2005, *Official Report*, columns 676–77W, on tonnage tax, (1) what the names are of the 19 companies and groups involved; what payments were made by each company and group; how the calculation was made in each case; and if he will make a statement; [12440]

(2) what the names are of the companies and groups which have been required to pay a surcharge on their payments in lieu of training; and what payments have been made by each. [12443]

**Dr. Ladyman:** Disclosure of the names of the companies and groups concerned is prohibited on tax confidentiality grounds under section 182 of the Finance Act 1989.

### Traffic

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what the traffic levels were on the *(a)* M1/M10 (London to M6, Junction 19), *(b)* M11 London to Cambridge, *(c)* M18 Goole to Rotherham, *(d)* M180 Thorne to Brigg and *(e)* M2 Junctions 5–6 to Bredgar Section in the last year for which figures are available before construction works began; and what forecast has been made of likely levels after construction works are completed; [8757]

(2) what the traffic levels were on the *(a)* M20 Junction 10 Improvement, *(b)* M23 Hooley Junction Improvement, *(c)* M25 Heathrow Terminal 5, *(d)* M25 Junction 12 to 15 Widening and *(e)* M25 to Dover—M26/M20/A20 in the last year for which figures are available before construction works began; and what forecast has been made of likely levels after construction works are completed; [8759]

(3) what the traffic levels were on the *(a)* A46 Leicester to Lincoln, *(b)* A47 Thorney Bypass, *(c)* A47/A12 Peterborough to Lowestoft, *(d)* A5 Weeford to Fazeley Improvement and *(e)* A5/A483/A458 Shrewsbury to Chester to Welshpool in the last year for which figures are available before construction works began; and what forecast has been made of the likely levels after construction works are completed; [8761]

(4) what the traffic levels were on the *(a)* A50 from A6 Island to Main Street, *(b)* A50 Stoke to Derby link, *(c)* A50/A500 Nottingham to Stoke, *(d)* A500 City Road and Stoke Junction Improvement and *(e)* A556 Knutsford to Bowdon in the last year for which figures are available before construction works began; and what forecast has been made of the likely levels after construction works are completed; [8763]

(5) what the traffic levels were on the *(a)* A66/A174/A1053 Darlington to Teesport, *(b)* A69 Newcastle to Carlisle, *(c)* A69 Carlisle to Newcastle, *(d)* M1 Junction 30 to end (A1) and M621 and *(e)* M1 Lofthouse to Bramham link road in the last year for which figures are available before construction works began; and what forecast has been made of the likely levels after construction works are completed; [8765]

(6) what the traffic levels were on the *(a)* M62 Junctions 25 to 27 and *(b)* A259(T)/A2070 Hastings to Ashford in the last year for which figures are available; and what forecast has been made of the likely levels after construction works are completed; [8768]

(7) what the traffic levels were on the *(a)* A34 Bicester to Winchester, *(b)* A38 Burton Bypass, *(c)* A419 Swindon to Gloucester, *(d)* A421 Great Barford Bypass and *(e)* A43/A45 (M40 Bicester to A14 Thrapston) in the last year for which figures are available before construction works began; and what forecast has been made of the likely levels after construction works are completed. [8770]

**Dr. Ladyman:** A table has been placed in the Libraries of the House showing traffic levels for the Highways Agency road schemes where data is available.

### Transport (Under-16s)

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the price in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* the Metropolitan Police Area of London was of (i) a bus and (ii) a rail fare for a person under 16 years of age in each year since 1975. [12267]

**Ms Buck:** The information is not available. In general, detailed information on local bus and rail fares is not collected or held centrally. In London, children aged 5 to 10 currently travel free on buses, while those aged 11 to 15 currently pay a single fare rate of 40p.

### Transport Innovation Fund

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport in what document the funding available for local authorities under the Transport Innovation Fund was announced; and where in the document the information is provided. [11824]

**Ms Buck:** The Transport Innovation Fund was announced in the "Future of Transport" White Paper (July 2004), showing the predicted budget profile (annex A) and outlining the aims of the TIF.

Further information on the Transport Innovation Fund was published on 5 July 2005 in a paper entitled "The Transport Innovation Fund" and a statement was made to the House on 5 July 2005, *Official Report*, columns 171–73.

The Transport Innovation Fund paper is available in the House Libraries and on the DfT website at www.dft.gov.uk

### Vehicle Tests

**Mr. Greg Knight:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much of the fee for an MOT vehicle test goes to his Department; what such monies are utilised for; and what assessment he has made of the scope for reducing the amount being charged. [11291]

**Dr. Ladyman** *[holding answer 12 July 2005]:* The Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) receive £1.44 from the fee for each passed test. These moneys are used to pay for the administration of the MOT Scheme including training and refresher training of garage Authorised Examiners and Nominated Testers, MOT computerisation and the enforcement of the Scheme.

The VOSA charge for pass certificates is regularly reviewed and is currently frozen pending full roll out of computerised services.

**Mr. Greg Knight:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the effects of the computerisation of the MOT vehicle test on *(a)* his Department, *(b)* MOT testing stations and *(c)* vehicle owners. [8716]

**Dr. Ladyman** *[holding answer 5 July 2005]:* Internal and external assessments have been conducted throughout the design and development of the MOT computerisation service.

## CABINET OFFICE

### Food Supplements Directive

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what action Ministers in the Cabinet Office have taken with the European Commission as a result of the statement by the Prime Minister on 26 May 2005 that the Food Supplements Directive is wholly out of proportion. [11764]

**Mr. Hutton:** Responsibility for the Food Supplements Directive rests with my right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Health. However, the Government believe that in all cases where the European Union (EU) regulates, it should do so proportionately and in the way which is least burdensome to stakeholders. My ministerial colleagues and I take every opportunity to emphasise the importance of better regulation at the EU level to the European Commission.

## CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

### ASBOs

**Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs if she will bring forward proposals *(a)* to simplify and *(b)* to speed up the enforcement proceedings associated with breaches in antisocial behaviour orders. [9752]

**Ms Harman:** There are no specific proposals to simplify or speed up enforcement proceedings for breaches of antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs). The courts aim to deal with breaches of ASBOs as quickly as the interests of justice allow.

### Departmental Bills

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs if she will list Bills sponsored by the Department and its predecessor in each Session since 1979. [10545]

**Bridget Prentice:** A list of Bills sponsored by my Department, and its predecessor since 1997 is set out in the following table.

| *Session* | *Bills* |
|---|---|
| 1997–98 | Audit Commission (Consolidation) |
| | Human Rights |
| | Magistrates Courts (Procedure) |
| | Petroleum (Consolidation) |
| | Statute Law Repeals |
| | Supreme Court Offices |
| 1998–99 | Access to Justice |
| | Contracts (Right of Third Parties) |
| | Trustee Delegation |
| 1999–2000 | Powers of Criminal Courts (Sentencing) |
| | Trustee |
| 2000–01 | Commonhold and Leasehold Reform[1] |
| | Criminal Defence Service (Advice and Assistance) |
| 2001–02 | Commonhold and Leasehold Reform |
| | European Parliamentary Elections |
| | Land Registration |
| | Public Trustee (Liability and Fees) |
| 2002–03 | Courts |
| | European Parliamentary (Representation) |
| | European Parliament and Local Elections (Pilots) |
| 2003–04 | European Parliament and Local Elections (Pilots)[2] |
| | Constitutional Reform |
| | Gender Recognition |
| | Mental Capacity |
| | Statute Law Repeals |
| 2004–05 | Criminal Defence Service[1] |
| | Constitutional Reform[3] |
| | Mental Capacity[3] |
| | Inquiries |
| 2005–06 | Criminal Defence Service |

[1] The Commonhold and Leasehold Reform Bill fell in the 2000–2001 session and the Criminal Defence Service Bill fell in the 2004–2005 session due to lack of Parliamentary time.
[2] The European Parliament and Local Elections Bill was carried over from the 2002–03 session.
[3] The Constitutional Reform and Mental Capacity Bills were carried over from the 2003–04 session.

### Burial Grounds

**Mr. Walker:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs (1) what the purpose is of the Home Office Burial Grounds Survey; and if she will make a statement; [12357]

(2) what assessment she has made of the adequacy of cemetery space; and if she will make a statement; [12358]

(3) what budget the Department has set aside to fund its Burial Grounds Survey; and if she will make a statement; [12360]

(4) how many responses she has received to the Home Office Burial Grounds survey; and if she will make a statement. [12400]

**Ms Harman:** The purpose of the survey is to obtain information on the location and capacity of existing and former burial grounds in England and Wales. It is part of a wider Government initiative to review burial law and practice, including the provision of burial space. The cost has been estimated as at £50,000.

As at 13 July, 8,787 completed survey forms have been received.

### Court of Appeal (Judges)

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs who is responsible for allocating judges to hear appeal cases in the Court of Appeal. [10544]

**Ms Harman:** Allocation of judges to hear appeal cases in the Court of Appeal is the responsibility of Lord Chief Justice, in respect of the Criminal Division, and the Master of the Rolls, in respect of the Civil Division.

### Court Service Computer System

**Mr. Greg Knight:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what assessment she has made of the practice in criminal court cases in Lincoln whereby witnesses are sent a text message when they are due in court; whether such a system has reduced the time witnesses spend waiting to give evidence; what effect it has had on witnesses attending on time; and if she will make a statement. [10736]

**Ms Harman:** Text messaging is one of the means by which XHIBIT (exchanging Hearing Information By Internet Technology) can communicate with witnesses. XHIBIT is being rolled out to all Crown courts across England and Wales by the end of March 2006. The new system was introduced at Lincoln Combined Court on 11 April 2005. XHIBIT also enables witnesses to track the progress of a case via public display screens in the court building or via the internet.

At this stage of the roll-out it is too early to make an assessment of the text messaging system and the impact on witness waiting times, that is specific to Lincoln. The results of an evaluation of efficiency improvements at the first 11 courts to receive XHIBIT have been very positive. A similar initial assessment is due to take place at Lincoln in late September.

### Immigration

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs pursuant to the letter from the Immigrant Appellate Authority, to Bury Law Centre, dated 13 January, reference HX/02411/2003, which issues are repeatedly occurring and causing delays in determining cases; and in respect of which countries. [12416]

**Bridget Prentice:** The Immigration Appeals Tribunal (IAT) developed a system of country guidance cases to facilitate consistent decision making. This enabled the IAT to issue guidance cases on the circumstances and risks to certain groups in particular countries following a detailed assessment of the available country information. The IAT (and now Asylum and Immigration Tribunal (AIT)) nominates leader cases which contain issues consistently seen by Tribunal judiciary. These lead to other cases being identified as containing very similar issues to that of the leader case—known as follower cases—which are heard and determined once the leader case has been promulgated. The number of leader cases currently awaiting determination has caused some delays in listing the follower cases for hearing. There has been some further delay due to the commencement of the AIT on 4 April 2005, created by a merger of the Immigration Appellate Authority (IAA) and the IAT. The leader cases, which number approximately 100, are expected to be listed to be heard substantively in September and October of this year, and once these have been determined the follower cases, approximately 300 in number, will then be listed for hearing as soon as is practicable.

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many cases are awaiting determination by the Immigration Appellate Authority (IAA); and what the average time between the receipt by the IAA of an appeal and a final decision being made was in the last period for which figures are available. [12417]

**Bridget Prentice:** The latest provisional information shows that by the end of March 2005 the Immigration Appellate Authority (IAA) had the following outstanding work: 25,304 Adjudicator appeals, 5,217 applications for permission to appeal to the Immigration Appeal Tribunal (IAT) and 4,783 substantive IAT appeal hearings. On 4 April 2005 the commencement of section 26 of The Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants, etc.) Act 2004 introduced a unified appeals system under the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal (AIT). All outstanding work from the IAA and the IAT was transferred to an equivalent appeal stage within the AIT process. Provisional information indicates that, for the period 1 January 2003 to 31 March 2005, the average time between the receipt by the IAA of an appeal and a final decision being made was 25 weeks.

### Magistrates Courts

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs which magistrates courts have closed since May 1997, broken down by parliamentary constituency; and what the date of each closure was. [13209]

**Ms Harman:** Up until 1 April 2005 magistrates courts were the responsibility of locally managed magistrates courts committees. The magistrates courts that have closed since May 1997 broken down by parliamentary constituency are set out in the following table.

| Courthouse | Date | Constituency |
|---|---|---|
| *Magistrates courthouse closures from May 1997* | | |
| Bromsgrove | 31 May 1997 | Bromsgrove |
| Ledbury | 31 May 1997 | Leominster |
| Hebburn | 5 June 1997 | Jarrow |
| South Shields (Kepple Street) | 5 June 1997 | South Shields |
| Chippenham (Market Place) | 30 June 1997 | North Wiltshire |
| Ashton under Lyne (Manchester Road) | 31 August 1997 | Ashton-Under-Lyne |
| Duckinsfield | 31 August 1997 | Denton and Reddish |
| Thorne | 31 August 1997 | Doncaster North |
| Pontardawe | 9 October 1997 | Neath |
| Braintree | 31 December 1997 | Braintree |
| Stokesley | 31 December 1997 | Richmond (Yorks) |
| Clacton on Sea | 31 October 1997 | Harwich |
| Bargoed | 31 December 1997 | Caerphilly |
| Monmouth | 31 December 1997 | Monmouth |
| Pontlottyn | 31 December 1997 | Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney |
| Pontypool | 31 December 1997 | Torfaen |
| *Magistrates courthouse closures in 1998* | | |
| Malton | 6 February 1998 | Ryedale |
| Marlborough Street | 31 March 1998 | Cities of London and Westminster |
| Bishop's Stortford | 31 March 1998 | Hertford and Stortford |
| Hatfield | 31 March 1998 | Welwyn Hatfield |
| Hitchin | 31 March 1998 | Hitchin and Harpenden |
| Market Rasen | 31 March 1998 | Gainsborough |
| Chertsey | 31 March 1998 | Runnymede and Weybridge |
| Farnham | 31 March 1998 | South West Surrey |
| Oxted | 31 March 1998 | East Surrey |
| Lutterworth | 31 July1998 | Harborough |
| Ripon | 1 August 1998 | Skipton and Ripon |
| Barnard Castle | 31 December 1998 | Bishop Auckland |
| Clerkenwell | 31 December 1998 | Islington South and Finsbury |
| Sheerness | 31 December 1998 | Canterbury |
| West Malling | 31 December1998 | Tonbridge and Malling |
| Lytham | 31 December 1998 | Fylde |
| Diss | 31 December 1998 | South Norfolk |
| Corwen | 31 December 1998 | Clwyd South |
| Felixstowe | 31 December 1998 | Suffolk Coastal |
| Haverhill | 31 December 1998 | West Suffolk |
| Saxmundham | 31 December 1998 | Suffolk Coastal |
| Stowmarket | 31 December 1998 | Bury St. Edmunds |
| Newmarket | 31 December 1998 | West Suffolk |
| March | 31 December 1998 | North East Cambridgeshire |
| Saffron Walden | 31 December 1998 | Saffron Walden |
| *Magistrates courthouse closures in 1999* | | |
| Christchurch | 31 March 1999 | Christchurch |
| Abingdon | 31 March 1999 | Oxford West and Abingdon |
| Henley on Thames | 31 March 1999 | Henley |
| Windsor | 31 March 1999 | Windsor |
| Morley | 31 March 1999 | Morley and Rothwell |
| Pudsey | 31 March 1999 | Pudsey |
| Stow on the Wold | 30 June 1999 | Stroud |
| *Magistrates courthouse closures in 2000* | | |
| Ampthill | 1 January 2000 | Mid Bedfordshire |
| Biggleswade | 1 January 2000 | North East Bedfordshire |
| Dunstable | 1 January 2000 | Mid Bedfordshire |
| Leighton Buzzard | 1 January 2000 | Bedfordshire South West |
| Lichfield | 31 March 2000 | Tamworth |
| Keighley | 1 April 2000 | Keighley |
| Keswick | 30 April 2000 | Workington |
| Windermere | 31 May 2000 | Westmorland and Lonsdale |
| Wigton | 31 May 2000 | Penrith and the Border |
| Appleby | 31 May 2000 | Penrith and the Border |
| Gravesend | 9 June 2000 | Gravesham |
| Wootton Bassett | 2 October 2000 | North Wiltshire |
| Abergele | 31 December 2000 | Clwyd West |
| *Magistrates courthouse closures in 2001* | | |
| Alfreton | 1 January 2001 | Amber Valley |
| Ashbourne | 1 January 2001 | West Derbyshire |
| Bakewell | 1 January 2001 | West Derbyshire |
| Matlock | 1 January 2001 | West Derbyshire |

| Courthouse | Date | Constituency |
|---|---|---|
| Leigh | 31 March 2001 | Leigh |
| Middleton | 31 March 2001 | Heywood and Middleton |
| Leek | 31 March 2001 | Staffordshire Moorlands |
| Worcester | 31 March 2001 | Hereford and Worcester |
| Warrington Patten Hall | 1 April 2001 | Warrington South |
| Macclesfield Park Green | 1 April 2001 | Macclesfield |
| Bideford | 30 April 2001 | Torridge and West Devon |
| Exmouth | 30 April 2001 | East Devon |
| Kingsbridge | 30 April 2001 | Totnes |
| South Molton | 30 April 2001 | North Devon |
| Teignmouth | 30 April 2001 | Teignbridge |
| Tavistock | 30 April 2001 | Torridge and West Devon |
| Axminster | 4 May 2001 | East Devon |
| Tiverton | 4 May 2001 | Tiverton and Honiton |
| Newquay | 30 June 2001 | North Cornwall |
| Southampton (Commercial Road) | 31 August 2001 | Southampton Itchen |
| Womborne | 1 September 2001 | Staffordshire South |
| Gillingham | 30 September 2001 | North Dorset |
| Bridlington | 9 November 2001 | East Yorkshire |
| Brough | 9 November 2001 | Haltem |
| Driffield | 9 November 2001 | East Yorkshire |
| Hull (Guildhall) | 9 November 2001 | Kingston upon Hull West and Hessle |
| Hull (Lowgate) | 9 November 2001 | Kingston upon Hull West and Hessle |
| Pocklington | 9 November 2001 | East Yorkshire |
| Withernsea | 9 November 2001 | Beverley and Holderness |
| Arundel | 1 December 2001 | Arundel and South Downs |
| *Magistrates courthouse closures in 2002* | | |
| Bridgenorth | 31 January 2002 | Ludlow |
| Leominster | 31 January 2002 | Leominster |
| Fakenham | 1 May 2002 | North Suffolk |
| Tunbridge Wells | 2 June 2002 | Tunbridge Wells |
| Beaconsfield | 1 July 2002 | Beaconsfield |
| Buckingham | 1 July 2002 | Buckingham |
| Evesham | 30 November 2002 | Mid Worcestershire |
| *Magistrates courthouse closures in 2003* | | |
| Thame | 31 January 2003 | Henley |
| Droitwich | 21 March 2003 | Mid Worcestershire |
| Machynlleth | 31 March 2003 | Meirionnydd Nant Conwy |
| Chester Le Street | 31 March 2003 | North Durham |
| Rugeley | 31 May 2003 | Cannock Chase |
| Lampeter | 9 June 2003 | Ceredigion |
| Tenby | 30 June 2003 | Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire |
| Camberley | 30 June 2003 | Surrey Heath |
| Trowbridge | 30 September 2003 | Westbury |
| Whitchurch | 3 October 2003 | North Shropshire |
| Long Sutton | 31 October 2003 | South Holland and the Deepings |
| Caistor | 31 December 2003 | Gainsborough |
| Horncastle | 31 December 2003 | Louth and Horncastle |
| *Magistrates courthouse closures in 2004* | | |
| Richmond | 31 March 2004 | Richmond (Yorks) |
| Stourbridge | 23 June 2004 | Stourbridge |

### Magistrates Courts (Running Costs)

**Mr. Djanogly:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs (1) what the average running costs per day are of *(a)* the Community Justice Centre in Liverpool and *(b)* an average magistrates court; [12704]

(2) what steps she is taking to evaluate the cost-benefit of the Community Justice Centre in Liverpool. [12705]

**Ms Harman:** The information is as follows:

The Community Justice Centre will not be fully operational until September. The court is currently hearing cases in a courtroom of Liverpool magistrates court and the daily running costs are approximately the same as for the other courtrooms. The average cost of a magistrate's courthouse per day is £4,382 and a courtroom is £111 (figures for 2003–04). The cost of providing the multi agency problem solving team is £666 per day. The cost of this team is not currently borne by a mainstream magistrates court, as the function is performed to some extent elsewhere and is accounted for by the CJS agencies (eg Probation, YOTs).

The evaluation will compare the resources that are being used in the existing CJS agencies dealing with one courtroom with the cost of those based within the centre. The effectiveness of the existing CJS agencies framework against the joint approach of the centre will be measured in their outcomes. An example of this

would be a reduction in antisocial behaviour or the number of young people getting involved in crime. The evaluation will also measure qualitative benefits such as the level of victim and witness satisfaction.

### Marked Registers

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs (1) by what date Pickfords is expected to fulfil all orders received to date with regards to marked registers from the 2005 general election; [12453]

(2) if she will make a statement on the time taken by Pickfords to publish the marked registers from the 2005 general election. [12452]

**Ms Harman:** We have been informed by Pickfords Records Management that there are currently 444 requests outstanding for copies of the Marked Register. All of these have received holding letters and are currently being counted for charge letters to be sent out. 78 copies of the Marked Register have been completed and sent out.

Because in a number of cases the documents have not been presented to Pickfords in accordance with instructions, Pickfords have had to conduct searches and checks and contact Returning Officers to find them, which has had an impact on their process times and resources.

All the remaining counting and charge letters are expected to be sent out within the next three weeks.

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs if she will publish the service-level agreement between the Government and Pickfords in relation to the provision of marked registers. [12454]

**Ms Harman:** The service level agreement between the Government and Pickfords is expressed within the terms of the contract specification. An application can be made to my Department to view the relevant sections of the contract specification.

In addition, a Decision Report of the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery as to the public access to the marked registers and other documents returned after the 2005 general election will shortly be available from the House of Commons Library.

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs if she will publish marked registers from the 2005 general election electronically. [12455]

**Ms Harman:** Access to the marked electoral registers is the responsibility of the Clerk of the Crown. The marked register which is made available for inspection or copying is the paper copy of the register kept at the polling station, and marked by polling station staff. No electronic copies are compiled, and we have no current plans to provide for it. Paper copies may be purchased, as has been the case in previous elections.

### Remote Electronic Voting

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what research the Government have conducted on remote electronic voting. [12456]

**Ms Harman:** The research into remote electronic voting is primarily conducted through pilots under S. 10 of the Representation of the People Act 2000. There have been 27 e-voting pilots in 2002 and 2003 and these were all evaluated by The Electoral Commission which reported on each of the pilots and also published a strategic evaluation.

In addition to piloting, research has been jointly commissioned by the Government and key stakeholders investigating the issues surrounding the implementation of electronic voting in the UK. This research was published in May 2002.

As part of the work being done on electoral modernisation there is on-going consideration of e-voting technologies used worldwide and their performance in pilots and elections.

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what plans her Department has to conduct remote electronic voting pilots in the 2006 local elections. [12435]

**Ms Harman:** I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) on 7 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 483W. We are considering the options for electronic voting pilots in 2006.

### Voter Registration

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs if she will estimate the number of hours spent by officials in her Department in dealing with *(a)* postal ballot fraud and *(b)* voter under-registration in the last 12 months. [8949]

**Ms Harman:** Detailed information of hours spent by officials on specific areas of work is not kept. However officials in my Department spent a significant amount of time on issues relating to postal vote fraud including responding to press allegations and subsequent letters from interested parties over the course of the combined European parliamentary and local elections in June 2004 and in the run up to this year's general election.

Voter under-registration has also been looked at by officials through policy development and research but has taken up less time that that spent on responding to postal vote fraud.

## PRIME MINISTER

### Antisocial Behaviour Committee

**Mr. Allen:** To ask the Prime Minister what steps he is taking to invite ideas from hon. Members for consideration by the Ministerial Committee on antisocial behaviour of the Cabinet; and if he will make a statement. [9219]

**The Prime Minister:** We are always receptive to hearing the views of hon. Members on how to tackle antisocial behaviour. An inter-departmental steering group has been set up and is chaired by my right hon. Friend the Minister of State, Home Office (Hazel Blears). It will support the Ministerial Committee on

antisocial behaviour that I chair. The steering group will consider how it takes on ideas and proposals from hon. Members.

### Business Representatives

**Mr. Meacher:** To ask the Prime Minister if he will list the business representatives with whom he has had meetings *(a)* at Number 10, *(b)* within Parliament, *(c)* at Chequers and *(d)* elsewhere since 1 January; which organisation they represented in each case; and what the main topic for discussion at each meeting was. [13291]

**The Prime Minister:** I have meetings with a wide range of organisations and individuals on a wide range of subjects. Information relating to internal meetings, discussion and advice is not disclosed as to do so could harm the frankness and candour of internal discussion.

### Conferences

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Prime Minister how much his Office has spent on *(a)* organising and *(b)* sponsoring conferences in each of the last five years. [10249]

**The Prime Minister:** For accounting purposes my office forms part of the Cabinet Office. The information requested cannot be provided without incurring disproportionate costs.

### Gender Equality (Africa)

**Andrew George:** To ask the Prime Minister what discussions he had during the Gleneagles Summit regarding the Millennium Development Goal to promote gender equality in Africa. [13081]

**The Prime Minister:** At Gleneagles, G8 heads agreed a doubling of resource for Africa, in order to help make faster progress towards the Millennium Development Goals. On the gender equality goal, the need for urgent action is particularly stark.

We agreed to support African governments in ensuring that, by 2015, all children have access to and complete free and compulsory education of good quality. We also called on African countries to implement the African Charter on Human and People's Rights and its protocols, in order to encourage respect for the rights of ethnic minorities, women and children.

### Lords Lieutenants

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Prime Minister if he will list the lords lieutenant with the dates of their *(a)* appointment and *(b)* expected retirement. [10469]

**The Prime Minister:** A list of Lord Lieutenants, individual dates of appointment and expected retirement has been placed in the Libraries of the House.

### Deputy Lords Lieutenants

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Prime Minister if he will list the Deputy Lords Lieutenants; on what date each was appointed; and whether each is recorded as supporting a political party. [10992]

**The Prime Minister:** A list of Deputy Lieutenants, where available, has been placed in the Libraries of the House. Dates of their appointment, and information on membership of political parties, are not held centrally. Deputy Lieutenants are, of course, aware that their role is essentially non-political and impartial.

### Marine Environment

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Prime Minister how many representations he has received from members of the public in support of greater protection for the marine environment; and if he will make a statement. [12532]

**The Prime Minister:** The information is not available in the format requested. Given the volume of correspondence I receive covering a broad spectrum of issues, my office records letters by subject rather than by the view expressed.

Since 1997 I have received over 20,000 representations on the environment, including over 1,000 campaign cards on "a future for our seas?" in 2004.

### Public Appointments Commissioner

**Paul Flynn:** To ask the Prime Minister if he will ask the Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments if he will investigate whether the words used by the Chair of the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency regarding Seroxat published in the *New Statesman* on 20 June were consistent with the standards laid down for holders of a public appointment. [13226]

**Jane Kennedy:** I have been asked to reply.

The Commission for Public Appointments has no remit to investigate the conduct of the Chair of the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA). The MHRA is an Executive Agency of the Department of Health and its Chair is appointed by the Secretary of State for Health.

There is nothing in the quote from the Chair of the MHRA that would merit any such investigation.

### Second World War Anniversary

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Prime Minister whether he was present in an official capacity at ceremonies to mark the 60th anniversary of the end of the Second World War; and if he will make a statement. [12738]

**The Prime Minister:** Yes. I attended the National Commemoration Day on Sunday 10 July 2005.

### Sickness Absence

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Prime Minister how many days his Office has lost due to sickness in the past five years for which figures are available. [11471]

**The Prime Minister:** For these purposes my office forms part of the Cabinet Office. I refer the hon. Member to the Cabinet Office report "Analysis of Sickness Absence in the Civil Service", copies of which are available in the Libraries of the House.

## DEFENCE

### Anthrax Vaccination

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions he has had with the US Administration and its agencies on illnesses suffered by Service personnel and their families which they attribute to anthrax vaccinations. [11707]

**Mr. Touhig:** The Ministry of Defence has not held any formal discussions with the US Administration or its agencies on this subject and all information from the US on such matters has been drawn from published sources.

### Armed Forces (Sexual Assaults)

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps his Department is taking to reduce the number of sexual assaults in the armed forces. [12565]

**Mr. Touhig:** Service training and instructions emphasise the vital importance within a disciplined force of mutual trust and respect, and of strict compliance with the law. All offences are investigated by the Service or civil police who will take the appropriate action.

The theme of respect for the individual is central to our Diversity Strategy, which states that we expect every one of our people to fulfil their personal responsibilities, one of which is to ensure that they do not harass, bully, abuse, alarm or distress others. Intimidation, humiliation, bullying or abuse will not be tolerated. Unified procedures for dealing with complaints of harassment and bullying were introduced on 1 April. On 23 June, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence signed an agreement with the Equal Opportunities Commission based upon an action plan to confront sexual harassment in the armed forces.

### BAE Systems

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much current work has been placed by his Department with BAE Systems, broken down by site. [7616]

**Mr. Ingram:** The information requested is not held centrally and would be available only at disproportionate cost. However, the table sets out information from the Defence Bills Agency's database covering the total value of current contracts with BAE Systems as at 29 June 2005. This information is based on invoicing addresses and does not necessarily reflect the locations where the actual work is taking place. It does not include subsidiary companies with other trading names.

| *Contractor* | *Location* | *Value (£)* |
|---|---|---|
| BAE Systems Properties Ltd. | Aylesbury | 5,596,914 |
| BAE Systems Marine Ltd. | Barrow-in-Furness | 2,626,381,745 |
| BAE Systems Electronics Ltd. | Basildon | 27,430,002 |
| BAE Systems Electronics Ltd. | Basildon | 10,159,739 |
| BAE Systems Integrated System Technologies Ltd. | Chelmsford | 799,632,786 |
| BAE Systems (Defence Systems) Ltd. | Christchurch | 103,795,511 |
| BAE Systems Integrated System Technologies Ltd. | Cowes | 55,977,410 |
| BAE Systems (Combat and Radar Systems) Ltd. | Cowes | 3,613,000 |
| BAE Systems (Defence Systems) Ltd. | Cowes | 208,743 |
| BAE Systems Integrated System Technologies Ltd. | Dorchester | 3,220,232 |
| BAE Systems (Operations) Ltd. | Edinburgh | 35,102 |
| BAE Systems Land Systems (Bridging) Ltd. | Ettingshall | 30,538,356 |
| BAE Systems Electronics Ltd. | Farnborough | 2,990,318,520 |
| BAE Systems (Operations) Ltd. | Filton | 120,448,174 |
| BAE Systems Electronics | Filton | 24,515,904 |
| BAE Systems (Hawk Synthetic Training) Ltd. | Filton | 22,883,057 |
| BAE Systems (Land and Sea Systems Ltd.) | Filton | 126,954 |
| BAE Systems Integrated System Technologies Ltd. | Frimley | 760,711,348 |
| BAE Systems Land Systems (Munitions and Ordnance) Ltd. | Glascoed USK | 1,668,286,493 |
| BAE Systems Land Systems (Munitions and Ordnance) Ltd. | Glascoed USK | 297,021 |
| BAE Systems Marine Ltd. | Glasgow | 148,751,291 |
| BAE Systems Marine (YSL) Ltd. | Glasgow | 10,216,840 |
| BAE Systems (Operations) Ltd. | Glasgow Broomielaw | 220,000 |
| BAE Systems (Operations) Ltd. | Glasgow Prestwick Airport | 8,434,881 |
| BAE Systems Regional Aircraft Ltd. | Glasgow Prestwick Airport | 953,556 |
| BAE Systems (Operations Ltd. | Great Baddow | 4,160,360 |
| BAE Systems Electronics Ltd. | Great Baddow | 100,125 |
| BAE Systems (Operations) Ltd. | Greengage Middleton | 104,117,236 |
| BAE Systems Integrated System Technologies Ltd. | Hillend | 971,632 |
| BAE Systems Electronics Ltd. | Leicester | 140,110,002 |
| BAE Systems Marine Ltd. | Leicester | 7,504,391 |
| BAE Systems Integrated System Technologies Ltd. | New Malden | 37,176,063 |
| BAE Systems (Land and Sea Systems Ltd.) | New Malden | 52,575,637 |
| BAE Systems Land Systems (Weapons and Vehicles) Ltd. | Newcastle-upon-Tyne | 2,178,571,994 |
| BAE Systems (Systems and Equipment Ltd. | Plymouth | 27,474,715 |
| BAE Systems (Operations) Ltd. | Plymouth | 21,478,299 |
| BAE Systems PLC | Plymouth | 9,496,485 |
| BAE Systems (Operations) Ltd. | Portsmouth | 82,375,486 |
| BAE Systems Integrated System Technologies Ltd. | Portsmouth | 14,244,242 |
| BAE Systems (Operations) Ltd. | Portsmouth-HM Naval Base | 191,905 |
| BAE Systems (Operations) Ltd. | Rochester | 184,203,275 |
| BAE Systems Electronics Ltd. | Rochester | 35,000 |

| Contractor | Location | Value (£) |
|---|---|---|
| BAE Systems (Land and Sea Systems Ltd.) | Scotstoun | 3,280,660 |
| BAE Systems (Operations) Ltd. | Scotstoun | 1,406,077 |
| BAE Systems (Operations) Ltd. | Stevenage | 6,000 |
| BAE Systems Land Systems (Weapons and Vehicles) Ltd. | Telford | 265,067,039 |
| BAE Systems/Rockwell Collins Data Link Solutions LLC | USA: Iowa | 1,923,079 |
| BAE Systems Information and Electronic Systems Integration Inc. | USA: NASHUA NH | 1,388,058 |
| BAE Systems (Operations) Ltd. | Waddington | 18,491,313 |
| BAE Systems (Operations) Ltd. | Warton | 6,087,957,092 |
| BAE Systems PLC | Warton | 710,245,430 |
| BAE Systems Defence Ltd. | Warton | 505,177,155 |
| BAE Systems Electronics Ltd. | Waterlooville | 2,804,033,669 |
| BAE Systems (Operations) Ltd. | Weymouth | 100,000 |

### Commonwealth War Graves (Equatorial Guinea)

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the upkeep of the Commonwealth war graves in Equatorial Guinea. [12194]

**Mr. Touhig:** There are 10 Commonwealth war graves in Equatorial Guinea, all in Malabo cemetery, which is situated on the island of Bioko off the coast of Cameroon. All are Commonwealth airmen from the second world war who are commemorated together in a row marked by Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) headstones.

These graves are visited periodically by CWGC staff from the United Kingdom. The last such visit was in 2003, when some maintenance was carried out with the assistance of the cemetery staff. The Commission has confirmed that the graves are well maintained for this part of the world. It is in the process of setting up an arrangement for more regular visits and reports from its honorary supervisor in the Cameroon.

### Construction Projects

**Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will take steps to train armed forces personnel to carry out construction projects for the armed forces. [11892]

**Mr. Touhig:** The armed forces already employs and trains engineering specialists in order to enhance operational effectiveness. These specialists are primarily employed to provide engineering and construction support on deployed operations where the operational conditions would preclude the use of commercial operators. It is possible that these engineers may be employed on construction projects for the armed forces, for instance in the UK, but only when it is sensible and cost-effective to do so and the training experience accrued will directly benefit their role on operations. Otherwise, the skills and expertise of the commercial sector is employed, allowing the armed forces to concentrate on military tasks.

### Corporate Branding (Costs)

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what costs were incurred by the *(a)* Medical Supplies Agency and *(b)* Warship Supply Agency in (i) corporate branding and (ii) external consultants used in set-up and continuing activities. [5890]

**Mr. Ingram:** A detailed breakdown of costs incurred by the Warship Support Agency (WSA) both during set-up and through-life, on corporate branding and external consultants, specifically in support of its agency status, is not held separately and cannot therefore be provided. External consultants were used prior to Agency formation to help determine the structure and working methods of the WSA Strategic and Executive Boards. The cost of these activities is not available; however, it is likely to have been minimal.

A detailed breakdown of costs incurred by the Medical Supplies Agency (MSA) both during set-up and through-life, on corporate branding, specifically in support of its agency status, is not held separately and cannot therefore be provided. Figures relating to the establishment of the Agency (in 1996) on external consultants are no longer available, due to the requirement to only retain historical financial accounts for seven years. However, external consultant figures relating to the MSA change programme, from financial year 1997–98 are provided in the table.

| | £000 |
|---|---|
| 1997–98 | 15 |
| 1998–99 | 16 |
| 1999–2000 | 17 |
| 2000–01 | 18 |
| 2001–02 | 147 |
| 2002–03 | 220 |
| 2003–04 | 358.5 |
| 2004–05 | 416.3 |

Payments during 2003–04 and 2004–05 were in respect of the medical supplies change programme, the benefit of which has been carried forward into the Medical Supplies Integrated Project Team.

### Darfur

**Mr. Ancram:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 14 June 2005, *Official Report*, columns 332–33W, on Darfur, whether *(a)* NATO and *(b)* the EU will be in overall command of support for the African Union in its mission in Darfur. [6037]

**John Reid:** The African Union is leading the operation and managing offers of assistance. NATO and the EU continue to work closely together to coordinate their military offers. Neither has any operational command and control role.

### Defence Export Services Organisation

**Malcolm Bruce:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on how many occasions between April 2004 and December 2004 British-based staff from the Defence Export Services Organisation met BAE Systems to discuss the selection of agents. [12029]

**Mr. Ingram** *[holding answer 14 July 2005]:* We have found no record of any meeting in the United Kingdom between Defence Export Services Organisation officials and representatives of BAE Systems specifically concerned with the selection of agents. The subject will on occasion have been discussed, however, in the course of routine meetings covering a wider range of normal business.

**Malcolm Bruce:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 5 July 2005, *Official Report*, column, 259W, on the Defence Export Service Organisation (DESO), whether BAE Systems has requested information from DESO on the selection of agents. [12081]

**Mr. Ingram** *[holding answer 14 July 2005]:* Instances of questions from companies, including BAE Systems, on the selection of agents are not centrally recorded. Such advice is given in the course of normal Defence Export Services Organisation business, both in the United Kingdom and overseas.

### Defence Training Review

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what stage has been reached by the Defence Training Review; and if he will make a statement. [12175]

**Mr. Touhig:** The Defence Training Review Programme issued Invitations to Negotiate to the short listed bidding Consortia in November 2004. The Ministry of Defence continues to work closely with the three bidders and stakeholders to ensure that industry develop training and estates proposals that are compliant, value for money, deliver betterment and preserve operational capability and military ethos. In parallel the MOD also continues to maintain a close dialogue with the trade unions updating them on progress. Bidders' proposals are due in October and November 2005. Evaluation of the proposals will follow immediately and conclude in spring 2006. The outcome will inform the decision on selection of a preferred bidder, which is due to be approved later in the summer in 2006.

### Departmental Staff

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many full-time equivalents have worked for the Department for each of the last five financial years for which figures are available. [11507]

**Mr. Touhig:** The number of full-time equivalents (FTE) that have worked for the Department is shown in the following table. The numbers reflect the total number of permanent and casual staff together with the Royal Fleet Auxiliaries, trading funds and locally engaged civilians.

*Civilian personnel numbers at 1 April each year*

*Thousand: FTE*

| *Civilians*[1] | *Total* |
|---|---|
| 2001[2] | 118.2 |
| 2002 | 110.1 |
| 2003 | 107.6 |
| 2004 | 109.0 |
| 2005 | 108.5 |

[1] This table uses the revised definition of civilian personnel (see www.dasa.mod.uk for details).

[2] In 2001 the QinetiQ portion of the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency (approximately 8,000 FTE) was established as a private company.

### Establishments (Muslims)

**Andrew Selous:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the total establishment is of *(a)* the Royal Navy, *(b)* the Army and *(c)* the Royal Air Force; and how many Muslims are serving in each. [12975]

**Mr. Touhig:** The following table shows the strength of UK armed forces at 1 June 2005:

| | *Total strength* | *Muslim strength* |
|---|---|---|
| *(a)* Naval service | 39,780 | 20 |
| *(b)* Army | 108,300 | 220 |
| *(c)* RAF | 51,380 | 70 |

UK regular forces includes nursing services and excludes full-time reserve service personnel, Ghurkhas, the home service battalions of the Royal Irish Regiment and mobilised reservists. They include both trained and untrained personnel.

All figures have been rounded to the nearest 10 to prevent disclosure of sensitive personal data. When rounding to the nearest 10, numbers ending in five have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to prevent systematic bias.

### EUFOR

**Mr. Prisk:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what UK military assets are deployed as part of EUFOR; and by what command and control arrangements they are managed. [1065]

**Mr. Ingram:** The United Kingdom has around 872 troops deployed as part of the European Union peacekeeping force in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Operation ALTHEA. This includes Major-General Leakey, who is currently the force commander for this operation; and also those UK officers serving in the force headquarters. The bulk of the UK contingent is based in Multi-National Task Force (North-West), and is currently centred on the 1st Battalion The Argyle and Sutherland Highlanders.

Operation ALTHEA operates under the political control and strategic direction of the EU. The force commander reports to the operation commander, General Sir John Reith, who also holds the NATO position of Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Europe. He in turn reports to the EU Political and Security Committee, which takes direction from the Council of the European Union and advice from the EU

Military Committee. All these bodies are made up of member state representatives and take decisions by unanimity.

In both EU and NATO operations the UK assigns troops to EU or NATO Operational control, but the UK ultimately retains command of all UK troops and assets involved in operations.

## Fijian Nationals

**Mr. Marshall:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Fijian nationals are serving in Her Majesty's forces. [13140]

**Mr. Ingram:** The following table shows the Fijian strength of UK armed forces at 1 June 2005:

| | *Fijian total* |
|---|---|
| Naval Service | 70 |
| Army | 1,950 |
| RAF | — |

*Notes:*

1. UK Regular Forces includes Nursing services and excludes Full Time Reserve Service personnel, Gurkhas, the Home Service battalions of the Royal Irish Regiment and mobilised Reservists. They include both trained and untrained personnel.

2. All data is obtained from a nationality field on the Armed Forces Personnel Record of Service. Figures represent those with a current nationality of 'Fijian'.

3. RAF nationality data is not held centrally.

4. All figures have been rounded to the nearest 10 to prevent disclosure of sensitive personal data. When rounding to the nearest 10, numbers ending in five have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to prevent systematic bias.

## Forces' Recruitment

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence from which *(a)* region and *(b)* county the highest percentage of personnel were recruited to the (i) Army, (ii) Royal Navy, (iii) Royal Air Force and (iv) Royal Marines in 2004–05. [12415]

**Mr. Touhig:** Recruiting data by region and county are not available centrally. The following estimates of enlistments for the financial year 2004–05 have been provided by the three services.

*Navy enlistment numbers for financial year 2004–05*

| *Region* | *Enlistments* |
|---|---|
| North East | 610 |
| North West | 740 |
| East Central | 300 |
| West Central | 240 |
| South West | 620 |
| South East | 350 |
| London | 200 |
| Wales | 180 |
| Scotland | 380 |
| Northern Ireland | 60 |

*Source:*

Directorate of Naval Recruiting

*Army enlistment numbers for financial year 2004–05*

| *Region* | *Enlistments* |
|---|---|
| North East | 1,720 |
| North West | 1,540 |
| East | 1,360 |
| West Midlands | 1,000 |
| Wessex | 780 |
| Home Counties | 470 |
| South East | 430 |
| London | 880 |
| Wales | 670 |
| Scotland | 1,140 |
| Northern Ireland | 260 |
| Commonwealth | 220 |

*Source:*

Army Recruiting Group

*RAF enlistment numbers for financial year 2004–05*

| *Region* | *Enlistments* |
|---|---|
| North East | 330 |
| North West and North Wales | 350 |
| East Midlands | 380 |
| West Midlands and South Wales | 290 |
| London and South East | 200 |
| South West | 230 |
| Wales | 140 |
| Scotland | 220 |
| Northern Ireland | 50 |

*Notes:*

Figures are based on location of armed forces careers office to which applicant applied not residence of applicant. Armed forces careers office regions do not align with Government office regions and differ between services; consequently, it is not possible to make meaningful comparisons across services or to population figures.

All figures have been rounded to the nearest 10. Due to the rounding methods used, figures may not always equal the sum of the parts. When rounding to the nearest 10, numbers ending in five have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to prevent systematic bias.

Army selection figures for London includes recruitment from Herford, Germany.

*Source:*

RAF Recruiting Services

## Future Aircraft Carriers

**Dr. Julian Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the effect on the in-service dates of each of the future aircraft carriers if France participates in their construction on the basis *(a)* that two carriers are built for the United Kingdom and one for France and *(b)* that two carriers are built for the UK alone. [10821]

**Mr. Ingram** *[holding answer 13 July 2005]:* None. Though we continue to investigate the potential for co-operation with France on our respective carrier projects, it will be for industry to put forward proposals on French participation in the construction of the future aircraft carriers (CVF). These will be judged on their merits and in light of national policies.

**Dr. Julian Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when the decision was taken to reclassify the 2012 and 2015 in-service dates for the two future aircraft carriers as target dates. [10822]

**Mr. Ingram** *[holding answer 13 July 2005]:* As with all projects in the assessment phase, in-service dates (ISDs) are not fixed until the main investment decision. The assessment phase is used to refine the timescale for projects including the future aircraft carrier (CVF).

### Future Rapid Effects System

**Ann Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the estimated whole life cost is of the FRES vehicles ordered by the Department. [11814]

**Mr. Ingram:** The FRES programme is currently in the assessment phase and it is therefore too early in the programme to have placed orders for FRES vehicles.

Studies being conducted during the assessment phase are aimed at developing a series of options for meeting the requirement and the outcome of these studies will enable us to formulate reliable whole life cost estimates.

### Identity Cards

**Mr. Garnier:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the cost of equipping premises for which his Department has responsibility with identity card readers. [9889]

**Mr. Touhig:** We have been working with the Home Office to identify areas where the identity cards scheme could provide business benefits. Our assessment has indicated that the proposal for the introduction of identity cards would benefit the Ministry of Defence by aiding the identification of individuals who have a relationship with the Department, but are not direct employees. Examples include potential new recruits, past employees, members of the reserve forces, job applicants, visitors and contractors. On 28 June 2005, my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary placed in the Library of the House a paper containing the latest estimates of benefits of the identity cards scheme which shows that the benefits outweigh the costs once the scheme is fully operational. The cost of equipping premises will depend on the nature of the use of the identity cards scheme and the type of identity check(s) necessary to deliver the business benefits. The Ministry of Defence is in dialogue with the Home Office and we will judge the impact on our IT systems as details of the scheme emerge. As the design of the scheme matures, during and after the procurement exercise, so will our understanding of where the scheme will be of most benefit which will allow us to further refine our estimates of costs and benefits.

### Iraq

**Adam Price:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many persons arrested in Iraq by UK forces have been transferred to the custody of the United States. [3087]

**Mr. Ingram** *[holding answer 13 June 2005]:* Following the end of hostilities in Iraq and the completion of the UK's prisoner release programme, a total of 358 prisoners taken into custody by the UK, for whom the UK remained responsible, were transferred to US custody at Camp Bucca. Between June 2003 and the opening of the UK's Divisional Temporary Detention Facility in December 2003, further individuals taken into custody by the UK were also transferred to US custody. All of these internees were either released, or transferred back to UK custody in December 2003.

Two individuals classified as High Value Targets were taken into custody by the UK and subsequently transferred to US custody. They were later transferred to the jurisdiction of the Iraq Special Tribunal, although they remain in US custody.

Four additional internees taken into custody by the UK during 2003 were transferred to the US and held at Abu Ghraib. All have since been released. During the Black Watch deployment to North Babil in November 2003, a further 12 internees were taken into custody by the UK, and transferred to the US. All but two were quickly released. The remaining two are held at Abu Ghraib.

**Mr. Streeter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* detainees, *(b)* internees and *(c)* other prisoners in Iraq were (i) held by UK forces, (ii) brought into UK custody and (iii) transferred from UK to US custody in each week since 1 December 2003. [11407]

**Mr. Ingram:** Prior to December 2003, all persons taken into custody by United Kingdom forces were held by the US at Camp Bucca, in southern Iraq. During December those internees were transferred to the UK's divisional temporary detention facility (DTDF) at Shaibah logistics base in southern Iraq, and the figures given from January 2004 onwards refer to internees held at that location. However, during December, internees taken into custody by the UK may have spent a short period in Camp Bucca prior to transfer to the DTDF on or around 18 December 2003. From January 2004 to the present day, the only internees transferred to US custody were those taken during the course of the deployment of the Black Watch Battlegroup in November 2004. Two internees were transferred on 16 November 2004 and 10 were transferred on 26 November 2004. These internees are not included in the following information.

| *Date* | *Internees held* | *Internees taken into custody by UK* |
|---|---|---|
| As at 1 December 2003 | [1]109 | — |
| *Week ending:* | | |
| 8 December 2003 | [1]111 | 14 |
| 15 December 2003 | [1]110 | 14 |
| 22 December 2003 | 112 | 2 |
| 27 December 2003 | 140 | 41 |
| 5 January 2004 | 135 | 11 |
| 12 January 2004 | 126 | 1 |
| 19 January 2004 | 124 | 2 |
| 26 January 2004 | 109 | 5 |
| 2 February 2004 | 106 | 15 |
| 9 February 2004 | 105 | 1 |
| 16 February 2004 | 103 | 5 |
| 23 February 2004 | 108 | 9 |
| 1 March 2004 | 95 | 4 |
| 8 March 2004 | 93 | 0 |
| 15 March 2004 | 84 | 4 |
| 22 March 2004 | 81 | 3 |
| 29 March 2004 | 79 | 2 |
| 5 April 2004 | 82 | 5 |
| 13 April 2004 | 102 | 22 |
| 19 April 2004 | 101 | 0 |
| 25 April 2004 | 98 | 7 |
| 2 May 2004 | 118 | 27 |
| 9 May 2004 | 117 | 3 |

| Date | Internees held | Internees taken into custody by UK |
|---|---|---|
| 16 May 2004 | 135 | 23 |
| 23 May 2004 | 125 | 8 |
| 30 May 2004 | 107 | 5 |
| 7 June 2004 | 79 | 0 |
| 14 June 2004 | 68 | 14 |
| 20 June 2004 | 73 | 10 |
| 28 June 2004 | 55 | 1 |
| 5 July 2004 | 40 | 0 |
| 12 July 2004 | 25 | 0 |
| 19 July 2004 | 25 | 0 |
| 26 July 2004 | 26 | 3 |
| 2 August 2004 | 21 | 0 |
| 9 August 2004 | 25 | 4 |
| 16 August 2004 | 25 | 0 |
| 23 August 2004 | 27 | 2 |
| 30 August 2004 | 25 | 0 |
| 6 September 2004 | 22 | 1 |
| 13 September 2004 | 26 | 8 |
| 20 September 2004 | 28 | 2 |
| 27 September 2004 | 14 | 0 |
| 4 October 2004 | 9 | 0 |
| 11 October 2004 | 10 | 1 |
| 18 October 2004 | 9 | 0 |
| 25 October 2004 | 9 | 0 |
| 1 November 2004 | 7 | 0 |
| 8 November 2004 | 7 | 0 |
| 15 November 2004 | 10 | 3 |
| 22 November 2004 | 10 | 0 |
| 29 November 2004 | 10 | 0 |
| 6 December 2004 | 18 | 8 |
| 13 December 2004 | 24 | 8 |
| 20 December 2004 | 24 | 0 |
| 27 December 2004 | 23 | 0 |
| 3 January 2005 | 23 | 0 |
| 10 January 2005 | 25 | 2 |
| 17 January 2005 | 31 | 6 |
| 24 January 2005 | 29 | 0 |
| 31 January 2005 | 30 | 3 |
| 7 February 2005 | 33 | 3 |
| 14 February 2005 | 31 | 0 |
| 21 February 2005 | 29 | 0 |
| 28 February 2005 | 27 | 0 |
| 7 March 2005 | 27 | 0 |
| 14 March 2005 | 27 | 0 |
| 21 March 2005 | 27 | 0 |
| 28 March 2005 | 24 | 0 |
| 4 April 2005 | 23 | 0 |
| 11 April 2005 | 23 | 0 |
| 18 April 2005 | 21 | 0 |
| 25 April 2005 | 21 | 0 |
| 1 May 2005 | 21 | 0 |
| 8 May 2005 | 21 | 0 |
| 15 May 2005 | 21 | 0 |
| 22 May 2005 | 22 | 1 |
| 29 May 2005 | 21 | 0 |
| 5 June 2005 | 21 | 0 |
| 12 June 2005 | 24 | 3 |
| 19 June 2005 | 24 | 0 |
| 26 June 2005 | 24 | 0 |
| 3 July 2005 | 24 | 0 |
| 10 July 2005 | 24 | 0 |

[1] In US custody.

These figures are based on the best available data; it is evident that some theatre records contain inaccuracies.

**Sir Menzies Campbell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what RAF aircraft participated in attacks by coalition aircraft on *(a)* an anti-ship missile system near Basra on 6 September 2002, *(b)* an anti-ship missile system near Basra on 13 January 2003, *(c)* a surface-to-surface missile system near Basra on 11 February 2003, *(d)* elements of surface-to-surface missile systems near Basra on 12 February 2003, *(e)* a mobile multiple-rocket system near Basra on 18 February 2003, *(f)* a surface-to-surface missile system near Basra on 25 February 2003 and *(g)* three surface-to-surface missile systems south of Mosul on 25 February 2003. [11373]

**Mr. Ingram** *[holding answer 14 July 2005]:* On the 11 February 2003, RAF Tornado GR4s dropped a total of five munitions during the course of the attack. The attack was conducted in self-defence in accordance with the appropriate rules of engagement for Operation Resinate (south), the operation to enforce the southern no-fly zone. The surface-to-surface missile system concerned had recently relocated to a position close to the Kuwaiti border, from which it posed a direct threat to the operating base for UK aircraft and other forces allocated to Operation Resinate (south).

No RAF aircraft were used in any of the other attacks mentioned.

### Maritime Forces

**Dr. Julian Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what reasons the decision to reduce resource allocations to maritime forces has not previously been reported to Parliament. [9694]

**Mr. Ingram** *[holding answer 7 July 2005]:* The Royal Navy is expected to be able to fulfil its operational commitments during the current period of focussing logistic support on those ships undertaking high priority tasks or being held at high readiness for operations. Determining the most efficient and effective use of available resources is a routine element of departmental planning, and specific decisions are not normally the subject of special notification to the House.

### Mothballed Defence Bases

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list his Department's bases which are mothballed. [12466]

**Mr. Touhig:** It is not the policy of the Ministry of Defence to 'mothball' sites against undefined future defence uses. The only exception would be in the case of Army Barracks, where a site might be vacant for a few months as a result of unit rotations to overseas locations. There are currently no sites in this category.

All possible alternate defence requirements will be considered for a site before it is declared surplus. Once declared surplus a site will be disposed of as quickly as possible to ensure it is bought back into productive use at the earliest opportunity.

Where disposal is anticipated to take some time, buildings may be wind and weatherproofed to minimise deterioration. It is also our policy, where possible, to encourage temporary commercial use of vacant sites pending disposal.

### Northern Ireland

**Mr. Peter Robinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Army personnel were stationed in Northern Ireland in each of the last 10 years. [11653]

**Mr. Ingram:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 16 November 2001, *Official Report*, columns 955–56W, to the hon. Member for New Forest, West (Mr. Swayne). The number of armed forces personnel (Army, Navy and Air Force) stationed in Northern Ireland since then is set out in the following table:

| *As at 31 October* | *Number of troops* |
|---|---|
| 2002 | 13,810 |
| 2003 | 12,534 |
| 2004 | 11,047 |
| 2005[1] | 10,154 |

[1] The figure for 2005 is taken as at 30 June.

The General Officer Commanding Northern Ireland (GOC NI) also has under his command troops that are rear based in Great Britain that can be called forward to the Province as and when required. In addition, other troops can be made available to the GOC NI from Land Command if required, for example during the marching season.

### Regimental Strength

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the strength is of each regiment in the Army; and what percentage this is of the full establishment in each case. [13149]

**Mr. Touhig:** The following table shows the strengths and establishments of the full-time trained Army by arm/service and strengths of the individual infantry regiments.

Establishments of each infantry and armoured corps regiment have not been provided because they are not defined individually.

*Full-time trained strength of the Army (including full-time reserve service (FTRS)) as at 1 June 2005 compared to the liability*

| *Arm/service* | *Establishment* | *Strength* | *Percentage of establishment* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Staff | 830 | 830 | 100 |
| The Household Cavalry/Royal Armoured Corps | 5,300 | 5,670 | 107 |
| Royal Regiment of Artillery | 7,580 | 7,510 | 99 |
| Corps of Royal Engineers | 10,020 | 8,870 | 88 |
| Royal Corps of Signals | 8,580 | 8,780 | 102 |
| The Infantry | 24,420 | 25,090 | 103 |
| *Of which* | | | |
| Grenadier Guards | | 770 | |
| Coldstream Guards | | 780 | |
| Scots Guards | | 720 | |
| Irish Guards | | 630 | |
| Welsh Guards | | 600 | |
| Royal Scots | | 580 | |
| Royal Highland Fusiliers | | 600 | |
| Kings Own Scottish Borderers | | 580 | |
| Black Watch | | 660 | |
| Highlanders | | 610 | |
| Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders | | 590 | |
| Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment | | 1,330 | |
| Royal Regiment of Fusiliers | | 1,300 | |
| Royal Anglian Regiment | | 1,320 | |
| Kings Own Royal Border Regiment | | 620 | |
| King's Regiment | | 600 | |
| 1 Prince of Wales' Own Regiment | | 660 | |
| Green Howards | | 620 | |
| Queen's Lancashire Regiment | | 660 | |
| Duke of Wallington's Regiment | | 670 | |
| Devonshire and Dorset Regiment | | 620 | |
| Cheshire Regiment | | 580 | |
| Royal Welch Fusiliers | | 660 | |
| Royal Regiment of Wales | | 590 | |
| Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment | | 640 | |
| Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment | | 620 | |
| Staffordshire Regiment | | 610 | |
| The Light Infantry Regiment | | 1,320 | |
| Royal Green Jackets | | 1,290 | |
| The Parachute Regiment | | 2,080 | |
| The Royal Irish Regiment (General Service) | | 660 | |
| Others | | 530 | |
| Army Air Corps | 2,160 | 1,930 | 89 |
| Royal Army Chaplains Department | 160 | 140 | 87 |
| The Royal Logistics Corps | 16,390 | 15,570 | 96 |
| Royal Army Medical Corps | 3,280 | 2,780 | 86 |
| Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers | 9,580 | 9,760 | 102 |
| Adjutant General's Corps (Provost Branch) | 2,020 | 2,020 | 100 |
| Adjutant General's Corps (Staff and Personnel Support Branch) | 4,400 | 4,570 | 104 |
| Adjutant General's Corps (Educational and Training Services Branch) | 330 | 340 | 103 |
| Adjutant General's Corps (Army Legal Service) | 120 | 90 | 72 |
| Royal Army Veterinary Corps | 200 | 190 | 94 |

*Full-time trained strength of the Army (including full-time reserve service (FTRS)) as at 1 June 2005 compared to the liability*

| *Arm/service* | *Establishment* | *Strength* | *Percentage of establishment* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Small Arms School Corps | 160 | 150 | 97 |
| Royal Army Dental Corps | 440 | 370 | 84 |
| Intelligence Corps | 1,840 | 1,430 | 78 |
| Army Physical Training Corps | 440 | 430 | 98 |
| General Service Corps | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— |
| Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps | 1,100 | 820 | 74 |
| Corps of Army Music | 920 | 980 | 106 |
| Long Service List | 480 | 610 | 127 |
| Unallocated | [1]— | 10 | [1]— |
| Total trained regular Army and FTRS | 100,770 | 98,940 | 98 |
| Ghurkhas | 3,400 | 3,320 | 98 |
| Full-time trained Army | 104,170 | 102,260 | 98 |

[1] Denotes zero or rounded to zero.

*Notes:*

FTRS figures include full, limited and home commitment.

Figures exclude home service battalions of the Royal Irish Regiment, Mobilised Reserves, Territorial Army and other reserves.

Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

### Regimental Uniforms/Mascots

**Ann Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence who meets the cost of the new uniforms and mess-dress of existing personnel up to the date of changeover for the future *(a)* Mercia, *(b)* Yorkshire and *(c)* Scottish regiments. [392]

**Mr. Touhig** *[pursuant to the reply, 24 May 2005, Official Report, c. 56W]:* I am now clarifying the information provided.

The answer I gave stated that officers received a tax-free allowance to enable them to maintain their uniform and dress. It has now come to my attention that officers in fact receive an annual tax-credit, known as "income tax relief for maintenance of uniform", rather than an allowance as such. This means that a certain proportion of their salary is not subject to income tax. For dismounted male officers below the rank of colonel, and therefore all personnel belonging to those regiments identified in your original question, this annual rate amounts to £589.29 of earnings against which income tax is not paid.

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the mascot of the *(a)* Queen's Lancashire Regiment and *(b)* King's Own Borderers is; and what the value of silverware held by each regiment is. [12420]

**Mr. Touhig:** Neither the Queen's Lancashire Regiment or the King's Own Royal Border Regiment have a mascot.

The silverware of the Queen's Lancashire Regiment and the King's Own Royal Border Regiment belongs to the regiments themselves. The funding for the purchase, maintenance and insurance of the silverware comes from non-public funds and is therefore a private matter for the trustees of the regiments.

### Small Arms Sales

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion by value of sales of arms by UK companies were identified as small arms in the latest year for which figures are available; and what proportion were sold to developing countries. [10430]

**Malcolm Wicks:** I have been asked to reply.

I refer the hon. Member to the Government's Annual Reports on Strategic Export Controls, which contain information on the Government's export licensing decisions. Since 2000, these reports have specified the number of items of military equipment in the UN Register of Conventional Arms categories, and also the number of small arms, covered by individual licences in the reporting period. The annual reports are available from the Libraries of the House. The Export Control Organisation does not however hold information on actual exports.

### TA/Cadet Forces

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the future of the reserve forces in Hemel Hempstead constituency. [11749]

**Mr. Touhig:** There are no current plans to make any changes to the Royal Naval Reserve and Royal Auxiliary Air Force units located near to Hemel Hempstead. A study is currently in hand which seeks to rebalance the Territorial Army so that it is aligned with changes to the Regular Army under the Future Army Structure work. This is a nationwide study that is not due to report until later in the year and it would be inappropriate to speculate on the outcome of the study at this time.

**Ann Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many infantry private soldiers were on record in the Territorial Army at the onset of Iraq operations; and how many *(a)* are on record, *(b)* are available for Operation Telic 7 and *(c)* are expected to be available for Operation Telic 8. [12679]

**Mr. Touhig:** On 1 March 2003 there were some 4,000 Infantry Private Soldiers in the Territorial Army (TA). As at 1 June 2005 there were some 3,800 TA Infantry Private Soldiers, of this figure some 2,000 are available for Operation Telic 7 and we expect some 1,500 to be available for Operation Telic 8.

**Ann Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the formation will be of the Territorial Army contribution to Operation Telic 7. [12680]

**Mr. Touhig:** Some 550 personnel from the Territorial Army are expected to contribute to Operation Telic 7. Of these, some 240 personnel will form two Force Protection Companies, the remainder will be employed in a variety of roles in support of 7 Armoured Brigade.

**Ann Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Territorial Army medical officers have been deployed since the start of Operation Telic; and how many of them worked in the NHS. [12682]

**Mr. Touhig:** In total, 754 Territorial Army medical personnel have deployed since the start of Operation Telic, all of whom worked within the NHS.

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the role of each unit of the *(a)* Territorial Army and *(b)* cadet forces in Lancashire is; and if he will make a statement. [12478]

**Mr. Touhig:** The information requested is shown in the following table.

| *Unit* | *Role* |
|---|---|
| *Territorial Army* | |
| Regimental Headquarters and Headquarters Company of the Lancastrian and Cumbrian Volunteers Regiment (LVC) | Infantry |
| A Company (an Assault Pioneer Platoon) LVC | Infantry |
| B Company LVC | Infantry |
| D Company LVC | Infantry |
| B Squadron 207 Field Hospital | Medical |
| C Squadron 208 Field Hospital | Medical |
| 5 General Support Medical Regiment | Medical |
| 29 Company 3 Military Intelligence (Volunteers) Battalion. | Intelligence |
| 93 Signals Squadron Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (REME) Section | Engineering |
| 93 Signals Squadron | Signals |
| Lancaster University Officer Training Corp | Officer Training |
| *Army Cadet Force* | |
| Corunna Company | Armoured and Signals |
| Normandy Company | Infantry and Medical |
| Salerno Company | Engineers, Infantry and Armoured |
| Wingate Company | Armoured, Infantry and Logistics |
| Egypt Company | Armoured |
| *Sea Cadets* | |
| Accrington and District | The role of the Sea Cadets is to encourage valuable personal attributes and high standards of conduct, using a nautical theme based on the customs of the Royal Navy. |
| Burnley, Pendle and Rossendale | |
| Preston | |
| Morecambe and Heysham | |
| Chorley | |
| Blackpool | |
| Fleetwood | |
| Blackburn | |
| Lytham St. Annes | |
| *Air Cadets* | |
| Cumbria and North Lancashire WG HQ | The role of the Air Cadets is to encourage valuable personal attributes and high standards of conduct and to promote and encourage among young people a practical interest in aviation and the Royal Air Force. |
| 92 (Chorley) | |
| 177 (Blackpool airport) | |
| 206 (Thornton Cleveleys) | |
| 341 (Preston) | |
| 341 (Longridge) | |
| 345 (City of Lancaster) | |
| 455 (Morecambe and Heysham) | |
| 471 (Hesketh Bank and Tarleton) | |
| 967 (British Aerospace Warton) | |
| 1301 (Fleetwood) | |
| 2050 (Leyland) | |
| 2246 (Carnforth) | |
| 2376 (Bamber Bridge) | |
| 2454 (Warbreck) | |
| 2459 (Poulton-le-Fylde) | |
| 2486 (Lytham St. Annes) | |
| East Lancashire WG HQ | |
| 1035 (Accrington) | |
| 352 (Burnley) | |
| 11 04 (Pendle) | |
| 1262 (Blackburn) | |
| 1471 (Horwich) | |
| 1969 (Rossendale) | |
| 635 Volunteer Gliding School (Salmesbury) | |

**Robert Key:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list each of the cadet units based in Salisbury constituency. [11562]

**Mr. Touhig:** All four cadet forces are represented in the Salisbury and South Wiltshire constituency. They are:

*Sea Cadets*

Sea Cadet Unit No. 296.
Churchill Way South,
Salisbury, Wiltshire.

*Army Cadet Force*

Arakan Company located at:

Childrens Corner, Downton, Wiltshire, SP5 3QE.

TA Centre, Portway, Old Sarum, Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP4 6BY.

Wishford Road, Wilton, Wiltshire, SP2 0JG.

*Air Cadet Organisation*

Dorset and Wilts Wing.

1010 Squadron (Salisbury), TA Centre, Portway, Old Sarum, Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP4 6BY.

1011 Squadron (Amesbury), Building No. 205, DERA Boscombe Down, Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP4 6BY.

*Combined Cadet Force*

Godolphin School,
Milford Hill,
Salisbury, Wiltshire,
SP1 2RA.

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what buildings are used by the Territorial Army in Lancashire. [13148]

**Mr. Touhig:** The Territorial Army (TA) within the Lancashire county council administrative boundary (i.e. excluding Greater Manchester and Merseyside) regularly use the following buildings:

Alexandra Barracks, Caton Road, Lancaster

Kimberley Barracks, Deepdale Road, Preston

Lancaster House, Devonshire Road, Chorley

Sir Matthew Fell House, Parkinson Way, Blackpool

Somme Barracks, Moss Street, Blackburn

The Barracks, Canterbury Street, Blackburn

In addition they occasionally utilise the following sites:

Halton Training Camp, Lancaster

Fulwood Barracks, Preston

Weeton Camp, Preston

### Tritium

**Adam Price:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department has made *(a)* an estimate of the current rate of depletion of the stock of tritium held by the Government for military purposes, *(b)* an estimate of the total amount of the tritium currently held and *(c)* an assessment of when these stocks will need to be replenished with new sources of tritium if the UK's current nuclear capability is to be maintained. [10726]

**John Reid** *[holding answer 11 July 2005 ]:* Yes.

## TREASURY

### Child Trust Fund

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many child trust fund vouchers had been issued to parents and carers as at 30 June 2005; how many child trust fund accounts had been opened as at 30 June 2005; and if he will make a statement. [12086]

**John Healey:** I refer the hon. Member to the reply he received from the Economic Secretary to the Treasury on 6 June 2005, *Official Report*, columns 286–87W. Figures are published quarterly.

**Mr. Sheerman:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many child trust funds have been established in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* the Yorkshire region and *(c)* Huddersfield. [12076]

**John Healey:** On the number of accounts opened in the UK I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Economic Secretary to the Treasury to the hon. Member for Yeovil (Mr. Laws) on 6 June 2005, *Official Report*, columns 286–87W.

The information requested in connection with the Yorkshire region and Huddersfield is available only at disproportionate cost.

**Mr. Sheerman:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with banks about the take-up of child trust funds. [12077]

**John Healey:** The Government are continually engaged with a wide range of key stakeholders active in the child trust fund market and maintains close contact with providers and distributors to monitor activity.

Nearly one third of vouchers have already been used and awareness of the fund is virtually universal, with many parents now seeing the child trust fund as the primary savings vehicle for their child.

### Climate Change

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he is taking to promote action to tackle climate change within *(a)* the World Bank, *(b)* the International Monetary Fund and *(c)* the Bank of International Settlement. [13041]

**John Healey:** The Prime Minister has made tackling climate change one of the twin themes of the UK's presidency of the G8 in 2005. Among the international financial institutions, the World Bank and the regional development banks play the lead role in addressing climate change through policy advice and through their financing operations. At the G8 pre-Summit Finance Ministers' meeting, chaired by the Chancellor, Finance Ministers called on the World Bank and multilateral development banks (MDBs) to increase dialogue with their major borrowers on energy issues and put forward specific proposals at their annual meetings in September that encourage cost-effective investments in lower carbon infrastructure. Building on this, World Bank President Paul Wolfowitz will co-chair a meeting in September with the UK as G8 presidency on the financing workstream within the 'Dialogue on Climate Change, Clean Energy and Sustainable Development', which was launched at Gleneagles. In addition, the

Bank and MDBs will also take forward work with others to create a new framework for mobilising investment in clean energy. The UK will work with the institutions to ensure that these initiatives are taken forward effectively.

### Debt Cancellation

**Tony Baldry:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what conditions those sub-Saharan African countries which have yet to have total multilateral debt cancellation have to meet before they may achieve such debt cancellations; [11968]

(2) which sub-Saharan countries have had multilateral debt cancelled following the recent G8 meeting; and which sub-Saharan countries are yet to have multilateral debt cancelled. [11976]

**John Healey:** Under the G8 debt agreement 100 per cent. stock cancellation will be delivered by relieving post-completion point HIPCs that are on track with their programmes of repayment obligations. 18 completion point heavily indebted poor countries will become eligible for multilateral debt relief once the G8 debt agreement is approved by the boards of the World bank, IMF and African development bank, 14 of these countries are in Africa (Benin, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Niger, Rwanda, Senegal, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia). A further nine countries are expected to become eligible over the next two years as they reach completion point of the HIPC initiative, all of these are in Africa (Cameroon, Chad, DRC, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Malawi, Sierra Leone and Sao Tome and Principe). A further 11 countries are pre-decision point in the HIPC initiative, but would also become eligible when they reach completion point. Of these 11, nine are in Africa (Burundi, CAR, Comoros, Congo, Cote D'ivoire, Liberia, Somalia, Sudan and Togo),

It is essential that the resources freed up by debt relief are used to support poverty reduction. For this reason, the G8 debt agreement provides debt relief only to those countries that have demonstrated their commitment to reducing poverty through implementing a successful poverty reduction strategy paper (PRSP). The countries that qualify for the G8 debt agreement will have reached completion point of the heavily indebted poor countries initiative and have demonstrated their commitment to poverty reduction and sound financial management.

Under the G8 initiative, non HIPC sub-Saharan African countries do not receive multilateral debt relief. However, the UK's continuing bilateral policy of paying the debt service from loans for the AfDB and IDA is open to all low-income countries that are eligible only for concessional IDA lending and are following policies of sound public expenditure management.

### Departmental Bills

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what Bills were sponsored by his Department in each session since 1979. [10542]

**John Healey:** Details relating to the Sessions 1979–96 are not available. Information relating to primary legislation presented to Parliament by Treasury Ministers since 1997 is set out in the table. It does not include the Finance, Tax Law Rewrite and Consolidated Fund Bills, which are considered by Parliament on an annual basis.

| *Session* | *Bill(s) presented by Treasury Ministers* |
|---|---|
| 1997–98 | Tax Credits (Initial Expenditure) Bank of England |
| 1998–99 | Tax Credits |
| 1999–2000 | Financial Services and Markets Government Resource and Accounting |
| 2000–01 | Social Security Contributions (Share Options) 2001 |
| 2001–02 | European Communities (Finance) National Insurance Contributions Tax Credits |
| 2003–04 | Child Trust Funds National Insurance Contributions and Statutory Payments 2004 |
| 2004–05 | Commissioners for Revenue and Customs Child Benefit 2005 |
| 2005–06 | Regulation of Financial Services (Land Transactions) |

### Life Expectancy Rates

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the life expectancy rates for each year between *(a)* 1980 to 1985, *(b)* 1990 to 1995 and *(c)* 1999 to 2004 were for (i) males and (ii) females for (A) Scotland, (B) England, (C) Wales, (D) Northern Ireland and (E) the UK. [10881]

**John Healey:** The following table gives past and projected period expectations of life at birth for males and females in the UK and each of the constituent countries for the years 1980 to 1985, 1990 to 1995 and 1999 to 2004 inclusive.

The period expectation of life figures shown are based on the mortality rates experienced or projected by age and gender for the years stated and are the number of years people would be expected to live from birth if they experienced those mortality rates throughout their remaining lifetimes.

*Period life expectancy at birth by country and selected year*

*Years*

| | *Scotland* | *England* | *Wales* | *Northern Ireland* | *United Kingdom* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Males* | | | | | |
| 1980 | 69.0 | 70.8 | 70.0 | 68.3 | 70.5 |
| 1981 | 69.1 | 71.1 | 70.5 | 69.3 | 70.9 |
| 1982 | 69.3 | 71.3 | 70.8 | 70.0 | 71.1 |
| 1983 | 69.7 | 71.6 | 70.8 | 70.0 | 71.3 |
| 1984 | 69.9 | 72.0 | 71.6 | 70.5 | 71.7 |
| 1985 | 70.1 | 71.9 | 71.2 | 70.6 | 71.7 |
| 1990 | 71.1 | 73.1 | 72.8 | 72.2 | 72.9 |
| 1991 | 71.4 | 73.3 | 73.1 | 72.5 | 73.1 |
| 1992 | 71.6 | 73.8 | 73.5 | 73.0 | 73.5 |
| 1993 | 71.4 | 73.7 | 73.1 | 72.7 | 73.5 |
| 1994 | 72.1 | 74.3 | 73.6 | 73.3 | 74.0 |
| 1995 | 72.1 | 74.2 | 73.5 | 73.3 | 74.0 |
| 1999 | 72.7 | 75.2 | 74.3 | 74.2 | 74.9 |
| 2000 | 73.2 | 75.7 | 75.1 | 74.9 | 75.4 |
| 2001 | 73.4 | 76.1 | 75.4 | 75.3 | 75.8 |
| 2002 | 73.4 | 76.2 | 75.8 | 75.5 | 75.9 |
| 2003 | 73.8 | 76.4 | 75.5 | 76.0 | 76.1 |
| 2004[1] | 74.2 | 76.8 | 76.0 | 76.1 | 76.5 |
| *Females* | | | | | |
| 1980 | 75.2 | 76.8 | 76.2 | 75.0 | 76.6 |
| 1981 | 75.4 | 77.1 | 76.4 | 75.9 | 76.9 |
| 1982 | 75.3 | 77.2 | 76.6 | 75.7 | 77.0 |
| 1983 | 75.7 | 77.5 | 76.8 | 76.4 | 77.2 |

*Period life expectancy at birth by country and selected year*

*Years*

| | *Scotland* | *England* | *Wales* | *Northern Ireland* | *United Kingdom* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1984 | 75.9 | 77.8 | 77.5 | 76.9 | 77.6 |
| 1985 | 75.8 | 77.6 | 77.2 | 76.8 | 77.4 |
| 1990 | 76.9 | 78.7 | 78.7 | 77.9 | 78.5 |
| 1991 | 77.1 | 78.8 | 78.8 | 78.4 | 78.6 |
| 1992 | 77.3 | 79.2 | 78.9 | 78.9 | 79.0 |
| 1993 | 77.0 | 79.0 | 78.7 | 78.4 | 78.8 |
| 1994 | 77.7 | 79.5 | 79.2 | 78.8 | 79.3 |
| 1995 | 77.7 | 79.4 | 78.9 | 78.8 | 79.2 |
| 1999 | 78.2 | 80.0 | 79.4 | 79.2 | 79.8 |
| 2000 | 78.6 | 80.4 | 80.0 | 79.8 | 80.2 |
| 2001 | 78.8 | 80.7 | 80.1 | 80.3 | 80.5 |
| 2002 | 78.9 | 80.8 | 80.2 | 80.3 | 80.6 |
| 2003 | 78.9 | 80.7 | 80.2 | 80.6 | 80.5 |
| 2004[1] | 79.3 | 81.1 | 80.6 | 80.6 | 80.9 |

[1] Figures for years up to and including 2003 are based on actual data; figures for 2004 are based on projected data.

## Ministry of Defence (Funding)

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his plans for funding to the Ministry of Defence are over the next five years. [12567]

**Mr. Des Browne:** The Governments Spending Review 2004 published spending plans for the Ministry of Defence from 2004–05 to 2007–08. Spending plans for subsequent years will be published in the next Spending Review. The net additional costs of military operations are met in full from the Reserve.

## PFI Initiatives

**Adam Price:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 11 July 2005 to question reference 11365, if he will list the private finance initiative schemes undertaken since 1997 which have been classed as on the public sector balance sheet. [12825]

**John Healey:** I refer to the answer given by the former Chief Secretary to the Treasury (Paul Boateng) to the Member for Arundel and South Downs (Mr. Flight) on 5 January 2004, *Official Report*, column 165W.

## Stamp Duty Returns

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many stamp duty land tax returns were made in the year ended 31 March 2005 in respect of transactions the value of which was below the stamp duty land tax threshold. [12024]

**John Healey:** The latest quarterly figures for the number of transactions in England, Wales and Northern Ireland in 2004–05, which were not liable to stamp duty land tax, on account of falling below the stamp duty land tax threshold, will be published on 21 July on the HMRC website at http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/survey_of_prop/table16-5.pdf.

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many penalties for failure to complete stamp duty land tax returns correctly and on time have been issued since the form was introduced; and what percentage of those penalties have subsequently been rescinded. [12047]

**John Healey:** Approximately 67,000 late filing penalty notices have been issued. Over the same period over 2.6 million returns have been received. Penalty notices are issued where SDLT returns are received more than 30 days after the effective date of the relevant transaction.

A person can appeal against a late filing penalty if they believe that they have a 'reasonable excuse' for filing a return late. Guidance on HMRC's view of what constitutes a 'reasonable excuse' is contained in the leaflet 'Penalties for late land transaction returns' (SD7), which is available on the HMRC website at http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/leaflets/sd7.pdf. We issue a leaflet to each customer covering this information with their Penalty Notice. A figure for the number of cases where it is accepted that there is a 'reasonable excuse' is not available.

## Tax Credits

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people were employed in the administration of tax credits for each quarter from 2003 Q1 to 2005 Q2; and if he will make a statement. [8571]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Information is not available on a quarterly basis.

The number of staff employed in 2003–04 can be found at paragraph 2.2 of the Comptroller and Auditor General's Report for 2003–04 which can be found in the Board's Annual Report at: http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/pdfs/report2004.pdf.

Around 8,200 staff were employed in 2004–05.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many tax credit interim payments were sent out in *(a)* 2003–04, *(b)* 2004–05 and *(c)* 2005–06 to date; what their total value was in each case; and if he will make a statement. [8585]

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many emergency payments have been made by the Inland Revenue tax credits administration in each year since 2000; what the total value was of those emergency payments; and whether the payments were made by (i) cheque, (ii) direct payment and (iii) cash. [10277]

**Mr. Frank Field:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many and what value of giro cheque payments made to tax credit claimants were not made via the tax credit computer in each month in *(a)* 2003–04, *(b)* 2004–05 and *(c)* April to June 2005. [11913]

**Dawn Primarolo:** For interim payments made in 2003–04 I refer the hon. Members to page 125 of the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General 2003–04, which can be found in the Board's Annual Report at http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/pdfs/report2004.pdf.

A breakdown of the interim payments made in 2004–05 and 2005–06 could be made available only at disproportionate cost.

Emergency payments are made by girocheque either in person at a HMRC Enquiry Centre or by post to the taxpayer.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many Customs and Revenue staff were employed in dealing with tax credit *(a)* over-payments, *(b)* appeals and *(c)* complaints in each quarter from Q1 2002 to Q2 2005; and if he will make a statement. [9294]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Quarterly information for the period concerned is not available.

In respect of *(a)* , I refer the hon. Gentleman to my answer of 7 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 623W, to the hon. Member for Tatton (Mr. Osborne). For *(c)*, I refer to the answer I gave the hon. Gentlemen on 6 July 2005, *Official Report*, columns 436–7W. On *(b)*, the full-time equivalent of around 160 staff were working on tax credit appeals at 28 May 2005.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what estimate he has made of the take-up rate of working tax credit; [12392]

(2) what proportion of working families with children are receiving tax credits; and if he will make a statement. [12407]

**Dawn Primarolo:** I refer the hon. Member to my reply to him of 4 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 95W. Please note, however, that the figure for the average number of families benefiting from child and working tax credits in 2003–04 given in that answer should have been 5.7 million and not 5.5 million.

### Tax Returns

**Dr. Cable:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what measures he has taken to encourage individuals to file their self assessment tax returns on time; and how much has been spent on such measures in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [12647]

**Dawn Primarolo:** HMRC (Inland Revenue to April 2005) has taken a number of steps to encourage individuals to file their self-assessment tax returns on time, including:

extensive media campaigns, involving TV, radio, billboards, railway/tube and newspaper advertisements;

advertising campaigns designed to promote e-filing;

increased press advertising in January, specifically aimed at the construction industry and self-employed;

national pro-active telephony campaign to remind those at highest risk of filing late about the deadline and pointing them towards help;

issuing reminder "inserts" with Class 2 NIC quarterly bills (October and January);

raising awareness among agents with publicity in the Department's Tax Bulletin publication;

using the Department's network of local radio broadcasters to promote the deadline message;

local newspaper press releases to advertise inquiry centre opening times around the filing deadline;

front-line staff reminding people about the deadline in day-to-day contact with customers.

On the cost of the measures for the years 2000 to 2004, I refer the hon. Member back to the answers given to him on 19 November 2003, *Official Report*, column 1093W, and to the hon. Member for West Dorset on 5 January 2004.

The figure for media costs for self-assessment for 2004–05 was £7.5 million, inclusive of VAT.

### Policy Costings

**Dr. Cable:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what costings of *(a)* Liberal Democrat and *(b)* Conservative party policies his Department has (i) undertaken, (ii) co-ordinated in the previous 12 months and (iii) advised upon in the previous 12 months. [7000]

**Mr. Des Browne:** I refer to the hon. Member to HM Treasury's website: www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/about/information/foi_disclosures/foi_disclosures_index.cfm

## HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

### Air Conditioning (Portcullis House)

**Norman Baker:** To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how much energy on average was used to power the air-conditioning in Portcullis House in the last period for which figures are available. [12644]

**Nick Harvey:** The electricity used for the mechanical ventilation in Portcullis House is not measured separately from other consumption in the building. Electricity is not used to power chillers.

### Lighting

**Norman Baker:** To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what percentage of *(a)* external and *(b)* internal lights within the House estate are (i) movement-activated and (ii) activated by a particular degree of darkness; [12643]

**Nick Harvey:** Around 10 per cent. of the internal areas in the House of Commons parts of the Palace of Westminster, the Norman Shaw buildings, 1 Canon Row, and 7 Millbank have movement-activated lights. In Portcullis House, 1 Parliament Street and 1 Derby Gate there are sophisticated time switch controls. External lights generally are on seasonally adjusted time switch control.

### Office Accommodation

**Mr. Andrew Turner:** To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what area of office accommodation is occupied by *(a)* hon. Members, *(b)* their staff and *(c)* each department of the House for each building of the Parliamentary estate. [12649]

**Nick Harvey:** The following table shows the information sought in relation to offices over the estate as a whole. I will write to the hon. Member with details broken down by each building when this information has been assembled.

| Office occupiers | Area (Sq m) |
|---|---|
| Members | 20,400 |
| Members' staff | 7,500 |
| Clerk's Department | 5,450 |
| Hansard | 1,600 |
| Department of Finance and Administration | 2,050 |
| Serjeant at Arms' Department | 7,950 |
| Library offices | 2,300 |
| Refreshment Department offices | 700 |

### Records

**Mr. Andrew Turner:** To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what records are kept of *(a)* use of security passes, *(b)* telephone calls made and *(c)* emails sent and received by (i) hon. Members, (ii) their staff and (iii) staff of the House; who has access to such records; for how long; and under what conditions such access is maintained in each case. [12648]

**Nick Harvey:** In respect of both Members and staff, the pass system is capable of supplying data on the electronic use of security passes. Such a report would only be produced at the request of the Serjeant at Arms or the Metropolitan police. The records are kept indefinitely. No record is kept of telephone numbers called. Email records are kept for three months after an item has been deleted. The policy on access to those to or from staff of the House is outlined in the Staff Handbook. Emails to and from Members would not normally be accessed and those to and from Members' staff only with permission of the Member concerned.

## TRADE AND INDUSTRY

### Arms Exports/Trade

**Andrew George:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what recent assessment he has made of whether the ultimate end destination of arms exported from the UK meets the provisions of the Export Control Act 2002. [9950]

**Malcolm Wicks** *[holding answer 5 July 2005]:* The Government are satisfied that all licences issued authorising the export from the UK of strategic goods are fully consistent with the provisions of the Export Control Act 2002. In line with Section 9 of that Act, all export licence applications are assessed against the consolidated EU and National Arms Export Licensing Criteria, which require specific consideration under Criterion 7 of the 'existence of a risk that the equipment will be diverted within the buyer country or re-exported under undesirable conditions'. When making our licensing assessment we take full account of the equipment's potential end-use and destination as well as the stated end-use and destination.

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what proportion of UK exports of goods and services was made up from sales of arms in each of the last 10 years; and what proportion was made up of sales of arms to developing countries. [10431]

**Alan Michael:** Information on the proportion of UK exports accounted for by arms is given in the following table:

*UK exports of arms as a percentage of total exports of goods and services 1995 to 2004*

| | UK exports of goods and services | Total UK exports of arms including aerospace equipment | UK exports of arms developing countries[1] excluding aerospace equipment |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1995 | 100.0 | 2.3 | n/a |
| 1996 | 100.0 | 2.8 | n/a |
| 1997 | 100.0 | 2.9 | 0.9 |
| 1998 | 100.0 | 2.6 | 0.4 |
| 1999 | 100.0 | 1.8 | 0.2 |
| 2000 | 100.0 | 1.7 | 0.2 |
| 2001 | 100.0 | 1.5 | 0.1 |
| 2002 | 100.0 | 1.5 | 0.1 |
| 2003 | 100.0 | 1.6 | 0.2 |
| 2004 | 100.0 | n/a | 0.2 |

n/a = Not available.
[1] OECD definition of developing countries
*Source:*
National Statistics, Monthly Review of External Trade Statistics
Ministry of Defence, DASA

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what *(a)* reports and *(b)* representations (i) he and (ii) his officials have received concerning the possible involvement of UK-based companies in the transportation of arms and ammunition from the Balkans and Eastern Europe to the Great Lakes region of Africa; and if he will make a statement. [10835]

**Malcolm Wicks:** I am aware of Amnesty International's recent report "Democratic Republic of Congo: Arming the East". The incidents described therein were first raised by Amnesty International in 2003, and were investigated by HM Revenue and Customs. Any new evidence of breaches of export controls would be a matter for them to pursue as appropriate.

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will undertake an investigation into the activities in respect of the transport of arms to the Democratic Republic of Congo, by African International Airways, Italia Ltd. and Platinum Air Cargo; and if he will make a statement. [10836]

**Malcolm Wicks:** Investigations into alleged breaches of UK export controls are a matter for Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) as the investigating authority.

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what plans he has to review his policy on the export of firearms. [11202]

**Malcolm Wicks:** None. The new controls introduced under the Export Control Act 2002 only recently completed their implementation, on 1 May 2004, and included new controls on the trafficking and brokering of firearms.

### BNFL

**Paul Flynn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry on what date the £575 million loan to BNFL was agreed; for what purpose it was made; and what conditions were set down for its re-payment. [10778]

**Malcolm Wicks:** As part of the balance sheet restructuring of BNFL, the company issued a £575 million debenture on 1 April 2005 to DTI under the direction of my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State made under the Energy Act. Its principal purpose is to provide a mechanism to return cash to the shareholder. The debenture pays 7.5 per cent. interest and interest payments start in December 2006.

**Paul Flynn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what information he has received from BNFL about proposals for AMEC to buy its British Nuclear Group subsidiary. [10813]

**Malcolm Wicks** *[holding answer 12 July 2005]:* For reasons of commercial confidentiality, it would not be appropriate for me to reveal whether any company has or has not approached BNFL or the Department about acquiring British Nuclear Group.

### British National Space Centre

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the main objectives are of the British National Space Centre (BNSC) and what assessment has been made of expenditure by the BNSC funding partners to achieve these objectives. [12542]

**Malcolm Wicks:** The UK Space Strategy 2003–06 prepared by the BNSC set out three objectives;

enhancing the UK's standing in astronomy, planetary and environmental sciences;

stimulating increased productivity by promoting the use of space in Government, science and commerce; and

developing innovative space systems, to deliver sustainable improvement in the quality of life.

The National Audit Office in its report on UK civil space activities published in March 2004 concluded that the BNSC partnership approach is cost effective and made recommendations on project funding, risk assessment and performance monitoring. BNSC have taken steps to implement these recommendations. The Public Accounts Committee also published its report on 9 June 2005. The Government will respond in due course by a Treasury Minute.

### Carbon Sequestration

**Mr. Salmond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment he has made of the potential for carbon sequestration in the Scottish sector of the North sea as defined by the Civil Jurisdiction (Offshore Activities) Order 1987. [10977]

**Malcolm Wicks** *[holding answer 11 July 2005]:* No assessment has yet been made on the potential for carbon storage in the Scottish sector of the North sea although the British Geological Survey's estimate of storage in the UK sector as a whole is 755 Giga tonnes $CO_2$. More information can be found in the DTI's report "Review of the Feasibility of Carbon Dioxide Capture and Storage in the UK", published in September 2003 and available on the DTI website at

http://www.dti.gov.uk/energy/coal/cfft/co2capture/review.pdf.

### Correspondence

**Mr. Salmond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry when he will reply to the letter dated 12 May from the hon. Member for Banff and Buchan regarding his constituent Mr. J. McGee of Peterhead. [10987]

**Alan Johnson** *[holding answer 12 July 2005]:* The letter from the hon. Member was misdirected within the Department.

The letter has now been redirected to the correct officials for advice and will be responded to as soon as possible. Please accept my apologies for the delay.

### Crude Oil Production

**John Hemming:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what estimate the Department has made of when global production of conventional crude oil will peak. [11302]

**Malcolm Wicks:** The Government's assessment of the remaining lifespan of global oil reserves is set out in the Energy White Paper 2003 "Our energy future—creating a low carbon economy" (http://www.dti.gov.uk/energy/whitepaper/index.shtml). Paragraph 6.15 of the White Paper notes that,

"Globally, conventional oil reserves are sufficient to meet projected demand for around 30 years, although new discoveries will be needed to renew reserves. Together with non-conventional reserves such as oil shales and improvements in technology, there is the potential for oil reserves to last twice as long".

This is consistent with the latest assessment by the International Energy Agency (IEA) in its 2004 World Energy Outlook. The IEA concludes that

"... global production of conventional oil will not peak before 2030 if the necessary investments are made."

The Government remain committed to working with producers, consumers and the international community to improve the conditions for investment in the international oil sector, as well as implementing policies to maximise the economic recovery of the UK's own oil (and gas) reserves and to ease the UK economy away from power supplied primarily through fossil fuel supply. We are also supporting efforts to promote greater transparency in reporting of global oil reserves.

### Departmental Expenditure

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how much the Department has spent on organising or sponsoring conferences in each of the last five years. [10247]

**Alan Johnson:** The Department does not maintain a central register of conferences organised or sponsored. Responsibility for such conferences rests with individual business units in DTI and therefore this information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. The Department is therefore unable to provide the figures requested.

### Departmental Officials/Staff

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will place in the Library the entry requirements for a *(a)* Range 3 and *(b)* Range 4 official in his Department. [10883]

**Alan Johnson:** The entry requirements for Range 3 and Range 4 officials in my department are: a minimum of five GCSE grade C passes or above including English Language and Mathematics, or equivalent qualifications, or NVQ Business Administration level 2 or an equivalent NVQ level 2 with relevance to office work and containing an assessment or examination in English language, or at least three years' work experience in a comparable position.

This information is published in the application process each time my Department recruits for Range 3 and Range 4 officials. It can also be found, together with additional information about employment terms and conditions, on my Department's website www.dti.gov.uk/opportunities

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many full-time equivalents have worked for the Department for each of the last five financial years for which figures are available. [11526]

**Alan Johnson:** I refer the hon. Member to table C of civil service statistics 2004 which is available on the internet at:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/management_information/statistical_information/statistics/publications/xls/report_2004/table_c.xls

This table shows the numbers of staff by department and agency between 1998 and 2004, on a full-time equivalent basis. Copies of civil service statistics are also available in the Libraries of the House.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many staff in each Directorate, work at least one day per week from home, broken down by grade. [10526]

**Alan Johnson:** Our data is limited as many flexible working patterns, including working from home, are negotiated locally. However, our staff survey shows that 78 per cent. of staff state that their managers allow working patterns including working at home to help them balance work and home life.

The department introduced a flexible working policy in 2002, including full guidance for managers and staff to ensure that new ways of working (including home working) are available to all individuals in all Directorates and all grades, and that the benefits to stakeholders, customers, managers and staff are maximised.

## Energy Security

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what his policy is on energy security. [11580]

**Malcolm Wicks:** Maintaining reliable supplies of energy is one of four main goals of energy policy set out in the Energy White Paper, published in February of last year.

The White Paper re-affirmed our commitment to a market-based system for maintaining security of supply. It also stated that the Government will not intervene in the market except in extreme circumstances, such as to avert, as a last resort, a potentially serious risk to safety.

Under section 172 of the Energy Act 2004, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State is required to report annually to Parliament on security of supply. The first report will be published later this month.

## Export Control Organisation

**Malcolm Bruce:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry with which private sector organisations ASE Consulting held exploratory discussions in relation to the business opportunity in running the Export Control Organisation. [11307]

**Malcolm Wicks:** ASE Consulting approached three organisations and held discussions with two. The Department does not hold information on which parties were approached.

**Malcolm Bruce:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry pursuant to the answer of 4 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 54W, on the Export Control Organisation, which external organisations provided a view on an informal basis. [11615]

**Malcolm Wicks:** Informal discussions in relation to the Review were held with representatives from the Defence Manufacturer's Association, the Export Group for Aerospace and Defence and BAE Systems.

## Hiatt Handcuffs

**Miss Kirkbride:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry whether Hiatt handcuffs have any current export licences for oversize handcuffs to *(a)* the US and *(b)* elsewhere. [10856]

**Malcolm Wicks:** This is commercially confidential information and as such is exempt from disclosure. Summary information on the goods licensed to each destination is however published in the Government's Annual and Quarterly Reports on Strategic Export Controls which are available from the Libraries of the House and the Export Control Organisation website www.dti.gov.uk/export.control respectively. The goods summary in question is "handcuffs".

Particular scrutiny is given to every application to export oversized handcuffs to assess the risk of there being use as leg irons.

## Hydro Power

**Mr. Gray:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many micro generators using hydro power contribute to the main grid. [12664]

**Malcolm Wicks:** 239 small-scale (i.e. with a capacity below 5MW) hydro generators accounted for 184MW of installed generation capacity at the end of 2004. It is not clear how much of this capacity is exported to the distribution network, rather than consumed by the generator, as the number will change on a daily basis according to the level of demand by the generator themselves and the total electricity generated on a given day.

**Mr. Gray:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what electricity price is guaranteed to microgenerators using converted water mills; and for how long their price is guaranteed. [12666]

**Malcolm Wicks:** The levels of electricity generated by a converted water mill will vary according to the size of the installation, the flow of the water and other such factors. There is no price guarantee for the electricity exported to the distribution network. Any payment for this electricity will be subject to agreement between the relevant distribution network operator and the generator.

Electricity generated by converted water mills will be eligible under the Renewables Obligation allowing generators to claim Renewable Obligation Certificates.

**Mr. Gray:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what estimate he has made of the capital cost of converting a water mill to microgeneration. [12667]

**Malcolm Wicks:** The cost of converting a water mill to become a microgeneration station depends heavily on the site in question and the size of the scheme. A study by BSD Ltd. in September 2002 suggests that schemes typically cost anything between £1,000 and £3,000 per installed kW, and much more than this for small domestic scale schemes. My Department has recently put out a tender for some research that will look at the costs and benefits of all forms of microgeneration including micro-hydro.

**Mr. Gray:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will make a statement on the economic viability of microgeneration using converted water mills. [12668]

**Malcolm Wicks:** The economic viability of converted water mills acting as microgenerators depends on many different factors—the cost of the conversion, the generating capacity of the installation, the actual output of the generating station, agreement with the relevant distribution network operator on tariff for any electricity exported, etc.

My Department has recently put out a tender for some research to look at the costs and benefits of all forms of micro generation including micro-hydro. This study will feed into work on the Government's strategy for the promotion of microgeneration which will be published next year.

### International Trade Advisers

**Mr. Arbuthnot:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many international trade advisers are employed by regional development authorities; and if he will make a statement. [10485]

**Ian Pearson:** International Trade Advisers are not employed by Regional Development Agencies. They are funded by UK Trade and Investment, which acts as the RDAs' International Trade arm, and are employed by local providers of business support services (mostly Business Link Operators). In the 2005–06 financial year, UK Trade and Investment is making funding available for a network of 282 International Trade Advisers across the nine English regions.

### Liquid Natural Gas (Equatorial Guinea)

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment he has made of the potential for Equatorial Guinea to supply liquid natural gas to the UK. [12190]

**Malcolm Wicks:** We have not made a specific assessment of the Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) potential in Equatorial Guinea, although we are aware that the development of the LNG sector offers greater opportunity for the export of such natural gas reserves. The sourcing of gas supplies from overseas is a matter for commercial operators who have every incentive to make their own assessment of the merits of supplies from different countries.

### Lost/Stolen Goods

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will list the items reported within his Department as being lost or stolen, together with the approximate value of each item, in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [10520]

**Alan Johnson:** I refer the hon. Member for Southend, West to the answer given to the hon. Member for Tatton (Mr. Osborne) on 10 January 2005, *Official Report*, column 146W, for items reported lost and stolen each year until end 2005.

The latest figures reported for 2005 are:

| *Description* | *Number reported missing* |
|---|---|
| Laptop | 14 |
| Flat screen | 0 |
| Mobile phone | 11 |
| Handheld computers | 1 |
| Desk computer | 1 |
| Multimedia | 8 |
| Laptop accessories | 0 |
| Mobile phone accessories | 2 |
| Handheld computers accessories | 0 |
| Communication accessories | 0 |
| Computer peripherals | 2 |
| Consumables | 9 |
| Personal effects | 20 |
| Cash | 12 |
| Total | 80 |

The Department's records do not differentiate between items reported lost or stolen, or those belonging to the Department or individuals. The value of the reported losses for 2005 was not recorded.

### Luneside Link

**Geraldine Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the Luneside Link, as referred to in the context of the Northern Route (Heysham/M6 link) in the North West Development Agency Regeneration and Economic Development Assessment Final Report of January 2005, is. [12654]

**Alun Michael:** The Regeneration and Economic Development Assessment Final Report states that the Luneside link is a proposed new bridge across the River Lune, linking Morecambe Road and the quayside at Luneside West regeneration area. It also states that the link would provide a new river crossing, bypassing the railway 'barrier' and the residential areas to the east.

### Manufacturing

**Mr. Crabb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what steps he is taking to prevent UK manufacturing jobs being relocated to countries where labour costs are lower. [12472]

**Alun Michael:** The Government want a successful manufacturing sector in this country and naturally we would like to keep as many jobs in the UK as possible. However it is not our policy to intervene in the location decisions of private companies. The Government's manufacturing strategy focuses on helping companies to meet the challenge from countries with low labour costs by moving to high value, high skill manufacturing. In addition UK trade and investment seeks to encourage foreign direct investment which in 2004 created/safeguarded over 38,000 manufacturing jobs.

### MG Rover

**Charles Hendry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry on what date his Department was first informed of the financial difficulties facing MG Rover; and on what date *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department first entered into discussions with executives at MG Rover. [5869]

**Ian Pearson:** From the time that BMW sold the company it was always clear that MG Rover would need to find a partner if it was to be successful in the long-term. From its regular contact with the company (primarily at official level), the Department was aware that the need was becoming more pressing as time went on.

MG Rover made a request for a bridging loan facility from the Government at a meeting on 21 February 2005.

**Charles Hendry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will make a statement on his Department's discussions with *(a)* MG Rover management executives and *(b)* representatives of the Shanghai Automotive Industry Corporation in the month of (i) January, (ii) February, (iii) March, (iv) April and (v) May. [9357]

**Ian Pearson** *[holding answer 4 July 2005]:* Clearly the period between January and April was one where important decisions were being taken by MG Rover's management and Shanghai Automotive Industry Corporation (SAIC). Consequently DTI Ministers and officials had a number of discussions with MG Rover management and SAIC although I can confirm the Department has had no discussions with either during May.

**Charles Hendry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Birmingham, Yardley (John Hemming) of 6 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 308W, on MG Rover, if he will list the strict criteria under which the bridging loan facility was to be provided. [9643]

**Ian Pearson** *[holding answer 4 July 2005]:* The fundamental points on which the Government would have required satisfaction before making a bridging loan facility available were confidence that the deal with SAIC would proceed and that the facility would have been repaid in full as a result. Any loan would have been secured against available assets and borne a commercial rate of interest.

The formulation of the detailed criteria was, however, integral to the policy making process and their release in full would not be in the public interest.

**Charles Hendry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry on what date the Government first received a request for a bridging loan to aid the completion of a commercial deal to help secure the future of MG Rover. [9677]

**Ian Pearson:** The Government received a letter from John Towers on 15 March 2005 formally requesting a loan until completion of the deal with SAIC. An oral request was made in a meeting between Kevin Howe and officials on 21 February.

### Miners' Compensation

**Paul Farrelly:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how much compensation has been paid so far to claimants from Newcastle-under-Lyme for coal mining industrial injuries. [9744]

**Malcolm Wicks:** As at 31 May 2005, £6 million had been paid for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and £3.8 million for vibration white finger.

**Paul Farrelly:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how much has been paid by his Department in fees to each firm of solicitors dealing with coal mining industrial injury compensation under the British Coal Claims Handling Agreement; how many *(a)* claims have been made and *(b)* cases have been settled by each firm; and how much has been paid out in compensation through each firm. [9905]

**Malcolm Wicks:** A table containing the requested information entitled "Claim receipts, settlements, damages and costs paid (COPD/VWF) by solicitor" has been placed in the Libraries of the House.

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many medicals for *(a)* chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, *(b)* vibration white finger and *(c)* hearing loss have taken place at the Union of Democratic Mineworkers' office, Berry Hill, Mansfield since 1999; and at what cost to his Department. [10459]

**Malcolm Wicks:** 7,714 medicals in total in relation to vibration white finger have taken place at Berry Hill, Mansfield since 1999. This figure excludes the pilot examinations that took place up to 1 September 1999. The Department's claims handlers do not record how many chronic obstructive pulmonary disease or hearing loss medicals have taken place at individual centres. The Department therefore is unable to assess the total cost of the medicals undertaken at Berry Hill.

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what processes are in place to ensure that deceased claims under the miners compensation scheme are submitted by genuine relatives. [10460]

**Malcolm Wicks:** The Department's Claims Handlers (Capita) will only issue settlement payments under the schemes once they are in receipt of the appropriate documentation (Grant of Probate/Letters of Administration)

showing the legal beneficiary of a deceased miner's claim. At the onset of a claim it is the responsibility of the solicitors registering the case to ensure the person they are representing will ultimately be the entitled beneficiary of any compensation.

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many appeals to medical examinations have been *(a)* pursued and *(b)* accepted since 1999 under the Miners Compensation Scheme. [10492]

**Malcolm Wicks:** Since 1 January 1999, 44,154 appeals relating to respiratory disease medical examinations and 4,182 appeals relating to vibration white finger medical examinations have been lodged. The number of successful appeals is not recorded separately but incorporated into all claims in which revised offers have been issued. Therefore, this figure is not available.

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what verification process is used for the results of medical examinations under the Miners Compensation Scheme, for *(a)* the Government and *(b)* the claimant; and how often this process has been used. [10493]

**Malcolm Wicks:** For both chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and vibration white finger, the medical contractors have well developed clinical governance processes in place to assure the medical quality of the work undertaken. The quality of the reports is verified by trained medical auditors using a defined audit process of statistically valid sample cases. In addition, an independent Medical Reference Panel undertake a quality review, each month, on a number of completed medical reports. Members of the Medical Reference Panel are jointly appointed by the Department and the Claimants' Solicitor Group. Finally, a clerical audit is completed on every medical report. These quality assurance and verification processes safeguard both the claimant and the Department but the claimant also has redress through a disputes procedure.

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the average settlement *(a)* to the claimant and *(b)* in solicitors' and medical fees was for coal health claims relating to deafness settled by his Department in the last year for which figures are available. [10723]

**Malcolm Wicks** *[holding answer 11 July 2005]:* Noise Induced Hearing Loss Claims are not handled under a specific scheme. There are two types of claim, one settled under the Iron Trade Tariff and the other through Common Law. The average settlement under the Iron Trade Tariff for claimants is approximately £1,500 with costs and disbursements ranging from £485 to £800 + VAT. Claims under Common Law have an average settlement of between £3,000 and £3,500. Costs paid are negotiated and can range from £2,000 to £4,000.

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry which claims handlers have been referred by the Coal Health Claims Unit to the Corporate Governance Unit for investigation. [10724]

**Malcolm Wicks** *[holding answer 11 July 2005]:* No such referrals have been made.

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many requests were made to his Department to investigate coal health claims handlers through the Department's Corporate Governance Unit in *(a)* 2003 and *(b)* 2004. [10725]

**Malcolm Wicks** *[holding answer 11 July 2005]:* No such requests have been received.

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will suspend payments of fees to the Union of Democratic Mineworkers and Vendside in respect of coal health claims; and if he will make a statement. [10794]

**Malcolm Wicks:** I refer my hon. Friend to my written statement to the House of 30 June 2005, *Official Report*, columns 66–68WS.

### National Gas Transmission System Reinforcements

**Mr. Roger Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will publish the environmental impact assessment that has been made on the gas pipeline serving the National Gas Transmission System Reinforcements. [12132]

**Malcolm Wicks:** Under the Gas Transporter Pipe-line Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 1999 the environmental impact assessment for a proposed pipeline is made available to the public by the developer. A copy of it is also made available for public inspection at the premises of the relevant local planning authority.

**Mr. Roger Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what discussions he has had with colleagues in the National Assembly for Wales on the structure of planning decisions relating to the pipelines serving the National Gas Transmission System Reinforcements. [12133]

**Malcolm Wicks:** I have had no discussions with ministerial colleagues in the Welsh Assembly Government on the decisions making mechanism for these pipelines.

**Mr. Roger Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will make a statement on the impact of the proposed National Gas Transmission System Reinforcements on the environment. [12134]

**Malcolm Wicks:** The environmental impact of a proposed gas pipeline is something to be properly probed in the consideration of any application for consent under the Gas Transporter Pipe-line Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 1999.

### Non-polluting Energy Technologies

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what steps he is taking to promote fuel-cell and other non-polluting technologies in tackling climate change. [11581]

**Malcolm Wicks:** Fuel cells are still mainly at the pre-commercial stage. Significant cost reductions and increased durability will be required in order for them to be competitive with existing technologies, particularly for transport applications. The Department supports industrial collaborative research and development of

fuel cells under the DTI Technology Programme. On 14 June 2005 I announced additional funding of £15 million over four years to cover fuel cell and hydrogen demonstrations, part of a £40 million package which also included carbon abatement technologies.

DTI also provides support for a range of other non-polluting technologies through the DTI Technology Programme and various capital grant programmes.

### North West Development Agency

**Geraldine Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many North West Development Agency vision boards there are in the North West Region. [10157]

**Alun Michael:** The North West Development Agency has encouraged the establishment of three local vision boards in the North West—Burnley, Lancaster and Preston.

An important function of the NWDA is to provide leadership and encourage partnership working in delivery of the Regional Economic Strategy (RES). Across the Region, partnerships' capacity to properly engage in this varies greatly, particularly in securing private sector input. In key urban areas facing change, these vision boards are intended to provide dynamic, innovative and visionary support and advice for the development of local economic growth plans with a strong private sector input. They work closely with their relevant local authority and the relevant Local Strategic Partnership.

**Geraldine Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how much Government funding has been provided for the vision boards set up by the North West Development Agency. [10159]

**Alun Michael:** The North West Development Agency has encouraged the establishment of three local vision boards in the north-west Burnley, Lancaster and Preston.

The NWDA has contributed the following amounts to enhance the capacity of the vision boards to steer and influence the development of economic regeneration plans; to support master-planning and to research the local economy:

*Total 2005–06 to 2007–08*

| *Vision board* | *£000* |
|---|---|
| Preston | 207 |
| Lancaster | 200 |
| Burnley | 178 |

### Nuclear Power

**Mr. Ian Austin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will publish the Board of Inquiry report on the Thermal Oxide Reprocessing Plant at Sellafield. [12620]

**Malcolm Wicks:** The internal Board of Inquiry report on the incident at the Thermal Oxide Reprocessing Plant (Thorp) was published by British Nuclear Group and is available on their website at www.britishnuclargroup.com.

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment he has made of the likelihood of further plant failures at Thorp. [11266]

**Malcolm Wicks** *[holding answer 11 July 2005]:* The Nuclear Decommissioning Authority is preparing advice on the options for the future of Thorp. That advice will include an assessment of the likelihood of further failure of the plant.

### Patent Act

**Mr. Forth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the commencement date is for the part of the Patent Act 2004 relating to post-grant amendments. [11969]

**Alan Johnson:** The part of the Patents Act 2004 relating to post-grant amendment is one of several provisions which will bring UK patents legislation into line with the revised European Patent Convention ("EPC"). All such provisions will be brought into force at the same time as the revised EPC itself comes into force, which is desirable in order to maintain consistency between the UK and European patents systems. It is uncertain exactly when this will be, because the revised EPC takes effect 2 years after the 15th state has ratified or acceded, or (if earlier) three months after the final state has ratified or acceded. At present I understand that 14 states have done so, and therefore that the revised EPC, and the corresponding provisions in the 2004 Act, are very unlikely to take effect until mid-2007 at the earliest.

### Refurbishment Costs

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the cost was of refurbishing 1 Victoria Street; and if he will make a statement. [10521]

**Alan Johnson:** The refurbishment of 1 Victoria Street is a key part of the Department's two roof programme to rationalise its central London estate and will allow the Department to reduce its accommodation by approximately 30 per cent. The cost of the recently completed phase 1 of the programme covering the majority of the building is approximately £12 million and has resulted in the release of accommodation in four other London buildings which will generate long term savings of £7.7million annually.

### Renewable Energy

**Mr. Salmond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (1) what consultation preceded the decision to allow large hydro generators to downrate their plant below 20 MW to qualify for accreditation for renewables obligations certificates where turbine refurbishment had taken place; and if he will make a statement; [12517]

(2) whether the decision on allowing new or refurbished hydro plant below 20MW to qualify for renewables obligations certificates was made *(a)* before and *(b)* after the end of the public consultation. [12277]

**Malcolm Wicks:** The decision to allow all new and refurbished hydro plant under 20 MW to be eligible for renewables obligation certificates (ROCS) was made after the Renewables Obligation Preliminary

Consultation, published October 2000 and was included within paragraph 2.17 of the Renewables Obligation Statutory Consultation, published August 2001 as:

"The majority of responses to the preliminary consultation supported the exclusion of large scale hydro stations, which were constructed under public ownership. However, concern was expressed by the industry over the age of current stations and the need to refurbish them, and there has also been concern that some potential new developments could not proceed without support. We therefore propose to exclude existing stations with a declared net capacity (DNC) of over 20MW from the Obligation, but to include any station first commissioned after the date of the Order is made, regardless of capacity. We believe that these measures will encourage the refurbishment of existing stations of up to 20MW and will support any future scheme if planning permission can be secured".

**Mr. Salmond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will commission research on the transmission charging regime for generators in Scotland to identify barriers to the development and implementation of renewable and carbon capture and abatement technologies in Scotland. [10300]

**Malcolm Wicks** *[holding answer 7 July 2005]:* Responsibility for approving a transmission charging methodology rests with the independent regulator, Ofgem. Ofgem approved National Grid Company's proposed methodology in February 2005, following extensive consultation with the industry, and a consideration of the environmental impacts of the proposals. The Department commissioned independent consultants to investigate the impact of transmission charges on renewable generation in Scotland. Their report will be published later this summer, alongside the Government's proposals for adjusting transmission charges for renewable generators in a specified area of the North of Scotland.

**Mr. Salmond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry whether the review of the Renewables Obligation scheme has examined *(a)* hydro generators of over 20 MW capacity down-rating plant in order to apply for accreditation by Ofgem for renewables obligations certificates, *(b)* provision of renewables obligations certificates to hydro plant below 20 MW that upgrade to over 20 MW capacity, *(c)* the removal of the 20 MW limit for hydro plant receiving renewables obligations certificates and *(d)* the creation of a specific regime for hydro plant to encourage increases in output from this source. [12260]

**Malcolm Wicks:** I am able to confirm that the current review of the Renewables Obligation has not examined either hydro generators of over 20 MW capacity down-rating plant in order to apply for accreditation by Ofgem for renewables obligations certificates, provision of renewables obligations certificates to hydro plant currently below 20 MW that upgrade to over 20 MW capacity, the removal of the 20 MW limit for hydro plant receiving renewables obligations certificates or, the creation of a specific regime for hydro plant to encourage increases in output from this source.

**Mr. Salmond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will estimate the impact on output from hydro generators of the decision to allow down rating of plant to qualify for renewables obligation certificates; what the output from hydro in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* Scotland was in each year since 1997; and what the public subsidy for hydro per kw/h was in each year since 1997. [12276]

**Malcolm Wicks:** Output (generation) by natural flow hydro for the years 1997–2004 in gigawatt hours is:

| | *UK* | *Scotland* |
|---|---|---|
| 1997 | 4,169 | [1]— |
| 1998 | 5,117 | [1]— |
| 1999 | 5,335 | [1]— |
| 2000 | 5,085 | 4,665 |
| 2001 | 4,055 | 3,737 |
| 2002 | 4,788 | 4,455 |
| 2003 | 3,228 | 2,984 |
| 2004 | 4,930 | [2]— |

[1] Not available.
[2] Not yet available.

**Mr. Salmond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry whether the review of the renewables obligation certificates is investigating the extension of the obligation in some form to cover *(a)* carbon capture and sequestration schemes, *(b)* carbon abatement retro-fit for existing coal and gas fired power stations and *(c)* plant which combines use of bio-mass with existing coal burning to reduce carbon emissions. [12278]

**Malcolm Wicks:** I can confirm that the current consultation of the Renewables Obligation is not looking at either carbon capture and sequestration schemes, carbon abatement retro-fit for existing coal and gas fired power stations or plant which combines use of bio-mass with existing coal burning to reduce carbon emissions.

### Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution

**Mr. Cox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what account he took of the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution's recommendation, in May 2004, that power-only generation should be excluded from Government funding on efficiency grounds in making his decision to support the WINBEG project proposed to be situated in Winkleigh, Devon; what evidence he has evaluated that demonstrates that WINBEG will meet the Department's efficiency criterion; and if he will make a statement. [11698]

**Malcolm Wicks** *[holding answer 13 July 2005]:* The Government responded to the RCEP Report in October 2004, rejecting the recommendation that power-only projects should be excluded from Government funding.

The decision to support the WINBEG project under the Bioenergy Capital Grants Scheme was made in 2003—before the publication of the RCEP Report.

The WINBEG application included an independent engineers report which covered a number of areas, including the conversion efficiency. The application was independently assessed against a published range of criteria.

### Royal Lancashire Show

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how much funding was given via the North West Development Agency (NWDA) to the Royal Lancashire Show in *(a)* 2003, *(b)* 2004 and *(c)* 2005;

what future allocations have been agreed for the Royal Lancashire Show by the NWDA; how the money has been spent; and what audit checks are carried out on the money paid. [13012]

**Alun Michael:** The North West Development Agency made a financial contribution to the Royal Lancashire Show in 2003 through the Rural Development Programme of the Lancashire Rural Recovery Partnership. The programme provided a grant of £32,578 towards marketing costs for the show; the staging of a Lancashire produce event; and supporting elements of additional infrastructure.

Final payment for the grant was not made until satisfactory information on outputs and certified invoices were received, by the Lancashire Rural Recovery Partnership, in March 2004.

The Agency has made no further financial contribution to the show beyond 2003 and no future funding allocations have been made.

### Royal Mail (Misdelivery)

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many complaints were made in each of the last five years to his Department by members of the public about the misdelivery of mail by the Royal Mail; and if he will make a statement. [12284]

**Barry Gardiner:** The Department receives complaints from the public, about Royal Mail services on a regular basis. The Department does not, however, break the correspondence down by type of complaint.

Postwatch is responsible for handling complaints from the public where the complainant is not satisfied with the response he or she has received from Royal Mail.

Postwatch's annual reports contain a detailed breakdown, by type, of the complaints that they receive. Copies of Postwatch reports can be found on their website www.postwatch.co.uk

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many staff employed by Royal Mail were *(a)* charged with and *(b)* convicted of failure to deliver post in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [12285]

**Barry Gardiner:** This is an operational matter for Royal Mail plc and the chief executive has been asked to reply direct to the hon. Member.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many items of mail were delivered to the wrong address by the Royal Mail in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [12286]

**Barry Gardiner:** This is an operational mater for Royal Mail plc. and the Chief Executive has been asked to reply direct to the hon. Member.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many Royal Mail staff were *(a)* charged with and *(b)* convicted of theft of mail in each of the last five years. [12287]

**Barry Gardiner:** This is an operational matter for Royal Mail plc. and the Chief Executive has been asked to reply direct to the hon. Member.

### Security Breaches

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many staff in his Department have *(a)* received official warnings and *(b)* faced disciplinary procedures following breaches of security in each year since 1997. [10528]

**Alan Johnson:** The information is as follows:

| | *Number of warnings issued* | *Other disciplinary penalty imposed* |
|---|---|---|
| 2004 | 7 | 1 |
| 2003 | 11 | 0 |
| 2002 | 7 | 1 |
| 2001 | 8 | 1 |
| 2000 | 7 | 0 |

*Note:*
Figures for years prior to 2000 could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

### Stadco

**Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assistance his Department's Rover Task Force can provide to Stadco in Shrewsbury. [8698]

**Ian Pearson:** The Stadco Group has benefited from the wage replacement scheme established by the MG Rover Taskforce.

The Department and AWM are in discussion with the company but, as the Shrewsbury plant is located outside the assisted area, further assistance is limited by European State Aid rules.

### Stallion Military Vehicles

**Roger Berry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry whether the export of Stallion (4x4), Mark 3 and Mark 4, military vehicles manufactured by Ashok Leyland requires a licence; whether they are classified as category ML6A; and whether Ashok Leyland has ever applied for a rating for these vehicles from the technical assessment unit at the Export Control Organisation. [12030]

**Malcolm Wicks** *[holding answer 14 July 2005]:* From the information available on the company website, it appears these vehicles are specially designed for military use and therefore potentially require an export or trade licence under ML6a of the UK's Military Control list. An export licence would only be required if the goods were exported from the UK, and a trade licence would only be required for the transfer of the goods between third countries if there were some UK involvement, as defined in the relevant legislation. An actual rating and licensing decision will be made on a case by case basis.

It is not our practice to comment on inquiries to ECO by exporters as this is commercial confidential.

### Two Roof Strategy

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will make a statement on his Department's two roof strategy. [10522]

**Alan Johnson:** The two roof programme is a ground breaking change programme to rationalise our central London estate and transform the way we use our workspace. This core element of the DTI's Efficiency Programme offers a new and radical approach to workspace utilisation and will allow the Department to reduce its accommodation by approximately 30 per cent. Starting in 1 Victoria Street, the accommodation is being remodelled as part of a wider change programme to support team based desking in a flexible, open plan working environment on the basis of providing on average eight desks for every 10 people to be accommodated. This has enabled us to increase the capacity of our main HQ building from 1,680 under the original, traditional approach to approximately 2,400 now and to release other buildings on the estate for reuse or disposal. This highly successful change programme will now be applied to the rest of our London accommodation.

### US-UK Technology Transfer

**Mr. Soames:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what steps he is taking to improve technology transfer between the US and the UK. [9391]

**Malcolm Wicks** *[holding answer 4 July 2005]:* DTI has supported the Cambridge Massachusetts Institute of Technology Institute (CMI) in a £65.1 million project which is developing models for university/business collaboration. The Department is committed to evaluating, CMI's work, and is working with CMI and its stakeholders to identify opportunities for CMI to compete for further funds to help sustain and develop its key activities, and to disseminate models for Knowledge Exchange.

In the DTI's Five Year Programme the Government announced its intention to provide £6 million to support new work with high-tech clusters in the US.

### Vision Boards

**Geraldine Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many vision boards have constitutions. [10158]

**Alun Michael:** The local vision boards established so far do not have a formal status, they are informal partnerships. They are expected to establish clear objectives, roles and responsibilities and simple governance and operational arrangements. This is a similar model to that which has successfully served many SRB and other informal partnerships over the years.

### Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive

**Peter Luff:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what definition of electrical waste he uses in relation to implementation of the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive. [11755]

**Malcolm Wicks:** The Government expect to implement the definition of WEEE used in the Directive;

> "'WEEE' means electrical or electronic equipment (EEE) which is waste within the meaning of Article 1*(a)* of Directive 75/442/EEC, including all components, subassemblies and consumables which are part of the product at the time of discarding".

The Directive states that

> "'EEE' means equipment which is dependent on electric currents or electromagnetic fields in order to work properly and equipment for the generation, transfer and measurement of such currents and fields falling under the categories set out in Annex 1A (of the Directive) and designed for use with a voltage rating not exceeding 1,000 Volt for alternating current and 1,500 Volt for direct current".

The scope of EEE covered by the Regulations implementing the WEEE Directive will be as set out in Annex 1B of the Directive.

**Peter Luff:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry whether batteries and battery-operated goods are within the remit of the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive. [11756]

**Malcolm Wicks:** The Government do not consider that batteries are included in the scope of the WEEE Directive. However, a wide range of battery operated electrical and electronic equipment (EEE) is within the scope of the Directive. The Directive provides that where assemblies, such as batteries, are fixed inside EEE when it is discarded, they will be deemed to be part of the equipment.

**Peter Luff:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (1) whether retailers will be required to *(a)* maintain a register of all electronic and electrical items returned to their store and *(b)* insist on the consumer producing the old good before selling a new electrical or electronic product under the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive; [11757]

(2) at what quantity retailers most dispose of their store of returned goods under the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive; and whether this will involve the retailer *(a)* paying for the goods to be collected by a registered disposal firm and *(b)* depositing the goods at a registered collection point; [11759]

(3) what estimate he has made of the costs to retailers of complying with the EU Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive; [11760]

(4) whether his Department has carried out a small business regulatory impact assessment on the proposals for Environment Agency fees relating to the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive; [11761]

(5) what discussions the Department has had with companies retailing electrical and electronic equipment on reducing waste arising from such equipment. [11762]

**Malcolm Wicks:** The WEEE Directive requires that retailers provide free take-back of WEEE they collect in-store. The Government are developing its implementation planning for the Directive in order to offer retailers several options for how they can take back the household WEEE they collect.

The Government obtained flexibility for UK retailers to discharge their obligations under the WEEE Directive. Retailers will have a choice to comply either

by (i) offering take-back services in-store to consumers; or (ii) by showing membership of an approved compliance scheme which will support an alternative national network of facilities for separate collection of household WEEE. This flexibility enables retailers to provide alternatives to the in-store take back provision set out in the Directive. In addition, the Government announced in March this year that it would delay implementation of the Directive to January 2006. The course the Government have taken will provide cost savings to retailers compared to the estimates from the British Retail Consortium (BRC) of £200-£500 million per annum for in-store take back. Ultimately the costs to retailers will depend on the retailer's choice of compliance and the volume of WEEE returned to them. The Government are proposing to implement the WEEE Directive with as little disruption as possible to current retailer practices, while achieving the environmental aims of the Directive.

The Government have had extensive discussions with many retailers on implementation of the Directive. It has encouraged the BRC to develop proposals for a retail compliance scheme to provide a national collection network, including funding upgrades to civic amenity sites' facilities for separate collection of WEEE. The BRC has proposed a fund for a retail compliance scheme of some £8.2 million over the three years to 2008 to upgrade all civic amenity sites in the UK, including funds to maintain the infrastructure over the same period.

Where retailers choose to comply with their obligation by offering in-store take back services, they will be expected to do this on a "one-to-one" basis, as the Directive requires. This means when selling new equipment they will have to take back equipment of a similar type or fulfilling an equivalent function as the new equipment being supplied.

It is not expected that there will be a requirement on retailers to register all items of WEEE collected in this way; or that retailers would have to store WEEE only up to a certain, stipulated quantity.

Retailers choosing to provide in-store take-back services would be expected to store WEEE they collect according to the requirements of the Directive to optimise its potential re-use or recycling and recovery. This should include providing for any necessary storage on hard standing and weather-proofing, as required by the Directive.

The Government published a Regulatory Impact Assessment with its consultation paper of 24 May 2005 on proposed Environment Agency fees related to the WEEE Directive. This is available at: http://www.dti.gov.uk/sustainability/weee/WEEE_fees_RIA.pdf

**Peter Luff:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry whether, under the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive, retailers will be required to store goods returned to them on site. [11758]

**Malcolm Wicks** *[holding answer 12 July 2005]:* The WEEE Directive requires that retailers provide free take-back of WEEE they collect in-store. The Government are developing its implementation planning for the Directive in order to offer retailers several options for how they can take back the household WEEE they collect.

The Government obtained flexibility for UK retailers to discharge their obligations under the WEEE Directive. Retailers will have a choice to comply either by (i) offering take-back services in-store to consumers; or (ii) by showing membership of an approved compliance scheme which will support an alternative national network of facilities for separate collection of household WEEE. This flexibility enables retailers to provide alternatives to the in-store take back provision set out in the Directive. In addition, the Government announced in March this year that it would delay implementation of the Directive to January 2006. The course the Government have taken will provide cost savings to retailers compared to the estimates from the British Retail Consortium (BRC) of £200-£500 million per annum for in-store take back. Ultimately the costs to retailers will depend on the retailer's choice of compliance and the volume of WEEE returned to them. The Government are proposing to implement the WEEE Directive with as little disruption as possible to current retailer practises, while achieving the environmental aims of the Directive.

### Wind Farm (Redcar)

**Vera Baird:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (1) who will make the final decision on the proposed development of an offshore wind farm at Redcar; what criteria will be used to make the decision; and what procedures will be followed; [11901]

(2) what account will be taken of objections registered to the proposed offshore wind farm at Redcar in the process of a decision being reached on whether to permit the proposed development; [11910]

(3) what opportunities the objectors to the proposed wind farm at Redcar will have to make representations to the authority responsible for deciding whether to proceed with the project prior to the decision being taken; [11911]

(4) whether the proposal to build an offshore wind farm at Redcar will be subject to a *(a)* public inquiry and *(b)* other public hearing. [11912]

**Malcolm Wicks:** The wind farm off Redcar will require a suite of statutory consents before it can be built, principally under the Electricity Act 1989, the Food and Environment Protection Act 1985 and the Coast Protection Act 1949. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry will take decisions in respect of the consent application made under the Electricity Act: my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs will take the decisions about consent applications made under the Food and Environment Protection Act and the Coast Protection Act.

Both my right hon. Friend the Secretaries of State will consider carefully all the representations that have been submitted in respect of the application and they will also take into account national policy considerations, including the target to generate 10 per cent. of electricity by renewable sources in 2010.

No decisions have yet been taken in respect of the determination of the consent applications. The options under the Electricity Act will be to accept the application, to reject it or to call a public inquiry to consider the issues further.

### Working-time Regulations

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will make a statement on the impact of ECJ case C-484/04, 2005/C 31/16, of OJ C31 of 5 February, on voluntary opt-outs of the 48-hour week regulations, with particular reference to civil servants; and what representations he has received thereon. [9048]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** Pursuant to my answer of 26 May 2005, *Official Report*, column 176W, to the hon. Member, the Infraction Case in question is still on-going so it would not be appropriate to make an assessment of the impact at this time. The Department receives many representations on the working time directive and related issues but I am not aware of any representations on this specific issue.

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Child Support Agency

5. **Mr. George Mudie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will make a statement on progress in the transfer of cases from the old Child Support Agency payment system to the new system. [12305]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** No bulk transfer has taken place yet. It can only do so once the case information on file is cleaned and the computer system is stable. Work to secure those conditions is in hand.

Of 680,000 new scheme applications, 260,000 are still to be cleared. There are in addition 78,000 old scheme cases, still to be cleared, down from 130,000 a year ago.

Both these issues—transfers and backlogs—underline the scale of the problems in the agency. This is why we asked the Chief Executive to carry out a strategic review. His findings will be presented to us over the coming months and we will report to the House in due course.

20. **Mr. Carmichael:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will make a statement on the operation of the Child Support Agency. [12320]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The operations standard is not where we want it to be. The Chief Executive is reviewing the Agency's operations and structures. He will report his findings and set out his proposals to improve the Agency's performance to us over the coming months.

Despite all the well known problems, the agency's staff are working hard and doing a good job in difficult circumstances helping to give financial support to over half a million children. They are doing a tough job with sensitivity. They like us, and like the agency's clients want to see the CSA reach an acceptable operational standard.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will make a statement on the future of the Child Support Agency. [12317]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The Chief Executive is reviewing the Agency's operations and structures. His work is advanced. He will report his findings and set out his proposals to improve the Agency's performance to us over the coming months. We will obviously report to the House in due course.

### Construction Industry

10. **Mr. Clapham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent discussions he has had with the Health and Safety Executive on safety and health in the construction industry. [12310]

**Mrs. McGuire:** My noble Friend the Lord Hunt, has met with officials from HSE since his appointment in May this year, to discuss matters concerning the construction industry. My hon. friend also visited two Birmingham construction sites with an HSE Inspector on 10 June and is scheduled to visit the Constructing Better Health initiative in September.

### Pensions (Investment)

16. **Paul Flynn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has to encourage people under 30-years-old to invest in their pensions. [12316]

**Mr. Timms:** We want people to be aware of the need for pension saving from an early age, so that younger people get into the habit of saving. We are supporting the Financial Services Authority's financial capability strategy, which includes a young adults working group, and the guidance published last week to encourage employers to practise auto-enrolment into good occupational schemes should also help younger employees.

18. **Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will make a statement on his Department's policy on compulsion in pension saving. [12318]

**Mr. Timms:** The Government have asked the Pensions Commission to examine the case for compulsory pension saving.

Our aim is to build a national consensus on a long-term solution to the challenge of adequate provision of income in retirement.

### Debt Management

21. **Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will make a statement on the reorganisation of his Department's debt management section. [12321]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** Debt Management was established in April 2001 to bring increased focus to the management control and recovery of benefit debt owed to the Department.

To enable this, work has been transferred from 127 sites across the country to the 10 dedicated debt centres. This has been completed within agreed timescales and to budget.

The new IT system that has been developed to support the organisation is currently being rolled out to the debt centres, completion expected by the end of July 2005.

The programme initially focused on overpayment debt for Jobcentre Plus and the Pensions Service, and is gradually expanding to take on Disability and Carer's Service debt and Social Fund recovery where the recipient is no longer in receipt of benefit. The extension into these areas is expected to be completed by February 2006.

The organisation also assists local authorities with the recovery of housing benefit and council tax benefit debt.

### Women's Pensions

22. **Margaret Moran:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what measures he intends to take to tackle pension inequality for women. [12322]

**Mr. Timms:** We have not ignored the issue of women and pensions since we came to office. Pension credit is contributing to tackling the legacy of inequality. Measures such as state second pension, improving opportunities for women in the work place and increasing options for pension flexibility have all contributed to increasing pension entitlement for women.

We want to continue to make progress. Fair outcomes for women and carers is one of our principles for pension reform and will be one of the key factors on which proposals for reform will be judged. To help this develop our thinking, we will be holding an event later this year to discuss how to make the pensions system work well for women. Prior to this event, to aid discussion we will publish our analysis of the pension position of women.

### Pension Protection Fund

23. **Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he last met the board of the Pension Protection Fund to discuss its operation. [12323]

**Mr. Timms:** I met the Board of PPF when I visited the PPF office in Croydon on 18 May 2005, as well as meeting on a number of occasions with the Chair and Chief Executive.

A Memorandum of Understanding between the Department, the PPF and the Pensions Regulator has been signed recently and establishes a framework for cooperation between the Department and the two new non-departmental public bodies. It clearly shows that while the Department has no responsibilities or direct involvement in the operational activities of the Pensions Regulator or the PPF—it does have a stewardship role in both bodies.

### Pension Fund Trustees

**Mr. Swayne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he is taking to support individuals who assume responsibility as trustees of pension funds. [12319]

**Mr. Timms:** Trustees do a vital job in the management of occupational pensions.

As a result of the measures introduced in the Pensions Act 2004 trustees will—for the first time—have access to support in their work through codes of practice issued by the Pensions Regulator. My predecessor asked the Pensions Management Institute to assist in co-ordinating a new trustees' Forum. I am looking forward to the first meeting of the Forum next week

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what measures his Department is taking to encourage more people to become pension fund trustees. [12324]

**Mr. Timms:** We want to encourage pension scheme members being actively involved in the running of their own pension scheme.

Legislation already gives members the opportunity to get involved in the running of their schemes through member-nominated trustees. From April 2006 all schemes will include one-third member-nominated trustees, as the employer's ability to opt out of these provisions will be removed.

## INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### Former Soviet Union

**Mark Simmonds:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will make a statement on progress by G8 countries in assisting with the destruction of nuclear, biological and chemical weapons in former USSR countries. [11817]

**Dr. Howells:** I have been asked to reply.

The hon. Member can find a full report on the G8's Global Partnership Against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction and its practical efforts to reduce the risks of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, including progress on the various projects to date at the G8 website. This report can be found at

http://www.fco.gov.uk/Files/kfile/PostG8_Gleneagles_GPWGAnnualReport2005.pdf

and the annex with project data at

http://www.fco.gov.uk/Files/kfile/PostG8_Gleneagles_GPWGAnnualReportAnnex2005.pdf.

The UK's second annual report on its progress under the Global Partnership is available at http://www.dti.gov.uk/energy/nuclear/fsu/news/Second_annual_report.pdf.

### Infant Mortality

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will list the top five causes of infant mortality in the third world in the last five years for which figures are available; how many infants died from each cause a year on average in that period; and what estimate he has made of the average cost of treating one infant affected by each such cause. [11745]

**Mr. Thomas:** Specific data on infant mortality (first year of life) are unreliable given the lack of effective vital statistics systems. Data collection is further compromised by the fact that about half of the women in developing countries deliver at home, without links to the health system. However, data is much more robust on deaths of children under 5 years.

Each year, 11 million children under 5 years die of acute respiratory infections (19 per cent.); diarrhoea (18 per cent.); malaria (8 per cent.) measles (4 per cent.). However, 40 per cent. of all deaths in children under 5 years occur within the first 28 days.

Three quarters of these, 4 million neonatal deaths, occur within the first week of life. Three main causes are severe infections (26 per cent.) (including sepsis, pneumonia and meningitis); premature births (28 per cent.) and birth asphyxia (23 per cent.).

"Making every mother and child count" (The World Health Organisation 2005), provides costs for the provision of skilled attendants, support with the instruction of breastfeeding, vaccinations, combating diarrhoea, pneumonia, sepsis and malaria, as well as prevention and care for HIV. The report identifies a set of costings with differing assumptions and scenarios for the 75 countries that together account for almost 95 per cent. of global child deaths (refer to www.who.int/whr). The costing of saving a child's life differs by country and there is no global figure available.

Underlying causes of these child deaths include poverty, with malnutrition and lack of clean water accounting for at least half of the mortality. Weak health systems that cannot ensure access to reproductive health services, including skilled attendants at birth, impact on child health outcomes—we know that babies born to mothers who die in childbirth are unlikely to survive their first year. Poor health and nutrition of adolescent girls has significant long-term effects on their health and the survival of their newborns.

### Millennium Development Goals

**Mr. Heath:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he plans to take *(a)* to raise the profile of disability in the Millennium Development Goals review and *(b)* to ensure that disabled people are specifically included in the implementation of Millennium Development Goals. [12938]

**Hilary Benn:** It is essential to recognise and address the rights and needs of disabled people in order to meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The UK is committed to ensuring the Millennium Review Summit recognises the need for special attention to the human rights of excluded groups, such as disabled people. DFID will advocate an inclusive approach to development, which respects the rights of all and ensures that everybody can actively participate in development. The approach at the summit of bringing development and rights together in the same outcome document should help to highlight these issues.

DFID's focus on the MDGs helps disabled people as well as non-disabled people. However, targets are not sufficient and the implementation of the MDGs and development programmes must also work to shape more inclusive poverty reduction initiatives. DFID works with governments to develop their Poverty Reduction Strategies, and this provides the opportunity to address issues of exclusion and discrimination with partners. DFID also provides support to initiatives directly aimed at supporting disabled people in developing countries. DFID currently funds 23 disability focused projects and a £1.4 million Knowledge and Research programme on disability and development.

### United Nations Population Fund

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the effects of the United Nations Population Fund on non-coercive approaches to family planning in China. [10560]

**Mr. Thomas:** The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) is the largest UN provider of reproductive health assistance to developing countries and countries in transition. It is an influential advocate for gender equality, women's empowerment and sexual and reproductive health and rights. In 2003, the UK was the fourth largest provider of core resources. For 2004–07 the UK has committed £80 million in core funding.

UK assistance for sexual and reproductive health anywhere in the world is provided in support of the principles of free and informed choice set out at the International Conference on Population Development in Cairo in 1994, and re-affirmed through various international fora since. These principles reject coercion in matters relating to childbearing and reproduction and support the promotion and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms. It is important that this work should continue and that all people be given access to modern services, and the chance to choose their family size. Apart from DFID providing core funding to the UNFPA globally, we are not providing direct or targeted support for family planning in China.

The UNFPA works in China to support change and reform. The programme is making a full range of client-oriented reproductive health services available in 32 counties on a voluntary basis. Birth targets and quotas have been abolished and abortion and sterilisation rates and maternal mortality have all dropped significantly in UNFPA counties. These findings were produced by independent research carried out by the University of Southampton and the China Population Information and Research Centre and paid for by DFID China. The UNFPA's programme in China will continue to promote reform and the adoption of a programme based on principles of voluntary choice and rights.

The UK believes the UNFPA deserves strong support to pursue these activities—thereby contributing to reaching the millennium development goals, particularly those related to HIV/AIDS, maternal health and child mortality.

## CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

### BBC Broadcast/Trust

**Mr. Doran:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what criteria she will apply in determining whether to approve the sale of BBC Broadcast to Creative Broadcast Services. [11546]

**James Purnell** *[holding answer 12 July 2005]:* My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State's assessment will be limited largely to determining whether the BBC has

followed the appropriate process in reaching its decision to sell BBC Broadcast, and in applying for ministerial approval.

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will make it her policy to ensure that the proposed BBC Trust is *(a)* representative of the population, *(b)* democratically accountable and *(c)* transparent in its operations; and if she will make a statement. [11826]

**James Purnell:** The decision to establish a BBC Trust to replace the BBC Board of Governors was set out in the Government's Green Paper on the BBC Charter Review, published in March 2005. The public consultation on the Green Paper closed on 31 May 2005 and the results are currently being analysed; the findings will help to inform the Government White Paper on the BBC Charter Review, to be published later this year.

Specific questions were asked in the public consultation about the potential membership of the Trust; options to improve accountability to licence fee payers; and how to ensure openness and transparency in the Trust's actions. The Government will consider the responses to the consultation before making final decisions on the detail. However, greater accountability to licence fee payers and increased transparency in the BBC's systems of governance and regulation are key themes in the Charter Review Green Paper.

### Digital Reception (Rural Areas)

**Mr. Salmond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps she is taking to increase the availability of digital radio and television services in rural areas. [12518]

**James Purnell:** Digital terrestrial coverage at switchover will match existing analogue coverage—around 98.5 per cent. of households.

While the vast majority of households not currently covered by analogue services can already receive digital television via satellite, cable or DSL, there are still a few areas in which reception is very poor. Therefore, we are considering with Ofcom how to extend further the reach of digital television.

Currently BBC and commercial DAB radio broadcast to around 85 per cent. of the UK population. Ofcom are considering proposals for the allocation of three further local multiplexes that will provide coverage to almost all of the UK, as well as a digital platform for the remaining BBC regional and local services. The BBC have also committed to ensuring their national DAB networks will cover at least 90 per cent. of the population over the period of the next charter. Digital radio services are also available on all of the digital television platforms.

### English Heritage

**Tony Baldry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many of the recommendations made to her by English Heritage for listing in the last three years she has *(a)* accepted and *(b)* rejected. [11965]

**Mr. Lammy:** A central record is not kept of the number of recommendations for listing that are rejected. In the last three years, English Heritage have made 1,820 recommendations to list buildings. It is possible that some of the buildings recommended for listing during this period are still being considered.

During the same period, 1,281 buildings have been added to the statutory list, although some of these may have been recommended for listing earlier.

**Tony Baldry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many sites of *(a)* Roman interest and *(b)* significance to the period of the (i) second world war and (ii) the cold war English Heritage has asked to be listed in the last three years. [11966]

**Mr. Lammy:** In the past three years, English Heritage has recommended one building of Roman interest for listing.

No central records are kept of the number of buildings recommended that are of second world war or cold war interest. However, within the last three years English Heritage has completed a thematic review of military aviation buildings, which has led to 261 buildings being recommended for listing, many of which played a role during the second world war. During the same period, English Heritage has also completed a thematic review of cold war buildings, which has resulted in five buildings being recommended for listing.

### Licensing Act

**Mr. Moss:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when she intends to lay the statutory instrument for the nomination of the second appointed day under the Licensing Act 2003 before Parliament. [9554]

**James Purnell:** We intend to lay the Order setting the second appointed day, following our recent commitment that this date will be 24 November, very soon.

**Mark Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps her Department has taken to ensure that public house licensees are aware of the 6 August deadline to re-apply for their licence to serve alcohol. [12091]

**James Purnell:** My Department is making every effort to make all affected individuals and businesses aware of their responsibilities under the Licensing Act 2003.

These efforts have included a regular newsletter which has been used as the basis for National Pubwatch articles since August 2004; an improved licensing section on my Department's website; a letter through the courts to all alcohol licence holders at renewal in 2004; and a trade and ethnic press campaign including 28 advertisements aimed at independent operators.

The publicity campaign is now being stepped up as the 6 August deadline approaches. Over the last week, my Department has sent out 180,000 leaflets for distribution through suppliers to the licensed trade, wholesalers, and cash and carries.

**Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what her latest assessment is of the impact on the viability of village halls of the introduction of the new licensing regime. [12103]

**James Purnell:** The reform of the licensing regime will benefit village halls in the long-term by removing the need to apply for several licences and permissions. This will allow them to offer a wide range of activities to local communities under a single licence. Costs and bureaucracy will also be reduced—not least, because village halls will only incur licence fees where events include the sale of alcohol. The vast majority of village halls will pay no more than £190 on initial application, and £180 as an annual fee.

I met representatives of Action with Communities in Rural England on 12 July to discuss the concerns of village halls. My Department will shortly issue a public consultation document on the limit for temporary event notices allowed per year, and I fully expect the Independent Fees Review Panel to consider the concerns of village halls in detail.

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will make a statement on the effects of people not applying for licences on time under the Licensing Act 2003. [12237]

**James Purnell:** The latest available estimates show that 33 per cent. of the total of licence holders expected to apply have already done so. This percentage is rising rapidly as the 6 August deadline for conversion approaches.

All premises operating under the Act must have a licence granted by 24 November which is the second appointed day. My Department together with LACORS and the LGA are making every effort to ensure that licence holders are made fully aware of their responsibilities, and I remain confident that organisations will respond.

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what guidance the Government have issued to councils, relating to the Licensing Act 2003, on councillors considering licensing applications that originate from their own ward; and if she will make a statement. [13066]

**James Purnell:** Central Government have not issued any advice to councils on councillors considering licensing applications that originate from their own ward. There is nothing in the Licensing Act 2003 or the guidance that we issued under section 182 of the Act or the associated regulations that prevents a ward councillor from sitting on a licensing sub-committee considering representations in respect of premises in his or her own ward. However, like all of us who have been elected to public office, councillors do have to promote and maintain high standards of conduct, ethics and propriety. Any advice that councillors receive on this issue would come from their own internal advisers and standards committees. The advice will generally be identical to that which applies to all committees carrying out local authority functions. Ultimately, the decision as to whether any councillor should disqualify himself or herself from participation in any individual case would be a matter for him or her. Such decisions would normally be subject to scrutiny by the local authority's standards committee.

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions the Government have had with the Standards Board for England in relation to the implementation of the Licensing Act 2003. [13067]

**James Purnell:** None. Issues about propriety and the ethical behaviour of members of licensing committees are governed by the same standards as any other local government committee.

### Listed Buildings/Sites

**Mr. Davey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what guidance she has issued on the *(a)* conservation, *(b)* restoration and *(c)* use of listed buildings. [12018]

**Mr. Lammy:** Government policy in relation to the historic environment is set out in planning policy guidance note 15 (Planning and the Historic Environment) and planning policy guidance note 16 (Archaeology and Planning). Further information in relation to listed buildings is available on the DCMS website www.culture.gov.uk

**Mr. Davey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what representations she has received on improper use of listed buildings in *(a)* Kingston and Surbiton, *(b)* South West London, *(c)* London and *(d)* England. [12020]

**Yvette Cooper:** I have been asked to reply.

The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister is not aware of any representations regarding the improper use of listed buildings.

**Mr. Davey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate she has made of the number of listed buildings in *(a)* Kingston and Surbiton, *(b)* South West London, *(c)* London and *(d)* England; and how many in each case are in use. [12021]

**Mr. Lammy:** There are 153 list entries in relation to properties within the Royal borough of Kingston-upon-Thames, 2,550 for properties in South West London, 18,515 for properties in Greater London, and 372,130 for properties in England. Each list entry may include more than one building. No records are held centrally of whether listed buildings are in use.

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many *(a)* buildings, *(b)* sites and *(c)* parks in Chorley are listed; and if she will list those assessed as requiring (i) restoration and (ii) conservation. [12444]

**Mr. Lammy:** There are 54 list entries relating to listed buildings in Chorley, 11 scheduled ancient monuments, and five registered parks and gardens. Each list entry may relate to more than one building.

The following four listed buildings in Chorley appear on the Buildings at Risk Register:

Buckshaw Hall, off Euxton Lane, Euxton, Chorley

Bank Hall, Liverpool Road, Bretherton, Chorley

Lower Burgh Hall, Coppull New Road, Chorley

Great Barn West of Hoghton Tower, Chorley

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many swimming pools in England are listed; and what the process is for listing swimming pools. [12459]

**Mr. Lammy:** There are 94 list entries relating to swimming pools and swimming pool related buildings in England.

The criteria for listing buildings under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 are set out in Planning Policy Guidance Note 15: Planning and the Historic Environment (PPG15).

### Olympics 2012

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps she plans to take to minimise the carbon footprint of the 2012 Olympics. [12553]

**Tessa Jowell:** Achieving a sustainable games was a strong element of London's bid for the 2012 Olympics. A key part of London 2012's plans, as set out in Theme 5 of their Candidate File, was for a "low carbon" games.

Venues will be designed to optimise energy efficiency and to make use of low carbon and renewable energy sources. All spectators will travel to the games by public transport, or by cycling or walking. The vehicles for the Olympic family will comply with strict low-emission standards.

There will also be a comprehensive carbon-offset programme to "neutralise" all the unavoidable carbon emissions caused by overseas participants travelling to the games in 2012, as well as the organisation's own staff travel during the preparation phase, by supporting the installation of renewable energy projects in developing countries.

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether security costs were included in the estimates made for the London Olympic bid; and if she will make a statement. [12557]

**Tessa Jowell:** Security costs were included in the financial estimates made as part of the bidding process. £23 million has been allocated to the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games (LOCOG) budget—as laid out in table 6.6.1 of London 2012's candidate file. This amount includes funding for the equipment, planning, co-ordination and training and law enforcement resources.

A further allowance of £190 million has been made from the stakeholders funding package of £2.375 billion for the wider security costs required to address security needs when we stage the games in 2012.

**Dr. Cable:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will publish a full economic cost benefit analysis for the UK of the successful London Olympic bid. [11894]

**Tessa Jowell** *[holding answer 13 July 2005]:* We have commissioned such an analysis and shall publish it in due course.

**Robert Key:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what plans she has to seek changes in the law to permit the ownership and use of certain types of handgun to permit the full range of competition at the London Olympics 2012; and if she will make a statement. [11945]

**Tessa Jowell:** The Home Office do not propose to repeal the ban on the private possession of handguns. Special arrangements will be put in place to allow pistol shooting events at the 2012 Olympics as happened at the 2002 Commonwealth games. These arrangements will include a warm up event if this is deemed necessary.

**Mr. Davey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate she has made of the number of skilled construction workers required to work on preparations for London 2012. [12017]

**Tessa Jowell:** The outline planning application for the Olympic park estimates that 7,000 construction workers will be needed to help deliver the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. We expect the major construction work in the East End of London in the run up to 2012 to provide the stimulus for a long-term positive impact on the construction industry in the UK.

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

### Afghanistan

**Linda Gilroy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the programme to build capacity in the justice sector in Afghanistan; and what impact this is having on United Kingdom efforts to counter narcotics and related crop growing. [13131]

**Dr. Howells:** The creation and consolidation of a national Afghan government and institutions, including those for justice, will be the key to establishing long-term stability and security. After nearly three decades of war, these institutions needed to be created from scratch.

The UK is the G8 lead nation on counter narcotics and is working in support of the Afghan Government's eight pillar 2005 implementation plan, of which criminal justice is a key pillar.

Sustainable drug elimination strategies take time—particularly when the challenges are as severe as those in Afghanistan.

### Departmental Bills

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what Bills were sponsored by his Department in each Session since 1979. [10564]

**Mr. Straw:** Providing information for the entire period requested would incur disproportionate costs.

Since 1997, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office has been responsible for the following legislation (Bills that have been enacted are described as Acts):

*2005*

International Organisations Act

European Union Bill

*2003*

Arms Control and Disarmament (Inspections) Act

European Union (Accessions) Act

*2002*

British Overseas Territories Act

Commonwealth Act

European Communities (Amendment) Act

*2001*

International Criminal Court Act

*1998*

European Communities (Amendment) Act

Nuclear Explosions (Prohibition and Inspections) Act.

### Burma

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of whether Burma possesses *(a)* uranium and *(b)* antimony deposits; and whether processing of Burmese (i) uranium and (ii) antimony takes place in (A) Burma, (B) China, (C) North Korea, (D) Russia and (E) elsewhere. [12409]

**Dr. Howells:** According to reputable public sources, there are both uranium and antimony deposits in Burma.

Uranium is processed in China, North Korea and Russia, as well as in a number of other countries, but not in Burma.

Antimony has a range of commercial applications, and its processing and use is not under any form of international control. As far as we are aware, antimony is mined but not further processed in Burma, and is processed in China, North Korea and Russia, as well as in a number of other countries.

### Correspondence

**Adam Price:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he will reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Carmarthen, East and Dinefwr of 15 June on ministerial circulation of legal advisers' briefings. [12827]

**Dr. Howells:** As the hon. Member requested, we are considering the question under the Freedom of Information Act. A letter has been sent to the hon. Member confirming that we will reply to his question by 29 July. This is an extension of 10 working days beyond our original target date for replying to him. This extra time is needed in order to make a determination as to the public interest in releasing the information requested.

### Departmental Advertising

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much the Department spent on advertising in each of the last five years. [10252]

**Mr. Straw:** Our records show that advertising costs in the last five financial years are as follows.

£

| | Recruitment advertising | Diversity advertising | Other | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2001–02 | 803,745.38 | 203,050 | 13,794.52 | 1,020,589.90 |
| 2002–03 | 587,936.18 | 183,109 | 39,786 | 810,831.18 |
| 2003–04 | 391,674.91 | 156,844 | 62,460.37 | 610,979.28 |
| 2004–05 | 226,458.35 | 227,095 | 24,331.63 | 477,884.98 |
| 2005–06 (to date) | 112,106 | 91,915 | Nil | 204,021 |

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office's overseas posts and its non-departmental public bodies (NDPB) also incur costs. Collating this information would involve contacting each individual overseas posts and individual sponsoring departments of NDPBs. Sponsoring departments would then have to contact each NDPB for details. This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Developing Countries

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress is being made with the promotion of best practice in parliamentary scrutiny in developing countries. [12461]

**Ian Pearson:** Work to strengthen parliamentary institutions is a significant element of the UK's foreign policy, including in developing countries. Legislative assemblies have a key role in overseeing the action of Governments. We have supported work in this area in many countries, including Uganda, where the UK has supported an Office for Parliamentary Development; in Nigeria, where the UK is supporting a broad-based package aimed at strengthening the National Assembly; and support to parliamentary oversight bodies, e.g. Public Accounts Committees, in, among others, Sierra Leone and Malawi.

### Equatorial Guinea

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when a UK Government Minister last visited Equatorial Guinea; and when the next such visit is planned. [12170]

**Ian Pearson:** We have no record of any visit by a UK Government Minister to Equatorial Guinea. There are no present plans for a visit.

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent estimate he has made of the number of UK workers in Equatorial Guinea; and in which sectors they are working. [12171]

**Ian Pearson:** We estimate that there are approximately 400 British workers currently employed in Equatorial Guinea, the majority engaged in support to companies in the oil and gas sector.

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he expects Equatorial Guinea's ambassador to the UK to be presented. [12182]

**Ian Pearson:** The Equatorial Guinean ambassador presented his credentials on 14 July 2005.

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the most recent elections held in Equatorial Guinea. [12189]

**Ian Pearson:** The most recent elections in Equatorial Guinea were the municipal and legislative elections in April 2004. An EU statement was made following these, which the UK supported. This document can be found at http://europa.eu int/abc/doc/off/bull/en/200406/p106022.htm.

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans he has to meet Equatorial Guinea's ambassador to the United Kingdom. [12195]

**Ian Pearson:** The Equatorial Guinean ambassador presented his credentials on 14 July 2005. He has not yet sought an appointment with Ministers. We will consider each request on its merits.

## Iran

**Andrew Mackinlay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 4 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 183W, on Iran, whether the information received has now been verified; and if he will make a statement. [12482]

**Dr. Howells:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the British embassy in Tehran have both made efforts to verify claims of the disappearance of Ebdal Karimi. We have not been able to do so because we do not have sufficiently detailed information. We note that the original information was provided by an Iranian opposition group that is often not a reliable source. Without further information we are unlikely to be able to verify the claims.

## Iraq

**Sir Menzies Campbell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of reports of the mistreatment and torture of detainees by Iraqi security forces; and if he will make a statement. [10013]

**Mr. Straw:** We condemn all forms of abuse. Where we have suspicions or evidence of abuse by Iraqi security forces we take immediate action to raise our concerns at the highest level with the Iraqi Government. They have said that they will not tolerate abuse and that they will investigate anyone suspected of abuse and prosecute where evidence substantiates those suspicions.

## Israel

**Richard Burden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 16 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 650W, on Israel, whether the Government of Israel has informed him that it has withdrawn demolition orders already issued in respect of Silwan Village in east Jerusalem. [9109]

**Dr. Howells:** No such information has been received from the Israeli Government. However, we understand that the demolitions have been put on hold. UK officials in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem continue to monitor developments.

**Dr. Starkey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will take steps to establish an international monitoring presence in the occupied territories to ensure that both Israelis and Palestinians are fulfilling their obligations to the road map; and if he will ensure that plans for such a presence have *(a)* an explicit human rights component and *(b)* a timetable for implementation. [11658]

**Dr. Howells:** The international community is well aware of the failings on both sides in implementing their roadmap commitments. In particular, Israel has not frozen settlement expansion and the Palestinian Authority has not adequately tackled terrorism. No international presence could ensure better implementation without the full support of both sides.

The international community is however closely involved in disengagement, with the parties agreement. Quartet (UN, US, EU and Russia) Special Envoy for Disengagement James Wolfensohn is working in co-ordination with the parties and with US security co-ordinator General William Ward, and with the support of the international community.

Israeli withdrawal of all settlements from Gaza and of four from the northern West Bank, plus reformed Palestinian institutions, should help enable both sides to make continued progress in meeting their roadmap commitments.

**Sir Michael Spicer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to the government of Israel for the release from house arrest of Mordechai Vanunu. [12936]

**Dr. Howells:** My right hon. and noble Friend the former Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Baroness Symons of Vernham Dean) raised our concerns with the Israeli Chargé d'Affaires following Mr. Vanunu's release in April 2004, as did our ambassador in Tel Aviv with the Israeli Government. We have since raised the issue with the Israeli Government on numerous occasions

We are aware that Mr. Vanunu was indicted on 17 March for violating the terms of his release from prison and that this has resulted in a further year's extension of the restrictions previously imposed on him. We recognise that Israel has a right to protect its national interest but we are concerned that the restrictions may be excessive and punitive. Our embassy in Tel Aviv will continue to monitor his case closely.

## Management Consultants

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his Department's total spending on management consultants has been in each of the last three years. [13063]

**Mr. Straw:** I refer my hon. Friend to the reply I gave him on external consultancy in general on 25 May 2005, *Official Report*, column 134W. Expenditure specifically on management consultancy is not categorised separately and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

## Middle East

**Mr. Clappison:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he expects that aid promised by the G8 summit to the Palestinian Authority will be received by *(a)* Hamas-led

administrations and *(b)* Hamas mayors, with particular reference to the Hamas mayors in (i) Kalkiya, (ii) Hebron, (iii) Bethlehem, (iv) Rafah and (v) Beit Lahia. [12058]

**Dr. Howells:** The G8 summit announced support for the quartet-appointed (UN, US, EU and Russia) special envoy for disengagement James Wolfensohn's intention to stimulate a global financial contribution of up to $3 billion per year over the next three years. Mr. Wolfensohn has indicated that the aid would be spent on a range of infrastructure and job creation schemes in the Gaza strip and northern west bank, to help revitalise the Palestinian economy following the Israeli withdrawal from those areas. The details of how this aid would be distributed have not been finalised. There are no plans for the aid to go directly to Hamas-governed municipalities.

The Mayor of Bethelehem represents the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

The Mayors of Rafah, Beit Lahia and Hebron represent the Fatah party.

**Dan Norris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he plans to take to carry forward the promotion of peace, stability and reform in the Middle East during the UK's presidency of the EU. [12672]

**Dr. Howells:** On the Middle East Peace Process, the EU will continue to play, through the Quartet (UN, US, EU and Russia), a key role in supporting the Palestinian Authority's efforts at institutional reform and Prime Minister Sharon's disengagement plan. Stronger Palestinian institutions and a successful disengagement are necessary for Roadmap implementation. For the EuroMed region, November's Euro@Med Tenth Anniversary Summit will be a critical opportunity to help the EU's Mediterranean Partners to meet the challenges of the 21st century, including in education, economic reform and good governance. The EU stands ready to support a representative Lebanese Government in carrying out political and economic reforms and calls on Syria to take action to promote regional stability. And we will promote reform and security through our relations with other countries in the region, including through the EU Strategic Partnership with the Mediterranean and the Middle East.

**Dan Norris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps are being taken to bring about the disarmament of Hezbollah forces in Southern Lebanon, in compliance with UN Security Council resolution 1559. [12673]

**Dr. Howells:** The disarmament of non-Lebanese and Lebanese militias, including Hezbollah, as required by United Nations Security Council resolution (UNSCR) 1559, is a complex issue that will take time to implement. The Government believes that the process of disarming the militias in Lebanon needs to be Lebanese-led, and once the new government of Lebanon is formed we will be discussing with it how the UK and our international partners can assist with the full implementation of UNSCR 1559.

**Dan Norris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his latest estimate is of the threat posed by Hamas to *(a)* Israeli and *(b)* Palestinian security. [12674]

**Dr. Howells:** Terrorism has caused many innocent casualties, and Hamas has been responsible for numerous attacks. Such actions undermine the efforts of the Israeli Government and the Palestinian Authority to make progress on the Middle East peace process. They also undermine Palestinian President Abbas' authority and the Palestinian Authority's ability to meet its commitments on security, and economic and political reform made at the London meeting.

The UK notes the commitment made by Hamas, and other Palestinian groups to President Abbas in Cairo in March to adopt a conditional cease-fire until the end of 2005. The UK calls for Hamas to go further and renounce violence, choosing participatory politics as the only means of working towards a lasting peace in the Middle East.

**Dan Norris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his latest estimate is of the progress made by the Palestinian Authority in reforming its security services in line with commitments made at the London meeting in March. [12686]

**Dr. Howells:** Following the pledges made at Sharm el Sheikh on 8 February and the London meeting on 1 March, the Palestinian leadership has made some progress with security reform, but more needs to be done both in order to provide a climate of law and order for the Palestinian people, and to prevent appalling crimes such as the suicide bombing in Netanya. We welcome the progress that has been made, eg the reshuffling of Palestinian Authority (PA) security chiefs in April and the streamlining of the security forces, and we are encouraged by Abu Mazen's commitment to security reform. But much more remains to be done.

Security co-operation continues with frequent co-ordination meetings between the Israelis and Palestinians. It is vital that this co-operation continues in the run-up to Israel's withdrawal from Gaza and parts of the North West Bank.

The United States is leading in the efforts to assist the PA in achieving its goals. General William Ward is working with Palestinian officials and we are actively supporting him. We will continue to work to ensure that this reform programme is successful in the longer term.

**Dan Norris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the effects of Iran's nuclear programme on future stability in the Middle East following the results of the Iranian Presidential elections. [12687]

**Dr. Howells:** The proliferation of nuclear weapons and their means of delivery is a serious threat to international peace and security, in the Middle East and elsewhere. Following an agreement reached in Paris in November 2004, the UK, France and Germany, supported by the EU High Representative, have been in discussion with Iran about long term arrangements for its nuclear programme. These should provide objective guarantees that Iran's nuclear programme is exclusively for peaceful purposes. The new Iranian President elect, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, has said the talks will go on. We remain fully committed to the Paris agreement. We continue to honour our commitments, and expect Iran to do likewise.

**Dan Norris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his latest assessment is of progress made by Israel with its disengagement plan. [12688]

**Dr. Howells:** Israeli disengagement from Gaza and part of the West Bank is due to start in mid-August. There has been some co-operation between the Israeli Government and the Palestinian Authority, but there have only been limited agreements so far, e.g. to demolish settler housing inappropriate for the Palestinian population. While this is positive, it is essential that the two sides step up their co-ordination in the coming weeks.

We welcome the appointment of James Wolfensohn as the Quartet's (UN, US, EU and Russia) Special Envoy for Gaza Disengagement. He is already working with the parties. His goals are the economic revitalisation of Gaza and the West Bank, and to assist with further Palestinian governance reform. G8 leaders on 7 July 2005 endorsed his approach and supported his intention to stimulate a financial contribution of up to $3 billion annually for the next three years from the international community.

## North Korea

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of food supplies in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the decision of the World Food Programme to consider suspending its food aid operations there. [2570]

**Ian Pearson:** The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) Government cut the daily food ration in January so that it now constitutes approximately half the daily energy requirement. Two thirds of the DPRK population remain dependent on this public distribution system. The World Food Programme (WFP) aims to provide food aid for 6.5 million people it considers to be in need. This is roughly a quarter of the population. There have been a number of breaks in the supply of food aid, due mainly to fluctuating support from major donors. WFP has not managed to assess the impact of these breaks. Because of DPRK Government restrictions on information sharing, it is difficult to be certain of data on the food situation. As far as we are aware, the WFP has no plans to suspend its food aid operations in the DPRK.

## Organisation for the Prevention of Chemical Weapons

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 6 July 2005, *Official Report*, columns 486–87W, on the organisation for the prevention of chemical weapons (OPCW), whether the award to Mr. Bustani following the review requested by the OPCW was made for material damages only. [11978]

**Dr. Howells:** The original judgment from the International Labour Organisation Administrative Tribunal (ILOAT) in July 2002, awarded Mr. Bustani, as former Director-General of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), moral as well as material damages.

In the subsequent review of this award, the OPCW did not request a review of the moral damages element of the award but only of the material damages. The ILOAT clarified that material damages must only compensate for loss actually suffered and that therefore net earnings from other sources, i.e. including that related to any new employment, had to be deducted from the payment to Mr. Bustani. In consequence the overall payment of damages to him was reduced.

## School Fees

**Andrew Mackinlay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much was spent by his Department on school fees in each of the last three years; who is entitled to claim the cost of fees; what the maximum amount payable per claimant is; and if he will make a statement. [11548]

**Mr. Straw:** Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) expenditure on school fees during the last three financial years was as follows:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2002–03 | 15,990,618 |
| 2003–04 | 17,273,000 |
| 2004–05 | [1]17,200,000 |

[1] Estimate—final figures are not yet available

In the last academic year, the maximum amount payable per claimant was £6,695 for school fees per term.

It is a condition of employment that members of the diplomatic service must be prepared to serve anywhere in the world at any time during their career, sometimes at very short notice. Those with children have the legal obligation as parents to ensure that their children receive a full-time education from the age of five years. The FCO's provisions for children's education are intended to help staff meet these potentially conflicting obligations.

Children who accompany their parents on postings overseas are expected to use free state schooling if it is available locally and suitable. If suitable schooling is not available free of charge locally but is available at fee-charging schools, fees are refunded to enable children to receive the education they would be entitled to in the UK.

With staff moving every 12–48 months and education facilities at posts' locations overseas varying, continuity of education can be problematic particularly during the important exam years and in preparation for these years. The FCO's provisions address this problem by enabling children to board at school in the UK while their parents remain subject to the world-wide mobility obligation.

## Structural and Cohesion Funds

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to his statement of 15 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 279, on European affairs, what assessment he has made of the effects of the Government's proposals for reform of structural and cohesion funds in the EU on *(a)* the UK's net and gross

contribution to the EU budget and *(b)* the UK's abatement on its contributions; and if he will make a statement. [6222]

**Mr. Straw:** The exact impact of the Government's reforms for the Structural and Cohesion Funds (SCF) on the UK's net and gross contributions and on its abatement will depend on the size and shape of the budget to which it is applied.

The Government's proposal is to focus the Community funding of EU Regional Policy on the poorest member states. If agreed, they would:

reduce the UK's gross contributions, by lowering the overall size of the budget;

decrease the UK's net contribution, as the UK is a net contributor to the SCF budget; and

reduce the size of the UK abatement, by reducing the difference between the UK's gross contribution and its receipts.

### Turkey

**John Bercow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to the government of Turkey regarding the article in the Turkish Penal Code which criminalises any mention of the Armenian genocide. [11863]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** I refer the hon. Member to the reply given by my right hon. Friend the then Minister for Europe (Mr. MacShane) to my hon. Friend the Member for Hendon (Mr. Dismore) on 16 November 2004, *Official Report*, columns 1340–41W. The answer makes clear that it is the non-binding guidance to Article 305 of the Turkish Penal Code and not the code itself that advises that when receiving material benefits from a foreign individual or organisation

"a citizen who declares that the Armenian genocide took place during the First World War, can be pursued by virtue of this article."

The European Commission has made it clear to Turkey that they expect the language not to be taken into consideration when interpreting Article 305.

Our embassy in Ankara discussed the Penal Code, including this guidance to Article 305, with the Turkish Parliament ahead of its entry into force on 1 June 2005, and continue to work with the European Commission to ensure that Turkey meets its international legal obligations, including those concerning freedom of expression under the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights.

**John Bercow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the government of Turkey regarding recognition of the Armenian genocide. [11866]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** None—neither this Government nor previous British Governments have judged that the evidence is sufficiently unequivocal to persuade us that these events should be categorised as genocide as defined by the 1948 UN Convention on Genocide.

### United Nations Compensation Commission

**Harry Cohen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the outcome of the United Nations Compensation Commission (UNCC) meeting on 28 to 30 June was; whether it resolved all outstanding claims; what reparation payments have been made to date; what the total of reparations will be once all outstanding claims are met; what the timescale for outstanding claims is; what costs to date the UNCC has charged to reparations; what the estimated total cost of the UNCC itself charged to reparations upon the completion of all claim payments is; how much interest included within original claims has been paid to date; what the estimated interest on total claims for reparation payments is; what position the UK Government's representative at the UNCC took on matters before this meeting; and if he will make a statement. [10415]

**Dr. Howells:** All outstanding claims have now been resolved by the United Nations Compensation Commission (UNCC).

A total of approximately US$52.5 billion has been awarded in respect of approximately 1.5 million eligible claims. Approximately US$19.2 billion has been paid so far to Governments for distribution to claimants.

Current revenues received by the Fund are approximately US$1 billion per year. The next round of payments is expected this month when US$200 million will be made available for payment. It is likely that all individual claims will be paid by 2007, or earlier under the current payment mechanism.

The Secretariat of the UNCC state that since 1991 total administrative costs up to May 2005 were US$362.6 million.

The Governing Council at their meeting in March 2005 took the decision not to take any further action on the issue of interest. This effectively means that interest will not be paid by the UNCC to claimants on top of their principal awards. This decision was reached by consensus after careful consideration. The decision affects all claimants in the same way.

The UK continues to support the UNCC.

## NORTHERN IRELAND

### Altnagelvin Hospital

**Mark Durkan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will make a statement on the recent closure of the high dependency unit at Altnagelvin hospital. [11308]

**Mr. Woodward:** The high dependency unit at Altnagelvin was closed temporarily from 5 pm on Saturday 25 June until 11 am on Monday 4 July. The closure was due to difficulties with nurse staffing levels associated with compassionate leave, maternity leave and sick absences.

The same group of nursing staff work in both the intensive care unit (ICU) and high dependency unit (HDU) and when there is a higher than usual demand for ICU beds, nurses are redeployed from HDU to ICU.

Given the unpredictability of the demand for ICU beds, the situation is monitored by the trust on a day-by-day basis.

**Mrs. Iris Robinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* full-term neonatal deaths and *(b)* stillbirths there were at Altnagelvin hospital in each week of 2001. [11804]

**Mr. Woodward:** This information is not readily available and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

**Mrs. Iris Robinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many post mortems were conducted into neonatal deaths during 2001 at Altnagelvin Hospital. [11805]

**Mr. Woodward:** There were no post mortems conducted into neonatal deaths during 2001 at Altnagelvin hospital. All paediatric post mortems are carried out at the Royal Victoria hospital in Belfast.

**Mrs. Iris Robinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what investigations have been conducted into full-term neonatal deaths during September 2001 at Altnagelvin hospital. [11806]

**Mr. Woodward:** Altnagelvin Health and Social Services Trust advise that there were three routine blood tests carried out following full-term deaths at Altnagelvin hospital during September 2001. The Royal Group of Hospitals have advised that they carried out one paediatric post mortem following a referral from Altnagelvin hospital on 28 September 2001.

### Anaesthetists

**Mrs. Iris Robinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what his assessment is of the extent to which theatre managers and clinical directors are fulfilling their obligations to provide adequately trained staff to assist anaesthetists within the Province. [11771]

**Mr. Woodward:** Across trusts, theatre managers and clinical directors have fully considered the need to provide trained assistance of a high standard to anaesthetists. A range of measures is in place which includes: the recruitment and selection of appropriately qualified staff; in-house training and induction programmes; further professional training including diploma/degree level courses; specialist practice courses for nurses; and the supernumerary treatment of nurses undergoing anaesthetics training until deemed competent to practice.

### Anastrozole

**Lady Hermon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what research has been carried out by his Department into the effectiveness of Anastrozole in treating breast cancer. [11225]

**Mr. Woodward:** The Department has not conducted any research into the effectiveness of Anastrozole. However, the Department is aware of research undertaken elsewhere, especially the results of the Anastrozole, Tamoxifen, alone or in combination trial (ATAC). Evidence emerging from such studies will be kept under review.

**Lady Hermon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people are being treated with cancer drug Anastrozole in each NHS health authority area in Northern Ireland. [11228]

**Mr. Woodward:** The Department do not record the numbers of patients receiving a particular drug. However in 2004–05, 9, 213 prescriptions for Anastrozole were issued in the community in Northern Ireland.

The number of Anastrozole prescriptions issued per board area in 2004–05 was as follows:

| *Board* | *Number* |
|---|---|
| Northern | 1,863 |
| Eastern | 4,411 |
| Western | 1,588 |
| Southern | 1,358 |

**Lady Hermon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will make a statement on the availability of the cancer drug Anastrozole on the NHS in Northern Ireland. [11231]

**Mr. Woodward:** The cancer drug Anastrozole is widely available for prescription in Northern Ireland.

### Asbestos

**Dr. McCrea:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will make a statement on the disposal of asbestos within Northern Ireland; what sites have been approved by the Government; and when each was approved. [11112]

**Angela E. Smith:** There are two ways in which asbestos is legally managed. One is by disposal to a landfill site with a dedicated cell which receives only asbestos waste. The other is by contained storage in waste transfer stations where asbestos is kept until it can be transported to Great Britain for disposal in landfill in an economically viable manner.

Asbestos can also be illegally disposed of by depositing on unlicensed sites or mixing it with other wastes to disguise its appearance.

Currently three facilities in Northern Ireland are licensed to receive asbestos. These relate to one landfill site (which is currently completing engineering works before asbestos can be received) and two waste transfer stations. The landfill site was issued with a licence on 4 January 2005 while the waste transfer stations were licensed on 3 September 1984 and 19 April 2005.

The Environment and Heritage Service of the Department of the Environment is investigating a small number of isolated incidents of illegal dumping of asbestos. It is difficult to quantify how prevalent this problem is as the activity is clandestine and disposal locations are not obvious. However, at present illegal disposal of asbestos on a commercial scale does not appear to be a serious problem in Northern Ireland.

### Assets Recovery Agency

**Mr. Peter Robinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the total monetary value of

property and processions confiscated by the Asset Recovery Agency has been in each year since the agency was created. [11714]

**Mr. Woodward:** The information requested is set out in the following table:

£ million

| | Assets frozen | Assets recovered | Receipts |
|---|---|---|---|
| *2003–04* | | | |
| England and Wales | 17.9 | None | 0.002 |
| Northern Ireland | 3.1 | First full year of operation | — |
| Total | 21 | — | 0.002 |
| *2004–05* | | | |
| England and Wales | 13.1 | 4.1 | 3.9 |
| Northern Ireland | 3.7 | 1.4 | 0.7 |
| Total | 16.8 | 5.5 | 4.6 |

**Mr. Peter Robinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people are working for the Assets Recovery Agency. [11716]

**Mr. Woodward:** At 8 July 2005, the Assets Recovery Agency is made up of 189 members of staff, of which 47 are based in Belfast.

### Audiology Goods and Services

**Mr. McGrady:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what assessment he has made of the reasons why expenditure per head of population in Northern Ireland on audiology goods and services is significantly less than in other parts of the United Kingdom. [12079]

**Mr. Woodward:** The Department does not hold any information on the comparison of spend per head of population on audiology services between the population of Northern Ireland and the rest of the United Kingdom.

### Business Insurance

**Mr. Dodds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what representations he has received from the private sector in Northern Ireland on the level of insurance premiums for businesses operating in Northern Ireland; what response he has made; and if he will make a statement. [11622]

**Angela E. Smith:** Insurance is a reserved matter. However, the issue of the level of insurance premiums for businesses in Northern Ireland has been raised regularly with the Department of Enterprise Trade and Investment by a variety of private sector interests over the past few years. A working group made up of representatives from DETI, the business sector and the insurance industry, has closely monitored the on-going situation and a guide offering practical advice to businesses on purchasing insurance cover has been widely distributed.

DETI has also introduced an annual insurance survey. The results of the last survey revealed an improving picture as a result of a general softening in the market. The survey results are available on the DETI website www.detini.gov.uk.

**Mr. Dodds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what estimate he has made of the annual change in insurance premiums for small and medium sized businesses in Northern Ireland in each year since 1997. [11623]

**Angela E. Smith:** The Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment (DETI) has carried out an annual survey of Business Insurance Premiums for the period 2000–04. The estimated annual percentage change in the average (median) value of insurance premiums for small and medium sized businesses in Northern Ireland was +12.6 per cent. in 2000–01, +38.9 per cent. in 2001–02, +25.7 per cent. in 2002–03 and -16.1 per cent. in 2003–04. Comparative figures prior to the commencement of the DETI surveys are not available.

### Children's Services

**Mrs. Iris Robinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what funding has been ring fenced for children's services in Northern Ireland. [11791]

**Mr. Woodward:** Children and families remain a priority for Government. As a result of the 2005–08 Budget settlement DHSSPS has ring fenced additional monies for children's residential care, foster care, children leaving care and child protection. Additional monies have also been made available for a number of children's fund executive programme fund schemes including regional adoption and leaving and aftercare.

In addition all projects funded under the current three-year children's fund cycle will receive their full allocation from existing children's fund monies. No resources have been specifically provided for 2005–08 to mainstream the services currently provided by existing children's fund projects when this funding cycle is complete.

DHSSPS also provides mainstream monies for Sure Start and the early years development fund. This is a programme of support for parents to be, parents and children aged under Sure Start projects are sited in areas with high levels of disadvantage. These projects are not aimed specifically at deprived families, but are available to all families within these targeted areas.

### Civil Servants (Transfers)

**Mr. Dodds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many civil servants have been transferred from the Northern Ireland Civil Service to civil service posts elsewhere outside the Northern Ireland Civil Service in each year since 2001. [9000]

**Angela E. Smith:** Northern Ireland Civil Service (NICS) staff are transferred to posts in the Home Civil Service (HCS) for a variety of reasons, such as inter-service transfers on compassionate terms, a transfer of functions from the NICS to the HCS or temporary secondments. The numbers are as follows:

| | Number |
|---|---|
| 2001 | 7 |
| 2002 | 8 |
| 2003 | 153 |
| 2004 | 2 |
| 2005 | 4 |

## Common Agricultural Policy

**Dr. McCrea:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people within the Department for Agricultural and Rural Development are employed to administer common agricultural policy payments; and how many of these people are employed in *(a)* Dundonald House, *(b)* Orchard House and *(c)* each of the local county agricultural offices. [11120]

**Angela E. Smith:** The number of staff employed to administer common agricultural policy payments within the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development are outlined as follows:

| *Location* | *Number of staff* |
|---|---|
| *(a)* Dundonald House | 47 |
| (Magnet House) | [1]6 |
| *(b)* Orchard House | [2]167 |
| *(c)* County agricultural offices | |
| Antrim | 31 |
| Armagh | 15 |
| Down | 26 |
| Fermanagh | 17 |
| Londonderry | 25 |
| Tyrone | 29 |
| Total | 373 |

[1] Information technology.
[2] Including four IT staff.

## Crime Scene Arrests

**Mr. Peter Robinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many incidents there have been where a suspect has been apprehended at the scene of a crime, excluding car crime, in each of the last three years. [11777]

**Mr. Woodward:** The information requested is not readily available and could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

## Dementia

**Sammy Wilson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what assessment he has made of the merits of providing free care for dementia sufferers in the Province; and what estimate he has made of the likely cost. [12083]

**Mr. Woodward:** I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave on 20 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 859W.

## Early Support Programme

**Lady Hermon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will introduce the early support programme to Northern Ireland; and if he will make a statement. [11350]

**Mr. Woodward:** Currently there are no plans to introduce the early support programme to Northern Ireland.

## Electoral Register

**Mr. Dodds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people have been removed from the electoral register in error in each year since 2001; and what investigation took place in each case. [7825]

**Mr. Hanson:** This issue is an operational matter and is the responsibility of the Chief Electoral Officer who has written to the hon. Gentleman in the following terms:

"Such errors are rare. Electoral Office records show that electors wrongly removed from the register in each year were as follows:

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2001 | 0 |
| 2002 | 0 |
| 2003 | 1 |
| 2004 | 0 |
| 2005 | [1]3 |

[1] To date

Where such an error occurred, the electors concerned were immediately re-instated on the register and the staff involved given further training to ensure that they understood how the mistake they had made took place. Procedures were also amended to make human error less likely. Letters of apology were also sent to the electors concerned, either directly or via their political representative where the matter was raised in that way".

## Grants

**Mr. Dodds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much money has been allocated out of the *(a)* Children's Fund, *(b)* Innovation/Modernisation Executive Programme Fund, *(c)* Infrastructure Executive Programme Fund, *(d)* New Directions Executive Programme Fund, *(e)* Service Modernisation Executive Programme Fund and *(f)* Social Inclusion/ Community Regeneration Executive Programme Fund to projects and programmes in North Belfast in each year since 2001. [11601]

**Angela E. Smith:** In excess of 300 projects and programmes, covering a wide range of geographical areas and activities, have been funded through Executive Programme Funds. Information regarding what element of funding allocated to these programmes or projects since 2001 relates to North Belfast could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost.

## Hearing-Impaired Children

**Lady Hermon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what plans are in place for the provision of early years support services for children newly identified with a hearing loss through the Northern Ireland newborn hearing screening programme. [11238]

**Mr. Woodward:** A multi-agency representative Regional Newborn Hearing Screening Implementation Steering Group has been established and three sub-groups have been convened: the Regional NHS Implementation Project Team, the Support Services Sub-Group and the Equipment Sub-Group. Area Implementation Groups have been established within each Health and Social Services Board.

**Lady Hermon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what funding is available for the provision of early years support services for children newly identified with a hearing loss through the Northern Ireland newborn hearing screening programme. [11239]

**Mr. Woodward:** Funding for service provision for children identified with a hearing loss through the Northern Ireland newborn hearing screening programme is determined by each Health and Social Services Board in terms of the needs identified in this population and the priorities established for the use of their allocated funding.

### Illegal Dumping

**Mr. Peter Robinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many Government staff are working directly to combat illegal dumping in Northern Ireland. [11655]

**Angela E. Smith:** At present, a total of 32 staff (of scientific and administrative grades) form a dedicated enforcement team within the Waste Management and Contaminated Land Unit of the Department of the Environment's Environment and Heritage Service.

The staff are involved in the range of duties directly associated with enforcement of legislation dealing with illegal waste management. These duties include carrying out investigations, preparing case files for submission to the Public Prosecution Service, and performing administrative work associated with managing case files, evidence and interview records.

**Mr. Peter Robinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people have been *(a)* questioned about, *(b)* charged with and *(c)* fined for illegal dumping in Northern Ireland of waste originating in the Republic of Ireland in each of the last five years. [11656]

**Angela E. Smith:** The Environment and Heritage Service (EHS) of the Department of the Environment gained responsibility for investigation of alleged offences of illegal disposal of waste on 27 November 2003. Since that date, some 44 individuals have been interviewed under caution in accordance with the Police and Criminal Evidence Order.

During this period, 15 individuals/companies have been summonsed in relation to alleged offences.

Also during this period, six people have been fined in connection with illegal deposit of waste believed to have originated in the Republic of Ireland.

**Mr. Peter Robinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many incidents of illegal dumping there were in Northern Ireland for each of the last five years; and what action can be taken against the owners of land where illegal dumping takes place. [11708]

**Angela E. Smith:** The Environment and Heritage Service (EHS) of the Department of the Environment assumed responsibility on 27 November 2003 for legislation that creates offences for deposit of waste without a waste management licence.

Prior to that date, regulation of illegal waste disposal was the responsibility of district councils in Northern Ireland. Figures for such incidents prior to that date are not available.

Since that date, a total of 1,972 incidents of alleged illegal activity involving waste (covering a range of activities as well as disposal on unlicensed sites) were reported to EHS. Nine incidents were reported in the last month of 2003, 1,245 during 2004 and 718 during 2005 (to 30 June).

Of this total, 376 reports were substantiated to the extent that EHS instigated investigation with a view to prosecution.

Owners of land where illegal disposal has taken place are generally charged with offences under Article 4 of the Waste and Contaminated Land (NI) Order 1997. These relate to the deposit of controlled waste on land without a waste management licence being in force and also keeping waste in a manner likely to cause pollution of the environment or harm to human health.

The number and combination of offences varies with each case and each carries a maximum penalty in magistrates court of £20,000 and/or a maximum of six months imprisonment. On indictment there is potential for an unlimited fine and/or a maximum prison sentence of two years.

### Inward Investment

**Dr. McCrea:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what levels of inward investment have been made in each Northern Ireland constituency in the last five years. [11125]

**Angela E. Smith:** The following table shows inward investment supported by Invest Northern Ireland and its predecessor The Industrial Development Board in each of the last five years.

*Invest NI inward investment by parliamentary constituency 2000–01 to 2004–05*

| | *Total investment (£)* | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Parliamentary constituency* | *2000–01* | *2001–02* | *2002–03* | *2003–04* | *2004–05* | *Grand total* |
| Belfast East | 1,100,000 | 22,743,000 | 0 | 34,288,613 | 10,614,872 | 68,746,485 |
| Belfast North | 21,897,000 | 15,588,363 | 0 | 13,500,000 | 459,852 | 51,445,215 |
| Belfast South | 18,233,691 | 834,000 | 4,047,000 | 41,323,651 | 24,831,214 | 89,269,556 |
| Belfast West | 2,691,000 | 23,947,000 | 2,958,000 | 9,719,973 | 21,350,000 | 60,665,973 |
| East Antrim | 164,394,000 | 6,922,000 | 5,387,000 | 903,000 | 7,979,000 | 185,585,000 |
| East Londonderry | 34,011,000 | 0 | 0 | 1,131,070 | 10,000 | 35,152,070 |
| Fermanagh and South Tyrone | 693,500 | 12,444,640 | 7,884,615 | 3,943,360 | 3,799,500 | 28,765,615 |
| Foyle | 9,280,000 | 13,535,636 | 92,048,000 | 11,689,944 | 37,100,000 | 163,653,580 |
| Lagan Valley | 0 | 2,446,600 | 0 | 0 | 1,051,000 | 3,497,600 |
| Mid Ulster | 0 | 0 | 1,391,650 | 10,226 | 22,596,846 | 23,998,722 |
| Newry and Armagh | 5,000,000 | 0 | 914,028 | 0 | 0 | 5,914,028 |
| North Antrim | 2,506,000 | 10,000,000 | 0.0 | 14,441,000 | 6,500,000 | 33,447,000 |

*Invest NI inward investment by parliamentary constituency 2000–01 to 2004–05*

| | Total investment (£) | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Parliamentary constituency* | *2000–01* | *2001–02* | *2002–03* | *2003–04* | *2004–05* | *Grand total* |
| North Down | 0 | 263,000 | 1,575,000 | 1,185,000 | 5,332,000 | 8,355,000 |
| South Antrim | 0 | 66,345,000 | 505,000 | 26,155 | 14,339,760 | 81,215,915 |
| South Down | 0 | 11,794,659 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 11,794,659 |
| Strangford | 2,078,000 | 571,000 | 2,826,378 | 9,750 | 62,500 | 5,547,628 |
| Upper Bann | 1,529,200 | 16,273,760 | 37,854,122 | 12,832,757 | 35,978,370 | 104,468,209 |
| West Tyrone | 1,263,000 | 27,676,300 | 9,334,000 | 4,381,545 | 4,442,500 | 47,097,345 |
| Yet to be determined | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 14,370,000 | 14,370,000 |
| Grand total | 264,676,391 | 231,384,958 | 166,724,793 | 149,386,044 | 210,817,414 | 1,022,989,600 |

*Notes:*
1. 2004–05 figures are provisional and may be subject to change.
2. Projects in the 'Yet To Be Determined' category have not yet agreed upon a final location.
3. 2000–01 and 2001–02 relate to IDB, 2002–03, 2003–04 and 2004–05 relate to Invest NI

### Irish Hare

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer of 20 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 849W, on hare coursing, if he will delay a decision on any licence applications until he has assessed the results of the survey of the Irish hare population. [11532]

**Angela E. Smith:** Lord Rooker, the Minister with responsibility for this issue in Northern Ireland, will consider the population estimate of the Irish hare reported in the 2005 survey, along with data from other contemporary surveys, before making his decision on any licence application to net hares for the purpose of coursing.

### Junior Doctors

**Mrs. Iris Robinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will provide funding to assist junior doctors with unavoidable expenses they incur through their training. [11792]

**Mr. Woodward:** Funding is provided by the employer to assist junior doctors with travelling, subsistence and in some instances removal expenses throughout their training. Expenses that may be payable are set out in the "Terms and Conditions Handbook for Hospital Medication and Dental Staff and Doctors in Public Health Medicine and Community Health Service".

### MMR Vaccines

**Mr. Peter Robinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many MMR vaccines were purchased by each health board in Northern Ireland in *(a)* 2003–04 and *(b)* 2004–05. [11673]

**Mr. Woodward:** The number of vaccines used in each Health and Social Services Board area in Northern Ireland in *(a)* 2003–04 and *(b)* 2004–05 were as set out in the following table. The vaccines are actually purchased by Health and Personal Social Services Trusts and for the purpose of this table have been allocated to the relevant board.

| *Health and Social Services Board* | *2003–04* | *2004–05* |
|---|---|---|
| Eastern | 17,859 | 57,477 |
| Northern | 11,977 | 29,081 |
| Southern | 11,160 | 22,044 |
| Western | 8,482 | 21,096 |

**Mr. Peter Robinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many MMR vaccines the Department for Health has committed to purchasing solely for use in Northern Ireland for 2005. [11784]

**Mr. Woodward:** Northern Ireland participates in the National Contract for Childhood Vaccines. Contacts are awarded for MMR vaccines based on the anticipated requirements for the whole of the UK population. Northern Ireland draws MMR vaccines supplies from the UK central stockholding on a demand basis. Northern Ireland is not therefore committed to a defined volume of vaccine for 2005.

### NHS (Overseas Workers)

**Mrs. Iris Robinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) how many individuals from overseas are working within the NHS in the Province, broken down by profession and nationality; [11772]

(2) how many individuals from sub-Saharan Africa are employed within the NHS, broken down by profession. [11794]

**Mr. Woodward:** Information is not available in the format requested.

### Police Complaints

**Mr. Peter Robinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many complaints have been received by the Police Ombudsman in each year since the creation of the office. [11666]

**Mr. Woodward:** The figures the hon. Gentleman has requested are found on page 17 of the Annual Report and Statement of Accounts of the Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland, April 2004 to March 2005, copies of which have been placed in the Library. It is also available on the Police Ombudsman website www.policeombudsman.org

**Mr. Peter Robinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many of the complaints received by the Police Ombudsman have resulted in a prosecution against members of the *(a)* RUC and *(b)* Police Service Northern Ireland. [11670]

**Mr. Woodward:** The Police Ombudsman's office advises that the information is not held in the format requested, however, the Ombudsman has made 65 recommendations for prosecution against police officers to the Director of Public Prosecutions from the

establishment of the office on 6 November 2000 until 31 March 2005. In the same period the Director of Public Prosecutions has directed 30 charges while a number of files await direction.

### Rath behind the Grange

**Lady Hermon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will act to protect the Rath behind the Grange in Warringstown, County Down; and for what reasons a survey by the archaeological service was not undertaken prior to a decision on planning permission for development. [11364]

**Angela E. Smith:** The Rath or defended farmstead dated from the early Christian period, around AD 600–900. Prior to 1930, the Rath had largely been levelled by agricultural activity. A majority of the surviving below ground remains of its archaeological deposits were destroyed during the construction of a housing development in the summer of 2001 when the developer failed to implement planning conditions seeking to have archaeological remains investigated and recorded. Nothing remains at this location to be protected.

It is important to note that under the 'Polluter Pays Principle' it is for the developer to undertake archaeological recording—not the Department.

### Smoking

**Mr. Peter Robinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much money has been allocated for nicotine replacement therapies in the last three years in Northern Ireland. [11783]

**Mr. Woodward:** The Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety does not allocate resources exclusively for nicotine replacement therapies (NRT). However, since 1999, the Department has made additional resources available to health and social services boards for the development of smoking cessation services across Northern Ireland. The amounts allocated for the last three financial years are as follows:

| | *Amount allocated (£)* |
|---|---|
| 2003–04 | 600,000 |
| 2004–05 | 600,000 |
| 2005–06 | 760,000 |

NRT products are available either as "over the counter" medicines or on prescription and may form part of the smoking cessation service offered to clients. Details of NRT prescription costs over the last three years for which figures are available are set out as follows.

| | *Prescription costs (£ million)* |
|---|---|
| 2002 | 1.9 |
| 2003 | 2.1 |
| 2004 | 2.4 |

**Mr. Peter Robinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the prevalence of smoking has been among teenagers in Northern Ireland over the past two decades, broken down by gender. [12071]

**Mr. Woodward:** The Continuous Household Survey provides the estimated prevalence of smoking among the population in Northern Ireland aged 16 and over. The following table shows the smoking prevalence for teenagers aged 16–19 from 1983 to 2002–03. Since 1986 questions on smoking have been asked biennially on the Continuous Household Survey.

*Prevalence of cigarette smoking among teenagers aged 16–19 in Northern Ireland, 1983 to 2002–03*

*Percentage*

| | *Cigarette smokers* | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | *All* | *Males* | *Females* |
| 1983 | 25 | 31 | 19 |
| 1984 | 22 | 27 | 17 |
| 1986 | 31 | 33 | 30 |
| 1988 | 23 | 25 | 20 |
| 1990–91 | 26 | 24 | 27 |
| 1992–93 | 24 | 24 | 24 |
| 1994–95 | 24 | 20 | 27 |
| 1996–97 | 23 | 23 | 23 |
| 1998–99 | 20 | 15 | 24 |
| 2000–01 | 26 | 23 | 27 |
| 2002–03 | 31 | 33 | 28 |

*Source:*
Continuous Household Survey 1983 to 2002–03.

### Speech/Occupational Therapists

**Mr. Lidington:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the average waiting time *(a)* in Northern Ireland and *(b)* in respect of each health and social services board was between (i) a child and (ii) an adult being referred to (A) a speech therapist and (B) an occupational therapist and the date of that person's appointment in the last period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [12382]

**Mr. Woodward:** Information on average waiting times for speech and language therapy and occupational therapy is not collected centrally. Information is, however, available on the time from referral to first appointment with a community speech and language therapist and from referral to commencement of assessment by a community occupational therapist, according to time band. The figures are available for adults and children together in respect of speech and language therapy and for adults only in respect of occupational therapy. The information is shown in the following tables for the position during the quarter ending 31 December 2004, the latest date for which such information is available.

*Persons attending first appointment with speech and language therapist, quarter ending 31 December 2004*

| | *Time waited for appointment* | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Health and Social Services Board* | *Under 3 months* | *3 to under 6 months* | *6 months and over* | *Total* |
| Eastern | 907 | 191 | 47 | 1,145 |
| Northern | 665 | 95 | 41 | 801 |
| Southern | 373 | 162 | 126 | 661 |
| Western | 293 | 76 | 8 | 377 |
| Northern Ireland | 2,238 | 524 | 222 | 2,984 |

*Note:*
Information is for adults and children.

*Persons receiving first assessment by occupational therapist, quarter ending 31 December 2004—Priority cases*

| | Time waited for assessment | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Health and Social Services Board* | *Under 2 weeks* | *2 weeks to under 1 month* | *1 month and over* | *Total* |
| Eastern | 1,511 | 558 | 290 | 2,359 |
| Northern | 772 | 209 | 488 | 1,469 |
| Southern | 1,123 | 282 | 120 | 1,525 |
| Western | 155 | 87 | 204 | 446 |
| Northern Ireland | 3,561 | 1,136 | 1,102 | 5,799 |

*Note:*
Information is for adults (aged 19 and over) only.

*Persons receiving first assessment by occupational therapist, quarter ending 31 December 2004—Non-priority cases*

| | Time waited for assessment | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Health and Social Services Board* | *Under 2 weeks* | *2 weeks to under 1 month* | *1 month and over* | *Total* |
| Eastern | 1,457 | 302 | 364 | 2,123 |
| Northern | 604 | 96 | 167 | 867 |
| Southern | 93 | 20 | 254 | 367 |
| Western | 60 | 21 | 297 | 378 |
| Northern Ireland | 2,214 | 439 | 1,082 | 3,735 |

*Note:*
Information is for adults (aged 19 and over) only.

## Substance Misuse

**Lady Hermon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will provide further funding to establish projects in Northern Ireland for young people suffering as a result of substance misuse. [11348]

**Mr. Woodward:** There are no plans to provide further funding to establish projects for young people.

There are already a number of projects funded through the Northern Ireland Drug and Alcohol Campaign, which provide services for young people who may be directly or indirectly affected by substance misuse. These projects provide a range of services including education and prevention; diversionary activities and counselling and mentoring services.

## Tyrone County Hospital

**Mrs. Iris Robinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will make a statement on the future of otorhinolarynology services at Tyrone county hospital. [11769]

**Mr. Woodward:** The otorhinolarynology service provided by Sperrin Lakeland Trust includes ENT services and is currently based at Tyrone county hospital (TCH). In-patient and day case services are delivered from TCH with out-patient services delivered from both the Erne and Tyrone county hospitals. The service also provides cover to Cavan/Monaghan hospitals.

The vast majority of otorhinolarynology procedures are performed on a day case basis and the future model for these services envisages that TCH will continue to provide both out-patient and day case services. These services will operate as part of a larger, area-wide network for the provision of otorhinolarynology services with in-patient services provided at the most appropriate acute hospital within the network. Such a network will greatly enhance the potential to recruit staff to local services and will ensure that patients are seen by the right person in the right place as quickly as possible.

## EDUCATION AND SKILLS

### Adoption

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many children were placed for adoption in each year since 1983, broken down by age; how many of these children were placed for adoption while in local authority care; and how many were placed without parental consent. [10974]

**Maria Eagle:** The following table shows the number of looked after children placed for adoption since 1994, the earliest year for which information is available. Information is not collected centrally on the number of looked after children that were placed for adoption without parental consent.

*Children looked after who were placed for adoption at 31 March by age, 1994 to 2004[1,2]: England*

*Numbers*

| | *Placed for adoption* | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *1994* | *1995* | *1996* | *1997* | *1998* | *1999* |
| All children[2] | 2,200 | 2,200 | 2,200 | 2,400 | 2,400 | 2,900 |
| Under 1 | 180 | 160 | 140 | 110 | 180 | 180 |
| 1–4 | 780 | 850 | 970 | 1,200 | 1,200 | 1,600 |
| 5–9 | 850 | 830 | 780 | 820 | 810 | 930 |
| 10–15 | 360 | 330 | 320 | 300 | 190 | 170 |
| 16 and over | 20 | 10 | 20 | 10 | 10 | 20 |

| | *Placed for adoption* | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* |
| All children[2] | 3,100 | 3,400 | 3,600 | 3,400 | 3,300 |
| Under 1 | 280 | 210 | 280 | 220 | 220 |
| 1–4 | 1,600 | 1,800 | 1,800 | 1,700 | 1,600 |
| 5–9 | 1,100 | 1,200 | 1,200 | 1,300 | 1,200 |
| 10–15 | 200 | 220 | 330 | 240 | 190 |
| 16 and over | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 |

[1] Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short term placements.

[2] Figures over 1,000 have been rounded to the nearest 100. All other figures have been rounded to the nearest10.

*Source:*
DfES

### Children's Services (Funding)

**Mrs. Iris Robinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what percentage of GDP was spent on children's services in England in the last period for which figures are available. [11795]

**Beverley Hughes:** Expenditure on children's services in England in 2003–04 was £5.4 billion, which equates to 0.48 per cent. of GDP.

This figure does not include expenditure on education services, local government formula spending on youth services or children's services funded by other Government Departments.

Further information, including forecast expenditure for future years and expenditure on education services, can be found in the Department for Education and Skills departmental report for 2005, copies of which are available in the Library of the House.

### City Academies

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what evidence her Department has collated on the cost-effectiveness of academies. [7975]

**Jacqui Smith:** We recently published PricewaterhouseCoopers' Second Annual Report from the Evaluation of the Academies Programme, which demonstrated that academies are overwhelmingly popular with parents and pupils, and that they have made a significant difference to the teaching and learning culture from their predecessors. Cost effectiveness is one of the indicators we expect that PwC will analyse as the five year study progresses, but it is important to note that academies are funded at the same level as other schools. Their recurrent funding is calculated on the same basis as other local schools and their capital costs are calculated using the same benchmarks as for other new schools.

**Mr. Willis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much funding from the private sector has been brought into the state education system as a result of the establishment of city academies. [12538]

**Jacqui Smith:** Sponsors provide 10 per cent., up to a cap of £2 million, towards the capital costs for each academy, with the Government providing the balance and funding all recurrent costs. For the 17 academies currently open, and the 10 opening this September, the current expected total of private sponsors' contributions amounts to an additional investment in state education of £44 million. That figure rises to £69 million when including sponsors' contributions for the eight other academy projects opening in 2006 and 2007 which already have funding agreements in place.

### Classroom Behaviour

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what assistance her Department is giving to schools in Milton Keynes to promote good behaviour in the classroom. [12914]

**Jacqui Smith:** Our Secondary Strategy gives all secondary schools in Milton Keynes access to high-quality behaviour management training materials and support from a DfES-funded behaviour management consultant. Our Primary Strategy is giving all primary schools access to high-quality training and curriculum materials to improve children's social, emotional and behavioural skills. In addition:

our Excellence in Cities programme provides Milton Keynes with extra funding (just over £1.3 million this year), about half of which can be used to fund Learning Mentors and Learning Support Units in schools in the Milton Keynes Excellence Cluster; and

our Behaviour Improvement Programme provides Milton Keynes with further additional funding (728,000 this year) to support selected schools facing the greatest behaviour challenges.

### Funding (Worcestershire) Schools

**Peter Luff:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills whether the Dedicated Schools Grant for Worcestershire will continue to include the

extra £3.5 million put in by Worcestershire county council above the Schools Formula Spending Share for 2005–06. [12833]

**Jacqui Smith:** The consultation document proposed that the starting point for the new Dedicated Schools Grant should be what each authority is actually spending on schools at present—not the level of its funding. So the Dedicated Schools Grant for Worcestershire for 2006–07 will continue to include the extra £3.5 million put in by Worcestershire county council above the Schools Formula Spending Share for 2005–06.

## Departmental Staff

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many full-time equivalents have worked for the Department for each of the last five financial years for which figures are available. [11505]

**Maria Eagle:** I refer the hon. Member to table C of Civil Service Statistics 2004 which is available on the internet at: http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/management_information/statistical_information/statistics/publications/xls/report_2004/table_c.xls.

This table shows the numbers of staff by Department and agency between 1998 and 2004, on a full-time equivalent basis. Copies of Civil Service Statistics are also available in the Library.

## Education (Sutton)

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the answer of 11 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 836W, on education, if she will break down the figures in the second table by residing authority. [12790]

**Jacqui Smith:** The information requested broken down by local education authority has been provided in the tables.

*Total number of pupils attending schools in Sutton, broken down by phase of education and residing authority*

| | *Number of Pupils* | *Primary* | *Secondary* | *Special* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Pupils attending schools in Sutton | 31,297 | 15,051 | 15,974 | 272 |
| *Home authority* | | | | |
| Sutton | 24,883 | 14,092 | 10,582 | 209 |
| Croydon | 2,383 | 169 | 2,190 | 24 |
| Merton | 1,624 | 353 | 1,252 | 19 |
| Surrey | 1,548 | 338 | 1,203 | 7 |
| Kingston upon Thames | 391 | 75 | 312 | 4 |
| Lambeth | 160 | 0 | 156 | 4 |
| Wandsworth | 120 | 4 | 116 | 0 |
| Bromley | 36 | 0 | 36 | 0 |
| Lewisham | 33 | 0 | 33 | 0 |

*Total number of pupils attending schools in Sutton, broken down by phase of education and residing authority*

| | *Number of Pupils* | *Primary* | *Secondary* | *Special* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Southwark | 22 | 0 | 22 | 0 |
| Other LEAs | 33 | 5 | 28 | 0 |
| Unknown/not given[1] | 64 | 15 | 44 | 5 |

[1] Residence of pupil unknown/not given.

*Source:*
PLASC 2005 provisional data.

## Education Funding

**Mr. Wills:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much money her Department granted to Swindon local education authority in *(a)* 2000–01, *(b)* 2001–02, *(c)* 2002–03, *(d)* 2003–04 and *(e)* 2004–05. [13297]

**Jacqui Smith:** The figures requested are expressed in cash terms and set out as follows:

*Swindon*

*£ million*

| | *Recurrent funding*[1] | *Capital funding* |
|---|---|---|
| 2000–01 | 84.1 | 6.1 |
| 2001–02 | 89.8 | 4.3 |
| 2002–03 | 94.6 | 15.2 |
| 2003–04 | 105.1 | [2]80.2 |
| 2004–05 | 110.7 | 11.6 |

[1] Recurrent funding
Price Base: Cash
Figures reflect relevant sub-blocks of education SSA/EFS settlements. The 2003–04 to 2004–05 figures include the pensions transfer to EPS and LSC, the 2000–01 to 2002–03 figures have not been adjusted.
Total funding also includes all revenue grants in DFES Departmental Expenditure Limits relevant to pupils aged three to 19 and exclude EMAs and grants not allocated at LEA level.
Where responsibility for funding a school has transferred from an LEA, related funding no longer appears in the series.
Rounding: Figures are rounded to the nearest 0.1 million.
Status: 2003–04 and 2004–05 figures are provisional as some grants have not yet been finalised/audited.
[2] Includes £62.8 million allocation for PFI scheme

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the spending per *(a)* primary and *(b)* high school pupil in Lancashire is for 2005–06. [12380]

**Jacqui Smith:** In 2005–06, the total revenue funding per pupil made available in Lancashire, through formula funding and specific grant, to support pupils aged 3–10 was £3,640 and £4,450 per pupil aged 11–15.

*Notes:*
1. Figures reflect relevant sub-blocks of education EFS settlements and include the pensions transfer to EFS.
2. Total funding also includes all revenue grants in DfES Departmental Expenditure Limits relevant to pupils aged 3–10 and 11–15 and exclude Education Maintenance Allowances and grants not allocated at LEA level.
3. The pupil numbers used to convert £ million figures to per pupil are those underlying the EFS settlement calculations.
4. Figures are rounded to the nearest £10.

## Educational Psychologists

**Mr. Lidington:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the average waiting time between the referral of a child to an educational

psychologist and that child's appointment was in *(a)* each local education authority and *(b)* England in the last period for which figures are available. [12384]

**Maria Eagle:** Information on waiting times for consultations with educational psychologists is not collected centrally.

## Employer Training Pilots

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the average length of time employees spent away from the workplace completing NVQ Level 2 qualifications for the Employer Training Pilots was *(a)* in each pilot area and *(b)* across all pilot areas [12741]

**Phil Hope:** The Employer Training Pilots Year 2 Evaluation Report, "Platform for Progression: Employer Training Pilots" (published in March 2005 and available in the House of Commons Library) shows that:

in 50 per cent. of cases, ETP training is mainly delivered at the learners' workplace as part of normal duties;

in 25 per cent. of cases, it is mainly delivered at the workplace but away from normal duties; and

in the other 25 per cent. of cases, training is mainly delivered away from the workplace.

The report also shows that, on average, it takes a participating employee around 100 hours spread over eight months to complete their NVQ. About a quarter of this is done in the employee's own time. Data are not available for individual Employer Training Pilots.

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills in what percentage of cases employer training pilots followed the assess, train, assess model *(a)* in each pilot area and *(b)* across all pilot areas; and what priority this model will be accorded in future in respect of small and medium sized enterprises. [12749]

**Phil Hope:** The Employer Training Pilots (ETPs) tested a flexible approach to delivering training, mainly in the workplace. Training providers were encouraged to adopt an innovative 'Assess-Train-Assess' approach to meeting employer and individual skills needs to tailor the training provided to meet identified skills gaps.

The Employer Training Pilots Year 2 Evaluation Report, "Platform For Progression: Employer Training Pilots" (published in March and available in the House of Commons Library) found that while the vast majority of employers and employees were either 'satisfied' or 'very satisfied' with their training, only 16 per cent. of participating employers went through all phases of the 'Assess-Train-Assess' training model. As a result, stronger contracting requirements were placed on providers for the third phase of the pilots, launched in September 2004, to ensure that all participating employees received an initial assessment of skills needs.

## Examinations

**Mr. Cameron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many maintained grammar school sixth form pupils were entered for *(a)* general and vocational A-levels, *(b)* AS-levels and *(c)* key skills at Level 3 in 2004. [10767]

**Jacqui Smith:** The information is as follows.

In maintained selective school sixth forms:

19,322 students aged 16–18 attempted at least one general or vocational A-level in summer 2004;

22,596 students aged 16–18 attempted at least one general or vocational AS-level in academic year 2003/04.

We do not have the number of students entered for key skills at Level 3 but we do have information on the achievement of such qualifications by those who also take A-levels. Of the 19,322 A-level candidates in summer 2004, 364 had achieved key skills at Level 3.

## Family Resolutions Pilot Project

**Annette Brooke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to her answer of 4 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 156W, on the Family Resolutions Pilot Project, what the reasons for non-referral were for the 71 couples not referred to the Family Resolutions Pilot Project, excluding domestic violence. [12296]

**Maria Eagle** *[holding answer 14 July 2005]:* Pursuant to my answer of 4 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 156W, the table sets out the reasons for non-referral to the Family Resolutions Pilot Project for the 71 cases not referred, excluding the 14 cases not referred for reasons of domestic violence. Pursuant also to my answer of 4 July 2005, the interim evaluation has identified that six of the 71 non-referred applicants were from an extended family member. Thus it is more accurate to refer to 71 cases than to 71 couples.

| | *Number of cases* |
|---|---|
| Parents had already reached agreement | 18 |
| Applicant and/or respondent failed to attend | 9 |
| Lack of parental consent | 9 |
| Applicant seeking to transfer proceedings | 5 |
| Child protection/welfare issues (welfare report ordered) | 6 |
| Residence dispute only | 5 |
| Other (some of this category included family members other than parents) | 5 |
| Total | 57 |

## Headteachers

**Mr. Walker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if she will ensure that all headteachers are in receipt of the necessary training before they are required to draft and publish their new staffing structure; and if she will make a statement. [12359]

**Jacqui Smith:** The document "Review of the School Staffing Structure: Guidance for Schools in England" (and is available on the Teachernet and Governornet websites) produced jointly by the DfES, teacher association and employers partners provides governing bodies and headteachers with comprehensive support in identifying the key steps necessary to conduct an effective review of the staffing structure.

Further support and advice is available from local authorities and from the four unions and associations that are part of Rewards and Incentive Group (RIG), who will shortly provide a 'Frequently Asked

Questions' brief. In addition, RIG is intending to further support the process at the outset of the autumn term with a national RIG Helpline, some regional workshops, and by offering a simple self-assessment tool for schools experiencing difficulties to use in identifying any further assistance needed.

### Higher Education Funding

**Mr. Michael Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what account is taken of local wage and salary levels in allocating funding to universities and colleges; and if she will make a statement. [9518]

**Bill Rammell:** The Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) includes in its recurrent teaching and research allocations weightings that take account of the additional costs for institutions based in London. Within the teaching grant, the weightings are 8 per cent. for inner London and 5 per cent. for outer London. Within research grant, they are 12 per cent. for inner London and 8 per cent. for outer London.

The weightings differ between teaching and research because in the case of teaching they are applied to resource (HEFCE grant plus assumed fee income), whereas for research they are applied to HEFCE grant only.

London weighting is the only regional cost variation that HEFCE recognises in its funding allocations.

### Key Stage 2 (Spelling)

**Mr. Gibb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what proportion of marks for the Key Stage 2 *(a)* longer and *(b)* shorter writing task are awarded for spelling; [13264]

(2) what the minimum score necessary in the Key Stage 2 spelling test is to be awarded Level 4 overall; [13265]

(3) how many pupils scored each mark for the most recent Key Stage 2 spelling test. [13266]

**Jacqui Smith:** In the Key Stage 2 English tests, spelling is assessed on the basis of a discrete spelling test, for which seven marks are available out of a total of 100. An overall Level 4 is awarded on the basis of the aggregate score from the shorter writing, longer writing, spelling and reading tests, and is not dependent on achieving a minimum score in any of those tests. Information about numbers of pupils scoring each mark in the spelling test is not collected centrally.

### Language Colleges

**Angela Watkinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) how many additional language teachers have been appointed in anticipation of the promised additional funding for language colleges; [12761]

(2) how many specialist language colleges she expects will receive the additional funding she has promised in time for the 2005 autumn term. [12762]

**Jacqui Smith:** In March 2005 the Department announced a package of measures to support the National Languages Strategy. This included an extra £30,000 additional grant for specialist language colleges, although no date was given for the additional funding. We have now written to schools confirming that additional funding for existing colleges (including those redesignating in autumn 2005) will be available from April 2006, and from September 2006 for new colleges.

The additional funding can be used in a number of ways, one of which is to appoint a shared primary languages specialist co-ordinator to work across the local authority with a group of primaries. It is up to schools to decide how they will use the grant and we do not know how many anticipate appointing additional language teachers with the funding.

In addition to this funding, as part of the "Boost for modern foreign languages" announcement, the Government are providing £60 million for initial teacher training, support for foreign language assistants and in-service training for teachers.

### Looked-after Children

**John Hemming:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what assessment the Department has made of the reasons for *(a)* the growth in the number of children being taken into care and *(b)* the effects of that growth on the overall cost of taking children into care. [11304]

**Maria Eagle:** The number of looked-after children who are the subject of a care order made by the family courts has increased from 36,400 on 31 March 2000 to 39,400 on 31 March 2004.

Before 2000, information was not collected centrally for the costs of looked-after children. We estimate that, in February 2000, the total weekly cost of looked-after children in England was £25 million, or £435 a child, and in February 2003 the total weekly cost was £36.5 million, or £585 a child. (Information derived from the Children in Need Censuses.) Thus, the increases in the costs faced by local authorities in looking after children who have been taken into care arise as a consequence of both the increased number of children who have become the subject of care orders and the increases in the costs experienced by local authorities in caring for them.

Information is not collected centrally on the detailed reasons for the making of care orders by the family courts. However, section 31(2) of the Children Act 1989 provides that:

"A court may only make a care order or supervision order if it is satisfied—

*(a)* that the child concerned is suffering, or is likely to suffer, significant harm; and

*(b)* that the harm, or likelihood of harm, is attributable to—

(i) the care given to the child, or likely to be given to him if the order were not made, not being what it would be reasonable to expect a parent to give to him; or

(ii) the child's being beyond parental control."

Thus, all children who are taken into care by means of the making of a care order will have been considered by the court to have met these criteria, following the making of applications to the courts by local authorities.

In the Command Paper, "A Fairer deal for Legal Aid" (Cm 6591), published on 5 July 2005, the Government announced a review of child care proceedings in England and Wales. The review will include work to identify innovative practice which enables children to be diverted away from court proceedings and, instead, be supported in their families where this is possible.

*Children looked after at 31 March by legal status, 1994–2004[1]—England*

*Numbers*

| *Legal status* | *1994*[2] | *1995*[2] | *1996*[2] | *1997*[2] | *1998*[3] | *1999*[3] |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| All children[4] | 49,500 | 49,900 | 50,800 | 51,500 | 53,300 | 55,500 |
| Care orders[5] | 29,400 | 29,100 | 29,400 | 30,700 | 32,100 | 34,400 |
| S20 CA 1989 (voluntary arrangements) | 18,900 | 19,500 | 19,800 | 19,200 | 19,100 | 18,800 |
| On remand or committed for trial or detained[5] | 440 | 450 | 510 | 500 | 650 | 530 |
| Other legal status[6] | 800 | 910 | 1,000 | 1,200 | 1,500 | 1,700 |

*Numbers*

| *Legal status* | *2000*[3] | *2001*[3] | *2002*[3] | *2003*[3] | *2004*[2] |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| All children[4] | 58,100 | 58,900 | 59,700 | 60,800 | 61,100 |
| Care orders[5] | 36,400 | 37,600 | 38,400 | 39,600 | 39,400 |
| S20 CA 1989 (voluntary arrangements) | 19,300 | 19,100 | 19,000 | 18,900 | 19,200 |
| On remand or committed for trial or detained[5] | 620 | 320 | 310 | 240 | 240 |
| Other legal status[6] | 1,700 | 1,900 | 2,000 | 2,100 | 2,300 |

*Notes:*
1. Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short-term placements.
2. Figures are taken from the SSDA903 return.
3. Figures are taken from the CLA100 return.
4. Includes both full and interim care orders.
5. For the years ending 31 March 1998 to 2000, includes children who were subject to a compulsory care order under Sections 90–92 of the Criminal Courts (Sentencing) Act 2000.
6. Includes child protection orders and freed for adoption. See Table K for a breakdown of the figure for 2004.

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many and what percentage of looked after children were placed *(a)* outside their original local authority and *(b)* more than 20 miles outside their home authority, broken down by age for each of the last five years. [11808]

**Maria Eagle:** The following table provides the information requested in part *(a)*. Information on the distance between home and placement has not been collected in the past but will be made available when the Department's 2004–05 looked after children data collection has been processed. These data are expected to be available during the first quarter of 2006.

*Number of children in England placed outside council boundary under foster placements, children's homes and hostels at 31 March*[1,2,3]

| | | | *Age at 31 March* | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *All children* | *As percentage of all looked after children* | *Under 1* | *1–4* | *5–9* | *10–15* | *16 and over* |
| 2000 | 11,400 | 20 | 350 | 1,200 | 2,500 | 5,700 | 1,700 |
| 2001 | 11,400 | 19 | 280 | 1,100 | 2,500 | 5,800 | 1,700 |
| 2002 | 12,900 | 22 | 320 | 1,200 | 2,700 | 6,600 | 2,000 |
| 2003 | 13,900 | 23 | 370 | 1,300 | 2,900 | 7,300 | 2,100 |
| 2004 | 15,400 | 25 | 430 | 1,400 | 3,000 | 8,100 | 2,400 |

[1] Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short term placements.

[2] Figures are taken from the SSDA903 return and have been rounded

[3] Excludes independent homes and hostels not subject to Children's Homes Regulations

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the answer of 4 July 2005, *Official Report*, columns 165–66W, on missing children, which local authorities recorded in the delivery and improvement statement *(a)* had not appointed a senior manager to monitor missing from care incidents and *(b)* did not have protocols with the police. [12693]

**Maria Eagle:** Based on information provided by the 2004 development and improvement statement:

*(a)* The councils that had not appointed a manager to monitor missing from care incidents were:

Bracknell Forest
Hartlepool
Lambeth
Milton Keynes
North East Lincolnshire
Thurrock

*(b)* The councils that did not have protocols with the police for monitoring missing from care incidents were:

Barking and Dagenham
Bexley
Brent

Bromley
Cornwall
Cumbria
Havering
Islington
Middlesbrough
North East Lincolnshire
North Yorkshire
Northumberland
Redcar and Cleveland
Rochdale
Southend-on-Sea
Sutton
Wakefield
Westminster

This information was provided in 2004 and does not necessarily reflect the current practices of these authorities.

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the answer of 4 July 2005, *Official Report*, columns 162–63W, on looked-after children, what guidance has been issued to local authorities concerning the number of in year placements; and if she will make a statement. [12693]

**Maria Eagle:** Since the Government initiated the quality protects programme in 1998, the promotion of placement stability for looked-after children has been an important aspect of our programme. Data on the number of children who move three times in one year has been collected since that time. This data indicates that the percentage of children looked-after at 31 March each year who had three or more placements in one year had declined from 16 per cent. to 13 per cent. between 1998 and 2004.

Although the Government have not issued specific guidance solely concerned with placement stability, since 1998, all relevant publications relating to looked after-children, such as materials issued as part of the Choice Protects programme, which is intended to improve the availability and quality of foster care and local authority placement commissioning, and the Green Paper "Every Child Matters (2003)", have emphasised the importance of placement stability, in order that looked-after children are enabled to secure the same outcomes as all other children

As part of the current DfES programme to support the delivery of our revised PSA target with the Treasury to improve placement stability, we are developing further strands of work, in order to analyse and promote good practice in delivering placement stability for looked after children.

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many children from *(a)* Angola, *(b)* Nigeria and *(c)* Sierra Leone are in the care of social services in England. [12809]

**Maria Eagle:** The information requested is not collected centrally.

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many children are placed in independent children's homes out of area of the placing authority. [12814]

**Maria Eagle:** The information requested is not collected centrally for this type of placement. Information on looked after children who are placed outside of the placing authority for homes, which includes homes run by local authorities, the voluntary and independent sectors, and hostels that are subject to children's homes regulations may be found in table J of the Department's publication "Children Looked After by Local Authorities, Year Ending 31 March 2004 Volume 1: Local Authority Tables". This is available on the internet at: http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/VOL/v000569/vweb01-2005_1.pdf.

### Ministerial Visits

**Helen Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many requests have been received from hon. Members for ministerial visits to their constituency since the general election. [9299]

**Maria Eagle:** Since the general election, Ministers have received a total of 25 requests from hon. Members for visits to their constituencies.

### Modern Apprenticeships

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the drop-out rates for modern apprenticeships were in each year between 1994 and 2004. [12022]

**Phil Hope:** The Learning and Skills Council routinely publish Apprenticeship outcomes in the Statistical First Release series "Further Education and Work Based Learning for Young People—Learner Outcomes in England".

### Musical Instrument Tuition

**Mr. Gibb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many primary schools offered musical instrument tuition in 2003–04. [13268]

**Jacqui Smith:** This information is not part of the Department's statutory annual data collection for 2003–04. However, in February we undertook a survey of all music services, and this included information on the number of primary pupils in each local authority who were learning a musical instrument in 2004–05. The survey findings will be available in the autumn.

The national curriculum provides all children aged 5–14 with a statutory entitlement to music lessons, giving them the opportunity to sing, to play musical instruments, to hear live and recorded music from a range of traditions and styles, to compose and to perform.

### National Literacy Strategy

**Mr. Cameron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what level of consultation will be undertaken by the National Literacy Strategy review panel; and with which organisations and groups; [10019]

(2) what the terms of reference are for the review of the National Literacy Strategy; [10020]

(3) what criteria are being used to select the members of the National Literacy Strategy review panel. [10021]

**Jacqui Smith:** My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State announced on 3 June 2005 that there will be an independent review of best practice in the teaching of early reading, including the role of synthetic phonics. The review is being led by Jim Rose, the former Director of Inspection at Ofsted. It is independent from, and is not being conducted by, the Government's Primary National Strategy.

Jim Rose has invited a group of advisers, with considerable experience as practitioners and researchers in this field, including early years expertise, to provide him with advice on conducting his review. The group will consist of the following members:

Professor Greg Brooks, University of Sheffield

Professor Morag Stuart, Institute of Education

Professor Pam Sammons, University of Nottingham

Professor Kathy Sylva, University of Oxford

HMI Janet Brennan

In addition to the specialist phonics advice that Janet Brennan will provide Ofsted will also be contributing to Mr. Rose's review by HMI Tim Key providing information from Ofsted's inspection data.

In making his recommendations Mr. Rose will draw on his advisers' expertise, and he will also examine academic research and best practice for using synthetic phonics in reading in primary schools and early years settings. He will seek views from a broad range of individuals and organisations that represent the interests of those sectors, as well as examining recent reports on reading by the Education and Skills Select Committee, Ofsted, the study in Clackmannanshire local authority in Scotland and other evidence.

### Higher Education Access

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what plans there are for the Office for Fair Access to audit a sample of access agreements provided by higher education institutions; and how many institutions will be included in the sample. [10046]

**Bill Rammell:** In order to minimise the regulatory burden on institutions, OFFA has no current plans to audit access agreements. Institutions have set out within their access agreements how they intend to monitor the implementation of their own agreements and OFFA will take assurance from the information that institutions produce for their own purposes, and the other data that is already collected through institutions such as the Higher Education Statistics Agency.

### Part-time Students

**Mr. Boswell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if she will lift the cap on fee waivers for poor part-time students. [12483]

**Bill Rammell:** The discretionary fee waiver scheme for part-time students ran from 1998/99 to 2003–04. In 2004/05 for the first time non-repayable grants were introduced for part-time students: a fee grant of up to £575 (to replace the fee waiver), and a non-repayable course grant of up to £250. Transitional protection was put in place for continuing students who had received a fee waiver in 2003/04.

The support available to part-time students is being further improved for 2005/06: the maximum fee grant is being increased to £885; the income threshold below which students can get both the fee and course grants is also being increased; and the amount of fee support the student receives will, in future, be linked to the intensity of their study. The grants are means-tested in order to target funding most effectively at those on the lowest incomes.

**Mr. Boswell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what research she has conducted on the financial situation of part-time students; [12484]

(2) what research she has conducted on the impact of new fees regulations in higher education institutions with an atypically high level of part-time students; [12485]

(3) what recent assessment she has made of the merits of fee deferrals for part-time students; [12486]

(4) what representations she has received from *(a)* higher education institutions and *(b)* the Office for Fair Access on the impact on student access of differences between the full-time and part-time student support regimes. [12487]

**Bill Rammell:** Over the last 12 months, Ministers and officials have met regularly with representatives from higher education institutions with high proportions of part-time undergraduate students to discuss a range of issues, including the changes to the student funding system which will be introduced in 2006–07. Ministers have listened to concerns raised by institutions and are considering the most effective means of using available funding to support part-time undergraduate provision. This includes an ongoing consideration of the merits of fee deferral in light of a deepening understanding of the diverse part-time student body.

To understand better the part-time undergraduate student body, the Department for Education and Skills commissioned Alan Woodley from the Open University's Institute of Educational Technology to survey part-time students. The report "Earning, learning and paying: the results from a national survey of the costs and financing of part-time students in higher education" was published in November 2004. Additionally, part-time undergraduates are included within the scope of the 2004/05 "Student Income and Expenditure Survey" (SIES). The SIES is due for publication early in 2006.

The Woodley survey confirmed the heterogeneity of the part-time undergraduate student body and that the barriers which individuals may face to participation are, by no means, uniform. Notably, 65 per cent. of part-time undergraduates are in full-time employment with a further 18 per cent. in part-time employment. Moreover, 36 per cent. of part-time undergraduate students have all their fees paid by an employer. Consequently, any consideration of the merits of fee deferral for part-timers must address the financial resources available to individual students and the likelihood of replacing existing employer support.

The Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) has considered representations from institutions for special funding in response to concerns about the impact of variable fees on large scale providers of part-time undergraduate higher education. The Council announced its findings on 1 March. These included a commitment to develop a widening participation measure, from the 2006/07 academic year, designed to ensure that the most disadvantaged students will continue to be able to study on a part-time basis. Details of the measure will be confirmed by the HEFCE board in the autumn. No representations have been received from the Office for Fair Access with regard to part-time undergraduate provision.

### Primary Schools (Language Tuition)

**Mr. Gibb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many primary schools offered language learning opportunities in 2003/04; and in which languages. [13269]

**Jacqui Smith:** This information is not part of the Department's statutory annual data collection. However, research carried out for the DfES in 2002/03 showed that 44 per cent. of schools teaching pupils aged 7–11 offered some form of language learning, 35 per cent. of which took place in curriculum time. This is up from 21 per cent. of schools offering some form of language learning in 2000, and we expect that number will have increased again significantly last year. Our research showed that French is the language most commonly taught, followed by Spanish, German and Italian. 28 LEAs reported other languages being taught. We know from our Key Stage 2 language pathfinders that a wide range of languages are now being taught at primary schools, including community and other world languages.

### School Admissions

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many appeals were made to the Independent School Admissions Panel for *(a)* primary and junior schools and *(b)* secondary schools for each English county in each of the last eight years. [11859]

**Jacqui Smith:** The information requested is shown in the following table.

*Maintained primary schools[1]: Number of admission appeals lodged and heard each academic year 1996/97 to 2003/04 by each English county local education authority*

| | | Maintained primary schools | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 1996/97 | | | 1997/98 | | |
| | | Appeals lodged | Appeals heard | Percentage heard[2] | Appeals lodged | Appeals heard | Percentage heard[2] |
| 840 | Durham | 370 | 250 | 68.1 | 250 | 190 | 74.7 |
| 820 | Bedfordshire | 40 | 30 | 83.8 | 40 | 30 | 69.8 |
| 825 | Buckinghamshire | 90 | 70 | 81.6 | 100 | 80 | 82.7 |
| 905 | Cambridgeshire[3] | 180 | 140 | 79.8 | — | — | — |
| 873 | Cambridgeshire[4] | — | — | — | 90 | 80 | 81.9 |
| 906 | Cheshire[3] | 80 | 60 | 77.6 | — | — | — |
| 875 | Cheshire[4] | — | — | — | 40 | 20 | 55.0 |
| 908 | Cornwall | 130 | 120 | 86.6 | 180 | 120 | 65.6 |
| 909 | Cumbria | 280 | 210 | 73.8 | 280 | 210 | 74.5 |
| 830 | Derbyshire | 140 | 120 | 89.6 | 90 | 80 | 84.6 |
| 911 | Devon[3] | 270 | 180 | 67.5 | — | — | — |
| 878 | Devon[4] | — | — | — | 260 | 150 | 59.0 |
| 835 | Dorset | 110 | 70 | 61.1 | 80 | 50 | 56.0 |
| 845 | East Sussex | 180 | 120 | 68.8 | 160 | 110 | 66.3 |
| 915 | Essex[3] | 410 | 370 | 90.3 | — | — | — |
| 881 | Essex[4] | — | — | — | 350 | 290 | 83.0 |
| 916 | Gloucestershire | 100 | 80 | 82.5 | 130 | 100 | 72.4 |
| 850 | Hampshire | 430 | 300 | 68.8 | 510 | 250 | 50.3 |
| 919 | Hertfordshire | 1,220 | 730 | 60.1 | 1,420 | 800 | 56.7 |
| 922 | Kent[3] | 1,110 | 260 | 23.2 | — | — | — |
| 886 | Kent[4] | — | — | — | 620 | 140 | 22.5 |
| 923 | Lancashire[3] | 1,800 | 1260 | 69.9 | — | — | — |
| 888 | Lancashire[4] | — | — | — | 1,110 | 790 | 71.3 |
| 855 | Leicestershire | 50 | 30 | 62.2 | 40 | 30 | 63.4 |
| 925 | Lincolnshire | 150 | 90 | 59.7 | 140 | 80 | 60.9 |
| 926 | Norfolk | 170 | 60 | 35.6 | 160 | 70 | 41.3 |
| 815 | North Yorkshire | 120 | 100 | 83.8 | 120 | 80 | 65.8 |
| 928 | Northamptonshire | 280 | 190 | 67.9 | 180 | 120 | 65.7 |
| 929 | Northumberland | 30 | 30 | 97.0 | 10 | 10 | 90.9 |
| 930 | Nottinghamshire[3] | 350 | 260 | 75.0 | — | — | — |
| 891 | Nottinghamshire[4] | — | — | — | 340 | 250 | 74.0 |
| 931 | Oxfordshire | 170 | 160 | 97.0 | 150 | 100 | 68.2 |
| 932 | Shropshire[3] | 560 | 530 | 93.6 | — | — | — |
| 893 | Shropshire[4] | — | — | — | 260 | 240 | 94.1 |
| 933 | Somerset | 260 | 190 | 72.7 | 290 | 220 | 75.3 |
| 860 | Staffordshire | 90 | 50 | 58.0 | 60 | 40 | 63.3 |
| 935 | Suffolk | 50 | 30 | 56.9 | 60 | 30 | 55.2 |
| 936 | Surrey | 870 | 530 | 60.7 | 770 | 510 | 65.4 |
| 937 | Warwickshire | 530 | 380 | 70.9 | 410 | 330 | 79.9 |

*Maintained primary schools[1]: Number of admission appeals lodged and heard each academic year 1996/97 to 2003/04 by each English county local education authority*

| | | Maintained primary schools | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 1996/97 | | | 1997/98 | | |
| | | Appeals lodged | Appeals heard | Percentage heard[2] | Appeals lodged | Appeals heard | Percentage heard[2] |
| 938 | West Sussex | 160 | 110 | 68.6 | 240 | 150 | 60.2 |
| 865 | Wiltshire | 50 | 40 | 78.3 | 30 | 20 | 75.0 |
| 918 | Hereford and Worcester[3] | 130 | 90 | 71.4 | — | — | — |
| 885 | Worcestershire[4] | — | — | — | 170 | 120 | 70.1 |

| | | 1998/99 | | | 1999/2000 | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Appeals lodged | Appeals heard | Percentage heard[2] | Appeals lodged | Appeals heard | Percentage heard[2] |
| 840 | Durham | 320 | 230 | 73.7 | 290 | 190 | 66.7 |
| 820 | Bedfordshire | 40 | 30 | 77.3 | 40 | 20 | 57.9 |
| 825 | Buckinghamshire | 110 | 80 | 76.2 | 100 | 80 | 78.4 |
| 905 | Cambridgeshire[3] | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 873 | Cambridgeshire[4] | 110 | 100 | 89.2 | 200 | 140 | 73.0 |
| 906 | Cheshire[3] | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 875 | Cheshire[4] | 80 | 80 | 98.7 | 120 | 100 | 84.6 |
| 908 | Cornwall | 290 | 220 | 73.7 | 360 | 230 | 64.7 |
| 909 | Cumbria | 230 | 180 | 77.8 | 160 | 120 | 73.7 |
| 830 | Derbyshire | 230 | 210 | 90.0 | 320 | 220 | 70.2 |
| 911 | Devon[3] | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 878 | Devon[4] | 100 | 60 | 57.1 | 160 | 90 | 56.4 |
| 835 | Dorset | 120 | 80 | 64.5 | 120 | 80 | 64.7 |
| 845 | East Sussex | 230 | 160 | 68.1 | 240 | 150 | 60.3 |
| 915 | Essex[3] | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 881 | Essex[4] | 310 | 260 | 84.3 | 320 | 190 | 60.4 |
| 916 | Gloucestershire | 150 | 110 | 69.5 | 170 | 110 | 65.3 |
| 850 | Hampshire | 460 | 250 | 53.7 | 270 | 240 | 86.1 |
| 919 | Hertfordshire | 2,090 | 1,410 | 67.3 | 1,670 | 1,070 | 64.2 |
| 922 | Kent[3] | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 886 | Kent[4] | 1,310 | 250 | 18.8 | 980 | 100 | 10.2 |
| 923 | Lancashire[3] | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 888 | Lancashire[4] | 1,090 | 780 | 71.2 | 860 | 620 | 72.3 |
| 855 | Leicestershire | 40 | 20 | 56.4 | 50 | 30 | 63.8 |
| 925 | Lincolnshire | 240 | 160 | 65.7 | 280 | 170 | 62.5 |
| 926 | Norfolk | 190 | 80 | 42.8 | 160 | 70 | 40.2 |
| 815 | North Yorkshire | 70 | 50 | 72.2 | 140 | 90 | 61.1 |
| 928 | Northamptonshire | 350 | 260 | 73.8 | 200 | 160 | 78.4 |
| 929 | Northumberland | 10 | 10 | 92.3 | 10 | 10 | 100.0 |
| 930 | Nottinghamshire[3] | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 891 | Nottinghamshire[4] | 180 | 150 | 81.0 | 250 | 170 | 66.8 |
| 931 | Oxfordshire | 170 | 130 | 80.1 | 140 | 120 | 83.5 |
| 932 | Shropshire[3] | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 893 | Shropshire[4] | 220 | 180 | 81.6 | 110 | 70 | 62.7 |
| 933 | Somerset | 310 | 220 | 69.8 | 450 | 240 | 53.0 |
| 860 | Staffordshire | 80 | 30 | 33.3 | 60 | 20 | 38.6 |
| 935 | Suffolk | 130 | 80 | 56.0 | 130 | 70 | 51.6 |
| 936 | Surrey | 780 | 530 | 67.7 | 590 | 400 | 66.5 |
| 937 | Warwickshire | 460 | 320 | 70.2 | 490 | 370 | 74.9 |
| 938 | West Sussex | 280 | 150 | 53.7 | 350 | 190 | 55.3 |
| 865 | Wiltshire | 30 | 20 | 72.4 | 30 | 20 | 69.2 |
| 918 | Hereford and Worcester[3] | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 885 | Worcestershire[4] | 170 | 90 | 53.2 | 180 | 80 | 46.7 |

| | | 2000/01 | | | 2001/02 | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Appeals lodged | Appeals heard | Percentage heard[2] | Appeals lodged | Appeals heard | Percentage heard[2] |
| 840 | Durham | 270 | 200 | 73.0 | 280 | 180 | 63.9 |
| 820 | Bedfordshire | 50 | 30 | 56.0 | 60 | 30 | 50.0 |
| 825 | Buckinghamshire | 200 | 140 | 69.2 | 250 | 140 | 55.6 |
| 905 | Cambridgeshire[3] | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 873 | Cambridgeshire[4] | 240 | 180 | 77.0 | 190 | 150 | 75.8 |
| 906 | Cheshire[3] | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 875 | Cheshire[4] | 150 | 140 | 91.4 | 150 | 140 | 94.1 |
| 908 | Cornwall | 340 | 230 | 67.9 | 470 | 250 | 53.6 |

| | | 2000/01 | | | 2001/02 | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Appeals lodged | Appeals heard | Percentage heard[2] | Appeals lodged | Appeals heard | Percentage heard[2] |
| 909 | Cumbria | 150 | 110 | 70.4 | 130 | 100 | 78.8 |
| 830 | Derbyshire | 190 | 160 | 83.0 | 220 | 160 | 75.1 |
| 911 | Devon [3] | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 878 | Devon [4] | 140 | 80 | 52.8 | 170 | 90 | 55.6 |
| 835 | Dorset | 100 | 60 | 55.9 | 110 | 80 | 75.2 |
| 845 | East Sussex | 150 | 100 | 66.9 | 150 | 80 | 55.9 |
| 915 | Essex [3] | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 881 | Essex [4] | 580 | 340 | 58.7 | 700 | 420 | 60.7 |
| 916 | Gloucestershire | 270 | 230 | 88.0 | 220 | 160 | 71.8 |
| 850 | Hampshire | 300 | 200 | 65.7 | 250 | 170 | 67.6 |
| 919 | Hertfordshire | 1,220 | 840 | 68.7 | 970 | 660 | 68.4 |
| 922 | Kent [3] | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 886 | Kent [4] | 1,200 | 350 | 29.1 | 950 | 120 | 12.7 |
| 923 | Lancashire [3] | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 888 | Lancashire [4] | 940 | 640 | 68.2 | 810 | 600 | 73.5 |
| 855 | Leicestershire | 50 | 30 | 56.3 | 40 | 30 | 70.0 |
| 925 | Lincolnshire | 200 | 120 | 60.3 | 210 | 160 | 79.1 |
| 926 | Norfolk | 190 | 80 | 40.0 | 200 | 120 | 61.1 |
| 815 | North Yorkshire | 210 | 130 | 62.3 | 100 | 60 | 64.9 |
| 928 | Northamptonshire | 240 | 160 | 65.3 | 230 | 220 | 95.3 |
| 929 | Northumberland | 40 | 40 | 90.0 | 30 | 20 | 88.5 |
| 930 | Nottinghamshire [3] | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 891 | Nottinghamshire [4] | 240 | 150 | 63.2 | 530 | 310 | 58.5 |
| 931 | Oxfordshire | 160 | 90 | 58.8 | 250 | 170 | 70.2 |
| 932 | Shropshire [3] | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 893 | Shropshire [4] | 80 | 50 | 61.7 | 110 | 60 | 54.5 |
| 937 | Somerset | 530 | 320 | 60.4 | 440 | 250 | 58.0 |
| 860 | Staffordshire | 60 | 30 | 50.9 | 60 | 30 | 41.3 |
| 935 | Suffolk | 140 | 100 | 73.5 | 350 | 270 | 77.1 |
| 936 | Surrey | 490 | 310 | 63.0 | 320 | 210 | 67.4 |
| 937 | Warwickshire | 410 | 300 | 72.9 | 410 | 300 | 72.3 |
| 938 | West Sussex | 320 | 200 | 63.8 | 270 | 180 | 65.9 |
| 865 | Wiltshire | 70 | 50 | 61.6 | 110 | 60 | 49.6 |
| 918 | Hereford and Worcester [3] | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 885 | Worcestershire [4] | 150 | 90 | 58.6 | 150 | 80 | 55.1 |

| | | 2002/03 | | | 2003/04 | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Appeals lodged | Appeals heard | Percentage heard[2] | Appeals lodged | Appeals heard | Percentage heard[2] |
| 840 | Durham | 320 | 210 | 65.1 | 210 | 140 | 67.8 |
| 820 | Bedfordshire | 50 | 30 | 49.1 | 160 | 100 | 58.3 |
| 825 | Buckinghamshire | 290 | 190 | 64.5 | 360 | 250 | 69.8 |
| 905 | Cambridgeshire [3] | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 873 | Cambridgeshire [4] | 110 | 80 | 68.8 | 120 | 90 | 75.9 |
| 906 | Cheshire [3] | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 875 | Cheshire [4] | 90 | 90 | 95.6 | 140 | 130 | 97.1 |
| 908 | Cornwall | 310 | 150 | 49.0 | 320 | 160 | 50.6 |
| 909 | Cumbria | 120 | 90 | 72.0 | 70 | 50 | 67.2 |
| 830 | Derbyshire | 200 | 170 | 87.4 | 210 | 190 | 89.2 |
| 911 | Devon [3] | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 878 | Devon [4] | 100 | 50 | 48.5 | 120 | 80 | 63.3 |
| 835 | Dorset | 90 | 40 | 49.4 | 60 | 40 | 70.2 |
| 845 | East Sussex | 110 | 70 | 63.6 | 140 | 90 | 65.9 |
| 915 | Essex [3] | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 881 | Essex [4] | 830 | 500 | 60.1 | 650 | 400 | 61.6 |
| 916 | Gloucestershire | 150 | 120 | 81.1 | 140 | 110 | 76.1 |
| 850 | Hampshire | 270 | 200 | 72.6 | 210 | 130 | 64.4 |
| 919 | Hertfordshire | 1,000 | 670 | 66.6 | 730 | 510 | 70.1 |
| 922 | Kent [3] | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 886 | Kent [4] | 760 | 40 | 5.7 | 680 | 50 | 7.4 |
| 923 | Lancashire [3] | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 888 | Lancashire [4] | 610 | 480 | 77.6 | 310 | 250 | 81.1 |
| 855 | Leicestershire | 80 | 50 | 65.3 | 90 | 60 | 66.0 |
| 925 | Lincolnshire | 300 | 150 | 50.7 | 250 | 200 | 81.7 |
| 926 | Norfolk | 170 | 120 | 66.5 | 120 | 70 | 58.3 |
| 815 | North Yorkshire | 50 | 30 | 61.1 | 130 | 100 | 76.6 |
| 928 | Northamptonshire | 400 | 240 | 61.0 | 280 | 180 | 64.6 |
| 929 | Northumberland | 50 | 40 | 78.4 | 50 | 40 | 81.3 |
| 930 | Nottinghamshire [3] | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 891 | Nottinghamshire [4] | 360 | 210 | 58.2 | 240 | 140 | 55.8 |

| | | 2002/03 | | | 2003/04 | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Appeals lodged | Appeals heard | Percentage heard[2] | Appeals lodged | Appeals heard | Percentage heard[2] |
| 931 | Oxfordshire | 190 | 100 | 55.6 | 230 | 140 | 58.1 |
| 932 | Shropshire [3] | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 893 | Shropshire [4] | 130 | 90 | 72.9 | 120 | 80 | 63.3 |
| 933 | Somerset | 390 | 160 | 40.7 | 330 | 100 | 31.3 |
| 860 | Staffordshire | 50 | 30 | 56.9 | 60 | 30 | 41.0 |
| 935 | Suffolk | 330 | 210 | 63.4 | 370 | 210 | 55.5 |
| 936 | Surrey | 380 | 230 | 60.4 | 320 | 190 | 60.6 |
| 937 | Warwickshire | 360 | 230 | 62.5 | 270 | 200 | 74.6 |
| 938 | West Sussex | 290 | 180 | 63.7 | 290 | 160 | 54.3 |
| 865 | Wiltshire | 140 | 80 | 55.3 | 180 | 110 | 63.1 |
| 918 | Hereford and Worcester [3] | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 885 | Worcestershire [4] | 120 | 80 | 63.9 | 150 | 80 | 53.0 |

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Number of appeals heard by a panel expressed as a percentage of the number of appeals lodged by parents
[3] Before Local Government Reorganisation.
[4] After Local Government Reorganisation.
Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.
*Source:*
Annual Schools' Census and Admission Appeals Survey

*Maintained secondary schools[1]: Number of admission appeals lodged and heard each academic year 1996/97 to 2003/04 by each English county local education authority*

| | | Maintained secondary schools | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 1996/97 | | | 1997/98 | | |
| | | Appeals lodged | Appeals heard | Percentage heard[2] | Appeals lodged | Appeals heard | Percentage heard[2] |
| 840 | Durham | 240 | 160 | 65.3 | 230 | 180 | 77.4 |
| 820 | Bedfordshire | 180 | 150 | 85.7 | 280 | 220 | 77.1 |
| 825 | Buckinghamshire | 620 | 530 | 86.1 | 750 | 640 | 85.7 |
| 905 | Cambridgeshire [3] | 340 | 310 | 93.1 | — | — | — |
| 873 | Cambridgeshire [4] | — | — | — | 160 | 130 | 81.7 |
| 906 | Cheshire [3] | 300 | 280 | 94.6 | — | — | — |
| 875 | Cheshire [4] | — | — | — | 70 | 60 | 91.0 |
| 908 | Cornwall | 160 | 140 | 84.4 | 120 | 100 | 82.5 |
| 909 | Cumbria | 20 | 20 | 89.5 | 30 | 20 | 57.1 |
| 830 | Derbyshire | 200 | 190 | 92.5 | 240 | 230 | 95.4 |
| 911 | Devon [3] | 330 | 190 | 56.4 | — | — | — |
| 878 | Devon [4] | — | — | — | 340 | 230 | 69.0 |
| 835 | Dorset | 160 | 110 | 70.8 | 180 | 120 | 68.6 |
| 845 | East Sussex | 160 | 110 | 68.4 | 130 | 100 | 72.5 |
| 915 | Essex [3] | 570 | 430 | 75.7 | — | — | — |
| 881 | Essex [4] | — | — | — | 480 | 340 | 70.2 |
| 916 | Gloucestershire | 330 | 260 | 78.4 | 460 | 340 | 73.9 |
| 850 | Hampshire | 220 | 150 | 68.5 | 340 | 150 | 42.9 |
| 919 | Hertfordshire | 1,280 | 1,040 | 81.0 | 1,930 | 1400 | 72.5 |
| 922 | Kent [3] | 1,400 | 750 | 53.9 | — | — | — |
| 886 | Kent [4] | — | — | — | 1,120 | 700 | 62.8 |
| 923 | Lancashire [3] | 1,880 | 1,480 | 78.5 | — | — | — |
| 888 | Lancashire [4] | — | — | — | 1,640 | 1,250 | 76.3 |
| 855 | Leicestershire | 110 | 80 | 69.4 | 100 | 50 | 51.5 |
| 925 | Lincolnshire | 300 | 260 | 85.7 | 300 | 250 | 82.6 |
| 926 | Norfolk | 80 | 60 | 68.3 | 90 | 60 | 64.4 |
| 815 | North Yorkshire | 400 | 340 | 85.4 | 470 | 400 | 85.4 |
| 928 | Northamptonshire | 210 | 180 | 86.1 | 270 | 210 | 78.1 |
| 929 | Northumberland | 100 | 100 | 93.3 | 80 | 80 | 100.0 |
| 930 | Nottinghamshire [3] | 260 | 180 | 69.6 | — | — | — |
| 891 | Nottinghamshire [4] | — | — | — | 260 | 200 | 74.1 |
| 931 | Oxfordshire | 180 | 160 | 92.1 | 290 | 220 | 76.5 |
| 932 | Shropshire [3] | 400 | 350 | 86.9 | — | — | — |
| 893 | Shropshire[4] | — | — | — | 260 | 250 | 94.7 |
| 933 | Somerset | 120 | 90 | 76.5 | 190 | 160 | 84.4 |
| 860 | Staffordshire | 310 | 220 | 69.7 | 270 | 210 | 78.9 |
| 935 | Suffolk | 110 | 70 | 66.0 | 170 | 100 | 58.5 |
| 936 | Surrey | 700 | 500 | 72.1 | 550 | 430 | 79.3 |
| 937 | Warwickshire | 580 | 470 | 79.8 | 490 | 390 | 80.1 |
| 938 | West Sussex | 160 | 150 | 88.4 | 180 | 120 | 66.1 |
| 865 | Wiltshire | 110 | 90 | 78.9 | 100 | 80 | 84.0 |
| 918 | Hereford and Worcester [3] | 180 | 110 | 61.4 | — | — | — |
| 885 | Worcestershire [4] | — | — | — | 270 | 130 | 48.2 |

| | | 1998/99 | | | 1999/2000 | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Appeals lodged | Appeals heard | Percentage heard[2] | Appeals lodged | Appeals heard | Percentage heard[2] |
| 840 | Durham | 230 | 150 | 65.3 | 200 | 120 | 59.7 |
| 820 | Bedfordshire | 350 | 310 | 88.4 | 300 | 230 | 75.3 |
| 825 | Buckinghamshire | 1,050 | 890 | 84.9 | 1,370 | 870 | 63.7 |
| 905 | Cambridgeshire [3] | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 873 | Cambridgeshire [4] | 270 | 250 | 94.4 | 370 | 290 | 80.3 |
| 906 | Cheshire [3] | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 875 | Cheshire [4] | 280 | 260 | 93.8 | 510 | 460 | 89.8 |
| 908 | Cornwall | 220 | 180 | 79.4 | 380 | 330 | 86.0 |
| 909 | Cumbria | 70 | 60 | 87.9 | 100 | 80 | 79.2 |
| 830 | Derbyshire | 310 | 310 | 98.1 | 440 | 390 | 87.7 |
| 911 | Devon [3] | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 878 | Devon [4] | 230 | 130 | 57.5 | 300 | 220 | 72.9 |
| 835 | Dorset | 170 | 130 | 75.0 | 340 | 290 | 85.2 |
| 845 | East Sussex | 230 | 160 | 69.8 | 340 | 270 | 81.0 |
| 915 | Essex [3] | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 881 | Essex [4] | 590 | 430 | 72.5 | 720 | 540 | 75.5 |
| 916 | Gloucestershire | 480 | 290 | 61.2 | 400 | 290 | 73.0 |
| 850 | Hampshire | 420 | 200 | 46.8 | 300 | 180 | 61.7 |
| 919 | Hertfordshire | 2,130 | 1,510 | 70.9 | 1,890 | 1,410 | 74.4 |
| 922 | Kent [3] | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 886 | Kent [4] | 1,540 | 780 | 50.3 | 1,960 | 920 | 46.7 |
| 923 | Lancashire [3] | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 888 | Lancashire [4] | 1,960 | 1,590 | 81.0 | 1,830 | 1,460 | 79.6 |
| 855 | Leicestershire | 200 | 170 | 83.3 | 190 | 120 | 60.1 |
| 925 | Lincolnshire | 390 | 290 | 74.0 | 410 | 320 | 78.4 |
| 926 | Norfolk | 140 | 120 | 83.7 | 240 | 170 | 70.2 |
| 815 | North Yorkshire | 610 | 530 | 86.9 | 470 | 390 | 82.9 |
| 928 | Northamptonshire | 540 | 450 | 82.7 | 720 | 590 | 81.5 |
| 929 | Northumberland | 110 | 100 | 95.3 | 110 | 110 | 98.2 |
| 930 | Nottinghamshire [3] | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 891 | Nottinghamshire [4] | 210 | 190 | 88.2 | 490 | 260 | 53.6 |
| 931 | Oxfordshire | 330 | 230 | 69.8 | 350 | 280 | 78.0 |
| 932 | Shropshire [3] | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 893 | Shropshire[4] | 180 | 140 | 76.1 | 200 | 110 | 52.7 |
| 933 | Somerset | 160 | 120 | 76.3 | 140 | 80 | 58.9 |
| 860 | Staffordshire | 280 | 170 | 61.4 | 540 | 320 | 59.6 |
| 935 | Suffolk | 290 | 190 | 66.7 | 310 | 210 | 67.5 |
| 936 | Surrey | 790 | 610 | 77.9 | 800 | 600 | 74.3 |
| 937 | Warwickshire | 610 | 480 | 78.7 | 740 | 580 | 78.1 |
| 938 | West Sussex | 330 | 210 | 64.0 | 380 | 240 | 63.3 |
| 865 | Wiltshire | 130 | 100 | 77.6 | 150 | 130 | 82.5 |
| 918 | Hereford and Worcester [3] | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 885 | Worcestershire [4] | 250 | 140 | 57.3 | 400 | 240 | 60.8 |

| | | 2000/01 | | | 2001/02 | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Appeals lodged | Appeals heard | Percentage heard[2] | Appeals lodged | Appeals heard | Percentage heard[2] |
| 840 | Durham | 210 | 140 | 68.6 | 290 | 210 | 70.9 |
| 820 | Bedfordshire | 480 | 380 | 80.3 | 390 | 280 | 72.4 |
| 825 | Buckinghamshire | 850 | 540 | 63.6 | 730 | 400 | 54.6 |
| 905 | Cambridgeshire [3] | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 873 | Cambridgeshire [4] | 270 | 190 | 72.1 | 290 | 230 | 80.5 |
| 906 | Cheshire [3] | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 875 | Cheshire [4] | 470 | 450 | 94.9 | 470 | 450 | 95.9 |
| 908 | Cornwall | 430 | 280 | 64.4 | 700 | 390 | 56.3 |
| 909 | Cumbria | 80 | 50 | 63.6 | 200 | 150 | 76.0 |
| 830 | Derbyshire | 530 | 470 | 88.9 | 550 | 480 | 87.6 |
| 911 | Devon [3] | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 878 | Devon [4] | 320 | 200 | 61.7 | 350 | 200 | 57.0 |
| 835 | Dorset | 310 | 250 | 81.8 | 270 | 210 | 77.8 |
| 845 | East Sussex | 290 | 230 | 78.9 | 300 | 230 | 77.2 |
| 915 | Essex [3] | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 881 | Essex [4] | 980 | 760 | 77.6 | 1,340 | 950 | 71.1 |
| 916 | Gloucestershire | 620 | 500 | 81.1 | 590 | 450 | 76.3 |
| 850 | Hampshire | 620 | 430 | 68.6 | 560 | 370 | 65.2 |
| 919 | Hertfordshire | 1,930 | 1,460 | 75.6 | 2,370 | 1,790 | 75.5 |
| 922 | Kent [3] | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 886 | Kent [4] | 1,740 | 1,310 | 75.1 | 1,720 | 1,190 | 69.1 |
| 923 | Lancashire [3] | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 888 | Lancashire [4] | 2,070 | 1,690 | 81.9 | 2,260 | 1,900 | 83.9 |
| 855 | Leicestershire | 180 | 130 | 71.2 | 370 | 240 | 63.3 |
| 925 | Lincolnshire | 680 | 500 | 73.5 | 520 | 410 | 79.1 |

| | | 2000/01 | | | 2001/02 | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Appeals lodged | Appeals heard | Percentage heard[2] | Appeals lodged | Appeals heard | Percentage heard[2] |
| 926 | Norfolk | 390 | 260 | 65.7 | 430 | 330 | 75.8 |
| 815 | North Yorkshire | 920 | 690 | 74.8 | 600 | 470 | 78.7 |
| 928 | Northamptonshire | 940 | 710 | 76.2 | 900 | 800 | 89.5 |
| 929 | Northumberland | 150 | 120 | 79.2 | 230 | 200 | 88.9 |
| 930 | Nottinghamshire [3] | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 891 | Nottinghamshire [4] | 430 | 290 | 67.1 | 560 | 380 | 66.8 |
| 931 | Oxfordshire | 460 | 250 | 55.1 | 460 | 240 | 51.4 |
| 932 | Shropshire [3] | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 893 | Shropshire[4] | 260 | 190 | 71.9 | 230 | 130 | 57.1 |
| 933 | Somerset | 320 | 190 | 59.2 | 360 | 240 | 65.4 |
| 860 | Staffordshire | 480 | 260 | 54.6 | 530 | 320 | 61.0 |
| 935 | Suffolk | 400 | 250 | 61.4 | 440 | 280 | 64.4 |
| 936 | Surrey | 640 | 460 | 70.9 | 720 | 570 | 78.6 |
| 937 | Warwickshire | 830 | 670 | 80.7 | 1,070 | 820 | 76.4 |
| 938 | West Sussex | 470 | 310 | 65.5 | 420 | 300 | 69.9 |
| 865 | Wiltshire | 140 | 90 | 67.4 | 190 | 120 | 64.2 |
| 918 | Hereford and Worcester [3] | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 885 | Worcestershire [4] | 450 | 290 | 63.6 | 500 | 340 | 68.7 |

| | | 2002/03 | | | 2003/04 | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Appeals lodged | Appeals heard | Percentage heard[2] | Appeals lodged | Appeals heard | Percentage heard[2] |
| 840 | Durham | 400 | 270 | 68.8 | 320 | 190 | 60.3 |
| 820 | Bedfordshire | 420 | 340 | 80.0 | 410 | 330 | 80.8 |
| 825 | Buckinghamshire | 540 | 340 | 62.1 | 710 | 420 | 59.1 |
| 905 | Cambridgeshire [3] | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 873 | Cambridgeshire [4] | 270 | 200 | 76.2 | 180 | 140 | 79.1 |
| 906 | Cheshire [3] | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 875 | Cheshire [4] | 560 | 500 | 89.2 | 880 | 830 | 94.9 |
| 908 | Cornwall | 780 | 480 | 62.5 | 690 | 410 | 59.4 |
| 909 | Cumbria | 190 | 160 | 84.5 | 130 | 100 | 78.1 |
| 830 | Derbyshire | 750 | 690 | 91.2 | 810 | 730 | 91.0 |
| 911 | Devon [3] | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 878 | Devon [4] | 390 | 250 | 64.8 | 340 | 240 | 69.3 |
| 835 | Dorset | 350 | 270 | 76.7 | 340 | 290 | 85.9 |
| 845 | East Sussex | 260 | 190 | 74.7 | 340 | 230 | 66.8 |
| 915 | Essex [3] | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 881 | Essex [4] | 1,600 | 1,030 | 64.7 | 1,550 | 1,070 | 69.0 |
| 916 | Gloucestershire | 720 | 580 | 80.7 | 600 | 410 | 68.0 |
| 850 | Hampshire | 580 | 320 | 55.0 | 390 | 230 | 59.0 |
| 919 | Hertfordshire | 2,440 | 1,740 | 71.2 | 2,360 | 1,690 | 71.5 |
| 922 | Kent [3] | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 886 | Kent [4] | 1,680 | 1,120 | 66.8 | 1,820 | 1,310 | 72.0 |
| 923 | Lancashire [3] | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 888 | Lancashire [4] | 2,070 | 1,700 | 82.5 | 1,040 | 780 | 74.7 |
| 855 | Leicestershire | 310 | 250 | 81.6 | 290 | 170 | 60.1 |
| 925 | Lincolnshire | 630 | 430 | 68.2 | 580 | 490 | 84.4 |
| 926 | Norfolk | 420 | 320 | 75.6 | 460 | 310 | 66.7 |
| 815 | North Yorkshire | 560 | 420 | 73.7 | 480 | 410 | 83.9 |
| 928 | Northamptonshire | 710 | 580 | 81.9 | 660 | 590 | 88.2 |
| 929 | Northumberland | 190 | 140 | 76.3 | 200 | 160 | 78.7 |
| 930 | Nottinghamshire [3] | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 891 | Nottinghamshire [4] | 690 | 440 | 64.0 | 490 | 330 | 66.9 |
| 931 | Oxfordshire | 360 | 220 | 62.5 | 670 | 400 | 59.2 |
| 932 | Shropshire [3] | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 893 | Shropshire[4] | 310 | 150 | 49.8 | 300 | 170 | 56.4 |
| 933 | Somerset | 390 | 240 | 61.7 | 440 | 270 | 61.9 |
| 860 | Staffordshire | 570 | 340 | 58.8 | 370 | 190 | 51.8 |
| 935 | Suffolk | 290 | 200 | 69.0 | 310 | 190 | 63.0 |
| 936 | Surrey | 610 | 430 | 69.8 | 650 | 480 | 74.1 |
| 937 | Warwickshire | 920 | 700 | 75.2 | 680 | 530 | 78.9 |
| 938 | West Sussex | 530 | 410 | 78.1 | 520 | 370 | 71.7 |
| 865 | Wiltshire | 170 | 130 | 77.5 | 140 | 80 | 58.1 |
| 918 | Hereford and Worcester [3] | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 885 | Worcestershire [4] | 570 | 370 | 65.4 | 420 | 280 | 67.5 |

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Number of appeals heard by a panel expressed as a percentage of the number of appeals lodged by parents.
[3] Before Local Government Reorganisation.
[4] After Local Government Reorganisation.
Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.
*Source:*
Annual Schools' Census

### School Leavers

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many people have left school at 16 years in *(a)* the Ribble Valley, *(b)* the North West and *(c)* England with no qualifications in each of the last five years. [13303]

**Jacqui Smith:** The information requested can be found in the following table.

*Percentage of 15-year-old pupils with no passes*

| | *Ribble Valley* | *North West* | *England* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2003/04 | 3.0 | 4.3 | 4.1 |
| 2002/03 | 3.6 | 5.4 | 5.2 |
| 2001/02 | 1.9 | 5.3 | 5.4 |
| 2000/01 | 1.1 | 5.5 | 5.5 |
| 1999/2000 | 1.3 | 5.2 | 5.6 |

*Notes:*
1. The information for this answer is derived from data collected for the School and College Achievement and Attainment Tables (formerly Performance Tables) that are published annually.
2. As standard the results reported relate to pupils aged 15 at the start of the academic year ie 31 August.
3. For 2003/04 results incorporate GCSEs, GNVQs and a wide range of other qualifications approved pre-16. For 1999/2000 to 2002/03 results are based on GCSEs and GNVQs only.
4. Parliamentary constituency and regional figures are based only on all maintained schools (including city technology colleges and, from 2003, academies) and have been adjusted in respect of pupils recently arrived from overseas.
5. England figures are based on all schools and have not been adjusted in respect of pupils recently arrived from overseas.
6. Maintained secondary schools in Ribble Valley in 2004 were:
Archbishop Temple Church of England High School and Technology College, Preston
Bowland High School
Clitheroe Royal Grammar School
Corpus Christi Catholic High School
Fulwood High School and Arts College
Hillside School, Longridge
Longridge High School
Our Lady's Catholic High School
Ribblesdale High School Technology College
St. Augustine's Roman Catholic High School, Billington
St. Cecilia's RC Technology College

### School Management Information Systems

**Mr. Forth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the answer of 9 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 698W, on school management information systems, what the average cost was of a core administration software package for *(a)* secondary, *(b)* primary and *(c)* special schools in each of the last five years. [12068]

**Jacqui Smith:** The Department does not routinely collect information on the amount that individual schools spend from their delegated budgets on core administrative software packages.

Becta, the Department's strategic partner for ICT in education, collects some market intelligence, often provided on a commercially confidential basis, as a part of its continuing strategic role in understanding and influencing market activity.

From the available information, Becta is able to estimate typical costs, which suppliers derive by taking account of the number of pupils in a school and the range of software being licensed.

Becta's understanding of the annual charges applied by suppliers to a typical primary school is:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 1999 | 140 |
| 2000/01 | Between 200 and 210 |
| 2002 | Between 220 and 230 |
| 2003 | 275 |
| 2004 | [1]380 |

[1] The latest year for which Becta has usable data

Becta's understanding of the annual charges made by suppliers to a typical secondary school is:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 1999 | 570 |
| 2000 | 800 |
| 2001 | 870 |
| 2002 | 1,100 |
| 2003 | 1,375 |
| 2004 | [1]1,900 |

[1] The latest year for which Becta has usable data

It is not possible to estimate typical costs for special schools because of the different mix of age ranges of pupils and the scope and complexity of the curriculum structures within a particular school. These factors determine whether a school needs to license administrative software predominantly covering the needs of a primary school or a secondary school.

These estimates do not reflect differences in the functionality and service levels offered by individual suppliers. Any comparisons between these estimates and charges made by a particular supplier must therefore take these into account and be made with caution.

In addition to the estimated typical costs shown above, some suppliers also levy charges for services on local authority support teams. Depending on the policy of the education authority, these extra charges may be passed on to schools.

### Second World War Anniversary

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what steps her Department is taking to promote *(a)* knowledge of and *(b)* interest in the 60th anniversary of the end of the second world war in schools; and if she will make a statement. [12279]

**Jacqui Smith:** The national curriculum programmes of study for history cover teaching about Britain and the second world war at key stage 2 and the holocaust and the second world war in key stage 3. In addition the Department was instrumental in the creation of the national remembrance programme of "Their Past Your Future", being delivered by the Imperial War Museum, and also 'Home Front Recall'.

The Department worked with the MOD in its plans for commemoration last week. This work included preparing resources for schools attending the 'Living Museum' in St. James Park, such as education trails and a ration book. The DfES also continues to assist the MOD in its work on raising awareness and knowledge of veterans in society by helping educational organisations to prepare resources and facilities suitable

for schools. This was particularly important for the build up to the 60th anniversary, as the DfES helped to co-ordinate and promote information and to advise on delivery.

### Departmental Sickness Absence

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many days the Department has lost due to sickness in the past five years for which figures are available. [11468]

**Maria Eagle:** My Department remains committed to managing sickness absence effectively and to putting in place the recommendations of the recently published report "Managing Sickness Absence in the Public Sector".

I refer the hon. Gentleman to the figures contained in the annual report "Analysis of Sickness Absence in the Civil Service" published by the Cabinet Office. Table A of the report gives details of both the average working days absence per staff year and the number of staff years on which that calculation is based. The most recent report is for the calendar year 2003 and was announced by ministerial statement on 1 November and copies placed in the Libraries of the House. Reports for 1999, 2000, 2001 and 2002 are also available in the Library and on the Cabinet Office website at: http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/management_information/conditions_of_service/caje/publications/index.asp#sickness.

### Sixth Form Students

**Dr. Kumar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if she will estimate the percentage of school leavers in *(a)* England, *(b)* Teesside and *(c)* the Middlesbrough, South and East Cleveland constituency who went on to sixth form college in the last period for which figures are available. [12527]

**Bill Rammell:** Estimates of the percentage of 16-year-olds participating in full-time education in sixth form colleges at end 2003 in England, the Tees Valley Learning and Skills Council area and LEAs within this area are given in table 1 as follows together with estimates of the total in full-time education in each area. Estimates are not available below LEA level.

*Table 1: Percentages of 16-year-olds in full-time education, end 2003 (provisional)*

| | *Full-time education in sixth form college* | *Total full-time education* |
|---|---|---|
| England | 10 | 72 |
| Tees Valley LSC | 26 | 68 |
| Darlington LEA | 32 | 69 |
| Hartlepool LEA | 23 | 65 |
| Middlesbrough LEA | 17 | 69 |
| Redcar and Cleveland LEA | 29 | 63 |
| Stockton-on-Tees LEA | 29 | 73 |

### Special Educational Needs

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what assessment she has made of Essex local education authority's policy on funding special needs pupils; and what changes in policy have taken place over the last three years; [12169]

(2) how much funding was allocated to each child in each special needs band by Essex local education authority in each of the last three years for which figures are available; [12249]

(3) what level of funding will be allocated to a moderate learning difficulty school in Essex in respect of a newly admitted Band *(a)* D, *(b)* E and *(c)* F special needs pupil in (i) 2005–06 and (ii) 2006–07; [12445]

(4) whether she expects Band *(a)* D, *(b)* E and *(c)* F special educational needs pupils currently in moderate learning difficulty schools in Essex will continue to receive their band funding in full during their entire time at the school. [12468]

**Jacqui Smith:** In its most recent inspection of Essex in October 2004, Ofsted said that, on support for special educational needs, the authority had strong, innovative and forward-thinking strategic leadership.

The funding allocated to children with special educational needs is a matter for each local authority. The Department is unable to provide figures on the level of funding allocated to pupils with moderate learning difficulties in schools in Essex, to the level of detail requested.

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what the admissions procedure is for moderate learning difficulty schools in Essex; and what weighting is given to parental choice in the process; [12185]

(2) whether Essex local education authority has consulted *(a)* headteachers and staff, *(b)* parents, *(c)* county councillors, *(d)* hon. Members and *(e)* the public on possible changes to the system of funding (i) moderate learning difficulty and (ii) severe learning difficulty special needs pupils; and if she will make a statement; [12243]

(3) what system is used to band special educational needs children in Essex; and what process is used to make assessments; [12245]

(4) what admissions criteria Essex local education authority has placed on the admission of Band *(a)* D, *(b)* E and *(c)* F special educational needs children to moderate learning difficulty schools; and when these criteria were last revised. [12492]

**Maria Eagle:** Arranging provision for children with special educational needs (SEN) is a matter for schools and local education authorities (LEAS), within the framework set out in the Education Act 1996 and taking account of statutory guidance, such as the SEN Code of Practice. That framework and guidance sets out a graduated approach to meeting children's SEN, including, where necessary, a process for the assessment of children's SEN and the drawing up of SEN statements. Admission to special schools, including those for children with moderate learning difficulties, is through the school being 'named' on the statement, other than in exceptional circumstances, such as where a child is admitted for the purposes of an assessment

When a statement is being drawn up or the description of a child's educational needs on a statement and the provision to meet those needs is being amended, parents can ask for the school of their choice, mainstream or special, to be named. The LEA must consider the parents' preference carefully and whether the school is suitable for the child's needs and whether placing the child there is compatible with the education of other children at the school and the efficient use of resources. If the LEA does not name the parents' preferred school, the parents can appeal to the SEN and Disability Tribunal, whose decisions are binding on LEAs.

The provision made for children with moderate and severe learning difficulties, and the funding for it in the case of those with statements, should be decided upon individually. However, it is open to LEAs to have general SEN funding arrangements, as long as they are prepared to vary those arrangements in individual cases. In May 2004 the Department published guidance on "The management of SEN expenditure" which recommended that changes to funding arrangements should be consulted on widely. However, precise arrangements in each local authority area are matters for the relevant LEA.

### Teachers Recruitment (Ethnic Minorities)

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what steps her Department is taking to promote the recruitment of teachers from ethnic minorities. [12201]

**Jacqui Smith:** The TTA's target since 2000 has been to increase recruitment of trainees from a minority ethnic background to 9 per cent. of total places. For courses beginning in autumn 2004, provisional figures for entry into initial teacher training show that 2,943 (9.1 per cent.) were from a minority ethnic background. This is an increase of 759 trainees (35 per cent.) since 2002.

Despite meeting the 9 per cent. national target two years early, increasing recruitment of trainee teachers from a minority ethnic background further will continue to be a priority over the next three years at least.

For 2005/06, the TTA has allocated £1.5 million of funding to enable initial teacher training institutions to take local action to increase their recruitment and retention of trainees. This funding has been used to provide race awareness training for staff involved in initial teacher training (ITT) courses; review and refine recruitment processes; develop targeted marketing of ITT courses to minority ethnic communities; facilitate application support workshops; update school mentor training and support other activities aimed at improving recruitment and retention.

### Select Committee Report (Reading)

**Mr. Gibb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills when she will respond to the Education and Skills Select Committee report into the Teaching of Reading. [11705]

**Jacqui Smith:** The DfES response to the Select Committee report into the Teaching of Reading was sent to the clerk of the committee on Friday 7 July 2005.

### Unemployed Graduates

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the unemployment rate among first degree graduates was one year after graduation in each year between 1994 and 2004. [9566]

**Bill Rammell:** The latest available information, which shows the percentage of newly qualified graduates who were unemployed six months after graduation, is shown in the table.

*Unemployment rates of UK domiciled full-time first degree graduates UK HE institutions*

| | | of which, those who were unemployed: | |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Academic year* | *Total graduates with known destination*[1] | *Number* | *Percentage* |
| 1994/95 | 162,020 | 14,930 | 9 |
| 1995/96 | 170,975 | 13,980 | 8 |
| 1996/97 | 171,280 | 11,905 | 7 |
| 1997/98 | 172,660 | 9,920 | 6 |
| 1998/99 | 176,205 | 9,720 | 6 |
| 1999/00 | 170,750 | 9,330 | 5 |
| 2000/01 | 176,415 | 11,050 | 6 |
| 2001/02 | 176,390 | 12,110 | 7 |
| 2002/03 | 176,215 | 12,410 | 7 |
| 2003/04 | 181,870 | 11,845 | 7 |

[1] The response rate for these surveys is around 80 per cent.; the graduate figures in the table therefore exclude those who did not respond to the survey.
Figures have been rounded to the nearest 5.
*Source:*
First Destination Survey (FDS) 1994/95–2001/02, and Destination of Leavers from Higher Education survey (DLHE) for later years. Both surveys are conducted by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

Additional research commissioned by the Department on the longer term career patterns of graduates shows that destinations at the six month point are not representative of longer-term outcomes. A survey of 1995 graduates shows a significant fall in unemployment rates over time. After one year post-graduation, 5.2 per cent. of graduates were out of work, falling further still to 2.6 per cent. after two years, and 1.3 per cent. after three and a half years.[1]

In addition, projections of occupational demand show that of the 13.5 million total jobs expected to be filled by 2012, 50 per cent.—that is, 6.8 million—are in occupations most likely to demand graduates[2].

[1] Data from Elias, P et al (1999) "Moving On: graduate careers three years after graduation." CSU/DfEE.
[2] Based on data from Wilson, R et al (2004) "Working Futures: new projections of occupational employment by sector and region, 2002–2012" IER, Warwick.

### Voluntary-aided Schools

**Dr. Kumar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what plans are being considered for *(a)* voluntary-aided and *(b)* voluntary-aided faith schools in Teesside. [12526]

**Jacqui Smith:** Local authorities have the statutory responsibility for planning school places in their area. The local authorities on Teesside will therefore liaise with the churches, other faith organisations and governing bodies about plans for their schools.

Independent promoters, including church and faith organisations, may also publish proposals to open new faith schools at any time. The Department has no role in the planning process.

## DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

### Telecommunications 3G Masts

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister pursuant to the answer of 5 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 317W, on mobile phone masts/technology, what estimate the Government have made of the number of 3G masts necessary to have a 100 per cent. coverage of the population. [11961]

**Yvette Cooper:** The Government have made no estimate of the number of 3G masts necessary to have a 100 per cent. coverage of the population. The Government will be commissioning further research to identify the future direction of mobile phone technology and the future need for mast developments.

### Affordable Housing

**Margaret Moran:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many affordable housing units built or procured through the Housing Corporation Approved Development Programme and Challenge Fund have been *(a)* mixed funded social rented housing, *(b)* temporary social rented housing, *(c)* Homebuy general market purchase, *(d)* Homebuy general new build, *(e)* mixed funded low cost home ownership for sale, *(f)* miscellaneous works to registered social landlord (RSL) stock, *(g)* reimprovements to rented RSL stock, *(h)* works only rehabilitation of rented RSL stock, *(i)* works only rehabilitation of RSL stock for sale, *(j)* intermediate rent for key workers, *(k)* Homebuy market purchase for key workers, *(l)* Homebuy new build for key workers, *(m)* mixed funded sale for key workers and *(n)* Starter Home Initiative in the east region in each year since 1997–98; and how much was spent on each category in each year. [8848]

**Yvette Cooper:** The following tables show the number of homes built or acquired, and funding provided, through the Housing Corporation Approved Development Programme, the Challenge Fund and the Starter Home Initiative, in the east region for categories from *(a)* to *(n)*, for each year since 1997–98.

Funding and completions are not directly comparable, as funding will relate to projects running, not necessarily units completed, in any one year.

The information in the tables does not include all programmes that the ADP is used for and therefore does not represent the total funding for the north east region. Other categories with funding during the time period covered by the table are Right to Acquire, Voluntary Purchase Grant, Do-It-Yourself Shared Ownership, and Temporary Intermediate and Market Rent Housing.

*Number of homes built or acquired in the eastern region*

| | | 1997–97 | 1998–99 | 1999–2000 | 2000–01 | 2001–02 | 2002–03 | 2003–04 | 2004–05 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *(a)* | Mixed Funded Rent | 1,726 | 2,170 | 1,708 | 1,573 | 1,576 | 1,629 | 1,492 | 1,826 |
| *(b)* | Temporary rent | 122 | 175 | 88 | 68 | 52 | 20 | 38 | 13 |
| *(c)* | Homebuy market purchase | n/a | n/a | 0 | 145 | 105 | 155 | 242 | 3 |
| *(d)* | Homebuy New Build | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 0 |
| *(e)* | Mixed Funded sale | 316 | 135 | 65 | 75 | 53 | 34 | 127 | 129 |
| *(f)* | Miscellaneous Works | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| *(g)* | Re-improvements rent | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| *(h)* | Works only rehabilitation for rent | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| *(i)* | Works only rehabilitation for sale | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| *(j)* | Intermediate rent for Keyworkers | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 64 |
| *(k)* | Homebuy Market Purchase for Keyworkers | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 485 |
| *(l)* | Homebuy New Build for Keyworkers | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 0 |
| *(m)* | Mixed Funded sale for Keyworkers | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 28 |
| *Challenge Fund* | | | | | | | | | |
| *(a)* | Mixed Funded Rent | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 35 | 157 |
| *(d)* | Homebuy New Build | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 6 | 0 |
| *(e)* | Mixed Funded sale | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 13 | 48 |
| | Intermediate Rent | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 22 | 25 |
| *(n)* | Starter Home Initiative | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 4 | 147 | 486 | 52 |

Miscellaneous works, re-improvements to rented RSL stock, works only rehabilitation of rented RSL stock and works only rehabilitation of RSL stock for sale are not recorded as completed dwellings as they may previously have received funding and could therefore be double-counted.

*Expenditure in the eastern region for the listed categories*

*£ million*

| | | 1997–98 | 1998–99 | 1999–2000 | 2000–01 | 2001–02 | 2002–03 | 2003–04 | 2004–05 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *(a)* | Mixed Funded Rent | 28.78 | 25.68 | 32.36 | 35.58 | 44.14 | 51.47 | 75.66 | 93.08 |
| *(b)* | Temporary rent | 0.80 | 0.82 | 0.55 | 0.44 | 0.37 | 0.14 | 0.36 | 0.17 |
| *(c)* | Homebuy market purchase | n/a | n/a | 1.28 | 2.91 | 2.55 | 4.36 | 7.72 | 5.06 |
| *(d)* | Homebuy New Build | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 0.00 |
| *(e)* | Mixed Funded sale | 1.85 | 0.97 | 0.75 | 0.42 | 0.71 | 1.62 | 2,82 | 10.05 |
| *(f)* | Miscellaneous Works | 2.57 | 2.30 | 2.15 | 2.56 | 3.16 | 3.95 | 3.23 | 1.25 |
| *(g)* | Re-improvements rent | 0.09 | 0.12 | 0.08 | 0.83 | 0.24 | 0.68 | 0.28 | 0.20 |

*Expenditure in the eastern region for the listed categories*

*£ million*

| | | *1997–98* | *1998–99* | *1999–2000* | *2000–01* | *2001–02* | *2002–03* | *2003–04* | *2004–05* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *(h)* | Works only rehabilitation for rent | 0.28 | 0.25 | 0.12 | 0.09 | 0.08 | 0.12 | 0.19 | 0.00 |
| *(i)* | Works only rehabilitation for sale | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 0.09 |
| *(j)* | Intermediate rent for Keyworkers | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 3.50 |
| *(k)* | Homebuy Market Purchase for Keyworkers | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 17.00 |
| *(l)* | Homebuy New Build for Keyworkers | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 0.00 |
| *(m)* | Mixed Funded sale for Keyworkers | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 3.47 |
| *Challenge Fund* | | | | | | | | | |
| *(a)* | Mixed Funded Rent | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 16.19 | 2.37 |
| *(d)* | Homebuy New Build | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 0.24 | 0 |
| *(e)* | Mixed Funded sale | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 4.44 | 0.21 |
| | Intermediate Rent | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 142 | 0.1 |
| *(n)* | Starter Home Initiative | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 0.06 | 3.07 | 10.06 | 1.29 |

### Audit Commission

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what the *(a)* budget of and *(b)* number of full-time equivalent staff employed by the Audit Commission was in each year since its creation; and what the estimated figure is for 2005–06. [13119]

**Mr. Woolas:** This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission. I will ask the Chief Executive to write to the hon. Member and to ensure the answer is made available to the House.

### Local Government Research

**Mr. Clifton-Brown:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what the cost is of the research his Department has commissioned from BMG Research on people's views on local authorities; how many people will be surveyed; how the replies will be collated; when the results will be published; how recipients of questionnaires were selected; and for what purposes the research was commissioned. [12753]

**Mr. Woolas:** BMG have been contracted by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister through the Local and Regional Government Research Programme to undertake a national level survey which will track public satisfaction rates with local government and its services between rounds of the BVPI surveys that all English local authorities are required to undertake every three years. This survey will also provide information which will allow for the current standardised BVPI user-satisfaction questionnaire to be developed into an instrument that is of even more practical value to local authorities in understanding drivers of satisfaction with local government and the actions that can be taken to address them at a local level.

BMG have sent 8,000 questionnaires to individuals across England as part of this national survey.

The sample for the survey was selected randomly from the Postal Address File. Thus every address listed on the Postal Address File had an equal chance of being sent a questionnaire. Returns are anonymised and treated in the strictest confidentiality.

BMG will be paid £36,000 plus VAT by ODPM for the national survey of public-satisfaction with local government and its services. This survey is currently in the field.

The responses to the survey will be entered into a statistical computer package which will collate the data.

The data collection and analysis for this work is likely to be completed by the autumn of 2005. A report on this work will be subsequently published by the end of 2005.

### Business Rates

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what estimate he has made of the average reduction in bills for small business rate relief in England in 2005–06. [11999]

**Mr. Woolas:** The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister estimates the average relief to be around £650.

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister (1) what estimate the Government have made of the notional revenue forgone from introducing small business rate relief in England in 2005–06; [12006]

(2) what estimate the Government have made of the revenue raised from increasing the business rates multiplier by 0.7 pence for medium and large firms. [12007]

**Mr. Woolas:** On the basis of returns completed by local authorities before the start of the current financial year, an estimated £390 million is expected to be claimed in small business rate relief for 2005–06 and an estimated £355 million raised from those business properties not eligible for the relief. These estimates will be revised in due course in the light of actual applications made for relief and the amount of revenue actually collected from non-eligible properties. Applications for small business rate relief may be made up to six months after the end of the financial year to which the application relates, or six months from notification of an alteration to a rateable value that makes the hereditament eligible for relief.

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what estimate he has made of the claim rate for small business rate relief in England in 2005–06. [12010]

**Mr. Woolas:** The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister estimates the claim rate for small business rate relief in England for 2005–06, per rateable value band, to be as follows.

| Rateable value band (£) | Midpoint | Percentage relief for midpoint | Assumed claim rate (percentage) |
|---|---|---|---|
| 0–1,500 | 750 | 50 | 22.1 |
| 1,501–2,500 | 2,000 | 50 | 50.9 |
| 2,501–3,000 | 2,750 | 50 | 49.2 |
| 3,001–4,000 | 3,500 | 50 | 48.2 |
| 4,001–5,000 | 4,500 | 50 | 52.9 |
| 5,001–6,500 | 5,750 | 42.5 | 54.9 |
| 6,501–8,000 | 7,250 | 27.5 | 47.9 |
| 8,001–9,000 | 8,500 | 15 | 52.9 |
| 9,001–10,000 | 9,500 | 5 | 52.9 |

## Social Housing

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many people were registered on council housing waiting lists in each local authority *(a)* in 1997 and *(b)* on the last date for which figures are available. [11160]

**Yvette Cooper:** Information on the number of households on the housing waiting list (excluding tenants awaiting a transfer) in each local authority in England has been placed in the Library of the House. Figures provided are as at 1 April 1997 and 2004, the latest year available.

Local authorities sometimes maintain a common waiting list with the RSLs, sometimes known as Housing Associations, in their district. However, information is not held centrally where a RSL maintains a separate waiting list to the local authority.

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many families were housed in temporary accommodation by each local authority *(a)* in 1997 and *(b)* on the last date for which figures are available. [11161]

**Yvette Cooper:** Information reported each quarter by local authorities about their activities under homelessness legislation includes the number of households in temporary accommodation on the last day of the quarter, and since 2002 those that include dependent children or a pregnant woman.

A table presenting information on the number of households in temporary accommodation by each local authority as at 31 March 1997, and the number as at 31 March 2005 (the latest available date) together with the number that contain dependent children or a pregnant woman, has been placed in the Library of the House.

The Government have set a target to halve the number of households in temporary accommodation by 2010. Homeless acceptances in the first quarter of 2005 were 20 per cent. lower than the corresponding period in 2004.

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether his Department keeps a list of tenants' advisers for housing transfers. [9640]

**Yvette Cooper:** The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister has a record of tenants' advisers who undertake a range of work which may include work related to housing transfer, but which primarily relates to work on training and networking. The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister does not maintain a list of "approved" tenants advisers solely for housing transfer work.

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many homes have been built in the social rented sector as a result of planning gain agreements between developers and local authorities in each year since 1997. [12221]

**Yvette Cooper:** Information has only been collected centrally since 2000–01. An estimate of the annual number of units of dwellings provided for the social rented sector in England under Section 106 agreements without other funding since 2000–01 are in the following table:

| | Number |
|---|---|
| 2000–01 | 700 |
| 2001–02 | 1,000 |
| 2002–03 | 700 |
| 2003–04 | 1,500 |

*Source:*
Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix returns from local authorities to ODPM.

Further dwellings are delivered with fixed funding.

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many homes have been built for the social rented sector by local authorities or other registered social landlords in each year since 1997. [12222]

**Yvette Cooper:** The annual numbers of dwellings built for rent by either local authorities or by registered social landlords (through Housing Corporation's Approved Development Programme and Transitional Local Authority Social Housing Grant) are in the following table:

| | Local authority | Registered social landlords |
|---|---|---|
| 1997–98 | 323 | 22,851 |
| 1998–99 | 194 | 22,278 |
| 1999–2000 | 88 | 19,513 |
| 2000–01 | 179 | 17,303 |
| 2001–02 | 63 | 17,494 |
| 2002–03 | 200 | 16,601 |
| 2003–04 | 180 | [1]16,100 |

[1] Includes estimation
*Source:*
Local Authority house building returns (P2) to ODPM; Housing Corporation

**Mr. Gerrard:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will produce guidance for housing associations and local authorities on support for tenants *(a)* with mental health problems and *(b)* who exhibit antisocial behaviour. [12162]

**Yvette Cooper:** The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) has already published a range of guidance on these two areas.

ODPM is committed to working closely with the Home Office and the Housing Corporation, as part of the 'TOGETHER' campaign to support social landlords and other relevant practitioners in tackling antisocial behaviour by way of balanced approaches involving prevention, support and enforcement. This

includes providing material aimed at social landlords on the Together website, access to a helpline (the Together hotline) and the Together Academy (a centre of excellence in tackling all aspects of ASB).

Guidance produced is as follows:

*(a)* In April 2004, ODPM published guidance "Achieving positive shared outcomes in health and homelessness", jointly with the Department of Health, to local authorities, PCTs and other health providers on key positive outcomes which health and housing partnerships might work towards, including improving mental health treatment and preventing homelessness through targeted health support.

*(b)* "Action on Mental Health" was published by ODPM in October 2004 as a follow up to the Mental Health and Social Exclusion report published in June 2004. The pack contains a number of factsheets aimed at both service users and service providers and gives guidance to promoting social inclusion for adults who are affected by mental health problems. The factsheet on housing gives information on ensuring appropriate housing allocations, enabling someone to keep their home and preventing and addressing homelessness for this vulnerable group.

*(c)* In March 2005, ODPM published guidance on "Accommodation and support options for people with mental health problems". This was primarily aimed at local authority Supporting People officers and local service commissioners, but will also be of assistance to landlords in understanding the needs and support options of tenants.

The Housing Corporation's Regulatory Code and guidance sets out the fundamental obligations and expectations of registered social landlords. In July 2004 the corporation published circular "Tenancy Management: Eligibility and Evictions" which provides guidance on RSLs working with local authorities and other agencies to arrange appropriate support, so that it is available at the beginning of a tenancy, to those individuals whose assessments indicate vulnerability for whatever reason.

In August 2004 the corporation published circular "Statutory Housing Management Guidance on Anti-social Behaviour Policies and Procedures" which sets out the corporation's expectations of RSLs' compliance with section 12 of the Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003 and how compliance will be assessed. In addition the corporation has published statutory guidance on the prevention of antisocial behaviour including measures such as mediation services, uniformed warden patrols and reward schemes for tenants with a record of a well conducted tenancy.

**Alan Simpson:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister pursuant to his answer to the hon. Member for North-West Leicestershire (David Taylor) on 29 June 2005, *Official Report*, columns 1295–96W, if he will break down the £6.5 billion levered into the housing sector via stock transfers by source; and what the market value is of the transferred stock now managed by *(a)* arm's length management organisation, *(b)* registered social landlords and *(c)* the private sector. [11533]

**Yvette Cooper:** Stock transfers are always to a Registered Social Landlord (RSL). In both ALMOs and PFI the ownership of the stock stays with the council. The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister do not hold information on the source of the private finance levered in by an RSL through stock transfer or the current market value of the transferred stock.

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will list the registered social landlords which have been the subject of mergers or take-overs since 1998; and how many homes belong to each. [11156]

**Yvette Cooper:** Details of transfer of engagements or undertakings between RSLs for the past two years have been placed in the Library of the House. The cost to the Housing Corporation of searching back through individual RSL files to provide details of cases from 1998 to April 2003 to find out whether a merger had taken place or not would be disproportionate.

## Council Tax

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether the presence of a shed in the garden of a residential property will be taken into account as a property attribute in the council tax revaluation. [11438]

**Mr. Woolas:** The purpose of the council tax revaluation is to establish the market value of properties at 1 April 2005. In order to do this the Valuation Office Agency will look at certain attributes of properties as a means of ensuring that they are valued fairly and accurately in relation to one another. Garden sheds are not one of these attributes.

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many people have been fined for non-payment of council tax in England in each year since 1997–98. [11994]

**Mr. Woolas:** I refer the hon. Lady to the answer given on 20 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 817W.

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister pursuant to the written statement of 7 July 2005, *Official Report*, columns 14–15WS, on council tax capping 2005–06, what the Band D council tax in 2005–06 is in each of the eight local authorities which have been designated for capping; what the *(a)* pre-capping band D district precept including average parish precepts and *(b)* pre-capping band D bill for the whole billing authority of each is; and what the estimated revised (i) post-capping band D district precept including average parish precepts and (ii) band D bill for the whole billing authority of each is. [12001]

**Mr. Woolas:** The information requested for authorities designated for capping in 2005–06 is tabled as follows:

| *Authority* | *Pre-capping band D district precept (including parish precepts)* | *Pre-capping band D: whole billing authority* | *Estimated post-capping band D district precept (including parish precepts)* | *Estimated post-capping band D: whole billing authority* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Aylesbury Vale | 161 | 1,223 | 159 | 1,221 |
| Daventry | 167 | 1,178 | 159 | 1,171 |
| Hambleton | 102 | 1,188 | 96 | 1,182 |
| Huntingdonshire | 161 | 1,191 | 155 | 1,184 |

| Authority | Pre-capping band D district precept (including parish precepts) | Pre-capping band D: whole billing authority | Estimated post-capping band D district precept (including parish precepts) | Estimated post-capping band D: whole billing authority |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Mid Bedfordshire | 166 | 1,336 | 159 | 1,329 |
| North Dorset | 146 | 1,289 | 131 | 1,275 |
| Runnymede | 118 | 1,193 | 110 | 1,185 |
| South Cambridgeshire | 186 | 1,216 | 139 | 1,169 |

*Notes:*
Estimated post capping figures assume that authorities reduce their budgets to the maximum permitted budget requirement. Although parish precepts have been included they are not subject to capping. In addition, the principles set for 2005–06 were applied to each authority individually and not to 'the whole billing authority'.

### Departmental Staff

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many full-time equivalents have worked for the Department for each of the last five financial years for which figures are available. [11506]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** I refer the hon. Member to Table C of Civil Service Statistics 2004 which is available on the internet at http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/management_information/statistical_information/statistics/publications/xls/report_2004/table_ c.xls

This table shows the numbers of staff by Department and agency between 1998 and 2004, on a full-time equivalent basis. Copies of Civil Service Statistics are also available in the Library of the House.

### Building Regulations (Domestic Water Appliances)

**Mary Creagh:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will amend building regulations to limit the temperature on domestic water appliances to minimise the risk of scalding. [3101]

**Yvette Cooper:** Hot water safety has been considered in the review of part G of the Building Regulations; limiting the risk of scalding has been discussed. Direct control of temperatures is one of the options, although there are other ways of addressing it. Currently there are no immediate plans to introduce specific measures.

### Empty Homes

**Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what his latest estimate is of the number of empty homes in each local authority area in England. [11412]

**Yvette Cooper:** The available information on empty homes in each local authority area in England has been made available in the Library of the House. This data has been provided from a combination of the ODPM's Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix return and Housing Corporation's Regulatory and Statistical Return. The total number of vacant dwellings in 2004 was 693,800, a drop of 73,400 since 1997.

### English Regions Network

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will make a statement on the *(a)* role and *(b)* funding of the English Regions Network. [11991]

**Yvette Cooper:** The English Regions Network is the umbrella body for the regional assemblies outside London. Its primary role is to represent the collective views of the regional assemblies to Government and other key institutions; encourage new thinking and research in areas of concern to regions; to share best practice and facilitate inter regional networking amongst assemblies.

The English Regions Network is funded from the ODPM grant allocation to the regional assemblies. In 2005–06 the level of grant payable will be £194,000.

### Fire and Rescue Services

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what his estimate is of the amount of income which will be raised from charging under the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 in the 2005–06 financial year. [11992]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** Section 19 of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 states that "taking one year with another" a Fire and Rescue Authority (FRA) may not recover more in charges for its total provision of services in a particular category than it incurred in making that provision. The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister do not collect data on the amount raised by FRAs through s19 charging.

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister which fire authorities have submitted plans for charging under the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004; and what charges have been approved in each case. [11995]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** Section 19 of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 provides for the Secretary of State to make an order specifying categories of service for which a Fire and Rescue Authority (FRA) may charge. The first such order (SI 2004/2305) specifies 16 such categories. FRAs do not need any further permission from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister to charge under these categories. ODPM do not collate information centrally on which FRAs have decided to charge for a specified category.

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what criteria were used to determine the membership of county fire authorities; what guidance has been issued on their composition; and if he will require authorities to include members of district councils in their membership. [12477]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** Where the county council is the county fire and rescue authority, the membership of the fire and rescue committee is governed by the normal arrangements for local authority committees, and the guidance issued in respect of such committees applies. The membership of a Combined Fire Authority, such as Lancashire, is set out in the relevant Combination Scheme. The Lancashire Fire Services (Combination Scheme) Order 1997 follows the usual pattern and

provides for members from the county council and from the unitary authorities in the former county area, i.e. Blackpool and Blackburn with Darwen. I have no plans to change these arrangements.

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether the Government plans to extend insurance cover for fire fighters; and if he will make a statement. [13068]

**Angela Watkinson:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what plans he has to extend insurance cover for firefighters; and if he will make a statement. [13179]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** Government do not provide insurance cover for firefighters. Firefighter pay, pension and injury arrangements reflect the nature of the job and the risks that may be incurred.

Cabinet Office is working with other Government Departments to address the cross-emergency service issue concerning terrorism exclusions in some personal insurance policies.

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what commitment the Government gave to extend insurance cover for the fire fighters in the 2003 pay agreement. [13069]

**Angela Watkinson:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what commitment the Government gave to extend insurance cover for firefighters in the 2003 pay agreements. [13180]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** Government do not provide insurance cover for firefighters. Firefighter pay, pension and injury arrangements reflect the nature of the job and the risks that may be incurred. Depending on the circumstances of an individual, these can provide a lump sum of up to seven times pensionable pay in the event of death and an ill-health pension and injury benefits giving up to 85 per cent. of salary in the event of an injury curtailing earning capacity.

Cabinet Office is working with other Government Departments to address the cross emergency service issue concerning terrorism exclusions in some personal insurance policies.

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what changes have been made to insurance cover for firefighters since May 1997. [13099]

**Angela Watkinson:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what changes have been made to insurance cover for firefighters since May 1997. [13181]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** Government do not provide insurance cover for firefighters. Firefighter pay, pension and injury arrangements reflect the nature of the job and the risks that may be incurred.

Cabinet Office is working with other Government Departments to address the cross emergency service issue concerning terrorism exclusions in some personal insurance policies.

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what insurance cover is provided for firefighters; whether this includes terrorism cover; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the standard insurance policy for firefighters. [13100]

**Angela Watkinson:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what insurance cover is provided for firefighters; whether this includes terrorism cover; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the standard insurance policy for firefighters. [13182]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** Government do not provide insurance cover for firefighters. Firefighter pay, pension and injury arrangements reflect the nature of the job and the risks that may be incurred. Individuals may take out personal insurance policies, which may include terrorism cover, however this is a matter of personal choice for those individuals.

Cabinet Office is working with other Government Departments to address the cross emergency service issue concerning terrorism exclusions in some personal insurance policies.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister when he expects the regional fire control rooms to be operational; and if he will make a statement. [13552]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** Current project completion is scheduled for the first quarter of 2009. Subject to final decisions on the project, this timetable will be revised, and a new one published as soon as practicable.

### Fische Planning Appeal Inquiry

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister for what reasons his Department provided details of the planning appeal inquiry into the Fische in Shoreham-by-Sea to the press before informing the appellants and Adur council. [12799]

**Yvette Cooper:** The normal procedure in such cases is for the appellants and council to receive notification of decisions by recorded delivery in advance of any wider announcement. I am sorry that, as a result of a misunderstanding between the issuing office and the Government News Network in this case, the local press was notified on the same date as the letters were despatched to the appellants and the council. I regret the apparent lack of courtesy in this case which was certainly not intended.

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister (1) whether he plans to issue further planning guidance on the mooring of houseboats following the ruling on the Fische in Shoreham-by-Sea, West Sussex; and if he will make a statement; [12800]

(2) why houseboats are not considered to be developments for planning purposes. [12801]

**Yvette Cooper:** The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister has no plans to issue guidance on the mooring of houseboats. Because they are mobile property, boats are 'chattels' rather than buildings or structures. This means they are outside planning control unless one is moored for so long in the same place that it can be regarded as bringing about a material change of use of land. Local planning authorities have enforcement powers where land-use is changed without the necessary permission.

### Gypsy/Traveller Sites

**Julie Morgan:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what estimate he has made of the accommodation needs

of Gypsies and Travellers in Essex in each year since 1994; and what provision has been made by local councils to meet this need. [12768]

**Yvette Cooper:** The Government do not make detailed assessment of accommodation needs for Gypsies and Travellers in particular areas. It is for local authorities to make such assessments when considering what provision to make. The Housing Act 2004 requires local authorities to carry out a housing needs assessment for Gypsies and Travellers. Under the provisions of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, local authorities must identify sites within their local plans to meet any identified need.

It is understood that Essex county council is in the process of carrying out a housing needs assessment. Local authorities in Essex provide 165 pitches on 11 sites. These currently accommodate some 249 caravans.

**Julie Morgan:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether he has asked the Law Commission to include legal protection for those living on rented Gypsy and Traveller sites in its review of tenancy law. [12770]

**Yvette Cooper:** The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister has not asked the Law Commission to include Gypsy and Traveller site issues in its review of tenancy law. The issues are being considered within the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister.

**Julie Morgan:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many inquiries he has received from registered social landlords seeking information about borrowing capital for the development of Gypsy and Traveller sites; what steps he has taken to publicise his policy on such loans; when he expects to publish guidelines; and how he intends to *(a)* promote this policy and *(b)* monitor its effectiveness. [12771]

**Yvette Cooper:** Secondary legislation providing for registered social landlords (RSLs) to provide sites for Gypsies and Travellers will come into force in time for the next bidding round for 2006–07. This facility has already been publicised in a variety of ways, including in Parliament and in the Government's response to the ODPM Select Committee Inquiry. The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister will be explaining the new arrangements in more detail to RSLs, in general terms via guidance from the Housing Corporation and through specific bidding guidance on the next bidding round. This guidance will include an explanation of arrangements for monitoring the progress of schemes. Clearly it is too early to assess the effectiveness of this policy, but we will be keeping the progress of this initiative under close review as part of a wider package of measures we are taking to promote increased site provision generally.

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what plans the Government have to give stronger powers to local councils to *(a)* remove illegal Traveller camps and *(b)* tackle unauthorised development. [11996]

**Yvette Cooper:** Local authorities and the police have strong powers under the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 to evict unauthorised encampments of Gypsies and Travellers from land. The Department has also introduced new police powers in the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003 which will enable the police to remove Gypsies and Travellers from unauthorised encampments with greater speed.

Under powers in the 1990 Town and Country Planning Act, as amended by the 1991 Planning and Compensation Act, local planning authorities have wide-ranging enforcement powers to deal with unauthorised development. Since 7 March this year, local planning authorities have been able to use temporary stop notices, where they consider that there has been a breach of planning control and it is important that the activity which amounts to the breach is stopped.

The use of these powers is very varied across the country. The Department is working with local authorities and the police to improve the understanding and use of these powers and to renew their operation to see if further action is needed.

**Julie Morgan:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what steps he has taken in response to the Council of Ministers' request for legal changes on licences and tenancies to give effect to the ruling of the European Court of Human Rights in the O'Connor case. [12769]

**Yvette Cooper:** The Housing Act 2004 s.211 allows judges to suspend eviction orders against residents of local authority Gypsy and Traveller sites. This brings the situation for residents of local authority sites in line with those on private Gypsy and Travellers sites and those with secure tenancies in bricks and mortar housing in this respect. The provision came into force on 18 January 2005.

The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister recognises that the provisions of the Housing Act do not fully address the issues raised by the Connors case, and is continuing to consider issues of tenure of local authority Gypsy and Traveller sites.

### Homelessness

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what the actual revenue grant payments made by the Homelessness Directorate were in support of local homelessness strategies in each local authority in London in *(a)* 2003–04 and *(b)* 2004–05. [12226]

**Yvette Cooper:** The following table provides details of actual revenue grant payments made by the Homelessness and Housing Support Directorate to local authorities in London. It also shows the full revenue allocations, as some payments are subject to authorities submitting outstanding supporting documentation.

Funding provided by the Directorate has supported action to successfully reduce rough sleeping by more than 70 per cent. since 1998, end the use of B&B hotels as long-term accommodation for families with children, and develop homelessness strategies and preventive approaches which have resulted in the first sustained fall in new cases of homelessness for nearly a decade. Homelessness acceptances dropped by 20 per cent. in 2004.

The National Audit Office have estimated that, by achieving reductions in the use of B&B hotels for families, local authorities nationally have achieved

annual savings of up to £50 million. London authorities were generally the highest users of B&B accommodation so will have accrued significant savings.

In addition to providing revenue grants the Directorate has also, since 2004–05, provided capital funding to authorities and also provides grants to voluntary sector agencies providing services across more than one borough. Capital funding to London authorities was £10.8 million in 2004–05 and is increasing to £14.9 million in 2005–06. Including capital grants and funding to voluntary sector agencies funding from the Directorate to London has increased from £42.7 million in 2003–04 to £43.7 million in 2004–05 and will increase further to £44.0 million in 2005–06. These figures exclude homelessness capital funding provided from the Housing Corporation's Approved Development Programme.

Homelessness grants supplement a number of other programmes that help local authorities to tackle homelessness, including housing capital investment, Supporting People and Revenue Support Grant which was increased by £8 million per annum to enable authorities to prepare the homelessness strategies required by the Homelessness Act 2002.

£

| | *Homelessness revenue grant payments:* | | *Homelessness revenue grant allocations:* |
|---|---|---|---|
| | *2003–04* | *2004–05* | *2004–05* |
| Barking and Dagenham | 68,000 | 14,000 | 28,000 |
| Barnet | 416,787 | 123,750 | 165,000 |
| Bexley | 130,800 | 58,000 | 58,000 |
| Brent | 1,423,000 | 783,000 | 783,000 |
| Bromley | 183,500 | 75,000 | 100,000 |
| Camden | 1,834,192 | 1,808,000 | 1,808,000 |
| Corporation of London | 206,000 | 515,000 | 515,000 |
| Croydon Council | 1,104,000 | 600,000 | 600,000 |
| Ealing | 1,224,608 | 600,000 | 600,000 |
| Enfield | 491,376 | 250,000 | 250,000 |
| Greenwich | 113,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 |
| Hackney | 646,000 | 690,000 | 690,000 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 1,300,500 | 1,500,000 | 1,500,000 |
| Haringey | 491,000 | 150,000 | 200,000 |
| Harrow | 181,001 | 183,000 | 183,000 |
| Havering | 26,966 | 20,250 | 27,000 |
| Hillingdon | 779,712 | 80,000 | 80,000 |
| Hounslow | 459,000 | 135,000 | 180,000 |
| Islington | 162,091 | 0 | 357,000 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 1,565,511 | 943,000 | 943,000 |
| Kingston upon Thames | 121,000 | 67,500 | 90,000 |
| Lambeth | 1,119,293 | 1,600,000 | 2,100,000 |
| Lewisham | 102,395 | 75,000 | 100,000 |
| Merton | 75,000 | 80,000 | 80,000 |
| Newham | 1,257,000 | 192,500 | 255,000 |
| Redbridge | 292,000 | 79,000 | 105,000 |
| Richmond | 386,576 | 295,000 | 295,000 |
| Southwark | 996,508 | 1,100,000 | 1,100,000 |
| Sutton | 192,999 | 112,500 | 150,000 |
| Tower Hamlets | 838,950 | 800,000 | 800,000 |
| Waltham Forest | 383,000 | 150,000 | 200,000 |
| Wandsworth | 546,000 | 300,000 | 300,000 |
| Westminster | 4,434,374 | 7,366,000 | 7,366,000 |

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will break down Homelessness Directorate funding in support of local homelessness strategies by Government Office Region for each year since 2002–03. [12227]

**Yvette Cooper:** The Homelessness and Housing Support Directorate provide both revenue and capital funding to support the implementation of local homelessness strategies. While predominantly provided to local authorities some funding, particularly in London, is provided direct to voluntary sector agencies.

The following table breaks down homelessness grants by Government Office Region.

*£ million*

| | *2002–03* | *2003–04* | *2004–05* | *2005–06* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| London | 43.6 | 42.7 | 43.7 | 44.0 |
| Eastern England | 3.5 | 3.3 | 3.0 | 3.0 |
| East Midlands | 2.6 | 2.2 | 4.3 | 3.4 |
| North East | 0.8 | 0.9 | 1.0 | 1.0 |
| North West | 4.3 | 4.0 | 3.6 | 4.1 |
| South East | 6.6 | 6.4 | 5.9 | 6.6 |
| South West | 5.2 | 4.3 | 4.5 | 3.8 |
| West Midlands | 2.3 | 2.2 | 2.3 | 2.3 |
| Yorkshire and The Humber | 1.8 | 1.7 | 2.1 | 3.0 |

*Note:*
These figures exclude homelessness capital funding provided from the Housing Corporation's Approved Development Programme.

Homelessness grants represent only one element of the funding available to local authorities, supplementing other programmes that help authorities to tackle homelessness, including housing capital investment, Supporting People and Revenue Support Grant.

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister which local authorities in London will receive less Homelessness Directorate funding in support of local homelessness strategies in 2005–06 than they did in 2004–05; and if he will make a statement. [12228]

**Yvette Cooper:** The Homelessness and Housing Support Directorate provides both revenue and capital funding to support the implementation of local homelessness strategies.

Overall homelessness funding to local authorities in London has increased from £32.9 million in 2004–05 to £34.8 million in 2005–06. Including grants paid direct to voluntary sector agencies, funding in London has increased from £43.7 million to £44 million over these two years. These figures exclude homelessness capital funding provided from the Housing Corporation's Approved Development Programme.

Within this overall increase 12 authorities had funding maintained at the same level, eight had their funding increased and 13 had their funding reduced.

The 13 that saw a reduction in funding are: Barnet, Corporation of London, Croydon, Greenwich, Hounslow, Islington, Lewisham, Newham, Redbridge, Southwark, Sutton, Wandsworth and Westminster.

Of these Barnet, Greenwich, Hounslow, Islington, Redbridge and Sutton saw reductions of less than £40,000, for the Corporation of London the reduction was due to the transfer of funding for one project to another authority and for Lewisham and Westminster the reduction was due to elements of capital funding coming to completion.

### Design for Manufacture Competition

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister in which Government Office Regions he expects the homes provided under the Government's £60,000 homes

competition will be built; and whether he expects homes will be built on *(a)* formerly contaminated land and *(b)* privately owned land. [11396]

**Yvette Cooper:** The sites in the design for manufacture competition are located in the South East (seven sites), East Midlands (one site), London (one site) and Yorkshire and the Humber (one site).

All the sites in the Design for Manufacture competition include formerly contaminated land. Site appraisal will be carried out in due course.

All the sites are owned by the public sector. School Road, Hastings, is owned by the South East England Development Agency (SEEDA) and all the other sites are owned by English Partnerships.

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what estimate the Government has made, or what conditions the Government has required, for the longevity or building life of the residential accommodation provided in the £60,000 home competition. [13111]

**Yvette Cooper:** All the homes to be built through the Design for Manufacture competition will be to high quality standards. The competition evaluation process includes examination of the component life, building process and material performance of the construction process proposed by bidders as well as the maintenance costs and the environmental sustainability of the proposals. The competition also requires that all building methods proposed are capable of achieving all necessary approvals, including conformity with current building regulations and certification by the National House Building Council, and are also capable of being insured and attracting mortgage lending.

### Housing Standards

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what assessment he has made of the proportion of households satisfied with the quality of homes in which they live *(a)* in England and *(b)* in deprived areas in each year since 1996–97 for which figures are available. [11397]

**Yvette Cooper:** Figures on households' overall satisfaction with their accommodation for *(a)* England and *(b)* deprived areas for each year since 1996–97 are in the following table.

*Percentage of households that said they were satisfied with their accommodation*

| | *England* | *Deprived areas* |
|---|---|---|
| 1996–97 | 90 | 83 |
| 1997–98 | 91 | 84 |
| 1998–99 | 91 | 85 |
| 1999–2000 | 91 | 85 |
| 2000–01 | 91 | 83 |
| 2001–02 | 91 | 85 |
| 2002–03 | 92 | 86 |
| 2003–04 | 91 | 82 |

*Source:*
Survey of English Housing.

The "deprived areas" referred to in the above table are the 10 per cent. most deprived wards in England as based on a combination of measures covering six domains: income; employment; health and disability; education and skills; housing; and geographical access to services.

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what role the Government offices of the regions play in setting targets and priorities for local councils in relation to housing. [11420]

**Yvette Cooper:** The Government Offices work closely with local authorities to support them deliver targets and priorities determined by central Government. For example, helping local authorities ensure that all their properties by 2010 (and an increased proportion of private sector homes occupied by vulnerable people) meet the Decent Homes standard.

### Milton Keynes Local Development Scheme

**Dr. Starkey:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what assessment he has made of the implication for the Milton Keynes growth area of the overlapping timetables for the *(a)* Western Expansion Area Development Framework, *(b)* Local Plan and *(c)* Master Plan. [10448]

**Yvette Cooper:** The Milton Keynes Council's Local Development Scheme (LDS), which is a project plan for producing new planning documents, provides information on the emerging Western Expansion Area Development Framework, Local Plan and Master Plan. It sets out how they will be prepared in the context of the new planning system and their relative status, relationship and timing. The LDS has been assessed by the First Secretary of State who decided to allow it to proceed and is publicly available.

### Housing (Chorley)

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will use English Partnership land for low cost and social housing in Chorley. [11141]

**Yvette Cooper:** English Partnerships (EP) currently owns 54.6 hectares of land in Chorley. One site (consisting of 4.4 hectares) has planning consent for residential development. This site will be jointly marketed with Chorley borough council (CBC) in about three months time. EP and CBC are also discussing the development brief for a parcel of land adjacent to this site that is owned by CBC.

The amount of low cost and social housing on the site will be determined by the borough council as the planning authority.

Development of the other approximately 50 hectares of land owned by English Partnerships in Chorley is either employment or agricultural land or has some form of constraint.

### Home Buying and Selling

**Mr. Kidney:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister when he plans to publish the Regulations to implement the provisions of the Housing Act 2004 relating to changes to the home buying and selling system; and if he will publish them first in draft. [11871]

**Yvette Cooper:** An announcement will be made shortly. Regulations will be published in draft in each case.

### Housing Tenure

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many households comprised *(a)* social tenants, *(b)* private rented tenants, *(c)* owner occupiers owned outright and *(d)* owner occupiers, with a mortgage in England in (i) 1997 and (ii) the latest year for which figures are available. [13198]

**Yvette Cooper:** Estimates of the number of households within each housing tenure in England in 1997 and in 2004 are tabled as follows:

*Number of households by housing tenure, England, 1997 and 2004*

| | 1997 | | 2004 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Tenure* | *Thousand* | *Percentage* | *Thousand* | *Percentage* |
| Social tenants | 4,194 | 21 | 3,784 | 18 |
| Private rented tenants | 2,053 | 10 | 2,226 | 11 |
| Owner occupiers/owned outright | 5,236 | 26 | 6,239 | 30 |
| Owner occupiers/with mortgage | 8,351 | 42 | 8,337 | 40 |
| Total | 19,834 | 100 | 20,586 | 100 |

*Source:*
Labour Force Survey

### Key Worker Living Initiative

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how long homes built under the Key Worker Living Initiative have to remain empty before alternative uses can be found. [12756]

**Yvette Cooper:** Each scheme is dealt with on an individual basis taking into account the marketing activities of the Registered Social landlord and local market demand and supply. There is flexibility which allows for changes to tenure and widening of the eligibility criteria where local evidence demonstrates that this is needed and where no added grant is required. Scheme review will be triggered only where units have been empty for at least three months.

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what mechanisms are in place to prevent an oversupply of properties available to key workers. [12757]

**Yvette Cooper:** The Housing Corporation is monitoring supply of property for key workers in all of its regions to ensure that what is available is sold or let and that future supply is not in competition with existing proposals and does not exceed demand.

### Local Government Finance

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will list the special discounts that individual local authorities in England have chosen to adopt under Clause 76 of the Local Government Act 2003. [11986]

**Mr. Woolas:** A table setting out data provided by local billing authorities on the CTB1 Supplementary Form 2005–06 on discounts provided from April 2004 to March 2005 under section 13A of Local Government Finance Act 1992, inserted by section 76 of the Local Government Act 2003, has been placed in the Library of the House. We will collect data relating to April 2005 to March 2006 from the CTB1 Supplementary Form 2006–07 which will be sent out this autumn.

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how a decision by a billing authority to adopt a special discount under Clause 76 of the Local Government Act 2003 affects *(a)* the revenues of precepting authorities other than the billing authority and *(b)* Government grant to the billing authority and other precepting authorities. [11987]

**Mr. Woolas:** The revenues of precepting authorities are unaffected where a billing authority grants a special discount under section 13A of Local Government Finance Act 1992, inserted by section 76 of the Local Government Act 2003. The shortfall that would otherwise arise is adjusted by a transfer from the general fund of the billing authority to its collection fund and the balances in the collection fund are then shared with precepting authorities accordingly.

No adjustment to Government grant is made in respect of discounts provided by billing authorities under section 13A of Local Government Finance Act 1992, inserted by section 76 of the Local Government Act 2003.

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether the decision to adopt a special discount under Clause 76 of the Local Government Act 2003 is the decision solely of the billing authority. [11989]

**Mr. Woolas:** The power to provide special discounts under section 13A of Local Government Finance Act 1992, inserted by section 76 of the Local Government Act 2003 rests with the billing authority alone.

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what proportion of local government total assumed spending in England was made up of specific grants in each year since 1996–97. [11387]

**Mr. Woolas:** The information requested is provided in the following table:

| | *(A) Total of Formula Spending Shares[1] and specific grants (£ billion)* | *(B) Specific grants (£ billion)* | *(B) as a proportion of (A)* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1997–98 | 49.6 | 5.1 | 10 |
| 1998–99 | 48.4 | 5.7 | 12 |
| 1999–2000 | 51.5 | 6.4 | 13 |
| 2000–01 | 55.0 | 8.3 | 15 |
| 2001–02 | 59.1 | 10.3 | 17 |
| 2002–03 | 62.5 | 12.7 | 20 |
| 2003–04 | 72.0 | 13.3 | 18 |
| 2004–05 budget | 77.0 | 16.4 | 21 |
| 2005–06 budget | 81.5 | 17.6 | 22 |

[1] Formerly Standard Spending Assessments up to 2002–03.

### Daventry District Council

**Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what assessment was made of the transitional funding arrangements accompanying the abolition of local authority social housing grant in assessing the inclusion of Daventry district council in the Council Tax Limitation (England) (Maximum Amounts) Order 2005. [12403]

**Mr. Woolas:** I assume the question is referring to transitional arrangements for Negative Housing Subsidy Authorities.

The points made by the Council in their written representations and at their meeting with me on 25 May were carefully considered. As part of those considerations the Government examined the transitional measures scheme and concluded that the Council's points did not justify setting an excessive budget requirement. I should highlight that the proposed order does not affect the authority's entitlement to benefit from the transitional measures.

### Local Government Pensions

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether he plans to publish a regulatory impact assessment in relation to revoking the Local Government Pension Scheme (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2004. [13117]

**Mr. Woolas:** A Regulatory Impact Assessment for the Local Government Pension Scheme (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2004 was published on 13 July and copies were placed in the Libraries of the House.

### Local Strategy Partnerships

**Vera Baird:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what arrangements are in place for the exchange of best practice among local strategy partnerships. [11902]

**Mr. Woolas:** The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister works with Local Strategy Partnerships (LSPs) to help them improve their performance and encourages them to learn from what works. We have developed a range of resources to enable them to do so. These include:

establishing www.renewal.net, a web-based source of evaluated evidence about what works for LSPs, presented in a practical and user-friendly format. Renewal.net also has a series of discussion fora which encourage LSPs to exchange best practice;

developing regional LSP networks, supported by Government Offices for the regions, which enable LSPs to learn from each other;

providing technical advice from our pool of Neighbourhood Renewal Advisers, ensuring that LSPs have access to specialist knowledge about established and emerging best practice;

organising national and regional events for LSPs designed to highlight what works and enable LSPs to exchange best practice.

### London Governance

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister when the Government intends to publish their plans to reform *(a)* London governance and *(b)* the powers of the Mayor of London. [12005]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Government gave a manifesto commitment to review the powers of the London Mayor and the Greater London Authority. We will make a further announcement in the autumn.

**Mrs. Lait:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what the timetable is for the handover of responsibilities of the Government Office for London to the mayor. [12855]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Government is undertaking a review of the powers of the London mayor and the Greater London authority. Any decision about the transfer of further responsibilities to the mayor, including any implications for the Government Office, will be made once the review has been completed. We will make a further announcement about the review by the end of the year.

### Mayoral Referendums

**Anne Milton:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what *(a)* secondary legislation and *(b)* procedural advice the Government has published in relation to local authorities holding Mayoral referendums; and if he will deposit a copy of those documents in the Library. [12846]

**Mr. Woolas:** The following secondary legislation relating to Mayoral referendums has been issued:

Local Authorities (Referendums) (Petitions and Directions) (England) Regulations 2000;

Local Authorities (Conduct of Referendums) (England) Regulations 2001;

Local Authorities (Conduct of Referendums) (England) (Consequential Amendment) Order 2001;

Local Authorities (Referendums) (Petitions and Directions) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2001;

Local Authorities (Referendums) (Petitions and Directions) (England) (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2001;

Local Authorities (Referendums) (Petitions and Directions) (England) (Amendment) (No. 3) Regulations 2001.

Guidance material has also been published to assist local authorities holding Mayoral referendums.

Copies of these documents have already been placed in the Library of the House.

### Neighbourhood Improvement Districts

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what plans the Government have to legislate for neighbourhood improvement districts. [13070]

**Mr. Woolas:** The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister currently has no plans to legislate for neighbourhood improvement districts.

"Citizen Engagement and Public Services: Why Neighbourhoods Matter" (January 2005), invited discussion about the idea. These discussions are ongoing.

### Olympics 2012

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what the implications are of the successful bid to hold the 2012 Olympic games in London for the *(a)* workload and *(b)* staffing levels of his Department. [11677]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister will continue to support delivery of the Olympic games, as it has the Olympic bid. The Olympic park is in the Thames Gateway and I would expect both the Thames Gateway and Sustainable Buildings Directorate and the London Thames Gateway Urban Development Corporation (which we sponsor) to play a significant role in helping to deliver a successful games in 2012.

### Overcrowded Accommodation

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what assessment his Department has made of the effects of living in overcrowded accommodation. [12229]

**Yvette Cooper:** The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister published in May 2004 a review by De Montfort university of the evidence and literature relating to the impact of overcrowded housing on health and education. The report, the Impact of Overcrowding on Health and Education (ISBN 1 85112 711 0), was placed in the Library of the House.

### Park Land

**Lorely Burt:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister (1) if the Government will make changes to planning law to protect existing park land from being sold by local authorities; [12398]

(2) how much park land was sold by local authorities for development between June 2001 and May 2005. [12399]

**Yvette Cooper:** Park land is protected by the provisions of national planning policy guidance note 17 (PPG 17). This requires planning authorities to protect from development all forms of open space, including parks, unless they are demonstrated to be surplus to the requirements of the community. There are no current plans to change this guidance.

The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister does not hold central records of the amount of all park land disposed of by local authorities. We are however committed to developing a national database of green spaces in England, which will help us to identify the location, quantity and changes to green spaces.

### Parliamentary Questions

**Mary Creagh:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister when he will reply to question reference 3101 from the hon. Member for Wakefield. [13156]

**Yvette Cooper:** I have today replied to my hon. Friend's question.

### Planning Guidance (Car Parking)

**Mr. Clifton-Brown:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will review planning guidance which states that only 0.9 car parking spaces per dwelling must be provided. [12851]

**Yvette Cooper:** I refer the hon. Member to the written statement made on 17 July 2003, *Official Report*, columns 53–57WS by my right hon. Friend the Member for Streatham (Keith Hill)

This explains that local authorities parking standards should result in an average of 1.5 off-street parking spaces per dwelling over their plan area. The 1.5 is intended to be an average across the plan area. Planning policy does not expect all dwellings in new developments to have 1.5 car parking spaces.

The Government accepts that parking needs vary, according to location and housing type. To help the development of appropriate standards, research has been commissioned to consider how varying levels of car parking can be achieved in ways consistent with the Government's policies on sustainable residential environments. This research will inform the preparation of the Planning Policy Statement 3: "Housing", a draft of which will be the subject of consultation later this year.

### Regional Assemblies

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what offices regional chambers have outside the United Kingdom; and what the annual cost was of each in the last year for which figures are available. [12000]

**Yvette Cooper:** Each of the regional assemblies makes a contribution with regional partners, including the regional development agency and regional local government association, towards an office outside the United Kingdom. Details of the cost incurred by each assembly is:

| *Assembly* | *Location of office or representation* | *Cost of maintenance (£)* | *Explanation of cost* | *Source of funding* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| East | Brussels | 321,740 | Contribution to maintenance of office | Non-ODPM funding |
| East Midlands | Brussels | 7,500 | Contribution to maintenance of joint office | ODPM funding |
| North East | Brussels | 90,190 | Contribution to maintenance of joint office | Non-ODPM funding |
| North West | Brussels | 19,810 | Contribution to maintenance of joint office | Non-ODPM funding |
| South East | Brussels | 53,600 | Contribution to maintenance of joint office | Non-ODPM funding |
| South West | Brussels | 11,000 | Contribution to maintenance of joint office | ODPM funding |
| West Midlands | Brussels | 6,900 | Contribution to maintenance of joint office | ODPM funding |
| Yorkshire and the [illegible] | Brussels | 278,000 | Contribution to maintenance of joint office | Non-ODPM funding |

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether the regional chambers send copies of their annual accounts to his Department. [12003]

**Yvette Cooper:** The regional assemblies are required to submit copies of their annual audited accounts to the relevant Government Office as soon as possible after the end of the accounting period.

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will place in the Library, a copy of the ministerial guidance on regional chambers referred to on page 10 of the Department's research report, evaluation of the role and impact of regional chambers: feasibility study. [12011]

**Yvette Cooper:** I have today arranged for copies of the guidance to be placed in the Library of the House.

### Regional Housing/Planning Boards

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what assessment he has made of the implications for London of merging regional housing boards with regional planning boards. [12004]

**Yvette Cooper:** The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister consulted on this recently and are now considering a number of points of detail, including the implications for all regions.

### Regional Spatial Strategy (East of England)

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister for what reasons examination in public of the Regional Spatial Strategy for the East of England has been postponed from September to November; and if he will make a statement. [11416]

**Yvette Cooper:** Given the need to allow all parties additional time to gain an appreciation of the submitted representations, together with EERA's need for additional time to prepare adequately for the Examination in Public (EiP), the Panel established to conduct the EiP into the Regional Spatial Strategy for the East of England has decided that the start date should be deferred until 1 November 2005.

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how he intends to publicise the examination in public of the Regional Spatial Strategy for the East of England to ensure people in South Essex are made aware of it. [11417]

**Yvette Cooper:** The Examination in Public (EiP) has been publicised in the following ways:

in publishing the draft RSS for consultation the East of England Regional Assembly (EERA) issued a press release and wrote to around 4,000 consultees advising of the arrangements for the EiP;

in responding to around 6,000 requests for the draft RSS, EERA advised of the arrangements for the EiP;

EERA also publicised the arrangements for the EiP at 13 public meetings held as part of the consultation exercise on their draft RSS;

in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Regional Planning) (England) Regulations 2004 the First Secretary of State has published a notice of intention to hold an Examination in Public on the Go-East website at

www.goeast.gov.uk/goeast/planning/regional_planning/regional_spatial_strategy/rss_examination_in_public/

the notice is also published on EERA's website at

http://www.eera.gov.uk/category.asp?cat=469

and the information is repeated on many local authority websites;

The EiP Panel has written to all 21,530 respondents advising them of the arrangements for the EiP.

### Local Councillors

**Mr. Meacher:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what the political make-up of each local authority is; and how many of the representatives of each party are female for each authority. [12096]

**Mr. Woolas:** The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister does not itself hold comprehensive information either on the political make-up of local authorities or the number of authority members who are female. However, information on the names and political allegiance of members of each authority can be found in the Municipal Year Book.

### Sickness Absence

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many days the Department has lost due to sickness in the past five years for which figures are available. [11469]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister was created on 29 May 2002. The number of days lost due to sickness are contained in the annual report "Analysis of Sickness Absence in the Civil Service" published by the Cabinet Office. Table A of the report gives details of both the average working days absence per staff year and the number of staff years on which that calculation is based on. The most recent of which (for calendar year 2003) was announced by Ministerial Statement on 1 November and copies placed in the Libraries of the House. Reports for 1999, 2000, 2001 and 2002 are also available in the Library and on the Cabinet Office website at: http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/management_information/conditions_of_service/caje/publications/index.asp#sickness

The Department is committed to managing sickness absence effectively and is putting in place the recommendations of recently published report "Managing Sickness Absence in the Public Sector".

### Standards Board

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister in how many complaints to the Standards Board disposed of *(a)* directly by the Standards Board, *(b)* after an adjudication panel and *(c)* after a local standards committee hearing the respondent to the complaint was (i) disqualified from office, (ii) suspended from office for (A) a period less than three months, (B) three to six months and (C) for over six months and (iii) subjected to a lesser penalty in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [11199]

**Mr. Woolas:** Information in respect of the number of cases where members were subject to penalties following determinations by the Adjudication Panel or local standards committees each year is as follows:

| | | *Suspended (months)* | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Disqualified* | *less than 3* | *3 to 6* | *over 6* | *Lesser penalty* |
| *Determinations by the Adjudication Panel* | | | | | |
| 2002–03 | 27 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 2003–04 | 97 | 17 | 4 | 2 | 2 |
| 2004–05 | 25 | 1 | 12 | 6 | 0 |
| *Determinations by local standards committees* | | | | | |
| 2002–03 | not applicable | not applicable | not applicable | not applicable | not applicable |
| 2003–04 | not applicable | 14 | 2 | not applicable | 18 |
| 2004–05 | not applicable | 19 | 15 | not applicable | 26 |

*Note:*

1. Regulations empowering standards committees to determine cases came into effect in 2003–04. Standards committees have no remit to disqualify members, and can only impose a suspension for a maximum of three months.
2. The Standards Board for England itself has no remit to suspend or disqualify members.

### Swindon Borough Council

**Mr. Wills:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how much has been provided in grants from central Government to Swindon borough council in each year since 1997. [12543]

**Mr. Woolas:** The amounts of central Government grant allocated to Swindon borough council since 1997 are shown in the following table. The figures are shown in £000.

£000

| | Amount |
|---|---|
| 1997–98 | 90,376 |
| 1998–99 | 97,101 |
| 1999–2000 | 103,743 |
| 2000–01 | 116,696 |
| 2001–02 | 123,792 |
| 2002–03 | 129,179 |
| 2003–04 | 150,195 |
| 2004–05 | 148,256 |
| 2005–06 | 165,028 |

The data are taken from the RS (outturn) forms for all years except 2004–05 and 2005–06 when the data are taken from the RA (budget) form. These forms are completed each year by individual local authorities.

Grants in the table include special and specific grants inside "Aggregate External Finance", Revenue support grant and Redistributed Non-domestic rates.

Comparisons across years may not be valid due to changing local authority responsibilities.

### Tees Valley

**Vera Baird:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what steps he is taking to increase the economic activity rate in the population of the Tees Valley. [11904]

**Mr. Woolas:** The stimulation of economic activity and promotion of entrepreneurial activity are complex and long-term issues, which need to be tackled through the co-ordinated efforts of a range of public, private and community sector organisations.

The Regional Development Agency for North East England, One NorthEast, is currently engaged in an extensive consultation process on the review of the Regional Economic Strategy. One of the aims of the strategy is to

> "to create an enterprising, risk-taking culture across all sectors, underpinned by a fit for purpose support network",

and One NorthEast and other regional partners can expect to receive the full support of Government in its efforts to achieve this.

Tees Valley has a fully rolled out Jobcentre Plus service delivering job-seeking and benefit services under one roof, and from October 2005 will have a Pathways to Work programme to help people claiming incapacity benefit to move into work.

**Vera Baird:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many new business start-ups there were in Tees Valley in the first half of 2005; and what the start-up rate in England was. [11905]

**Yvette Cooper:** Figures for the number of new business start-ups in Tees Valley and in England are not yet available covering the first half of 2005.

The latest available figures show that in 2003 there were 1,120 VAT registrations in Tees Valley. This represents a rate of 22 per 10,000 members of the population aged 16-plus and compares to a rate of 42 per 10,000 for England.

**Vera Baird:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what steps he is taking to improve the productivity of working people in the Tees Valley. [11906]

**Yvette Cooper:** The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister does not have lead responsibility for productivity, but does work closely with other Departments—through Government offices, regional development agencies and other regional partners—to ensure that the overall contribution to the issues from the public sector is maximised.

Proposed work to improve productivity in Tees Valley is contained in section 8 of the 'Tees Valley City Region Development Programme', which was published with 'Moving Forward: The Northern Way Business Plan 2005–2008' in June 2005, copies of which are available in the Library of the House.

**Vera Baird:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister (1) what his assessment is of the effect on Redcar of its designation as part of the Coastal Arc in Tees Valley; [11907]

(2) what resources have been invested in Redcar consequent on its designation as part of the Tees Valley Coastal Arc; [11908]

(3) what the core aim is of the designation of part of the Tees Valley as Coastal Arc; [11909]

(4) how many jobs are expected to be generated through the designation of Redcar as part of the Tees Valley Coastal Arc; and in what sectors of employment; [11914]

(5) if he will make a statement on the effect of the designation of Redcar as part of the Tees Valley Coastal Arc on planning. [11915]

**Yvette Cooper:** The Government welcome the leadership that the Tees Valley Partnership have shown in setting out an ambitious investment programme, including areas in my hon. and learned Friend's constituency through the Coastal Arc proposals. The Government, and the regional development agency ONE North East, will be studying these proposals carefully, with a view to supporting priority projects that deliver sustainable economic development.

## HEALTH

### Bereavement Counselling

**Ms Gisela Stuart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funding is available from her Department to organisations which provide bereavement counselling. [10944]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** In the current year, 2005–06, the Secretary of State for Health, through the section 64 General Scheme of Grants (section 64 of the Health Services and Public Health Act 1968) has awarded £414,750 to organisations which provide bereavement counselling. In addition, we are aware of a range of locally funded innovative projects in national health service trusts and voluntary organisations around the country which are aimed at developing services for the bereaved locally.

## Breast Cancer

**Mr. Bailey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps are being taken to break down cultural and language barriers preventing women from accessing breast screening services. [5671]

**Ms Rosie Winterton** *[holding answer 21 June 2005]:* For cultural and/or religious reasons, some women are less likely to accept invitations for screening than the general population as a whole. Language and access to acceptable and meaningful information can also be a significant barrier and can effect the coverage levels.

The national informed choice leaflet, "Breast Screening: The Facts", which is sent out with every invitation for screening, has now been translated into 18 languages.

In December 2003, NHS Cancer Screening Programmes published "Inequalities of Access to Cancer Screening: A Literature Review". The recommendations in the review have been sent to all local screening programmes.

A number of local actions have been put in place to combat inequalities in inner-city areas. For example, in Haringey, sessions on screening have been held in community centres, with advocates from the relevant communities attending to translate and encourage women to attend their screening appointment. Many primary care trusts are conducting similar initiatives across the country.

In 2004, to raise awareness about the availability of breast cancer screening, the NHS Cancer Screening Programmes issued a regional communications pack to all local breast screening programmes to increase coverage rates, the packs include advice on raising the awareness of screening and posters.

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what additional measures are planned to ensure that adequate resources are in place to implement the proposed two-week wait for urgent and routine breast referrals; [12447]

(2) what additional measures are planned to support patients with information and counselling within the proposed two-week wait for urgent and routine breast referrals. [12448]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The 2005 Labour party manifesto gave the commitment that all women with breast symptoms should be seen within two weeks of referral by their general practitioner by 2008. Details of this commitment and how it will be resourced and implemented are yet to be determined with stakeholders and finalised.

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what measures are in place to implement the recommendation of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence that women aged 40 to 49 years with a family history of breast cancer should be entitled to annual screening. [12449]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Clinical guidelines from the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) are reflected in the standards published by the Department which provides a framework for continuous improvement in the overall quality of care people receive. Clinical guidelines are covered by the developmental standards, standards which the national health service is expected to achieve over time. The Healthcare Commission has a responsibility for assessing progress towards achieving these standards.

Clinicians are expected to take full account of NICE's guidelines because they are based on the best available evidence and have been put together after wide consultation, drawing on the views of patients and carers as well as the experts in the field.

## Breastfeeding

**Mr. Kidney:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much her Department has given in each of the last five years to voluntary organisations to promote breastfeeding; if she will list those organisations; and for what specific purposes the funding was provided. [11204]

**Caroline Flint:** The Government are committed to increasing support for breastfeeding and have provided funding to four voluntary organisations over the past five years whose activities support the Department's policy priorities relating to breastfeeding.

The table lists the funds provided to the voluntary organisations from 2000–05.

£

| | *National Childbirth Trust* | *Breastfeeding Network* | *Association of Breastfeeding Mothers* | *La Leche League* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2000–01 | 20,000 | 10,000 | 5,000 | 5,000 |
| 2001–02 | 30,000 | 30,000 | 5,800 | 10,000 |
| 2002–03 | 32,800 | 8,000 | 5,000 | 7,000 |
| 2003–04 | 16,348 | 14,893 | 6,300 | 10,000 |
| 2004–05 | — | 22,249 | — | 10,350 |
| Total | 99,148 | 85,142 | 22,100 | 42,350 |

In addition, the Department will also provide £450,000 for the National Breastfeeding Helpline over the next three years.

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research she has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* undertaken into the health impacts of (i) breastfeeding and (ii) bottle feeding. [11573]

**Caroline Flint:** The Government are committed to increasing support for breastfeeding. There is a wealth of documented evidence internationally on the positive health impacts of breastfeeding and the benefits over feeding infant formula milk. We have responded to this evidence by raising awareness of the health benefits of breastfeeding through a national breastfeeding awareness week and focusing on increasing support for breastfeeding, particularly among women from

disadvantaged groups. We have not commissioned specific research into the health impacts of breastfeeding or bottle feeding.

**Mrs. Betty Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much central funding the Department of Health is providing to promote breastfeeding in 2005–06. [10762]

**Caroline Flint:** The Government are committed to increasing support for breastfeeding and have identified £2 million for activities related to healthy start and breastfeeding, including, national breastfeeding awareness week and a new national breastfeeding helpline. The five yearly national infant feeding survey to be conducted later this year will be funded separately.

## Cancer Treatment

**Dr. Gibson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations she has made to the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence regarding its appraisal of cancer treatment-induced anaemia. [6718]

**Jane Kennedy:** None. The Department, as a registered stakeholder in the development of this appraisal, has been invited to respond to a consultation document published by National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence on 1 July.

**Lady Hermon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement on the availability of the cancer drug anastrozole on the NHS in England. [11229]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Anastrozole is licensed in England for the adjuvant treatment of postmenopausal women with hormone receptor positive early invasive breast cancer and can be prescribed on the NHS for patients who fit the licensed indication.

New hormonal therapies for the treatment of early breast cancer, including anastrozole, are being appraised by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE). Guidance is expected in November 2006

The Department has made it clear that funding for newly licensed treatments should not be withheld because guidance from NICE is unavailable.

In these circumstances, we expect primary care trusts to take full account of available evidence when reaching funding decisions. This is confirmed in Health Service Circular 1999/176, which asks NHS bodies to continue with local arrangements for the managed introduction of new technologies where guidance from NICE is not available at the time the treatment or technology first became available.

**Mr. Havard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will meet the Pan Birmingham Cancer Network to discuss their policy on the use of cancer treatments which have not been approved by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence. [12989]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** It is for individual cancer networks and primary care trusts to make decisions on the drugs they wish to make available to patients, taking into account the needs of the local population and, where appropriate, national guidance from National Institute and Health and Clinical Excellence.

## Contraception (Under-16s)

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many girls under 16 have been prescribed *(a)* contraceptive pills, *(b)* contraceptive implants and *(c)* contraceptive long-term injections in each of the last eight years; [4639]

(2) what the age is of the youngest girl to have received contraceptive prescriptions in the last five years. [4640]

**Caroline Flint:** Data from the prescription cost Analysis for England[1] is only available since 2001 and is shown in table 1. Data may not be complete as under 16s may also have been supplied with contraception under a separate exemption category—exemption for contraception supplied free of charge—and data by age is not available for this category. It should also be noted that contraceptive pills may be prescribed for purposes other than contraception, for example, heavy periods or acne.

[1] Prescription Pricing Authority.

*Table 1: Total contraceptive items dispensed by type*

| | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Tablet-based items prescribed | 33,000 | 33,000 | 34,000 | 33,000 |
| Injection-based items prescribed | 680 | 560 | 630 | 490 |
| Implant-based items prescribed | 21 | 140 | 76 | 110 |
| Total | 34,000 | 34,000 | 34,000 | 34,000 |

The estimated number of young women aged under 16 whose primary method of contraception was the pill, injection or implant obtained from community contraception clinics in the period 1996–97 to 2003–04 is shown in table 2.

*Table 2: First contacts with women aged under 16 at national health service family planning clinics by primary method of contraception, England, 1996–97 to 2003–04*[1]

| | Pill | Injection | Implant |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1996–97 | 23,400 | 1,000 | 100 |
| 1997–98 | 22,800 | 1,200 | 0 |
| 1998–99 | 21,400 | 1,200 | 0 |
| 1999–2000 | 23,000 | 1,500 | 0 |
| 2000–01 | 23,800 | 2,000 | 100 |
| 2001–02 | 24,200 | 2,300 | 100 |
| 2002–03 | 24,500 | 2,500 | 200 |
| 2003–04 | 25,000 | 2,700 | 300 |

[1] *Source:*
Department of Health Statistics Division; return KT31.
*Notes:*
1. This data has been calculated from the "under 16" exemption category on prescription forms. The data are based on a one in 20 sample of all prescriptions that are exempt from charges; prescriptions are free for the under 16s. Individuals may have more than one prescription dispensed during a 12 month period.
2. Numbers rounded to the nearest hundred; zero indicates less than 50 cases.

Information on the youngest girl to have received contraceptive prescriptions in the last five years is not available.

## Dentistry

**Mr. Walker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many dentists in Hertfordshire have personal dental service contracts; and if she will make a statement. [7486]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The numbers of dental practices which have an open personal dental service (PDS) contract as at 31 May 2005 in Hertfordshire are shown in the table.

| *Primary care trust* | *Total number of dental practice addresses* | *Number of dental practice addresses in PDS* |
|---|---|---|
| Hertsmere | 25 | 1 |
| Welwyn Hatfield | 181 | — |
| North Hertfordshire and Stevenage | 39 | — |
| South East Hertfordshire | 27 | — |
| Royston, Buntingford and Bishop's Stortford | 15 | 1 |
| Watford and Three Rivers | 37 | — |
| Dacorum | 30 | — |
| St. Albans and Harpenden | 36 | 1 |

*Note:*
The total number of dental surgery addresses include all addresses with either open general or personal dental service contract at 31 March 2005.

**Mr. Steen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will list the public funds made available by *(a)* grants and *(b)* loans to NHS dental clinics in south Devon in each of the last five years; and whether conditions regarding continuing to practice within the NHS were attached to them. [7845]

**Ms Rosie Winterton** *[holding answer 28 June 2005]:* In 2001, The Department made £35 million available via the dental care development fund to expand local national health service dental capacity. The Department does not hold details of whether dental clinics in south Devon received funds from the dental care development fund. Health authorities imposed conditions on the grant: that the additional capacity was maintained, usually for three years; and that the practices in receipt of funds contributed around 50 per cent. of the total value of the grant.

The Department made £50 million available to strategic health authorities to buy back local dental capacity from dentists in 2004–05. Of this, £1.56 million was made available to the South West Peninsula Strategic Health Authority, who allocated £242,000 to the primary care trusts covering south Devon: Torbay (£149,000); and south Hams and west Devon (£93,000). The amounts of money allocated to individual dental clinics is not held by the Department. The grant was intended to support NHS practice, but no specific conditions regarding continuing to practice in the NHS were attached to the moneys.

**Mr. Francois:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS dental practices were operating in South Woodham Ferrers, Essex, on 1 May; and how many people were unable to register with an NHS dentist in South Woodham Ferrers on that date. [9315]

**Ms Rosie Winterton** *[holding answer 6 July 2005]:* The number of dental surgery addresses within the Maldon and South Chelmsford Primary Care Trust (PCT) area, which provides dental services to the residents of South Woodham Ferrers, and the number of people and the percentage of people who are registered with an national health service dentist, based on the 2003 estimated population figures, are shown in the table.

*General dental services (GDS) and personal dental services (PDS)—number of dental surgery addresses and people registered with a NHS dentist in the specified PCTs at the specified dates*

| *Maldon and South Chelmsford* | *Number/ percentage* |
|---|---|
| Total number of dental surgery addresses as at 30 April 2005 | 12 |
| Total number of people registered with an NHS dentist as at 31 March 2005 | 44,222 |
| Percentage of people registered with an NHS dentist[1] as at 31 March 2005 | 51 |

[1] Based on 2003 estimated population figures.

*Notes:*

1. The number of registrations are based on a snapshot of the Dental Practice Board's registration database taken at the end of March each year and subsequent retrospective notifications of changes to registrations have not been included.

2. An active registration is a patient registered with a dentist at the end of March each year. Some PDS schemes do not have any registrations, for example, dental access centres and will not therefore be included in these figures.

3. A dentist with a GDS or PDS contract may provide as little or as much NHS treatment as he or she chooses or has agreed with the PCT. The Dental Practice Board has no information concerning the amount of time dedicated to NHS work by individual dentists.

4. The patient registrations have been allocated to areas according to the postcode of the dentist's surgery.

5. The areas have been defined using practice postcodes within the current boundaries.

There were three dental practices, with eight general dental practitioners (GDPs), operating in South Woodham Ferrers on 1 May 2005. At that point, the three practices had 10,860 NHS patients registered with them.

Information on the number of people unable to register with an NHS dentists in South Woodham Ferrers is not held centrally.

Maldon and South Chelmsford PCT has invested £19,970 revenue to improve access, in addition to the 54,590 it received in capital grants from the Department.

This additional money, which equates to an additional 0.5 general domestic practitioner, has already delivered 1,200 new patient registrations across the PCTs area.

The PCT has also recruited a dentist from Poland, through the Department's international recruitment programme, and expect this to deliver a further 2,000 new patient registrations.

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement on the availability of NHS dental care in Chorley. [9619]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Chorley and South Ribble primary care trust (PCT) received £212,000 in 2004–05. This was divided as follows; £135,423 capital, £57,778 revenue and £19,291 for the salaried dental service (community clinics).

The total additional registrations agreed for the investment of the revenue funds was 9,500. In the 10 months since the allocation of this funding, 4,349 additional registrations have been delivered.

As at 31 May 2005, there are 24 dental practices within the Chorley and South Ribble PCT area. Nine practices have converted to personal dental service (PDS) contracts, meaning 38 per cent. of practices have been secured to provide national health service dentistry. This equates to 38,000 NHS patients registered with the personal dental service practices. Dental Practice Board figures show a total of 102,661 registrations across the PCT area.

These practices—the Jones, Buxton and Eccleston dental practices—received a total of £362,000 in growth money to enable them to increase the number of sessions that they perform. This equates to 26 sessions as approved by the PDS team. The practices concerned are all gradually increasing their list sizes.

Chorley and South Ribble PCT anticipates that over the course of the next five years, 5,000 extra patients will be registered with PDS practices alone. The PCT is working with dental practices to achieve this in a staged manner.

The PCT is also exploring alternatives to increase capacity. This includes international recruitment opportunities, identifying capacity in current premises and including extra dental provision in the PCT's new capital developments. In addition, one of the largest dental practices in Chorley is currently negotiating with the PCT to move to PDS.

**Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she has made of the average income of NHS dentists in Hampshire in each year since 1997. [9795]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Primary care provided by independent general dental practitioners (GDPs) forms the major element of national health service dental services. Most GDPs operate within the national terms of the general dental service (GDS), although some have opted to provide similar patient services under local contracts agreed with their primary care trust (PCT) as part of the recently introduced personal dental service (PDS).

The table shows the estimated average income of NHS dentists in Hampshire for each year since 1997, calculated on a headcount basis. Whole time equivalent information is not available. A number of dentists moved from GDS to PDS, mainly in 2004–05. These dentists are known to be more committed to the NHS; hence, the effect of their leaving the GDS pool is to reduce the average GDS payments for those who remained at the end of 2004–05.

It is important to note that a dentist with an open GDS or PDS contract may provide as little or as much NHS treatment as he or she chooses and that the Dental Practice Board has no information concerning the amount of time dedicated to NHS work by individual dentists.

*Average gross fees per GDS dentist[1] in Hampshire, 1996–97 to 2004–05*

£

| | *Average gross GDS fees*[2] | *Average gross PDS payments*[3,4,5] |
|---|---|---|
| 1996–97 | 62,966 | — |
| 1997–98 | 61,109 | — |
| 1998–99 | 61,186 | — |
| 1999–2000 | 60,665 | — |
| 2000–01 | 60,041 | — |
| 2001–02 | 61,893 | — |
| 2002–03 | 61,378 | — |
| 2003–04 | 61,445 | — |
| 2004–05 | 56,2246 | 114,650 |

[1] Averages are calculated on a headcount basis.
[2] Figures based on dentists with an open GDS contract at the end of the financial year.
[3] Figures based on 114 dentists with a live PDS contract at 31 March 2005.
[4] No PDS payments are available prior to 2004–05.
[5] Average gross PDS fees are based on the full-year value of contractual commitments made by PCTs.
[6] Break in series due to movement of 114 dentists from GDS to PDS.

*Notes:*
1. Prison contracts have not been included in this analysis.
2. In view of the boundary changes from health authorities to PCTs in 2002, the areas have been defined using practice postcodes.
3. Average income is shown gross of any income contributed by dental charges payable by patients.

**Anne Main:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many dental surgeries *(a)* carrying out only NHS work and *(b)* carrying out both NHS and private work there are in St. Albans; and if she will make a statement. [10845]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** As at 31 May 2005, there were 36 national health service dental surgery addresses within St. Albans and Harpenden primary care trust (PCT)[1].

A dentist with a general dental services or personal dental services contract may provide as little NHS treatment as he or she chooses or has agreed with the PCT. The Dental Practice Board has no information concerning the amount of time dedicated to NHS work by individual dentists. Statistical data about dentists' private practice is not collected centrally.

*Source:*
[1] Dental Practice Board.

## Digital Hearing Aids

**Dr. Stoate:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average period of time is that *(a)* new patients and *(b)* patients with existing analogue hearing aids living in (i) the Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley Primary Care Trust area and (ii) the Medway Primary Care Trust area have to wait before they are fitted with a digital hearing aid after their initial referral for an audiology assessment by their GP. [11534]

**Caroline Flint:** The information requested is not collected centrally.

## IVF

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make it her policy to limit the number of embryos created through IVF to reduce the amount of embryo wastage; and if she will make a statement. [12728]

**Caroline Flint:** During an in vitro fertilisation (IVF) treatment cycle more than one embryo needs to be created if the patient is to have a realistic chance of having a child at the end of the treatment. This is because not all the embryos developed will be of sufficient quality to give the patient a chance of becoming pregnant. Additionally, where good quality embryos are available, only two will be transferred to the patient to limit the risk of a multiple pregnancy. Spare embryos are not automatically allowed to perish as the patient has the option of either storing them for future treatment or donating them for use in the treatment of others or research.

The Government have no plans to adopt a policy that would limit the number of embryos that can be created during treatment.

### Emergency Planning

**Mr. Donohoe:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans are in place to stockpile medical consumables for use in the event of a civil or terrorist emergency; and if she will make a statement. [12641]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The Department and national health service is prepared to deal with a variety of incidents. Specifically, developed plans and preparations are in place to handle chemical, biological or radiological (CBRN) incidents, however caused.

The Department has procured and stockpiled medical consumables, including vaccines, antibiotics, antidotes and specialist equipment as part of the response to emergency incidents. Stocks are held at a number of centres throughout England, and there are tried and tested procedures for the rapid deployment of these stocks in emergency situations.

### Erythropoietin

**Dr. Gibson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the NHS has spent on erythropoietin over the last three years. [6716]

**Jane Kennedy:** The data is not available in the form requested. Data on prescriptions dispensed in primary care is available. The table shows how much was spent on erythropoietin when it was dispensed in the community over the last three years.

*Net ingredient cost*

| | *Total (£000)* |
|---|---|
| 2002 | 36,430.74 |
| 2003 | 38,594.86 |
| 2004 | 39,268.79 |

*Source:*
Prescription Pricing Authority

Data on prescriptions dispensed in secondary care is not yet publicly available. Contractual obligations prevent the data being released.

### Terminally Ill People

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many times her Department has been consulted *(a)* formally and *(b)* informally by (i) hon. Members and (ii) Members of the House of Lords about end of life decision making since 1997. [12729]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** This information is not held centrally.

### Food Irradiation

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will list each EU country where food irradiation is permitted; what products can be irradiated in each case; what assessment she has made of the irradiation of products from non-EU countries imported into the United Kingdom; and if she will make a statement. [10464]

**Caroline Flint:** Food irradiation falls into the Food Standards Agency's (FSA) area of responsibility. I am advised by the FSA that all European Union countries permit the irradiation of food, subject to their irradiation facilities obtaining approval from their national competent authority. Although irradiated food is permitted in all EU countries, it does not follow that there are approved food irradiation facilities in each member state. An up-to-date list of approved food irradiation facilities in EU member states is available at: http://europa.eu.int/comm/food/food/biosafety/irradiation/approved_facilities_en.pdf.

Dried aromatic herbs, spices and vegetable seasonings are currently the only foods that can be irradiated in, and traded freely between, all EU countries. A number of EU countries also permit other categories of food to be irradiated. However, up-to-date information on all the permitted foods in the different member states is not held centrally. In practice, not all permitted foods are in fact irradiated as this depends on the existence of an approved facility for the irradiation of each foodstuff. The European Commission provides annual reports on all food irradiated in practice each year at EU facilities. The most recent information currently available is for the year 2002 at http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/com/rpt/2004/com2004_0069en01.pdf.

Irradiated foods imported into the EU from non-EU countries must have been irradiated at facilities approved by the European Union. There are currently five approved facilities outside the EU, three in South Africa, one in Turkey and one in Switzerland. Decisions on the approval of food irradiation facilities in non-EU countries are based on the results of inspections performed by the Food and Veterinary Office of the European Commission. FVO inspection reports are published at http://europa.eu.int/comm/food/fs/inspections/fi/reports/index_en.html.

All food imported from non-EU countries is subject to food safety controls carried out on the basis of risk assessment by local food authorities at the point of entry into the United Kingdom. As regards irradiated food, food products that do not comply with the Food (Control of Irradiation) Regulations 1990 (as amended) can be refused entry or destroyed.

### GPs

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of general practitioners are refusing to make advance appointments in *(a)* each London primary care trust and *(b)* London. [8330]

**Jane Kennedy:** The information requested is not collected centrally.

However, the Department collects information on the percentage of patients who cannot book an appointment more than two days in advance. The information for each of the primary care trusts (PCTs) and strategic health authorities (SHAs) in London is shown in the table.

*Percentage of patients who cannot book more than two days in advance*

| PCT code | SHA code | Organisation name | Percentage |
|---|---|---|---|
| Q04 | Q04 | North West London SHA | 0 |
| Q05 | Q05 | North Central London SHA | 1.2 |
| Q06 | Q06 | North East London SHA | 3.2 |
| Q07 | Q07 | South East London SHA | 3.4 |
| Q08 | Q08 | South West London SHA | 0 |
| 5AT | Q04 | Hillingdon PCT | 0 |
| 5H1 | Q04 | Hammersmith and Fulham PCT | 0 |
| 5HX | Q04 | Ealing PCT | 0 |
| 5HY | Q04 | Hounslow PCT | 0 |
| 5K3 | Q04 | Brent PCT | 0 |
| 5K6 | Q04 | Harrow PCT | 0 |
| 5LA | Q04 | Kensington and Chelsea PCT | 0 |
| 5LC | Q04 | Westminster PCT | 0 |
| 5A9 | Q05 | Barnet PCT | 4.7 |
| 5C1 | Q05 | Enfield PCT | 0 |
| 5C9 | Q05 | Haringey PCT | 0 |
| 5K7 | Q05 | Camden PCT | 0 |
| 5K8 | Q05 | Islington PCT | 0 |
| 5A4 | Q06 | Havering PCT | 0 |
| 5C2 | Q06 | Barking and Dagenham PCT | 0 |
| 5C3 | Q06 | City and Hackney PCT | 7.1 |
| 5C4 | Q06 | Tower Hamlets PCT | 3.9 |
| 5C5 | Q06 | Newham PCT | 0.7 |
| 5NA | Q06 | Redbridge PCT | 0 |
| 5NC | Q06 | Waltham Forest | 9.8 |
| 5A7 | Q07 | Bromley PCT | 0 |
| 5A8 | Q07 | Greenwich PCT | 2.3 |
| 5TAK | Q07 | Bexley PCT | 0 |
| 5LD | Q07 | Lambeth PCT | 7 |
| 5LE | Q07 | Southwark PCT | 10 |
| 5LF | Q07 | Lewisham PCT | 1.2 |
| 5A5 | Q08 | Kingston PCT | 0 |
| 5K9 | Q08 | Croydon PCT | 0 |
| 5LG | Q08 | Wandsworth PCT | 0 |
| 5M6 | Q08 | Richmond and Twickenham PCT | 0 |
| 5M7 | Q08 | Sutton and Merton PCT | 0 |

*Source:*
*June primary care access survey.*

## Haemophilia

**Laura Moffatt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether haemophilia patients with inhibitors and patients with factor VII (7) deficiency are eligible for treatment with recombinant products; and whether *(a)* primary care trusts and *(b)* haemophilia centre directors have been informed accordingly. [10923]

**Caroline Flint:** All haemophilia patients are now eligible for treatment with recombinant products. This includes patients with inhibitors and patients with factor VII deficiency. The chairman of the United Kingdom Haemophilia Centre Doctors' Organisation wrote to all haemophilia centre directors in England on 10 February 2004 to inform that they should start to make arrangements to treat remaining haemophilia A and B patients with recombinant products from 1 April 2005.

Information has been collected on patients with inhibitors or congenital factor VII deficiency who are eligible for recombinant products, and allocations have been made so that these patients are included in this final year of the roll out of recombinant. Due to the difficulty in predicting usage for inhibitor patients, further data will be collected to allow a six month review.

Primary care trusts receiving funding were informed about their allocation through the limits report sent to them on Tuesday 28 June.

## Health Funding

**Mr. Whittingdale:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the financial surplus or deficit recorded by each *(a)* NHS trust and *(b)* primary care trust in Essex was for 2004–05. [12121]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The latest year for which audited data on the financial position of national health service organisations is available is 2003–04. The Department does not currently publish unaudited information.

Audited information in respect of the 2004–05 financial position of all strategic health authorities, primary care trusts and NHS trusts will be published in their individual annual accounts, and will be available centrally in autumn 2005.

**Mr. Whittingdale:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much financial support was received by each *(a)* NHS trust and *(b)* primary care trust in Essex from the Essex NHS Bank in 2004–05; and how much is owed by each to the Essex NHS Bank. [12122]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The NHS Bank provides special assistance to the most financially challenged strategic health authorities (SHAs). Essex SHA has not received any special assistance from the NHS Bank.

**Mr. Whittingdale:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding per capita was given to each primary care trust in Essex in 2004–05. [12123]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Essex primary care trust's (PCTs) allocation per head of population (per capita) for 2004–05 is shown in the table.

*£000*

| | *2004–05 allocation per head* |
|---|---|
| Basildon | 1,002 |
| Billericay, Brentwood and Wickford | 875 |
| Castle Point and Rochford | 866 |
| Chelmsford | 852 |
| Colchester | 830 |
| Epping Forest | 959 |
| Harlow | 1,042 |
| Maldon and South Chelmsford | 773 |
| Southend on Sea | 1,034 |
| Tendring | 1,068 |
| Thurrock | 873 |
| Uttlesford | 787 |
| Witham, Braintree and Halstead Care Trust | 798 |

*Source:*
Department of Health Resource Allocation and Monitoring Analysis

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the health expenditure per head of population in Milton Keynes has been in each year since 1997. [11570]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Expenditure based on Milton Keynes is not available. The expenditure per weighted head on health in Buckinghamshire Health Authority (HA) area and Thames Valley Strategic Health Authority (SHA) area is shown in the table.

*£ per head*

| | *Buckinghamshire HA* | *Thames Valley SHA area* |
|---|---|---|
| 1997–98 | 599.87 | n/a |
| 1998–99 | 637.24 | n/a |
| 1999–2000 | 699.93 | n/a |
| 2000–01 | 755.09 | n/a |
| 2001–02 | 976.85 | n/a |
| 2002–03 | n/a | 904.32 |
| 2003–04 | n/a | 1,140.04 |

*Notes:*

1. Expenditure has been taken from audited health authority summarisation forms and primary care trust summarisation schedules, which are prepared on a resource basis and therefore differ from cash allocations in the year. The figures have not been adjusted for inflation.
2. Figures for 1997–98 to 2001–02 have been prepared using gross expenditure figures. Figures for 2002–03 and 2003–04 have been adjusted to eliminate expenditure, which would be double counted where an authority acts as a lead in commissioning healthcare or other services. In 2001–02, there was a high degree of inter authority transactions, which have increased the apparent expenditure per head.
3. In many HAs there are factors, which distort the expenditure. These include:
the HA acting in a lead capacity to commission healthcare or fund training on behalf of other health bodies; and
asset revaluations in national health service trusts being funded through HAs or PCTs.
4. The majority of general dental services expenditure is separately accounted for by the Dental Practice Board. An element of pharmaceutical services expenditure is accounted for by the Prescription Pricing Authority. Total expenditure on these items by the Dental Practice Board and the Prescription Pricing Authority cannot be allocated to individual health bodies, therefore the total expenditure in the answer by health authority does not capture all NHS expenditure within the area.

*Sources:*

Buckinghamshire HA audited accounts 1997–98 and 1998–99.
Buckinghamshire HA audited summarisation forms 1999–2000 to 2001–02.
Thames Valley SHA audited summarisation forms 2002–03 and 2003–04
Primary care trust (PCT) audited summarisation schedules 2000–01 to 2003–04 for bodies within the above health authority areas.
Weighted population figures.

## Hepatitis B

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the incidence of hepatitis B in England was in the last period for which figures are available; and what measures are being taken to control its spread; [10001]

(2) if she will commission a national strategy for hepatitis B. [10003]

**Caroline Flint:** Information on the incidence of hepatitis B in England is available from the Health Protection Agency's website at: www.hpa.org.uk/infections/topics_az/hepatitis_b/data.htm.

There are a range of measures being taken to control the spread of hepatitis B in England, these include:

screening of blood donations and viral inactivation of blood products;
immunisation of groups at increased risk of infection;
antenatal screening;
harm reduction services for injecting drug users, including needle and syringe exchanges;
services to prevent the spread of sexually transmitted infections, including hepatitis B;
infection control procedures in health care settings; and
regulation of tattooing and cosmetic piercing businesses.

The joint committee on vaccination and immunisation is reviewing the hepatitis B immunisation programme to assess whether it needs to be altered.

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence is appraising the clinical and cost effectiveness of adefovir dipivoxil and pegylated interferon for the treatment of chronic hepatitis B infection. Guidance is expected in February 2006.

We have no current plans to commission a national strategy for hepatitis B but policy is kept under ongoing review.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients, other than those who have received transplants, are being treated for chronic hepatitis B in England. [10002]

**Caroline Flint:** This information is not held centrally.

## Heroin Addicts (Plymouth)

**Mr. Streeter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting time is for heroin addicts in Plymouth to access residential treatment. [11332]

**Caroline Flint** *[holding answer 11 July 2005]:* Information on waiting times for drug rehabilitation places is published by the National Treatment Agency on a quarterly basis. In March 2005, the average waiting time for residential rehabilitation in Plymouth was five days.

## Hospital-acquired Infections

**Mr. Lidington:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to answer of 27 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 1363W, on Hospital Acquired Infections, during which month this summer she plans to publish the results from the mandatory surveillance of *Clostridium difficile*. [9372]

**Jane Kennedy** *[holding answer 4 July 2005]:* We expect to publish this data in August.

## Infant Formula

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will press for changes in the Revision of Commission Directive 91/321/EEC on infant formulae and follow-on formulae in order to bring this Directive into line with the International Code and subsequent relevant World Health Assembly Resolutions. [10199]

**Caroline Flint:** In the "Choosing Health" White Paper, published last November, the Government promised to press for amendments to the European Commission Directive on infant formula and follow-on formula. The Government supports amendments being

proposed in the recast directive, which aim to protect the promotion of breastfeeding throughout the European Union.

### Medical Staff Numbers

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* nurses of all grades, *(b)* junior physiotherapists, *(c)* senior physiotherapists, *(d)* diagnostic radiographers, *(e)* therapeutic radiographers, *(f)* senior managers, *(g)* managers and *(h)* allied health professionals were employed in NHS hospitals in (i) West Sussex, (ii) Surrey, (iii) Durham, (iv) the East Riding of Yorkshire and (v) each strategic health authority in each of the last eight years. [7912]

**Mr. Byrne:** The information requested as at 30 September each year since 1997 has been placed in the Library.

### Mental Health

**Ms Abbott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the implications of Delivering Race Equality for the training of *(a)* psychiatrists and *(b)* other mental health professionals. [8945]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** "Delivering Race Equality in Mental Health Care" (DRE) was published in January 2005. It is clear on the need for all those involved in planning or providing mental health services for black and minority ethnic communities to receive training in cultural sensitivity. This could include religious and linguistic needs, care and recovery planning, needs assessment and community engagement.

To support this training, the National Institute for Mental Health in England (NIMHE) and the Sainsbury Centre for Mental Health have developed 10 essential shared capabilities that everyone working in mental health care should achieve during pre-qualification training. The Department and NIMHE will issue further guidance, for example, on education and training for the new community development workers described in DRE shortly.

**Paul Flynn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many hospital admissions on mental health grounds in the past three years have resulted from the use of *(a)* pharmaceutical drugs, *(b)* heroin, *(c)* cocaine, *(d)* cannabis, *(e)* alcohol, *(f)* nicotine, *(g)* khat and *(h)* magic mushrooms. [10849]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Number of admissions under mental illness specialties with a primary diagnosis (ICD-10) of a mental or behavioural disorder due to psychoactive substance abuse or poisoning caused by drugs, for the years 2001–02 to 2003–04 are shown in the table.

| *Type of drug* | *2001–02* | *2002–03*[1] | *2003–04*[1] |
|---|---|---|---|
| Pharmaceutical drugs | 330 | 390 | 380 |
| Heroin | 3,480 | 3,210 | 3,070 |
| Cocaine | 160 | 190 | 220 |
| Cannabis | 580 | 580 | 710 |
| Alcohol | 11,470 | 11,700 | 11,280 |



| *Type of drug* | *2001–02* | *2002–03*[1] | *2003–04*[1] |
|---|---|---|---|
| Nicotine | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| Stimulants | 310 | 350 | 310 |
| Hallucinogens | 80 | 70 | 80 |
| All | 16,420 | 16,490 | 16,060 |

[1] Figures for years 2002–03 and 2003–04 have not yet been adjusted for shortfalls in data and/or clinical error. Therefore, the data is ungrossed.

*Source:*
Hospital episode statistics, National Health Service Health and Social Care Information Centre.

### Myasthenia Gravis

**Mr. Chaytor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent estimate she has made of the number of individuals in England suffering from myasthenia gravis; what guidance her Department has issued to NHS trusts in respect of support for those diagnosed with the disease; and if she will make a statement. [11215]

**Mr. Byrne:** We do not make estimates of the number of individuals suffering from specific conditions.

The recently published national service framework for long-term conditions provides guidance on delivering health and social care support for those people with long-term conditions, including myasthenia gravis.

### Myeloma

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps she is taking to improve the care offered to those with myeloma. [12603]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The Government are committed to providing high-quality cancer services across the country, irrespective of cancer type. The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) has been commissioned to continue the improving outcomes series of guidance to ensure there is a comprehensive package of cancer services guidance covering all cancers.

The NICE improving outcomes in haematological cancers guidance was published in October 2003 and addresses multiple myeloma.

The Department is also considering referring the drug Velcade for the treatment of multiple myeloma to NICE for appraisal.

### NHS Research Ethics Committees

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many members sit on NHS research ethics committees; and whether she plans to introduce payment for their services. [10031]

**Jane Kennedy:** An estimated 1,900 members currently sit on NHS Research Ethics Committees (RECs) in England. At present members are paid expenses for attending meetings. The Government have recently published the report of the ad hoc advisory group on the operation of NHS RECs, which includes the following as one of its recommendations

> "The time commitment required of members and support staff for training should be more formally recognised, as should the time taken in committee hearings and preparation. This implies paying REC members appropriately, either directly or through compensating their employers."

The National Patient Safety Agency will prepare an implementation plan for the report's recommendations which will be subject to public consultation.

## NHS Staff (Assaults)

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health on what date the national reporting system for physical assaults on NHS staff was established; and on what date she first expects data collected under the scheme to be published. [10022]

**Jane Kennedy:** In April 2003, the NHS Security Management Service (NHS SMS) was created and assumed policy and operational responsibility for the management of security in the national health service, including work to tackle violence against NHS staff.

On 20 November 2003, the NHS SMS introduced a comprehensive range of measures to tackle incidences of violence against NHS staff, both proactively and reactively, including the establishment of a national reporting system for physical assaults. Work is currently taking place to audit and validate data relating to physical assaults so that for the first-time ever the NHS will have accurate information on the true nature, scale and extent of this matter; it is expected that this will be completed later this year and results will be released thereafter.

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many staff employed by West Hertfordshire Hospital Trust were assaulted while on duty in the year *(a)* 2000, *(b)* 2001, *(c)* 2002, *(d)* 2003 and *(e)* 2004; and how many prosecutions resulted from these assaults. [10782]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The table shows the number of reported violent incidents against national health service staff in the West Hertfordshire Hospital Trust for the years 2000–01, 2001–02 and 2002–03. The information is from the violence, accidents and harassments in the NHS survey. As the sufvey has been discontinued, figures for 2004 are not available. The Department does not collect information about the number of prosecutions resulting from violent assaults.

*NHS hospital and community health services: recorded incidents of violent attacks and assaults on staff within West Hertfordshire Hospital Trust in each specified period*

| | *Number of recorded incidents* |
|---|---|
| 2000–01 | 8 |
| 2001–02 | 110 |
| 2002–03 | 42 |

*Notes:*
1. Covers 1 April to 31 March for specified years.
2. The data collection was discontinued in 2003.

*Source:*
Survey of violence, accidents and harassments in the NHS.

## Patients' Forums

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients' forums there were *(a)* in total and *(b)* in each strategic health authority area in the most recent year for which figures are available; and how many members community health councils had in each (i) in total and (ii) by strategic health authority area in the last year of their existence. [9312]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** There are 572 patient and public involvement forums in England, one for each primary care trust and national health service trust. On the 4 July 2005, there were 4,838 members. Figures about the number of forum members by strategic health authority areas are not available centrally. Information about the number of community health council members is not available.

## PCTs (Birmingham)

**John Hemming:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what her plans are for the number of primary care trusts in Birmingham. [11305]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Decisions on the configuration of local services are a matter for the local health community.

Birmingham and the Black Country Strategic Health Authority reports that no decisions have been made about the future configuration of primary care trusts (PCTs) in the Birmingham area.

The Department is intending to publish guidance on the future role of PCT shortly.

## Pensioners (Free Eye Tests)

**Julie Morgan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost has been to public funds of free eye tests for pensioners in each year since 1997–98. [10317]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Estimates of the total costs of national health service sight tests for patients aged 60 and over in England and Wales for the years from 1997 are shown in the table.

*£ million*

| *Year*[1] | *England costs* | *Wales costs* |
|---|---|---|
| 1999–2000 | 49.6 | 3.7 |
| 2000–01 | 58.0 | 3.7 |
| 2001–02 | 64.5 | 4.1 |
| 2002–03 | 69.1 | 4.6 |
| 2003–04 | 74.4 | 4.8 |

[1] Eligibility for free eye tests for all those aged over 60 re-commenced in 1999–2000.

## Retinopathy

**Mrs. Betty Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many primary care trusts have protocols in place for recalling people with diabetes to receive retinal screening. [11339]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** This information is not held centrally. Information from strategic health authorities (SHAs) currently indicates that the national health service is on course to meet the target for March 2006, that is, that 80 per cent. of people with diabetes are offered screening for the early detection of diabetic retinopathy as part of a systematic screening programme; call and recall arrangements are an important part of systematic screening. The Department is working with all SHAs to ensure robust performance management of progress.

**Mrs. Betty Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many follow-up appointments at specialist eye clinics for those people needing treatment for sight-related retinopathy were cancelled in the last period for which figures are available. [11340]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** This information is not held centrally.

**Mrs. Betty Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many follow-up appointments were *(a)* cancelled and *(b)* rescheduled for people with diabetes needing laser eye treatment in the last period for which figures are available. [11344]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** This information is not held centrally.

### West Hertfordshire Hospital Trust

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the target waiting times are for *(a)* MR1 scans and *(b)* ultrasound scans at West Hertfordshire Hospital Trust. [10698]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** By 2008, no patient will have to wait more than 18 weeks from a general practitioner referral to start of treatment. This will include diagnostic procedures. It is the responsibility of local trusts to deliver acceptable access standards for all out-patients having taken into account clinical priority.

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the target waiting times are for orthopaedic surgery at West Hertfordshire Hospital Trust. [10699]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** From 1 April 2004, the maximum waiting time for in-patient treatment was reduced from 12 months to nine months and from end 2005 a maximum waiting time of six months will be introduced. By 2008, patients will be admitted for treatment within a maximum of 18 weeks from referral by their general practitioner, and those with urgent conditions will be treated sooner.

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many beds in hospitals covered by West Hertfordshire Hospital Trust are available for patients with severe neck or spinal trauma. [10701]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The information requested is not collected centrally.

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### Airwave

**Mr. Henderson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much funding he allocated to provide the Airwave National Fallback Service. [11584]

**Hazel Blears:** The Home Office has approved expenditure of up to £345 million over the life of the contract for the Airwave National Fallback Service.

### Antisocial Behaviour Orders

**Mr. Gerrard:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans he has to extend the disability equality duty to the application by police or local authorities for antisocial behaviour orders. [12165]

**Hazel Blears:** The disability equality duty, introduced by the Disability Discrimination Act 2005, will apply to all functions of public authorities with the exception of a few narrow exemptions. All agencies eligible to apply for antisocial behaviour orders, including the police and local authorities, will be covered by the disability equality duty.

Courts will not be subject to the duty when considering whether to issue orders as this would undermine judicial independence.

**Mr. Gerrard:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether antisocial behaviour orders have been *(a)* applied for and *(b)* granted in respect of persons living in social housing properties who are known to have a mental health problem. [12166]

**Hazel Blears:** Information is not collected centrally about the characteristics or circumstances of persons issued with an antisocial behaviour order.

### Asylum/Immigration

**Mr. Gerrard:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he made of UN Security Council Resolution 1244 in the framing of his Department's Asylum Policy Instruction on the internal relocation of ethnic Albanians in Kosovo. [12191]

**Mr. McNulty:** Security Council Resolution 1244 adopted by the Security Council at its 4011th meeting on 10 June 1999 ordered the withdrawal of all Yugoslav military forces and the establishment of an international peacekeeping force and made a commitment to ensure the safe and unimpeded return of all refugees and displaced persons to their homes in Kosovo. Resolution 1244 does not affect the view based on the available objective country information and case law that there is in general freedom of movement for all ethnic Albanians in Kosovo and that it would not be unduly harsh for ethnic Albanians to relocate internally within Kosovo, to an area where they will not face persecution.

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum seekers accepted into the UK since 1997 have been convicted of criminal offences. [8459]

**Mr. McNulty:** This information is not recorded centrally.

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the proportion of people in the UK being assessed for asylum who will *(a)* fail in their application and *(b)* leave the UK after failing. [10454]

**Mr. McNulty:** Asylum numbers are continuing to fall dramatically year on year, and provisional figures for the whole of 2004 show UK asylum applications including dependants fell by 33 percent., twice the rate of the rest of Europe.

The number of cases awaiting an initial decision has continued to fall, to 8,700 at the end of March—the lowest level for more than a decade. It is not possible to know exactly what proportion of these applications will fail, or will result in applicants subsequently leaving the UK after failing.

On the basis of the latest statistics on initial decision outcomes and appeal outcomes, it can be assumed that around 70–80 percent. of the 33,930 asylum applications received in 2004 will ultimately prove to be unfounded.

The level of removals in 2004 (12,430 principal applicants) is equivalent to around half this level of unfounded applications made in 2004. The equivalent proportion for 1996 is 20 percent. In addition some failed asylum seekers may leave the UK without informing the Immigration Service.

Our target is to increase the monthly number of removals so that they exceed the monthly number of new asylum applicants expected to be unfounded, by the end of 2005. Increasing removals is a key part of our five year immigration and asylum plan, in particular working with source countries to secure more returns.

Information on the numbers of asylum applications and removals of failed asylum seekers is published in the quarterly asylum statistics on the Home Office Research Development and Statistics Directorate website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html.

**John Bercow:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment his Department has made of the impact of the use of Arab translators upon the accuracy of the recording of the testimony of Darfuri asylum seekers. [11062]

**Mr. McNulty:** Qualified interpreters in the Darfuri primary languages of Fur, Zaghawa and Massaleit are not available, but every effort is made to provide an Arabic-speaking interpreter who understands and can be understood by the person being interviewed. At the beginning of every asylum interview, the interviewer will ensure that the applicant understands the interpreter and vice versa, and will also ask the applicant at the end if he has understood the questions. We do not accept that the use of Arabic-speaking interpreters has disadvantaged Sudanese asylum seekers from the Darfur region.

**Mr. Mallon:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* asylum seekers and *(b)* immigration detainees in respect of whom all coroners' inquests and legal proceedings are completed have (i) died and (ii) been recorded as harming themselves in the last five years for which figures are available; how long each person concerned had been held in detention prior to death or harm; what the verdict was of the coroners' or other inquiry held into such incidents; and in which establishment each person was held. [12295]

**Mr. McNulty** *[holding answer 14 July 2005]:* There have been four immigration detainee deaths in the last five years where the coroner's verdict is known:

| *Date of death* | *Length of detention* | *Verdict* | *Establishment* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 31 January 2003 | 3 months | Suicide | Haslar |
| 7 May 2003 | 1 day | Killed | Harmondsworth |
| 1 May 2004 | 2 months | Natural causes | Haslar |
| 12 July 2004 | 4 days | Natural causes | Port of Dover |

There is no record of any having self-harmed in the period prior to their deaths.

**Mr. Gerrard:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will introduce legislation to put the criteria for the detention of asylum seekers on a statutory basis. [12968]

**Mr. McNulty:** No. Immigration detention powers are contained in schedules two and three to the Immigration Act 1971 and Section 62 of the Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002. These provide for detention to be authorised in the following circumstances: for persons on arrival subject to further examination before deciding whether to grant or refuse leave to enter; for illegal entrants and others liable to removal; and for persons subject to deportation. The Government's position on the normal use of these statutory powers is already in the public domain. Any changes to that position would also be made public.

**Mr. Gerrard:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make it his policy that a decision to detain an asylum seeker is automatically and regularly reviewed as to its *(a)* legality, *(b)* necessity and *(c)* appropriateness by a court or other independent body. [12969]

**Mr. McNulty:** We do not accept that it would be appropriate or necessary to introduce automatic judicial or other independent oversight of individual decisions to detain. Immigration detainees may challenge the lawfulness of their detention before the courts through the processes of judicial review or habeas corpus. We are satisfied that the procedures for authorising detention under Immigration Act powers comply with Article 5 of the European Convention on Human Rights.

**Mr. Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* illegal immigrants and *(b)* failed asylum seekers entered the UK between 1997 and 2004. [313]

**Mr. McNulty:** The information is as follows.

*(a)* No government has ever been able to produce an accurate figure for the number of people who enter the country illegally. By its very nature it is impossible to quantify accurately, and that remains the case.

Although it is impossible to determine accurately how many people are in the UK illegally the Home Office published a report, on 30 June 2005, which included an estimate of the size of the illegal migrant population in the UK in 2001. It should be noted that the report included an estimate, not an accurate or definitive figure.

As mentioned in the report the only method to estimate the size of the unauthorised migrant population in the UK that currently can sensibly be applied is the residual method. As the method relies on data from the census of the population undertaken every 10 years, it is not possible to produce an estimate for other years.

Failed asylum seekers who do not comply with instructions to leave the UK, who are not appealing or who have exhausted their rights of appeal (including those who abscond during the process) are included in the definition of 'unauthorised' or 'illegally resident' migrant population used in the report.

A copy of the RDS On-line report 29/05—"Sizing the unauthorised (illegal) migrant population in the United Kingdom in 2001" can be found at: http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/notes/june_summaries.html.

*(b)* Information on when asylum seekers enter the country is not available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

**Mr. Love:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when all of those who applied for the family concession from October 2003 will have their cases concluded; and if he will make a statement. [11840]

**Mr. McNulty:** It is not possible to provide a precise time scale of when all those currently being considered under the exercise will have had their cases concluded.

The time it takes to reach a decision depends both on individual circumstances and on the number of cases in the consideration process. Sometimes people do not complete the Family ILR Exercise Questionnaire properly, or fail to provide the documentation requested. The checks we conduct on potentially eligible applicants can also take some time to complete, depending on individual circumstances. We also encounter a number of complex cases that can take some time to resolve.

The main factor, though, which makes providing a meaningful completion date for the exercise difficult, is the substantial number of cases we still have to consider. In addition, we continue to receive a number of applications for the scheme, each of which requires careful assessment. We are hoping to have completed consideration of the majority of cases by the end of April 2006.

Key statistics relating to the Family ILR Exercise were published as part of the quarterly asylum statistics on 17 May. These show the current status of the exercise up to and including 31 March 2005 and are available to the public on the Home Office Research Development and Statistics (RDS) website. The full web address is:

www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html

These statistics will be updated in August to include the second quarter of 2005.

**Mr. Love:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many cases in *(a)* Greater London, *(b)* the London borough of Enfield and *(c)* Edmonton are still outstanding under the family concession exercise of October 2003; and if he will make a statement; [11841]

(2) how many residents of *(a)* the London borough of Enfield and *(b)* Edmonton who have not yet had their cases under the family concession exercise determined, submitted their application in each quarter since the last quarter of 2003; and if he will make a statement. [11842]

**Mr. McNulty:** We are unable to provide accurate figures of the numbers of outstanding applicants by location. General key statistics relating to the progress of the exercise were published as part of the quarterly asylum statistics on 17 May. These show the current status of the exercise up to and including 31 March 2005 and are available to the public on the Home Office Research Development and Statistics (RDS) website. The full web address is:

www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html

These statistics will be updated in August to include the second quarter of 2005.

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of how many illegal immigrants live in the UK; and what research he has commissioned into the routes of illegal migration into the UK. [10102]

**Mr. McNulty:** No government has ever been able to produce an accurate figure for the number of people who are in the country illegally. By its very nature it is impossible to quantify accurately, and that remains the case.

Although it is impossible to determine accurately how many people are in the UK illegally the Home Office published a report, on 30 June 2005, which included an estimate of the size of the illegal migrant population in the UK in 2001. It should be noted that the report included an estimate, not an accurate or definitive figure.

As mentioned in the report the only method to estimate the size of the unauthorised migrant population in the UK that currently can sensibly be applied is the residual method. As the method relies on data from the census of the population undertaken every 10 years, it is not possible to produce an estimate for a more recent year.

A copy of the Research Development and Statistics Directorates (RDS) On-line report 29/05—"Sizing the unauthorised (illegal) migrant population in the United Kingdom in 2001" can be found at: http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/notes/june_summaries.html.

The Home Office has commissioned research that provides some information on the routes of illegal migration into the UK. The findings are contained in an RDS On-line report 20/05 "A survey of the illegally resident population in detention in the UK" (found at: http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/onlinepubs1.html).

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate the Government have made of how many immigrants are in the UK having overstayed their visas. [10103]

**Mr. McNulty:** Information on the total number of immigrants who have overstayed their visa, is not available. This could be obtained only at disproportionate cost by examination of individual case records. In addition some applicants may leave the United Kingdom without informing the Immigration Service.

E-borders and ID cards will enable us to monitor this more precisely in the future.

No government has ever been able to produce an accurate figure for the number of people who are in the country illegally. By its very nature it is impossible to quantify accurately, and that remains the case.

Although it is impossible to determine accurately how many people are in the UK illegally the Home Office published a report, on 30 June 2005, which included an estimate of the size of the illegal migrant population in

the UK in 2001. It should be noted that the report included an estimate, not an accurate or definitive figure.

Overstayers are included in the definition of 'unauthorised' or 'illegally Resident' migrant population used in the report.

A copy of the RDS On-line report 29/05—"Sizing the unauthorised (illegal) migrant population in the United Kingdom in 2001" can be found at: http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/notes/june_summaries.html.

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the routes by which people living in the UK illegally first entered the country. [10455]

**Mr. McNulty:** Persons living in the UK illegally may have entered the UK unlawfully, either clandestinely or by deploying deception, or may have entered the UK legally and remained beyond any permitted permission to remain. The methods and routes used to enter the country are varied and change in response to a number of factors, including the impact of new security measures.

The Immigration and Nationality Directorate routinely monitors the trends and changes to methods of illegal entry into the UK. These assessments are used to inform policy and operational initiatives.

Many of those entering the UK use the services of criminal groups to provide documentation, transport and to provide assistance once here. Under Reflex, the Government's multi-agency taskforce to combat organised immigration crime, intelligence assessments of the routes and methods used to enter the United Kingdom are regularly updated and are used to direct targeted operations against the criminal gangs involved.

The main route for clandestine entry to the UK has been through the South East ports while those entering by air often use false documents and take circuitous routings. A number of successful countermeasures have been introduced to combat these routes such as the introduction of juxtaposed controls, enhanced freight searching, deployment of overseas officers, the development of risk assessment units at key visa posts overseas and regular alerts to front-line staff on developments in document abuse.

**Mr. Lilley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what estimate he has made of the change in the number of unauthorised residents in the UK since 2001; [10806]

(2) what proportion of the unauthorised migrant population estimated in his Department's research study were estimated to have arrived in the UK between 1991 and 2001. [10807]

**Mr. McNulty** *[holding answer 7 July 2005]:* No government has ever been able to produce an accurate figure for the number of people who are in the country illegally. By its very nature it is impossible to quantify accurately, and that remains the case.

Although it is impossible to determine accurately how many people are in the UK illegally the Home Office published a report, 30 June 2005, which included an estimate of the size of the illegal migrant population in the UK in 2001. It should be noted that the report included an estimate, not an accurate or definitive figure.

As mentioned in the report the only method to estimate the size of the unauthorised migrant population in the UK that currently can sensibly be applied is the residual method. As the method relies on data from the census of the population undertaken every 10 years, it is not possible to produce an estimate for a more recent year. It is also not possible to estimate the proportion of the unauthorised migrant population who arrived in the UK between 1991 and 2001.

A copy of the RDS On-line report 29/05—"Sizing the unauthorised (illegal) migrant population in the United Kingdom in 2001" can be found at: http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/notes/june_summaries.html.

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many visits were made to employers by Immigration Service officers in 2004–05. [10073]

**Mr. Charles Clarke:** In 2004–05, 1,858 enforcement visits to business premises were reported by UK Immigration Service local enforcement offices. Other visits to employers to explain the law on illegal working would also have been undertaken, but figures for these are not held centrally.

### Work Permit System (Ethnic Minorities)

**Harry Cohen:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the likely effect of his proposals for changes to the work permit system on ethnic minority businesses in the catering sector in relation to their ability to recruit skilled staff from the Indian sub-continent; and if he will make a statement. [4164]

**Mr. McNulty:** The Government's plans for changes to the work permits system and for current sector based schemes are outlined in "Controlling our borders: making migration work for Britain" the five-year plan for asylum and immigration. The Government are committed to ensuring that UK employers have access to the skills and experience they need in order to maximise the economic benefits to the UK from migration. Skilled migrant workers should be enabled to fill vacancies which cannot be filled from within the UK or EU.

The written ministerial statement on 23 June announced that, following a review of the scheme and in the light of additional labour available from the new EU countries, the current sectors based scheme for the hospitality sector would be ended. The findings of that review have been placed on work permits (UK)'s website. If additional needs are identified in future, small tightly managed quota-based schemes will be established for specific shortage areas for fixed periods.

### Biometric Passport Databases

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether, following the implementation of the International Civil Aviation Organisation biometric standards, immigration staff at

ports and airports will be able to access other countries' biometric passport databases in order to verify the validity of documents presented by passengers. [10072]

**Mr. Charles Clarke:** In order to realize the benefits of biometrics, Immigration Officers need to be able to access the biometric information stored on the passport's chip and verify that the person presenting the passport is the rightful holder. Immigration Officers will not have access to databases of other countries but it is the intention of the Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Bill that they will have access to the data contained within the passport chip in biometric passports of overseas nationals. The bill also seeks to provide Immigration Officers with the power to ask the holder of the passport to provide biometric information, such as fingerprints, for comparison with data held in the passport chip to ascertain whether the person presenting the passport is the rightful holder of the document.

## Bombings

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) if he will list the *(a)* dates and *(b)* locations of crimes using bombs or other explosive devices that have taken place in England and Wales resulting in death or personal injury in each year since 1976; and if he will list the number of (i) casualties and (ii) convictions that have been secured; [10550]

(2) if he will list the names of organisations and individuals who claimed responsibility for crimes using bombs or other explosive devices that have taken place in England and Wales resulting in death or personal injury for each year since 1976. [10551]

**Mr. Charles Clarke:** The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

## Correspondence

**Mr. Burns:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 13 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 151W, on correspondence, when he will provide a substantive reply to the letter of 28 February from the hon. Member for West Chelmsford. [9098]

**Fiona Mactaggart** *[holding answer 4 July 2005]*: I wrote to the hon. Member on 30 June.

**Mr. Barstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he will reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Sutton and Cheam concerning his constituent Mr. Sebastian John D'Souza, dated 18 May, ref D'Souza/180505/Stonecot/by. [4917]

**Mr. McNulty:** I wrote to the hon. Member on 15 July.

## Crime

**Mr. Streeter:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the trends in criminal activity in the East sector of Plymouth are for the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [11324]

**Hazel Blears** *[holding answer 11 July 2005]*: Statistics are not collected centrally for the East Sector of Plymouth. The latest published information is for the Plymouth Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership area and covers 2003–04. The statistics cover six key offence groups and give comparisons with 2002–03 and rates per 1,000 population.

The data is available on the Home Office website at:
http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs04/cdrptabs.xls

**John Hemming:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* final warnings and *(b)* reprimands have been issued under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 in each year for each (i) classification of crime and (ii) age cohort. [11790]

**Hazel Blears:** Information from the Home Office Court Proceedings database on the number of persons in each age cohort under the age of 18 who have been issued with a reprimand or final warning since the introduction of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, by offence type, England and Wales, 1999–2003 is contained in the table.

Statistics for 2004 will be available in the autumn.

*Number of juveniles given a reprimand or final warning by offence type and age cohort, England and Wales 1999–2003*[1,2]

| | 1999 | | | 2000 | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Offence type* | *10 to 11 years* | *12 to 14 years* | *15 to 17 years* | *10 to 11 years* | *12 to 14 years* | *15 to 17 years* |
| Violence against the person | 365 | 3,223 | 4,876 | 345 | 3,140 | 4,767 |
| Sexual offences | 13 | 256 | 320 | 30 | 229 | 225 |
| Burglary | 803 | 2,874 | 2,439 | 630 | 2,643 | 2,105 |
| Robbery | 58 | 245 | 200 | 69 | 277 | 198 |
| Theft and handling stolen goods | 3,037 | 17,798 | 18,756 | 2,936 | 16,982 | 16,997 |
| Fraud and forgery | 39 | 414 | 1,216 | 26 | 362 | 1,066 |
| Criminal damage | 286 | 930 | 726 | 294 | 945 | 834 |
| Drug offences | 34 | 1,002 | 8,535 | 31 | 947 | 6,941 |
| Other indictable offences | 29 | 409 | 933 | 31 | 394 | 892 |
| Summary offences (excluding motoring) | 2,142 | 12,033 | 19,987 | 2,153 | 12,570 | 18,482 |
| Total | 6,806 | 39,184 | 57,988 | 6,545 | 38,489 | 52,507 |

| | 2001 | | | 2002 | | | 2003 | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 10 to 11 years | 12 to 14 years | 15 to 17 years | 10 to 11 years | 12 to 14 years | 15 to 17 years | 10 to 11 years | 12 to 14 years | 15 to 17 years |
| Violence against the person | 414 | 3,332 | 4,934 | 451 | 3,550 | 5,344 | 530 | 4,372 | 6,109 |
| Sexual offences | 28 | 240 | 250 | 23 | 203 | 217 | 13 | 235 | 225 |
| Burglary | 614 | 2,618 | 2,065 | 503 | 2,190 | 1,839 | 423 | 2,075 | 1,862 |
| Robbery | 44 | 243 | 198 | 39 | 196 | 127 | 44 | 192 | 133 |
| Theft and handling stolen goods | 2,516 | 16,194 | 16,491 | 1,911 | 12,846 | 13,340 | 1,955 | 12,419 | 13,892 |
| Fraud and forgery | 27 | 309 | 914 | 26 | 225 | 838 | 19 | 187 | 761 |
| Criminal damage | 305 | 1,096 | 850 | 240 | 916 | 769 | 232 | 1,056 | 975 |
| Drug offences | 32 | 1,278 | 7,171 | 41 | 1,331 | 8,145 | 37 | 1,293 | 8,241 |
| Other indictable offences | 40 | 430 | 872 | 24 | 383 | 912 | 22 | 405 | 967 |
| Summary offences (excluding motoring) | 2,381 | 13,211 | 18,945 | 1,890 | 11,147 | 16,982 | 1,932 | 12,017 | 19,308 |
| Total | 6,401 | 38,951 | 52,690 | 5,148 | 32,967 | 48,473 | 5,289 | 34,251 | 52,473 |

[1] These data are on the principal basis
[2] Juvenile cautions were replaced by reprimands and final warnings in June 2000

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make a statement on changes in the level of crime in *(a)* Lancashire and *(b)* Chorley in the last five years. [6611]

**Hazel Blears:** Information from police recorded data for the years 1999 to 2004 is contained in the tables.

Chorley is a Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) area. The most recent available information relates to 2003–04. Data for the period up to 31 March 2005 will be included in the forthcoming publication "Crime in England and Wales 2004–05" which will be available on the Home Office website and in the Library.

In terms of violent crime, much of the rise in violence against the person which is shown in the tables can be accounted for by changes to the way the police define and record certain offences. Police recorded crime data are subject to changes in police recording practices, including those relating to national Counting Rules and recording standards. The Counting Rules changes in 1998 had a very significant impact on violent crime, across England and Wales the numbers of such crimes recorded by the police increased by 83 per cent. in the first year of using the new rules. The National Crime Recording Standard, introduced in April 2002, again resulted in increased recording of violent crimes, particularly for less serious violent offences. In addition, increased police activity can have an impact on how many offences are recorded, because, in such circumstances, police officers may encounter and record incidents that may not previously have been reported or recorded.

In comparison, British Crime Survey data, widely regarded as the most authoritative view of violent crime, shows considerable reductions in violent crime across England and Wales since 1997.

*Table 1a: Recorded crime for six key offences in the Chorley Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership area, 1999–2000 to 2001–02*[1]

| | 1999–2000 | 2000–01 | 2001–02 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Violence against the person | 551 | 581 | 646 |
| Sexual offences | 38 | 47 | 49 |
| Robbery | 27 | 32 | 64 |
| Burglary in a dwelling | 526 | 492 | 780 |
| Theft of a motor vehicle | 464 | 414 | 413 |
| Theft from a motor vehicle | 700 | 837 | 872 |
| Total[2] | — | — | 7,579 |

[1] The data in this table is prior to the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard. These figures are not directly comparable with those for later years.
[2] Available only from 2001–02.

*Table 1b: Recorded crime for six key offences in the Chorley Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership area, 2002–03 to 2003–04*[1]

| | 2002–03 | 2003–04 |
|---|---|---|
| Violence against the person | 761 | 1,553 |
| Sexual offences | 62 | 60 |
| Robbery | 42 | 48 |
| Burglary in a dwelling | 579 | 479 |
| Theft of a motor vehicle | 375 | 266 |
| Theft from a motor vehicle | 759 | 603 |
| Total | 6,942 | 7,873 |

[1] The data in this table takes account of the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002. These figures are not directly comparable with those for earlier years.

*Table 2a: Crime recorded by Lancashire Police, 1999–2000 to 2001–02*[1]

| | 1999–2000 | 2000–01 | 2001–02 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Violence against the person | 9,803 | 11,710 | 15,935 |
| Sexual offences | 754 | 936 | 992 |
| Robbery | 1,038 | 1,224 | 1,608 |
| Burglary[2] | 21,360 | 21,673 | 23,920 |
| Theft and handling stolen goods[3] | 44,459 | 46,060 | 52,016 |
| Fraud and forgery | 4,024 | 5,935 | 6,338 |
| Criminal damage | 22,776 | 25,445 | 31,925 |
| Drug and other offences | 4,632 | 4,650 | 5,026 |
| Total | 108,866 | 117,633 | 137,760 |

[1] The data in this table is prior to the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard. These figures are not directly comparable with those for later years.
[2] All burglary, including attempted burglary.
[3] Including theft of and from a motor vehicle.

*Table 2b: Crime recorded by Lancashire Police, 2002–03 to 2003–04*[1]

| | 2002–03 | 2003–04 |
|---|---|---|
| Violence against the person | 15,784 | 26,676 |
| Sexual offences | 1,069 | 1,337 |
| Robbery | 1,409 | 1,285 |
| Burglary[2] | 20,487 | 19,571 |
| Theft and handling stolen goods[3] | 49,223 | 50,660 |
| Fraud and forgery | 5,839 | 7,157 |
| Criminal damage | 30,733 | 39,447 |
| Drug and other offences | 5,963 | 5,702 |
| Total | 130,507 | 151,835 |

[1] The data in this table takes account of the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002. These figures are not directly comparable with those for earlier years.
[2] All burglary, including attempted burglary.
[3] Including theft of and from a motor vehicle.

**Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the annual number of recorded crimes per 1,000 population was for *(a)* Northamptonshire police force, *(b)* Northamptonshire's most similar family of forces and *(c)* an average for England and Wales in each of the last 10 years. [11192]

**Hazel Blears:** The information requested is given in the table.

Since 1997, there have been two major changes to the way crime is recorded. The effect of the change in the counting rules in 1998 was to artificially increase total recorded crime nationally by 14 per cent. while it is estimated that the effect of the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS) in April 2002 caused a further increase of 10 per cent. in total recorded crime in its first year.

*Total recorded crime in Northamptonshire and it's most similar forces—rate per 1,000 population 1994 to 2003–04*

*Rate per 1,000 population*

| *Police force area* | *1994* | *1995* | *1996* | *1997* | *1998–99*[1] |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Cambridgeshire | 90 | 98 | 100 | 85 | 94 |
| Cheshire | 77 | 75 | 68 | 62 | 66 |
| Hampshire | 82 | 78 | 78 | 71 | 73 |
| Hertfordshire | 65 | 66 | 63 | 58 | 57 |
| Kent | 101 | 100 | 95 | 79 | 83 |
| Northamptonshire | 97 | 95 | 96 | 89 | 107 |
| Staffordshire | 89 | 87 | 87 | 85 | 87 |
| Warwickshire | 86 | 78 | 78 | 71 | 76 |
| England and Wales | 102 | 99 | 97 | 88 | 98 |

| | *1999–2000* | *2000–01* | *2001–02* | *2002–03*[2] | *2003–04* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Cambridgeshire | 95 | 89 | 95 | 120 | 112 |
| Cheshire | 66 | 64 | 72 | 86 | 94 |
| Hampshire | 76 | 75 | 76 | 86 | 100 |
| Hertfordshire | 60 | 62 | 64 | 83 | 92 |
| Kent | 79 | 81 | 75 | 83 | 86 |
| Northamptonshire | 99 | 91 | 97 | 117 | 123 |
| Staffordshire | 93 | 99 | 111 | 104 | 104 |
| Warwickshire | 76 | 73 | 83 | 87 | 89 |
| England and Wales | 101 | 98 | 104 | 113 | 113 |

[1] Figures using the expanded offence coverage and revised counting rules which came into effect on 1 April 1998.
[2] The National Crime Recording Standard was introduced on 1 April 2002. Figures before and after that data are not directly comparable.

### Deepcut Barracks

**Lembit Öpik:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will inquire into the reasons for the time taken by Devon and Cornwall police to investigate the Surrey police's review of deaths at the Deepcut army barracks; and if he will make a statement. [6924]

**Hazel Blears:** The terms of reference for this Inquiry require the Devon and Cornwall constabulary to examine a number of issues as they relate to the Surrey police investigation into four deaths at Deepcut Barracks.

These matters are not straightforward and include, among other things, issues around the disposition of officers and others involved in the investigation. These matters are very challenging and deal with issues that have not previously been examined by a police inquiry. A substantial number of documents have had to be examined in close detail and cross referenced to other material and witnesses. The inquiry is essentially a review of four deaths over a seven year period in five distinct and different areas.

### Departmental Contracts

**Stephen Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the normal payment terms are for his Department to settle the invoices of building contractors who have performed work for the Home Office. [11679]

**Mr. Charles Clarke:** The normal payment terms for the Home Office to settle the invoices of building contractors who have performed work for us is within 30 days of delivery and receipt of a valid invoice.

### Departmental Purchasing

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will list the companies from which his Department has purchased goods and services of a total value above £1 million in each of the last three years; and how much was spent in respect of each company. [11728]

**Mr. Charles Clarke:** The Home Office is not able to answer this question without incurring disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Spending (Security)

**David Davis:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much the Department has spent on ensuring that his residence has adequate security measures in each of the last three years. [6912]

**Mr. Charles Clarke:** The Home Office do not discuss security arrangements for individuals including costs, for protection reasons.

### Disqualified Drivers

**Mr. Chaytor:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many drivers were disqualified from driving for a period of over two years in each of the last five years; how many subsequently applied to the sentencing court for part of the disqualification period to be lifted on grounds of hardship; and how many were successful. [11549]

**Paul Goggins:** Available information taken from the Home Office Court Proceedings Database on the number of disqualifications imposed on drivers for motoring offences for a period of two years and over from 1999 to 2003 (latest available), is given in the table.

2004 data will be available early in 2006.

Information is not held centrally on the number of appeals and outcome against disqualifications from driving.

*Driving disqualifications[1] imposed at all courts for a period of two years and over for motoring offences, England and Wales, 1999 to 2003*

*Number of offences*

| | *Disqualification period* | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | *2 years and over* | *Life* | *Total* |
| 1999 | 44,844 | 45 | 44,889 |
| 2000 | 43,780 | 26 | 43,806 |
| 2001 | 46,300 | 18 | 46,318 |
| 2002 | 50,803 | 35 | 50,838 |
| 2003 | 53,453 | 46 | 53,499 |

[1] Excludes persons disqualified by the courts under section 35 of the Road Traffic Offenders Act 1988 (penalty points system).

### Drug Rehabilitation

**Anne Main:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average waiting time to have an appointment for drug rehabilitation treatment was in 2004–05 with the consultant psychiatrist employed by the Health Partnership Trust in St. Albans; and what proportion of his patients are the subject of drug rehabilitation requirements and a drug treatment testing order. [11226]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** I have been asked to reply.

The information requested is not collected centrally.

### EU Public Procurement Directive

**Malcolm Bruce:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what responsibilities will fall to his Department as a result of EU Public Procurement Directive 2004/18/EC; and what actions his Department plans to take in response to the Directive. [4655]

**Mr. Charles Clarke:** The Office of Government Commerce (OGC) is currently running a consultation on the draft regulations implementing the new EU Directives on procurement in the public sector (Directive 2004/18/EC) which ends on 12 September. Following this consultation period the deadline for implementation into UK law is 31 January 2006. Once the UK regulations are published the Home Office will be responsible for adhering to the requirements of the new directive which consolidates the current supplies, services, and works directives. The OGC will be issuing guidance on implementation which will be promulgated to all procurement specialists in the Home Office.

### Command Papers

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* Green and *(b)* White Papers his Department has produced since 1997, broken down by date. [10511]

**Mr. Charles Clarke:** A list of all Command Papers produced by Departments from 10 May 2001 to the end of June 2005, prepared by the Office of Public Sector Information (OPSI) has been placed in the Library. This list by Department details the Command Paper number, title and date of publication.

It is not possible to separately identify the number of Green and White Papers. Information is not available prior to 10 May 2001, and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

A list of Command Papers from 2001 onwards is also available on the OPSI website at www.opsi.gov.uk with links to the Command Papers where known. The list can be viewed alphabetically by Department as well as numerically."

### Identity Cards

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he expects that the Government's proposal on Identity Cards will help individuals to verify that they are not dealing with bogus officials. [10996]

**Mr. Charles Clarke:** The statutory purposes of the Identity Cards Scheme are to facilitate the provision of a convenient method for individuals to prove registerable facts about themselves to others and the provision of a secure and reliable method for registerable facts about individuals to be verified wherever that is necessary in the public interest.

Identity Cards will assist the public to verify the identity of individuals, as the public will be able to visually compare the photograph on the Identity Card with the individual that is before them. Members of the public will also be able to compare the name on the card with the name of the individual that they are expecting. However it is not proposed that Identity Cards will have the occupation of the individual either on the face of the card or contained within the register, neither would there be any legal obligation for an official to produce a card on request.

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will publish his Department's technical evaluation of the London School of Economics work on Identity Cards. [10999]

**Mr. Charles Clarke:** A technical evaluation of the London School of Economics report will be published shortly.

### Illegal Alcohol Sales

**Steve Webb:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were prosecuted for selling alcohol to under-age children in each year since 1997 in *(a)* England and *(b)* each region. [8681]

**Andy Burnham:** The available information from the Home Office Court Proceedings database, relating to those prosecuted against for selling alcohol to under-age children in England and each region, 1997 to 2003, is shown in table 1.

Statistics for 2004 will be available in the autumn.

The penalty notice for disorder scheme provides for persons who commit specified penalty offences to be issued with a fixed penalty notice instead of being prosecuted. The offence of selling alcohol to persons aged under 18 was added to the PND scheme on 1 November 2004 for use on bar or off-licence staff, licensees will be prosecuted to enable action to be taken to revoke their licences. Table 2 lists the number of penalty notices issued for this offence in 2004 and 2005 to the end of May.

*Table 1: Defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts for offences relating to the sale of alcohol to underage persons[1], England and each region, 1997 to 2003*

| Offence description | Statute | Region | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Selling etc., intoxicating liquor to persons under 18 for consumption on the premises | Licensing Act, 1964, section 169(1); Licensing (Occasional Permissions) Act 1983, schedule (sec. 3) para. 4(1) | North East | 34 | 94 | 41 |
| | | North West | 55 | 58 | 41 |
| | | Yorkshire and Humberside | 16 | 22 | 17 |
| | | East Midlands | 19 | 15 | 14 |
| | | West Midlands | 25 | 20 | 34 |
| | | Eastern | 18 | 18 | 7 |
| | | London | 12 | 12 | 16 |
| | | South East | 9 | 18 | 10 |
| | | South West | 2 | 40 | 5 |
| | | England | 190 | 297 | 185 |
| Wholesaler selling intoxicating liquor to a person under 18 | Licensing Act 1964, sec. 181A(1) as added by Licensing Act 1988, sec. 17 | North East | — | — | — |
| | | North West | — | — | — |
| | | Yorkshire and Humberside | — | — | — |
| | | East Midlands | 1 | — | — |
| | | West Midlands | — | — | — |
| | | Eastern | — | — | — |
| | | London | — | 1 | 1 |
| | | South East | — | — | — |
| | | South West | — | — | — |
| | | England | 1 | 1 | 1 |

| Offence description | Statute | Region | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Selling etc., intoxicating liquor to persons under 18 for consumption on the premises | Licensing Act, 1964, section 169(1); Licensing (Occasional Permissions) Act 1983, schedule (sec. 3) para. 4(1) | North East | 18 | 18 | 8 | 40 |
| | | North West | 27 | 35 | 73 | 198 |
| | | Yorkshire and Humberside | 22 | 29 | 14 | 8 |
| | | East Midlands | 9 | 6 | 11 | 76 |
| | | West Midlands | 21 | 11 | 12 | 61 |
| | | Eastern | 6 | 5 | 4 | 11 |
| | | London | 2 | 19 | 11 | 97 |
| | | South East | 6 | 17 | 12 | 27 |
| | | South West | 4 | 6 | 2 | 15 |
| | | England | 115 | 146 | 147 | 533 |
| Wholesaler selling intoxicating liquor to a person under 18 | Licensing Act 1964, sec. 181A(1) as added by Licensing Act 1988, sec. 17 | North East | — | — | — | — |
| | | North West | 2 | — | — | 7 |
| | | Yorkshire and Humberside | — | 2 | — | — |
| | | East Midlands | — | 1 | — | 2 |
| | | West Midlands | — | — | 1 | — |
| | | Eastern | — | — | 1 | — |
| | | London | — | — | — | — |
| | | South East | — | — | — | 3 |
| | | South West | — | — | — | — |
| | | England | 2 | 3 | 2 | 12 |

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

*Table 2: Number of penalty notices for disorder issued for the sale of alcohol to underage persons, England and each region, 2004 and January to May 2005[1]*

| Offence description | Statute | Region | 2004[2] | 2005[3] |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Selling etc., intoxicating liquor to persons under 18 for consumption on the premises | Licensing Act, 1964, Section 169(1); Licensing (Occasional Permissions) Act 1983, schedule (sec. 3) para. 4(1) | North East | 1 | 8 |
| | | North West | 32 | 45 |
| | | Yorkshire and Humberside | 8 | 39 |
| | | East Midlands | 12 | 24 |

*Table 2: Number of penalty notices for disorder issued for the sale of alcohol to underage persons, England and each region, 2004 and January to May 2005*[1]

| Offence description | Statute | Region | 2004[2] | 2005[3] |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | West Midlands | 7 | 4 |
| | | Eastern | 7 | 17 |
| | | London | 21 | 17 |
| | | South East | 2 | 15 |
| | | South West | 22 | 37 |
| | | England | 112 | 204 |

[1] Provisional data
[2] Offence added to PND scheme 1 November 2004
[3] Provisional data January-May 2005

### Young Offenders

**Mr. Hepburn:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many young people of school age who had been placed in custody have re-offended in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England in each year since 1997. [10197]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** Information in respect of Jarrow alone, South Tyneside alone and the North East alone is not collected centrally. In England and Wales as a whole, 70.4 per cent. of young people under 18 released from custody in 2001 were re-convicted within one year. The comparable figure for 2002 was 68.3 per cent.; and for 2003, 69.4 per cent. Figures for other years since 1997 are not available.

**Mr. Hepburn:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many young people of school age *(a)* found guilty of a crime and *(b)* placed in custody were found to suffer from some form of mental illness in each of the last five years. [10195]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** This information is not collected centrally.

### Kidnaps

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were kidnapped in England and Wales in each of the last three years. [7330]

**Hazel Blears** *[holding answer 27 June 2005]:* There were 3,125 recorded offences of kidnapping in England and Wales in 2003–04. This corresponds with 3,184 offences in 2002–03 and 2,788 in 2001–02.

### Homicide

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many persons convicted of *(a)* murder and *(b)* manslaughter in England and Wales were subsequently (i) charged with and (ii) convicted of murder or manslaughter following their release on licence in each year since 1975. [10507]

**Hazel Blears:** The available information is as follows:

During the period 1975 to date, a total of 68 persons in England and Wales, released following a conviction for homicide, were known to have been convicted of a second offence of homicide.

The figure excludes persons who have been convicted outside England and Wales (for whom there is incomplete information), and persons who have been killed by those not previously convicted of homicide by reason of their mental state.

A breakdown for each year since 1975 by type of homicide is given in the following table.

*Suspects convicted of a second homicide following release from a previous conviction for homicide in England and Wales 1975 to 2004*

| | Murder second conviction | | | Manslaughter second conviction | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Homicide offence of previous conviction | | | | | |
| | Murder | Manslaughter | Total | Murder | Manslaughter | Total |
| 1975 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| 1976 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| 1977 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| 1978 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 1979 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| 1980 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 1981 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| 1982 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| 1983 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| 1984 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| 1985 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| 1986 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 1987 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| 1988 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 1989 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 1990 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| 1991 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| 1992 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| 1993 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 1994 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| 1995 | 0 | 5 | 5 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| 1996 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 1997 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 1998 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| 1999 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| 2000 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2001 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2002 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2003 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 15 | 31 | 46 | 5 | 17 | 22 |

### National Offender Management Service

**Mrs. Gillan:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will publish the business case for the establishment of the National Offender Management Service. [4966]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** The strategic business case for the establishment of the National Offender Management Service is being finalised and will be published as soon as is reasonably practicable thereafter.

**Mrs. Gillan:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will publish the pilot service level agreements between regional offender managers and the probation boards. [12028]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** In preparation for the move to commissioning of offender services, a programme of work is underway to develop a standard service level agreement. Service level agreements will then be drawn

up between regional offender managers and all probation boards within their region for operation in 2006–07. As part of this work, "shadow" service level agreements have been drafted this year with the following probation boards:

Bedfordshire;

Cambridgeshire;

Cheshire;

Cumbria;

Essex;

Greater Manchester;

Hertfordshire;

Lancashire;

Merseyside;

Norfolk;

Suffolk.

Copies of these "shadow" service level agreements have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

## Parking Fines

**David Davis:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was raised by parking fines in *(a)* Humberside and *(b)* England in each of the last five years. [6554]

**Mr. Charles Clarke:** Information on the revenue raised from parking summary offences is not available.

Available information, given in the tables show the number of fines at magistrates' court and the number of fixed penalty notices issued for all offences of obstruction, waiting and parking in the Humberside police force area and England, during the calendar years 1999 to 2003 (latest available).

Not all fines and fixed penalties will have been paid.

Information for 2004 will be available early in 2006.

Under The Road Traffic Act 1991 decriminalised parking enforcement (DPE) powers allow local authorities to take over responsibility for enforcing parking contraventions from the police. Data on fixed penalty notices issued under DPE are not included within the tables. Humberside does not operate DPE.

*Table 1: Fixed penalty and court proceedings data for obstruction, waiting and parking offences[1] within Humberside police force area[2] 1999–2003*

*Number of offences*

| | *Fixed penalties* | | | | *Court proceedings[3]* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Endorsable* | | *Non-endorsable* | | | | |
| | *Number of tickets[4]* | *Estimated revenue (£)* | *Number of tickets[4]* | *Estimated revenue (£)[5]* | *Number of fines* | *Total amount of fine (£)* | *Average fine (£)* |
| 1999 | 2 | 80 | 23,900 | 478,200 | 303 | 9,200 | 30 |
| 2000 | 4 | 173 | 26,600 | 576,200 | 125 | 3,600 | 29 |
| 2001 | 3 | 180 | 25,700 | 771,000 | 83 | 3,400 | 40 |
| 2002 | 2 | 120 | 26,500 | 795,100 | 160 | 6,200 | 39 |
| 2003 | 1 | 60 | 25,500 | 765,100 | 214 | 8,400 | 39 |

[1] Offences under the Road Traffic Act 1988 s.22; Transport Act 2000 ss.173 (5); 173 (6); 173 (7); 174 (3); 175 (2); 175 (3); 175 (4); 190 Highway Act 1835 ss 72 and 78; RTA 1988 ss. 19 and 21; Highways Act 1980 s. 137 (1); Road Traffic Regulations Act 1984 ss. 5 (1), 8, 32–36 and 45–53; Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) regulations 1986 Regs. 101 and 103; Transport Act 2000 Part III.

[2] On-street parking in the force area is not decriminalised.

[3] Includes cases where fixed penalty notices were originally issued but not paid and subsequently referred to court.

[4] Only covers tickets paid where there is no further action.

[5] Underestimates based on the lowest level of non-endorsable penalty charge: 20 to October 2000 and 30 from November 2000.

*Table 2: Fixed penalty and court proceedings data for obstruction, waiting and parking offences[1] England[2] 1999–2003*

*Number of offences*

| | *Fixed penalties* | | | | *Court proceedings[3]* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Endorsable* | | *Non-endorsable* | | | | |
| | *Number of tickets[4]* | *Estimated revenue (£)* | *Number of tickets[4]* | *Estimated revenue (£)[5]* | *Number of fines* | *Total amount of fine (£)* | *Average fine (£)* |
| 1999 | 196 | 7,800 | 1,656,000 | 33,124,000 | 14,400 | 877,300 | 61 |
| 2000 | 158 | 6,800 | 1,450,000 | 31,411,000 | 12,500 | 889,600 | 71 |
| 2001 | 148 | 8,900 | 1,195,000 | 35,836,000 | 12,000 | 829,300 | 69 |
| 2002 | 111 | 6,700 | 1,031,000 | 30,920,000 | 11,300 | 807,600 | 71 |
| 2003 | 144 | 8,600 | 915,500 | 27,465,000 | 11,900 | 845,600 | 71 |

[1] Offences under the Road Traffic Act 1988 s.22; Transport Act 2000 ss.173 (5); 173 (6); 173 (7); 174 (3); 175 (2); 175 (3); 175 (4); 190 Highway Act 1835 ss 72 and 78; RTA 1988 ss. 19 and 21; Highways Act 1980 s. 137 (1); Road Traffic Regulations Act 1984 ss. 5 (1), 8, 32–36 and 45–53; Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) regulations 1986 Regs. 101 and 103; Transport Act 2000 Part III; Metropolitan Police Act 1839s. 54(1).

[2] Does not include Decriminalised Parking Enforcements (DPE).

[3] Includes cases where fixed penalty notices were originally issued but not paid and subsequently referred to court.

[4] Only covers tickets paid where there is no further action.

[5] Underestimates based on the lowest level of non-endorsable penalty charge: 20 to October 2000 and 30 from November 2000.

## Parliamentary Questions

**Mr. Crabb:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he will reply to the questions, references *(a)* 2586 and *(b)* 2589, tabled by the hon. member for Preseli Pembrokeshire on 3 June. [7295]

**Hazel Blears:** I replied to the hon. Member on 11 July 2005, *Official Report*, volume 436, column 750W

## Passport Service

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the estimated total cost of HM Passport Service's Authentication by Interview scheme is; and what assessment he has made of the annual changes arising from its implementation *(a)* in cost terms and *(b)* in terms of the number of fraudulent applications prevented. [10071]

**Mr. Charles Clarke:** The estimated cost of the Passport Service's Authentication by Interview (ABI) scheme in its year of introduction is aggregated within the total estimated unit cost of £67.93 for 2006–07, published within the Corporate and Business Plan.

The ABI initiative is intended both to deter and to detect fraudulent applications among first time applicants but its business case has been constructed on its potential deterrent effect, for which evidence exists. UKPS data sampling have identified the first time adult channel as accounting for 74 percent. of all fraudulent applications, although this group accounts for less than 10 percent. of all applications processed annually by the Agency. ABI closes the loophole that currently exists in the postal application system by bringing together the physical applicant, and current biographical information, to ensure they are one and the same. A fraudster will now be faced with having to act out their false identity, and risk a real possibility of detection. There have been a number of instances in the past where the requirement to attend for interview would have enabled UKPS to identify a fraudulent application and prevent the issue of a passport in a false identity.

The savings the scheme is designed to deliver are in deterring fraudulent applications passport applications and thus contributing to the overall fight against identity fraud.

## Police

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps he is taking to ensure the Metropolitan Police Service in each London borough has sufficient numbers of detectives. [7073]

**Hazel Blears:** The Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) has record police numbers. At the end of September 2004 the force had 30,111 police officers. At 31 March 2005, I am advised by the MPS, they had 6,432 detectives. The allocation of officers to London boroughs and other operational units in the MPS is an operational matter for the commissioner (Sir Ian Blair).

**Dan Norris:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many full-time equivalent police officers have been employed in the Avon and Somerset police force in each year since 1989–90. [12541]

**Hazel Blears:** Information on the number of police service personnel for the Avon and Somerset constabulary since 1989 is set out in the following table. Police service strength for 31 March 2005 will be published at the end of July.

*Avon and Somerset constabulary: police strength 1989 to 2005*

| As at 31 March | Number of police officers | Number of police (support) staff | Number of community support officers |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1989 | 3,014 | 765 | — |
| 1990 | 3,094 | 835 | — |
| 1991 | 3,092 | 902 | — |
| 1992 | 3,081 | 899 | — |
| 1993 | 3,068 | 1,171 | — |
| 1994 | 3,033 | 1,195 | — |
| 1995 | 3,000 | 1,204 | — |
| 1996 | 2,981 | 1,213 | — |
| 1997 | 2,989 | 1,439 | — |
| 1998 | 2,976 | 1,393 | — |
| 1999 | 2,999 | 1,424 | — |
| 2000 | 2,934 | 1,436 | — |
| 2001 | 2,960 | 1,452 | — |
| 2002 | 3,096 | 1,611 | — |
| 2003 | 3,149 | 1,768 | — |
| 2004 | 3,401 | 1,987 | 45 |
| 2004[1] | 3,399 | 2,036 | [2]149 |

[1] 30 September.

[2] Estimated strength for 31 March 2005.

**Mr. Wallace:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many custody suites are operated by Lancashire police; how many cells there are in each; and where each suite is located. [10799]

**Hazel Blears:** This is an operational matter for the chief constable of Lancashire constabulary but I understand that there are eight custody suites in this police area and these are at the following locations and contain the following numbers of cells:

| | Number of cells |
|---|---|
| Blackburn | 44 |
| Blackpool | 36 |
| Burnley | 27 |
| Fleetwood | 10 |
| Lancaster | [1]11 |
| Leyland | 10 |
| Preston | 25 |
| Skelmersdale | 13 |
| Total | 176 |

[1] To be increased to 22 by July 2006

This represents the total number in regular use and includes detention rooms. It excludes those held in reserve for constabulary contingency, overspill or special operational use.

**Jessica Morden:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police community support officers have been introduced in Newport, East; and what assessment he has made of the impact they have had on levels of crime and antisocial behaviour in Newport East. [13311]

**Hazel Blears:** Gwent constabulary had 77 community support officers (CSOs) on 31 March 2005. Information is not centrally collected about the number of CSOs in Basic Command Units. Arrangements are being made to collect such data.

We have commissioned a national evaluation of community support officers (CSOs) which will be published later this year. An interim report, "National Evaluation of Community Support Officers", published in December 2004 (available at www.policereform.gov.uk), indicated that CSOs are having a positive impact on some types of anti-social behaviour and lower level crime, for example vehicle related crime and personal robbery. The main aim of CSOs is to provide a visible and reassuring presence on the streets.

**Jessica Morden:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers there were in Newport, East in 1997; and how many there were in the last period for which figures are available. [13312]

**Hazel Blears:** Information on police officer strength at Basic Command Unit (BCU) level is collected annually and reflects the position at the end of March. This data has only been collected since March 2002. Information for 31 March 2005 will be published at the end of July. Information on police strength at constituency level is not collected. The deployment of police staff to BCUs is a matter for the chief constable (Mr. Mike Tonge).

**Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* special constables and *(b)* police support and administrative staff there were in the Northamptonshire police force in each of the last 10 years. [11197]

**Hazel Blears:** The available information is given in the following table.

*Special constable and police service staff Northamptonshire*

| *Strength at 30 September* | *Special constables (headcount)* | *Police service staff[1] (full-time equivalent)* |
|---|---|---|
| 1995 | 298 | 464 |
| 1996 | 301 | 560 |
| 1997 | 314 | 564 |
| 1998 | 262 | 608 |
| 1999 | 210 | 601 |
| 2000 | 195 | 648 |
| 2001 | 184 | 745 |
| 2002 | 175 | 797 |
| 2003[2] | 175 | 830 |
| 2004[2] | 192 | 938 |

[1] Not including community support officers and traffic wardens.

[2] Excludes staff on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave, for comparison with earlier years.

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance is available to police officers when it is known before an arrest is made that an individual is mentally or physically disabled. [12253]

**Hazel Blears:** The Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO), in conjunction with National Police Training, produced guidance in 1996 on restraint techniques entitled "Personal Safety Training". The guidance covers conflict management and highlights factors, including mental illness, which should be taken into account by officers when assessing the appropriate level of response in a given situation. The guidance is subject to ongoing review and update.

Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (PACE) Code of Practice C, issued under the PACE Act 1984 sets out the special considerations which must be applied when dealing with mentally vulnerable and physically disabled persons in custody. Annex E of Code C provides a summary of provisions relating to mentally disordered and otherwise mentally vulnerable people.

Guidance on local protocols relating to mental health, including an appropriate place of safety under section 136 of the Mental Health Act 1983, was issued to chief officers of police under Home Office Circular 17/2004. The guidance was issued in consultation with ACPO, the National Institute for Mental Health and other stakeholders.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many complaints have been made against the police since 1997 in each year in *(a)* England, *(b)* Essex and *(c)* Southend. [10912]

**Hazel Blears** *[holding answer 11 July 2005]:* Figures held by the Home Office for complaints made against the police since 1997 to 2004 for England are amalgamated with those against Welsh police services.

The responsibility for collating figures after 2004 falls to the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) and will not be published until later this year. I will ensure that the chairman receives a copy of the question and replies to you directly once the figures are published. Copies of the letter containing the IPCC's response will be placed in the House Libraries.

Under the Police Reform Act 2002, the chief constable of Essex police has the responsibility for recording all complaints made against his staff. Your request for complaints made against the police in Southend has been passed to him. I will ensure that he replies to you directly and copies of the letter containing Essex Police's response will be placed in the House Libraries. directly and copies of the letter containing Essex police's response will be placed in the House Libraries.

| | *England and Wales* | *Essex* | *Southend* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1997–98 | 35,820 | [1]— | [1]— |
| 1998–99 | 31,653 | [1]— | [1]— |
| 1999–2000 | 30,807 | 538 | [1]— |
| 2000–01 | 31,034 | 549 | [1]— |
| 2001–02 | 26,710 | 540 | [1]— |
| 2002–03 | 24,562 | 436 | [1]— |
| 2003–04 | 25,376 | 500 | [1]— |
| 2004–05 | [1]— | 590 | [1]— |

[1] Not held

**Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will estimate the three-year cumulative change in formula grant funding for the police forces in England and Wales between 2003–04 and 2005–06 *(a)* before and *(b)* after the floor damping scheme. [11194]

**Hazel Blears:** The information is set out in the table.

£ million

| Local authority | Formula grant before floor damping | | | Formula grant after floor damping | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2003–04 | 2005–06 | Change | 2003–04 | 2005–06 | Change |
| Avon and Somerset police | 157.1 | 172.2 | 15.1 | 157.1 | 170.0 | 12.9 |
| Bedfordshire police | 60.2 | 65.7 | 5.5 | 60.1 | 65.1 | 5.0 |
| Cambridgeshire police | 73.2 | 80.1 | 6.9 | 71.1 | 77.9 | 6.8 |
| Cheshire police | 105.6 | 110.8 | 5.3 | 103.9 | 111.3 | 7.4 |
| Cleveland police | 84.5 | 91.9 | 7.4 | 84.1 | 90.9 | 6.8 |
| Cumbria police | 57.8 | 61.0 | 3.2 | 57.7 | 62.1 | 4.4 |
| Derbyshire police | 97.3 | 103.7 | 6.4 | 97.9 | 105.0 | 7.0 |
| Devon and Cornwall police | 160.4 | 171.2 | 10.8 | 161.5 | 173.0 | 11.5 |
| Dorset police | 58.6 | 61.8 | 3.2 | 61.6 | 66.0 | 4.4 |
| Durham police | 81.7 | 86.9 | 5.2 | 81.5 | 87.8 | 6.3 |
| Dyfed-Powys[1] | 48.9 | 51.0 | 2.1 | 49.3 | 52.2 | 2.9 |
| Essex police | 143.3 | 153.3 | 10.0 | 155.9 | 167.0 | 11.1 |
| GLA—police | 1788.5 | 1976.3 | 187.9 | 1764.0 | 1927.8 | 163.8 |
| Gloucestershire police | 56.5 | 59.8 | 3.3 | 57.0 | 61.1 | 4.1 |
| Greater Manchester police | 388.5 | 418.3 | 29.8 | 380.8 | 412.5 | 31.7 |
| Gwent[1] | 69.6 | 72.9 | 3.3 | 69.6 | 74.1 | 4.5 |
| Hampshire police | 179.7 | 192.7 | 13.0 | 184.5 | 197.7 | 13.2 |
| Hertfordshire police | 97.0 | 104.1 | 7.1 | 101.5 | 108.8 | 7.3 |
| Humberside police | 111.1 | 118.2 | 7.0 | 110.9 | 118.9 | 7.9 |
| Kent police | 168.7 | 177.9 | 9.2 | 176.8 | 189.5 | 12.6 |
| Lancashire police | 179.1 | 192.1 | 13.0 | 177.1 | 190.8 | 13.7 |
| Leicestershire police | 98.9 | 109.8 | 10.9 | 98.8 | 107.7 | 9.0 |
| Lincolnshire police | 58.2 | 64.0 | 5.7 | 58.7 | 63.4 | 4.7 |
| Merseyside police | 243.1 | 255.6 | 12.5 | 240.5 | 257.7 | 17.2 |
| Norfolk police | 79.6 | 86.0 | 6.4 | 79.6 | 85.9 | 6.3 |
| North Wales[1] | 73.4 | 76.3 | 2.9 | 73.4 | 78.3 | 4.9 |
| North Yorkshire police | 68.2 | 72.6 | 4.4 | 70.4 | 75.4 | 5.0 |
| Northamptonshire police | 64.2 | 69.2 | 5.0 | 62.2 | 67.8 | 5.6 |
| Northumbria police | 221.1 | 235.4 | 14.3 | 214.3 | 232.2 | 17.8 |
| Nottinghamshire police | 123.7 | 133.9 | 10.1 | 123.6 | 133.3 | 9.8 |
| South Wales[1] | 158.3 | 165.1 | 6.8 | 163.0 | 174.5 | 11.5 |
| South Yorkshire police | 172.7 | 184.1 | 11.4 | 172.3 | 185.7 | 13.4 |
| Staffordshire police | 104.3 | 111.0 | 6.7 | 105.8 | 113.3 | 7.6 |
| Suffolk police | 63.1 | 67.6 | 4.5 | 63.9 | 68.5 | 4.6 |
| Surrey police | 71.1 | 77.2 | 6.1 | 85.4 | 91.5 | 6.1 |
| Sussex police | 144.8 | 152.1 | 7.4 | 153.1 | 164.0 | 10.9 |
| Thames Valley police | 204.0 | 216.5 | 12.5 | 205.9 | 220.6 | 14.7 |
| Warwickshire police | 47.8 | 52.0 | 4.1 | 48.2 | 51.8 | 3.6 |
| West Mercia police | 103.0 | 109.3 | 6.3 | 104.4 | 111.8 | 7.4 |
| West Midlands police | 413.6 | 442.3 | 28.7 | 386.5 | 426.5 | 40.0 |
| West Yorkshire police | 298.6 | 318.3 | 19.6 | 289.4 | 313.6 | 24.2 |
| Wiltshire police | 58.7 | 61.7 | 3.0 | 58.7 | 62.9 | 4.3 |

[1] Because the Welsh Assembly does not operate a grant damping mechanism, the Home Secretary has for several years provided additional funding to ensure Welsh police authorities receive at least a minimum increase in grant in line with English authorities. These additional grants amounted to £5. 1 million.

**Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the effect on the grant to the Northamptonshire Police Authority was as a result of the Floor Damping scheme for formula grant funding in *(a)* 2003–04, *(b)* 2004–05 and *(c)* 2005–06. [11196]

**Hazel Blears:** Government funding for police authorities is chiefly allocated using a funding formula that distributes resources on the basis of relative need and resources. A damping mechanism subsequently applied to protect all authorities against financial instability ensures all authorities receive an increase in grant at least equal to the "floor" level on a like-for-like basis year-on-year. Grant floors will remain an integral part of the finance system.

The general grant floor of 3.75 per cent. this year guaranteed a minimum increase in general grants for all police authorities. Northamptonshire Police Authority's increases are given in the table.

*Northamptonshire Police Authority general grants allocation*

| | *Before damping (£ million)* | *After damping (£ million)* | *Effect of damping (£ million)* | *Net increase (percentage)* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2003–04 | 64.2 | 62.2 | -2.0 | 4.90 |
| 2004–05 | 66.5 | 64.3 | -2.2 | 3.30 |
| 2005–06 | 69.2 | 67.8 | -1.4 | 5.50 |

The average increases for England and Wales were 4.3 per cent., 3.3 per cent. and 4.8 per cent.

**David Howarth:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on how many occasions in the last five years persons have been *(a)* charged with and *(b)* convicted of offences in relation to unauthorised (i) access to and (ii) disclosure of information held on the Police National Computer. [11988]

**Hazel Blears:** It is not possible to identify from the Home Office Court Proceedings database offences relating to the misuse of the Police National Computer, as details of individual offences are not centrally collected.

The Police Information Technology Organisation (PITO) get requests for investigations from forces on misuse of the police national computer should a force become suspicious of abuse of the system. Data on the number of prosecutions brought as a result of these investigations are not collected centrally.

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers in each police force in England and Wales were assaulted in each of the last five years. [4996]

**Mr. Charles Clarke:** The information requested relates to recorded offences of assault on a constable and is given in the table. The figures should be seen in the context of the introduction nationally of the National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS) in April 2002. The effect of this was a 23 per cent. increase in overall recorded violence against the person.

*Recorded offences of assault on a constable*

| *Police force area* | *1999–2000* | *2000–01* | *2001–02* | *2002–03* | *2003–04* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Avon and Somerset | 305 | 312 | 319 | 405 | 534 |
| Bedfordshire | 258 | 210 | 241 | 343 | 313 |
| Cambridgeshire | 216 | 238 | 251 | 281 | 260 |
| Cheshire | 522 | 483 | 554 | 617 | 724 |
| Cleveland | 93 | 133 | 206 | 314 | 236 |
| Cumbria | 212 | 145 | 204 | 181 | 183 |
| Derbyshire | 610 | 571 | 634 | 848 | 399 |
| Devon and Cornwall | 628 | 646 | 646 | 671 | 430 |
| Dorset | 270 | 287 | 403 | 494 | 330 |
| Durham | 1,032 | 1,077 | 1,248 | 1,078 | 181 |
| Dyfed-Powys | 266 | 261 | 308 | 344 | 225 |
| Essex | 410 | 352 | 352 | 498 | 578 |
| Gloucestershire | 252 | 261 | 206 | 275 | 191 |
| Greater Manchester | 1,891 | 1,905 | 1,972 | 2,016 | 796 |
| Gwent | 530 | 641 | 505 | 595 | 316 |
| Hampshire | 578 | 636 | 688 | 976 | 1,008 |
| Hertfordshire | 257 | 304 | 387 | 449 | 702 |
| Humberside | 523 | 509 | 538 | 754 | 439 |
| Kent | 722 | 620 | 635 | 851 | 755 |
| Lancashire | 973 | 1,239 | 1,366 | 1,536 | 814 |
| Leicestershire | 213 | 315 | 337 | 447 | 432 |
| Lincolnshire | 223 | 178 | 218 | 281 | 160 |
| London, City of | 37 | 30 | 39 | 45 | 34 |
| Merseyside | 1,237 | 1,429 | 1,361 | 1,651 | 979 |
| Metropolitan Police | 1,401 | 1,367 | 1,269 | 1,908 | 2,796 |
| Norfolk | 457 | 405 | 439 | 549 | 444 |
| North Wales | 298 | 445 | 434 | 550 | 246 |
| North Yorkshire | 508 | 426 | 449 | 582 | 274 |
| Northamptonshire | 392 | 331 | 305 | 353 | 305 |
| Northumbria | 1,018 | 1,171 | 1,176 | 1,608 | 588 |
| Nottinghamshire | 433 | 477 | 543 | 452 | 509 |
| South Wales | 720 | 868 | 893 | 1,032 | 700 |
| South Yorkshire | 756 | 923 | 785 | 689 | 434 |
| Staffordshire | 690 | 748 | 661 | 792 | 525 |
| Suffolk | 245 | 255 | 297 | 362 | 321 |
| Surrey | 209 | 266 | 223 | 288 | 413 |
| Sussex | 760 | 891 | 1,120 | 1,089 | 625 |
| Thames Valley | 826 | 802 | 1,254 | 1,527 | 709 |
| Warwickshire | 286 | 258 | 259 | 310 | 233 |
| West Mercia | 640 | 587 | 768 | 845 | 523 |
| West Midlands | 2,606 | 3,234 | 3,811 | 2,817 | 360 |
| West Yorkshire | 1,388 | 1,488 | 1,503 | 1,695 | 634 |
| Wiltshire | 224 | 276 | 288 | 345 | 269 |
| Total | 26,115 | 28,000 | 30,095 | 33,743 | 21,927 |

*Note:*
The National Crime Recording Standard was introduced on 1 April 2002 and figures before and after that date are not directly comparable.

**Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police stations in England were *(a)* open round the clock, *(b)* open part-time and *(c)* mothballed in the latest year for which figures are available. [11874]

**Hazel Blears:** This information is not held centrally.

The management of the police estate and allocation of resources are matters for each police authority and the chief officer, who make arrangements in the context of local needs. The ownership of police stations is vested in the local police authority, not the Home Office. Use and disposal of police premises are matters for local decision.

## Prison Service

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recording methods are in place for the number of self-harm incidents occurring in women's prisons. [8408]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** In December 2002, the Prison Service introduced a revised system for self-harm data collection that required staff to complete an F213SH form for every incident of self-harm known to occur within the establishment, irrespective of the method, intent or severity of any injury: from superficial scratches of the skin to noose/ligature-making, self-suffocation and attempted hanging. The F213SH is used in all prisons, both male and female. The form is designed to be user-friendly and to enable the manageable and consistent collection of standardised, accurate information. The completed F213SH is then imputed to the Prison Service's Incident Reporting System (IRS).

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prisoners committed suicide in prisons in London in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2004. [8419]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** Eight prisoners apparently took their own lives in London prisons during the calendar year 1997; 12 prisoners apparently took their own lives in London prisons during the calendar year 2004.

Reducing the number of such tragic incidents is a key priority, and an unprecedented amount of work is being done to reduce the likelihood of vulnerable individuals taking their lives.

**Mrs. Gillan:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many remand prisoners self-harmed in *(a)* 2003 and *(b)* 2004. [8990]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** 1,294 remand prisoners are recorded as having self-harmed in 2003 and 1,367 in 2004. Remand prisoners are over-represented in self-harm statistics. The heightened risk is associated with the fact that the majority of remand prisoners are in the early phases of imprisonment. Remand prisoners, as compared to sentenced prisoners, have also been shown to have higher rates of a number of risk factors that we know increase the likelihood of self-harm, such as mental disorder, substance dependence, previous self-harm and previous abuse (Singleton et al, 1998).

A broad, integrated and evidence-based prisoner suicide prevention and self-harm management strategy is in place.

**Mrs. Gillan:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average age of a remand prisoner was in *(a)* 2002, *(b)* 2003 and *(c)* 2004. [8991]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** The average age of the remand population on 30 June in each of the years in question, as recorded on the Prison Service IT system, is as follows.

| | *Average age* |
|---|---|
| 2002 | 27 |
| 2003 | 27 |
| 2004 | 28 |

**Mrs. Gillan:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the *(a)* cost and *(b)* original budgeted figure for running each prison was in the financial year 2004–05. [9014]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** The costs and original budgeted figures for running each prison within the Public Prison Service for 2004–05 are given in table 1.

The 2004–05 figures for contracted figures are not yet available. The costs for running each contracted prison in the financial year 2003–04 are given in table 2. The original budgeted figures for each contracted prison in 2003–04 are not held centrally.

*Table 1*

£

| | *Establishments-Public Prisons* | *2004–05 Budgets* | *Adjusted 2004–05 actual spends* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 001 | Acklington | 14,917,189.00 | 14,832,070.00 |
| 002 | Albany | 11,320,478.00 | 11,200,111.00 |
| 003 | Ashwell | 10,203,317.00 | 10,209,699.00 |
| 004 | Askham Grange | 3,677,857.00 | 3,628,808.00 |
| 005 | Aylesbury | 12,978,824.00 | 12,999,179.00 |
| 006 | Bedford | 11,557,863.00 | 11,910,478.00 |
| 007 | Belmarsh | 34,500,734.53 | 35,101,849.00 |
| 008 | Birmingham | 29,392,199.50 | 28,115,788.50 |
| 009 | Blakenhurst | 18,290,866.00 | 17,547,075.00 |
| 010 | Blantyre House | 2,870,536.00 | 2,847,341.00 |
| 011 | Blundeston | 11,083,124.00 | 11,220,183.00 |
| 012 | Brinsford | 15,724,398.00 | 15,253,675.00 |
| 013 | Bristol | 16,489,233.00 | 17,654,815.00 |
| 014 | Brixton | 21,294,144.00 | 21,694,228.00 |
| 015 | Brockhill | 6,678,925.00 | 7,066,126.00 |
| 016 | Buckley Hall | 8,855,528.00 | 9,618,038.00 |
| 017 | Bullingdon | 19,268,574.00 | 19,263,748.00 |
| 018 | Bullwood Hall | 7,802,347.00 | 8,107,852.00 |
| 019 | Camp Hill | 11,626,485.00 | 11,589,936.00 |
| 020 | Canterbury | 7,052,229.00 | 7,028,161.00 |
| 021 | Cardiff | 15,816,430.00 | 15,899,772.00 |
| 022 | Castington | 14,131,341.00 | 14,049,927.00 |
| 023 | Channings Wood | 13,398,331.29 | 13,496,966.29 |
| 024 | Chelmsford | 15,317,287.00 | 15,601,356.00 |
| 025 | Coldingley | 9,095,906.00 | 9,140,570.00 |
| 026 | Cookham Wood | 4,827,303.00 | 4,674,198.00 |
| 027 | Dartmoor | 14,725,573.33 | 14,941,524.33 |
| 028 | Deerbolt | 13,872,100.00 | 13,998,620.00 |
| 029 | Dorchester | 6,835,320.21 | 7,045,806.21 |
| 030 | Dover | 8,612,362.00 | 8,611,126.00 |
| 031 | Downview | 10,162,011.00 | 10,569,695.00 |
| 032 | Drake Hall | 7,762,547.00 | 7,927,240.00 |
| 033 | Durham | 21,935,991.30 | 21,897,082.30 |
| 035 | East Sutton Park | 2,333,533.00 | 2,436,134.00 |
| 036 | Eastwood Park | 10,072,400.00 | 10,274,898.00 |
| 037 | Elmley | 16,774,961.70 | 16,768,875.70 |
| 038 | Erlestoke | 8,261,755.00 | 8,270,228.00 |
| 039 | Everthorpe | 9,961,465.00 | 9,558,717.00 |
| 040 | Exeter | 11,916,771.70 | 11,964,286.70 |
| 041 | Featherstone | 13,752,579.00 | 13,722,618.00 |
| 042 | Feltham | 32,073,566.00 | 38,423,319.00 |
| 043 | Ford | 7,174,864.00 | 8,155,014.00 |
| 044 | Foston Hall | 7,782,342.00 | 7,857,140.00 |
| 045 | Frankland | 30,931,213.00 | 32,131,897.92 |
| 046 | Full Sutton | 25,486,631.56 | 25,664,941.00 |
| 047 | Garth | 14,848,126.00 | 15,522,885.00 |
| 048 | Gartree | 11,176,868.00 | 11,321,333.00 |
| 049 | Glen Parva | 20,235,017.00 | 19,572,205.00 |
| 050 | Gloucester | 14,075,935.25 | 9,427,751.00 |
| 051 | Grendon | 14,310,307.00 | 14,704,902.00 |
| 052 | Guys Marsh | 9,892,737.91 | 9,851,987.91 |
| 053 | Haslar | 4,225,633.00 | 4,269,224.00 |
| 054 | Haverigg | 11,041,151.00 | 11,714,695.00 |
| 055 | Hewell Grange | 3,762,688.00 | 3,917,925.00 |

*Table 1*

£

| | Establishments-Public Prisons | 2004–05 Budgets | Adjusted 2004–05 actual spends |
|---|---|---|---|
| 056 | Highdown | 18,004,769.00 | 18,931,089.00 |
| 057 | Edmunds Hill | 10,666,584.00 | 9,962,096.00 |
| 058 | Highpoint | 14,039,750.00 | 14,034,826.00 |
| 059 | Hindley | 19,691,362.00 | 18,645,130.00 |
| 060 | Hollesley Bay | 6,709,050.89 | 6,873,864.89 |
| 061 | Holloway | 24,934,009.96 | 25,575,085.96 |
| 062 | Holme House | 20,756,951.00 | 20,527,752.00 |
| 063 | Hull | 22,516,738.00 | 22,285,797.00 |
| 064 | Huntercombe | 14,552,559.00 | 14,580,860.00 |
| 065 | Kingston | 5,504,432.00 | 5,515,193.00 |
| 066 | Kirkham | 12,849,421.00 | 13,179,918.00 |
| 067 | Kirklevington Grange | 3,999,542.00 | 3,935,712.00 |
| 068 | Lancaster Castle | 7,111,308.00 | 7,139,154.00 |
| 069 | Lancaster Farms | 17,138,834.00 | 16,682,160.00 |
| 070 | Latchmere House | 3,498,602.00 | 3,439,878.00 |
| 071 | Leeds | 25,376,641.90 | 25,289,013.90 |
| 072 | Leicester | 9,961,317.00 | 9,733,096.00 |
| 073 | Lewes | 12,408,819.00 | 12,471,889.00 |
| 074 | Leyhill | 10,655,272.00 | 11,042,872.00 |
| 075 | Lincoln | 13,689,006.89 | 13,671,496.89 |
| 076 | Lindholme | 19,545,565.00 | 19,278,106.00 |
| 078 | Littlehey | 12,238,550.00 | 12,271,304.00 |
| 079 | Liverpool | 27,067,777.23 | 28,102,218.23 |
| 080 | Long Lartin | 21,193,519.14 | 21,227,384.00 |
| 081 | Low Newton | 9,399,970.00 | 9,571,447.00 |
| 082 | Maidstone | 11,587,849.00 | 11,293,615.00 |
| 083 | Manchester | 29,575,723.20 | 29,740,822.00 |
| 084 | Moorland | 22,383,083.10 | 22,512,870.10 |
| 085 | Morton Hall | 8,365,652.00 | 7,915,508.00 |
| 086 | Mount (The) | 14,440,389.00 | 14,259,835.00 |
| 087 | New Hall | 15,265,071.00 | 15,352,984.00 |
| 088 | North Sea Camp | 4,810,305.00 | 4,937,493.00 |
| 089 | Northallerton | 6,134,252.00 | 6,084,423.00 |
| 090 | Norwich | 16,892,523.00 | 16,645,920.00 |
| 091 | Nottingham | 12,920,881.00 | 12,965,515.00 |
| 092 | Onley | 15,199,286.00 | 14,813,252.00 |
| 093 | Parkhurst | 14,842,047.00 | 14,873,068.00 |
| 094 | Pentonville | 26,877,240.00 | 27,808,745.00 |
| 095 | Portland | 12,680,018.77 | 12,708,962.77 |
| 096 | Preston | 15,901,980.00 | 16,043,797.00 |
| 097 | Ranby | 20,349,164.00 | 18,864,003.00 |
| 098 | Reading | 8,257,293.83 | 8,269,537.83 |
| 099 | Risley | 20,532,956.00 | 20,477,940.00 |
| 100 | Rochester | 9,518,882.00 | 9,434,344.00 |
| 101 | Send | 5,932,097.00 | 5,927,005.00 |
| 102 | Shepton Mallet | 5,213,114.00 | 5,361,730.00 |
| 103 | Shrewsbury | 8,208,040.00 | 8,229,798.00 |
| 104 | Stafford | 13,614,637.00 | 13,908,420.00 |
| 105 | Standford Hill | 8,916,002.00 | 8,886,705.00 |
| 106 | Stocken | 11,496,212.00 | 11,341,130.00 |
| 107 | Stoke Heath | 18,505,733.00 | 18,110,822.00 |
| 108 | Styal | 13,807,418.00 | 14,226,049.00 |
| 109 | Sudbury | 8,752,867.00 | 8,554,575.00 |
| 110 | Swaleside | 14,727,483.02 | 15,222,670.02 |
| 111 | Swansea | 9,597,035.00 | 9,493,789.00 |
| 112 | Swinfen Hall | 14,974,139.00 | 13,310,927.00 |
| 113 | Thorn Cross | 8,732,631.00 | 8,802,198.00 |
| 114 | Usk | 8,148,437.00 | 8,173,464.00 |
| 115 | Verne (The) | 10,088,740.28 | 10,113,137.28 |
| 116 | Wakefield | 22,768,755.30 | 22,999,358.53 |
| 117 | Wandsworth | 30,283,700.00 | 34,342,583.00 |
| 118 | Warren Hill | 9,939,930.00 | 9,843,446.00 |
| 119 | Wayland | 11,903,144.00 | 11,789,296.00 |
| 120 | Wealstun | 17,246,355.00 | 16,543,704.00 |
| 121 | Weare (The) | 8,025,496.84 | 8,177,635.84 |
| 122 | Wellingborough | 11,252,974.00 | 10,914,454.00 |
| 123 | Werrington | 6,871,995.00 | 6,862,585.00 |
| 124 | Wetherby | 12,503,780.00 | 12,554,939.00 |
| 125 | Whatton | 7,644,923.00 | 7,593,862.00 |
| 126 | Whitemoor | 26,018,395.60 | 25,976,815.00 |
| 127 | Winchester | 15,905,572.00 | 15,563,780.00 |
| 129 | Woodhill | 27,799,691.82 | 27,901,035.00 |
| 130 | Wormwood Scrubs | 28,280,356.00 | 28,952,573.00 |
| 131 | Wymott | 21,154,820.00 | 20,838,883.00 |
| | Total | 1,780,527,322.05 | 1,789,761,387.10 |

*Table 1*

£

*Table 2*

| Establishment[1] | Cost (£) |
|---|---|
| Altcourse | 31,158,524 |
| Ashfield | 13,040,682 |
| Doncaster | 19,097,051 |
| Dovegate | 22,287,437 |
| Forest Bank | 20,863,919 |
| Lowdham Grange | 12,347,364 |
| Parc | 31,240,577 |
| Rye Hill | 14,202,366 |
| Wolds | 6,776,755 |
| Total | 171,014,675 |

[1] Table does not include Bronzefield and Peterborough, both of which opened after the reporting period.

**Mrs. Gillan:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many suicides there have been in each of the last 12 months, broken down by prison. [9066]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** The number of apparently self-inflicted deaths in prisons in England and Wales, July 2004–June 2005 is provided in the table.

Reducing the number of such tragic incidents is a key priority, and an unprecedented amount of work is being done in this area.

The number of apparently self-inflicted deaths fluctuates. The four deaths in April and May this year represent the lowest in a two month period since 1992. Sadly, sometimes there are also apparent 'clusters' of self-inflicted deaths, such as the 16 deaths in June. Each death will be the subject of a coroner's inquest and a thorough investigation by the prisons and probation ombudsman. The Prison Service and contracted prisons will be looking to see if there are any early lessons to learn and act on.

| Month | Establishment | Number of apparently self-inflicted deaths |
|---|---|---|
| July 2004 | Blakenhurst | 1 |
| | High Down | 1 |
| | Liverpool | 1 |
| | Low Newton | 1 |
| | Manchester | 1 |
| | New Hall | 1 |
| August 2004 | Acklington | 1 |
| | Birmingham | 1 |
| | Bullingdon | 1 |
| | Dartmoor | 1 |
| | Elmley | 1 |
| | Exeter | 1 |
| | Leeds | 2 |
| | Norwich | 1 |
| | Shrewsbury | 2 |
| | Wakefield | 1 |

| Month | Establishment | Number of apparently self-inflicted deaths |
|---|---|---|
| | Wormwood Scrubs | 2 |
| September 2004 | Acklington | 1 |
| | Brixton | 1 |
| | Manchester | 2 |
| | Norwich | 1 |
| | Rochester | 1 |
| | Shrewsbury | 1 |
| | Wakefield | 1 |
| October 2004 | Brockhill | 1 |
| | Durham | 1 |
| | Hull | 1 |
| | Kingston—Portsmouth | 1 |
| | Leicester | 1 |
| | Manchester | 1 |
| | New Hall | 1 |
| | Pentonville | 2 |
| November 2004 | Lincoln | 1 |
| | Manchester | 1 |
| | Swansea | 1 |
| | The Verne | 1 |
| | Wormwood Scrubs | 1 |
| December 2004 | Bedford | 1 |
| | Bullingdon | 1 |
| | Liverpool | 1 |
| January 2005 | Exeter | 1 |
| | Lancaster Farms | 1 |
| | Stoke Heath | 1 |
| | Swaleside | 1 |
| February 2005 | Altcourse | 1 |
| | Brinsford | 1 |
| | Gloucester | 1 |
| | New Hall | 1 |
| | Wandsworth | 2 |
| | Wymott | 1 |
| March 2005 | Chelmsford | 1 |
| | Full Sutton | 1 |
| | Holme House | 1 |
| | Leeds | 1 |
| | Lowdham Grange | 1 |
| | Preston | 1 |
| | Rye Hill | 1 |
| | Wakefield | 1 |
| April 2005 | Brixton | 1 |
| | Gloucester | 1 |
| May 2005 | Leicester | 1 |
| | Swansea | 1 |
| June 2005 | Bristol | 1 |
| | Dorchester | 1 |
| | Durham | 1 |
| | Eastwood Park | 1 |
| | Gloucester | 2 |
| | Leicester | 1 |
| | Liverpool | 4 |
| | Norwich | 1 |
| | Pentonville | 2 |
| | Reading | 1 |
| | Weare | 1 |

**Mrs. James:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what support is given to women prisoners who enter prison with a drug addiction. [10670]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** A comprehensive range of drug treatment services is available to women prisoners with substance-misuse needs. These services include:

Clinical services (detoxification and maintenance-prescribing programmes);

CARATs (counselling, assessment, referral, advice and through-care services); and

Intensive drug rehabilitation programmes.

**Mrs. James:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what support is given to women prisoners who have previously been victims of domestic violence. [10671]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** A range of support is given to women prisoners who disclose that they have been victims of abuse, which may include the experience of domestic violence. This includes offering individual support of counselling; giving advice and information about abuse; and referral on to appropriate outside agencies. Individual establishments work closely with local community agencies with specialist expertise in abuse issues. The support offered will be determined following a full assessment of individual need.

Copies of the Home Office leaflet on domestic violence are available to women in prison and a women's aid/refuge domestic violence number is on the recommended helpline list devised by the National Offender Management Service Safer Custody Group. Good Practice Guidelines for supporting women who have experienced abuse or domestic violence were circulated by the Prison Service Women's Team to all women's establishments in June 2005.

**Mrs. James:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make a statement on sexually-transmitted disease *(a)* prevention and *(b)* screening in prisons in England and Wales. [10673]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** I have been asked to reply.

Services for the identification and management of sexually transmitted diseases are part of the overall health care services provided for prisoners, who are one of the target groups identified in the Department's national strategy for sexual health and HIV implementation action plan (2002). National health service primary care trusts are now responsible for commissioning the primary health care services at all but three of the publicly-run prison establishments in England. By April 2006, that responsibility will be fully devolved to the NHS.

Prison doctors were advised in 1995 that they should make condoms available to individual prisoners, on application if, in their clinical judgment, there was a risk of the transmission of HIV infection during sexual activity. The Prison Service expects shortly to issue revised guidance and instructions aimed at clarifying its policy on condom provision and ensuring that it is applied more consistently across the estate.

All prisoners undergo a health screening on first reception to identify those who have immediate health needs, or who are at a high risk of having a significant health problem. This, or other harm minimisation or health promotion resources, may result in individual

prisoners requesting an appointment with a sexual health service, which may lead to testing, and associated pre-and post-test discussion, for blood borne viruses.

**Mr. Allen:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 27 January 2005, *Official Report*, column 472W, on Dartmoor prison, when he will place in the Library copies of contracts or agreements relating to the provision of offending behaviour courses by faith-based organisations at Dartmoor prison; what the budgeted cost is of the programmes; who bears the cost of the programmes; how many prisoners are taking part; and over what period the programmes will operate. [8690]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** A copy of the service level agreement between Dartmoor prison and The InnerChange Freedom Initiative Project has today been placed in the Library. The document sets out the agreement for the delivery of the programme to prisoners known as The InnerChange Freedom Initiative. The programme, which is delivered by the chaplaincy department, is wholly funded by the Tufton Trust, which is a charitable organisation, and no cost is borne by the Prison Service.

There are currently 10 prisoners taking part in the programme which lasts a year and is based on Christian values. The programme is wholly multi-faith, and prisoners with diverse faiths and beliefs are currently represented. This is a pilot project in place for one year only at Dartmoor. Although it is evaluated at varying intervals, a full evaluation will be undertaken at the end of the pilot and results analysed and discussed before a decision is taken on whether or not to expand the project to other establishments.

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of current prisoners are repeat offenders. [7895]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** Of the sentenced prison population at 30 June 2002, 70 percent. of young males, 77 percent. of adult males and 50 percent. of adult females had at least one previous conviction for a standard list offence. More detailed figures available in the table.

*Population in prison establishments under sentence by number of previous convictions, age group and sex; England and Wales, 30 June 2002*

*Percentage*

| *Previous convictions* | *Young male offenders* | *Adult male offenders* | *Adult female offenders* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Nil | 17 | 15 | 37 |
| 1–2 | 18 | 12 | 12 |
| 3–6 | 26 | 17 | 14 |
| 7–10 | 16 | 14 | 9 |
| 11 and over | 10 | 34 | 15 |
| Unknown[1] | 13 | 8 | 13 |

[1] The criminal history of the prison population was obtained by matching prison records to the Home Office criminal database, the offenders index. Information could not be matched for 13 percent. of young male offenders, 8 percent. of adult males and 13 percent. of adult females in prison at 30 June 2002 and thus previous convictions for these offenders could not be found.

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 6 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 547W on Transexual Prisoners, if he will give the reasons for the delay in publishing guidelines on the treatment of transexual prisoners. [12062]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** The Prison Service regrets that the need to devote resources to other work has meant that it has not yet proved possible to complete these guidelines. Prisoners with gender dysphoria are, however, already being cared for, managed and treated in accordance with the general principles contained in the emerging guidelines.

## Probation Service

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many places are available in probation hostels in England and Wales; and how many were occupied by high risk offenders on the latest date for which figures are available. [5004]

**Mr. Charles Clarke:** As at 31 March 2005, 2,241 bedspaces were available in approved premises, formerly bail and probation hostels. Of those, 918 were occupied by offenders who are assessed as high or very high risk of harm to the public.

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps the national probation directorate is taking to improve the retention of probation staff in probation areas in England and Wales. [4791]

**Fiona Mactaggart** *[holding answer 16 June 2005]*: The National Probation Service (NPS) seeks at all times to retain the right profile of staff to deliver a high standard of service and to meet a stringent set of performance targets. The latest available figures for turnover of operational staff in the probation service in England and Wales are as follows:

*The latest available figures for turnover of operational staff in the probation service in England and Wales*

| *Grade* | *Percentage* |
|---|---|
| SPO | 6.30 |
| SP | 3.14 |
| PO | 7.07 |
| TPO | 4.88 |
| PSO | 9.47 |
| Ops Total | 7.60 |

These figures are based on leavers in 2004–05 financial year who have left the service as a whole. For the same period the turnover rate for non-operational staff was 13.55 percent. The annual average turnover rate based on these figures is 10.06 percent. This figure is significantly better than the national average for the public and private sectors.

As part of the service's strategy for building and maintaining an excellent, fit for purpose organisation, we are investing in our people by developing and supporting staff, building and refreshing their motivation and skills. This is being achieved in a number of ways including: designing and implementing new policies on pay, reward and conditions of service, work/life balance policies including flexible working; investment in leadership, management, training and development: and the development of a national workload measurement tool.

These and other initiatives are designed, in part, to maintain a balanced workforce and make the NPS an employer of choice.

However a small number of staff will always leave an organisation because their circumstances change or because they want to develop a career elsewhere. For staff committed to a career in the probation service we hope that that the measures outlined above will provide rewarding working environment.

## Secure Training Centres

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cases of self-harm have been recorded in each secure training centre since they came into operation. [10981]

**Mr. Charles Clarke** *[holding answer 11 July 2005]:* Secure training centres record every instance of self harm and injury, including minor ones.

No young people from Medway, Rainsbrook or Oakhill required hospital treatment as a result of self-harm during the period for which data are available (2001 onwards).

With the tragic exception of Adam Rickwood, who died in August 2004, no young people at Hassockfield required hospital treatment as a result of self-harm during that period.

Details are given in the following table:

*Self harm in secure training centres*

| | 2001[1] | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Medway | 49 | 40 | 39 | 219 |
| Hassockfield | 29 | 18 | 49 | 138 |
| Rainsbrook | 13 | 35 | 84 | 70 |
| Oakhill[2] | — | — | — | 29 |

[1] Data for the period prior to 2001 is not available.
[2] Oakhill secure training centre opened in August 2004.

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many child protection matters have been referred to the local child protection team at each secure training centre; and what the outcome was of each referral. [10983]

**Mr. Charles Clarke** *[holding answer 11 July 2005]:* The following table sets out the available data.

*References of secure training centre trainees to local child protection teams*

| Centre | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Medway | [1]— | [2]27 | [2]16 | [2]6 |
| Rainsbrook | [1]— | [1]— | [2]2 | 0 |
| Hassockfield | [2]45 | [2]31 | [2]35 | [2]9 |
| | — | — | [3]1 | [3]2 |
| | — | — | [4]1 | — |
| Oakhill (opened August 2004) | — | — | [2]26 | [3]12 |
| | — | — | — | [3]1 |
| | — | — | — | [5]1 |

[1] Data not readily available.
[2] No further action by CP team or police.
[3] Matter outstanding.
[4] Employment of one staff member terminated following charge for alleged assault.
[5] CP team advised dismissal of staff member following inappropriate use of restraint.
*Note:*
Where there is no further action by Child Protection team (CP) or the police, the allegations are subject to the centre's internal investigation procedures. Details of these outcomes are not held centrally.

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the rates of pay are for *(a)* duty directors, *(b)* duty operation managers, *(c)* training supervisors, *(d)* training assistants, *(e)* control room staff, *(f)* nurses and *(g)* other staff at secure training centres. [11000]

**Mr. Charles Clarke:** Rates of pay for the staff at secure training centres are as follows.

*Pay scales in secure training centres*

| | Oakhill[1] | Medway, Rainsbrook[1] |
|---|---|---|
| Duty directors | £38,000 to £40,000 | [3]— |
| Duty operation managers | £26,000 to £30,000 | [3]— |
| Training supervisors | £22,000 | [4]£18,727<br>[5]£20,214 |
| Training assistants | £18,000 | [6]£16,524<br>[7]£17,947 |
| Control room staff | £17,000 | £17,139 |
| Nurses | In accordance with NHS pay scales | [3]— |
| Other staff | Other staff fit on pay scale of £15,000 to £26,000 | [3]— |

[1] basic 42 hour week
[2] basic 40 hour week
[3] Commercial in confidence
[4] Night Supervisors
[5] Day Supervisors
[6] Night Assistants
[7] Day Assistants

*Hassockfield uses different staffing categories*

| Centre | Hassockfield[1] (£) |
|---|---|
| Duty director | 33,000 |
| Head of education | 34,226 |
| Residential care manager | 28,135 |
| Residential care team leader | 19,831 |
| Care officers | 15,856 |
| Ops officers | 14,916 |
| Nurses | 24,870 |
| Admin staff | [2]15,000 |

[1] basic 40 hour week
[2] average

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many members of staff at each secure training centre have been dismissed for misconduct in each of the last three years; and what reasons were given in each case. [11001]

**Mr. Charles Clarke:** Details for 2003 onwards are given in the following table:

*Reasons for dismissal of STC employees*

| Centre | Year/Period | Reason for dismissal |
|---|---|---|
| Medway | 2003 | One member of staff dismissed for unacceptable comments, gestures and making physical contact with a female colleague |
| | 2004 | One member of staff dismissed for inappropriate comments, verbally abusive language, unacceptable comments of a sexual nature, refusal to comply with operational instruction |
| | 2004 | One member of staff dismissed for sexual harassment |
| | 2004 | One member of staff dismissed for falsifying records; not completing SASH (Suicide and Self Harm) watches or 15 minute watches |
| Rainsbrook | 2003 | One member of staff dismissed for falsifying records; not completing SASH watches or 15 minute watches |
| Oakhill | 2005 | One member of staff dismissed for inappropriate use of force |
| Hassockfield | 2003 | One member of staff dismissed for inappropriate behaviour |
| | 2004 | One member of staff dismissed for inappropriate use of force |
| | 2004 | One member of staff dismissed for failure to report an incident |
| | 2005 | One member of staff dismissed for inappropriate use of force |

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cases of staff being referred to the Protection of Children Act (POCA) list have been recorded at each secure training centre since it came into operation; and how many referrals to the POCA list have resulted in names being included on the list. [11002]

**Mr. Charles Clarke:** The information requested is given in the table.

*Referrals to POCA list*

| Centre | Referrals to POCA list | Permanently included on list |
|---|---|---|
| Medway | 4 | 0 |
| Rainsbrook | 1 | 0 |
| Oakhill | 1 | 1 |
| Hassockfield | 9 | 0 |

## Security Industry (Regulation)

**Dr. Starkey:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many unregistered door supervisors the Security Industry Authority permitted to work through their Approved Contractors Scheme on the latest date for which figures are available; [11314]

(2) what assessment he has made of whether the Security Industry Authority's Approved Contractor Scheme is consistent with the recommendations of the Better Regulation Taskforce; [11316]

(3) whether he has met the National Security Inspectorate to discuss their concerns about the Security Industry Authority's Approved Contractor Scheme. [11317]

**Hazel Blears:** The Approved Contractor Scheme (ACS) under the Private Security Industry Act (SIA) 2001 has not yet been implemented. The Home Office is currently working with the SIA and others to prepare a Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) consultation document and has sought advice from the Better Regulation Taskforce. It will be issued for public consultation shortly. I will meet the National Security Inspectorate in early autumn to discuss their concerns on a variety of matters including the Approved Contractor Scheme.

## Speed Cameras

**Mr. Scott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many motorists have been penalised as a result of the speed camera at the southern end of the M11. [11963]

**Paul Goggins:** I have been asked to reply.

Information on penalties generated by individual speed cameras is not collected centrally.

**Mr. David Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance is given to police forces with regard to their participation in safety camera partnerships. [11711]

**Hazel Blears:** There is no such guidance. Decisions as to participation in the national safety camera scheme are an operational matter for individual chief officers of police.

## UK Ancestry Visa

**David Howarth:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the conditions are for granting a UK ancestry visa; how long applicants can be out of the United Kingdom on holiday or business without such absences affecting an application for indefinite leave to remain; and what changes to the rules have been made in the past five years. [12035]

**Mr. McNulty** *[holding answer 14 July 2005]:* A Commonwealth citizen, aged 17 or over, who is able to show that one of his grandparents was born in the United Kingdom and Islands, that he intends to take or seek employment here and is able to maintain and accommodate himself without recourse to public funds may be granted leave and entry clearance on the basis of his United Kingdom ancestry. A person holding such an entry clearance will normally be admitted for an initial period of four years, and may apply for settlement at the end of that period.

In order to qualify for entry to the United Kingdom under UK ancestry, an applicant would need to prove that he/she:

is a Commonwealth citizen; and holds a valid United Kingdom entry clearance for entry in this capacity or has previously been granted an extension of stay in this capacity;

is aged 17 or over; and

is able to provide proof that one of his grandparents was born in the United Kingdom and Islands; and

will be able to maintain and accommodate himself and any dependants without recourse to public funds; and

is able to work and intends to take or seek employment in the United Kingdom.

In assessing whether or not an applicant has fulfilled the current requirement to have spent four years in continuous residence in the same capacity, short absences abroad, for example for holidays (consistent with annual paid leave) or business trips (consistent with maintaining employment or self-employment in the United Kingdom), may be disregarded, provided he has clearly continued to be based here.

In addition, time spent here in this capacity may exceptionally be aggregated, and continuity not insisted upon, in cases where there have been no absences abroad apart from those described above and authorised employment has not been broken by any interruptions of more than three months or amounting to more than six months in all. The only change that has been made to the UK ancestry rules in the last five years is the no switching for UK ancestry policy which was introduced on 25 October 2004. A person seeking leave to enter on the basis of United Kingdom ancestry must hold an entry clearance for that purpose. Leave to remain will only be granted if the person entered the United Kingdom with holding a UK ancestry entry clearance based on their UK ancestry or if they had previously been granted leave to remain on the basis of UK ancestry. A person cannot switch into this category after entry to the United Kingdom.

No other changes have been made in the last five years.

### Uninsured Drivers

**Mr. Ian Austin:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many drivers were prosecuted for driving without insurance in each of the last three years, broken down by police authority area. [12618]

**Paul Goggins:** Information from the Home Office court proceedings database on the number of defendants prosecuted for driving with no insurance, by police authority area, 2001–03 is contained in the table.

Statistics for 2004 will be available in the autumn.

*Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts under S.143(2) Road Traffic Act 1988 by police force area, 2001–03*[1]
*Offence description: Using motor vehicle uninsured against third party risks*
*Statute: Road Traffic Act 1988 S.143(2)*

| | Proceeded against | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Police force area* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* |
| Avon and Somerset | 7,355 | 8,293 | 9,620 |
| Bedfordshire | 2,879 | 2,871 | 3,065 |
| Cambridgeshire | 1,334 | 1,518 | 1,728 |
| Cheshire | 3,011 | 3,434 | 4,052 |
| City of London | 1,423 | 1,820 | 1,947 |
| Cleveland | 2,701 | 3,392 | 3,041 |
| Cumbria | 1,791 | 1,776 | 1,859 |
| Derbyshire | 3,185 | 3,216 | 3,428 |
| Devon and Cornwall | 5,304 | 5,735 | 5,831 |
| Dorset | 2,448 | 2,875 | 3,315 |
| Durham | 3,229 | 3,241 | 2,947 |
| Essex | 5,076 | 5,152 | 4,791 |
| Gloucestershire | 2,353 | 2,348 | 2,648 |
| Greater Manchester | 22,613 | 23,104 | 25,678 |
| Hampshire | 5,970 | 6,097 | 6,220 |
| Hertfordshire | 3,869 | 4,675 | 5,147 |
| Humberside | 2,591 | 2,377 | 2,879 |
| Kent | 7,230 | 8,163 | 7,264 |
| Lancashire | 9,897 | 10,552 | 13,431 |
| Leicestershire | 5,927 | 5,936 | 6,902 |
| Lincolnshire | 2,384 | 2,338 | 3,264 |
| Merseyside | 5,585 | 6,622 | 8,288 |
| Metropolitan Police[2] | 19,052 | 22,113 | 26,797 |
| Norfolk | 2,753 | 3,166 | 3,812 |
| North Yorkshire | 1,575 | 1,506 | 1,703 |
| Northamptonshire | 1,140 | 666 | 2,903 |
| Northumbria | 7,152 | 7,045 | 7,470 |
| Nottinghamshire | 3,659 | 3,431 | 4,359 |
| South Yorkshire | 7,833 | 7,394 | 7,226 |
| Staffordshire | 3,284 | 4,213 | 4,352 |
| Suffolk | 2,310 | 2,394 | 3,225 |
| Surrey | 2,738 | 3,122 | 2,592 |
| Sussex | 4,378 | 3,941 | 3,374 |
| Thames Valley | 7,427 | 8,056 | 9,897 |
| Warwickshire | 2,398 | 1,853 | 2,038 |
| West Mercia | 5,229 | 5,325 | 5,351 |
| West Midlands | 15,281 | 19,533 | 23,354 |
| West Yorkshire | 16,313 | 13,636 | 15,933 |
| Wiltshire | 2,985 | 2,985 | 2,713 |
| Dyfed-Powys | 1,752 | 2,057 | 1,978 |
| Gwent | 2,813 | 2,673 | 2,248 |
| North Wales | 1,781 | 2,402 | 3,799 |
| South Wales | 7,562 | 9,042 | 9,449 |
| Total | 227,570 | 242,188 | 271,918 |

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis
[2] Includes City of London

### Violent Crime

**Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make a statement on how the sport of airsoft will be affected by the provisions of the Violent Crime Reduction Bill. [12956]

**Hazel Blears:** Only realistic imitation firearms will be caught by the proposed ban on manufacture, import or sale; owners of existing airsoft guns will be able to retain and use them. We are currently considering representations about the effect the Violent Crime Reduction Bill will have on airsoft games and whether any exemptions from the provisions of the Bill would be appropriate.

### Vulnerable Witnesses

**Mr. Streeter:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the intermediary scheme provided for in the special measures for vulnerable witnesses of the Youth Justice and Criminal Evidence Act 1999 will be rolled-out nationally. [11294]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** The intermediary special measure is currently being piloted in Devon and Cornwall, Merseyside, West Midlands, Thames Valley, Norfolk and South Wales. The pilot is being evaluated in order to identify good practice to provide a model for national roll out. Evaluation will continue until March 2006 after

which a decision on the precise timetable for full implementation of the scheme across England and Wales will be taken.

**Mr. Streeter:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the intermediary scheme provided for in the special measures for vulnerable witnesses of the Youth Justice and Criminal Evidence Act 1999. [11296]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** The intermediary special measure is currently being piloted in Devon and Cornwall, Merseyside, West Midlands, Thames Valley, Norfolk and South Wales. The pilot is currently being evaluated in order to identify good practice to provide a model for national roll out. Emerging findings have shown that intermediaries are enabling access to justice for some of the most vulnerable people in society.

# Written Answers to Questions

*Tuesday 19 July 2005*

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### Bottled Water

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her estimate is of the number of litres of bottled *(a)* sparkling and *(b)* still water consumed in the United Kingdom in each year since 2002; and what percentage was supplied in (i) plastic, (ii) glass and (iii) other materials. [4436]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** It is estimated based upon records of consumer purchases from the Expenditure and Food Survey that 736 million litres of mineral water were consumed in the UK in the 12 month period starting in April 2003. These are the latest estimates available. In the same period a year earlier it was 655 million litres.

Defra does not collect statistics which distinguish between sparkling and still waters or the way water is packaged. However, figures published by Mintel in its Bottled Water Report of June 2003 indicate that 75 per cent. of bottled water in 2003 was still and 25 per cent. sparkling. In addition, 79 per cent. was packaged in plastic bottles, 20 per cent. in glass bottles and 1 per cent. in cans.

### Bovine TB

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will make a statement on the incidence of bovine tuberculosis in the deer population over the last five years. [13036]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Accurate data for bovine TB in deer across the UK are not available, because there is no statutory routine testing programme for bovine TB in deer.

**Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what timescale she envisages for the badger culling trial in the South West; and if she will make a statement. [13176]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Independent Scientific Group on Cattle TB aims to reveal the outcome of the pro-active culling effect of the Randomised Badger Culling Trial to Ministers in spring 2006 and publish its final report, covering all its works and findings, in spring 2007.

**Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether compensation is payable to farmers who have suffered consequential loss through their herds being infected by tuberculosis; and if she will make a statement. [13186]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** No compensation is payable for consequential losses. The payment of consequential loss to producers falls within the definition of state aids and cannot therefore be paid without the agreement of the EU Commission.

**Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will make a statement on the level of compensation paid to farmers for herds which are infected by tuberculosis. [13187]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 30 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 1638W.

### Common Agricultural Policy

**Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what representations she has received from Commonwealth countries about the effects of the EU's common agricultural policy on the developing world. [12363]

**Jim Knight** *[holding answer 18 July 2005]:* My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State and her ministerial team have regular meetings with Commonwealth country representatives to talk about a range of issues, including the EU's common agricultural policy. A number of such representations have been received in the past, and there is every intention of continuing to be receptive to such representations in the future.

### Departmental Publications

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will list the publications issued by her Department in each of the last seven years; and what the *(a)* circulation, *(b)* cost and *(c)* purpose of each was. [10465]

**Jim Knight:** A list of publications produced by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (and includes those relevant publications from the Departments that formed Defra in June 2001) is detailed on the Defra website ("Publications" link on the main website 'home' page).

The Government have a duty to explain their policies, decisions and actions; to inform the public about their rights and liabilities; and to provide the public with advice and warnings. Defra regularly publishes reports, consultations and publicity material in accordance with these principles.

The individual production cost of each of the publications could be collated only at a disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Purchasing

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will list the companies from which her Department has purchased goods and services of a total value above £1 million in each of the last three years; and how much was spent in respect of each company. [11733]

**Jim Knight:** The information for the last three financial years has been made available in the Library of the House.

## Departmental Staff

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many full-time equivalents have worked for the Department for each of the last five financial years for which figures are available. [11504]

**Jim Knight:** Information on staff numbers is contained in Table C of Civil Service Statistics 2004 which is available on the internet at: http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/management_information/statistical_information/statistics/publications/xls/report_2004/table_c.xls

This table shows the numbers of staff by Department and agency between 1998 and 2004, on a full-time equivalent basis. Copies of Civil Service Statistics are also available in the Library of the House.

## Departmental Travel

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what targets she has set for reducing car mileage within her Department since 1997; and what the mileage levels were in each year from 1997. [12642]

**Jim Knight** *[holding answer 18 July 2005]:* The Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs was created in June 2001. Since then, we have worked towards published targets of reducing road transport vehicle carbon dioxide emissions by at least 10 per cent. by 31 March 2006 (against the baseline year 2002–03) and increasing the percentage of alternatively fuelled fleet cars to exceed 10 per cent. in the same period. We are reviewing mileage data by business area with the aim of reducing where delivery will not be comprised.

Full year road mileage data for Defra and its executive agencies is available for the years 2002–03 and 2003–04. Collation of data for 2004/05 is not yet complete.

| | *Miles (Thousand)* | *$CO_2$ emissions (Thousand kg)* |
|---|---|---|
| 2002–03 | 20,510 | 6,072 |
| 2003–04 | 20,381 | 5,403 |

## Energy Efficiency

**Alan Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proportion of properties to be assisted under the revised Warm Front scheme are expected to be improved to an energy efficiency rating of SAP 65 or higher. [13546]

**Mr. Morley:** It is our aim wherever practical aim to achieve a SAP rating of 65 for households assisted by Warm Front. As part of our monitoring of the delivery of Warm Front we will assess the number of households achieving that SAP rating.

Where it is not possible to achieve this SAP rating we will offer applicants a benefit entitlement check to enable them to review whether they are receiving all state benefits they may be entitled to.

## Fallen Stock

**Hywel Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment was made of the potential demand that would be placed on the fallen stock scheme during lambing in North West Wales prior to the scheme's implementation. [12370]

**Mr. Bradshaw** *[holding answer 18 July 2005]*: As part of the business case for the scheme an assessment was made of the potential demand for fallen stock collection from the farming industry and the ability of the collection and disposal industry to meet the demand. At a national level, as the latter has consistently maintained, there has been sufficient capacity to meet demand.

However, it was always anticipated that there may be localised areas, particularly during times of peak demand, where there may be difficulties in meeting the demand for collection services. Given that in advance of the scheme starting it was difficult to know how many farmers would join the scheme in a given area or which areas fallen stock collectors would wish to cover it was not possible to identify with any certainty the extent of such difficulties in advance.

Unfortunately in parts of North West Wales only one collector was available. This collector made every effort to increase capacity for the lambing season but was unable to meet the demand. Positive steps have now been taken by the National Fallen Stock Company, the farming industry and the collector concerned to learn from this and ensure demand can be met for next year's lambing season.

**Hywel Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what consultations were undertaken with farming interests in Wales prior to the implementation of the fallen stock scheme. [12371]

**Mr. Bradshaw** *[holding answer 18 July 2005]*: Extensive consultations took place with farming interests throughout the UK, including Wales, and the scheme was fully supported by all the major farming unions.

**Hywel Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what consideration was given to granting a derogation for North West Wales from the fallen livestock scheme prior to its implementation. [12372]

**Mr. Bradshaw** *[holding answer 18 July 2005]*: Any derogation would need to be from the EU Animal By-Products Regulation which bans on-farm burial of fallen stock. The scheme is there to assist farmers in their compliance with the regulation. Under the regulation one of the criteria for meeting the requirements for a derogation is that the area concerned should have a low livestock density. This is not true for North West Wales and therefore it would be difficult for the National Assembly for Wales to make a case for granting one.

**Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many farmers have signed up to the Fallen Stock Scheme; and if she will make a statement. [13177]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The National Fallen Stock Company, which runs the Scheme, is pleased with the response it has had from farmers with nearly 32,000 members in the UK joining since 22 November 2004.

### Farm Animal Welfare Council

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will make a statement on the implications of farm assurance schemes for animal welfare, with particular reference to the recent report of the Farm Animal Welfare Council. [12458]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Assurance schemes can make a positive contribution to the welfare of farmed animals. The Government welcome the report of the Farm Animal Welfare Council on this subject, published on 30 June 2005. We are currently considering the report and will respond in due course.

### Farm Subsidies

**Paul Flynn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate she has made of the total amounts that will be paid in each of the next three years in export subsidies for UK agricultural products. [11306]

**Jim Knight:** Commission estimates of the total amounts that will be paid in export subsidies are only available on an EU-wide basis, up to 2006, as follows:

| | € *million* |
|---|---|
| | *EU export refunds* |
| 2004 | 3,327 |
| 2005 | 3,773 |
| 2006 | 3,436 |

*Source:*
EU Commission Provisional Draft Budget (PDB) 2006

The UK accounted for approximately 10 per cent. of export refunds in 2004.

### Farm Waste

**Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what measures are in place to ensure that the disposal of farm waste takes place as close to the farm of origin as possible; and if she will make a statement. [13178]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Agricultural Waste Stakeholders' Forum, together with the Environment Agency, is producing a National Recycling Directory. This is a web-based system and its key aim is to help farmers locate recovery and disposal outlets for their waste. The Directory will be available to every farmer who has access to the web and will assist in ensuring that the recovery or disposal of agricultural waste takes place as close as possible to the farm of origin. Farmers who do not have web access will be able to contact the Environment Agency's National Customer Contact Centre who will carry out a search on their behalf. The Environment Agency plans to launch the Directory to farmers and growers in the autumn 2005.

### Farming

**Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what percentage of farm acreage in *(a)* England and *(b)* Northamptonshire is accurately digitally mapped for the entry level Stewardship scheme. [12106]

**Jim Knight** *[holding answer 14 July 2005]:* It is a requirement of the entry level scheme (ELS) that land must be digitally mapped on the Rural Land Register (RLR). To date 72.5 per cent. of farm hectarage has been digitally mapped in England and 97 per cent. in Northamptonshire.

The Rural Development Service (RDS) has access to all digitally mapped land for ELS. Work is still ongoing within the RLR to process outstanding new land registrations and amendments to existing mapped land arising from the introduction of the single payment scheme and additional land being entered into ELS. Common land is not included in these figures.

**Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proportion of the information requested in parts A to C of the Rural Payment Agency's customer registration form (CReg 01) is replicated on the single farm payment scheme's application form (SP5). [12145]

**Jim Knight** *[holding answer 14 July 2005]:* The proportion of information on the Rural Payments Agency's (RPA) Customer Register form (CReg 01) Parts A to C replicated on the single payment scheme form (SP5) is limited to the name and contact details of the applicant. In the majority of cases such details are pre-populated on the SP5 from the information held on RPA's customer register. Of the 41 questions listed at parts A to C of the CReg 01, only three (7 per cent.) are included on the SP5.

### Gardens (Biodiversity)

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research her Department has commissioned to evaluate the contribution of suburban and urban back garden land to biodiversity; and what its main finding and recommendations were. [13530]

**Jim Knight:** The Department is jointly funding a research project by the University of Sheffield. The project ("BUGS 2") is looking at the environmental and biodiversity value of domestic gardens in urban areas.

The research builds on the work done in the previous BUGS project (funded by the Natural Research Environment Council) which examined the biodiversity value of gardens within a single city (Sheffield). The latest project, which is being carried out over three years (2004–07), widens the scope of this work to four cities: Leicester, Oxford, Cardiff and Belfast. The results, therefore, are not yet available. Further information about the project can be found at www.sheffield.ac.uk/uni/projects/bugs/.

### Hydro Electricity

**Mr. Gray:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether water mills converted to micro-generation of electricity are required to pay the Environment Agency for water abstraction. [12765]

**Mr. Morley:** The Environment Agency has a scheme of charges for abstractions, which is approved by Ministers. Charges are levied for licensed abstractions of water for most purposes, including for power generation. But where the installed generation capacity is less than 5 MW then no charges are payable.

**Mr. Gray:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what account is taken of the contribution to achieving renewable energy targets in setting water abstraction licensing costs for micro-generating water mills. [12766]

**Mr. Morley:** The Environment Agency has a scheme of charges for abstractions, which is approved by Ministers. Charges are levied for licensed abstractions of water for most purposes, including for power generation. But where the installed generation capacity is less than 5 MW then no charges are payable.

Where charges are payable, they are calculated as a function of several factors: the volume of water licensed; the Environment Agency region in which the abstraction takes place; the source of the water; the season(s) in which water abstracted; and the purpose of abstraction, via a factor reflecting the net loss of water from the source.

### Labelling

**Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will introduce a Produced in the UK logo scheme; and if she will make a statement. [13189]

**Jim Knight:** The Government have no plans to introduced a "Produced in UK" logo scheme. However, there is nothing to stop retailers and others in the food chain from indicating the UK as the country of origin where it is appropriate to do so. Guidance on country of origin labelling has been issued by the Food Standards Agency.

### Licences

**Mr. Andrew Turner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which licences *(a)* her Department and *(b)* agencies of her Department issue; what the fee is for each; how much was collected in fees for each in the last year for which figures are available; what the issuing agency is for each; and on what date she approved the fees for each. [11773]

**Jim Knight:** A list of the licences issued by or on behalf of Defra when this topic was last reviewed (July 2004) will be made available in the Library of the House. There are nearly 200 licenses shown and there will almost certainly have been a few changes since. The table shows the issuing authority, where this was not core Defra.

Further information to update the table could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

### Milk (Primary Schools)

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will make a statement on the promotion of liquid milk in primary schools over the next 12 months using EU grants. [11648]

**Jim Knight:** The European Commission has provided £50,000 with match funding from the trade organisation Dairy UK and the Milk Development Council, a Defra-sponsored NDPB, for action to encourage primary school children to drink more milk. The money will pay for a range of promotional activities in England and Wales in 2005–06, including during School Milk Week in October.

Primary school children already have access to milk subsidised by the EU and an additional national top-up which, in England, amounts to an annual maximum of £1.5 million. We welcome further work by the industry to help inculcate a milk-drinking habit at an early age.

### Organisation Internationale de la Vigne et du Vin

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the cost was of the UK's subscription to the Organisation Internationale de la Vigne et du Vin in the last year of membership; for what reasons her Department took the decision to withdraw from the organisation; what assessment she has made of the effects on the UK wine trade and wine producers of withdrawal; what opportunities the UK will have to influence policy at a technical level within the international wine trade after withdrawal; and if she will make a statement. [10683]

**Jim Knight:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 4 March 2005, *Official Report*, column 1440W.

### Police Authorities (Stray Dogs)

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether police authorities will be required, pursuant to regulations made under the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005, to transfer to local authorities a sum equivalent to that which police authorities have been expending on stray dogs to reflect the transfer of responsibilities. [12531]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** An appropriate transfer of funds from police authorities to local authorities will be completed before section 68 of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 commences. The sum to be transferred will be agreed between the Home Office, the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and the Local Government Association.

### Red Tractor Logo

**Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the guidelines are for the use of the Red Tractor logo; and if she will make a statement. [13188]

**Jim Knight:** The Red Tractor logo is owned by the National Farmers Union and is administered by a private company, Assured Food Standards, which sets the conditions under which the logo can be used. The Government have no role in this process.

### Single Payment Scheme

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many single payment scheme forms were received before the deadline but were then returned to applicants. [10325]

**Jim Knight:** A total of 7,031 single payment scheme applications forms were returned to applicants for amendment before the deadline of 16 May 2005.

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many single payment scheme forms were received *(a)* incomplete and *(b)* after the deadline for submissions. [10327]

**Jim Knight:** Until the Rural Payments Agency has captured all data and completed validation definitive figures are not available. To date 9,368 applications have been returned to applicants for amendment, including 7,031 which were returned before the 16 May deadline. While a total of 8,494 applications have been received after the 16 May 2005 deadline.

## CHURCH COMMISSIONERS

### Church Bells

**Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners, what *(a)* financial and *(b)* other help the Commissioners provide for the restoration of church bells to church towers which no longer have bells. [12102]

**Sir Stuart Bell:** The Church Commissioners do not make moneys available for this purpose.

The Archbishops' Council's Cathedral and Church Buildings Division, the relevant Diocesan Advisory Committee and the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers advise on all aspects of this subject including alternative sources of funding.

### Redundant Churches

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners, what disciplinary powers are available to the Church in dealing with clergymen in respect of settling the future of redundant churches. [12401]

**Sir Stuart Bell:** There is no such thing as a disciplinary process in respect of redundant churches.

The Church Commissioners are required under the provisions of the Pastoral Measure to publish a draft scheme making provision for the future of a redundant church. A notice is served on certain statutory bodies, which include the incumbent and parochial church council, but it is open to anyone who wishes to do so to make written representations to the Commissioners for or against the provisions of such a scheme. The Commissioners exercise a quasi-judicial role in adjudicating on any objections received.

## SOLICITOR-GENERAL

### Witnesses

**Mr. Streeter:** To ask the Solicitor-General how many vulnerable witnesses have been interviewed by the police in each of the last five years. [11295]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** I have been asked to reply.

The information requested is not held on a central database and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

## SCOTLAND

### Departmental Conferences

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much the Department has spent on *(a)* organising and *(b)* sponsoring conferences in each of the last five years. [10248]

**David Cairns:** The Scotland Office spent the following on organising or sponsoring conferences in the last five years.

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2000–01 | 0 |
| 2001–02 | 0 |
| 2002–03 | 3,296 |
| 2003–04 | 0 |
| 2004–05 | 0 |

### Parades Review

**Mr. McGovern:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland (1) what discussions he has had with the Scottish Executive regarding the implementation of the recommendations of the parades review conducted by Sir John Orr in Scotland; [13508]

(2) what assessment he has made of the evidence of sectarianism in Scotland during the last marching season; and if he will make a statement. [13451]

**David Cairns:** These issues are devolved and therefore a matter for the Scottish Executive. However, I understand that Scottish Ministers accepted all the recommendations in Sir John Orr's review, which aim to professionalize and modernise the decision-making process for processions, and are now working with the police and local authorities to take these forward.

### Scottish Parliament (Elections)

**Mr. Hood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland (1) when his Department expects to make further changes to the system for the elections to the Scottish Parliament; and if he will make a statement; [10752]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effect that the additional member system of voting for elections to the Scottish Parliament has had on Scottish people's perception of the political system; what conclusions he has reached on the extent to which the additional member system has *(a)* encouraged and *(b)* discouraged political engagement; and if he will make a statement. [10753]

**Mr. Darling:** I shall consider whether any changes to the voting system for elections to the Scottish Parliament might be appropriate in the light of the report and recommendations of the Commission on Boundary Differences and Voting Systems, under Sir John Arbuthnott's chairmanship, which is due to report to me at the end of this year.

I expect that the commission will include in its report an assessment of the operation of the additional member system for elections to the Scottish Parliament.

### Sickness Absence

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many days the Office has lost due to sickness in the past five years for which figures are available. [11472]

**David Cairns:** The Scotland Office was established on 1 July 1999.

The days lost to sickness in the Scotland Office, including the Office of the Advocate General, are set out in the annual report "Analysis of Sickness Absence in the Civil Service" published by the Cabinet Office. This report gives details of both the average working days absence per staff-year and the number of staff years on which that calculation is based.

The most recent report for 2003 was announced by ministerial statement on 1 November 2004, *Official Report*, column 1WS and copies placed in the Libraries of the House.

The Scotland Office and Office of the Advocate General are committed to managing sickness absence effectively and to putting in place the recommendations of the recently published "Managing Sickness Absence in the Public Sector".

### Special Advisers

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will list *(a)* the special advisers in his Department, *(b)* their specific areas of expertise and *(c)* the total cost of employing them in the latest year for which figures are available. [8825]

**David Cairns:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend, the Prime Minister, on Monday 4 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 36W.

## CABINET OFFICE

### Computer crime

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many cases of computer *(a)* hacking, *(b)* fraud and *(c)* theft his Department recorded in each year since 2001–02; and for each year, on how many occasions computer systems have been illegally accessed by computer hackers (i) within and (ii) outside his Department. [7181]

**Mr. Hutton:** The number of cases of computer hacking recorded in the Department was one in 2003–04 and three in 2004–05. All four were perpetrated by persons outside the Department.

There were no cases of computer fraud recorded in the Department in 2002–03, 2003–04 and 2004–05.

The number of cases of computer theft (including laptops) recorded in the Department was five in 2002–03, 10 in 2003–04 and four in 2004–05.

### Food Supplements Directive

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what role is played by the European Legislation Unit in his Department in formulating and implementing strategies for the achievement of Government objectives in relation to the food supplements directive; what action has been taken by his officials to influence the intentions of the European Commission in relation to legislation on food supplements following the initial ruling of the European Court of Justice on the directive; and if he will make a statement. [11765]

**Mr. Hutton:** Responsibility for the food supplements directive rests with my right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Health. However, the Cabinet Office European Secretariat, is responsible for supporting the Prime Minister by co-ordinating European Union policy across all Departments at both ministerial and official level. As part of this remit officials have worked closely with the Food Standards Agency, Department of Health and the United Kingdom Permanent Representation to the European Union to formulate and implement strategies—including lobbying of the European Commission—for the achievement of Government objectives in relation to the food supplements directive.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

### Lighting

**Norman Baker:** To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission if the Commission will take steps to amend the light settings in the toilets, bathrooms and public areas in Portcullis House so that they are activated by motion rather than remaining permanently on. [12645]

**Nick Harvey:** Energy saving measures of this nature for the parliamentary estate are implemented from an annual budget in order of pay-back period. The light fittings in toilets, bathrooms and public areas of Portcullis House will be equipped with motion detectors when their investment priority is reached. The office corridors in Portcullis House are not lit when adjacent office lighting is off.

## LEADER OF THE HOUSE

### Members' Salaries

**Mr. Love:** To ask the Leader of the House what an hon. Member's salary will be in each year from 2005–06 to the next expected Senior Salaries Review Body report; and if he will estimate what it would be if it were raised each year in line with the public and private sector comparators. [11277]

**Mr. Hoon:** It is not possible to provide the information requested.

As the hon. Member will be aware, between reviews of parliamentary pay and allowances, Members' salaries are increased by the rate of revalorisation of the senior civil service pay bands and target rates. The next report from the Senior Salaries Review Body on senior civil service pay is expected in February 2006.

## DEFENCE

### Afghanistan

**Mr. Wallace:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the security situation in Afghanistan. [2695]

**Mr. Ingram:** The security situation in Afghanistan is stable. The UK and our international partners, in both the coalition and the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), continue to support the Government of Afghanistan build a safe and prosperous country.

### Army Uniform

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the proposed *(a)* service uniform and *(b)* mess dress for the King's Lancashire and Border Regiment are; and where its (i) headquarters and (ii) museum will be based. [12157]

**Mr. Touhig:** Each of the new regiments to be created under the Future Infantry Structure has a committee made up of representatives from its antecedent regiments to consider a range of issues arising from the mergers. When the King's, Lancashire and Border Regiment Committee has agreed its recommendations on dress and accoutrement regulations these will be put to the Army Dress Committee for approval. We expect to be able to announce a decision later this year or early next.

A separate review is under way to determine the most effective and efficient method of delivering Regimental Headquarters (RHQs) functions in the light of the Future Infantry Structure announcement. This review will consider the number and location of RHQs required across the restructured infantry. It is too early to speculate on what the outcomes of this review will be, but it is anticipated that a final decision will be announced in early 2006.

At this stage no discussions have taken place regarding any changes to the location or structure of extant regimental museums. Any such discussions would be as much a matter for each individual museum's trustees as for the MOD. While the RHQ review will not look into the future of museums specifically, where museums are co-located with RHQs implications for the museums will be taken in to account in the consideration of options.

### Body Armour

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many items of body armour issued to British troops since 2000 are unaccounted for. [8066]

**Mr. Ingram:** No body armour has been unaccounted for since 2000. An audit of stockholdings of body armour undertaken last year by the Defence Logistics Organisation showed that stock holdings accounted for 66 per cent. of the total number of Enhanced Combat Body Armour components procured between 1992 and 2003. The remainder will have been consumed over this period as a result of wear and tear, and operational loss. I refer the hon. Member to the data for this period that was published by the House of Commons Defence Committee on 8 June 2004 (HC 635), as part of the Government's response to its "Lessons of Iraq" inquiry.

Combat body armour has now been designated as an item of personal issue to regular service personnel (excluding the Royal Navy but including the Royal Marines). Individuals are held accountable for the care of their body armour. If damaged or lost, it will be replaced in line with existing procedures.

### Brigade Strength

**Ann Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence of how many battalions each of the three medium-weight brigades will comprise. [12685]

**Mr. Ingram:** Under future army structures, the three medium-weight brigades will each comprise of three Infantry Battalions.

### Dean Hill Arms Depot

**Robert Key:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the sale of the former arms depot at Dean Hill. [11555]

**Mr. Touhig:** The Dean Hill site comprises 24 underground bunkers, ancillary offices, workshops and stores and 35 residential properties all set in 235 ha of land including a Site of Special Scientific Interest.

Where the land is still agricultural and has not been changed in character, former owners have been given the opportunity to buy back their former land at the current market value. This land is all outside the boundary fence and four former owners have expressed an interest in buying back their former land.

Some of the agricultural land outside the boundary fence, which has no development potential, is being offered for sale by private treaty to the tenant farmers.

34 of the 35 residential properties have already been sold and the remaining house is likely to be acquired by a housing association.

The area within the boundary fence and the remaining adjoining land, part of which may have some development potential (a total of some 156 ha), is being

offered for sale by tender in one lot on the open market. Marketing commenced the week beginning 27 June and a large number of inquiries have been received.

Defence Estates, the Ministry of Defence Agency responsible for the defence estate, has had extensive discussions about the sale with the two planning authorities Test Valley borough council and Salisbury district council and the local community. Test Valley borough council produced a Planning Position Statement for that part of the depot which falls within their district and Salisbury district council are currently working on one for that part of the depot which falls within their area. The intention is that these statements will be adopted as supplementary planning policy.

Defence Estates has also had discussions with English Nature about the Site of Special Scientific Interest, which has statutory protection and is an important site for chalk down-land, juniper bushes, yew trees and flora and fauna. Defence Estates has an agreement with English Nature (The Joint Declaration of Intent) whereby Defence Estates will offer surplus land of high conservation value to a conservation body nominated by English Nature at market value. English nature nominated Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust and extensive negotiations have been held between the Trust and Defence Estates but at the present time it seems unlikely that the Trust will be acquiring any part of the depot..

### Defence Export Services

**Malcolm Bruce:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list the individuals, companies, organisations and Government bodies which attended the Defence Export Services Organisation Symposium held on 9 March. [10675]

**Mr. Ingram:** I will place in the Library of the House a list of the companies, organisations and Government Departments from which representatives were expected at the Defence Export Services Organisation Symposium. No record is available identifying the individuals who were present at the event.

**Malcolm Bruce:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a copy of the *(a)* programme and *(b)* minutes of the Defence Export Services Organisation Symposium held on 9 March. [10676]

**Mr. Ingram:** The proceedings of the Defence Export Services Organisation (DESO) Symposium were not minuted. The day's programme, and the speeches by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence, the noble Lord the Minister for Defence Procurement, and my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under Secretary for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, will be placed in the Library of the House.

### Defensive Aid Suites

**Ann Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the contract with Akers Krutbruk Protection AB for defensive aid suites; and what the purpose is of defensive aid suites. [10927]

**Mr. Ingram:** A defensive aids suite (DAS) describes a group of integrated sensors and counter-measures for self-defence of armoured fighting vehicles and other military platforms. A DAS is capable of providing automatic or semi-automatic response to threats, thereby increasing survivability without the weight burden of additional armour.

A contract was awarded to Akers Krutbruk Protection AB in May 2005. The contract will enable the Department to assess and further develop the armoured fighting vehicles effectiveness of DAS systems.

### Departmental Budget

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much was allocated to the Department for each year since 1975. [11519]

**Mr. Touhig:** Final annual allocations to the Ministry of Defence are voted by Parliament in the spring supplementary estimates, copies of which are held in the Library of the House. In addition, the Defence Analytical Services Agency publishes annual statistics on defence expenditure, available on its website, which include comparative figures over time. These figures are, however, based on actual outturns, rather than allocations. The hon. Member will wish to note also that financial planning and management moved from a cash to a resource basis in two incremental stages from 2001–02 and 2003–04, with the result that direct comparisons across these periods are not possible.

### Future Rapid Effects System

**Ann Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the Panther Command and Liaison vehicle is an integral part of the Future Rapid Effects System package. [12675]

**Mr. Ingram:** Panther is being procured to provide a multi-purpose vehicle for the Army employed primarily in command and liaison tasks. While it is not an integral element of the Future Rapid Effect System (FRES) programme it is one of a number of options being assessed during the initial Assessment Phase to establish whether it has the potential to fulfil some elements of the FRES requirement.

### HMS Invincible

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the future of HMS Invincible. [11288]

**Mr. Ingram:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him about the planned decommissioning date for HMS Invincible on 13 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 1078W.

### Iraq

**Adam Price:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which document Colonel Terrington saw in December 2003 to which the Minister of State referred in his letter to the hon. Member for Camarthen, East and Dinefwr of 31 January. [9038]

**Mr. Ingram:** Colonel Terrington saw a document on 26 December 2003, entitled "CJTF-7 CG MEMO—CJTF-7 Interrogation and Counter-Resistance Policy"

dated 28 September 2003. We have no further information on the content of that document, which was not the extant CJTF-7 interrogation policy at that time.

**Mr. Ancram:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent discussions he has had with his US counterpart regarding the co-ordination of withdrawal of US and UK troops from Iraq. [13271]

**John Reid:** I hold regular discussions with the United States Secretary of Defense about progress in establishing a free, stable and democratic Iraq. We both agree that coalition forces should remain in Iraq for as long as the Iraqi Government judge that the coalition is required to provide security and to assist the Iraqi Security Forces (ISF).

Factors in determining the scope and timeline for eventual UK force level reductions in Iraq will include: the readiness of the ISF to take responsibility for the range of security tasks; the overall security situation; and progress in the political process.

### Japanese Internees

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many applications under the ex gratia scheme for British groups interned by the Japanese during the second world war have been refused on grounds of their not satisfying the bloodlink criteria; if he will reconsider these applications in response to the report of the parliamentary and health service ombudsman of 12 July; and if he will make a statement. [13497]

**Mr. Touhig:** We estimate that some 1,100 claims were rejected because they did not meet the "bloodlink" criterion. As will be clear from my written statement on 13 July 2005, *Official Report*, columns 28–29WS, we do not consider that the parliamentary and health service ombudsman's report provides grounds for reviewing these cases. The Department's rejection of claims on the "bloodlink" criterion is also affected by the recent High Court decision on the application for judicial review by Mrs. Diana Elias. The Secretary of State for Defence is considering his response to this judgment.

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps he is taking in response to the conclusion of the parliamentary and health service ombudsman (HC 324) that there was injustice to Professor Jack Hayward and others caused by the maladministration of the ex gratia scheme for British groups interned by the Japanese during the second world war; and if he will establish a departmental inquiry. [13499]

**Mr. Touhig:** I refer my hon. Friend to my written ministerial statement on 13 July 2005, *Official Report*, columns 28–29WS. I have no plan to undertake a departmental inquiry.

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the reasons were for his rejection of the first and second remedies proposed by the parliamentary and health service ombudsman in the case of Professor Jack Hayward and maladministration in relation to the devising, announcing and operation of the ex gratia scheme for British groups interned by the Japanese during the second world war (HC 324); and if he will make a statement. [13500]

**Mr. Touhig:** The Government's reasons for rejecting the first and second remedies proposed by the parliamentary and health service ombudsman are set out fully in their response which was published as an annex to the ombudsman's report (4th Report—Session 2005–2006, HC 324) when it was laid before Parliament on 12 July 2005.

### Military Uniform Contract

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library the minutes of the recent meeting on the cut and sew contract; and if he will make a statement. [12410]

**Mr. Ingram:** If my hon. Friend would provide details of the meeting to which he is referring I would be pleased to consider his request.

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many regiments have been provided with battle dress made in China under the cut and sew contract. [12479]

**Mr. Ingram:** This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. While it would be possible to identify the provenance of a specific item of clothing from the contract number on its label, there is no mechanism, nor any business requirement, to track general issues of clothing to operational units by country of manufacture.

### Natural Disasters (Military Assistance)

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to his answer of 13 June 2005, *Official Report*, columns 15–16W, on natural disasters (military assistance), if he will list the improvements identified in the review of operations following the tsunami. [6483]

**Mr. Ingram:** The Ministry of Defence has carried out a formal Lessons Study conducted by the Directorate of Operational Capability, to identify what improvements could be made in any such future operation. The lessons identified will inform the Humanitarian and Disaster Relief Operations Doctrine and associated procedures.

In addition, the MOD is undertaking steps to improve the information flow both within the Department and cross-Government, in particular, enhancing liaison and potentially information infrastructures with DFID and the Post Conflict Reconstruction Unit. This fully supports the Government's effort to reform cross-Government interoperability.

### Negligence Discharges

**Ann Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many infantry private soldiers have been subject to negligence discharge from the *(a)* Regular Army and *(b)* Territorial Army since hostilities started in Iraq. [12678]

**Mr. Touhig:** Our records indicate that, between March 2003 and June 2005, 80 Regular Army infantry private soldiers, and two Territorial Army infantry private soldiers, have been disciplined as a result of negligent discharges in Iraq.

### Project Aquatrine

**Robert Key:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list the works that are *(a)* planned and *(b)* under way in Salisbury constituency in connection with Project Aquatrine; who the contractors are; and if he will make a statement. [11554]

**Mr. Touhig:** The Aquatrine Private Finance Initiative (PFI) commercial arrangements involve the leasing of up to 28 types of water and wastewater assets to the Service Provider, Brey Services Ltd. who is responsible for operation and maintenance, and capital development of the assets over the 25-year period of the PFI. Brey is required to maintain a three-yearly Rolling Operations Programme, which outlines their prioritised capital development programme. Brey's Capital Solutions Partner for the Salisbury area is Earth Tech Engineering. Brey's Rolling Operations Programme currently includes 21 planned capital works schemes. Of these, 17 are still in the planning stage and contracts have not been awarded. There are currently four capital works schemes for which the contractor is known. These are:

Boscombe Down Sewage Treatment Works development commencing 18 July 2005—contractor is Delta Water Services;

Salisbury Plain Training Area Knook Camp Water Treatment Works development commencing September 2005—contractor is Earth Tech Engineering;

Boscombe Down Water Network development commencing 6 October 2005—contractor is Earth Tech Engineering; and

Warminster Garrison Sewage Treatment Works development commencing December 2005—contractor is Earth Tech Engineering;

There are no capital works schemes under way at the present time.

### Queen's Lancashire Regiment

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many and what percentage of serving Queen's Lancashire Regiment personnel were recruited *(a)* in Lancashire and *(b)* from overseas; [12158]

(2) how many and what percentage of serving King's Own Borderers were recruited *(a)* in Cumbria and *(b)* from overseas; [12159]

(3) how many and what percentage of serving members of the Queen's Lancashire Regiment were recruited in Cumbria; [12421]

(4) how many and what percentage of serving members of the King's Own Borderers were recruited in Lancashire; [12422]

(5) how many and what percentage of serving King's Regiment personnel were recruited from *(a)* Cumbria, *(b)* Lancashire and *(c)* overseas; [12423]

(6) how many *(a)* officers, *(b)* non-commissioned officers and *(c)* other ranks he expects to be made redundant or allowed early retirement following the merger of the King's, King's Own Borderers and Queen's Lancashire Regiment; what the strength is of each regiment; and what percentage is overseas recruits. [12424]

**Mr. Touhig:** The following table sets out the trained strength of the King's Own Royal Border Regiment (KORBR), the King's Regiment (KINGS) and the Queen's Lancashire Regiment (QLR) as at 1 May 2005. A breakdown between personnel of UK nationality and foreign nationality is shown.

| *Nationality* | *Officers* | *Soldiers* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|
| *King's Own Royal Border Regiment* | | | |
| UK | 80 | 490 | 570 |
| Overseas | 0 | 45 | 45 |
| Total | 80 | 540 | 615 |
| Overseas as percentage | 0.0 | 8.6 | 7.5 |
| *King's Regiment* | | | |
| UK | 65 | 505 | 570 |
| Overseas | — | 25 | 30 |
| Total | 65 | 535 | 595 |
| Overseas as percentage | — | 4.9 | 4.5 |
| *Queen's Lancashire Regiment* | | | |
| UK | 65 | 605 | 670 |
| Overseas | 0 | 5 | 5 |
| Total | 65 | 610 | 675 |
| Overseas as percentage | 0.0 | 1.0 | 0.9 |

'—' indicates a number fewer than five.

*Notes:*

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest five.
2. Totals and sub totals are rounded separately so may not equal the sum of their parts.

It is not possible to provide a breakdown of personnel by the recruiting centre in which they attested because this information is not held centrally. However, recruiting centres recruit to the infantry as a whole and not exclusively for their local infantry regiment. Only on completion of initial training are recruits finally assigned to a particular regiment, the location of attestation having no bearing on this decision.

Redundancy is one of the mechanisms being utilised to achieve a manning balance post implementation of the Future Infantry Structure. To the maximum extent possible those posts released from the reduction to the infantry will be reinvested elsewhere in the Army and personnel re-rolled and re-trained. However, in order to prevent structural imbalances and career blockages, 121 officers have been, and up to 195 soldiers will be, selected from across the infantry for redundancy under the Army Redundancy Programme 2006–07. There is no other Army redundancy programme in place at the current time.

Infantry officers have now been notified of their redundancy and will be retired from the Army by 30 June 2006. All of the officers who were selected for redundancy had expressed a prior interest in accepting the package on offer. The officers selected are drawn broadly from across the infantry. With regard to specific regiments, two of those selected are serving with KINGS, five with KORBR and four with QLR.

Soldiers will be selected for redundancy in spring 2006 and retired from the Army by 30 April 2007.

### RAF Innsworth

**Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will ensure that personnel from RAF Innsworth are not disadvantaged when applying for posts at High Wycombe following the transfer of operations; and if he will make a statement. [12112]

**Mr. Ingram:** Ministry of Defence policy and procedures will be followed. It is envisaged that the majority of posts across the collocated RAF HQ will be openly competed. In the first instance the competition will be amongst existing civilian employees at Headquarters Personnel and Training Command, Strike Command, and those in the MOD-wide redeployment pool.

For service personnel, career aspirations and commitments will be taken into account under normal career management, as is the case now.

**Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the cost of redundancies from *(a)* RAF Innsworth and *(b)* High Wycombe, following the transfer of operations; and if he will make a statement. [12113]

**Mr. Ingram:** Redundancies resulting from the planned collocation of the RAF Headquarters at High Wycombe form part of the 10,000 civilian post reductions announced as part of the July 2004 Defence White Paper "Delivering Security in a Changing World". It is not yet known how many staff, or at which grades, will be made redundant at each site. It is therefore too early to estimate the cost of these redundancies.

**Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the cost of the removal and transfer of *(a)* staff and *(b)* operations from RAF Innsworth to High Wycombe; and if he will make a statement. [12114]

**Mr. Ingram:** The total estimated cost of removal and transfer of staff and operations for the collocated RAF Headquarters at High Wycombe is in the region of £23 million. £6 million is for staff costs, £3 million of which is identified for staff relocation packages, in accordance with the appropriate departmental guidelines. The other £3 million, spread over a period often years, is for additional housing cost allowance payable to civilian staff. £17 million is for operational costs.

**Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recruitment and retention allowance is paid to staff at *(a)* RAF Innsworth and *(b)* High Wycombe; and if he will make a statement. [12115]

**Mr. Ingram:** A recruitment and retention allowance (RRA) of £2,000 is paid to all civilian staff below the senior civil service at RAF High Wycombe. No recruitment and retention allowance is currently paid at RAF Innsworth.

The RRA was taken into account in the investment appraisal which underpinned the decision to collocate the two headquarters at RAF High Wycombe.

**Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps he has taken to obtain the agreement of other agencies to use the RAF Innsworth site following closure; and if he will make a statement. [12125]

**Mr. Ingram:** We are still considering whether RAF Innsworth might be suitable for alternative defence requirements. If none are identified the site will be placed on the English Partnerships (EP) Public Asset Register to allow other Government Departments and agencies 40 days to declare an interest.

**Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what interest has been expressed by developers in the RAF Innsworth site following closure; and if he will make a statement. [12126]

**Mr. Ingram:** None at this stage. This may be because the RAF Innsworth site has not at present been declared surplus to MOD requirements.

**Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will extend the date for consultation on the closure of RAF Innsworth; and if he will make a statement. [12127]

**Mr. Ingram:** Any request from the trade unions for an extension to the consultation period, identifying the length of time required and defining the reasons why it is needed, will be considered very carefully.

**Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when the decision was made to move the Armed Forces Personnel Administration Agency from the RAF Innsworth site; and if he will make a statement. [12141]

**Mr. Ingram:** The planning assumption that the Armed Forces Personnel Administration Agency (AFPAA) should move from Innsworth in mid-2008 was agreed as part of the RAF HQ collocation study in consultation with relevant stakeholders. Funding for the relocation of AFPAA from Innsworth was included in collocation costings. This decision formed part of my written statement of 16 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 21WS.

**Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he first considered the recommendation to close RAF Innsworth; and if he will make a statement. [12142]

**Mr. Ingram:** A recommendation on the collocation of Headquarters Strike Command and Headquarters Personnel and Training Command was submitted to me on 13 May 2005 and a decision was announced on 16 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 21WS. The decision was not taken lightly and followed a comprehensive study into the feasibility of collocating the two headquarters (currently based at RAF High Wycombe and RAF Innsworth) by rationalising and collocating them on a single site.

**Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the financial effect on the Innsworth area of the decision to close the RAF site; what plans he has to provide financial assistance to the area following the closure; and if he will make a statement. [12143]

**Mr. Ingram:** The RAF HQ Collocation Business Case examined all direct costs and benefits as well as other considerations such as economic impact. We estimate that the 1,800 service and civilian jobs on the Innsworth site make up approximately 3.5 per cent. of local employment. However, as jobs on the site reduce progressively over the next three years, the economic impact will clearly depend on the future use of the site. We will work with local employers and the local

authorities to keep them informed of the progress of the collocation and enable them to plan as effectively as possible.

**Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when it was decided to include the Armed Forces Personnel Administration Agency in the review of operations on the RAF Innsworth site; and if he will make a statement. [12397]

**Mr. Ingram:** The Armed Forces Personnel Administration Agency (AFPAA) was automatically considered as part of the RAF Headquarters collocation study, which has been under way since February 2004. The cost of relocating AFPAA was taken into account in the Investment Appraisal.

### RAF Menwith Hill

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will publish the financial agreement in place between the MOD Police Agency and the US authorities at RAF Menwith Hill for services rendered. [1298]

**Mr. Ingram:** I am placing the information requested in the Library of the House.

### Royal Navy (Personnel)

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many members of staff have been employed in the Royal Navy for each year since 1980–81; and if he will make a statement. [12280]

**Mr. Touhig:** Trained naval services strength (including Royal Marines) on 1 April each year since 1980 are given in the following table:

| *As at 1 April each year* | *UK Regulars*[1] | *FTRS* |
|---|---|---|
| 1980 | [2]63,700 | — |
| 1981 | 65,540 | — |
| 1982 | 67,270 | — |
| 1983 | 65,820 | — |
| 1984 | 65,390 | — |
| 1985 | 64,200 | — |
| 1986 | 61,540 | — |
| 1987 | 59,410 | — |
| 1988 | 58,840 | — |
| 1989 | 57,700 | — |
| 1990 | 56,660 | — |
| 1991 | 55,510 | — |
| 1992 | 55,930 | — |
| 1993 | 55,290 | — |
| 1994 | 52,410 | — |
| 1995 | 48,200 | — |
| 1996 | 45,550 | — |
| 1997 | 41,680 | — |
| 1998 | 40,360 | 130 |
| 1999 | 39,070 | 250 |
| 2000 | 38,540 | 340 |
| 2001 | 38,020 | 520 |
| 2002 | 36,770 | 720 |
| 2003 | 36,590 | 1,010 |
| 2004 | 36,380 | 1,090 |
| 2005 | 35,420 | 900 |

[1] UK Regulars includes nursing services and excludes full-time reserve services (FTRS) and mobilised reservists.

[2] Only available rounded to nearest 100. The rest of the figures are rounded to the nearest 10. When rounding to 10, numbers ending in 5 have been rounded to the nearest 20 to avoid systematic bias.

### Royal Ordnance Factory

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the value is of contracts to be produced at Chorley Royal Ordnance Factory in 2005–06. [11647]

**Mr. Ingram:** Chorley Royal Ordnance Factory is part of BAE Systems Land Systems. The level and value of production activity at Chorley are commercial matters for BAE Systems.

### School Fees

**Andrew Mackinlay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much was spent by his Department on school fees in each of the last three years; who is entitled to claim the cost of fees; what the maximum amount payable per claimant is; and if he will make a statement. [11547]

**Mr. Ingram** *[holding answer 18 July 2005]:* The net sum paid annually in respect of service education allowances for boarding and day school fees by the Ministry of Defence in each of the past three years is shown in the table:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2002–03 | 69,488,884.11 |
| 2003–04 | 81,650,940.11 |
| 2004–05 | 91,078,265.42 |

In addition to the above amounts, service education allowances are subject to income tax and national insurance contributions (NIC) when paid to service personnel based in the UK. These are paid by the MOD under grossing up arrangements through a PAYE settlement agreement (PSA). The income tax and NIC PSA payment amounts are not held centrally and could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

Service education allowances are available to all regular service personnel, provided they meet the eligibility criteria. In order to claim any of the service education allowances, the service claimant must fully accept the overriding principle that their family will accompany them on each posting, whether in the United Kingdom or overseas.

There are a range of service education allowances available, depending on whether the child is attending a boarding or day school, as a junior or senior pupil and whether they have a special educational need. The various maximum annual rates of service education allowance per child from 2002 onwards are shown in the table.

£

| | *2002–03* | *2003–04* | *2004–05* | *2005–06* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Boarding* | | | | |
| Junior Pupil | 8,700 | 9,525 | 10,224 | 10,488 |
| Senior Pupil | 11,166 | 12,060 | 12,990 | 13,670 |
| *Day* | | | | |
| Junior Pupil | 5,163 | 5,742 | 6,165 | 6,426 |
| Senior Pupil | 6,900 | 7,494 | 8,022 | 8,358 |
| Special educational needs addition (SENA) | 18,000 | 18,000 | 19,389 | 2,406 |
| SENA (day) | 12,000 | 12,000 | 12,846 | 13,383 |

### Second World War Anniversary Ceremonies

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list the Ministers in each Department who were present in an official capacity at ceremonies to mark the 60th anniversary of the end of the Second World War; and if he will make a statement. [12737]

**Mr. Touhig:** On National Commemoration Day, Sunday 10 July, the Prime Minister attended the three events organised by the Ministry of Defence in London, at Westminster Abbey, Buckingham Palace and Horse Guards Parade. He was accompanied by my right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Defence. I also attended as the Minister for Veterans. In addition, my right hon. Friend the Minister for the armed forces attended commemorative events in Edinburgh and the noble Lord, the Minister for Defence Procurement attended a commemorative event at the National Memorial Arboretum, near Lichfield, Staffordshire.

Other Departmental Ministers were invited to attend the events in London and I am sure others will have attended similar events which took place throughout the country. However, we do not have a definitive list of Ministers who attended such events in an official capacity.

### Sickness Absence

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many days the Department has lost due to sickness in the past five years for which figures are available. [11470]

**Mr. Touhig:** The following tables show the numbers of days' sickness absence for non-industrial and skill-zone (former industrial) civil servants in the Ministry of Defence since 1999.

*Non-industrial civil servants in the Ministry of Defence*

| | *Sickness absence (working days)* |
|---|---|
| *Calendar year* | |
| 1999 | 538,700 |
| 2000 | 526,100 |
| 2001 | No reliable data available |
| 2002 | — |
| 2003 | 481,000 |
| *Financial year* | |
| 2003–04 | 494,100 |

*Skill-zone civil servants in the Ministry of Defence*

| | *Sickness absence (working days)* |
|---|---|
| *Calendar year* | |
| 1999 | 320,990 |
| 2000 | No reliable data available |
| 2001 | 304,900 |
| 2002 | 259,700 |
| 2003 | 209,900 |
| *Financial Year* | |
| 2003–04 | 187,100 |

*Notes:*
1. Excludes MOD staff in Trading Fund Agencies and Royal Fleet Auxiliaries.
2. Sickness absence days are based on full-time equivalent (FTE) working days lost. For example, if a part-time employee (working 50 per cent. full-time hours) is sick for seven calendar days, this is five working days lost and 2.5 FTE working days lost.
3. Absences with unreasonably long values have been edited and some logical inconsistencies corrected.
4. There is no sickness absence information for skill-zone staff available for 2000 or for non- industrial for 2001, for data quality reasons.

### Surface Fleet

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 28 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 1400W, on the surface fleet, if he will identify each of the 25 destroyers and frigates to which reference is made in Cm 6269 (page 18); and if he will make a statement. [9614]

**Mr. Ingram:** The destroyers and frigates that are currently in-service with the RN are as follows:

*Type 42 Batch 2 destroyers:*
- HMS Exeter
- HMS Southampton
- HMS Nottingham
- HMS Liverpool

*Type 42 Batch 3 destroyers:*
- HMS Manchester
- HMS Gloucester
- HMS Edinburgh
- HMS York

*Type 22 frigates:*
- HMS Cornwall
- HMS Cumberland
- HMS Campbeltown
- HMS Chatham

*Type 23 frigates:*
- HMS Argyll
- HMS Lancaster
- HMS Iron Duke
- HMS Monmouth
- HMS Montrose
- HMS Westminster
- HMS Northumberland
- HMS Richmond
- HMS Somerset
- HMS Sutherland
- HMS Kent
- HMS Portland
- HMS St Albans

As stated in Cm 6269, we have a requirement for eight Type 45 destroyers. The capability provided by the Type 45s will progressively succeed the capability provided by the Type 42 destroyers from 2009.

### Taxis

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 23 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 1146W, on taxis, what estimate he has made of the cost of providing the information requested. [12690]

**Mr. Touhig:** The general procedure in the Ministry of Defence is that taxi fares are paid by the hirers and reclaimed from the Department, often combined with other elements of travelling and subsistence claims. The costs of taxi fares are not collected centrally or recorded

separately once claims are authorised for payment. Providing the information would therefore entail personal analyses of claims by every serviceman and civil servant. Receipts are only required to be retained for three years after the end of the financial year in which claims are made, and information would not be obtainable from personnel who have left the services or Department.

I do not consider this a practicable exercise, and it is therefore unrealistic to attempt to estimate the very considerable cost of mounting it.

### Territorial Army (Chorley)

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the *(a)* role and *(b)* use made of the Territorial Army barracks at Chorley. [12160]

**Mr. Touhig:** Chorley TA Centre is home to: Chorley Detachment of 5 General Support (GS) Medical Regiment (Volunteer); 29 Company Detachment of 3 (Volunteer) Military Intelligence (MI) Battalion; Chorley Detachment Army Cadet Force; and Salerno Company Headquarters of Lancashire Army Cadet Force. In total these units generally use the TA centre three evenings per week and weekends to train personnel.

### Troop Redeployment

**Mr. Meacher:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what consideration he has given to the redeployment of UK troops from *(a)* Iraq, *(b)* Afghanistan and *(c)* the UK or elsewhere to Iran; and under what circumstances he might consider such action in future. [12193]

**Mr. Ingram:** We have not considered, nor do we have any plans to redeploy troops from Iraq, Afghanistan, the UK or elsewhere to Iran.

### Wormwood Scrubs

**Mr. Hands:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 28 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 1402W on Wormwood Scrubs, whether development proposals include traffic management schemes. [11276]

**Mr. Touhig:** The London borough of Hammersmith and Fulham is obliged to consult the Ministry of Defence under the provisions of the Wormwood Scrubs Act 1879 on development proposals on Wormwood Scrubs. Development proposals are defined in Section 4 of the Act as

"... lay out, drain, level, plant and improve the Scrubs."

The definition covers all but the most minor of works. Therefore the requirement for this Department's approval would depend on the nature of any works needed under a proposed traffic management scheme.

I have previously referred to a related agreement in the form of a Memorandum of Agreement dated 1 October 1980. This is relevant as it sets out the management arrangements in respect of Wormwood Scrubs between the Secretary of State for Defence and the Council and further defines under what circumstances this Department's approval is required. The pertinent section of the 1980 agreement states:

"The Secretary of State for Defence agrees for the purposes of the Act that the Greater London Council may carry out on the non-military portion of the Scrubs any operation to lay out drain level plant and improve the Scrubs without requiring his further approval provided the operation is otherwise lawful and does not form part of a major scheme likely to affect the general character of any part of the Scrubs and does not require the consent of the Secretary of State for the Environment."

Public roads would not be a military part of the Scrubs.

Therefore the Ministry of Defence would expect to be consulted if the Council proposed a development falling within the definition of the Act over the military portion of the Scrubs or was a major scheme.

## DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

### Disabled Facilities Grant

**Mr. Martyn Jones:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what the conclusions were of the Disabled Facilities Grant review. [12202]

**Yvette Cooper** *[holding answer 18 July 2005]*: The Disabled Facilities Grant programme is subject to an interdepartmental review and a team from Bristol university is currently looking at the operation of the programme including the means test. The review is continuing and Ministers will put forward any proposals for change in due course.

### Fire Service

**Alan Simpson:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister which fire authorities have currently set performance targets relating to the reduction of deaths and injuries in non-accidental, non-domestic emergencies. [13549]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, the Government's new fire Public Service Agreement target for England is, by 2010, to reduce the number of accidental fire related deaths in the home by 20 per cent. and the number of deliberate fires by 10 per cent.. Since 2003 every Fire and Rescue Authority (FRA) has been required to produce a local integrated risk management plan (IRMP) that sets out the authority's assessment of local risk to life and, in line with this analysis, how it is going to deploy its resources to tackle these risks and improve the safety of all sections of society. The Fire and Rescue National Framework requires FRAs to set out in their IRMPs, the targets and standards it will apply to meet the specific pattern of local risk.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many of the convergence work tasks for the fire control project have been completed; and if he will make a statement. [13551]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The work on convergence is being led by the Chief Fire Officers' Association (CFOA) and supported by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister. Its aim is to enable fire and rescue services to communicate and work together effectively by

introducing standard procedures and terminology for the national radio system and control centre network. 34 convergence products have been developed and are out for consultation with fire and rescue services. Seven are under development. In addition the work to date has identified a further ten products for development.

### Homelessness

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister (1) what average length of time a homeless household in temporary accommodation in each Government Office Region had to wait before being made an offer of a permanent home in each year since 1997; [12224]

(2) what average length of time a homeless household in temporary accommodation in each local authority area in London had to wait before being made an offer of a permanent home in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2004. [12225]

**Yvette Cooper:** Information reported quarterly by local authorities on their activities under homelessness legislation includes the number of households that, during the quarter, left temporary accommodation provided by the authority, or who were no longer registered as "homeless at home", by the length of stay in broad time bands.

A table which presents the proportion of households in each time band for each year since 1997, by Government Office region, along with a corresponding table presenting the position for London boroughs in 1997 and 2004, has been placed in the Library of the House. These include households who have been given settled accommodation by the authority, but also those who left temporary accommodation voluntarily as well as those who ceased to be eligible or who became intentionally homeless.

The Government have set a target to halve the number of households in temporary accommodation by 2010. Homeless acceptances in the first quarter of 2005 were 20 percent. lower than the corresponding period in 2004.

### Housing

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what powers are available to him in relation to directing English Partnerships to use land they hold for social housing. [12864]

**Yvette Cooper:** English Partnerships' statutory purpose and powers are laid out in the Leasehold Reform, Housing and Urban Development Act 1993 and the New Towns Act 1981. These acts provide the Secretary of State with powers to issue guidance and make directions to English Partnerships (EP) in relation to government policies and objectives. The Secretary of State does not however have the powers to appoint English Partnerships as a housing authority. Therefore EP acquires, remediates and disposes of land, providing housing through partnerships and joint ventures with housing developers.

The Secretary of State also approves English Partnerships' Corporate plan each year which sets out EPs' corporate priorities for the corporate plan period.

### Modular Building Techniques (Fire Risk)

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what assessment the Government have made of the fire risk from modular building techniques; and if he will make a statement. [13118]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** 'Modular buildings' can include a wide range of different materials and construction techniques and many have been in production for a considerable period, using well-tested approaches. We have not undertaken any detailed assessment of the potential fire risk from modular building techniques.

However, we intend to look at the fire safety aspects of such innovative construction products and techniques, including modular buildings, in the research programme planned for this financial year, which underpins the health and safety requirements of the Building Regulations.

### New Buildings

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will make it his policy to require building regulations to specify that all new buildings have built-in means of microgeneration of energy. [12637]

**Yvette Cooper:** The Building Regulations set levels of required energy performance rather than prescribing solutions. This approach offers designers the flexibility to choose solutions that best meet their needs, that are cost-effective and practical, and that enable innovation. It would not therefore be appropriate to prescribe particular microgeneration technologies.

### Pensions

**Mr. McGovern:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what the terms of reference are for the tri-partite commission discussing changes to public sector pensions. [13507]

**Mr. Woolas:** The terms of reference for the tri-partite committee have been published on the local Government pension scheme website and can be found at www.xoq83.dial.pipex.com.

### Sustainable Communities

**Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what assessment his Department has made of *(a)* the funding requirements of and *(b)* the sources of funding for the North Northamptonshire Together local delivery partnership; and what assessment he has made of the partnership's capacity to deliver the sustainable communities spatial strategy for North Northamptonshire. [13331]

**Yvette Cooper:** The draft business plan for North Northants Together indicates that an income of £1.473 million is needed to cover expenditure in the 2005–06 financial year. This total includes in kind contributions from partners. The sources of funding are the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (£500,000), the five relevant local authorities, emda, English Partnerships and Catalyst Corby. Details for future years are still under consideration. North Northants

Together has submitted a bid for funding from the Growth Area Fund for the years 2006–07 and 2007–08. A decision on the bid will be announced in due course.

North Northants Together was formally established in February 2005. Its draft business plan outlines how the partnership aims to deliver the sustainable communities spatial strategy for North Northamptonshire. It addresses the capacity of the delivery vehicle. The business plan will be an important reference point for future decisions on funding and for reviewing performance.

### Taxis

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how much the Department has spent on taxis in each of the last five years. [6492]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister was created following Machinery of Government changes on 29 May 2002. Expenditure on taxi hire in the three financial years completed since then is as follows.

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2002–03 | 92,395 |
| 2003–04 | 138,465 |
| 2004–05 | 145,186; |

There is also a contract in place at Ashdown House Hastings whereby officials order taxis for local use and the bill is repaid centrally. This contract is managed by the Department for Transport on behalf of both Departments, but prior to the current financial year DfT did not recharge the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister for its expenditure. It is thus not possible to provide precise figures for ODPM's expenditure on the contract in the three years above, but based pro-rata on the spend in this financial year, the figures are likely to be between £1,000 and £2,000 a year.

### Unitary Local Government

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what expenditure the Government have undertaken relating to unitary local government since the north east regional referendum. [13106]

**Mr. Woolas:** No expenditure has been undertaken relating to unitary local government since the north east regional referendum other than some portion, not separately identified, of the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister's administration costs relating to a small team whose responsibilities include dealing with questions about local governance and structures.

## TRANSPORT

### A14 (Blackbridge)

**Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when the proposed new Blackbridge bridge over the A14 between Cranford and Burton Latimer for pedestrians, cycles and horses will be constructed. [13330]

**Dr. Ladyman:** Subject to available funding, work on the new bridge should start in November 2005. It will take approximately 12 weeks to complete.

### Road Hauliers (Costs)

**Alan Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will take steps to increase the costs to road hauliers to cover the full social and environmental costs, including greenhouse gas emissions, air pollution, noise, congestion, accidents and deaths, of transporting freight by road. [12817]

**John Healey:** I have been asked to reply.

Decisions on taxation are taken by the Chancellor on a Budget-by-Budget basis, taking account of all the relevant social, economic and environmental factors.

In addition to this, as the Secretary of State for Transport announced on 5 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 173, the Government are looking into how all lorries can contribute to the costs that they impose on UK roads as part of a wider national road pricing scheme.

### South Hampshire Rapid Transit Scheme

**Peter Viggers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether a decision on the funding of the South Hampshire Rapid Transit Scheme phase 1 will be announced before Parliament adjourns for the summer recess. [13042]

**Derek Twigg** *[holding answer 18 July 2005]:* I will announce a decision in due course.

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

### Drugs (Afghanistan)

11. **Andrew Selous:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the supply of illegal drugs from Afghanistan to the UK. [12888]

**Ian Pearson:** Support for Afghan action to tackle the production and supply of heroin remains a top priority for HMG. We are committed to working with Afghanistan for the long-term. We are spending around £176 million over 2003–06 for this purpose. As lead nation, the UK is helping the Government of Afghanistan to deliver their National Drug Control Strategy. We work closely with international partners and with Afghanistan's neighbours on this.

### Israel

12. **Mr. MacDougall:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his latest assessment is of progress made by Israel with its disengagement plan. [12889]

**Mr. Straw:** Disengagement is a real opportunity for progress in resolving the Middle East conflict. Israel has begun the preparatory phase and, crucially, there is now some co-operation between the two sides. We are working with both sides to support this activity. The G8 Summit this July agreed to support a three year $3 billion per annum package of assistance for Gaza.

### Iraq

13. **Adam Price:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what evidence he has received of human rights abuses by members of the Iraqi security services. [12891]

**Ian Pearson:** I have seen the Human Rights Watch Report dated 25 January this year and we are aware of allegations of abuse by members of the Iraqi security forces and people wearing police uniform as well as recent press reports. We condemn all abuse and have raised our concerns with the Iraqi authorities at the highest levels. They have told us they take these allegations very seriously and that they will investigate them.

20. **Siobhain McDonagh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with representatives of the Iraqi Government on the development of trade unions in Iraq. [12899]

**Mr. Straw:** The Government attach great importance to developing trade unions and civil society in Iraq. We welcomed the provision in the Transitional Administrative Law giving Iraqis the right to join a trade union. Trade unions can make a positive contribution to the development of a stable, democratic and open society in Iraq and to the modernisation of the Iraqi economy. The Prime Minister and the FCO Minister of State met a delegation of Iraqi trade unionists on 28/29 June and reaffirmed the Government's support for the development of trade unions in Iraq .

### Lebanon

14. **Huw Irranca-Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps are being taken to disarm Hezbollah forces in southern Lebanon in compliance with Security Council resolution 1559. [12892]

**Mr. Straw:** We support full implementation of UN Security Council resolution 1559, including the disarmament of Hezbollah, and will work with the new Lebanese Government in its efforts to deliver the political, economic and security sector reforms that will be necessary to resolve this complex task. Yesterday, the EU external relations council was briefed at my invitation, by Terje Roed-Larsen, the UN Special Envoy for the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1559.

### EU Budget

15. **Jeff Ennis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on capping the EU budget. [12893]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** The Government has regular contacts with all our EU partners. We have, as presidency, started a process of consultation with other member states, with a view to making progress in the negotiations to set the EU budget from 2007 to 2013.

The UK remains convinced that a budget worth no more than 1 per cent. of EU GNI is sufficient to meet the needs and priorities of the enlarged Union.

### Zimbabwe

16. **Mr. Mackay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the Government's relations with Zimbabwe. [12894]

**Mr. Straw:** It is not least because of our long standing ties with Zimbabwe that the pain of its people for the misgovernment it has suffered is so keenly felt in the United Kingdom, including in this House. Since September 2001, the UK has provided over £71 million of humanitarian assistance; and has worked successfully to see the suspension of Zimbabwe from the Commonwealth and the imposition of EU sanctions.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for International Development and I spoke to the UN Secretary General, Kofi Annan about Zimbabwe on 6 July. We shall consider what further action is needed once the report of the Secretary General's Special Envoy, Anna Tibaijuka, is published.

**Mr. Andrew Turner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the African Union on the promotion of good governance in Zimbabwe. [12890]

**Ian Pearson:** My noble Friend the Minister for Africa (the Lord Triesman of Tottenham), and my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for International Development (Hilary Benn) attended the African Union Summit in Sirte on 4/5 July. They made our views clear to African leaders there. I am encouraged by the response of Presidents Mbeki and Obasanjo to engage Zimbabwe on the political and economic crisis in that country. I also welcome the initiative of chairman of the African Union to send an Envoy, even though the Government of Zimbabwe has so far blocked his mission. African leaders have a crucial role to play in ending the Zimbabwe crisis, and we will continue to urge them to do so in support of their responsibilities toward fellow Africans.

### UK Visas

17. **Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department is taking to streamline procedures for individuals from Commonwealth countries applying for visas to the UK. [12895]

**Ian Pearson:** We are delivering both good services to customers and tight immigration control. We are making the visa application process faster, including through convenient regional application centres, only interviewing where necessary, improved staff training and more resources. We have introduced risk assessment units in high risk posts and plan more. All overseas visa applicants are subject to certain security checks.

### Uganda

18. **Paul Rowen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the security situation in northern Uganda. [12896]

**Ian Pearson:** The security situation has deteriorated since the expiry of the cease-fire in February and the onset of the rainy season. The Lord's Resistance Army continue to attack and loot for food and supplies.

We support those working to end this conflict. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for International Development and the noble Lord Triesman of Tottenham discussed this with President Museveni on 4 July.

### Iran

19. **Mr. Crispin Blunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the UK's relations with Iran, with particular reference to Iran's continued possession of Royal Naval vessels. [12898]

**Mr. Straw:** We have serious concerns about Iranian policies in a number of areas. These include Iran's nuclear and ballistic missile programmes and its approach to human rights, Iraq, terrorism and the middle east peace process. We aim to encourage progress through a policy of critical and conditional engagement.

We continue to press for the return of the Royal Navy boats held by the Iranian authorities since June 2004.

### Darfur

21. **Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on UK support for the African Union mission in Darfur. [12900]

**Ian Pearson:** My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for International Development announced on 13 June 2005 an increase in the UK contribution to the AU to £19 million. This brings our total contribution to the African Union mission in Sudan since its inception to almost £32 million. The UK fully supports the work of the African Union in Darfur, where it is having a significant effect.

22. **Tony Baldry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the political situation in Darfur. [12901]

**Ian Pearson:** I refer the right hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Guildford earlier today (UIN 12881).

### India

23. **Peter Luff:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the appropriateness of travel advisory notices for UK travellers to India. [12902]

**Ian Pearson:** Foreign and Commonwealth Office travel advice, including for India, is designed to help British travellers to make informed decisions about travelling abroad and to avoid trouble, by providing relevant information. Travel advice for India is kept under constant review, and is amended when considered necessary.

### British Mercenaries

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will introduce legislation to control the operations of British mercenaries abroad; and if he will make a statement. [12973]

**Mr. Straw** *[holding answer 18 July 2005]:* The issue of regulation of the overseas activities of UK private military and security companies was considered in the Government's Green Paper 'Private Military Companies', published on 12 February 2002. Last autumn I instituted a further detailed review of options for regulation, including legislation. The review is now complete and is being considered by Ministers. The Government will keep Parliament fully informed of its decisions in this area.

### Bulgaria

**Mrs. Ellman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 11 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 663W, on Bulgaria (EU accession), what elements Bulgaria needs to implement in relation to justice. [12446]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander** *[holding answer 18 July 2005]:* The European Commission wrote to the Bulgarian Government at the start of June 2005. It noted that Bulgaria still needs to implement reforms in its judicial system:

"in particular to ensure the efficiency and transparency in the pre-trial phase as regards the Criminal Procedure Code and other related laws including the Judicial System Act, the Criminal Code and the Ministry of Interior Act".

### China

**Harry Cohen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what initiatives the UK Government will be taking during the course of its presidency of the European Union *(a)* to promote negotiations between China and representatives of the Dalai Lama over the future of Tibet, and *(b)* to address concerns about human rights abuses in Tibet and China. [13164]

**Ian Pearson:** We will continue to monitor developments in Tibet closely and will continue to regularly raise Tibet issues with the Chinese Government. This year my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary, my noble Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Lord Triesman of Tottenham) and I have all raised Tibetan issues with Chinese interlocutors. We have made clear to the Chinese authorities that a long-term, legitimate and peaceful solution to the Tibet issue can be found only through dialogue and we will continue to urge them to engage productively with the Dalai Lama and his representatives. The EU has, under the UK presidency, issued a statement on 6 July welcoming the fourth round of dialogue.

### Embassies

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which embassies *(a)* have been closed over the past five years and *(b)* are planned to be closed over the next two years; and what the value of ground sales of embassies over the last five years was. [13339]

**Mr. Straw:** The British embassies in Bamako, Managua, San Salvador, Tegucigalpa and Asuncion have been closed in the last five years. It is intended to close the embassies in Antananarivo and Dili in the next two years.

The embassy offices in Bamako, Managua and Tegucigalpa were leased. The gross proceeds from the sale of the El Salvador office were £940,000. The sale of the Asuncion Office is not due to be completed until autumn 2005.

### Equatorial Guinea

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) if he will list the major UK commercial interests in Equatorial Guinea; [12168]

(2) what assessment he has made of the levels sectors of UK investment in Equatorial Guinea; and in which sectors such investment has been made. [12172]

**Ian Pearson:** The UK has limited commercial interests in Equatorial Guinea. Most UK companies working there are sub-contractors operating in the oil and gas sector. UK Trade and Investment has not made any detailed assessment of the levels of UK investment.

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what *(a)* embassy and *(b)* consulate arrangements are in place to represent UK interests in Equatorial Guinea. [12972]

**Ian Pearson** *[holding answer 18 July 2005]:* The UK does not have representation in Equatorial Guinea. We are officially represented by the non-resident Ambassador based in Yaounde, Cameroon.

We are in the process of recruiting a new Honorary Consul in Malabo. Consular duties are currently being covered by our High Commission in Yaounde.

A United Kingdom Trade and Investment consultant, on a short term contract, represents British commercial interests in Equatorial Guinea.

### Eritrea

**Mr. McGovern:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the Government of Eritrea regarding the cases of trade unionists Tewelde Ghebremedhin, Minase Andezion and Habtom Weldemicael. [13506]

**Ian Pearson:** Our ambassador in Asmara has discussed this case with EU partners. The previous local EU presidency in turn raised it with a senior official of the Government. We understand that Tewelde Ghebremedhin, Minase Andezion and Habtom Weldemicael may face criminal charges. However, we and our EU partners continue to monitor this case closely and will raise it again with the Government if necessary.

### EU Committee of the Regions

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much the UK contributed *(a)* directly and *(b)* indirectly to the costs of the EU's Committee of the Regions in the last period for which figures are available. [11959]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** The UK makes its contributions to the EC Budget as a whole, and not to individual parts of it. This year's member state financing of the 2005 Adopted EC budget amounts to €105 billion, of which the UK share, after taking account of the abatement, will be 13.05 per cent. The EC's estimate for Committee of the Regions expenditure in 2005 is €60,277,251.

### Guantanamo Bay

**Mr. Mullin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on what date he responded to the letter from Clive Stafford Smith dated 28 June, regarding British residents in Guantanamo; and if he will place a copy of his response in the Library. [11271]

**Ian Pearson:** My hon. Friend the Minister of State (Dr. Howells) replied to Mr. Stafford Smith's letter of 28 June on 7 July. A copy of this response has been placed in the Library of the House.

**Mr. Mullin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on what date he responded to the letter from Clive Stafford Smith dated 15 February, regarding Omar Deghayes; and if he will place a copy of his response in the Library. [11272]

**Ian Pearson:** My right hon. and noble Friend the former Foreign and Commonwealth Office Minister of State (Baroness Symons of Vernham Dean) replied to Mr. Stafford Smith's letter of 15 February on 28 February. A copy of the reply has been placed in the Library of the House.

### High Commissions

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which high commissions *(a)* have been (i) closed and (ii) merged over the past five years and *(b)* are planned to be closed over the next two years; and what the value of ground sales of high commissions over the last five years was. [13338]

**Mr. Straw:** The British High Commission in Nassau is the only High Commission to have been closed in the last five years. It is planned to close the High Commissions in Port Vila, Nuku'Alofa, Tarawa, Mbabane and Maseru in the next two years.

The High Commission in Nassau was leased.

### Management Consultants

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the total expenditure saved in each of the last three years as a result of implementing recommendations by management consultancies within his Department. [13623]

**Mr. Straw:** No central record is kept of the benefits that have arisen from implementing the recommendations of management consultancies. The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Nigeria

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress has been made in reducing external support for militants in Nigeria. [12915]

**Ian Pearson:** We are concerned at the level of criminal activity and instability in the oil-rich Niger Delta region, in particular the supply of small arms to the area, and the ethno-religious instability in the Middle Belt. My hon. Friend the then Parliamentary Under-secretary of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Mr. Mullin), raised the issue of the high levels of criminality in the Niger Delta with the Rivers State Governor during his visit in February 2005. We are also looking at ways we can assist the Nigerian Government on small arms control.

## CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

### Antisocial Behaviour

**Dr. Kumar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment she has made of the role of sport and recreational activities in tackling antisocial behaviour; and if she will make a statement. [12550]

**Mr. Caborn:** Research commissioned by the Home Office and undertaken by MORI of the national Positive Futures programme, which aims to tackle antisocial behaviour through sport, found that 72 per cent. of respondents surveyed in 2004 felt that the programme had made a positive difference to the local community in crime, drug use and antisocial behaviour. The figure increased to 76 per cent. in 2005.

Furthermore, since 2004, approximately 136,500 young people most at risk of social exclusion or antisocial behaviour have taken part in the Positive Activities for Young People (PAYP) programme which also uses sport as a diversionary activity.

### Big Lottery Fund

**Mr. Swire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions she had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on plans to establish the Big Lottery Fund. [13251]

**Mr. Caborn:** Plans to establish the Big Lottery Fund were agreed within Government. However, neither my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State nor I have had any specific discussions with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on this matter.

**Mr. Swire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what her Department's projections are for the balances held by the Big Lottery Fund. [13253]

**Mr. Caborn:** The Department issues projections for income from the lottery as a whole. It does not produce estimates of individual distributors' income or balances. However, data recently submitted by the Big Lottery Fund suggests that its balance will fall from its June 30 level of £851 million to £678 million by the end of this financial year.

### Buckmore Park Scout Centre

**Jonathan Shaw:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will direct Sport England to recover £2 million of lottery funding given to Buckmore Park Scout Centre now that it is in the ownership of the Rochester Bridge Trust. [12653]

**Mr. Caborn** *[holding answer 18 July 2005]*: Sport England understands that the land on which Buckmore Park Scout Centre stands is no longer in the ownership of the Rochester Bridge Trust.

Sport England is closely working with the liquidators appointed for Buckmore Park Centre and my Department's legal advisers to ascertain what, if any, monies are recoverable. To this end, Sport England is facilitating a meeting between the new freeholder and an interested leisure operator to discuss future options for the facility and the potential for the recovery of lottery funding and community use.

### Commonwealth Games

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will make a statement on the role Chorley played in the Manchester Commonwealth games. [12239]

**Mr. Caborn:** In addition to the Queen's Jubilee Baton Relay passing through Chorley in advance of the Manchester Commonwealth games, I am also aware that the sporting facilities in and the residents of Chorley made a significant contribution these games.

Rivington Park successfully hosted the outdoor cycling events, including the mountain bike events, the road races and the road time trials. The role of volunteers in the staging of events of this size cannot be overlooked and I am aware of the numbers of volunteers from Chorley who gave up their time to help in the staging of this event. These were key contributors to the successful staging of this significant sporting event.

### Community Coaches

**Tony Baldry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many community coaches she intends to fund in Oxfordshire. [12406]

**Mr. Caborn** *[holding answer 18 July 2005]:* Four community sports coaches are currently in place in Oxfordshire and funding has been agreed and allocated for a further 21 coaches. These coaches will be recruited by the end of the summer.

### Community Lottery Fund

**Mr. Swire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps she has taken to ensure that charitable funding is not disrupted following the closure of the Community Lottery Fund and related programmes. [13254]

**Mr. Caborn:** This is a matter for the Big Lottery Fund. They are conscious of the need to avoid disruption and are committed to introducing new demand led funding

programmes at the earliest opportunity. The fund are also ensuring that 60–70 per cent. of their funding goes to voluntary and community sector organisations.

### Community Radio

**Anne Milton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) what process Ofcom follows for considering bids for community radio licences; [12841]

(2) what applications Ofcom has received for community radio licences in the Guildford area; what the process is for the consideration of those applications; and if she will make a statement. [12842]

**James Purnell:** The matter raised is the responsibility of the Office of Communications (Ofcom) as independent regulator. Accordingly, my officials have asked the chief executive of Ofcom to respond directly to the hon. Member. Copies of the chief executive's letter will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

### Gambling Act

**Mr. Crabb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps she is taking to protect young people from addictive gambling; and if she will make a statement. [12433]

**Mr. Caborn:** The Gambling Act 2005 includes important new safeguards to protect children and vulnerable adults, and we will bring it into force as soon as the necessary preparatory and transitional measures have been taken.

**Anne Milton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the timetable is for *(a)* the implementation of the Gambling Act 2005, *(b)* the passage of secondary legislation under the Act and *(c)* the publication of guidance for local authorities. [12837]

**Mr. Caborn:** We plan to commence the provisions of the Act establishing the Gambling Commission with effect from October, and to make the subordinate legislation required to implement the Act over the following 20 months in order to complete the process of implementation in September 2007.

It will be the responsibility of the Gambling Commission to issue guidance to licensing authorities; and current plans envisage that it will do so from May 2006, having previously consulted on the terms of that guidance.

### Licensing Act

**Anne Milton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when the needs test that magistrates considered for new licensed premises was abolished; and if she will make a statement. [12838]

**James Purnell:** The new regime introduced by the Licensing Act 2003 makes no provision for licensing authorities to take need, or the means of applicants, into account in their decisions. The new regime is designed to advance the licensing objectives of ensuring public safety, preventing crime and disorder, preventing public nuisance, and protecting children from harm. To those ends, the 2003 Act allows licensing authorities to take full account of the possible effects of the concentration of licensed premises on levels of crime and disorder. This is a separate matter to need or means, the consideration of which is allowed under the current licensing regime.

Under the provisions of the Licensing Act 1964, licensing justices can consider need or means, along with other matters at their discretion, in dealing with licence applications. The consideration of means in such decisions was reviewed by the Departmental Committee on Liquor Licensing, under the chairmanship of Lord Erroll of Hale. The Committee concluded in December 1972 that, in the special context of liquor licensing law, the application of the test of need to new applications for justices' on-licences was out of date and unnecessary.

That conclusion informed subsequent guidance, including the last Good Practice Guide to licensing committees published under the old licensing regime. This was produced by the Justices' Clerks' Society in consultation with the Magistrates' Association, and stated that

> "when considering the question of need/demand, committees do not attach much, if any, weight to the threat from competition and should not consider trade protection as a matter which is relevant when exercising their discretion."

However, different licensing committees continue to be inconsistent in their applications of tests of need. In this and other areas, the 2003 Act will bring greater consistency to licensing decisions.

**Jenny Willott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate her Department has made of the number of premises in Wales licensed under *(a)* the Licensing Act 1964 and *(b)* the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 which fall into each of the rateable value bands for licence fees under the Licensing Act 2003 (Fees) Regulations; how many in each category will be required to pay the fee multiplier; and if she will make a statement. [12539]

**Mr. Roger Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate her Department has made of the number of premises in Cardiff Central licensed under *(a)* the Licensing Act 1964 and *(b)* the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 which fall into each of the rateable value bands for licence fees under the Licensing Act (Fees) Regulations; how many in each category will be required to pay the fee multiplier; and if she will make a statement. [13229]

**James Purnell:** As at 30 June 2004 there were, under the Licensing Act 1964, 10,909 on-and off-licensed premises, and 1,442 registered clubs in Wales. On this date there were 1,117 on- and off-licensed premises, and 68 registered clubs in the Cardiff petty session division.

DCMS deposited the source publication for these figures "Statistical Bulletin Liquor Licensing (England and Wales, July 2003-June 2004)" on 27 October 2004 in the House Libraries. This document is available on the DCMS website at: http://www.culture.gov.uk/global/research/statistics_outputs/liquor_licensing_statistics.htm

Figures for the numbers of premises licensed under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 are not collected centrally. However, surveys

suggest that approximately 46,000 public entertainment licences are issued in England and Wales annually. Such licences would include those issued under the London Government Act 1963 as well as those under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982.

No estimates have been made centrally about the numbers of licensed premises in Wales or in Cardiff Central that fall into each of the fee bands, or how many in these areas will be required to pay the fee multipliers. It is likely that individual licensing authorities have estimates for these figures. However, the Regulatory Impact Assessment in respect of the fees regulations estimated the spectrum of premises lying in each band as a percentage of the total, as follows:

| *Rateable value bands* | *Non-domestic rateable value* | *Percentage of premises in band* |
|---|---|---|
| A | £0-£4,300 | 19 |
| B | £4,301-£33,000 | 60 |
| C | £33,001-£87,000 | 13 |
| D | £87,001-£125,000 | 3 |
| E | £125,001 and over | 5 |

It also estimated that approximately 2,000–4,000 premises falling in Bands D and E across England and Wales would meet the definition of being primarily or exclusively engaged in the sale of alcohol for consumption on the premises, meaning that they would be required to pay the fee multipliers.

### Management Consultancies

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which five management consultancies received the highest value of contracts awarded by her Department in each of the last three years; and what the total value was of the contracts awarded to each. [12579]

**Mr. Caborn:** The total value of contacts awarded to the five relevant management consultancies in the last three years, is as follows:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| *2002-03* | |
| Hay Group | 136,195 |
| Stanton Harris | 85,00 |
| PricewaterhouseCoopers | 81,750 |
| Atkins Management Consultants | 44,965 |
| Experian | 42,400 |
| *2003-04* | |
| Spectrum Strategy Consultants | 205,000 |
| ASK Europe Plc. | 130,070 |
| Philip Graf | 80,000 |
| Europe Economics | 47,000 |
| BMRB | 43,267 |
| *2004-05* | |
| PricewaterhouseCoopers | 275,497 |
| PA Consulting | 151,410 |
| Patrick Barwise | 96,000 |
| PKF | 85,568 |
| Shared Intelligence | 61,300 |

### National Lottery

**Mr. Lidington:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will make a statement on the Government's policy on allowing rival lottery operators to compete for sales with the national lottery. [12442]

**Mr. Caborn:** It remains the Government's policy that, in the interests of maximising income for good causes, the national lottery should be protected from competition from other lotteries through limits on their sales and prizes. Those limits are subject to periodic review.

**Mr. Hepburn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the highest individual payment awarded from the lottery in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* the UK has been in each year since 1997; and which project or organisations was awarded the payment in each case. [12923]

**Mr. Caborn:** The table shows the highest award made in each of the areas specified.

The table is derived from the Department's lottery award database, searchable at www.lottery.culture.gsi.gov.uk, which uses information supplied by the Lottery distributors.

| | *Distributing body* | *Amount (£)* |
|---|---|---|
| *Jarrow* | | |
| 1997 | Heritage Lottery Fund | 3,000,000 |
| 1998 | Heritage Lottery Fund | 115,300 |
| 1999 | Community Fund | 5,000 |
| 2000 | Community Fund | 88,413 |
| 2001 | Sport England | 287,328 |
| 2002 | Community Fund | 179,026 |
| 2003 | Community Fund | 148,731 |
| 2004 | New Opportunities Fund | 804,477 |
| 2005 | Awards For All (England) Joint Scheme | 5,000 |
| *South Tyneside* | | |
| 1997 | Heritage Lottery Fund | 3,000,000 |
| 1998 | Heritage Lottery Fund | 241,800 |
| 1999 | New Opportunities Fund | 3,031,000 |
| 2000 | Community Fund | 325,500 |
| 2001 | Heritage Lottery Fund | 866,500 |
| 2002 | New Opportunities Fund | 997,901 |
| 2003 | Community Fund | 191,442 |
| 2004 | New Opportunities Fund | 2,409,500 |
| 2005 | Home Front Recall | 7,868 |
| *North East* | | |
| 1997 | Arts Council England | 6,947,000 |
| 1998 | Heritage Lottery Fund | 6,949,000 |
| 1999 | North East | 47,308,500 |
| 2000 | Heritage Lottery Fund | 5,047,000 |
| 2001 | Heritage Lottery Fund | 4,140,000 |
| 2002 | Heritage Lottery Fund | 10,258,750 |
| 2003 | Heritage Lottery Fund | 10,000,000 |
| 2004 | Millennium Commission | 2,750,000 |
| 2005 | Community Fund | 300,000 |
| *UK* | | |
| 1997 | Millennium Commission | 604,000,000 |
| 1998 | Heritage Lottery Fund | 30,939,800 |
| 1999 | Sport England | 120,000,000 |
| 2000 | Sport England | 92,000,000 |
| 2001 | Heritage Lottery Fund | 20,500,000 |
| 2002 | Millennium Commission | 100,000,000 |
| 2003 | New Opportunities Fund | 38,650,000 |
| 2004 | Sport England | 21,320,000 |
| 2005 | Heritage Lottery Fund | 20,000,000 |

**Mr. Swire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what her Department's definition is of the principle of additionality in relation to the use of lottery good cause funding. [13250]

**Mr. Caborn:** It is set out in our July 2003 policy statement:

"Lottery funding will not be allowed to become a substitute for funding that would normally fall to mainstream Government spending."

As the statement made clear, the same basic principle has been expressed in slightly different ways in the past by successive Governments.

### Olympics 2012

**Mr. Crabb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) who will operate the new Olympic scratchcard game; and when contracts will be awarded; [12418]

(2) whether the new Olympics scratchcard game will be operated on a not-for-profit basis. [12752]

**Mr. Caborn:** The scratchcard will be operated as part of the national lottery by Camelot, whose licence to run the lottery was awarded in 2002. In accordance with that licence Camelot is entitled to a profit for effective performance.

**Mr. Crabb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when the new Olympic scratchcard game is expected to be on sale. [12419]

**Mr. Caborn:** The scratchcard will be available shortly, subject to regulatory approval by the National Lottery Commission.

**Mr. Crabb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment she has made of the likely effect on household spending on gambling of the introduction of the new Olympics scratchcard game. [12759]

**Mr. Caborn:** We do not think that the scratchcard will have any significant impact on overall household spending.

**Dr. Cable:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when the Government plan to publish costings and funding arrangements between her Department, the Treasury and the London Mayor for the Olympic Games; and in what form she expects them to be published. [12367]

**Tessa Jowell** *[holding answer 18 July 2005]:* The funding arrangements for the Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2012 agreed between the Government and the Mayor of London are set out in the Memorandum of Understanding attached to Command Paper 5867, dated June 2003. Costings for the Games were contained in the Candidature File submitted to the International Olympic Commission in November 2004, copies of which were placed in the Library of the House.

**Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what role is planned for Shropshire in the London Olympics 2012. [11872]

**Tessa Jowell:** I am determined that the whole of the United Kingdom benefits from the Olympic games in 2012.

As we set out to the International Olympic Committee, we expect the 2012 Olympic games and paralympic games to be an inspiration to our children and young people, to get involved in sporting activity and engage with the UK wide cultural festival and education programme.

The games will also deliver significant economic benefits. The games will attract investment, offer UK companies the opportunity to compete for billions of pounds worth of contracts, offer each nation and region the opportunity to bid for preparation camps and provide a welcome boost to the UK tourism industry.

I am aware that Lilleshall, as part of the English Institute of Sport, is already providing world class facilities and services to a number of elite athletes and aspiring athletes, particularly the sport of gymnastics, to enable them to compete and deliver success at the highest level.

I also had the pleasure of visiting Much Wenlock, the inspiration for the modern Olympic movement, recently. I am aware of their proud involvement with the Olympic games and I am sure they will want to be involved as our plans for 2012 are developed.

**Dr. Cable:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what mechanisms are being put in place to ensure that there are no cost overruns in the London Olympics. [11893]

**Tessa Jowell** *[holding answer 13 July 2005]:* London's bid underwent rigorous assessment by the International Olympic Committee, Treasury and the Office of Government Commerce. The Government remains committed to ensuring the 2012 games are delivered on time and on budget.

The London Olympics Bill, now before the House, proposes an Olympic delivery authority (ODA) to co-ordinate all aspects of Olympic infrastructure and transport planning. The ODA will work closely with the London Organising Committee to ensure delivery of the project to time and to budget, and their progress will be overseen by the Olympic stakeholders: myself, the Major and the chair of the British Olympic Association.

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will consider Chorley for a cycle training camp for the 2012 Olympics. [12238]

**Mr. Caborn:** I am aware that Rivington park played a key role in the delivery of the 2002 Commonwealth games, hosting the outdoor cycling events, including the mountain bike events, the road races and the road time trials.

Decisions on the location of training camps will be taken by National Olympic Committees choosing to hold them. As far as I am aware, no decisions have yet been taken about the location of training camps for the 2012 Olympics.

### Radio Broadcasting

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether Ofcom briefs her Department on *(a)* new and *(b)* existing commercial radio stations. [13568]

**James Purnell:** Ofcom are an independent regulator with responsibility for the planning, licensing and regulation of commercial radio. They have no specific duty to brief the Department for Culture, Media and

Sport on new or existing commercial radio services, but keep my Department informed of developments through regular contacts.

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when she last met Ofcom to discuss radio broadcasting. [13024]

**James Purnell:** My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport met the chief executive and senior officials of the Office of Communications (Ofcom) on 6 April. They discussed various broadcasting issues, including radio.

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will make a statement on *(a)* the regulation and licensing of commercial radio and *(b)* the prospects for growth in the sector. [13025]

**James Purnell:** The regulation and licensing of commercial radio are a matter for Ofcom, acting within the framework we established in the Communications Act 2003.

As Ofcom indicated in their report, "Radio—Preparing for the future—Phase 1" they foresee opportunities for future growth especially through the increasing take-up of digital radio.

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many radio licences are expected to be granted in 2005; and whether a licence is expected to be granted for Chorley. [13430]

**James Purnell:** The matter raised is the responsibility of the Office of Communications (Ofcom) as independent regulator. Accordingly, my officials have asked the chief executive of Ofcom to respond directly to my hon. Friend. Copies of the chief executive's letter will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many current commercial radio licences there are. [13610]

**James Purnell:** There are currently three national and 272 local commercial analogue radio licences. In addition, one national digital multiplex, carrying eight services, and 46 local multiplexes, carrying 196 services, have been licensed.

## Regional Casinos

**Anne Milton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what plans the Government have to increase the number of regional casino licences from the present cap of one; and if she will make a statement [12840]

**Mr. Caborn:** The Gambling Act 2005 provides that no more than one casino premises licence may have effect at any time in respect of regional casinos, and we are proceeding with plans for the implementation of the Act on that basis.

## Rugby

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when *(a)* she and *(b)* Ministers in her Department last attended a (i) rugby union and (ii) rugby league match in an official capacity. [12265]

**Mr. Caborn:** In my capacity as Minister for Sport, I last attended a rugby union match on 27 November 2004 (England v Australia). However, I intend to attend the Powergen challenge cup final on 27 August 2005, and the rugby super league grand final on 15 October 2005.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State last attended a rugby union match on 6 March 2004.

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what *(a)* assistance and *(b)* funding her Department provided to rugby league in 2004–05. [12264]

**Mr. Caborn:** One of Sport England's 10 priority sports, the success of rugby league in achieving modernisation and participation targets was a major factor behind the decision (announced February 2005) to allocate the sport £11.5 million in funding spread over the next four years.

Although funding has been essential for achieving the sport's aims, Sport England has also worked with the Rugby Football League (RFL) the national governing body, in a consultative capacity, helping to develop business plans and to streamline and modernise its internal structure. The latest phase of cooperation between the RFL and Sport England has seen an increased focus on the autonomy of the governing body in defining and delivering its own objectives whilst maintaining the high level of support and advice offered by Sport England.

For the financial year 2004–05, rugby league received a total of approximately £3,323,000 in funding through Sport England. Of this, £465,000 was provided by the Exchequer and approximately £2,858,000 was lottery funding. A full breakdown is provided in the following table. It should be noted that with the exception of those programmes marked[1], funding was administered via the RFL.

| *Programme* | *Amount received (£)* | *Source of funding* |
|---|---|---|
| Development Funding | 320,000 | Exchequer |
| DCMS Volunteer Programme—Step Into Sport | 50,000 | Exchequer |
| PESSCL Club Links | 40,000 | Exchequer |
| UK Coaching Certificate | 55,000 | Exchequer |
| World Class Programme | 1,500,000 | Lottery |
| Interim Funding for Whole Sport Plan | 410,000 | Lottery |
| County Sports Partnerships funding[1] | 293,000 | Lottery |
| Community grants funding[1] | 655,000 (approx) | Lottery |

*Notes:*

1. Total exchequer funding—£465,000.
2. Total lottery funding—£2,858,000 (approx).
3. Overall total funding—£3,323,000 (approx).

## Swimming Pools

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many *(a)* privately operated and *(b)* publicly operated swimming pools have been closed or taken out of use in each London borough in each year since 1997. [12256]

**Mr. Caborn:** Eight swimming pools have closed or been taken out of use in the following London boroughs since 1997:

| *London Borough* | *Swimming pool* |
|---|---|
| Brent | Willesden Pool |
| Camden | Swiss Cottage Baths[1] |
| Hackney | Haggerston Baths |
| | Clissold Leisure Centre |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | Janet Adegoke Pool[2] |
| Harrow | Wealdstone Open Air Baths |
| Hillingdon | Uxbridge Lido |
| Westminster | Marshall Street Baths |

[1] Currently being refurbished and due to re-open by December 2005.
[2] Currently being refurbished and due to re-open by December 2005.

We do not hold details of the public or private ownership status of these swimming pools.

**Hugh Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) pursuant to the answer of 13 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 66W, on swimming pools (parental supervision), when she expects to announce the series of measures agreed at the meeting on 5 April about parental supervision of children in swimming pools; [5530]

(2) pursuant to the answer to question ref. 5530, when she expects to announce the measures agreed at the meeting on 5 April about parental supervision of children in swimming pools. [12713]

**Mr. Caborn:** My Department expects to announce this week the package of measures which has been agreed in responding to the issue of parental supervision of children in swimming pools.

### Talented Athlete Scholarship Scheme

**Tony Baldry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps she is taking to promulgate the Talented Athlete Scholarship Scheme in Oxfordshire. [12404]

**Mr. Caborn** *[holding answer 18 July 2005]:* The Talented Athlete Scholarship Scheme (TASS) is run by SportEngland and delivered through educational institutions. Sporting services are provided to TASS athletes in the Oxfordshire region by Oxford and Oxford Brookes Universities.

Information regarding the programme is provided to educational institutions and current and potential TASS athletes through the TASS Operations Team, National Governing Bodies of Sport, SportsAid and University College Sport.

**Tony Baldry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many Talented Athlete Scholarship Scheme places have been awarded to 12 to 18-year-olds living in Oxfordshire. [12405]

**Mr. Caborn** *[holding answer 18 July 2005]:* The Talented Athlete Scholarship Scheme (TASS) provides sporting services to help young athletes fulfil their sporting potential. Awards are in the form of bursaries to 16 to 19-year-olds, scholarships to 18 to 25-years-old and 2012 scholarships aimed at 12 to 18-year-olds.

There are 27 athletes on the TASS programme that are from Oxfordshire or receiving sporting services in Oxfordshire. Five of these athletes are aged 12 to 18 of which four will be receiving a 2012 scholarship.

## NORTHERN IRELAND

### After-school Clubs

**Lady Hermon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps he is taking to increase the provision of after school clubs in Northern Ireland; and how much funding has been directed towards these in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [11347]

**Angela E. Smith:** There are no mainstream funds available to support an out of schools programme in Northern Ireland. However, the Department of Education is pursuing a number of developments along similar lines, such as Full Service (Extended) Schools, Education Action Zones and provision within the North and West Belfast area that will be supported through the Integrated Development Fund. All of these envisage schools as the learning hubs of their communities, supporting and encouraging provision throughout the extended school day.

I understand from the Big Lottery Fund that, since its launch in 1999, the New Opportunities out of school hours learning programme has committed over £8.3 million across Northern Ireland for study support activities held outside school hours. This was an open programme and there was no annual allocation.

Peace II payments to Playboard Projects under Priority 1 Measure 5 in each of the last five years are as follows:

| *Financial year* | *Amount paid (£)* |
|---|---|
| 2001–02 | 118,222 |
| 2002–03 | 675,512.23 |
| 2003–04 | 753,438.64 |
| 2004–05 | 1,115,236.15 |
| 2005–06 (to 7 July 2005) | 170,696.55 |
| Total | 2,833,105.57 |

### Alley Gating Schemes

**Mr. Peter Robinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what funding has been allocated to alley gating schemes in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years. [12051]

**Mr. Hanson:** During 2004–05 the Government spent 50 per cent. of a £40,000 budget allocated to salary and administration costs associated with the implementation of a pilot alley gating project in Belfast. Prior to 2004–05 financial year a number of alley gates were installed as part of larger schemes and these costs are not available at this time.

The Northern Ireland Office's Community Safety Unit is currently working with Belfast Community Safety Partnership and a range of partners, including a

community organisation to implement a pilot alleygating project in five localities within Belfast. The Unit has allocated capital funding of £200,000 over the next two years to fund two out of a planned five locations as part of a pilot scheme. Belfast Community Safety Partnership has submitted a bid for the remaining three areas, which form the pilot project, and this is currently being considered by the Department for Social Development under the Neighbourhood Renewal Programme. A decision is awaited.

### Assets Recovery Agency

**Mr. Peter Robinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people from Northern Ireland have been investigated by the Asset Recovery Agency. [11713]

**Mr. Woodward:** To date the Assets Recovery Agency in Northern Ireland has actively investigated 37 people, and 14 are under assessment for investigation.

### Costello Report

**Mr. Lidington:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will make it his policy to ensure that the implementation of the proposed entitlement curriculum will not require post-primary pupils to travel between different school sites. [12959]

**Angela E. Smith:** Each school will determine how best to provide their pupils with access to the full range of courses which will be required by the entitlement framework. The aim will be to keep pupil movement to a minimum by using a range of delivery mechanisms including teachers rather than pupils moving, distance learning and block timetabling.

### Crime (Elderly People)

**Mr. Peter Robinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many crimes against the elderly there were in *(a)* urban and *(b)* rural areas in each of the last five years. [11775]

**Mr. Woodward:** The Police Service of Northern Ireland only record details of a victim's age in the three offences detailed in the following tables.

*Crimes recorded by the age of the victim*

*2000–01*

| | *Under 65* | *65 +* | *Age unknown* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Northern Ireland* | | | | |
| Offences against the person | 16,238 | 186 | 4,956 | 21,380 |
| Personal robbery | 500 | 60 | 103 | 663 |
| Domestic burglary | 4,708 | 1,278 | 2,389 | 8,375 |
| *Urban Region* | | | | |
| Offences against the person | 7,871 | 97 | 3,095 | 11,063 |
| Personal robbery | 363 | 25 | 79 | 467 |
| Domestic burglary | 2,668 | 618 | 1,489 | 4,775 |
| *Rural Region* | | | | |
| Offences against the person | 8,367 | 89 | 1,861 | 10,317 |
| Personal robbery | 137 | 35 | 24 | 196 |
| Domestic burglary | 2,040 | 660 | 900 | 3,600 |

*2001–02*

| | *Under 65* | *65 +* | *Age unknown* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Northern Ireland* | | | | |
| Offences against the person | 23,568 | 194 | 2,342 | 26,104 |
| Personal robbery | 699 | 101 | 18 | 818 |
| Domestic burglary | 6,309 | 1,727 | 1,028 | 9,064 |
| *Urban Region* | | | | |
| Offences against the person | 12,170 | 111 | 1,523 | 13,804 |
| Personal robbery | 520 | 50 | 12 | 582 |
| Domestic burglary | 3,462 | 897 | 574 | 4,933 |
| *Rural Region* | | | | |
| Offences against the person | 11,397 | 83 | 818 | 12,298 |
| Personal robbery | 179 | 51 | 6 | 236 |
| Domestic burglary | 2,847 | 830 | 454 | 4,131 |

[1] Northern Ireland total includes two offences for which the locations are unknown and thus aren't assigned to a region

*2002–03*

| | *Under 65* | *65 +* | *Age unknown* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Northern Ireland* | | | | |
| Offences against the person | 26,889 | 269 | 1,297 | 28,455 |
| Personal robbery | 793 | 139 | 9 | 941 |
| Domestic burglary | 7,315 | 1,962 | 848 | 10,125 |
| *Urban Region* | | | | |
| Offences against the person | 13,683 | 151 | 817 | 14,651 |
| Personal robbery | 595 | 85 | 6 | 686 |
| Domestic burglary | 4,072 | 1,004 | 408 | 5,484 |
| *Rural Region* | | | | |
| Offences against the person | 13,206 | 118 | 480 | 13,804 |
| Personal robbery | 198 | 54 | 3 | 255 |
| Domestic burglary | 3,243 | 958 | 440 | 4,641 |

*2003–04*

| | *Under 65* | *65 +* | *Age unknown* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Northern Ireland* | | | | |
| Offences against the person | 28,449 | 326 | 207 | 28,982 |
| Personal robbery | 111 | 109 | 1 | 887 |
| Domestic burglary | 7,098 | 1,573 | 273 | 8,944 |
| *Urban Region* | | | | |
| Offences against the person | 14,499 | 162 | 158 | 14,819 |
| Personal robbery | 551 | 61 | 1 | 613 |
| Domestic burglary | 3,965 | 801 | 152 | 4,918 |
| *Rural Region* | | | | |
| Offences against the person | 13,950 | 164 | 49 | 14,163 |
| Personal robbery | 226 | 48 | 0 | 274 |
| Domestic burglary | 3,133 | 772 | 121 | 4,026 |

*2004–05*

| | *Under 65* | *65 +* | *Age unknown* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Northern Ireland* | | | | |
| Offences against the person | 28,899 | 336 | 104 | 29,339 |
| Personal robbery | 641 | 68 | 0 | 709 |
| Domestic burglary | 6,021 | 1,109 | 172 | 7,302 |
| *Urban Region* | | | | |
| Offences against the person | 14,166 | 166 | 74 | 14,406 |
| Personal robbery | 442 | 43 | 0 | 485 |
| Domestic burglary | 3,567 | 620 | 104 | 4,291 |
| *Rural Region* | | | | |
| Offences against the person | 14,733 | 170 | 30 | 14,933 |
| Personal robbery | 199 | 25 | 0 | 224 |
| Domestic burglary | 2,454 | 489 | 68 | 3,011 |

### Dementia

**Sammy Wilson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what financial assistance is provided for the care of dementia sufferers in the Province. [12082]

**Mr. Hanson:** People who care for dementia sufferers may be entitled to receive carers allowance. In the 2004–05 financial year the Social Security Agency paid £84.5 million in carer's allowance. Information is not available on the number of people receiving this benefit who care for dementia suffers.

### Departmental Staff

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many full-time equivalents have worked for the Department for each of the last five financial years for which figures are available. [11487]

**Angela E. Smith:** The number of full-time equivalent permanent staff, excluding casuals, working in the 11 Departments of the NI Administration, their agencies and the Northern Ireland Office at 1 April for each of the past five years was as follows:

| | *Number of full-time equivalents* |
|---|---|
| 2001 | 24,861 |
| 2002 | 25,841 |
| 2003 | 26,816 |
| 2004 | 27,764 |
| 2005 | 28,126 |

### Entrepreneurship

**Mark Durkan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland on which other departments' funding policies Invest Northern Ireland's policy on promoting entrepreneurship and business start-ups is based; and if he will make a statement. [11353]

**Angela E. Smith:** Invest Northern Ireland's funding policy for the promotion of Entrepreneurship and Business Start Up is fully consistent with the government's economic vision for Northern Ireland. The promotion and encouragement of enterprise through being entrepreneurial is one of the key drivers identified in the Operating plans of Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment (DETI) and Invest NI to improve the global competitiveness of the Northern Ireland economy. DETI takes the lead responsibility for the oversight of the economic vision and a number of other departments fund actions which complement and contribute to enterprise development including Department of Employment and Learning through New Deal, and courses in Further and Higher Education; the Department of Education by promoting entrepreneurship through the school's curriculum; the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development promoting rural diversification and the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure the creative arts sector.

### Firearms

**Mr. Peter Robinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many illegal firearms have been found by the Police Service of Northern Ireland during searches, criminal investigations or at crime scenes in each of the last five years. [11781]

**Mr. Woodward:** The information requested is detailed in the following table.

| | *Number of illegal firearms found* |
|---|---|
| 2000–01 | 134 |
| 2001–02 | 96 |
| 2002–03 | 129 |
| 2003–04 | 148 |
| 2004–05 | 81 |

*Notes:*
The figures include all illegal firearms which have been seized/recovered:
as a result of searches carried out by PSNI/Army;
during/after a shooting incident, armed robbery, etc;
by members of the public.

### Human Rights Commission

**Mr. Dodds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the *(a)* salary, *(b)* allowances and *(c)* other expenses payable to the chairperson of the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission is; how many days per week the chairperson is expected to spend on Commission business; what secretarial and research facilities are made available to (i) the chairperson and (ii) the members of the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission; and what allocation has been made for these costs. [7091]

**Mr. Hanson:** The chief commissioner post is a full-time post. The salary is £60,000 per annum.

The other details of the question are for the Commission to respond to. I have written to the chief executive asking that she respond to your query. A copy of her letter will be placed in the Library.

### Motoring Offences

**Mr. Peter Robinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many fixed penalty fines for *(a)* speeding, *(b)* parking infringements and *(c)* other offences were issued in Northern Ireland in each of the last three years, broken down by (i) urban and (ii) rural region; and how much revenue was generated in each year. [12054]

**Mr. Woodward:** The information requested is provided in the following tables.

| *Calendar year* | *Endorsable FPN—speeding* | *Endorsable FPN—other* | *Non endorsable FPN—other* | *Non endorsable—parking infringements* | *Potential revenue generated (£)* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Urban* | | | | | |
| 2002 | 8,350 | 422 | 2612 | 35,832 | 1,679,640 |
| 2003 | 13,805 | 836 | 7607 | 36,819 | 2,211,240 |
| 2004 | 15,289 | 836 | 11,772 | 42,015 | 2,581,110 |

| Calendar year | Endorsable FPN—speeding | Endorsable FPN—other | Non endorsable FPN—other | Non endorsable—parking infringements | Potential revenue generated (£) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Rural* | | | | | |
| 2002 | 18,516 | 606 | 10,020 | 16,711 | 1,949,250 |
| 2003 | 14,149 | 842 | 15,911 | 18,345 | 1,927,140 |
| 2004 | 11,763 | 1,106 | 21,394 | 19,490 | 1,998,660 |

### Olympics 2012

**Kate Hoey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps he plans to take to ensure that *(a)* Northern Ireland is and *(b)* Northern Ireland citizens are involved in the Olympic Games in London in 2012. [12760]

**Mr. Hanson:** The Government are delighted that London won the bid to host the 2012 Olympics. Northern Ireland has supported the bid from the outset, recognising the potential benefits in terms of sports infrastructure, improving health, inspiring our young people, providing opportunities for local businesses, boosting tourism and hosting preparation camps for participating nations.

The promise is already given by London 2012 that all those children born on 20 December 2004 in the United Kingdom will be offered the chance to take part in official ceremonies and cultural events scheduled to take place in 2012.

A regional steering group has been in place for 11 months to galvanise support for the bid and identify the opportunities for the region. It is developing a strategy to ensure the potential benefits are fully realised and that Northern Ireland and its citizens play a full part in the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

### Pensioners

**Lady Hermon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland which Government agency will be responsible for making payment of the one-off tax free lump sum of £200 to pensioner households in Northern Ireland; what action pensioners will be required to take to receive such payments; and when they will receive it. [13282]

**Mr. Hanson:** Most pensioners who are entitled to the £200 payment will receive it automatically with their winter fuel payment from the Social Security Agency, an Executive agency within the Department for Social Development. However some may need to claim their payment. Anyone who has not received a payment by the end of December 2005, and who thinks that they may be eligible, may need to make a claim. All claims must be received by 30 March 2006. Details of how to make a claim and who to contact for more information will be issued at a later date.

### Personal Protection Weapons

**Mr. Peter Robinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many applications for personal protection weapons have been made in Northern Ireland in each of the last 10 years. [11671]

**Mr. Woodward:** The chief constable of the Police Service of Northern Ireland has informed me that records of the number of applications made for personal protection weapons are only available from 2001.

The number of applications made in each full year since then is as follows:

| | Number of applications |
|---|---|
| 2001 | 274 |
| 2002 | 405 |
| 2003 | 324 |
| 2004 | 281 |

### Public Prosecution Service

**Mark Durkan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the *(a)* procedure and *(b)* timescale is for establishing regional offices for the Public Prosecution Service; where they are expected to be located; and if he will make a statement. [12013]

**Mr. Hanson:** The information is as follows:

*(a)* The procedure for the opening of the PPS Regional Offices is a phased 'rollout' over a period beginning with the creation of the first PPS pilot in December 2003 and completion by December 2006. A programme was established to acquire suitable premises in the preferred locations. A public procurement exercise was undertaken to secure the required premises, which to date has now identified suitable sites in Lisburn, Omagh and Ballymena. Suitable sites in Londonderry and Newry were not identified and the PPS is currently working closely with the Valuation and Lands Agency to identify either existing or potential premises in each of these locations.

*(b)* The PPS Project Board still intends to meet the December 2006 deadline for the completion of the PPS rollout. If premises in all the preferred locations are not available by that date, contingency plans are in place to accommodate the operations on those offices not yet ready for occupation in existing short term accommodation in Belfast. Currently the target dates for each site are as follows:

Lisburn—January 2006

Omagh and Ballymena—December 2006

Newry and Londonderry—Yet to be confirmed.

### Pupil Numbers

**Mr. Peter Robinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many pupils are attending each *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school in Northern Ireland. [12072]

**Angela E. Smith:** As the information requested is extensive, I will arrange to have it placed in the Library.

### Sign Language

**Mr. Dodds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what resources have been made available to support sign language in Northern Ireland in each year since 2001. [7633]

**Mr. Hanson:** The following resources have been made available to support sign language in Northern Ireland in each year since 2001.

| | *Amount (£)* |
|---|---|
| 2001–02 | 122,326.13 |
| 2002–03 | 149,681.67 |
| 2003–04 | 187,389.72 |
| 2004–05 | 202,608.71 |
| 2005–06 (Estimated) | 150,822.00 |

The cost of further education provision on sign language and of grants provided to a range of organisations to support disabilities including hearing impairment is not included in the above table. It is not possible to isolate expenditure on sign language from the overall expenditure in these areas.

Since 23 January 2004, several Departments have been working in partnership with representatives of the deaf community, to develop ideas for improving access to public services for sign language users. It is not possible to detail the exact sum provided for the cost of staff resources engaged in this exercise.

### Water Rates

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will make a statement on the Government's plans for reform of water rates in Northern Ireland. [12009]

**Mr. Woodward:** I am currently conducting a detailed review of issues surrounding water reform and consulting with ministerial colleagues about related issues. Decisions about the detailed implementation of water reform and water charging will only be taken after careful consideration and a full statement will be made later in the year.

## TRADE AND INDUSTRY

### BNFL (Westinghouse)

**Paul Flynn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what information he has received from BNFL in respect of plans to sell off its Westinghouse assets in the United States. [10816]

**Barry Gardiner** *[holding answer 13 July 2005]:* The company announced on 1 July 2005 that in line with the 2003 Strategy Review of BNFL (which concluded that the businesses should be managed to deliver value and control risks to the UK taxpayer) they were starting a structured sales process for the Westinghouse business.

As shareholder in BNFL, the DTI has been kept fully in touch with the development of this policy. Officials are also participating in the working group that is overseeing the sale process and have access to the key associated documents. This level of involvement will continue.

### Civil Partnerships Act

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry whether a same sex couple will each be permitted to nominate one property as their principle residence for the purposes of avoiding capital gains tax under the proposed terms of the Civil Partnerships Act 2004. [13315]

**Dawn Primarolo:** I have been asked to reply.

A same sex couple who register a partnership under the Civil Partnership Act 2004 will be entitled to capital gains tax private residence relief on only one residence from the time of registration. If they each own a residence when the partnership is registered and they continue to use both residences, they will be able to nominate jointly which is to be treated as the main residence. They may each qualify for private residence relief on their individual properties up to the time of registration provided all the conditions for relief have been met.

### Consumer Direct Helpline

**Mr. Greg Knight:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the total cost to date of setting up and running the Consumer Direct helpline has been; how many members of the public have used this service in the last three months for which figures are available; and whether he intends to continue to fund this service. [10737]

**Mr. Sutcliffe** *[holding answer 14 July 2005]:* The total cost of setting up and running the Consumer Direct helpline to date is £18.5 million. The service is now available in eight regions: Scotland, Yorkshire and the Humber, Wales, south-west and south-east regions, east of England, London and the east midlands. Three remaining regions north-west, north-east and west midlands will be operational by March 2006. The helpline has received 194,142 calls from members of the public in the last three months. Contracts have been signed for the delivery of the service in each region until 2010.

### Harris Tweed

**Mr. MacNeil:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what action he has taken in each of the last four years to promote the sale of Harris Tweed and Harris Tweed products in *(a)* Europe, *(b)* the US and *(c)* other international markets. [8553]

**Alun Michael** *[holding answer 30 June 2005]:* None. Export promotion of the Harris Tweed industry is a devolved activity.

**Mr. MacNeil:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will estimate the *(a)* money and *(b)* hours of time expended in the promotion of Harris Tweed by his Department. [8554]

**Alun Michael** *[holding answer 30 June 2005]:* None. Promotion of the Harris Tweed industry is a devolved activity.

### Identity Cards

**Mr. Garnier:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what recent assessment he has made of the implications of the introduction of identity cards for his Department. [9883]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** We have been working with the Home Office to identify any areas where the identity cards scheme could provide benefits to the administration of the Department. On 28 June 2005, my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary placed in the Libraries of the House a paper containing the latest estimates of benefits of the identity cards scheme which shows that the benefits outweigh the costs once the scheme is fully operational.

### Legislative Reviews

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what reviews of effectiveness of significant legislation affecting business and industry his Department has carried out; what changes to legislation were proposed as a result of each review; and if he will place copies of the reviews in the Library. [10524]

**Alan Johnson:** The major pieces of legislation reviewed by the Department of Trade and Industry since 2001 are:

Consumer Credit Act 1974

Renewables Obligation Order 2002 (reviewed three times for different aspects)

Employment Relations Act 1999

Directors Remuneration Report Regulations (assessed for compliance and the extent of changes to remuneration practices).

Changes proposed as a result of these reviews include:

Publication of White Paper "Fair, Clear and Competitive—the Consumer Credit Market in the 21st century" following review of Consumer Credit Act 1974. Legislation to reform the licensing system and improve consumer redress is currently before the House;

Amendment Orders for the Renewables Obligation Order 2002;

Employment Relations Act 2004 incorporated recommendations from the review of the Employment Relations Act 1999;

The review of the Directors' Remuneration Report Regulations 2002 was completed in January 2005. Patricia Hewitt made a written parliamentary statement on 23 January 2005.

Copies of review documents are available in the Libraries of the House and on the DTI website for all of the above-mentioned reviews.

### Pregnant Workers

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment he has made of the number of women who have faced discrimination at work because they were pregnant; and if he will make a statement. [12289]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The Maternity and Paternity Rights in Britain 2002: Survey of Parents (DWP In-House Report 131) found that six per cent. of all women who worked as employees during pregnancy said they were treated with less respect by their employer or line manager. Three per cent. of women who had worked during their pregnancy said they experienced difficulties with their employer concerning the time they started maternity leave.

The Maternity Rights and Benefits Survey of Mothers 2005, commissioned by DTI and DWP, also asked women about the treatment they had received at work during their pregnancy. The final report of that research will be published later this year.

### Renewables Obligation Scheme

**Mr. Salmond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what percentage of renewable energy generated and consumed in each of the last five years in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* Scotland and sourced from generating plant accredited for Renewables Obligation Certificates was generated by (i) plant built and commissioned since 31 December 1989 and (ii) hydro plant which has been recently refurbished but was first commissioned before 31 December 1989. [12259]

**Malcolm Wicks:** For the last five years for the UK as a whole the percentages of electricity sales by licensed suppliers in the UK from renewable sources eligible under the Renewables Obligation (RO) are shown in the following table. These percentages can be divided into two parts; firstly the percentage generated from refurbished hydro plant and secondly the percentage generated from other eligible plant. On an RO basis the percentage measures for the UK are not meaningful at a sub national level because electricity generated in one part of the UK can be sold in a different part of the UK and the amount of electricity from renewable sources transferred from Scotland or Wales to England or from Scotland to Northern Ireland is not known.

*Percentage*

| | *Total generation on a renewables obligation basis* | *Of which refurbished large scale hydro* | *Balance = plant built and commissioned since 31 December 1989* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2000 | 1.34 | — | 1.34 |
| 2001 | 1.52 | 0.02 | 1.50 |
| 2002 | 1.80 | 0.04 | 1.76 |
| 2003 | 2.21 | 0.19 | 2.02 |
| 2004 | 3.08 | 0.44 | 2.64 |

### Royal Lancashire Show

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment he has made of the benefits arising from the funding allocated to the Royal Lancashire Show by the North West Development Agency. [13013]

**Alun Michael** *[holding answer 18 July 2005]:* The North West Development Agency made a financial contribution to the Royal Lancashire Show in 2003 through the Rural Development Programme of the Lancashire Rural Recovery Partnership. The programme provided a grant of £32,578 to part fund the marketing costs for the show.

Additional visitor spend associated with the grant given was estimated at £167,000. The actual figures recorded on assessment in August 2003 by the Partnership show an additional spend of £112,673.

### Tesco

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what recent representations he has received about the position of Tesco in the grocery trade, with particular reference to the effect on farmers *(a)* in the UK and *(b)* overseas. [12412]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State, my fellow Ministers and I have received representations from Members of the House, the supermarket chains, small businesses, trade associations and pressure groups.

However, the prime responsibility for operating our competition regime rests with the independent competition authorities. In the specific case of supermarkets it is the Office of Fair Trading, which is currently responsible for keeping under the review the Code of Practice governing supermarket's relations with their suppliers and for dealing with any other competition issues in the sector.

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what recent research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on whether Tesco has a monopoly position in the grocery trade. [12413]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The prime responsibility for operating our competition regime rests with the independent competition authorities. In the specific case of supermarkets it is the Office of Fair Trading, which is currently responsible for keeping under the review the Code of Practice governing supermarket's relations with their suppliers and for dealing with any other competition issues in the sector.

### Vision Boards

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the reasons are for creating vision boards in the north-west and if he will take steps to create a vision board for Chorley. [11763]

**Alun Michael:** I have asked the chief executive of the North West Regional Development Agency to write to the hon. Member: a copy of that letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House

### Warning and Prohibition Orders

**Mr. Love:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many *(a)* warning orders and *(b)* prohibition orders have been issued by the Office of Fair Trading under the Estate Agents Act 1979 in (i) England and Wales, (ii) Enfield and (iii) Edmonton in each year since the introduction of the Act; and if he will make a statement. [13731]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** This is a matter for Sir John Vickers, chairman of the Office of Fair Trading. He will write to the hon. Member.

## INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### Afghanistan

**Linda Gilroy:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what value-added crops are being offered to farmers in Afghanistan as an alternative to growing opium poppies. [13336]

**Hilary Benn:** Afghanistan has the potential to produce, process and market a range of higher value agricultural products such as vegetables, fruits, nuts, and livestock and dairy products. None can compete economically with the returns available on growing opium poppy, and market links are not currently sufficiently developed to offer viable alternatives to the 700,000 farmers growing poppy.

The DFID-funded Research in Alternative Livelihoods Fund (RALF) is identifying new crops and agricultural technologies which can be marketed successfully and have the potential to be used by larger groups of current or potential poppy farmers. Crops being tested include oil seed crops (canola, pea nuts, soy beans, mung beans), medicinal crops/herbs (mint, saffron, cumin), and vegetables (onions, tomatoes, chillies, sweet peppers, mushrooms). Other donor projects are doing similar testing. Programmes to roll out successful pilots will be developed in 2006.

In the Badakhshan province in north-eastern Afghanistan DFID is funding a programme through the Aga Khan Foundation to increase the number of farmers accessing high quality seeds, and other agricultural inputs such as training in growing alternative crops. So far 29,000 farmers have benefited from this assistance.

**Linda Gilroy:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps are being taken to assist share-crop farmers in Afghanistan to deal with accumulated debt. [13337]

**Hilary Benn:** The Government of Afghanistan has a national programme, the Microfinance Investment Support Facility for Afghanistan (MISFA), which provides credit in rural areas, including to sharecroppers. Following a workshop on opium debt and rural finance jointly organised by the Government, the World Bank and DFID in December 2004, it was agreed that the MISFA would fund new ways to restructure informal debts to help farmers and sharecroppers break the cycle of opium indebtedness.

In March 2005, DFID committed a further £17 million to the MISFA (bringing our total contribution to £20 million), with £7 million specifically to increase the scale of the MISFA's work in the seven largest poppy producing provinces through a special funding window, which will pilot debt restructuring. Initial results from these pilots are expected by the end of the year. Writing off debts has been considered as an option, but considered socially unsustainable in rural areas.

### Conditionality

**Vera Baird:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what progress has been made on the production of new operational guidelines for his Department's staff following the publication of Partnerships for Poverty Reduction: Reducing Conditionality. [13511]

**Hilary Benn:** Operational guidelines have been prepared in draft. Over the next few weeks, we plan to consult with a number of external partners (including other donors, and non-government organisations) before finalising the guidelines.

### Malaria/Tuberculosis

**Michael Connarty:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the results were of his Department's study of the incidence of malaria and tuberculosis worldwide. [8935]

**Mr. Thomas:** DFID has made no formal study of incidence of malaria and tuberculosis worldwide.

Globally there are between 350 and 500 million clinical episodes of malaria occurring each year, resulting in over one million deaths.[1] There were an estimated 8.8 million new cases of TB in 2003 (the year for which the most recent figures are available), with an estimated 1.7 million deaths.[2]

DFID launched a policy consultation on the challenge of TB and malaria control with external stakeholders in May. Discussions took place around DFID's current portfolio of activities, effectiveness and suggestions on where to place future efforts.

[1] World Malaria Report 2005: WHO/UNICEF

[2] Global Tuberculosis Control Report 2005: WHO

### Microfinance Projects

**Mark Simmonds:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will make a statement on microfinance projects supported by his Department in developing countries. [9271]

**Mr. Thomas:** Microfinance, or financial services for those on low or very low income, is a powerful tool to fight poverty and help reach the Millennium Development Goals. Approximately 50 million low income people have a loan from a microfinance institution, and at least 500 million have some form of bank account, but in some African countries still less than 10 per cent. of the population has access to a bank account.

Financial exclusion, or lack of access to financial services, acts as a constraint on economic growth and poverty reduction. Without access to loans, small enterprises can be restricted from expanding in size or into new markets. Families need access to a savings account, or to money transfer services, in order to ensure they have money at times of need, or to pay for education and other expenditure.

My Department is active in promoting access to financial services, including microfinance. DFID has funded financial sector and microfinance projects in 25 countries and is the major funder to the global Financial Sector Reform and Strengthening (FIRST) initiative. My Department was instrumental in setting up and supporting, the Consultative Group to Assist the Poor (CGAP), which is now made up of 29 international donor agencies. This is a resource centre for microfinance institutions and a centre of best practice for donors, Governments, and financial institutions. DFID also funds international agencies that actively support microfinance and financial sector development, such as the World Bank, the International Finance Corporation and the Asian Development Bank.

My Department has launched or designed eight country programmes to promote financial sector development, seven of which are in sub-Saharan Africa. In several cases these are co-funded with other donors. These programmes work to improve the policy, legal and institutional framework so that banks and other financial institutions are able to expand into microfinance, and in some cases provide direct support to financial institutions to do so. They also enable microfinance institutions to access training, management skills and technical assistance, and improve their governance and systems.

My Department jointly organised two high level conferences for the UN Year of Microcredit 2005, with the French and German Governments, that were attended by over 700 Government and donor representatives, as well as the private sector. We have a joint work programme with the World Bank and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to promote financial inclusion through agreeing measures and targets for access to financial services by poor households.

DFID's Financial Deepening Challenge Fund has supported innovation by the private sector to extend access to financial services. For example, this Challenge Fund provided a grant to a Kenyan financial institution that then also invested at least as much of its own money, resulting in access to financial services in remote rural parts of Kenya through satellite-linked land rovers. A telecommunications company was also assisted to develop mobile phone-based banking services for low income people in East Africa, which is a technology that offers potential for significantly improving access to financial services across Africa.

### Poverty Reduction (Departmental Guidelines)

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what progress has been made on the production of new operational guidelines for his Department's staff following the publication of Partnerships for Poverty Reduction: Rethinking Conditionality. [12465]

**Hilary Benn:** Operational guidelines have been prepared in draft. Over the next few weeks, we plan to consult with a number of external partners (including other donors, and non-government organisations) before finalising the guidelines.

## EDUCATION AND SKILLS

### 14 to 19 White Paper

**Anne Main:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what representations she has received on the Government's 14 to 19 White Paper. [12144]

**Jacqui Smith** *[holding answer 14 July 2005]:* I refer the hon. Member to the reply given by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Education and Skills to the hon. Member for Croydon, Central (Mr. Pelling) on 14 July 2005, *Official Report*, columns 957–58.

### Aimhigher Programme

**Mr. Chaytor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if she will list the local authorities in which *(a)* all schools, *(b)* some schools and *(c)* no schools receive funding from the Aimhigher programme. [11552]

**Bill Rammell:** This information is not held centrally.

Most funds for schools are routed from the Department to LEAs. Each LEA decides how to distribute these funds to schools. Some schools may also have received funds directly from their Aimhigher Area Steering Groups.

The Department has aggregate information on the amount of Aimhigher funds distributed to each LEA. In the 2004/05 academic year, the following LEAs received Aimhigher funding for schools.

Luton
Essex
Hertfordshire
Leicester City
Islington
Hackney
Barnet
Waltham Forest
Lambeth
Wandsworth
Brent
Harrow
Durham
Redcar and Cleveland
Newcastle Upon Tyne
Sunderland
Manchester
Salford
Trafford
Knowsley
St. Helens
Blackpool
Portsmouth
Buckinghamshire
Bristol
Solihull
Stoke on Trent
Kingston upon Hull
Doncaster
Bradford
Cambridgeshire
Southend
Norfolk
City of Nottingham
Kensington and Chelsea
Newham
Enfield
Bexley
Lewisham
Bromley
Ealing
Hillingdon
Hartlepool
Stockton on Tees
North Tyneside
Cheshire
Oldham
Stockport
Wigan
Liverpool
Wirral
Lancashire
Kent
Milton Keynes
North Somerset
Coventry
Walsall
North East Lincolnshire
Rotherham
Kirklees
Peterborough
Thurrock
Derby
Camden
Barking and Dagenham
Tower Hamlets
Haringey
Greenwich
Southwark
Croydon
Hammersmith and Fulham
Hounslow
Middlesbrough
Gateshead
South Tyneside
Cumbria
Rochdale
Tameside
Halton
Sefton
Blackburn with Darwen
Hampshire
Medway
Oxfordshire
Birmingham
Herefordshire
Wolverhampton
Barnsley
Sheffield
Leeds

### Child Poverty

**Mr. Hepburn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what assessment she has made of the impact of growing up in poverty on a child's *(a)* social, *(b)* educational and *(c)* personal development; and if she will make a statement. [12043]

**Beverley Hughes:** The Government assessment of the impact of child poverty is set out in the Child Poverty Review which was published alongside the 2004

Spending Review. The Child Poverty Review shows that poverty can affect children's lives through the effects of living in poor housing and eating less nutritious food, and the higher risks of accidents, ill health and problems with school work. Poverty can exclude children from the everyday activities of their peers and limit their opportunities to play safely. Poverty in childhood can prevent children from fulfilling their potential by leading to poorer educational attainment and higher chances of poverty and social exclusion in adult life.

Child poverty more than doubled between the mid 1970s and the mid 1990s in the UK and we had the highest rate in Europe. The Government are committed to halving child poverty by 2010 and eradicating it by 2020. We have already seen some success. By 2003–04 there were over half a million fewer children in relative low income households compared to 1998–99. The Department is working with partners within and beyond Government to meet the Government's target of eradicating child poverty.

### Dance and Drama

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the budget for the Dance and Drama Awards scholarships funded by the Learning and Skills Council is in 2005–06. [10094]

**Bill Rammell:** The Dance and Drama Awards scholarship budget for 2005–06 is £10,330,000. The Dance and Drama Award provides a non-means tested contribution towards fees which is paid directly to the school by the Learning Skills Council (LSC).

Students in receipt of a Dance and Drama award can also apply for means tested 'fees and maintenance' support, where the amount of support that a student receives is dependent on their household income. Students from England, Scotland and Wales apply to Manchester LEA (who operate the means tested element of the programme on behalf of the LSC, the Scottish Executive and the National Assembly for Wales).

In April 2005, responsibility for the management of the Dance and Drama Award programme passed from the DfES to the LSC.

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the budget is in 2005–06 for the Dance and Drama Fees and Maintenance Fund. [10720]

**Bill Rammell:** The budget for the Dance and Drama Fees and Maintenance Fund for students from England in 2005–06 is £3,070,000. The National Assembly for Wales holds the budget and is responsible for the student support costs for Welsh students and the Scottish Executive holds the budget and is responsible for the student support costs of Scottish students. Students from England, Scotland and Wales apply to Manchester LEA (who operate the means tested element of the programme on behalf of the Learning Skills Council (LSC), the Scottish Executive and the National Assembly for Wales).

In April 2005, responsibility for the management of the Dance and Drama Award programme passed from the DfES to the LSC.

### Dyslexic Students

**Helen Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what recent discussions she has had with examination boards about the criteria used to decide whether dyslexic students are allowed extra time during examinations. [13358]

**Maria Eagle:** The Secretary of State has had no recent discussions with awarding bodies about access arrangements or adjustments in examinations.

Any decision on the criteria to be used in determining extra time for examinations is a matter for the awarding bodies.

The Regulators (QCA, ACCAC and CEA) produce a code of practice requiring awarding bodies to ensure that there are no unnecessary barriers to assessment which prevent candidates from effectively demonstrating their attainment. The code specifies that access arrangements must include additional time except in those instances where performing a task in limited time is an assessment objective.

The code also requires the awarding bodies to publish details of special arrangements. The Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ), on behalf of the awarding bodies, publishes these details every year. Their current guidance (1 September 2004 to 31 August 2005) is published in the document 'Regulations and Guidance Relating to Candidates who are eligible for Adjustments in Examinations'. That guidance states that centres can allow up to a maximum of 25 per cent. extra time for candidates with a Statement of Special Educational Need, or a psychological assessment carried out by a qualified psychologist, or specialist assessment carried out by a specialist teacher.

**Helen Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what discussions she has had with organisations dealing with dyslexia on the needs of students taking examinations. [13360]

**Maria Eagle:** The Secretary of State has held no discussions with organisations dealing with dyslexia on the needs of students taking examinations. Arrangements for candidates with particular assessment requirements are a matter for the Regulators and the awarding bodies.

Officials within the Department are currently consulting with stakeholders, including a range of disability organisations, about the extension of the Disability Discrimination Act to general qualifications bodies.

### Education Funding

**Mr. Michael Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the answer of 11 July 2005, *Official Report*, columns 836–39W, on education, (1) what methodology was used to calculate the area cost uplift for each area; [12699]

(2) on what basis the zero area cost uplift for the West Midland conurbation, Warwickshire and Gloucestershire was calculated. [12832]

**Bill Rammell** *[holding answer 18 July 2004]:* The Learning and Skills Council's (LSC) National Rates Advisory Group (NRAG), which advises the LSC on

post-16 funding rates and related issues, commissioned the research which helped inform the LSC's area costs uplift. The research was carried out by independent consultants contracted by the LSC and was based on an analysis of differential salary data from the Labour Force Survey and the New Earnings Survey across England. The results were adjusted for affordability and generated the published area costs funding uplifts provided in my Answer of 11 July to Question reference 11107. The work generated a zero per cent area costs rate for the West Midlands Region, including Warwickshire, and for Gloucestershire. A summary of the NRAG recommendations is available on the LSC's website at http://www.lsc.gov.uk/National/Documents/SubjectListing/FundingLearning/FurtherEducation/default.htm, entitled Funding: Indicative Rates for Further Education, Work-Based Learning and School Sixth Forms in 2003–04.

**Derek Wyatt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) how much funding has been allocated to Kent county council for the financial years *(a)* 2005–06 and *(b)* 2006–07 for Sure Start schemes; [13102]

(2) what the total budget allocated by Kent county council is to Sure Start schemes in Kent in *(a)* 2005–06 and *(b)* 2006–07. [13103]

**Beverley Hughes** *[holding answer 18 July 2005]:* Kent county council has been allocated revenue funding of £6,777,085 in 2005–06 and £6,609,809 in 2006–07 for the Sure Start local programmes element of the council's children and families funding block of the local area agreement pilot of which the council is participating. The county council has also been allocated a total of £23,336,774 in the 2005–06 General Sure Start Grant (GSSG). This is made up of £5,415,544 capital and £17,921,230 revenue. The GSSG for 2006–07 will be communicated to local authorities around November 2005.

## Educational Psychologists

**Mr. Lidington:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many established full-time equivalent posts for educational psychologists there are in *(a)* each local education authority and *(b)* England; how many such posts are vacant; and if she will make a statement. [12385]

**Maria Eagle:** The following table provides the information requested for January of 2004, the latest information available at LEA level.

| | *Full-time equivalent educational psychologists*[1] | *Vacant full-time permanent posts* |
|---|---|---|
| Darlington | 3.8 | 1 |
| Hartlepool | 3.1 | 1 |
| Middlesbrough | 6.3 | 0 |
| Redcar and Cleveland | 5.0 | 1 |
| Stockton on Tees | 8.3 | 1 |
| Durham | 29.0 | 0 |
| Northumberland | 14.4 | 0 |
| Gates head | 13.0 | 0 |
| Newcastle upon Tyne | 13.5 | 0 |
| North Tyneside | 10.0 | 0 |
| South Tyneside | 6.4 | 0 |
| Sunderland | 10.2 | 3 |
| Blackburn with Darwen | 7.5 | 1 |
| Blackpool | 8.3 | 0 |
| Halton | 3.5 | 2 |
| Warrington | 7.4 | 0 |
| Cheshire | 24.2 | 0 |
| Cumbria | 19.0 | 0 |
| Bolton | 10.2 | 0 |
| Bury | 8.6 | 2 |
| Manchester | 18.6 | 0 |
| Oldham | 9.4 | 0 |
| Rochdale | 5.9 | 2 |
| Salford | 10.2 | 0 |
| Stockport | 12.1 | 1 |
| Tameside | 11.5 | 0 |
| Trafford | 6.1 | 0 |
| Wigan | 12.0 | 3 |
| Lancashire | 43.2 | 0 |
| Knowsley | 7.0 | 2 |
| Liverpool | 18.4 | 0 |
| St. Helens | 8.9 | 0 |
| Sefton | 13.1 | 0 |
| Wirral | 11.0 | 1 |
| East Riding of Yorkshire | 7.7 | 1 |
| City of Kingston upon Hull | 12.0 | 0 |
| North East Lincolnshire | 7.4 | 0 |
| North Lincolnshire | 5.0 | 0 |
| York | 8.1 | 0 |
| North Yorkshire | 16.5 | 0 |
| Barnsley | 4.0 | 0 |
| Doncaster | 12.0 | 0 |

| | Full-time equivalent educational psychologists[1] | Vacant full-time permanent posts |
|---|---|---|
| Rotherham | 9.8 | 0 |
| Sheffield | 20.8 | 2 |
| Bradford | 11.2 | 0 |
| Calderdale | 7.8 | 0 |
| Kirklees | 26.4 | 0 |
| Leeds | 39.9 | 0 |
| Wakefield | 9.5 | 0 |
| Derby | 11.2 | 0 |
| Leicester | 22.3 | 0 |
| Nottingham | 13.0 | 2 |
| Rutland | 0.0 | 0 |
| Derbyshire | 27.5 | 1 |
| Leicestershire | 19.8 | 8 |
| Lincolnshire | 19.9 | 2 |
| Northamptonshire | 27.9 | 3 |
| Nottinghamshire | 25.9 | 0 |
| Herefordshire | 6.1 | 0 |
| Stoke on Trent | 9.3 | 0 |
| Telford and Wrekin | 15.3 | 0 |
| Shropshire | 0.0 | 0 |
| Staffordshire | 25.4 | 0 |
| Warwickshire | 17.1 | 0 |
| Birmingham | 49.8 | 3 |
| Coventry | 14.1 | 0 |
| Dudley | 5.7 | 4 |
| Sandwell | 16.2 | 0 |
| Solihull | 11.6 | 0 |
| Walsall | 14.0 | 0 |
| Wolverhampton | 16.0 | 3 |
| Worcestershire | 24.3 | 0 |
| Luton | 6.0 | 1 |
| Peterborough | 6.0 | 1 |
| Southend-on-Sea | 6.6 | 1 |
| Thurrock | 6.6 | 1 |
| Bedfordshire | 14.3 | 0 |
| Cambridgeshire | 17.7 | 0 |
| Essex | 50.5 | 4 |
| Hertfordshire | 29.6 | 3 |
| Norfolk | 18.5 | 6 |
| Suffolk | 17.8 | 2 |
| Camden | 16.0 | 1 |
| City of London | 0.3 | 0 |
| Hackney | 12.0 | 0 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 10.8 | 0 |
| Haringey | 11.5 | 1 |
| Islington | 14.8 | 1 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 7.0 | 0 |
| Lambeth | 20.9 | 4 |
| Lewisham | 9.0 | 4 |
| Newham | 11.4 | 3 |
| Southwark | 15.0 | 0 |
| Tower Hamlets | 14.4 | 0 |
| Wandsworth | 13.2 | 0 |
| City of Westminster | 7.8 | 1 |
| Barking and Dagenham | 15.5 | 0 |
| Barnet | 11.4 | 3 |
| Bexley | 8.6 | 0 |
| Brent | 12.6 | 0 |
| Bromley | 9.5 | 0 |
| Croydon | 14.4 | 0 |
| Ealing | 13.4 | 0 |
| Enfield | 22.5 | 0 |
| Greenwich | 12.3 | 0 |
| Harrow | 11.7 | 0 |
| Havering | 9.7 | 1 |
| Hillingdon | 12.7 | 1 |
| Hounslow | 8.9 | 2 |
| Kingston upon Thames | 8.4 | 0 |
| Merton | 8.0 | 1 |
| Redbridge | 10.4 | 0 |
| Richmond upon Thames | 6.8 | 1 |
| Sutton | 7.0 | 1 |
| Waltham Forest | 19.4 | 2 |
| Bracknell Forest | 4.2 | 0 |

| | Full-time equivalent educational psychologists[1] | Vacant full-time permanent posts |
|---|---|---|
| Brighton and Hove | 11.7 | 0 |
| Isle of Wight | 7.0 | 0 |
| Medway | 12.8 | 0 |
| Milton Keynes | 11.0 | 0 |
| Portsmouth | 8.5 | 1 |
| Reading | 4.7 | 0 |
| Slough | 17.0 | 0 |
| Southampton | 12.6 | 0 |
| West Berkshire | 8.0 | 0 |
| Windsor and Maidenhead | 9.0 | 0 |
| Wokingham | 7.6 | 0 |
| Buckinghamshire | 22.0 | 1 |
| East Sussex | 19.1 | 1 |
| Hampshire | 51.9 | 2 |
| Kent | 42.4 | 3 |
| Oxfordshire | 25.8 | 0 |
| Surrey | 39.1 | 3 |
| West Sussex | 32.3 | 2 |
| Bath and North East Somerset | 8.7 | 0 |
| Bournemouth | 7.8 | 0 |
| City of Bristol | 14.1 | 0 |
| North Somerset | 10.1 | 1 |
| Plymouth | 13.9 | 0 |
| Poole | 5.5 | 0 |
| South Gloucestershire | 8.0 | 1 |
| Swindon | 7.0 | 0 |
| Torbay | 4.5 | 1 |
| Cornwall | 17.7 | 0 |
| Isles of Scilly | 0.0 | 0 |
| Devon | 27.0 | 0 |
| Dorset | 16.2 | 1 |
| Gloucestershire | 21.9 | 0 |
| Somerset | 25.2 | 0 |
| Wiltshire | 20.0 | 0 |
| England | 2,104.8 | 113 |

[1] FTE educational psychologists includes those in post, on secondment for in-service training and on secondment for initial training as educational psychologists.

*Source:*
Annual Survey of Teachers in Service and Teacher Vacancies

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills when her Department *(a)* planned to let and *(b)* let the contract for the review of the functions and contribution of educational psychologists. [13531]

**Maria Eagle:** The written ministerial statement, issued on 1 February 2005, *Official Report*, column 52WS, announcing the proposed review indicated that its precise terms of reference would be agreed with the local authority employers' side, and that we expected the bulk of the work to be completed in 2005. We have had comments from representatives of the Local Government Association and the Employers' Organisation and would expect to issue invitations to tender for the work shortly. A contract with the successful applicant will be agreed as soon as is practicable thereafter.

## FE Colleges

**Colin Challen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills in what ways her Department is assisting adults of all ages to study languages in colleges of further education. [13333]

**Bill Rammell:** My Department wants to continue to make available a wide range of learning opportunities for adults of all ages, including for the study of modern foreign languages. Provision locally is for the individual college to determine in conjunction with the local Learning and Skills Council, in the light of both local needs and national priorities. As part of the "Success for All" strategy modern foreign languages is a priority curriculum area for improving teaching and learning and introducing new approaches to continuing professional development. The aim is to improve the motivation and linguistic achievements of learners within the sector.

## Free School Milk

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many schools provided EU-subsidised milk in the last two years in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* Lancashire; and how many children received the milk. [11649]

**Jim Knight:** I have been asked to reply.

The Rural Payments Agency (RPA) pay subsidy on school milk in Great Britain. Officials in the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development pay the subsidy in Northern Ireland.

In Great Britain 19,093 schools have claimed school milk subsidy over each of the last two years, covering 3.85 million children.

In Lancashire 550 schools claimed subsidy, covering 94,000 children.

## Nursery Places

**Dan Norris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many children in *(a)* North East Somerset and *(b)* South Gloucestershire have taken up free nursery places since the policy was introduced. [12547]

**Beverley Hughes:** All four-year-olds in England have been entitled to a free part-time early education place since September 1998. All three-year-olds in England have been entitled to a free part-time early education place since April 2004.

The available information on the numbers of free part-time early education places taken up by three and four-year-olds in Bath and North East Somerset, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire local education authority areas is shown in the tables.

The latest figures on early education places for three and four-year-olds in England were published in Statistical First Release 18/2005 "Provision for children under five years of age in England—January 2005 (provisional)" in May, which is available on the Department's website www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/.

*Number of free nursery education places taken up three and four-year-olds—maintained schools and private, voluntary and independent provide is Bath and North East Somerset local education authority area 1997–2004*

| Position in January each year | Three-year-olds: Maintained nursery and primary schools[1] | Three-year-olds: Other maintained and private, voluntary and independent providers | Three-year-olds: Total | Four-year-olds: Maintained nursery and primary schools[4] | Four-year-olds: Other maintained and private, voluntary and independent providers | Four-year-olds: Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1997 | 310 | 0 | 310 | n/a | n/a | 1,700 |
| 1998 | 310 | 0 | 310 | n/a | n/a | 1,800 |
| 1999 | 320 | 0 | 320 | n/a | n/a | 1,900 |
| 2000 | 300 | 0 | 300 | n/a | n/a | 1,700 |
| 2001 | 290 | [3]200 | 490 | n/a | n/a | 1,800 |
| 2002 | 270 | [3]460 | 730 | 1,300 | [5]510 | 1,800 |
| 2003 | 250 | [3]470 | 720 | 1,300 | [6]580 | 1,900 |
| 2004 | 280 | [3]900 | 1,200 | 1,200 | [7]500 | 1,700 |

n/a = Not available.

[1] Headcount of children aged three at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Annual Schools' Census.

[2] Part-time equivalent number of children aged three at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Nursery Education Grant data collection exercise.

[3] Part-time equivalent number of children aged three at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Early Years Census and the Annual Schools' Census.

[4] Headcount of children aged four at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Annual Schools' Census.

[5] Part-time equivalent number of children aged four at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Nursery Education Grant data collection exercise.

[6] Part-time equivalent number of children aged four at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Early Years Census supplementary data collection exercise and the Annual Schools' Census.

[7] Part-time equivalent number of children aged four at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Early Years Census and the Annual Schools' Census.

*Number of free nursery education places taken up three and four year olds—maintained schools and private, voluntary and independent providers North Somerset local education authority area 1997–2004*

| Position in January each year | Three-year-olds: Maintained nursery and primary schools[1] | Three-year-olds: Other maintained and private, voluntary and independent providers | Three-year-olds: Total | Four-year-olds: Maintained nursery and primary schools[4] | Four-year-olds: Other maintained and private, voluntary and independent providers | Four-year-olds: Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1997 | 160 | 0 | 160 | n/a | n/a | 1,800 |
| 1998 | 160 | 0 | 160 | n/a | n/a | 2,000 |
| 1999 | 160 | 0 | 160 | n/a | n/a | 2,000 |
| 2000 | 200 | 0 | 200 | n/a | n/a | 2,200 |
| 2001 | 200 | [3]100 | 300 | n/a | n/a | 2,000 |
| 2002 | 190 | [3]950 | 1,100 | 1,400 | [5]500 | 1,900 |
| 2003 | 190 | [3]1,300 | 1,500 | 1,500 | [6]540 | 2,000 |
| 2004 | 160 | [3]1,300 | 1,500 | 1,500 | [7]550 | 2,000 |

n/a = Not available.

[1] Headcount of children aged three at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Annual Schools' Census.

[2] Part-time equivalent number of children aged three at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Nursery Education Grant data collection exercise.

[3] Part-time equivalent number of children aged three at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Early Years Census and the Annual Schools' Census.

[4] Headcount of children aged four at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Annual Schools' Census.

[5] Part-time equivalent number of children aged four at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Nursery Education Grant data collection exercise.

[6] Part-time equivalent number of children aged four at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Early Years Census supplementary data collection exercise and the Annual Schools' Census.

[7] Part-time equivalent number of children aged four at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Early Years Census and the Annual Schools' Census.

*Number of free nursery education places taken up three and four year olds—maintained schools and private, voluntary and independent providers South Gloucestershire local education authority area 1997–2004*

| Position in January each year | Three-year-olds | | | Four-year-olds | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Maintained nursery and primary schools[1] | Other maintained and private, voluntary and independent providers | Total | Maintained nursery and primary schools[4] | Other maintained and private, voluntary and independent providers | Total |
| 1997 | 400 | 0 | 400 | n/a | n/a | 2,700 |
| 1998 | 320 | 0 | 320 | n/a | n/a | 3,000 |
| 1999 | 330 | 0 | 330 | n/a | n/a | 3,100 |
| 2000 | 330 | 0 | 330 | n/a | n/a | 3,200 |
| 2001 | 340 | [2]140 | 480 | n/a | n/a | 3,100 |
| 2002 | 330 | [3]1,300 | 1,600 | 2,300 | [5]780 | 3,100 |
| 2003 | 300 | [3]1,900 | 2,200 | 2,200 | [5]780 | 3,000 |
| 2004 | 300 | [3]1,500 | 1,800 | 2,200 | [6]670 | 2,900 |

n/a = Not available.

[1] Headcount of children aged three at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Annual Schools' Census.

[2] Part-time equivalent number of children aged three at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Nursery Education Grant data collection exercise.

[3] Part-time equivalent number of children aged three at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Early Years Census and the Annual Schools' Census.

[4] Headcount of children aged four at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Annual Schools' Census.

[5] Part-time equivalent number of children aged four at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Nursery Education Grant data collection exercise.

[6] Part-time equivalent number of children aged four at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Early Years Census supplementary data collection exercise and the Annual Schools' Census.

[7] Part-time equivalent number of children aged four at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Early Years Census and the Annual Schools' Census.

Changes in pupil figures may arise from changes to the underlying population in the local education authority area and other factors. However, my Department doesn't publish population figures for individual age cohorts at sub-national level because of the unreliability of the underlying population estimates. The Office for National Statistics publish sub-national population estimates in five-year age bands.

### Progression Targets

**Mr. Chaytor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what plans she has to introduce targets for progression at *(a)* 16 and *(b)* 18 for secondary schools; and if she will make a statement. [11553]

**Bill Rammell:** The Government's plans for developing measures of young people's progression in learning are set out in the 14–19 Education and Skills White Paper, published on 23 February 2005. We will record what qualifications Year 11 pupils go on to achieve by age 19 in order to develop a measure of how successful the pupils of each school are in gaining qualifications after statutory school leaving age. We will consider how this measure can be used to set targets to improve progression.

### Special Educational Needs (Essex)

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what the staffing ratios were for *(a)* Glenwood Severe Learning Difficulty and *(b)* Cedar Hall Moderate Learning Difficulty special schools in Castle Point in each of the last three years for which figures are available; [12179]

(2) what the staffing ratios are for *(a)* Glenwood Special School and *(b)* Cedar Hall Special School in Castle Point. [12186]

**Maria Eagle:** The information requested is shown in the following table.

*Pupil:teacher and pupil:adult ratio for Glenwood and Cedar Hall School*
*Position in January each year*

| | 2003 | | 2004 | | 2005[4] | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Pupil:teacher ratio[1,2] | Pupil:adult ratio[2,3] | Pupil:teacher ratio[1,2] | Pupil:adult ratio[2,3] | Pupil:teacher ratio[1,2] | Pupil:adult ratio[2,3] |
| Glenwood School | 6.0 | 2.2 | 6.9 | 2.5 | 6.6 | 2.5 |
| Cedar Hall School | 8.8 | 4.9 | 8.8 | n/a | 7.8 | 4.3 |

n/a = not available

[1] The PTR is calculated by dividing the total FTE number of pupils on roll in schools by the total FTE number of qualified teachers regularly employed in schools.

[2] For statistical purposes only, pupils who do not attend both morning and afternoon at least five days a week are regarded as part-time. Each part-time pupil is treated as 0.5 FTE.

[3] The PAR is calculated by dividing the total FTE number of pupils on roll by the total FTE number of all teachers and support staff employed in schools, excluding administrative and clerical staff.

[4] Provisional

*Source:*

Annual School Census

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the average staffing ratio was for *(a)* moderate learning difficulty and *(b)* severe learning difficulty special schools in Essex in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [12187]

**Maria Eagle:** The information requested is shown in the following table.

*Pupil:teacher ratio and pupil:adult ratio in schools formally approved to make provision for moderate learning difficulties and severe learning difficulties, Essex local education authority*

| Position in January each year | Schools approved to make provision for moderate learning difficulties | | Schools approved to make provision for severe learning difficulties | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Pupil:teacher ratio [1,2] | Pupil:adult ratio [2,3] | Pupil:teacher ratio [1,2] | Pupil:adult ratio [2,3] |
| 2003 | 7.7 | 3.4 | 6.8 | 2.7 |
| 2004 | 8.0 | 3.2 | 7.6 | 2.7 |
| 2005[4] | 7.8 | 3.0 | 7.7 | 2.7 |

[1] The PTR is calculated by dividing the total FTE number of pupils on roll in schools by the total FTE number of qualified teachers regularly employed in schools.
[2] For statistical purposes only, pupils who do not attend both morning and afternoon at least five days a week are regarded as part-time. Each part-time pupil is treated as 0.5 FTE.
[3] The PAR is calculated by dividing the total FTE number of pupils on roll by the total FTE number of all teachers and support staff employed in schools, excluding administrative and clerical staff.
[4] Provisional
*Source:*
Annual Schools Census

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the average class size for *(a)* moderate learning difficulty (MLD) and *(b)* severe learning difficulty (SLD) special schools in Essex was in each of the last three years for which figures are available; and if she will estimate the average class size in (i) MLD and (ii) SLD special schools in Essex in 2005–06. [12188]

**Maria Eagle:** The information requested is not collected centrally.

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if she will list the moderate learning difficulty (MLD) schools in Essex; and how many MLD schools there are in each local education authority. [12250]

**Maria Eagle:** The information requested is as follows.

*Special schools formally approved to make provision for moderate learning difficulties*[1]

*January 2005 (provisional v4)—Essex local education authority*

Kingswode Hoe School
The Hayward School
Cedar Hall School
Oak View School
Castledon School
The Endeavour School
The Leas School
The Edith Borthwick School
St. John's RC School (Essex)
Thriftwood School
Market Field School
Harlow Fields School
The Pioneer School

[1] Includes maintained and non-maintained special schools

*Number of special schools formally approved to make provision for moderate learning difficulties1, January 2005 (provisional v4), by local education authority area*

| | | Number |
|---|---|---|
| England | | 508 |
| *North East* | | 32 |
| 841 | Darlington | 1 |
| 840 | Durham | 7 |
| 390 | Gateshead | 3 |
| 805 | Hartlepool | 2 |
| 806 | Middlesbrough | 2 |
| 391 | Newcastle upon Tyne | 2 |
| 392 | North Tyneside | 3 |
| 929 | Northumberland | 4 |
| 807 | Redcar and Cleveland | 2 |
| 393 | South Tyneside | 3 |
| 808 | Stockton-on-Tees | 2 |
| 394 | Sunderland | 1 |
| *North West* | | 81 |
| 889 | Blackburn with Darwen | 2 |
| 890 | Blackpool | 2 |
| 350 | Bolton | 2 |
| 351 | Bury | 2 |
| 875 | Cheshire | 10 |
| 909 | Cumbria | 1 |
| 876 | Halton | 1 |
| 340 | Knowsley | 4 |
| 888 | Lancashire | 16 |
| 341 | Liverpool | 9 |
| 352 | Manchester | 3 |
| 353 | Oldham | 3 |
| 354 | Rochdale | 3 |
| 355 | Salford | 3 |
| 343 | Sefton | 2 |
| 342 | St. Helens | 2 |
| 356 | Stockport | 4 |
| 357 | Tameside | 2 |
| 358 | Trafford | 3 |
| 877 | Warrington | 1 |
| 359 | Wigan | 3 |
| 344 | Wirral | 3 |
| *Yorkshire and the Humber* | | 48 |
| 370 | Barnsley | 0 |
| 380 | Bradford | 5 |
| 381 | Calderdale | 3 |
| 371 | Doncaster | 4 |
| 811 | East Riding of Yorkshire | 1 |
| 810 | Kingston Upon Hull, City of | 1 |
| 382 | Kirklees | 5 |
| 383 | Leeds | 4 |
| 812 | North East | 1 |

*Number of special schools formally approved to make provision for moderate learning difficulties1, January 2005 (provisional v4), by local education authority area*

| | | Number |
|---|---|---|
| 813 | North Lincolnshire | 2 |
| 815 | North Yorkshire | 9 |
| 372 | Rotherham | 4 |
| 373 | Sheffield | 5 |
| 384 | Wakefield | 2 |
| 816 | York | 2 |
| *East Midlands* | | 41 |
| 831 | Derby | 3 |
| 830 | Derbyshire | 5 |
| 856 | Leicester | 5 |
| 855 | Leicestershire | 3 |
| 925 | Lincolnshire | 8 |
| 928 | Northamptonshire | 6 |
| 892 | Nottingham | 3 |
| 891 | Nottinghamshire | 7 |
| 857 | Rutland | 1 |
| *West Midlands* | | 64 |
| 330 | Birmingham | 14 |
| 331 | Coventry | 4 |
| 332 | Dudley | 4 |
| 884 | Herefordshire | 3 |
| 333 | Sandwell | 1 |
| 893 | Shropshire | 1 |
| 334 | Solihull | 2 |
| 860 | Staffordshire | 12 |
| 861 | Stoke-on-Trent | 3 |
| 894 | Telford and Wrekin | 2 |
| 335 | Walsall | 2 |
| 937 | Warwickshire | 6 |
| 336 | Wolverhampton | 2 |
| 885 | Worcestershire | 8 |
| *East of England* | | 52 |
| 820 | Bedfordshire | 5 |
| 873 | Cambridgeshire | 5 |
| 881 | Essex | 13 |
| 919 | Hertfordshire | 10 |
| 821 | Luton | 2 |
| 926 | Norfolk | 4 |
| 874 | Peterborough | 3 |
| 882 | Southend-on-Sea | 3 |
| 935 | Suffolk | 6 |
| 883 | Thurrock | 1 |
| *London* | | 57 |
| *Inner London* | | 25 |
| 202 | Camden | 2 |
| 201 | City of London | 0 |
| 204 | Hackney | 3 |
| 205 | Hammersmith and Fulham | 1 |
| 309 | Haringey | 3 |
| 206 | Islington | 1 |
| 207 | Kensington and Chelsea | 1 |
| 208 | Lambeth | 3 |
| 209 | Lewisham | 3 |
| 316 | Newham | 0 |
| 210 | Southwark | 3 |
| 211 | Tower Hamlets | 1 |
| 212 | Wandsworth | 3 |
| 213 | Westminster | 1 |
| *Outer London* | | 32 |
| 301 | Barking and Dagenham | 1 |
| 302 | Barnet | 3 |
| 303 | Bexley | 1 |
| 304 | Brent | 2 |
| 305 | Bromley | 1 |
| 306 | Croydon | 2 |
| 307 | Ealing | 3 |
| 308 | Enfield | 1 |
| 203 | Greenwich | 2 |
| 310 | Harrow | 2 |
| 311 | Havering | 3 |
| 312 | Hillingdon | 3 |
| 313 | Hounslow | 1 |
| 314 | Kingston upon Thames | 1 |
| 315 | Merton | 1 |
| 317 | Redbridge | 2 |
| 318 | Richmond upon Thames | 1 |
| 319 | Sutton | 1 |
| 320 | Waltham Forest | 1 |
| *South East* | | 91 |
| 867 | Bracknell Forest | 1 |
| 846 | Brighton and Hove | 4 |
| 825 | Buckinghamshire | 8 |
| 845 | East Sussex | 10 |
| 850 | Hampshire | 16 |
| 921 | Isle of Wight | 1 |
| 886 | Kent | 13 |
| 887 | Medway | 2 |
| 826 | Milton Keynes | 3 |
| 931 | Oxfordshire | 5 |
| 851 | Portsmouth | 3 |
| 870 | Reading | 1 |
| 871 | Slough | 1 |
| 852 | Southampton | 3 |
| 936 | Surrey | 10 |
| 869 | West Berkshire | 2 |
| 938 | West Sussex | 5 |
| 868 | Windsor and Maidenhead | 1 |
| 872 | Wokingham | 2 |
| *South West* | | 42 |
| 800 | Bath and North East Somerset | 3 |
| 837 | Bournemouth | 1 |
| 801 | Bristol, City of | 3 |
| 908 | Cornwall | 1 |
| 878 | Devon | 5 |
| 835 | Dorset | 4 |
| 916 | Gloucestershire | 6 |
| 420 | Isles of Scilly | 0 |
| 802 | North Somerset | 3 |
| 879 | Plymouth | 4 |
| 836 | Poole | 2 |
| 933 | Somerset | 4 |
| 803 | South Gloucestershire | 1 |
| 866 | Swindon | 2 |
| 880 | Torbay | 1 |
| 865 | Wiltshire | 2 |

[1] Includes maintained and non-maintained special schools.

*Source:*
Annual Schools Census

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many special educational needs children there are in each band in Essex moderate learning difficulty schools. [12251]

**Maria Eagle:** Data collected in January 2005 shows that there were 1,340 pupils with special educational needs (SEN) with a statement in maintained and non-maintained special schools approved to make provision for moderate learning difficulties in Essex local education authority. The corresponding figure for pupils with special educational needs without a statement is zero.

## Sure Start

**Dr. Kumar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many under-fives she estimates will be included in the Sure Start programme in *(a)* the North East, *(b)* the Tees Valley and *(c)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland. [12978]

**Beverley Hughes:** Local authorities are currently developing Sure Start children's centres as part of the Government's strategy to deliver better outcomes for children and families. The following table shows target

reach figures for the number of under-fives expected to be supported through the Sure Start Children's Centres being created by local authorities covering *(a)* the North-East, *(b)* the Tees Valley and *(c)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland areas by March 2006 and by March 2008.

| *Area* | *Target number of 0 to 4's to be reached through Sure Start Children's Centres by March 2006 (Phase 1)*[1] | *Target number of 0 to 4's to be reached through Sure Start Children's Centres by March 2008 (Phase 2)*[2] |
|---|---|---|
| North East | 60,054 | 112,689 |
| Tees Valley (Stockton on Tees LA) | 3,666 | 8,095 |
| Middlesbrough South (Middlesbrough LA) | 4,268 | 7,237 |
| East Cleveland (Redcar and Cleveland LA) | 3,457 | 6,036 |

[1] Represents target number of children to be reached in 20 per cent. most disadvantaged wards.
[2] Totals include the figure to March 2006 and cover the rest of the children in the disadvantaged areas and beyond.

**Dr. Kumar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) how many empty places there are in Sure Start nurseries in *(a)* England, *(b)* the North East, *(c)* the Tees Valley and *(d)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland; [12979]

(2) how many under-fives entitled to free places on the Sure Start scheme are on waiting lists *(a)* in England, *(b)* in the North East, *(c)* in the Tees Valley and *(d)* in Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland. [12981]

**Beverley Hughes:** All Sure Start Children's Centres provide child care. However, information about empty places or subsidised free places is not collected centrally. Sure Start Children's Centres also provide the free entitlement to child care and early learning for three and four-year-olds whose parents want it consists of a minimum of five two and a half hour sessions per week for 33 weeks of the year (usually divided into three 11 week terms) for six terms before statutory school age, which is the term following their fifth birthday.

Some local authorities may additionally offer subsidised child care places but this information is not collected centrally.

The latest provisional figures for January 2005 show that all four-year-old children receive some form of free entitlement. The figure for three-year-olds is 98 per cent. This covers all maintained, private, voluntary and independent providers and represents an estimated 546,400 three-year-olds and 573,500 four-year-olds.

Related information on the number of free nursery education places taken up by three and four-year-olds in Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland parliamentary constituency area is only available for January 2004. These figures are shown in the following table. The equivalent information for the North East Government Office region and the Middlesbrough, Stockton and Redcar and Cleveland local education authority areas is also shown for completeness.

*Number of free nursery education places*[1] *taken up by three and four-year-old children*

| | | *Three-year-olds* | *Position as at January 2004* |
|---|---|---|---|
| | *Maintained nursery and primary schools*[2] | *Other maintained and private, voluntary and independent providers*[3] | *Total three-year-olds*[2,3] |
| North East Government Office Region | 19,300 | 5,000 | 24,300 |
| Middlesbrough LEA | 1,400 | 170 | 1,600 |
| Redcar and Cleveland LEA | 1,400 | 90 | 1,400 |
| Stockton LEA | 1,600 | 220 | 1,800 |
| Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland parliamentary constituency[6] | 920 | 20 | 940 |

*Position as at January 2004*

| | | | *Four-year-olds* |
|---|---|---|---|
| | *Maintained nursery and primary schools*[4] | *Other maintained private, voluntary and independent providers*[5] | *Total four-year-olds*[4,5] |
| North East Government Office Region | 26,200 | 1,800 | 28,000 |
| Middlesbrough LEA | 1,600 | 50 | 1,700 |
| Redcar and Cleveland LEA | 1,600 | 20 | 1,600 |
| Stockton LEA | 2,100 | 140 | 2,200 |
| Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland parliamentary constituency[6] | 1,000 | 10 | 1,000 |

[1] Figures are rounded to the nearest 10 or 100 as appropriate.
[2] Headcount of children aged three at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Annual Schools' Census.
[3] Part-time equivalent number of children aged three at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Early Years Census and the Annual Schools' Census.
[4] Headcount of children aged four at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Annual Schools' Census.
[5] Part-time equivalent number of children aged four at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Early Years Census and the Annual Schools' Census.
[6] Providers are located in the Middlesbrough and Redcar and Cleveland LEAs.

The latest figures on early years provision for three and four-year-olds in England were published in Statistical First Release 18/2005 "Provision for children under five years of age in England—January 2005 (provisional)", which is available on the Department's website www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/

**Dr. Kumar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if she will take steps to provide support in meeting the cost of Sure Start places for parents whose children are not entitled to free places but who are on low incomes. [12982]

**Beverley Hughes:** The majority of services available through Sure Start local programmes are free at the point of use. Local programmes are, however, able to charge parents for child care services provided. Given this, the Government are committed to ensuring that high quality places for children under five, where care and education are integrated, are both affordable and accessible to all parents, particularly those living in disadvantaged areas.

To this end, the 10-year child care strategy, published in December 2004, set out our vision for ensuring that every child gets the best start in life and giving parents more choice about how to balance work and family life.

Child care costs are currently subsidised by tax credits which are rightly targeted at lower and middle income families. The working tax credit is designed to help with the costs of registered or approved child care. From April 2005 the maximum child care element of the working tax credit increased from £135 to £175 for one child and from £200 to £300 for two or more children, subject to a maximum portion of child care costs payable of 70 per cent. From April 2006 the maximum will increase from 70 per cent. to 80 per cent. These changes were expected to benefit 20,000 families straight away and many more over time.

The Government currently provides support to all parents in meeting child care costs and is clearly committed to increasing such support in the future.

From 2006 the 12.5 hour free entitlement to early education for 33 weeks per year will be extended to cover 38 weeks per year for all children aged three or four. From 2007 the free entitlement will begin to increase to 15 hours per week, with all children receiving 15 hours by 2010 on the way to a goal of 20 hours per week. Parents will have the flexibility to use the free entitlement across a minimum of three days. This will result in better choices for all parents who need full day, all year round child care, improved affordability for parents; and more sustainable income for providers.

From April 2007 maternity leave will be extended to nine months with a goal to increase this to 12 months by the end of next Parliament, and with the right for the mother to transfer a portion of her maternity leave to the father. This will enable parents to have greater choice about how to balance their work and family responsibilities.

**Dr. Cable:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many people have been *(a)* checked, *(b)* approved and *(c)* declined by the Sure Start approval scheme since 4 January. [13227]

**Beverley Hughes:** Under the Childcare Approval Scheme (CAS) initial checks take various forms, predominately a telephone helpline service. Records are not maintained on the number of inquiries that relate to checks through this service. The total number of inquiries handled by the helpline is 12,134 since the service opened on 4 January 2005.

By 14 July 2005, 372 applications had been approved under the CAS and 511 were being processed. No applications for approval have been rejected.

**Dr. Cable:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills on what basis the decision to require child carers to renew their approval annually under the Sure Start approval scheme was made. [13228]

**Beverley Hughes:** Many "nannies" change employment on a regular basis and at present the enhanced Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) disclosure is only valid on the day it is issued. 90 per cent. of respondents to the consultation supported the proposal that renewal should be annual.

## Training Providers

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what assessment she has made of the effect on existing learners of the phasing out of lead and feed arrangements where existing training providers lose their contracts; and what estimate she has made of the number of learners who may be affected; [7121]

(2) what assessment she has made of the commercial implications of requiring training providers to establish a series of regional contracts before they can be consolidated into a single national contract with regional management arrangements; [7122]

(3) if she will make a statement on the commercial implications of replacing lead and feed arrangements in the awarding of contracts to training providers through the Learning and Skills Council with regional contracting in 2005–06 for providers already operating on a *(a)* regional and *(b)* national basis. [7123]

**Bill Rammell:** The 'lead and feed' arrangements were part of the Learning and Skills Council (LSC)'s contracting arrangements for 2004–05 and were designed to simplify the relationship between providers and the LSC. As part of its continuing drive to improve quality in work-based learning the LSC has reviewed its contracting arrangements, including 'lead and feed' arrangements and is introducing new systems for 2005–06. I have asked Mark Haysom, the Council's Chief Executive, to write to the hon. Gentleman with more detail about these issues. A copy of his reply will be placed in the Library.

*Letter from Mark Haysom to Mr. Stephen O'Brien, dated 8 July 2005:*

I have been asked by the Secretary of State for Education and Skills to provide you with a written response to your recent parliamentary questions regarding the LSC's regional contracting arrangements.

Lead and feed arrangements were introduced in August 2003 to meet the requirements of Success for All to introduce single contracts and development plans for national providers. The arrangements also enabled the LSC to meet requests from The

Association of Learning Providers to reduce the bureaucracy of contracting for large providers who worked across more than one local LSC area.

The arrangements were reviewed in 2004 and found to have met the objective of reducing bureaucracy. However, the review also found that the majority of large providers still had success rates below the national average. The review therefore recommended a move to regional contracting so that the LSC could dedicate more senior resource to support providers in improving their quality and success rates.

Many large, national providers have introduced their own regional management arrangements and the commercial impact of the regional contracting on providers is not expected to be significant.

Regional contracting will not affect the responsibility for local LSC's to decide which providers they contract with and for what programmes. Local LSC's will be making contracting decisions based on providers' past performance and local need. This may result in some providers not having their contract renewed but this will not be as a result of the introduction of regional contracting.

Where the decision not to contract with a provider would result in the displacement of learners, the LSC is fully equipped and ready to place each learner with a new provider so that the learner can complete their original programme with the minimum disruption. It is not possible to calculate the number of learners affected until contracting negotiations have taken place.

The LSC expects that regional contracting will give providers the opportunity to re-direct administration and management time to front line delivery as the number of points at which we liaise reduces from one per local LSC to one per region.

I trust that this covers the three questions you have raised.

## CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

### Claim Management Companies

**Mr. Djanogly:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what assessment she has made of the level of service provided by claim management companies. [12475]

**Bridget Prentice:** The Government have decided that insufficient progress has been made in improving the service provided by claims management companies through effective self-regulation. The Government have therefore announced that it will introduce measures in the Compensation Bill to enable claims management companies to be effectively regulated.

### Commonwealth (Voting)

**Mr. Djanogly:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what estimate she has made of the number of British nationals who voted in each of the Commonwealth countries in the last five years. [13503]

**Ms Harman:** Decisions about voting rights of British citizens resident in other Commonwealth countries are for the individual countries concerned. The number of resident British citizens who may be entitled to vote and who actually do so in elections held in other Commonwealth countries is not therefore collected by the UK Government.

**Mr. Djanogly:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many Commonwealth citizens voted in the last general election. [13504]

**Ms Harman:** This information is not collected. No record is kept of the country of origin or nationality of individual voters in UK elections, and it is not possible to differentiate between voters upon this basis.

### Data Protection Act

**Harry Cohen:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs if she will make a statement on her correspondence with the Information Commissioner concerning *(a)* the numbers of manual filing systems held by private sector bodies which are subject to the Data Protection Act 1998, *(b)* whether simple CCTV systems recording individual activities constitute the processing of personal data and *(c)* whether a record of a name of a public servant, recorded by a public authority amounts to personal data; and if she will place the correspondence in the Library. [9432]

**Bridget Prentice:** My Department is in regular discussion with the Information Commissioner on these and other matters. I have no plans at present to place any correspondence in the Library.

### Freedom of Information

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many appeals have been received by the Information Commissioner's Officer against refusals to divulge information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000; and how many of those have been determined. [11267]

**Bridget Prentice:** At 30 June 2005, the total number of appeals received by the Office of the Information Commissioner was 1,157, of which 224 have been determined.

### Management Consultancies

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs which five management consultancies received the highest value of contracts awarded by her Department in each of the last three years; and what the total value was of the contracts awarded to each. [12575]

**Bridget Prentice:** My Department has let consultancy contracts with the five following companies in the financial years shown, to the aggregate values indicated. Figures for financial year 2004–05 are not currently available.

£

| | 2001–02 | 2002–03 | 2003–04 |
|---|---|---|---|
| CMG | 1.2 million | — | — |
| PA Consulting | 773,000 | 509,000 | 1.5 million |
| Deloitte | 555,000 | 424,000 | 1.3 million |
| ASE Consulting | 546,000 | 912,000 | — |
| CI International | 522,000 | 641,000 | — |
| Logica CMG | — | 680,000 | 442,000 |
| PWC | — | — | 3.1 million |
| ORC | — | — | 250,000 |

My Department uses consultants for the provision of expert professional advice and support on specific, time-limited tasks, usually in connection with projects, but sometimes in support of the ongoing operation of the Department.

The levels of expenditure reflects the wide-ranging and fast-paced programme to modernise the Department's work, to increase efficiency, provide better customer service, and value for money for the taxpayer.

Delivering such a programme, in the most effective and efficient way, has necessitated the use of external expertise and skills to supplement the Department's own resources.

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what her Department's total spending on management consultants has been in each of the last three years. [13098]

**Bridget Prentice:** From April 2001 until March 2004, my Department's expenditure with management consultants was as follows:

| | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| 2001–02 | 6.5 |
| 2002–03 | 5.7 |
| 2003–04 | 9.0 |

Expenditure reflects the wide-ranging and fast-paced programme to modernise the Department's work, to increase efficiency, provide better customer service, and value for money for the taxpayer.

My Department uses consultants for the provision of expert professional advice and support on specific, time-limited tasks, usually in connection with projects, but sometimes in support of the ongoing operation of the Department.

Figures for the financial year 2004–05 are not currently available.

### Race Relations Act

**Mr. Djanogly:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what account was taken of the provisions of the Race Relations Act 1976 in conducting the regulatory impact assessment for price competitive tendering. [12703]

**Bridget Prentice:** The Legal Services Commission fully recognises and actively seeks to fulfil its obligations under Race Relations legislation to eliminate unlawful discrimination, promote equality of opportunity and encourage good race relations. As such, prior to publication of its proposals for competitive tendering, the LSC had already carried out a partial race equality impact assessment on both black and minority ethnic (BME) firms and clients.

Close collaboration with the Law Society, the Black Solicitors Network and other specialist practitioner and representative groups will help to inform a full race impact assessment to be carried out during summer 2005.

In addition, the LSC is tendering for research into the issues faced by BME firms within its legal aid supplier base. The information from this research will further help to shape the development of competitive tendering policy.

**Mr. Djanogly:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs if she will take steps to protect small black minority and ethnic law firms as part of the proposed price competitive tendering for criminal legal aid contracts. [12984]

**Bridget Prentice:** The Legal Services Commission (LSC) is strongly committed to promoting diversity within the supplier base and is aware of the concerns of small black and minority ethnic (BME) firms providing London based criminal defence services.

The potential impact of competitive tendering upon BME firms was raised in the consultation paper "Improving value for money for publicly funded criminal defence services in London", published in January 2005. The LSC has been working closely with both BME suppliers and their representative bodies throughout the competitive tendering consultation process to address any concerns they may have.

The LSC is also commissioning research into the issues faced by BME firms within the legal aid supplier base. This research will help to cultivate further measures to protect small black and minority ethnic suppliers against unfair discrimination.

### Voting

**Mr. Hood:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what research the Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on compulsory voting; and if she will make a statement. [10754]

**Ms Harman:** My Department has neither commissioned nor evaluated research on proposals for a compulsory voting system.

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### Advertising

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much the Department spent on advertising in each of the last five years. [10231]

**Mr. Charles Clarke:** The amount spent by the Home Office on advertising over the last five years was:

2000–01: £28.36 million. Campaigns included fire safety, vehicle crime and recruitment of police officers

2001–02: £14.4 million. Campaigns included fire safety, vehicle crime, internet child protection, drugs, recruitment of police officers and postal voting

2002–03: £9.9 million. Campaigns included vehicle crime, internet child protection, drugs, firearms amnesty and recruitment of police officers

2003–04: £12.487 million. Campaigns included vehicle crime, internet child protection, drugs, recruitment of police officers and domestic violence

2004–05: Figures are still being reconciled but current data shows £9.7million. Campaigns included recruitment of police officers, drugs, internet child protection, domestic violence and firearms.

### Anti-terrorism Legislation

**Dr. Starkey:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were detained under anti-terrorism legislation in each year since 1975;

how many were *(a)* UK and *(b)* non-UK citizens; how many of those detained were subsequently charged with (i) terrorist and (ii) other criminal offences; and how many were deported. [4100]

**Mr. Charles Clarke:** I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given on 27 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 1240W.

### Asylum Seekers

**Mr. Gerrard:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will adopt the recommendation of the Home Affairs Select Committee of April 2003 to collect data on the numbers of people who abscond once they have reached the end of the asylum process. [12970]

**Mr. McNulty:** Work is ongoing to develop methodology to identify absconders using existing data sources and collate reliable data. If the data quality is sufficient to comply with National Statistics protocols, we will consider the most appropriate method for publishing this information.

### Child Abuse

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many successful prosecutions there have been of individuals for child abuse in cases where the child had been accused of witchcraft in each of the last five years; and whether religious leaders have been prosecuted in connection with such cases. [13196]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** It is not possible from the Home Office court proceedings database to identify those defendants prosecuted for child abuse, where the child had been accused of witchcraft, as the details of the offences are not centrally collected. Nor is it possible to identify those defendants who are religious leaders.

### Criminal Records Bureau

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to his Answer to the hon. Member for Leyton and Wanstead of 28 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 1451W, on the Criminal Records Bureau, what criteria will be taken into account in determining whether to proceed with the basic disclosure. [10188]

**Andy Burnham:** The criteria to be taken into account for determining whether to proceed with the basic disclosure service will include due consideration regarding the method of access for applicants to the service; the cost of delivering the service; the likely demand for the service; and methods for verifying the applicant's identity to ensure the integrity of the service.

### Departmental Bills

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will list bills sponsored by his Department in each session since 1979. [10548]

**Mr. Charles Clarke:** The information for the period requested is not readily available across Whitehall and could only be answered by incurring disproportionate costs. Since 1997 the Home Office has sponsored the following Bills.

*1996–97 Session*

Firearms (Amendment) Bill—Royal Assent received 27 February 1997

Crime (Sentences) Bill—Royal Assent received 21 March 1997

Police Bill—Royal Assent received 21 March 1997

Police and Firemen's Pensions Bill—Royal Assent received 21 March 1997

Protection from Harassment Bill—Royal Assent received 21 March 1997

Sex Offenders Bill—Royal Assent received 21 March 1997

Sexual Offences (Protected Material) Bill—Royal Assent received 21 March 1997

*1997–98 Session*

Firearms (Amendment) (No.2) Bill—Royal Assent received 27 November 1997

Special Immigration Appeals Commission Bill—Royal Assent received 17 December 1997

Data Protection Bill—Royal Assent received 16 July 1998

Crime and Disorder Bill—Royal Assent received 31 July 1998

Criminal Justice (Terrorism and Conspiracy) Bill—Royal Assent received 4 September 1998

Human Rights Bill—Royal Assent received 9 November 1998

Registration of Political Parties Bill—Royal Assent received 19 November 1998

*1998–99 Session*

European Parliamentary Elections Bill—Royal Assent received 14 January 1999

Youth Justice and Criminal Evidence Bill—Royal Assent received 27 July 1999

Immigration and Asylum Bill—Royal Assent received 11 November 1999

*1999–2000 Session*

Representation of the People Bill—Royal Assent received 9 March 2000

Terrorism Bill—Royal Assent received 20 July 2000

Football (Disorder) Bill—Royal Assent received 28 July 2000

Regulation of Investigatory Powers Bill—Royal Assent received 28 July 2000

Disqualifications Bill—Royal Assent received 30 November 2000

Freedom of Information Bill—Royal Assent received 30 November 2000

Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Bill—Royal Assent received 30 November 2000

Race Relations (Amendment) Bill—Royal Assent received 30 November 2000

Sexual Offences (Amendment) Bill—Royal Assent received 30 November 2000

Criminal Justice and Court Services Bill—Royal Assent received 30 November 2000

Criminal Justice (Mode of Trial) Bill

Criminal Justice (Mode of Trial) (No.2) Bill

*2000–01 Session*

Vehicles (Crime) Bill—Royal Assent received 10 April 2001

Election Publications Bill—Royal Assent received 10 April 2001

Elections Bill—Royal Assent received 10 April 2001

Criminal Justice and Police Bill—Royal Assent received 11 May 2001

*2001–02 Session*

Anti-Terrorism, Crime and Security Bill—Royal Assent received 13 December 2001

Football Disorder (Amendment) Bill—Royal Assent received 1 May 2002

Proceeds of Crime Bill—Royal Assent received 24 July 2002

Police Reform Bill—Royal Assent received 24 July 2002

Mobile Telephones (Reprogramming) Bill—Royal Assent received 24 July 2002

Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Bill—Royal Assent received 7 November 2002

*2002–03 Session*

Criminal Justice Bill—Royal Assent received 20 November 2003

Sexual Offences Bill—Royal Assent received 20 November 2003

Crime (International Co-operation) Bill—Royal Assent received 30 October 2003

Extradition Bill—Royal Assent received 20 November 2003

Anti-Social Behaviour Bill—Royal Assent received 20 November 2003

*2003–04 Session*

Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants) Bill—Royal Assent received 22 July 2004

Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Bill—Royal Assent received 15 November 2004

*2004–05 Session*

Prevention of Terrorism Bill—Royal Assent received 11 March 2005

Serious and Organised Crime Bill—Royal Assent received 7 April 2005

Drugs Bill—Royal Assent received 7 April 2005

*2005–06 Session*

Charities Bill

Identity Cards Bill

Violent Crime Bill

Racial and Religious Hatred Bill

Immigration, Asylum and Immigration Bill

### Domestic Violence

**Mr. Djanogly:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women have been (i) charged and (ii) convicted of offences relating to the making of false allegations concerning domestic violence in each of the last five calendar years. [12434]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** Statistics on persons charged with an offence are not centrally collected. Neither is it possible to identify those defendants on the Home Office court proceedings database convicted of offences relating to the making of false allegations concerning domestic violence, as circumstances surrounding an offence are not collected.

### Drug Rehabilitation

**Anne Main:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many non-charitable organisations the Hertfordshire probation area administers for the provision of *(a)* drug treatment testing orders and *(b)* drug rehabilitation requirements. [11133]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** There are four non-charitable organisations involved with the provision of drug treatment and testing orders (DTTOs)/drug rehabilitation requirements (DRRs) supervised by Hertfordshire probation area. These are all community drug and alcohol teams (CDATs), which deliver clinical services i.e. prescribing, clinical and psychiatric assessments to offenders on DTTOs/DRRs in Hertfordshire.

### English Wine

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will ensure that English wine is made available at dinners, receptions and parties he hosts at which hospitality involving wine is appropriate *(a)* during the EU presidency and *(b)* generally; and if he will make a statement. [9160]

**Mr. Charles Clarke:** The Home Office has enquired into procuring English wine for events in the past, however it has proved to be more cost effective to continue to use a diverse range of wine. Our procurement is in line with the EC's procurement rules to obtain value for money for the Department and where possible British products are used.

### Full-time Staff

**Mrs. Gillan:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many full-time equivalent staff there were in *(a)* Home Office Central, *(b)* the Prison Service, *(c)* the United Kingdom Passport Service, *(d)* the Forensic Science Service and *(e)* the Fire Service College in (i) 2000–01, (ii) 2001–02, (iii) 2002–03, (iv) 2003–04 and (v) 2004–05. [12093]

**Mr. Charles Clarke:** The numbers of civil service staff on a full-time equivalent basis can be found in the following table. They are taken from the Home Office Departmental Report 2004–05 (Cm 6528).

| | *2000–01* | *2001–02* | *2002–03* | *2003–04* | *2004–05* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Home Office Central | 13,204 | 13,204 | 14,909 | 17,976 | 19,316 |
| Prison Service | 41,609 | 42,057 | 42,570 | 44,431 | 46,015 |
| UK Passport Service | 1,690 | 2,132 | 2,845 | 2,736 | 2,772 |
| Forensic Science Service | 1,469 | 2,376 | 2,506 | 2,570 | 2,399 |
| Fire Service College[1] | 160 | [2]113 | — | — | — |
| Total | 59,930 | 59,927 | 62,833 | 67,713 | 70,502 |

[1] Fire Service College ceased to be part of the Home Office following the machinery of Government changes of 8 June 2001.

[2] The figures given for 2001–02 are end-period FTE actuals. Other figures are calculated on a five quarter moving average.

## Identity Cards

**Harry Cohen:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the number of times in a year *(a)* police, *(b)* security services and *(c)* tax officials will be provided with information from the national register associated with the identity card; and if he will make a statement. [13168]

**Andy Burnham:** Work has been conducted with the police, HM Revenue and Customs and the Security Service to identify their possible demand for verification requests and provision of information from the National Identity Register. These estimates have informed the development of the cost estimates published in the regulatory impact assessment on 25 May and the benefits overview published on 28 June. However these estimates remain under review as more detailed work with these organisations progresses and it would not be appropriate to publish them at this stage.

**Mr. Khan:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what research he has evaluated on the impact of identity cards on tackling crime in countries which have identity cards. [4167]

**Andy Burnham:** Most countries with identity cards have had schemes in place for many years and they are therefore not in a position to evaluate the impact they have on crime. However, it is clear that schemes in other countries do help in the fight against crime, for example the Spanish police have stated that identifying nearly all of the terrorists involved in the Madrid bombings was made significantly easier by their identity cards scheme. Identity cards were also used to identify the victims of the bombings quickly.

Biometrics are being used to more strongly tie a verified identity to an individual. In this way, biometrics can be used along with an ID card to verify that identity against the record held for that card. Other forms of authentication, such as PIN numbers and passwords can be stolen along with a card so are much weaker at linking a person to an identity.

All the Schengen states will be required to use biometrics in passports under Council Regulation 2252/2004. Fingerprint biometrics (rather than just fingerprints) will be introduced within three years of adoption. Non-Schengen states may choose to follow the requirements, although they would not be bound by the timetable.

Other EU member states which issue identity cards are considering introducing biometrics to increase security and some, for example Greece, Italy, Portugal and Spain, already collect one of more fingerprints as part of their national identity card schemes.

**Mr. Garnier:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the cost of equipping *(a)* the Prison Service and *(b)* other Home Office premises to which the public have access with identity card readers. [9754]

**Andy Burnham:** The Home Office has been working to identify areas where the identity cards scheme could provide business benefits. On 28 June 2005, my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary placed in the Library a paper containing the latest estimates of benefits of the identity cards scheme which shows that the benefits outweigh the costs once the scheme is fully operational. In one area of Home Office business alone—the processing of Criminal Records Bureau disclosures—processing times could be cut from four weeks to three days.

The cost of equipping Prison Service and other Home Office premises will depend on the nature of the use of the identity cards scheme and the type of identity check(s) necessary to deliver the business benefits.

In some cases, benefits could be realised without the use of card readers and the cost of installing any readers needs to be considered alongside future plans to refresh or upgrade IT systems.

As the design of the scheme matures, during and after the procurement exercise, so will our understanding of where the scheme will be of most benefit which will allow us to further refine our estimates of benefits and the costs of realising them.

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment his Department has made of methods of fooling biometric readers using *(a)* thin laminate stuck to fingers for fingerprints and *(b)* contact lenses for iris recognition. [9918]

**Andy Burnham:** The Home Office has consulted biometrics experts, Communications and Electronic Security Group biometric spoofing and anti-fraud experts and scientific literature in our assessment of fooling biometric technologies and is working with these and other experts to address any risk. We are also in communication with other schemes that are now using biometrics with ID cards, to learn from their experiences.

We are working on process methods to reduce the likelihood of fake biometrics being successful, for example selecting a random finger for verification, from those available, rather than using only one fingerprint on all occasions. This also gives flexibility around issues arising from short term damage to fingers, such as a cut.

In enrolment situations the process would be supervised thereby reducing the risk of fraudulent use of biometrics. In verification situations, the individual would need to have obtained a stolen card as well as a copy of all of the fingerprints in order to attempt this exercise. Further process measures are being developed but in order to protect the integrity of the National Identity Register, it is not possible to disclose them.

The systems proposed by the various manufacturers during procurement, to meet the scheme business requirements, will be rigorously tested to ensure risks from fake biometrics are adequately mitigated and allow the scheme to achieve official security accreditation.

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects that the police facial images national database will be operational. [9938]

**Mr. Charles Clarke:** The facial images national database should be operational by December 2006.

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will place in the Library a copy of the business case for the facial images national database. [9942]

**Mr. Charles Clarke:** At present the outline business case for the facial images national database is commercially confidential. The Police Information Technology Unit (PITO) are currently working on the outline business case which may be made available soon after the tender process has been completed and a contract has been let.

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the error rates of the identifiers proposed in the Government's identity card scheme. [11044]

**Andy Burnham:** Neither the technology for doing biometric checks or the implementation of that technology or the way in which different biometric checks may be combined together and with other checks has been finalised. These choices will affect the accuracy attainable from biometric checks and so a definitive answer is not possible at this point in time.

The performance of one particular identifier or technology is not the key determinant. During enrolment in the scheme we will make a biometric check against all previously enrolled biometrics. Any matches with one particular biometric which may be 'false' would be resolved by other biometric matches or by inconsistencies with the information held about the applicant and the record against which it had been matched.

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will place in the Library a copy of the 30-minute questionnaire given to the sample of people interviewed for the identity cards trade off research, mentioned on page 3 of the interim report published on 28 June. [11663]

**Andy Burnham:** A copy of the questionnaires used with UK citizens and verification service users as part of the identity cards trade off research will be placed in the Library. A full report of the identity cards trade off research will be published in quarter three 2005.

### Illegal Immigrants

**David Davis:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will estimate the number of illegal immigrants living in the UK. [9592]

**Mr. Charles Clarke:** No Government has ever been able to produce an accurate figure for the number of people who are in the country illegally. By its very nature it is impossible to quantify accurately, and that remains the case.

Although it is impossible to determine accurately how many people are in the UK illegally the Home Office published a report which included an estimate of the size of the illegal migrant population in the UK in 2001. It should be noted that the report included an estimate, not an accurate or definitive figure.

As mentioned in the report the only method to estimate the size of the unauthorised migrant population in the UK that currently can sensibly be applied is the residual method. As the method relies on data from the census of the population undertaken every 10 years, it is not possible to produce an estimate for a more recent year.

A copy of the Research, Development and Statistics On-line report 29/05—"Sizing the unauthorised (illegal) migrant population in the United Kingdom in 2001" can be found at: http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/notes/june_summaries.html.

### National Identity Register

**David Howarth:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what *(a)* quality of service level and *(b)* other measures of availability he plans to set for the National Identity Register. [11990]

**Andy Burnham:** We are currently in discussion with various organisations who would be potential users of the identity card scheme for identification and identity verification to determine their performance requirements, which will include service levels and levels of availability. However, no final decisions will be ready until the procurement process has commenced.

**David Howarth:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps will be taken to prevent confidential personal information from being *(a)* recorded under an individual's national identity registration number and *(b)* otherwise connected to that individual's record on the register, with particular reference to recording of attendance at particular hospitals and clinics. [12033]

**Andy Burnham** *[holding answer 14 July 2005]:* The purpose of the National Identity Registration Number is described in clause 2(5), which provides that

> "An entry in the Register consisting of all the information recorded about an individual must be given a unique number, to be known as the National Identity Registration Number".

The information which can be recorded is that allowed for under Schedule one of the Identity Cards Bill and the definition of "registrable facts". Attendance at particular hospitals or clinics does not fall within the information which could be held on the Register.

**David Howarth:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans he has for limiting the use of the proposed National Identity Registration Number, or other identifying numbers established under the Identity Cards Bill, by *(a)* Government Departments, *(b)* executive agencies, *(c)* private sector organisations and *(d)* other bodies, including other Governments. [12034]

**Andy Burnham** *[holding answer 14 July 2005]:* The Government has made clear that the National Identity Registration Number would be a general identifier under the terms of Schedule one Part two, paragraph four of the Data Protection Act 1998 which states that:

> "personal data which contain a general identifier falling within a description prescribed by the Secretary of State by order are not to be treated as processed fairly and lawfully unless they are processed in compliance with any conditions so prescribed in relation to general identifiers of that description".

This means that the use of the number by other organisations would have to be specified in regulations.

There is no provision for providing information to other Governments, including the National Identity Registration Number, except in the limited circumstances provided for in clause 20 relating to existing provisions in the Anti-terrorism, Crime and

Security Act 2001. Any such provision of information is subject to restrictions, which means that the Secretary of State may veto the provision.

**David Howarth:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what failure rate levels would be assessed as unacceptable for biometrics to be used in the national identity card in relation to *(a)* failure to enrol, *(b)* false negatives in identification and *(c)* false positives in identification. [12036]

**Andy Burnham** *[holding answer 14 July 2005]:* The Home Office is currently in discussion with various organisations who would be potential users of the identity cards scheme for identification and identity verification. These discussions include what performance is acceptable from all forms of identification currently being considered—card, PIN and biometric identification. However no final conclusions regarding acceptable success or failure rate levels in the categories described, have been reached in these discussions.

The performance of one particular identifier or technology is not the key determinant. During enrolment in the scheme we will make a biometric check against all previously enrolled biometrics. Any matches with one particular biometric which may be 'false' would be resolved by other biometric matches or by inconsistencies with the information held about the applicant and the record against which it had been matched.

**David Howarth:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the risks to the public including the risks of identity fraud, that might arise from widespread use of a single identifying number for each individual in the proposed national identity number system; and what safeguards he plans to introduce against possible risks. [12037]

**Andy Burnham** *[holding answer 14 July 2005]:* An extensive risk assessment of the use of a single identifying number has been conducted by experienced fraud and security experts. This has resulted in the selection of a new single identifying number that is unrelated to any number issued by the Government at the present time. However, due to the nature of the information involved in the assessment and in order to protect the integrity of the National Identity Register, no further details can be provided. Under the terms of Schedule one Part two, paragraph four of the Data Protection Act 1998 the use of the National Identity Registration Number by other organisations would have to be specified in regulations.

### National Police Improvement Agency

**Mr. Denham:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects to appoint the Chief Executive of the National Police Improvement Agency. [12828]

**Mr. Charles Clarke** *[holding answer 18 July 2005]:* The recruitment process is underway and I expect to be able to make an announcement in the autumn.

### Parenting Orders

**Mr. Clappison:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many parenting orders have been made in each year since the order became available; and how many have been breached, broken down by local authority area. [8327]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** 284 parenting orders were made during the pilot phase between September 1998 and March 2000. 5,631 orders have been made since they became available throughout England and Wales on 1 June 2000. The Youth Justice Board collects details of parenting orders by youth offending team area and the latest available information is shown in table 1. This includes parenting orders of all kinds including those made in connection with attendance and behaviour at school. The latest available information about the number of parenting orders that have been breached, identified from data collected by courts and showing the issuing court rather than local authority area, is shown in table 2.

*Table 1: Parenting orders*

| | April-March | | | | April-December |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2000–01 | 2001–02 | 2002–03 | 2003–04 | 2004 |
| Barking and Dagenham | 11 | 9 | 11 | 10 | 13 |
| Barnet | 1 | 7 | 2 | 12 | 1 |
| Barnsley | 8 | 9 | 7 | 31 | 22 |
| Bath and NE Somerset | 6 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 3 |
| Bedfordshire | 9 | 13 | 19 | 14 | 12 |
| Bexley | 0 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 0 |
| Birmingham | 0 | 10 | 9 | 26 | 46 |
| Blackburn with Darwen | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| Blackpool | 6 | 5 | 9 | 23 | 14 |
| Bolton | 22 | 13 | 15 | 1 | 14 |
| Bournemouth and Poole | 8 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 13 |
| Bracknell Forest | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Bradford and District | 1 | 9 | 19 | 16 | 22 |
| Brent | 1 | 0 | 2 | 6 | 6 |
| Bridgend | 0 | 1 | 1 | 12 | 7 |
| Brighton and Hove | 0 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 14 |
| Bristol | 4 | 2 | 11 | 2 | 3 |
| Bromley | 0 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 0 |
| Buckinghamshire | 6 | 7 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Bury | 2 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 3 |
| Caerphilly and Blaenau Gwent | 0 | 4 | 10 | 6 | 7 |
| Calderdale | 6 | 9 | 22 | 5 | 3 |

*Table 1: Parenting orders*

| | April-March | | | | April-December |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2000-01 | 2001-02 | 2002-03 | 2003-04 | 2004 |
| Cambridgeshire | 0 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 4 |
| Camden | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| Cardiff | 0 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 5 |
| Carmarthenshire | 0 | 1 | 6 | 4 | 4 |
| Cheshire | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| City of Westminster | 11 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 5 |
| Conwy and Denbighshire | 5 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 3 |
| Cornwall | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Coventry | 1 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 0 |
| Croydon | 1 | 9 | 10 | 2 | 29 |
| Cumbria | 8 | 4 | 11 | 5 | 10 |
| Darlington | 8 | 7 | 7 | 12 | 10 |
| Derby City | 0 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Derbyshire | 17 | 7 | 5 | 7 | 6 |
| Devon | 8 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| Doncaster | 6 | 0 | 2 | 4 | 4 |
| Dorset | 0 | 8 | 2 | 2 | 5 |
| Dudley | 0 | 0 | 3 | 10 | 4 |
| Durham County | 9 | 9 | 6 | 3 | 21 |
| Ealing | 3 | 7 | 6 | 1 | 4 |
| East Riding of Yorkshire | 3 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 9 |
| East Sussex | 14 | 16 | 10 | 12 | 15 |
| Enfield | 6 | 2 | 2 | 6 | 7 |
| Essex | 10 | 8 | 27 | 16 | 17 |
| Flintshire | — | 3 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Flintshire and Wrexham[1] | 3 | 4 | — | — | — |
| Gateshead | 43 | 33 | 19 | 19 | 12 |
| Gloucestershire | 0 | 1 | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| Greenwich | 20 | 7 | 7 | 4 | 4 |
| Gwynedd and Mon | 2 | 11 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Hackney | 0 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 1 |
| Halton and Warrington | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 4 | 3 | 7 | 8 | 4 |
| Haringey | 1 | 0 | 7 | 5 | 7 |
| Harrow | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Hartlepool | 2 | 1 | 3 | 6 | 3 |
| Havering | 4 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 3 |
| Hertfordshire | 28 | 24 | 7 | 7 | 8 |
| Hillingdon | 1 | 10 | 8 | 7 | 3 |
| Hounslow | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Islington | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 8 | 0 | 6 | 5 | 6 |
| Kent | 14 | 29 | 18 | 15 | 28 |
| Kingston | 11 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 1 |
| Kingston upon Hull | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Kirklees | 4 | 16 | 13 | 18 | 9 |
| Knowsley | 10 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Lambeth | 2 | 13 | 16 | 16 | 23 |
| Lancashire | 39 | 15 | 7 | 19 | 40 |
| Leeds | 2 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 6 |
| Leicester City | 21 | 46 | 50 | 29 | 18 |
| Leicestershire | 1 | 4 | 15 | 6 | 2 |
| Lewisham | 4 | 9 | 12 | 6 | 8 |
| Lincolnshire | 4 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 2 |
| Liverpool | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 9 |
| Luton | 5 | 2 | 6 | 1 | 1 |
| Manchester | 41 | 2 | 18 | 12 | 15 |
| Medway | 2 | 5 | 8 | 5 | 25 |
| Merthyr Tydfil | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Merton | 8 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 16 |
| Mid Wales (Powys and Ceredigion) | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 1 |
| Milton Keynes | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| NE Lincolnshire | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Neath Port Talbot | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 0 |
| Newcastle upon Tyne | 0 | 0 | 10 | 11 | 1 |
| Newham | 3 | 12 | 1 | 4 | 1 |
| Newport | 2 | 0 | 3 | 15 | 11 |
| Norfolk | 13 | 29 | 28 | 0 | 1 |
| North Lincolnshire | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| North Somerset | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 6 |
| North Tyneside | 2 | 3 | 12 | 1 | 4 |

*Table 1: Parenting orders*

| | April-March | | | | April-December |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *2000–01* | *2001–02* | *2002–03* | *2003–04* | *2004* |
| North Yorkshire | 16 | 1 | 15 | 8 | 8 |
| Northamptonshire | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 20 |
| Northumberland | 0 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 6 |
| Nottingham City | 4 | 5 | 4 | 5 | 11 |
| Nottinghamshire | 8 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 0 |
| Oldham | 9 | 6 | 9 | 0 | 0 |
| Oxfordshire | 3 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 6 |
| Pembrokeshire | 1 | 8 | 3 | 2 | 4 |
| Peterborough | 9 | 21 | 13 | 11 | 17 |
| Plymouth | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| Reading and Wokingham | 7 | 0 | 3 | 5 | 3 |
| Redbridge | 1 | 4 | 4 | 11 | 2 |
| Rhondda Cynon Taff | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Richmond upon Thames | 0 | 9 | 4 | 3 | 7 |
| Rochdale | 4 | 10 | 12 | 5 | 1 |
| Rotherham | 0 | 0 | 9 | 1 | 0 |
| Salford | 6 | 1 | 11 | 2 | 9 |
| Sandwell | 1 | 17 | 5 | 5 | 3 |
| Sefton | 4 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Sheffield | 8 | 8 | 3 | 0 | 5 |
| Shropshire and Telford/Wrekin | 11 | 15 | 3 | 7 | 5 |
| Slough | 0 | 4 | 4 | 1 | 0 |
| Solihull | 4 | 3 | 0 | 5 | 1 |
| Somerset | 5 | 14 | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| South Gloucestershire | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| South Tees | 0 | 3 | 2 | 10 | 2 |
| South Tyneside | 20 | 15 | 14 | 13 | 18 |
| Southend-on-Sea | 5 | 22 | 6 | 8 | 14 |
| Southwark | 29 | 11 | 18 | 37 | 6 |
| St. Helens | 13 | 8 | 2 | 0 | 1 |
| Staffordshire | 2 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 0 |
| Stockport | 1 | 9 | 16 | 2 | 2 |
| Stockton-on-Tees | 1 | 41 | 4 | 10 | 0 |
| Stoke on Trent | 1 | 7 | 4 | 10 | 12 |
| Suffolk | 19 | 36 | 14 | 33 | 29 |
| Sunderland | 45 | 33 | 81 | 124 | 26 |
| Surrey | 3 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 17 |
| Sutton | 5 | 11 | 3 | 2 | 2 |
| Swansea | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Swindon | 5 | 3 | 7 | 0 | 6 |
| Tameside | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 6 |
| Thurrock | 5 | 9 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Torbay | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Torfaen and Monmouthshire | 0 | 6 | 5 | 2 | 1 |
| Tower Hamlets and City of London | 11 | 0 | 14 | 45 | 8 |
| Trafford | 9 | 9 | 0 | 3 | 7 |
| Vale of Glamorgan | 0 | 18 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Wakefield | 10 | 5 | 0 | 1 | 5 |
| Walsall | 2 | 2 | 8 | 3 | 2 |
| Waltham Forest | 2 | 4 | 8 | 3 | 6 |
| Wandsworth | 4 | 17 | 10 | 6 | 43 |
| Warwickshire | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Wessex | 119 | 103 | 150 | 73 | 94 |
| West Berkshire | 0 | 6 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| West Sussex | 2 | 10 | 35 | 32 | 22 |
| Wigan | 26 | 146 | 2 | 12 | 22 |
| Wiltshire | 3 | 0 | 3 | 5 | 0 |
| Windsor and Maidenhead | 0 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Wirral | 2 | 1 | 14 | 4 | 2 |
| Wolverhampton | 6 | 11 | 13 | 5 | 8 |
| Worcestershire and Herefordshire | 12 | 6 | 9 | 13 | 23 |
| Wrexham | — | 5 | 2 | 10 | 2 |
| York | 2 | 2 | 5 | 6 | 3 |
| Total | 979 | 1,216 | 1,176 | 1,098 | 1,162 |
| Grant total | | | 5,631 | | |

[1] Flintshire and Wrexham YOT was split into Flintshire YOT and Wrexham YOT during the financial year 2001–02 so orders are listed against Flintshire and Wrexham YOT, Flintshire YOT and Wrexham YOT.

*Table 2: Breach of parenting orders*

| *Court* | *Number of breaches* |
|---|---|
| *2000* | |
| Stockport | 1 |
| Leeds | 1 |
| Bolton | 1 |
| Cardiff | 1 |
| South East Hampshire | 2 |
| Burnley, Pendle and Rossendale | 1 |
| Oldham | 1 |
| Luton and South Bedfordshire | 2 |
| Carlisle and District | 1 |
| Total | 11 |
| *2001* | |
| Wrexham Maelor (youth) | 1 |
| Goole and Howdenshire | 1 |
| Norwich | 1 |
| Sutton | 1 |
| Southampton | 2 |
| St. Helens Division | 1 |
| West Norfolk | 2 |
| Luton and South Bedfordshire | 1 |
| South Hampshire | 1 |
| South Tyneside District | 1 |
| South East Hampshire | 2 |
| Total | 14 |
| *2002* | |
| Wrexham Maelor | 2 |
| Sunderland (youth) | 1 |
| Gwynedd | 2 |
| Norwich | 3 |
| Tynedale | 1 |
| Walsall | 1 |
| Bath and Wansdyke | 2 |
| Burnley, Pendle and Rossendale | 1 |
| Blackpool and Fylde | 2 |
| Chester, Ellesmere Port and Neston | 1 |
| Central Buckinghamshire | 1 |
| Barnet | 1 |
| Sunderland | 2 |
| North East Essex | 1 |
| Mansfield | 1 |
| Doncaster | 1 |
| Cambridge | 1 |
| Total | 24 |
| *2003* | |
| South Tyneside | 1 |
| Wigan and Leigh | 1 |
| Northern Oxfordshire | 2 |
| Blackpool and Fylde | 3 |
| West London mg court | 1 |
| North Tyneside (youth) | 1 |
| Sunderland | 1 |
| Hull and Holderness (youth) | 1 |
| Sutton | 1 |
| West Norfolk | 1 |
| Sussex (Eastern) | 1 |
| South East Essex | 1 |
| Llanelli | 1 |
| New Forest | 1 |
| Total | 17 |

## Police (Sickness Absence)

**David Davis:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many days were lost through sick leave *(a)* per employee and *(b)* per officer in each police force in England and Wales in each year since 1997. [9590]

**Mr. Charles Clarke:** Information on working days lost is published in Police Performance Monitoring Reports.

Data in these reports cover the period 2001–02 to 2003–04 and are available on the following website: http://www.policereform.gov.uk/psu/performance monitors.html.

Data for 1999–2000 and 2000–01 can be found in the 2000–01 report of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Constabulary tables 10 and 11. This is available from the following: http://www.archive.official-documents.co.uk/document/hoffice/hc230/hmcreport.pdf.

Data prior to 1999–2000 are not available centrally.

## Prisons

**Mrs. Gillan:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have committed suicide in prison since 1 January, broken down by *(a)* prison, *(b)* offence and *(c)* length of sentence; and how many were (i) under 21 years, (ii) 21 to 40 years, (iii) 40 to 60 years and (iv) over 60 years. [12090]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** The information requested with respect to apparently self-inflicted deaths in prisons in England and Wales, one January—end 11 July 2005 is shown in the following tables:

*(a)* Establishment:

| *Establishment* | *Number of apparent self-inflicted deaths* |
|---|---|
| Gloucester | 4 |
| Liverpool | 4 |
| Altcourse | 2 |
| Leicester | 2 |
| Norwich | 2 |
| Pentonville | 2 |
| Reading | 2 |
| Wandsworth | 2 |
| Brinsford | 1 |
| Bristol | 1 |
| Brixton | 1 |
| Chelmsford | 1 |
| Dorchester | 1 |
| Durham | 1 |
| Eastwood Park | 1 |
| Exeter | 1 |
| Full Sutton | 1 |
| Holme House | 1 |
| Lancaster Farms | 1 |
| Leeds | 1 |
| Lowdham Grange | 1 |
| New Hall | 1 |
| Nottingham | 1 |
| Preston | 1 |
| Rye Hill | 1 |
| Stoke Heath | 1 |
| Swaleside | 1 |
| Swansea | 1 |
| Wakefield | 1 |
| Weare | 1 |
| Wymott | 1 |
| Total | 43 |

(b) Offence type:

| Offence type | Number of apparent self-inflicted deaths |
|---|---|
| Violence against the Person | 18 |
| Sexual Offences | 4 |
| Burglary | 4 |
| Robbery | 6 |
| Theft and Handling | 5 |
| Fraud and Forgery | 1 |
| Drug Offences | 1 |
| Other Criminal Offences | 1 |
| Offences not recorded | 1 |
| Arson and Criminal Damage | 2 |
| Total | 43 |

(c) Length of sentence:

| Sentence length category | Number of apparently self-inflicted deaths |
|---|---|
| unsentenced | 25 |
| > three months and ⩽ 12 months | 2 |
| > 12 months and ⩽ 18 months | 1 |
| > 18 months and ⩽ three years | 1 |
| > three years and ⩽ 5 years | 2 |
| > five years and ⩽ 10 years | 5 |
| > 10 years and < life | 1 |
| life | 6 |
| Total | 43 |

(d) Age:

| Age Category | Number of apparently self-inflicted deaths |
|---|---|
| Under 21 years | 6 |
| 21 years-39 years | 26 |
| 40 years-59 years | 9 |
| Over 60 years | 2 |
| Total | 43 |

## Prisons

**Paul Flynn:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what changes have taken place in the level of illegal drug use in each prison in England and Wales in each of the past 10 years. [10864]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** The best measure of changes in drug misuse in prisons is provided by the random mandatory drug testing programme. Yearly percentage positive rates for each prison for the past ten years will be placed in the Library.

**Mr. Bellingham:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department in how many instances at each prison members of the Independent Monitoring Board have disagreed with the outcome of a review of continued segregation in a prison segregation unit in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [13391]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** This information is not held centrally.

## Scanner Technology

**Mr. Gerald Howarth:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the contribution which QinetiQ's scanner technology could make to the anti-terrorism campaign. [12436]

**Mr. Charles Clarke:** Millimetre wave imaging is one of a number of technologies being evaluated by the police service and the Home Office Scientific Development Branch for detecting bombs and weapons carried under clothing. It relies on non-ionising radiation which is emitted by all objects in the environment or can be generated artificially (for indoor use).

The underlying technology was developed with UK Government funding and devices have been deployed experimentally at an airport and operationally at channel ports, where they are used to detect stowaways in vehicles. QinetiQ's latest system will be evaluated as soon as it is available, probably in early August. The new device is smaller than the stowaway detection system and is designed to inspect individuals or groups of people. The image shows the surface of the body and objects under the clothing and needs to be interpreted by a trained operator.

Millimetre wave imaging systems have clear capabilities in this area. However, like all explosives detection systems they need to be deployed as part of a planned security system which incorporates equipment, staff and procedures to interpret and deal with the information gathered by the equipment.

## Sectors Based Scheme Review

**Mr. Malins:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 23 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 47WS, on Sectors Based Scheme Review, how many work permits were issued under the scheme in respect of Bangladesh; how many persons named in work permits were granted entry clearance; how many appeals against refusals have been heard to date; how many were successful; what consultation with Bangladeshi stakeholders took place in reviewing the scheme; if he will publish the results of the review of the scheme; what evidence has been disclosed as to abuse of the scheme; and what proposals he has for a substitute for the scheme before a new points system is introduced. [12161]

**Mr. McNulty:** 8,761 Sectors Based Scheme (SBS) work permits have been issued to Bangladeshi nationals since the scheme was introduced on 31 May 2003, of which 8,157 were issued for work in the hospitality sector and 604 for the food manufacturing sector. To date, 3,023 Bangladeshi nationals issued with SBS permits have been granted entry clearance.

We are unable to provide figures as to how many appeals against refusals to grant entry clearance have been heard to date and how many were successful due to the disproportional cost that would be incurred in obtaining this information.

The recent review of the SBS involved both the distribution of a review questionnaire to employers in the sector to assess the effectiveness of the scheme, and face-to-face interviews with key representatives. Over 200 responses were received to the questionnaire from

employers in the Indian restaurant trade, and a meeting at official level was held with the Bangladeshi Caterers Association on 29 September 2004.

The findings of the review of the Scheme, including evidence of abuse of the Scheme, were published on the Home Office website on 30 June 2005. The Government published its Five-Year Strategy for Asylum and Immigration on 7 February 2005.

This contained a commitment to phase out the existing low-skilled schemes, such as SBS, in light of the additional labour now accessible from the new accession states. The five year strategy contains a commitment to introduce small tightly managed quota based schemes, where there are identifiable needs that are not being met by workers from the expanded ED workforce. We will undertake further consultations with representatives from the hospitality sector in due course.

### Secure Training Centres

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much has been paid by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Youth Justice Board to each of the contractors running secure training centres in each financial year of their operation. [10980]

**Mr. Charles Clarke** *[holding answer 11 July 2005]:* During the period for which information is available, the following sums were paid by the Youth Justice Board:

*Sums paid to secure training centre contractors*

£

| | 2002–03 | 2003–04 | 2004–05 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Medway[1] | 8,163,295 | 11,457,209 | 11,770,212 |
| Rainsbrook[2] | 8,530,938 | 9,684,211 | 9,830,808 |
| Hassockfield | 5,309,844 | 5,490,488 | 5,508,766 |
| Oakhill | — | — | 7,241,944 |

[1] Medway increased from 44 beds to 76 in November 2002

[2] Rainsbrook increased from 44 beds to 76 in June 2002

### Sexual Offences Act

**Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been prosecuted under section *(a)* 30 and *(b)* 38 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003; and how many prosecutions were successful in each case. [12929]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** Offences under the Sexual Offences Act 2003, including sections 30 and 38, came into force on 1 May 2004. Statistics of court proceedings for 2004 will be published in the autumn.

### Uninsured Drivers

**Mr. Ian Austin:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps he plans to take to reduce the number of uninsured drivers. [12617]

**Paul Goggins:** We have introduced in the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005 a specific power for the police to seize immediately any vehicle driven by someone who is uninsured. Release of the vehicle is subject to the payment of prescribed charges and the production of a valid insurance certificate; otherwise the vehicle will be disposed of by the police. This power came into effect on 6 July 2005.

We also introduced in the same Act provisions to improve police access to the Motor Insurance Database (MID). These will make available to the police information about vehicles the use of which has been but is no longer covered by insurance and so enhance their ability to check an individual driver's status. The police use of this new facility, particularly in conjunction with automatic number plate recognition technology, should significantly improve their detection capability and help reduce the number of uninsured drivers.

### Victims of Crime

**Mrs. Gillan:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will list organisations which have received funding from the Victims Fund to develop community-based services for victims of sexual crime, broken down by amount. [11954]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** A list of the organisations and amounts awarded from the Victims Fund in 2004–05 and 2005–06 will be published on the Government funding website in due course, in accordance with established best practice under the compact. Details of the successful organisations are set out in the following table.

*Victims Fund: Provision for victims of sexual offending*

£

| *Successful applicant organisations (second round: 2005–06)* | |
|---|---|
| Barnardo's (Ilford) | 35,000 |
| Barnsley Sexual Abuse and Rape Crisis Helpline | 40,000 |
| Birmingham Women's Aid | 35,000 |
| Breaking Free (National) | 30,000 |
| Choices (Cambridge and Suffolk) | 26,475 |
| CIS'ters (National) | 40,000 |
| Colchester Rape Crisis Line | 35,000 |
| Cornwall Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre | 36,110 |
| Crisis Point (Walsall) | 34,000 |
| Devon Youth Association | 25,000 |
| Doncaster Rape and Sexual Abuse Counselling Centre | 36,150 |
| East Kent Rape Line | 35,000 |
| East Surrey Domestic Violence Forum | 14,480 |
| Eaves Housing for Women (The Lilith Project) | 39,018 |
| Family Matters (Kent) | 35,000 |
| Grimsby and Scunthorpe Rape Crisis | 24,405 |
| ISAS—Incest and Sexual Abuse Survivors (Nottinghamshire) | 30,000 |
| The Jigsaw Project (Lincolnshire) | 30,000 |
| Kinergy (Bristol) | 35,000 |
| Life centre (Chichester) | 30,000 |
| The Magdalene Project (Lancashire) | 34,500 |
| Manchester Rape Crisis | 30,000 |
| Male Abuse Recovery Service (Peterborough) | 9,300 |
| Merseyside Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre | 22,500 |
| National Association for People Abused in Childhood (NAPAC) | 15,000 |
| NCH Cymru (Conwy) | 40,000 |
| New Pathways (Merthyr Tydfil) | 25,000 |
| The Nia Project (London) | 35,000 |
| Northampton Women's Aid | 30,000 |
| Northumbria Police (Operation Phoenix) | 35,000 |
| Nottingham Rape Crisis | 26,515 |
| One in Four (London) | 30,000 |
| The Place2Be (National) | 20,065 |

*Victims Fund: Provision for victims of sexual offending*

| | £ |
|---|---|
| *Successful applicant organisations (second round: 2005–06)* | |
| The Quetzal Project (Leicestershire) | 35,000 |
| Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre (Guildford) | 40,000 |
| Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre (Warrington) | 40,000 |
| Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre (Warrington) | 35,000 |
| Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Centre (Croydon) | 40,000 |
| Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Centre (North West Wales) | 35,000 |
| Rape and Sexual Violence Project (Birmingham) | 40,000 |
| The Rape Crisis Co-ordination Group (National) | 30,800 |
| Reigate and Redhill YMCA | 35,000 |
| Respond (London) | 25,000 |
| Rights of Women (National) | 4,000 |
| SEREN (Aberystwyth) | 20,990 |
| Sheffield Women's Counselling and Therapy Service | 35,840 |
| Southampton Rape Crisis and Sexual Abuse Counselling Service | 35,000 |
| South Essex Rape and Incest Crisis Centre | 30,000 |
| Streetreach (Doncaster) | 30,000 |
| Step Forward (London | 30,000 |
| Survivors (Hull and East Riding) | 35,000 |
| Survivors Network (Brighton) | 26,339 |
| The Survivors Trust (National) | 40,000 |
| Survivors UK (National) | 40,000 |
| Twelve's Company (Plymouth) | 23,707 |
| West Cumbria Rape Crisis | 35,000 |
| Women and Girls Network (London) | 35,000 |
| Women's Counselling Service (Hounslow) | 33,360 |
| Women's Counselling and Therapy Service (Leeds) | 27,435 |
| Women's Rape and Sexual Violence Service (Hanley) | 35,000 |
| Women's Support Network (Middlesbrough) | 35,000 |
| Worcestershire Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Centre | 24,142 |
| *Successful applicant organisations (second round: 2004–05)* | |
| Barnardo's (Ilford) | 2,701 |
| Breaking Free (National) | 10,284 |
| CIS'ters (National) | 23,350 |
| Colchester Rape Crisis Line | 35,450 |
| Cornwall Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre | 8,120 |
| Coventry Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre | 4,910 |
| Devon Youth Association | 4,200 |
| Doncaster Rape and Sexual Abuse Counselling Centre | 3,066 |
| East Kent Rape Line | 9,688 |
| East Surrey Domestic Violence Forum | 2,500 |
| Eaves Housing for Women (The Lilith Project) | 14,329 |
| Family Matters (Kent) | 5,752 |
| Grimsby and Scunthorpe Rape Crisis | 6,102 |
| HEAL—Helping Everyone Abuse Live (Colchester) | 10,286 |
| The Jigsaw Project (Lincolnshire) | 9,975 |
| Merseyside Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre | 12,672 |
| National Association for People Abused in Childhood (NAPAC) | 15,000 |
| NCH Cymru (Conwy) | 8,300 |
| New Pathways (Merthyr Tydfil) | 16,500 |
| The Nia Project (London) | 8,960 |
| Northampton Women's Aid | 12,502 |
| Northumbria Police (Operation Phoenix) | 20,000 |
| One in Four (London) | 24,993 |
| The Place2Be (National) | 6,435 |

*Victims Fund: Provision for victims of sexual offending*

| | £ |
|---|---|
| *Successful applicant organisations (second round: 2005–06)* | |
| The Quetzal Project (Leicestershire) | 46,000 |
| Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre (Warrington) | 5,995 |
| Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre (Warrington) | 7,745 |
| Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Centre (Croydon) | 27,080 |
| Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Centre (North West Wales) | 7,685 |
| Rape and Sexual Violence Project (Birmingham) | 12,500 |
| The Rape Crisis Co-ordination Group (National) | 18,200 |
| Reigate and Redhill YMCA | 10,476 |
| Respond (London) | 6,250 |
| Rights of Women (National) | 21,000 |
| Sexual and Domestic Abuse and Rape Advice Centre (Staffordshire) | 18,036 |
| Sheffield Women's Counselling and Therapy Service | 12,500 |
| Southampton Rape Crisis and Sexual Abuse Counselling Service | 3,700 |
| South Essex Rape and Incest Crisis Centre | 31,520 |
| Step Forward (London) | 10,907 |
| The Survivors Trust (National) | 32,800 |
| Survivors UK (National) | 24,600 |
| Women and Girls Network (London) | 31,700 |
| Women's Counselling Service (Hounslow) | 2,000 |
| Women's Counselling and Therapy Service (Leeds) | 670 |
| Women's Support Network (Middlesbrough) | 19,450 |
| Worcestershire Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Centre | 23,439 |

**Mrs. Gillan:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he plans to publish the responses to the consultation on the Victim's Code of Practice. [11955]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** Consultation on the draft Victims' Code of Practice ended on 30 May 2005. A summary of the responses received will be published in August and the final Victims' Code of Practice will be laid before Parliament in October.

## Work-related Stress

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cases of work-related stress have been reported in his Department in each of the last three years; how much compensation was paid to employees in each year; how many work days were lost due to work-related stress in each year; at what cost; what procedures have been put in place to reduce work-related stress; at what cost; and if he will make a statement. [7865]

**Mr. Charles Clarke:** There is no requirement for departments to keep separate records of the number of days lost or the number of cases of work related stress and while the Home Office records sickness absence due to stress or anxiety it is not possible to state what percentage of these absences may be due specifically to

work related stress. For this reason the information requested relating to the number of work days lost, and the cost of this cannot be provided.

Where the Health and Welfare Service in the Home Office and the Staff Care and Welfare Service (SCWS) in the Prison Service record information on staff who self refer to them reporting work related stress or where this is a factor this information has been provided.

In the Home Office the number of interviews undertaken by the Health and Welfare Service over the last three years where work related stress has been cited as a factor as follows:

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2002–03 | 747 |
| 2003–04 | 817 |
| 2004–05 | 1,091 |

These figures cover staff in the Home Office, United Kingdom Passport Service (UKPS) and the Forensic Science Service. It should also be noted that the figures may include multiple interviews with the same member of staff.

In the Prison Service figures for the last three years where staff have contacted SCWS reporting work related stress are:

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2002 | 623 |
| 2003 | 542 |
| 2004 | 586 |
| 2005 (year to date) | 245 |

There have been no compensation payments made to current employees or former employees of the Home Office or any of its agencies as a result of work related stress over the last three years.

The Home Office and its agencies have a range of measures in place to reduce work related stress and to provide guidance, practical assistance and support to staff where it may arise.

These measures include the a clear statement of departmental values; provision of a range of work-life balance policies and practices, including flexible working, special leave and child care support; managing attendance; training to ensure that all staff have the right skills and competences to do their jobs; and comprehensive policies to tackle bullying, harassment and discrimination.

As the range and nature of the measures in place to reduce work related stress varies it is not possible to provide the costs except at disproportionate cost.

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Access to Work Scheme

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what assessment has been made of the *(a)* effectiveness and *(b)* effects of the Access to Work scheme; [7079]

(2) how much has been spent in each of the last five years promoting Access to Work. [7080]

**Mr. Swire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many people have made use of Access to Work in each of the past five years; [7326]

(2) what the cost of the Access to Work scheme has been in each of the last five years; [7327]

(3) how much the Department has spent advertising Access to Work in each of the last five years. [7328]

**Mrs. McGuire:** Access to Work provides practical advice and support aimed at overcoming work-related obstacles resulting from disability. It does this through a system of grants towards the cost of providing support. Types of help available include the additional costs in travelling to work; providing human intervention support in the workplace; adapting work premises, and providing special aids and equipment in the workplace. Access to Work is open to those who are employed as well as people moving out of unemployment and is a highly effective job retention measure.

A report published in June 2004 by the Disability Employment Coalition 'Access to Work for Disabled People', found that for every pound spent, the Exchequer recouped £1.48 in additional revenue. This report is available in the Library.

In an internal study published in September 2002, 'Evaluating the Impact of Access to Work: A Case Study Approach' report reference WAE 138, clear evidence was demonstrated that Access to Work helps people retain a specific job that they would otherwise have lost. This report is also available in the Library.

In the last five years we have invested around £300,000 a year in marketing and publicising our disability services and programmes. As Access to Work represents an integral part of this, separate information on Access to Work promotional costs is not available.

Promotional material is available for employers and disabled people in a wide range of media including leaflets, audiotapes and videos as well as on the Jobcentre Plus website. A new suite of leaflets about Access to Work has also recently been produced for promotion at conferences and exhibitions.

Our Disability Employment Advisers regularly meet local employers to promote the full range of disability services, including Access to Work, and information on Access to Work is also available to individuals and employers through our Access to Work Advisers. Many disability organisations actively promote Access to Work and some include information about Access to Work on their web pages, which we regularly quality assure.

Information on spend on the Access to Work programme in the last five years is in the following table:

*Access to Work spend*

| | £ million |
|---|---|
| 1999–2000 | 24.4 |
| 2000–01 | 32.5 |
| 2001–02 | 42.5 |
| 2002–03 | 50.3 |
| 2003–04 | 56 |

*Source:*
DWP Disability and Rehabilitation Division

Information on the number of people helped by Access to Work in each of the last five years is in the following table:

*Number of people helped by Access to Work in the last five years*

| | Beneficiaries | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | *New* | *Existing* | *Total* |
| 1999–2000 | 9,786 | 10,943 | 20,729 |
| 2000–01 | 12,318 | 13,569 | 25,887 |
| 2001–02 | 13,137 | 19,661 | 32,798 |
| 2002–03 | 15,199 | 21,407 | 36,606 |
| 2003–04 | 15,433 | 19,411 | 34,844 |

*Note.*
New beneficiaries are people who receive Access to Work assistance for the first time ever within the financial year. Existing beneficiaries are people who received Access to Work assistance in a previous financial year, and continue to receive financial support.
*Source:*
Jobcentre Plus internal Management Information.

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much money has been spent on publicising the Access to Work scheme in 2004–05; and what the budget for promoting the scheme in 2005–06 is. [10685]

**Mrs. McGuire:** In 2004–05, we allocated around £300,000 for marketing and publicising our disability services and programmes, including access to work. The same amount has been allocated for 2005–06. Information is not yet available for costs incurred in promoting our disability services and programmes in 2004–05. Separate information on access to work promotional costs is not available.

### Administrative Costs

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent estimates he has made of the administrative cost of delivering *(a)* pension credit, *(b)* retirement pension and *(c)* child benefit for a period of one year, calculated on the same basis as that used by the Department to inform paragraph 13 of the Committee of Public Accounts Twelfth Report of Session 2002–03, Tackling Pension Poverty: Encouraging Take-up of Entitlements. [10764]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** Information is not currently available in the format requested. We expect information on administration costs to be available after our new suite of resource management systems is introduced in early 2006. Preliminary work will provide some data in the autumn of this year. In the meantime, the department's administration costs are set out by individual request for resources (RfR) in the departmental resource accounts, copies of which are placed in the Library.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his latest estimate is of the *(a)* administrative and *(b)* total costs in a year of (i) the winter fuel payment, (ii) free television licences for the over 75s, (iii) the pensioner Christmas bonus and (iv) the age-related pension top-up at age 80; and if he will make a statement. [1599]

**Mr. Timms:** Information on administrative costs is not currently available in the format requested. We expect information on administration costs to be available after our new suite of Resource Management systems is introduced in late 2005 and early 2006. In the meantime, the Department's administrations costs are set out, by individual Request for Resources (RfR), in the Departmental Resource Account for 2003–04, a copy of which was placed in the Library.

The 2003–04 outturn figures for total expenditure in cash terms are in the following table:

| | *Cost (£ million)* |
|---|---|
| Winter fuel payments | 1,935 |
| TV licences | 405 |
| Christmas bonus | 123 |
| Non-contributory state pension | 30 |

*Notes:*
1. Figures are for GB—but see note 2.
2. TV licence payments figure has been corrected since Budget 2005 and includes Northern Ireland expenditure.
3. Christmas bonus figure reflects contribution-based expenditure and includes expenditure on children and people of working age.
4. A non-contributory state pension (a Category D Pension) is paid to those from age 80 who are getting no state pension or a state pension that is lower than the level of a Category D Pension—£46.35 in 2003–04.
5. Benefit expenditure figures are consistent with Budget 2005.

*Source:*
DWP Forecasting Division's Expenditure Table 1. This table can also be found on the internet at: http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd4/expenditure.asp

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his latest estimate is of the annual cost to his Department of administering the *(a)* state pension and *(b)* pension credit; and if he will make a statement. [1036]

**Mr. Timms:** Information is not currently available in the format requested. We expect information on administration costs for state pension and pension credit to be available after our new suite of Resource Management systems is introduced in The Pension Service in early 2006. Preliminary work will provide some data in the autumn of this year. In the meantime, the department's administration costs are set out by individual Request for Resources (RfR) in the Departmental Resource Accounts, copies of which are placed in the Library.

### Benefit Fraud Hotline

**Mr. Crabb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many calls have been made in each year to the benefit fraud hotline since the service started. [8188]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** Information regarding calls made to the National Benefit Fraud Hotline has only been available from April 2004. Between April 2004 and March 2005, 278,513 calls were made. However, available information regarding the number of calls actually answered from 1997 is in the table.

*Calls answered by the National Benefit Fraud Hotline*

| *April to March* | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 1997–98 | 188,038 |
| 1998–99 | 170,032 |
| 1999–2000 | 162,067 |
| 2000–01 | 208,201 |
| 2001–02 | 205,999 |
| 2002–03 | 159,290 |
| 2003–04 | 211,054 |
| 2004–05 | 199,004 |

*Note:*
Information not held prior to April 1997.
*Source:*
National Benefit Fraud Hotline

### Benefits Payment

**Malcolm Bruce:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer given on 20 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 707W, on Benefits/Pensions (Payments Methods), if he will place Post Office Ltd.'s 'Operation Focus' publication in the Library. [9609]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The Department for Work and Pensions has no involvement in the 'Operational Focus'. The publication is owned by Post Office Ltd.

### Carers

**Vera Baird:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will make a statement on the national insurance contributions towards a basic state pension of a person who cares for an elderly or a sick relative for less than 35 hours per week but because of their caring responsibilities cannot work. [7212]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave her on 27 June 2005, *Official Report*, columns 1256–57W.

### Child Support Agency

**Mr. Hood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much funding has been allocated to the child maintenance scheme for 2005 in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* Scotland; and if he will make a statement. [10066]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The Child Support Agency has funding of £323 million for 2005–06 to undertake the administration of its UK operations. The funding is allocated to the Agency's two territories and within that to the six child support centres, headquarters and support locations. Each child support centre covers a wide geographical area and none is specific to Scotland.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* parents with care, *(b)* non-resident parents and *(c)* children included in Child Support Agency maintenance assessments there are in each parliamentary constituency; what proportion of each group are new scheme cases, broken down by parliamentary constituency; and what proportion of parents with care receive income support or jobseeker's allowance, broken down by parliamentary constituency. [1988]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the chief executive, Mr. Stephen Geraghty. He will write to the hon. Member.

*Letter from Stephen Geraghty to Mr. David Laws, dated 18 July 2005:*

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many *(a)* parents with care *(b)* non-resident parents and *(c)* children included in Child Support Agency maintenance assessments there are in each parliamentary constituency; what proportion of each group are new scheme cases broken down by parliamentary constituency; and what proportion of parents with care receive income support or jobseeker's allowance broken down by parliamentary constituency.

At May 2005 there were around 262,500 old scheme cases held on the new computer system. I am not currently able to provide the information you are seeking in relation to these cases because of system limitations. However, I expect to be in a position to do so by this Autumn. In addition, at May 2005, there were a further 12,000 new scheme cases being progressed clerically for which I am unable to break down the information as requested.

I hope you find this helpful.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many staff are employed in each Child Support Agency business unit; how many are assigned to *(a)* front end functions, *(b)* enforcement and *(c)* complaints; and what proportion of Agency staff each represents. [1995]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive, Mr. Stephen Geraghty. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Mike Isaac to Mr. David Laws, dated 19 July 2005:*

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive. As he is currently on leave I am replying on his behalf.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many staff are employed in each Child Support Agency business unit; how many are assigned to *(a)* front end functions *(b)* enforcement and *(c)* complaints; and what proportion of Agency staff each represents.

I am sorry that I could not be more helpful at this time.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will list the members of the Child Support Agency's management board since 2001; when each became a member; and what the reasons for each leaving the board were. [1993]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive, Mr. Stephen Geraghty. He will write to the hon. Member with the requested information.

*Letter from Stephen Geraghty to Mr. David Laws, dated 19 July 2005:*

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, if he will list the members of the Child Support Agency's management board since 2001; when each became a member; and what the reasons for each leaving the board were.

I have listed below the executive and non-executive members of the CSA management board since 2001 in order of appointment, providing reasons for leaving where appropriate.

| | *Appointment* | *Reason for leaving* |
|---|---|---|
| *Executive members* | | |
| Mick Davison | September 1995 to January 2003 | Moved to a new role within DWP |
| Mike Isaac | April 1996 to present | — |
| Gerry Keenan | November 1998 to January 2004 | Moved to a new role within the Department for Social Development in Northern Ireland |
| Vince Gaskell | November 1999 to August 2003 | Left DWP |
| Paul Hedley | January 2000 to May 2002 | Moved to a new role within DWP |
| Marietta Di Ciacca | February 2000 to January 2001 | Moved to a new role within DWP |
| Doug Smith | September 2000 to April 2005 | Retired |
| Helen Ghosh | November 2000 to August 2001 | Left DWP |
| Elaine Fox | November 2000 to present | — |
| Mark Neale | November 2001 to November 2003 | Left DWP |
| Deb Chakravarty | October 2002 to September 2003 | Left DWP |
| Jim Edgar | January 2003 to present | — |
| John Oliver | June 2003 to October 2004 | Moved to new role within DWP |
| Michael Foley | October 2003 to March 2005 | Secondment ended |
| Sheila Bird | October 2003 to October 2004 | Secondment ended |
| Marilyn Stirling | November 2003 to May 2004 | Contract ended |
| Shirley Trundle | November 2003 to present | — |
| Barney McGahan | January 2004 to present | — |
| Ron Eagle | June 2004 to present | — |
| Mark Grimshaw | January 2005 to present | — |
| Stephen Geraghty | April 2005 to present | — |
| *Non executive team members* | | |
| Marjorie Brown MBE | January 1999 to June 2002 | Contract expired |
| Clare Dodgson | February 1999 to September 2001 | Moved to a new role |
| Mary Hay | May 2002 to present | — |
| Dorit Braun | September 2002 to December 2004 | Resigned |
| Barbara Moorhouse | February 2003 to present | — |
| John Cross | July 2003 to present | — |

As at April 05 the Agency has 9,795 staff (whole time equivalent employees). The information you requested is in the tables. Note these figures do not include staff employed in Northern Ireland.

*Number of CSA staff employed in each business unit*

| *Business units* | *Frontline staff* | *Total staff* |
|---|---|---|
| Northern territory | 2,917 | 3,392 |
| Southern territory | 3,186 | 3,793 |
| Eastern territory (Great Britain) | 518 | 575 |
| Enforcement | 271 | 294 |
| National helpline | 430 | 446 |
| HQ and support services | — | 1,295 |
| Agency total | 7,322 | 9,795 |

*Source:*
April 05 Capacity Report and Dataview Disc

*Number and proportion of total CSA staff employed in frontline functions, enforcement and complaints*

| | *Number of staff* | *Proportion (percentage)* |
|---|---|---|
| Frontline functions | 7,322 | 75 |
| Enforcement | 271 | 3 |
| Complaints | 678 | 7 |

*Source:*
April 2005 Capacity Report

I hope you find this useful.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) if he will place in the Library a copy of the Child Support Agency's aftercare policy; [6194]

(2) if he will place a copy of the Child Support Agency's aftercare policy statement in the Library. [8743]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive, Mr. Stephen Geraghty. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Mike Isaac to Mr. David Laws, dated 19 July 2005:*

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your recent Parliamentary Questions on whether a copy of the Child Support Agency's aftercare policy will be placed in the Library. As he is currently on leave I am responding on his behalf.

There is a standard aftercare policy currently in operation for Independent Case Examiner complaints. The process is explained to the customer in the report they receive from the Independent Case Examiner and reads as follows:

'The *[Child Support]* Centre has agreed to monitor your case as part of the Agency's aftercare process. This means that within six weeks of the date of this report, the Centre will conduct a check of the case to ensure that there are no new or outstanding issues. If appropriate, you may be contacted by the Agency to give you up to date information about your case and to discuss any concerns you may have.'

We are currently looking at providing a consistent aftercare policy to cover all complaints made to the Agency, which will include Member of Parliament and ministerial correspondence complaints. I will make this policy available in the Library once it has been agreed and implemented.

I hope this is helpful.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what information the Child Support Agency's Sapphire database contains; and what Sapphire payments are. [9326]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive, Mr. Stephen Geraghty. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Mike Isaac to Mr. David Laws, dated 19 July 2005:*

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive. As he is currently on leave I am responding on his behalf.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what information the Child Support Agency's Sapphire database contains; and what Sapphire payments are.

The Agency manages a clerical database which is a stand-alone IT system and is used to control cases that we can no longer progress on the mainframe CSCS or CS2 computer systems. This database was originally managed by a group of staff referred to as the Sapphire Team. We no longer use this term.

The database contains the following information:

Details of person with care and non-resident parent

Payments made to parent with care

Payments made to Secretary of State

Methods of collection and methods of payment

Schedules of collections and payments

The database helps to maintain clerical payments, which are currently issued through two processing centres. The Client Funds Account team in Longbenton receive the payments. Two processing centres in Cumnock and Stockport ensure the money is paid out to the person with care or Secretary of State.

I hope you find this answer useful.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will make a statement on the purpose of the Child Support Agency's War Room. [9327]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the chief executive, Mr. Stephen Geraghty. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Mike Isaac to Mr. David Laws, dated 19 July 2005:*

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive. As he is currently on leave I am responding on his behalf.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, if he will make a statement on the purpose of the Child Support Agency's War Room.

"War Room" is an informal term used by many organisations to identify meetings held to discuss subjects of high importance and/or great complexity. This is also true for the Child Support Agency.

I hope you find this reply helpful.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what action was taken following the recommendation by the Child Support Agency's internal audit to prevent staff manipulating their workflow to allow them to select cases which require minimum processing effort. [11853]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The immediate response to the internal audit recommendation was to separate backlog work from new work, and deal with each stream separately. This solution is now giving way to an IT solution. The IT solution will restrict the ability to re-allocate work, so that only team leaders can do this.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will list the Child Support Agency's identified risks over the last four years; and what the failed *(a)* level and *(b)* nature of each was. [3865]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** Disclosure of this information would be likely to prejudice the effective management of the identified risks and would be likely to inhibit the free and frank provision of advice in these areas.

**Derek Wyatt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has to reform the Child Support Agency; and if he will make a statement [9819]

**Mr. Plaskitt** *[holding answer 5 July 2005]:* The problems surrounding the Child Support Agency are well known. We have recently appointed a new Chief Executive and as a priority have asked him to carry out a wide ranging review of the agency's operations and structures.

He will be reporting his findings to us in the next few months setting out his proposals to improve the agency's performance.

### Disability Discrimination Act

**Roger Berry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he plans to announce his Department's response to the consultation on the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 Regulations as they affect people with a cancer diagnosis. [8180]

**Mrs. McGuire:** This consultation document (Cm6402) was published on 16 December 2004 and covered a wide range of issues, including proposals on the use of a regulation-making power to exclude certain cancers (mainly minor skin cancers) from the scope of the extended definition of disability in the Disability Discrimination Bill, now the Disability Discrimination Act 2005. The formal consultation ended on 18 March.

During consideration of the Disability Discrimination Bill in the House of Lords, the Government undertook not to use the cancer regulation-making power until it had reviewed in consultation with the Disability Rights Commission and cancer organisations, evidence relating to disability discrimination in respect of cancers not likely to require substantial treatment. This exercise supplemented the public consultation and was carried out in April and May. We are considering the outcomes of both these exercises and expect to be in a position to publish the results shortly.

### Disability Premium

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many single claimants aged *(a)* less than 25 years and *(b)* 25 years and older are in receipt of (i) disability premium, (ii) enhanced disability premium and (iii) severe disability premium. [1987]

**Mrs. McGuire:** The information is in the table.

*Single claimants of income support (IS), income-based jobseekers allowance(JSA), housing benefit (HB) and council tax benefit (CTB) by age and receipt of type of disability premium, Great Britain, May 2003*

| | *Disability premium (DP)* | *Severe disability premium (SDP)* | *Enhanced disability premium (EDP)* | *Claimants with one or more of DP, SDP or EDP* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| All single claimants | 1,030,000 | 670,000 | 110,000 | 1,530,000 |
| Those under 25 | 70,000 | 10,000 | 10,000 | 70,000 |
| Those 25 and over | 960,000 | 660,000 | 100,000 | 1,450,000 |

*Notes:*
1. Due to the estimation procedure to produce the figures for housing benefit and council tax benefit and the collection procedures in Scotland, figures are rounded to the nearest 10 thousand.
2. Totals may not sum due to the estimation process involved in producing the figures.
3. Overlaps between the benefits have been removed, however there will be overlaps in the figures as it is possible to be in receipt of more than one of the premiums listed.
4. Council tax benefit cases exclude any second adult rebate cases.
5. Housing benefit cases exclude extended payment cases.

*Sources:*
1. Housing benefit and council tax benefit management information system, annual 1 per cent. sample taken in May 2003.
2. Income support and jobseekers allowance: Information Directorate, 5 per cent. samples

### Housing Allowance/Benefit

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the implications of using different IT systems to process housing benefit in the local housing allowance pilot areas for the administration of the system. [8865]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** It is the responsibility of each local authority to review the performance of their information technology supplier. The Department has not made an assessment of the implications of using different IT systems to process housing benefit in the local housing allowance pilot areas.

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether the single housing benefit form HBRR1 is *(a)* included in all rapid claim packs and *(b)* applicable in every local authority. [5440]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The housing benefit form HBRR1 is included in all rapid reclaim packs for income support and jobseeker's allowance. These packs are issued nationally by Jobcentre Plus and cover all local authorities.

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what effect the introduction of local housing allowances has had on the level of fraud in relation to housing benefit in the pathfinder areas; and if he will make a statement. [5473]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The information requested is not available.

We are continuing to evaluate the local housing allowance (LHA) with the pathfinder areas. We are not yet in a position to estimate the impact of the LHA on the level of fraud or overpayments.

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the *(a)* initial and *(b)* projected cost of setting up the local housing allowance scheme in the nine pathfinder areas is, broken down by (i) benefit payments and (ii) IT expenditure. [5490]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The total administrative costs of the local housing allowance pathfinders in 2003–04 and 2004–05 were £6.1 million. Of this, £1.4 million covered IT expenditure. Administrative funding for 2005–06 is estimated at £2.75 million, none of which is earmarked for IT costs.

Benefit expenditure is estimated to be £23 million in 2004–05, although this does not represent full year costs for all nine pathfinders as not all of them had fully converted their caseload at the start of the year, and £32.5 million in 2005–06.

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what performance standards for local authority administration of housing benefit have been introduced since 1997; and how many local authorities have met these performance targets since they were introduced. [5491]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The Performance Standards were first launched in March 2002 to set out clearly for the first time the standards of service that local authorities should be aiming to deliver. The standards described what needed to be done to administer housing benefit effectively and securely, and addressed all aspects of administration.

The Performance Standards were reviewed in 2004 and a revised publication was issued in March 2005, based on a significantly reduced set of standards to reduce the burden of self-assessment for all 408 local authorities.

The information is in the table.

*Number of authorities meeting the standards for processing claims to benefit in each of the years shown*

| *Performance standard:* | *2002–03* | *2003–04* | *2004–05* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Number of local authorities recording new claim processing times of 36 days or less | 119 | 135 | 202 |
| Number of local authorities deciding on 90 per cent. of claims or more within 14 days | 73 | 63 | 109 |
| Number of local authorities recording change of circumstances processing times of nine days or less | 138 | 168 | 191 |

*Source:*
Local Authority submitted data.

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many appeals have been made against housing benefit decisions in each year since 1997; and in what proportion of cases the appeal was decided in favour of the appellant. [5493]

**Mrs. McGuire:** This is a matter for Christina Townsend, chief executive of the Appeals Service. She will write to the hon. Member.

*Letter from Phil Teece to Mr. Paul Goodman, dated 18 July 2005:*

The Secretary of State has asked Christina Townsend, Chief Executive, to reply to your question regarding how many appeals have been made against Housing Benefit decisions in each year since 1997; and in what proportion of cases the appeal was decided in favour of the appellant. Christina is away from the office at the moment and I have been asked to reply.

The information you have asked for is not available in the format requested as the Appeals Service only assumed responsibility for Housing Benefit appeals from July 2001. The table below, therefore, only shows the number of appeals made against Housing Benefit decisions from 2001 and in what proportion of cases the appeal was decided in favour of the appellant.

*Housing Benefit Appeals Found in Favour of the Appellant*

| | *Lodged* | *Cleared in Favour* | *% Cleared in Favour* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Apr 01–Mar 02 | 3,940 | 305 | 7.71% |
| Apr 02–Mar 03 | 4,170 | 700 | 16.75% |
| Apr 03–Mar 04 | 4,180 | 645 | 15.38% |
| Apr 04–Mar 05 | 3,900 | 750 | 19.27% |

*Notes:*
1. All figures are subject to change as more up to date data becomes available.
2. Figures for the latest months will rise significantly as information feeds through to the Appeals Service.
3. Figures are rounded to the nearest five.
4. "Lodged" denotes the number of reconsiderations submitted to the first tire agency. Lodged data only enters the GAPS database when the Appeal reaches the Appeals Service.
5. The appeals service only started dealing with housing benefit appeals in July 2001.
6. The totals apply to Housing Benefit appeals only and not combined Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit appeals.

*Source:*
100% download of the Generic Appeals Processing System.

I hope this reply is helpful.

**Joan Walley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what account his Department is taking of the concerns of landlords in the private rented housing sector regarding direct payment of housing benefit to tenants. [10696]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The general provision is that payment of housing benefit is made to the tenant. Every tenant is personally responsible for paying their rent; of those who claim housing benefit, the vast majority accept that responsibility by paying rent to their landlords.

While the present regulations give consideration to the personal responsibility of the tenant and the legitimate interests of landlords, it is ultimately the landlord's own responsibility to ensure that he obtains whatever payments are properly due to him, irrespective of the tenant's source of income.

Housing benefit regulations give local authorities wide-ranging powers to pay benefit direct to a claimant's landlord where there are eight weeks arrears of rent, unless it is in the tenant's overriding interest not to do so, or the landlord is not regarded as fit and proper to receive such payments.

Local authorities also have discretion to make direct payments at any time where they decide that it is in the tenant's best interest to do so. This provision also caters for circumstances where it may be appropriate to make direct payments where there are no rent arrears, for example where the tenant has a history of rent arrears at a previous address or where social or medical problems clearly indicate that help with budgeting is needed.

If a tenant, having originally agreed to payment direct to his landlord, then withdraws his consent it is still open to the local authority to make direct payment if they are satisfied this would be in the tenant's interest, for example, to prevent rent arrears and possible eviction.

Early experience with the local housing allowance is that landlords are increasingly working with local authorities and their concerns over tenants not paying their rent have not been realised.

### Incapacity Benefit

**Mr. McFadden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Wolverhampton South East constituency are in receipt of incapacity benefit. [10994]

**Mrs. McGuire:** As at February 2005, there were 4,600 incapacity benefit and severe disability allowance claimants in the Wolverhampton South East parliamentary constituency.

**Adam Afriyie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his estimate is of the number of people who did not receive the incapacity benefit to which they were entitled because they had incorrectly completed the initial application form in the last year for which figures are available. [12266]

**Mrs. McGuire:** The information is not collected centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) if he will list the organisations contracted by his Department to assess claims for incapacity benefit, broken down by region; [12951]

(2) if he will list the organisations responsible for the assessment of the performance of the organisations contracted by his Department to assess claims for incapacity benefit. [12952]

**Mrs. McGuire** *[holding answer 18 July 2005]:* No organisations have been contracted by the Department to assess claims for incapacity benefit. All such claims are assessed by Jobcentre Plus staff.

**Mr. Frank Field:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the estimated annual probability was of an *(a)* employed and *(b)* unemployed (i) man and (ii) woman remaining on incapacity benefit in each 12 month period since 1978–79. [13014]

**Mrs. McGuire** *[holding answer 18 July 2005]:* The information is not available.

### Jobcentre Staff (Attacks)

**Mr. Clappison:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many jobcentre staff have been the victims of offences of violence in each year for the last 10 years. [4945]

**Margaret Hodge:** The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. She will write to the hon. Member.

*Letter from Lesley Strathie to Mr. James Clappison, dated 19 July 2005:*

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how many Jobcentre Plus staff have been victims of violence in each year for the last 10 years. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The figures provided in the table relate specifically to actual physical assault as a result of staff carrying out their duties, rather than the number of victims of offences of violence as our data is not recorded in that way. Data prior to the periods covered is not available.

| *Calendar year* | *Assaults* |
|---|---|
| 2000* | 291 |
| 2001* | 326 |
| 2002 | 203 |
| 2003 | 235 |
| 2004 | 329 |

*Notes:*

1. Jobcentre Plus was set up on 1 April 2002, bringing together the former Department for Social Security's Benefit Agency (BA) and the Employment Service (ES);
2. data for the calendar years 2000* and 2001* reflects the combined figures for ES and BA. Data for the calendar years 2002–04 reflects total figures for Jobcentre Plus;
3. owing to a number of significant variables such as staffing levels, types and numbers of offices and methods of service delivery over the above period, year-on-year comparisons are not possible.

I hope this is helpful.

### Lone Parents

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what percentage of lone parents are in paid employment in each constituency in the UK, listed in descending order of percentage. [8267]

**Margaret Hodge** *[holding answer 4 July 2005]:* The information is not available in the form requested. The available information on the number and percentage of lone parents in employment by region in descending order of percentage is in the following table.

*Number and percentage of lone parents in employment*

| | *Number* | *Percentage* |
|---|---|---|
| South West | 85,000 | 66.4 |
| South East | 120,000 | 64.0 |
| Eastern | 75,000 | 60.4 |
| Wales | 55,000 | 59.8 |
| East Midlands | 70,000 | 58.4 |
| Yorkshire and Humberside | 85,000 | 57.5 |
| West Midlands | 90,000 | 57.4 |
| Scotland | 90,000 | 56.3 |
| North West | 135,000 | 55.1 |
| North East | 45,000 | 52.3 |
| London | 125,000 | 41.6 |

*Note:*
Numbers are rounded to nearest 5,000. Percentages are rounded to nearest percentage point.
*Source:*
Labour Force Survey, Autumn 2004.

### Medical Examination Centres

**Paul Holmes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what level and type of medical qualification is required for a professional employed to conduct benefit claimants' medical examinations at a medical examination centre. [10079]

**Mrs. McGuire:** Doctors appointed by the Medical Service are specifically trained in disability assessment medicine.

All doctors who carry out work for Medical Services have to be fully registered with the General Medical Council. In addition, they must satisfy specific recruitment criteria. They are required to have at least three years post-registration experience with a spread of experience in appropriate fields, for example, General Practice, Orthopaedics, Rheumatology, rehabilitation medicine and Psychiatry.

On appointment, they must undergo specific training, show evidence of competence and be approved on behalf of the Secretary of State by the Chief Medical Advisor to the Department for Work and Pensions.

Annual continuing professional training, agreed between Atos Origin and the Department, is mandatory for every doctor providing services to the Department.

### New Deal

**Mr. Boswell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has for incorporating basic skills education into the Building on New Deal programme. [6654]

**Margaret Hodge:** Basic skills is a key element of the Building on New Deal (BoND) programme. It is planned that Advisers will work with customers to identify potential literacy, language or numeracy needs and, where such needs are identified, referral for an independent assessment of those needs will be offered.

The assessment will identify the customer's current level of skill and help determine the most appropriate provision to address those needs and improve skills.

The planned suite of provision offered to clients within BoND contains courses to help improve literacy and language skills to a level where customers are able to compete more effectively in the labour market.

### Parliamentary Questions

**Malcolm Bruce:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he will answer written parliamentary questions reference *(a)* 3169, *(b)* 3160, *(c)* 3158, *(d)* 3157, *(e)* 3156 and *(f)* 3153. [9582]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** Replies were given to the hon. Member on 4 and 13 July.

### Pathfinders Evaluations

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when the next round of Pathfinders evaluations will be completed and published. [11703]

**Mr. Plaskitt** *[holding answer 14 July 2005]:* We are about to publish further evidence from the local housing allowance pathfinder evaluation. The expected publication dates for the next and future evaluation summaries and reports is given in the table. All these documents will be placed in the Library when they are published.

| *Interim summaries/reports* | *Provisional publication date* |
|---|---|
| Six month claimant report | 20 July 2005 |
| Interim landlord summary | 20 July 2005 |
| Interim landlord report | October 2005 |
| Fifteen month operational stakeholder report | End November 2005 |
| Fifteen month claimant summary | Mid December 2005 |
| Fifteen month claimant report | End March 2006 |
| Final evaluation reports | — |
| Stakeholder and market | End October 2006 |
| Claimants and landlords | Mid December 2006 |

### Pension Credit

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether it is his policy to uprate pension credit in proportion to average earnings for the length of this Parliament. [7532]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The Government have given an undertaking to increase the guarantee credit in line with earnings up to March 2008.

### Pension Protection Fund

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will assess the effectiveness of the Pension Protection Fund. [12508]

**Margaret Hodge:** The Pension Protection Fund (PPF) is up and running very successfully. Since its launch on 6 April 2005 10 schemes have entered an assessment period.

Since the PPF is a brand new organisation, involving a huge raft of new legislation, we have been closely monitoring the effectiveness of our regulations to ensure the PPF's smooth operation.

The PPF is working well with the pensions regulator and effective information flows have been established. The PPF also report that they have developed constructive relationships with a number of independent trustees.

There has been a broad welcome from the pensions industry to the publication of the PPF's Statement of Investment Principles and consultation on the Risk Based Levy.

### Pension Schemes/Service

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how the Government calculated the funding required for the financial assistance scheme. [12544]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave him on 13 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 1120W.

**Mr. Frank Field:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will break down the proportion of the total national insurance contracted out rebate going into *(a)* public and *(b)* private pension schemes by type of scheme for the latest year for which figures are available. [12146]

**Mr. Plaskitt** *[Holding answer 14 July 2005]:* The information is in the table and is based on the number of people in contracted-out schemes during the 2002–03 tax year, the latest year for which information is available:

| Type of scheme | Percentage of total rebate | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Public | Private | Total |
| Contracted out salary related | 36 | 26 | 62 |
| Contracted out money purchase | — | 2 | 2 |
| Contracted out mixed benefit | — | 4 | 4 |
| Appropriate personal pension | — | 32 | 32 |
| Total | 36 | 64 | 100 |

*Note:*
Percentages rounded to nearest whole figure.
*Source:*
"Second Tier Pensions provision" published by the Department for Work and Pensions using the Lifetime Labour Market Database which uses a 1 per cent. sample of national insurance records.

**Mrs. James:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what the levels of *(a)* sickness and *(b)* other staff absence were at the Pension Service Centre in Swansea in the most recent period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement; [11395]

(2) how many staff there are at the Pension Service Centre in Swansea, broken down by grade pay scales; and if he will make a statement. [11400]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** A breakdown of numbers of staff at Swansea pension centre is given in Tables 1 and 2. In June 2005 the average number of working days lost per member of staff as a result of sickness was 8.06 days and the average absence due to other factors was 12.63 days.

*Table 1: Permanent staff, Swansea pension centre, week beginning 4 July 2005*

| Grade | Whole-time equivalent staff | Headcount |
|---|---|---|
| Grade 6 | 1.00 | 1 |
| Grade 7 | 1.00 | 1 |

*Table 1: Permanent staff, Swansea pension centre, week beginning 4 July 2005*

| Grade | Whole-time equivalent staff | Headcount |
|---|---|---|
| Senior Executive Officer | 6.00 | 6 |
| Higher Executive Officer | 8.90 | 9 |
| Executive Officer | 166.25 | 177 |
| Administrative Officer | 300.48 | 319 |
| Administrative Assistant | 17.45 | 19 |
| Total | 501.08 | 532 |

*Table 2: Non-permanent staff, Swansea pension centre, week beginning 4 July 2005*

| Grade | Whole-time equivalent staff | Headcount |
|---|---|---|
| Administrative Officer | 59.07 | 61 |
| Administrative Assistant | 43.00 | 45 |
| Total | 102.07 | 106 |

**Mrs. James:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what work has been transferred to the Pension Service Centre in Swansea following closure of other offices in North Devon and Cornwall; and if he will make a statement; [11401]

(2) what volume of work was processed at the Pension Centre in Swansea in each of the last 12 months for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [11426]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** Table 1 sets out the volumes of work processed at Swansea Pension Centre between July 2004 and June 2005. Table 2 indicates the volumes of work processed at the Pension Centre in respect of North Devon, Cornwall and Wales. Work in respect of North Devon and Cornwall was transferred to Swansea between September 2004 and March 2005.

*Table 1: Volumes of work processed, Swansea pension centre, July 2004–June 2005*

| | State pension claims processed | State pension, changes processed | Pension credit applications processed | Pension credit changes processed |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| July 2004 | 2,594 | 18,412 | 4,741 | 21,282 |
| August 2004 | 2,444 | 16,765 | 3,734 | 23,321 |
| September 2004 | 3,612 | 20,098 | 2,828 | 30,854 |
| October 2004 | 3,051 | 22,731 | 2,666 | 26,501 |
| November 2004 | 3,357 | 18,833 | 3,175 | 22,297 |
| December 2004 | 3,000 | 21,548 | 2,259 | 21,858 |
| January 2005 | 3,783 | 27,200 | 3,217 | 30,452 |
| February 2005 | 2,991 | 18,185 | 3,619 | 28,123 |
| March 2005 | 3,559 | 19,657 | 4,970 | 31,128 |
| April 2005 | 3,911 | 18,118 | 2,865 | 22,160 |
| May 2005 | 4,175 | 15,202 | 2,939 | 22,720 |
| June 2005 | 4,425 | 18,251 | 2,875 | 24,650 |
| Total | 40,902 | 235,000 | 39,888 | 305,346 |

*Table 2: Swansea pension centre: workload in respect of North Devon, Cornwall and Wales, June 2005*

| | State pension live accounts | Pension credit live accounts |
|---|---|---|
| North Devon | 66,500 | 28,104 |
| Cornwall | 64,000 | 27,551 |
| Wales | 393,623 | 159,683 |

*Notes:*
1. Swansea pension centre currently covers the whole of Wales, plus North Devon and Cornwall.
2. Figures for state pension live accounts for North Devon and Cornwall are approximate only.
*Source:*
Swansea pension centre

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pension schemes in the Coventry South area would be eligible for assistance from the Financial Assistance Scheme; and if he will make a statement. [12509]

**Margaret Hodge:** On 22 February the Government published an indicative list of schemes potentially eligible for the Financial Assistance Scheme (FAS). The list is based on information from a data collection exercise at the end of last year. From the information available none of the schemes on that list appears to be in the Coventry South area. After the FAS regulations

have come into force, there will be a six-month period during which other schemes will have the opportunity to notify their details to the FAS.

The list of schemes is available in the Library.

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pension schemes in Coventry South operate under a defined benefit scheme. [12510]

**Margaret Hodge:** Information relating specifically to Coventry South is not available. There are around 110 such schemes in Coventry.

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when the Government plan to review the *(a)* Pension Protection Fund and *(b)* Financial Assistance Scheme to evaluate their efficiency and the quality of assistance they provide. [12511]

**Margaret Hodge:** While the Department has no responsibilities in the operational activities of the Pension Protection Fund, it has a primary role of stewardship. This involves active engagement with the organisation to ensure value for money and effective delivery against objectives.

The Pension Protection Fund must adhere to formal reporting and audit requirements and engage in regular Accountability Reviews with the Department. As a non-departmental public body, the Pension Protection Fund is accountable to Parliament and is legally required to lay its annual report and accounts before Parliament.

Board members are accountable for their decisions and performance—they must adhere to the legal framework of the organisation, and they can be removed from office for not meeting their terms and conditions. The Government made clear, on introducing the Financial Assistance Scheme (FAS) in May 2004, that its operation will be reviewed after three years. In addition, a report on FAS's operation for each financial year will be laid before Parliament.

**Mr. Denham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the national insurance rebates for pension provision that will be payable in 2026. [12794]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The Government Actuary's Department has estimated that, assuming real earnings growth of 2 per cent. a year, the national insurance rebate for pension provision in Great Britain that would be payable in 2026 is £17.3 billion in cash terms, or £10.3 billion in constant 2005–06 prices. These estimates are based on the projections carried out for the update of the Quinquennial Review of the National Insurance Fund published in December 2004.

**Derek Wyatt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the level of the core benefit in the Financial Assistance Scheme is; and if he will make a statement. [13316]

**Margaret Hodge:** A qualifying member or former member of a scheme who was within three years of his or her normal retirement age for that scheme, on 14 May 2004, will receive assistance that will top up his or her scheme pension to a level broadly equivalent to 80 per cent. of his or her expected pension. Payments will be subject to a de minimis level and a cap.

The expected pension is the core component of the pension that a scheme member would have received each year had their scheme been able to meet its liabilities to in full. For non-pensioner members will look at the rate of accrued pension when active service ceased. For pensioner members we will look at the rate of unreduced pension that would have been in payment had the scheme not started to wind-up. Rights will be revalued to age 65.

If a qualifying member dies at any point after the start of scheme wind-up, his or her surviving spouse or civil partner will receive FAS payments at 50 per cent. of the member's entitlement.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 11 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 679W, on the Financial Assistance Scheme, for what reasons the rate payable to the terminally ill is set at 60 per cent.; and whether this is the case even where the members' pension scheme has completed wind-up. [13513]

**Margaret Hodge:** Where a pension scheme qualifying for help from the Financial Assistance Scheme (FAS) has completed wind-up, assistance for eligible members (including terminally ill people) will top up to 80 per cent. of core pension rights.

The top-up rate for discretionary initial payments made to eligible members before wind-up has been completed, including terminally ill people, has been set at 60 per cent. of core pension rights. This is because at that stage scheme trustees will not know how the scheme's assets compare with its liabilities and how much pension individual members have lost. This follows the precedent whereby trustees may, where funds allow, make interim payments at a safe rate to pensioner members from the pension scheme itself before wind-up is completed. Initial payments from the FAS will take account of any interim payments from the pension scheme. The top-up rate will be adjusted to 80 per cent. on the completion of wind-up and, if needed, arrears will be paid to compensate for the lower rate of payment during wind-up.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 11 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 679W, on the Financial Assistance Scheme, if he will list the occasions when his Department has encouraged the trustees of schemes eligible for the Financial Assistance Scheme to start making payments as quickly as possible. [13514]

**Margaret Hodge:** In the written ministerial statement on 2 December 2004, *Official Report*, columns 64–66WS, we made clear that trustees should fulfil their duty to wind-up schemes in an expeditious manner (including annuitisation where appropriate). That remains the Government's position.

Once the formal scheme notification period for the Financial Assistance Scheme (FAS) starts on 1 September 2005, guidance will be available for trustees to explain the FAS and the requirements it places upon them, and to re-emphasise the importance of their making payments to their members as soon as they can.

### Return to Work Support

**Mr. Frank Field:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many long-term claimants of incapacity benefit in Birkenhead have been offered support to return to work through *(a)* the New Deal for Disabled People, *(b)* work preparation, *(c)* workstep, *(d)* the permitted work rules, *(e)* benefit run-ons and *(f)* other Jobcentre Plus provision. [12640]

**Mrs. McGuire** *[holding answer 18 July 2005]:* The information is not collated or held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

### Strychnine Hydrochloride

**David Maclean:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many accidents affecting human health as a result of strychnine hydrochloride used by mole catchers have occurred in the last 10 years. [6273]

**Mrs. McGuire:** The Health and Safety Executive has not received any reports in the last 10 years of accidents affecting human health as a result of strychnine hydrochloride used by mole catchers.

### Winter Fuel Payment

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many payments of the winter fuel allowance were made to pensioners living overseas in each year from 2001–02 to 2005–06; in which countries the qualifying pensioners lived; and if he will make a statement. [12408]

**Mr. Timms** *[holding answer 18 July 2005]:* The number of payments made to pensioners living overseas is in the table. Payments for winter 2005–06 have not yet been made.

| Country | Payments made in winter: 2002–03 | 2003–04 | 2004–05 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Gibraltar | 32 | 49 | 73 |
| Republic of Ireland | 660 | 1,397 | 2,367 |
| Austria | 15 | 25 | 45 |
| Belgium | 21 | 37 | 65 |
| Denmark | 12 | 19 | 32 |
| Finland | 10 | 12 | 21 |
| France | 1,780 | 3,797 | 6,472 |
| Germany | 88 | 226 | 369 |
| Greece | 63 | 150 | 271 |
| Italy | 96 | 201 | 360 |
| Luxembourg | 4 | 4 | 9 |
| Netherlands | 24 | 58 | 83 |
| Norway | 2 | 8 | 13 |
| Portugal | 104 | 257 | 432 |
| Spain | 5,167 | 10,390 | 16,215 |
| Sweden | 7 | 28 | 40 |
| Switzerland | 9 | 21 | 45 |
| Iceland | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| Cyprus | 0 | 0 | 1,408 |
| Malta | 0 | 0 | 264 |
| Poland | 0 | 0 | 27 |
| Hungary | 0 | 0 | 21 |
| Slovenia | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Czech Republic | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Lithuania | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Latvia | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Totals | 8,094 | 16,679 | 28,661 |

*Notes:*

1. Pensioners living overseas were first paid in winter 2002–03, these payments included any arrears due for earlier winters. It is not possible to give a separate breakdown of these earlier years.
2. Entitled pensioners living in the 10 countries that joined the European Union in May 2004 could be paid from winter 2004–05.

### Work-related Stress

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many cases of work-related stress have been reported in his Department in each of the last three years; how much compensation was paid to employees in each year; how many work days were lost due to work-related stress in each year; at what cost; what procedures have been put in place to reduce work-related stress; at what cost; and if he will make a statement. [7877]

**Mrs. McGuire:** The Department for Work and Pensions does not collect information in the format requested. Our sick absence statistics contain figures for absences due to mental and behavioural disorders, which is the category which includes stress-related absences, both those which are work-related and those which are not.

In the year to May 2005, the average working days lost per staff year was 12.4, which is an absence rate of 5 per cent. Of this total, days lost due to mental and behavioural disorders represent about 30 per cent. The table sets out the detail about the working days lost due to mental and behavioural disorders.

| Period (1 June to 31 May) | Occurrences | Total working days lost | Salary costs (£) |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2002–03 | 14,965 | 406,747 | 22,800,243 |
| 2003–04 | 15,648 | 434,852 | 25,652,989 |
| 2004–05 | 13,320 | 362,907 | 22,245,941 |

The Department does not collect separate information about compensation payments relating to work-related stress. The total paid in compensation in the last three years is in the table.

| Period | Amount of compensation |
|---|---|
| 2002–03 | 74,209 |
| 2003–04 | 130,550 |
| 2004/05 | 62,080 |

The Department introduced a well-being at work policy in September 2004 as a means of tackling work-related stress. The HSE Management Standards and associated processes underpin the well-being policy and feature as part of the annual DWP staff survey. In addition, the Department has contracts with Atos Origin to provide an occupational health service, and with Right Core Care to provide an employee assistance service. Such provision is not, however, confined to work-related stress, which means it is difficult to apportion a cost to what is being done to reduce this.

## HEALTH

### Abortions

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many abortions have been performed in *(a)* Great Britain and *(b)* Essex under the Abortion Act, as amended by the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 1990; and what percentage and how many were performed to save the life of the mother. [8120]

**Caroline Flint:** The number of abortions performed in England and Wales on residents of England and Wales in the years 1968 to 2003 was 4.92 million. Of these 23,470 (0.5 per cent.) were performed under Sections 1(1)*(c)* and 1(4) of the Abortion Act 1967. These are cases where the continuance of the pregnancy would involve risk to the life of the pregnant woman, greater than if the pregnancy were terminated, or where the termination is immediately necessary to save the life or to prevent grave permanent injury to the physical or mental health of the pregnant woman.

Due to boundary changes, it is not possible to give the total number of abortions performed in Essex in the years 1968 to 2003. In 2002 there were 4,626 abortions performed in Essex, which accounted for about 3 per cent. of all abortions England and Wales in 2002.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many doctors specialising in abortion procedures there are in the Southend West constituency. [9927]

**Caroline Flint:** This information is not collected centrally.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many abortions were performed in Southend Primary Care Trust, broken down by *(a)* grounds, *(b)* the age of the woman and *(c)* the number of previous abortions in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available; [9969]

(2) how many abortions were carried out at each week of gestation between 18 and 32 in the last year for which figures are available; [10419]

(3) how many women in England had an abortion in each of the last five years for which figures are available who already had had *(a)* one, *(b)* two, *(c)* three, *(d)* four and *(e)* five previous abortions; [10422]

(4) how many women in the Southend area had an abortion in each of the last five years for which figures are available who already had had *(a)* one, *(b)* two, *(c)* three, *(d)* four and *(e)* five previous abortions; [10423]

(5) what the total number of abortions performed in *(a)* England, *(b)* Wales and *(c)* Scotland was in each of the last five years for which figures are available; and how many were performed in (i) NHS and (ii) private hospitals; [10595]

(6) how many selective reduction abortions there were in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available; [10602]

(7) whether her Department requires doctors performing selective reduction of pregnancies to require a certificate stating the grounds for termination of unborn babies under the Abortion Act 1967; [10603]

(8) what proportion of women having an abortion in the latest year for which figures are available were married at the time of the abortion; what the statistical mode figures were for *(a)* the age of the woman, *(b)* the gestation of the pregnancy, *(c)* the number of previous children born to the woman and *(d)* the number of previous abortions undergone by the woman; and what the most common legal grounds were under which the abortion was performed. [10937]

**Caroline Flint:** The Abortion Act 1967 requires any registered medical practitioner who terminates a pregnancy to give notice of the termination to the Chief Medical Officer, including selective reduction of pregnancies.

The available information for abortions performed in England and Wales is contained in the annual Office for National Statistics publication, "Abortion Statistics, series A8"; Office for National Statistics and the Department's, "Statistical Bulletin 2003/23", and "Statistical Bulletin 2004/14". Data for 1991 onwards can be found on the Department's website at: www.dh.gov.uk/PublicationsAndStatistics/Statistics/StatisticalWorkAreas/StatisticalPublicHealth/fs/en. Copies of the publications are also available in the Library.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many abortions were performed on girls aged *(a)* 10, *(b)* 11, *(c)* 12, *(d)* 13, *(e)* 14, *(f)* 15, *(g)* 16 and *(h)* 17 years of age in each year since 1975; and how many were performed to save the life of the pregnant woman. [10420]

**Caroline Flint:** The information available is shown in the table.

With regard to the number of abortions performed to save the life of the pregnant woman, I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave earlier.

*Legal abortions: number of abortions by age between 10 and 17 years, residents, England and Wales, 1975 to 2003*

| | | Ages | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Total all ages* | *10* | *11* | *12* | *13* | *14* | *15* | *16* | *17* |
| 1975 | 106,224 | 0 | 0 | 12 | 120 | 747 | 2,691 | 5,411 | 6,394 |
| 1976 | 101,912 | 0 | 6 | 14 | 122 | 738 | 2,545 | 5,429 | 6,285 |
| 1977 | 102,677 | 0 | 1 | 13 | 105 | 804 | 2,701 | 5,510 | 6,367 |
| 1978 | 111,851 | 0 | 3 | 20 | 113 | 708 | 2,454 | 5,675 | 6,733 |
| 1979 | 120,611 | 0 | 9 | 12 | 116 | 698 | 2,693 | 6,030 | 7,412 |
| 1980 | 128,927 | 0 | 5 | 17 | 139 | 769 | 2,716 | 6,330 | 7,932 |
| 1981 | 128,581 | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— | [2]830 | 2,701 | [1]— | [1]— |
| 1982 | 128,553 | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— | [2]931 | 2,921 | [1]— | [1]— |
| 1983 | 127,375 | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— | [2]1,029 | 3,058 | [1]— | [1]— |
| 1984 | 136,388 | 0 | 1 | 9 | 111 | 898 | 3,139 | 6,802 | 8,406 |
| 1985 | 141,101 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 118 | 899 | 2,978 | 6,648 | 8,432 |
| 1986 | 147,619 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 77 | 842 | 2,970 | 6,175 | 8,309 |
| 1987 | 156,191 | 1 | 1 | 10 | 114 | 781 | 2,58 | 6,251 | 8,252 |
| 1988 | 168,298 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 88 | 764 | 2,709 | 6,513 | 9,212 |
| 1989 | 170,463 | 0 | 0 | 9 | 72 | 722 | 2,80 | 5,961 | 8,560 |

*Legal abortions: number of abortions by age between 10 and 17 years, residents, England and Wales, 1975 to 2003*

| | Total all ages | Ages 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1990 | 173,900 | 0 | 2 | 7 | 100 | 764 | 2,549 | 5,555 | 8,156 |
| 1991 | 167,376 | 0 | 2 | 8 | 119 | 757 | 2,272 | 4940 | 7053 |
| 1992 | 160,501 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 135 | 762 | 2,095 | 4,436 | 6,251 |
| 1993 | 157,846 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 133 | 823 | 2,119 | 4,109 | 5,844 |
| 1994 | 156,539 | 0 | 1 | 13 | 148 | 918 | 2,166 | 4,270 | 5,699 |
| 1995 | 154,315 | 0 | 1 | 12 | 129 | 804 | 2,24 | 4,45 | 5,791 |
| 1996 | 167,916 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 173 | 917 | 2,547 | 5,209 | 6,994 |
| 1997 | 170,145 | 1 | 0 | 17 | 140 | 862 | 2,414 | 5,231 | 7,427 |
| 1998 | 177,871 | 0 | 2 | 11 | 162 | 928 | 2,656 | 5,372 | 8,055 |
| 1999 | 173,701 | 0 | 2 | 8 | 152 | 903 | 2,537 | 5,319 | 7,639 |
| 2000 | 175,542 | 0 | 2 | 15 | 144 | 886 | 2,700 | 5,439 | 7,895 |
| 2001 | 176,364 | 0 | 1 | 15 | 132 | 918 | 2,592 | 5,652 | 7,963 |
| 2002 | 175,932 | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— | [3]168 | 907 | 2,658 | 5,633 | 8,083 |
| 2003 | 181,582 | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— | [3]148 | 1,023 | 2,796 | 5,768 | 8,387 |

[1] not published.
[2] data relate to age under 15.
[3] data relate to age under 14.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many abortions have been performed in England on grounds of foetal handicap under the provisions of the Abortion Act 1967 (as amended); and what percentage this represents of the total number of abortions. [10593]

**Caroline Flint:** The information requested is shown in the table.

*Legal abortions: number and percentage that were performed on the grounds of foetal handicap, residents, England and Wales, 1968 to 2003*

| | Section 1(1)(d) | Total abortions | Percentage |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1966 | 1,304 | 22,332 | 5.8 |
| 1969 | 1,849 | 49,829 | 3.7 |
| 1970 | 2,048 | 75,962 | 2.7 |
| 1971 | 2,237 | 94,570 | 2.4 |
| 1972 | 2,013 | 108,565 | 1.9 |
| 1973 | 2,019 | 110,568 | 1.8 |
| 1974 | 1,686 | 109,445 | 1.5 |
| 1975 | 1,572 | 106,224 | 1.5 |
| 1976 | 1,316 | 100,912 | 1.3 |
| 1977 | 1,474 | 102,677 | 1.4 |
| 1978 | 2,356 | 111,851 | 2.1 |
| 1979 | 2,151 | 120,611 | 1.8 |
| 1980 | 1,900 | 128,927 | 1.5 |
| 1981 | 1,818 | 128,581 | 1.4 |
| 1982 | 2,006 | 128,553 | 1.6 |
| 1983 | 2,019 | 127,375 | 1.6 |
| 1984 | 2,007 | 136,388 | 1.5 |
| 1985 | 1,921 | 141,101 | 1.4 |
| 1986 | 1,963 | 147,619 | 1.3 |
| 1987 | 1,862 | 156,191 | 1.2 |
| 1988 | 1,732 | 168,298 | 1.0 |
| 1989 | 1,651 | 170,463 | 1.0 |
| 1990 | 1,589 | 173,900 | 0.9 |
| 1991 | 1,710 | 167,376 | 1.0 |
| 1992 | 1,802 | 160,501 | 1.1 |
| 1993 | 1,935 | 157,846 | 1.2 |
| 1994 | 1,796 | 156,539 | 1.1 |
| 1995 | 1,823 | 154,315 | 1.2 |
| 1996 | 1,929 | 167,916 | 1.1 |
| 1997 | 1,853 | 170,145 | 1.1 |
| 1998 | 1,830 | 177,871 | 1.0 |
| 1999 | 1,813 | 173,701 | 1.0 |
| 2000 | 1,833 | 175,542 | 1.0 |
| 2001 | 1,722 | 176,364 | 1.0 |
| 2002 | 1,894 | 175,932 | 1.1 |
| 2003 | 1,941 | 181,582 | 1.1 |
| Total | 66,374 | 4,917,572 | 1.3 |

*Note:*
Section 1(1)*(d)* of the Abortion Act, that there is a substantial risk that if the child were born it would suffer from such physical or mental abnormalities as to be seriously handicapped.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the number of *(a)* live births and *(b)* abortions was in each year since 1976. [10594]

**Caroline Flint:** The information requested is shown in the table.

*Number of live births and abortions, England and Wales, 1976 to 2004*[1]

| | Live births | Abortions |
|---|---|---|
| 1976 | 584,270 | 129,673 |
| 1977 | 569,259 | 133,004 |
| 1978 | 596,418 | 141,558 |
| 1979 | 638,028 | 149,746 |
| 1980 | 656,234 | 160,903 |
| 1981 | 634,492 | 162,480 |
| 1982 | 625,931 | 163,045 |
| 1983 | 629,134 | 162,161 |
| 1984 | 636,818 | 169,993 |
| 1985 | 656,417 | 171,873 |
| 1986 | 661,018 | 172,286 |
| 1987 | 681,511 | 174,276 |
| 1988 | 693,577 | 183,798 |
| 1989 | 687,725 | 183,974 |
| 1990 | 706,140 | 186,912 |
| 1991 | 699,217 | 179,522 |
| 1992 | 689,656 | 172,069 |
| 1993 | 673,467 | 168,714 |
| 1994 | 664,726 | 166,876 |
| 1995 | 648,138 | 163,638 |
| 1996 | 649,485 | 177,495 |
| 1997 | 643,095 | 179,746 |
| 1998 | 635,901 | 187,402 |
| 1999 | 621,872 | 183,250 |
| 2000 | 604,441 | 185,375 |
| 2001 | 594,634 | 186,274 |
| 2002 | 596,122 | 185,385 |
| 2003 | 621,469 | 190,660 |
| 2004 | 639,721 | n/a |

[1] Number of live births relate to births occurring in England and Wales. Number of abortions relate to residents of England and Wales.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many women were refused an abortion because their particular circumstances did not fit the criteria in the Abortion Act 1967 (as amended) in the last 12 months. [10598]

**Caroline Flint:** This information is not collected centrally.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health which organisations in the field of reproductive health are funded by her Department; how much was given to each in each of the last five years for which figures are

available; and whether account is taken of an organisation's stance on abortion in allocating public funds. [10604]

**Caroline Flint:** Amounts received by voluntary organisations in the reproductive health field funded by the Department through the Section 64 grant scheme over the past five years are shown in the following tables.

£

| Financial year | Name of voluntary organisation: Brook | Family planning association |
|---|---|---|
| 2001–02 | 105,000 | 80,000 |
| 2002–03 | 100,000 | 80,000 |
| 2003–04 | 90,000 | 100,000 |
| 2004–05 | 90,000 | 95,000 |
| 2005–06 | 90,000 | 170,000 |
| Total | 475,000 | 525,000 |

A further £11,000 was also provided as a one-off payment to the organisation Education for Choice in 2004, as a contribution towards the costs of website development.

In addition, the following voluntary organisations in the field of assisted reproduction have received Departmental funding within the last five years:

British Infertility Counselling Association.
CHILD (The National Infertility Support Network).
Infertility Network UK.
ISSUE (The National Fertility Association Ltd).
National Gamete Donation Trust.

The total amount of funding provided each year to these organisations is shown in the following table.

| | Total (£) |
|---|---|
| 2001–02 | 73,357 |
| 2002–03 | 102,000 |
| 2003–04 | 165,000 |
| 2004–05 | 186,515 |
| 2005–06 | 100,900 |
| Total[1] | 627,772 |

[1] Grand total for five years.

The Department considers requests for funding on a case by case basis and will fund organisations where they represent value for money and where we are confident that they have the skills, knowledge and capacity to deliver what is required.

Funding has also been provided to the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA), as shown in the following table.

*Departmental funding for HFEA since 2001–02*[1]

£ million

| | Baseline | Register[2] | Accommodation[3] | Other projects | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2001–02 | 0.577 | — | — | 0.967[4] | 1.544 |
| 2002–03 | 0.577 | 1.195 | 0.067 | — | 1.839 |
| 2003–04 | 1.650 | 1.957 | 0.433 | — | 4.040 |
| 2004–05 | 1.500 | 4.350 | — | — | 5.850 |
| 2005–06[5] | 1.500 | 4.767 | — | — | 6.267 |

[1] All funds paid by the Department, home country contribution (based on the Barnet Formula) recovered during financial year.
[2] Project funding for the redevelopment for the database register and audit of the accuracy of previously recorded data.
[3] Project funding towards costs of relocation to new premises at 21 Bloomsbury Street.
[4] Additional funds to offset in-year budget pressures.
[5] Provisional funding for 2005–06.

The HFEA is a statutory regulatory body. For that reason, it does not promote a view on abortion issues.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) when each of the nine recommendations contained in the report of the Select Committee on the Abortion (Amendment) Bill 1975 were implemented; [10606]

(2) if she will list the recommendations contained in the Select Committee on the Abortion (Amendment) Bill 1975, and the First and Second Reports from the Select Committee on Abortion 1975–76 which were implemented *(a)* in part and *(b)* in full. [10607]

**Caroline Flint:** The nine recommendations of the Select Committee on the Abortion (Amendment) Bill 1974–75 were implemented as follows:

*Abortion (Amendment) Bill 1974–75*

| | | Recommendation |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Counselling of women | Implemented in full in July 1977 (HC(77)26). |
| 2 | Examination of the women | Implemented in part in March 1976 (SI 1976 No.15). |
| 3 | Certification and notification | Implemented in part in March 1981 (SI 1980 No. 1724). |
| 4 | Disclosure of information | Implemented in full in March 1976 (SI 1976 No. 15). |
| 5 | Private sector arrangements | Implemented in part in September 1975 through the system of "assurances", which proprietors of approved places are required to give to the Secretary of State. |
| 6 | Foreign women | Implemented in part in December 1975. |
| 7 | National health service—termination after the 20th week | Discussed with regional medical Officers in 1975 and 1983. |
| 8 | Referral agencies | Implemented in full in March 1977. |
| 9 | The use of foetuses and foetal material for research (the Peel Report) | The Peel code of practice issued in 1972 was voluntarily accepted by the professions. The Department ensures that arrangements for supply of foetal material for research from private sector places carrying out abortions comply with the code of practice. |

Updating this information and providing information on the additional recommendations contained in the first and second reports from the Select Committee on Abortion, session 1975–76, could be done only at disproportionate cost. Since 1976, a wide range of issues relating to abortion were considered by Parliament during the debates informing the Human Fertilisation

and Embryology Act 1990. In 2001, the national strategy for sexual health and HIV set out the Government's 10 year strategy for sexual health, further bolstered by the 2004 public health White Paper. In this context, the Health Select Committee has itself conducted inquiries into sexual and reproductive health, including abortion issues, in 2003 and 2005.

It is accepted parliamentary practice that proposals for changes in the law on abortion have come from hon. and right hon. Members on the back benches and that decisions are made on the basis of free votes. The Government has no plans to change the law on abortion.

### Alcohol-related Illness

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people *(a)* under and *(b)* over the age of 18 were admitted to hospital for alcohol-related problems in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available, broken down by region. [12234]

**Caroline Flint:** The information requested is shown in the table.

*Counts of finished admission episodes for selected alcohol-related diseases[1] by strategic health authority (SHA) of residence and age grouping, national health service hospitals, England 1996–97 to 2003–04*

| SHA | 1996–97 | | 1997–98 | | 1998–99 | | 1999–2000 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Under 18 | Over 18 | Under 18 | Over 18 | Under 18 | Over 18 | Under 18 | Over 18 |
| Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire | 108 | 713 | 149 | 876 | 115 | 1,061 | 143 | 1,133 |
| Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire | 139 | 526 | 159 | 677 | 148 | 712 | 158 | 734 |
| Essex | 69 | 672 | 55 | 771 | 47 | 681 | 58 | 783 |
| North West London | 56 | 1,008 | 51 | 1,432 | 45 | 1,528 | 50 | 1,124 |
| North Central London | 65 | 761 | 43 | 901 | 28 | 893 | 52 | 901 |
| North East London | 56 | 851 | 45 | 946 | 47 | 974 | 53 | 1,056 |
| South East London | 69 | 926 | 71 | 1,286 | 48 | 1,198 | 71 | 1,360 |
| South West London | 100 | 762 | 94 | 765 | 79 | 713 | 87 | 876 |
| Northumberland, Tyne and Wear | 226 | 1,513 | 238 | 1,236 | 195 | 1,640 | 198 | 1,690 |
| County Durham and Tees Valley | 257 | 959 | 282 | 1,014 | 213 | 1,083 | 239 | 1,102 |
| North and East Yorkshire and Northern Lincs. | 144 | 928 | 108 | 537 | 198 | 1,331 | 253 | 1,414 |
| West Yorkshire | 228 | 1,351 | 225 | 1,411 | 206 | 1,254 | 237 | 1,376 |
| Cumbria and Lancashire | 252 | 2,259 | 261 | 2,148 | 221 | 1,942 | 313 | 1,811 |
| Greater Manchester | 271 | 2,766 | 278 | 2,470 | 251 | 2,291 | 290 | 2,309 |
| Cheshire and Merseyside | 356 | 2,983 | 332 | 3,085 | 296 | 2,955 | 319 | 2,961 |
| Thames Valley | 69 | 858 | 86 | 935 | 100 | 866 | 111 | 854 |
| Hampshire and Isle of Wight | 97 | 1,118 | 107 | 1,141 | 117 | 1,361 | 138 | 1,328 |
| Kent and Medway | 115 | 806 | 123 | 597 | 119 | 597 | 127 | 676 |
| Surrey and Sussex | 159 | 1,530 | 168 | 1,475 | 167 | 1,417 | 207 | 1,244 |
| Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire | 127 | 1,184 | 119 | 1,211 | 149 | 1,200 | 124 | 1,234 |
| South West Peninsula | 123 | 943 | 148 | 1,045 | 107 | 926 | 137 | 966 |
| Dorset and Somerset | 76 | 908 | 92 | 726 | 95 | 737 | 90 | 935 |
| South Yorkshire | 153 | 761 | 126 | 868 | 148 | 887 | 170 | 869 |
| Trent | 193 | 1,848 | 245 | 1,647 | 202 | 2,011 | 259 | 2,068 |
| Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland | 94 | 667 | 117 | 672 | 114 | 851 | 126 | 788 |
| Shropshire and Staffordshire | 155 | 1,035 | 182 | 1,227 | 141 | 1,102 | 169 | 1,048 |
| Birmingham and the Black Country | 169 | 2,047 | 208 | 2,106 | 203 | 1,861 | 281 | 1,866 |
| Coventry, Warwickshire, Herefordshire and Worcestershire | 170 | 1,388 | 182 | 1,294 | 173 | 1,133 | 199 | 1,231 |
| Scotland | 2 | 21 | 4 | 19 | 2 | 24 | 6 | 38 |
| England—not otherwise specified | 3 | 330 | 9 | 414 | 8 | 499 | — | — |
| Wales | 17 | 91 | 17 | 125 | 17 | 116 | 25 | 218 |
| Foreign (includes Isle of Man and Channel Islands) | 6 | 38 | 4 | 34 | 9 | 36 | 13 | 43 |
| Unknown | 49 | 1,176 | 93 | 1,934 | 18 | 570 | 35 | 1,016 |
| Northern Ireland | — | 13 | — | 6 | — | 15 | — | 8 |
| Totals | 4,173 | 35,740 | 4,421 | 37,031 | 4,026 | 36,465 | 4,738 | 37,060 |

| Region | 2000–01 | | 2001–02 | | 2002–03 | | 2003–04 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Under 18 | Over 18 | Under 18 | Over 18 | Under 18 | Over 18 | Under 18 | Over 18 |
| Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire | 144 | 1,133 | 130 | 1,135 | 115 | 1,208 | 144 | 1,338 |
| Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire | 122 | 629 | 176 | 687 | 148 | 707 | 133 | 815 |
| Essex | 61 | 768 | 43 | 761 | 52 | 779 | 64 | 981 |
| North West London | 54 | 955 | 61 | 1,106 | 60 | 1,204 | 86 | 1,423 |
| North Central London | 49 | 814 | 44 | 807 | 59 | 874 | 62 | 906 |
| North East London | 30 | 889 | 52 | 977 | 64 | 1,036 | 86 | 1,157 |
| South East London | 53 | 1,113 | 47 | 1,017 | 62 | 1,289 | 88 | 1,392 |
| South West London | 102 | 850 | 115 | 761 | 129 | 863 | 135 | 1,049 |
| Northumberland, Tyne and Wear | 219 | 1,567 | 172 | 1,486 | 159 | 1,510 | 117 | 1,533 |
| County Durham and Tees Valley | 241 | 1,066 | 183 | 1,079 | 123 | 929 | 142 | 1,225 |
| North and East Yorkshire and Northern Lincs. | 221 | 1,232 | 224 | 1,246 | 170 | 1,209 | 252 | 1,292 |
| West Yorkshire | 168 | 1,509 | 192 | 1,509 | 204 | 1,484 | 186 | 1,539 |
| Cumbria and Lancashire | 294 | 1,823 | 288 | 2,168 | 273 | 2,023 | 250 | 2,054 |
| Greater Manchester | 342 | 2,301 | 285 | 2,311 | 271 | 2,162 | 344 | 2,522 |
| Cheshire and Merseyside | 314 | 3,156 | 315 | 3,459 | 323 | 3,517 | 349 | 3,771 |
| Thames Valley | 69 | 913 | 129 | 954 | 89 | 975 | 116 | 1,063 |
| Hampshire and Isle of Wight | 133 | 1,315 | 119 | 1,290 | 151 | 1,405 | 181 | 1,307 |
| Kent and Medway | 99 | 665 | 151 | 650 | 116 | 734 | 145 | 766 |
| Surrey and Sussex | 235 | 1,260 | 295 | 1,256 | 253 | 1,496 | 266 | 1,543 |

| Region | 2000–01 Under 18 | 2000–01 Over 18 | 2001–02 Under 18 | 2001–02 Over 18 | 2002–03 Under 18 | 2002–03 Over 18 | 2003–04 Under 18 | 2003–04 Over 18 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire | 122 | 1,017 | 144 | 1,094 | 126 | 1,107 | 170 | 1,230 |
| South West Peninsula | 110 | 1,114 | 110 | 1,152 | 128 | 1,218 | 198 | 1,292 |
| Dorset and Somerset | 98 | 731 | 97 | 712 | 85 | 660 | 85 | 730 |
| South Yorkshire | 139 | 951 | 103 | 831 | 89 | 957 | 100 | 1,146 |
| Trent | 232 | 2,006 | 251 | 1,875 | 211 | 1332 | 218 | 2,060 |
| Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland | 98 | 768 | 91 | 652 | 84 | 853 | 92 | 1,111 |
| Shropshire and Staffordshire | 135 | 950 | 148 | 1,002 | 138 | 1,097 | 176 | 1,276 |
| Birmingham and the Black Country | 267 | 1,842 | 247 | 1,908 | 185 | 1,978 | 237 | 2,113 |
| Coventry, Warwickshire, Herefordshire and Worcestershire | 194 | 1,107 | 142 | 1,026 | 143 | 1,181 | 152 | 1,135 |
| Scotland | 4 | 29 | 2 | 35 | 6 | 24 | 6 | 47 |
| England—not otherwise specified | 5 | 495 | 7 | 529 | 8 | 553 | 17 | 705 |
| Wales | 16 | 84 | 23 | 111 | 18 | 89 | 12 | 104 |
| Foreign (includes Isle of Man and Channel Islands) | 10 | 44 | 6 | 47 | 10 | 47 | 9 | 61 |
| Unknown | 32 | 500 | 42 | 558 | 27 | 445 | 29 | 417 |
| Northern Ireland | — | 7 | — | 6 | — | 8 | — | 19 |
| Totals | 4,412 | 35,603 | 4,434 | 36,197 | 4,079 | 37,453 | 4,647 | 41,122 |

[1] Alcohol-related diseases defined as following ICD-10 codes recorded in primary diagnosis—F10 Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol, K70 Alcoholic liver disease, T51 Toxic effect of alcohol.

*Source:*

Hospital episode statistics, Health and Social Care Information Centre.

### Arrhythmias and Sudden Death Programme Board

**Lady Hermon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if she will make a statement on the representation from Northern Ireland on the new Arrhythmias and Sudden Death Programme Board; [11355]

(2) whether the new National Service Framework chapter on arrhythmias and sudden cardiac death extends to Northern Ireland. [11237]

**Ms Rosie Winterton** *[holding answer 13 July 2005]:* Chapter eight of the national service framework for coronary heart disease, "Arrhythmias and Sudden Cardiac Death", was written and produced in consultation with a large expert group, including members from Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

The Arrhythmias and Sudden Death Programme Board has been formed to implement the chapter but with the membership limited. Devolved Administrations such as Northern Ireland will not be represented on the board because it is responsible for implementation of the new chapter in England.

### Asthma

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* adults and *(b)* children in Portsmouth are suffering from asthma. [12823]

**Caroline Flint:** The Department does not centrally hold the information requested on the number of people suffering from asthma. However, the Health and Social Care Information Centre is due to publish data shortly about the numbers of people in each primary care trust area recorded with asthma in 2004–05, which will be available on their website.

### Bedfordshire Health Spending

**Mrs. Dorries:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent per capita from central Government funds on health in the county of Bedfordshire in each year since 2000. [11005]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The expenditure per weighted head on health in Bedfordshire Health Authority (HA) area, which corresponded to the county of Bedfordshire and Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Strategic Health Authority (SHA) area is shown in the table. Expenditure based on the county of Bedfordshire is not available for 2002–03 and 2003–04.

*£ per head*

| | Bedfordshire Health Authority area | Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Strategic Health Authority area |
|---|---|---|
| 2000–01 | 779.74 | n/a |
| 2001–02 | 970.12 | n/a |
| 2002–03 | n/a | 939.08 |
| 2003–04 | n/a | 1,061.38 |

*Notes:*

1. Expenditure is taken from audited HA summarisation forms and primary care trust summarisation schedules which are prepared on a resource basis and therefore differ from cash allocations in the year. The figures have not been adjusted for inflation.

2. Figures for 2000–01 and 2001–02 have been prepared using gross expenditure figures. Figures for 2002–03 and 2003–04 have been adjusted to eliminate expenditure which would be double counted where an authority acts as a lead in commissioning health care or other services.

3. In many HAs there are factors which distort the expenditure. These include:

the HA acting in a lead capacity to commission healthcare or fund training on behalf of other health bodies; and

asset revaluations in national health service trusts being funded through HAs or primary

care trusts (PCTs).

4. The majority of general dental services expenditure is separately accounted for by the Dental Practice board. An element of pharmaceutical services expenditure is accounted for by the Prescription Pricing Authority. Total expenditure on these items by the Dental Practice Board and the Prescription Pricing Authority cannot be allocated to individual health bodies. Therefore, the total expenditure in the answer by health authority does not capture all NHS expenditure within the area.

*Sources:*

Bedfordshire HA audited summarisation forms 2000–01 and 2001–02.

Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire SHA audited summarisation forms 2002–03 and 2003–04.

PCT audited summarisation schedules 2001–02 to 2003–04 for bodies within the above HA areas weighted population figures.

## Breastfeeding

**Mr. Kidney:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many primary care trusts *(a)* are collecting reliable data on breastfeeding initiation and duration rates and *(b)* have appointed a breastfeeding co-ordinator. [11206]

**Caroline Flint:** The latest data provided to the Department for 2004–05, found there were 201 primary care trusts collecting reliable data on breastfeeding initiation, where reliable has been defined as consistent data in which at least 96 per cent. of mothers have their breastfeeding initiation status given.

Data on the number of primary care trusts who have appointed a breastfeeding co-ordinator are not collected centrally.

**Mr. Kidney:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the baseline breastfeeding initiation data as outlined in the Priorities and Planning Framework 2003 to 2006 are for each primary care trust. [11207]

**Caroline Flint:** Data for breastfeeding initiation are not yet sufficiently robust to reliably assess levels of breastfeeding initiation for all primary care trusts (PCTs). However, the data quality is improving. The percentage of others for whom breastfeeding initiation status was not known decreased from 14.6 per cent. in 2003–04 to 5.6 per cent. in 2004–05. We continue to monitor the progress of PCTs in improving the data quality.

## Cancelled Operations (Southend)

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many operations in Southend primary care trust were cancelled on *(a)* the day of and *(b)* the day after admission; and how many of these patients were not readmitted within a month in each quarter of the last five years for which figures are available. [10532]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The Department does not collect information about cancelled operations at primary care trust level.

However, the table shows the number of operations cancelled at the last minute for non clinical reasons and the number of patients not admitted within 28 days at Southend Hospital National Health Service Trust.

| *Quarter* | *Number of last minute cancellations for non clinical reasons in the quarter* | *Number of patients not admitted within 28 days of cancellation on the day of surgery* |
|---|---|---|
| *2004–05* | | |
| April-June | 124 | 5 |
| July-September | 250 | 30 |
| October-December | 298 | 28 |
| January-March | 335 | 39 |
| *2003–04* | | |
| April-June | 177 | 1 |
| July-September | 149 | 1 |
| October-December | 226 | 3 |
| January-March | 139 | 2 |
| *2002–03* | | |
| April-June | 81 | 11 |
| July-September | 34 | 3 |
| October-December | 179 | 5 |
| January-March | 215 | 4 |
| *2001–02* | | |
| April-June | 86 | 0 |
| July-September | 113 | 0 |
| October-December | 104 | 0 |
| January-March | 97 | 14 |

*Notes:*
1. Data were collected by health authority only prior to 2001–02. Trust level data were collected from 2001–02 onwards
2. A last minute cancellation is one that occurs on the day the patient was due to arrive, after they have arrived in hospital or on the day of their operation. For example, a patient is to be admitted to hospital on a Monday for an operation scheduled for the following day (Tuesday). If the hospital cancels his/her operation for non-clinical reasons on the Monday, then this would count as a last minute cancellation. This includes patients who have not actually arrived in hospital and have been telephoned at home prior to their arrival.
3. An operation which is rescheduled to a time within 24 hours of the original scheduled operation should be recorded as a postponement and not as a cancellation. The QMCO collection does not record the number of postponements.
4. Some common non-clinical reasons for cancellations by the hospital include: ward beds unavailable; surgeon unavailable; emergency case needing theatre; theatre list over-ran; equipment failure; admin error; anaesthetist unavailable; theatre staff unavailable; and critical care bed unavailable.

## Cancer Treatment

**Lady Hermon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people are being treated with the cancer drug Anastrozole in each NHS health authority area in England. [11227]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Information on the number of people currently being treated by Anastrozole in each national health service health authority area in England and Wales is not collected centrally. However, the prescription cost analysis database contains the following data for Anastrozole dispensed in the community. The data do not cover drugs dispensed in hospitals, including mental health trusts, or private prescriptions.

*Number of items and cost of Anastrozole dispensed in England, 1995 to 2004*

| | *Items* | *Cost (£)* |
|---|---|---|
| 1995 | 1,131 | 109,341 |
| 1996 | 27,896 | 2,764,835 |
| 1997 | 65,487 | 6,595,537 |
| 1998 | 97,275 | 9,883,452 |
| 1999 | 121,150 | 12,457,630 |
| 2000 | 145,746 | 14,909,606 |
| 2001 | 171,971 | 17,556,672 |
| 2002 | 218,438 | 22,322,882 |
| 2003 | 275,043 | 28,359,636 |
| 2004 | 331,582 | 34,358,711 |

## Care Homes (Essex)

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* local authority and *(b)* private sector care homes there are in each local authority in Essex. [10531]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Information on the number of care homes by type of provider in Essex at 31 March 2001 is shown in the table.

I understand from the Chair of the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) that figures for later years were collected by the National Care Standards Commission, and now CSCI, but comparable details are not available.

*Number of care homes in Essex by type of provider at 31 March 2001*

| | Rounded number[1] | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Residential homes[2] | | Nursing homes[3] | |
| Councils with social services responsibilities | Local authority staffed | Independent[4] | Independent |
| Total for Essex area | 45 | 490 | [5]120 |
| Essex | 40 | 355 | n/a |
| Southend | 5 | 110 | n/a |
| Thurrock | 5 | 25 | n/a |

n/a = Data not available.

[1] Figures may not sum due to rounding.

[2] Excludes dual registered homes.

[3] Includes general and mental nursing homes, private hospitals and clinics. Dual registered homes are included under nursing homes.

[4] Includes voluntary, private and small homes.

[5] Data on nursing homes relates to North Essex and South Essex health authorities.

*Source:*

RA Form A,RH(N) Form A.

## Chlamydia

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females have been diagnosed with Chlamydia in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [12780]

**Caroline Flint:** I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave to the hon. Member for West Chelmsford (Mr. Burns) on 5 July 2005, *Official Report*, columns 364–65W.

## Clostridium Difficile

**Mr. Lidington:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) when she will publish the terms of reference of her proposed inquiry into *Clostridium difficile*; [7737]

(2) whether the terms of reference of her proposed inquiry into *Clostridium difficile* will cover the role of *(a)* her Department and *(b)* the Health Protection Agency in responding to the trend in the incidence of *Clostridium difficile* and the discovery of strain 027 in English hospitals; [8957]

(3) if she will frame the terms of reference of her proposed inquiry into *Clostridium difficile* to cover each hospital where strain 027 has been confirmed. [8960]

**Jane Kennedy** *[holding answers 4 July 2005]:* In asking the Healthcare Commission to undertake its investigation, the Secretary of State made it clear that the first priority must be to bring the outbreak at Stoke Mandeville under control and requested that the investigation only commence once all parties agreed that it was sensible to do so. The Healthcare Commission are drawing up the terms of reference for the investigation and these will be available shortly.

The Healthcare Commission has been asked to undertake an investigation into *Clostridium difficile* at Stoke Mandeville Hospital. It is hoped that any learning and best practice arising from the investigation will be shared across the national health service.

## Consultant Vacancies

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health which hospitals in Hertfordshire have vacancies for consultants; and in what departments. [10697]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The vacancy rates for trusts in Hertfordshire are shown in the tables. This is the latest data available as at 31 March 2004. Figures for 2005 are due for publication at the end of July 2005.

*Three month vacancy rate and number for consultants by specialty and selected trust in Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Strategic Health Authority (SHA) as t 31 March 2004*

| | All consultants | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Organisation | 3 month vacancy rate (percentage) | 3 month vacancy (number) | Staff in post (full-time equivalent) | Staff in post (headcount) |
| Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire SHA Total | 5.0 | 33 | 621 | 668 |
| *Of which:* | | | | |
| East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust | 8.0 | 13 | 149 | 158 |
| West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust | 5.1 | 9 | 167 | 181 |
| *Of which:* | | | | |
| *1. Accident and emergency* | | | | |
| Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire SHA Total | 18.3 | 3 | 13 | 14 |
| East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust | * | 0 | 5 | 5 |
| West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust | * | 3 | 5 | 5 |
| *2. Anaesthetics (including intensive care)* | | | | |
| Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire SHA Total | 7.9 | 7 | 81 | 85 |
| East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust | 16.5 | 5 | 25 | 26 |
| West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust | 3.4 | 1 | 28 | 30 |
| *3. Cardiology* | | | | |
| Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire SHA Total | 8.5 | 1 | 11 | 11 |
| East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust | * | 0 | 4 | 4 |
| West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust | * | 0 | 4 | 4 |
| *4. Clinical radiology* | | | | |
| Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire SHA Total | 4.9 | 2 | 39 | 42 |
| East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust | 9.1 | 1 | 10 | 11 |
| West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust | 0.0 | 0 | 14 | 15 |
| *5. Dermatology* | | | | |
| Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire SHA Total | 9.7 | 1 | 9 | 12 |
| East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust | * | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust | * | 1 | 4 | 6 |

*Three month vacancy rate and number for consultants by specialty and selected trust in Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Strategic Health Authority (SHA) as t 31 March 2004*

| | All consultants | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Organisation* | *3 month vacancy rate (percentage)* | *3 month vacancy (number)* | *Staff in post (full-time equivalent)* | *Staff in post (headcount)* |
| *6. General surgery* | | | | |
| Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire SHA Total | 3.8 | 2 | 37 | 40 |
| East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust | 7.7 | 1 | 12 | 13 |
| West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust | 0.0 | 0 | 13 | 14 |
| *7. Genito-urinary medicine* | | | | |
| Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire SHA Total | * | 1 | 9 | 9 |
| East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust | — | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust | * | 1 | 3 | 3 |
| *8. Haematology* | | | | |
| Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire SHA Total | 10.4 | 2 | 13 | 14 |
| East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust | * | 0 | 4 | 5 |
| West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust | * | 1 | 4 | 5 |
| *9. Histopathology* | | | | |
| Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire SHA Total | 8.3 | 2 | 22 | 23 |
| East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust | * | 1 | 5 | 6 |
| West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust | * | 0 | 9 | 9 |
| *10. Medical microbiology and virology* | | | | |
| Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire SHA Total | 9.2 | 1 | 10 | 11 |
| East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust | * | 0 | 3 | 3 |
| West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust | * | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| *11. Obstetrics and gynaecology* | | | | |
| Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire SHA Total | 3.4 | 1 | 29 | 30 |
| East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust | * | 0 | 8 | 8 |
| West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust | * | 0 | 9 | 9 |
| *12. Occupational health* | | | | |
| Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire SHA Total | * | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust | * | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust | — | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| *13. Ophthalmology* | | | | |
| Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire SHA Total | 6.5 | 1 | 14 | 15 |
| East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust | * | 0 | 4 | 4 |
| West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust | * | 0 | 4 | 4 |
| *14. Orthodontics* | | | | |
| Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire SHA Total | * | 1 | 3 | 5 |
| East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust | * | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust | * | 0 | 2 | 4 |
| *15. Paediatrics* | | | | |
| Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire SHA Total | 5.9 | 3 | 47 | 51 |
| East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust | 21.4 | 3 | 11 | 12 |
| West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust | — | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| *16. Rheumatology* | | | | |
| Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire SHA Total | * | 1 | 8 | 8 |
| East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust | * | 0 | 3 | 3 |
| West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust | * | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| *17. Trauma and orthopaedic surgery* | | | | |
| Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire SHA Total | 8.8 | 3 | 31 | 32 |
| East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust | 9.1 | 1 | 10 | 10 |
| West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust | * | 0 | 8 | 9 |
| *18. Other* | | | | |
| Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire SHA Total | * | 1 | 4 | 7 |
| East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust | — | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust | — | 0 | 0 | 0 |

*Notes:*

1. Three month vacancies are vacancies which trusts are actively trying to fill, which had lasted for three months or more (full-time equivalents).
2. Three month vacancy rates are three month vacancies expressed as a percentage of three month vacancies plus staff in post.
3. Vacancy and staff in post numbers are rounded to the nearest full number.
4. Percentages are rounded to one decimal place:

'*' where the sum of the staff in post and number of vacancies is less then 10.

'—' where the sum of the staff in post and number of vacancies is zero.

*Source:*

Department of Health medical and dental vacancy survey.

*Three month vacancy rate and number for all consultants by selected trust in Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire SHA, as at 31 March 2004*

| Organisation | Org Code | NHS Trust | 3 month vacancy rate (percentage) | 3 month vacancy (number) | Staff in post (full-time equivalent) | Staff in post (headcount) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire | RWH | East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust | 8.0 | 13 | 149 | 158 |
| Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire | RWR | Hertfordshire Partnerships NHS Trust | 0.0 | 0 | 76 | 83 |
| Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire | RWG | West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust | 5.1 | 9 | 167 | 181 |
| Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Total | | | 5.0 | 33 | 621 | 668 |

*Notes:*
1. Three month vacancies are vacancies which trusts are actively trying to fill, which had lasted for three months or more (full-time equivalents).
2. Three month vacancy rates are three month vacancies expressed as a percentage of three month vacancies plus staff in post.
3. Vacancy and staff in post numbers are rounded to the nearest full number.
4. Percentages are rounded to one decimal place.

*Source:*
Department of Health medical and dental vacancy survey.

## Contaminated Blood Products (Ex-gratia Payments)

**Michael Connarty:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress her Department has made in offering ex-gratia payments from the Skipton Fund to those who have contracted hepatitis C from contaminated blood products. [11221]

**Caroline Flint:** The Skipton Fund was set up to administer an ex-gratia payment scheme for people infected with hepatitis C through contaminated blood and blood products. The table shows information on the number of applications processed by the Skipton Fund since it was launched in July last year.

| | Stage one applications | Stage two applications | Amount paid (£) |
|---|---|---|---|
| England | 2,642 | 432 | 63,640,000 |
| Scotland | 528 | 70 | 12,310,000 |
| Northern Ireland | 97 | 18 | 2,390,000 |
| Wales | 201 | 29 | 4,745,000 |
| Number of applicants paid in the United Kingdom | 3,468 | 549 | 83,085,000 |

*Note:*
Figures as at 1 July 2005.

## Contraceptive Training

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much each primary care trust in England has spent in 2005–06 on contraceptive training; and how much each plans to spend in each of the next three years. [12779]

**Caroline Flint:** The information requested is not held centrally.

## Dentistry

**Steve Webb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS dentists in *(a)* England and *(b)* each strategic health authority were accepting new NHS patients at the latest date for which figures are available; and if she will make a statement. [8085]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Information on which practices are currently taking on new national health service patients is not centrally collected. This information should be available from NHS Direct or from local primary care trusts.

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS dentists there are in the Peterborough constituency; and how many are taking on new NHS patients. [10487]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** As at 31 March 2005, there were 68 NHS dentists in the Peterborough constituency area[1].

Information about the number of dentists taking on new national health service patients is not collected centrally.

However, information about dental practices within primary care trusts (PCTs) currently taking on new NHS patients can be found on the NHS website at http://www.nhs.uk/England/AuthoritiesTrusts/Pct/list.aspx, from NHS Direct or from the local PCTs.

[1] *Source:*
Dental Practice Board—based on dentists whose practice address postcode is within the constituency boundary.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of the *(a)* adult and *(b)* child population was registered with an NHS dentist in the Southend primary care trust area in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [10530]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The estimated percentages of child, adult and total population registered with general dental service (CDS) and personal dental service (PDS) dentists for Southend primary care trust (PCT) for March each year are shown in the table.

*Percentage*

| | Child | Adult | All |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2001 | 68 | 51 | 54 |
| 2002 | 66 | 50 | 54 |
| 2003 | 65 | 50 | 54 |
| 2004 | 62 | 47 | 50 |
| 2005 | 62 | 44 | 48 |

*Notes:*
1. Registration rates, that is, the percentage of the population registered with a dentist, have been estimated by including registrations in the area of the dentist according to the postcode of the dental surgery (not the patient's address). So the registration rates for some areas may be affected by some patients receiving dental treatment in a different area from the one in which they live. This can lead to figures being unusually high (even over 100 per cent. for child registrations), whilst other areas may have estimated rates lower than the actual proportion of residents who are registered with a dentist in or outside their own area.

2. The registration rates use population estimates for the PCT areas for the nearest year for which data are available. Figures for 1997 to 2000 have been calculated from 2001 population data. Figures for 2004 and 2005 have been calculated from 2003 population data, as this is the most up to date available.
3. The numbers of registrations are based on a snapshot of the registration database taken at the end of March each year and subsequent retrospective notifications of changes to registrations have not been included.
4. Some double counting may occur in the totals when a patient has been newly registered with a dentist in one PCT, but not yet de-registered from a dentist in another PCT.
5. The changes in the registration period from two years to 15 months under the GDS from 1 September 1996 affected the registration numbers from December 1997 onwards, so the 1997 figures are not comparable with later figures.
6. Most PDS schemes that have registrations have a re-registration period in excess of 15 months, so the figures for PDS schemes are generally higher than they would have been for the same attendance pattern under GDS.
7. Some PDS schemes do not have any registrations, for example, dental access centres and will not therefore be included in these figures.
8. There is a small number of unallocated registrations.
*Sources:*
Dental Practice Board.
Office of National Statistics population data.

**Mr. Wallace:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of the £50 million allocated to strategic health authorities in 2004 to improve dental access was given to Cumbria and Lancashire Strategic Health Authority. [12059]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Cumbria and Lancashire Strategic Health Authority received £2.013 million funding in 2004–05 to improve dental access.

## Emergency Contraception

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will list the *(a)* organisations and *(b)* individuals consulted by Oxford Primary Care Trust before they expanded a pilot scheme offering free morning-after pills to teenagers to cover 24 pharmacies in the region; and if she will make a statement. [12778]

**Caroline Flint:** This information is not held centrally.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) why it is necessary for a pharmacist with a conscientious objection to prescribing emergency contraception over the counter without prescription to refer a patient to another pharmacist who does not have such a conscientious objection; and if she will make a statement; [12788]

(2) if she will introduce legislation to allow a pharmacist with a conscientious objection to prescribing emergency contraception over the counter without prescription to rely on the rights created by section 4 of the Abortion Act 1967; and if she will make a statement. [12789]

**Caroline Flint:** Emergency hormonal contraception (EHC) is not a method of abortion. In 2002, there was a High Court ruling that the supply and use of EHC is lawful and that the prevention of implantation, which is brought about by emergency contraception products, does not amount to procuring a miscarriage under the 1861 Offences Against the Person Act. The conscience clause set out in section 4 of the Abortion Act is therefore not relevant to the supply of EHC.

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain's code of ethics and standards states that

> "where pharmacists' religious beliefs or personal convictions prevent them from providing a service they must not condemn or criticise the patient and they or a member of staff must advise the patient of alternative sources for the service requested."

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many prescriptions of the morning-after pill there were in the last 10 years for which figures are available; and if she will break down prescription by age. [10571]

**Caroline Flint:** Hormonal emergency contraception, the morning-after pill, may be prescribed by general practitioners or by family planning clinics. The numbers of prescriptions in the last 10 years may be found in the statistical bulletin, "NHS Contraceptive Services, England, 2003–04", which is available in the Library and also on the Department's website at www.dh.gov.uk/assetRoot/04/09/00/22/04090022.pdf.

Table 10 in the bulletin shows GP prescriptions and table five those in family planning clinics. Hormonal emergency contraception is also available at pharmacies but statistical information about pharmacy provision is not available.

An age breakdown is not available for GP prescriptions. The age breakdown of women prescribed hormonal emergency contraception by family planning clinics is shown in table six of the bulletin.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what research has been commissioned by her Department into the safety of post coital contraception with respect to girls aged *(a)* 12 to 14 and *(b)* 14 to 16 years; and if she will make a statement; [10611]

(2) what clinical trials involving girls between the ages of 11 and 15 years have been conducted with respect to levonorgestrel; [10612]

(3) if levonorgestrel is licensed for use by girls between the ages of 11 and 15. [10613]

**Caroline Flint:** As with all marketed medicines, the safety of post coital contraception is continuously monitored by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA).

Post coital contraception is currently available as a levonorgestrel, containing emergency hormonal contraceptive (Levonelle/Levonelle-2) and as the post-coital insertion of a copper-containing intra-uterine device (IUD).

No safety concerns were identified in two World Health Organisation (WHO) sponsored clinical trials of emergency hormonal contraception that included girls aged 16 and under. In addition, extensive worldwide use of levonorgestrel in over 9 million women, including those under 16 years, have not identified any serious safety concerns or provided evidence that the safety of levonorgestrel is any different in the under 16s. There are also no safety concerns about the use of IUDs in women age under 16. However, these are very rarely used in young women with no children.

Clinical trials for new drugs are not routinely conducted on young people under 16 unless they are specifically indicated for use in children. The judgment on the balance of risks and benefits in women under 16

is the responsibility of the prescribing physician. Health care professionals are encouraged to discuss the potential side effects with everyone who seeks treatment. In addition, prescribers are expected to satisfy themselves that all women understand the risks and benefits of using post coital contraception and that it is in their best interests to receive the treatment.

In the event of any important new safety information emerging, the MHRA will take action to ensure that this is accurately reflected in the product information and communicated to health professionals and women using these products.

No clinical trials of levonorgestrel use specific to women under 16 have been conducted in the United Kingdom. The marketing authorisation that was granted in 1999 for the prescription-only product was supported by evidence from two large randomised controlled trials, one conducted by the WHO[1], and one using published data from uncontrolled studies. Most women in the clinical trials were aged between 16 and 48, but a few girls aged 14 and 15 were included. No data were available for girls between ages 11 and 14 years. Age analysis of efficacy and safety in randomised studies did not identify any population that responded differently to treatment. Since then another WHO-sponsored study has evaluated 4,136 women aged between 14 and 52 years (mean age 27 years) who attended family planning clinics requesting emergency contraception[2]. In excess of 2,700 women were given levonorgestrel, and of these, 439 were teenage girls (with 85 aged 16 and under). No safety concerns were identified in the study.

Levonorgestrel is available as Levonelle-2®, a prescription-only medicine licensed for emergency contraception that is available only under medical supervision. The licence does not specify a lower age limit for women but health care professionals are expected to satisfy themselves, in accordance with guidelines, that treatment is in the patient's best interests and that she understands the advice she is receiving.

Levonorgestrel is also available as Levonelle® which is for sale in pharmacies and is not recommended for use by young women under 16 years of age without medical supervision. Comprehensive guidance and training on best practice for the supply of Levonelle in pharmacies has been issued to all pharmacists. This includes what questions should be asked of women, which women should be referred to a doctor for advice and ensuring that they are satisfied that the client is aged 16 or over.

[1] Task Force on Postovulatory Methods of Fertility Regulation. Lancet 1998;352:428–33

[2] Von Hertzen H et al., Lancet 2002;360:1803–10

### Food Labelling

**Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions she has had with supermarkets about the effective labelling of food to help consumers understand where the items are produced; and if she will make a statement. [13190]

**Caroline Flint:** I have had no discussion with supermarkets on the labelling of the geographical origin of foods. However, the Food Standards Agency (FSA) has issued good practice guidance on country of origin labelling, following a consultation with all stakeholders, including the food retail sector. The FSA is currently undertaking a survey to assess the extent to which this guidance is being followed. The outcome of this survey will inform a review of this guidance, and this review will involve further discussions with the food retail sector.

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what controls are in place on the *(a)* labelling and *(b)* sale of imported food derived from cloned animals. [12646]

**Caroline Flint** *[holding answer 18 July 2005]*: There are no European Union controls which apply specifically to the labelling or import of food derived from cloned animals. The authorisation of cloned animals for food production would fall within the scope of the EU novel foods regulation which would also provide controls for the labelling of such food products.

No such application has been received within the EU to date.

### Food Preparation and Cooking NVQ

**Paul Flynn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions she has had with *(a)* the Department for Education and Skills and *(b)* the Food Standards Agency on making nutrition a mandatory element of the Food Preparation and Cooking NVQ. [11461]

**Caroline Flint:** The Department has not had any discussions with the Department for Education and Skills or the Food Standards Agency on making nutrition a mandatory element of the food preparation and cooking national vocation qualification.

### Genito-urinary Medicine

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what methods were used *(a)* to monitor and *(b)* to record performance against the target set out in her Department's National Strategy for Sexual Health and HIV that by the end of 2004 all genito-urinary medicine clinic attendees should be offered an HIV test on their first screening for sexually transmitted infections. [9885]

**Caroline Flint:** Data on HIV tests taken and offered in genito-urinary medicine clinics are collected and published by the Health Protection Agency (HPA). Indicators for the national strategy for sexual health HIV goals were published by the Health Protection Agency (HPA) in their annual report, "Focus on Prevention. HIV and other sexually transmitted infections in the United Kingdom in 2003" is available on their website at www.hpa.org.uk.

### Health Services (Milton Keynes)

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many general practitioners there have been in the Milton Keynes Primary Care Trust in each year since 1997. [11571]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The information requested is shown in the table.

*General medical practitioners (excluding retainers and registrars)[1] for specified organisations, 1999–2004*

| | Number (headcount) |
|---|---|
| *4051—Milton Keynes Primary Care Group* | |
| 1999 | 117 |
| 2000 | 119 |
| 2001 | n/a |
| 2002 | n/a |
| 2003 | n/a |
| 2004 | n/a |
| December 2004 | n/a |
| *5CQ—Milton Keynes Primary Care Trust* | |
| 1999 | n/a |
| 2000 | n/a |
| 2001 | 119 |
| 2002 | 123 |
| 2003 | 121 |
| 2004 | 125 |
| December 2004 | 127 |

n/a = data are not applicable.

[1] General medical practitioners, excluding retainers and registrars, includes contracted GPs, general medical service (CMS) others and personal medical service (PMS) others. Prior to September 2004 this group included GMS unrestricted principals, PMS contracted GPs, PMS salaried GPs, restricted principals, assistants, salaried doctors (Para 52 SFA), PMS other, flexible career scheme GPs and GP returners.

*Note:*

Data as at 1 October 1999, 30 September 2000–04 and 31 December 2004.

*Source:*

NHS Health and Social Care Information Centre GMS and PMS statistics.

## Hip Replacements

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients in the Milton Keynes Primary Care Trust have been waiting more than *(a)* three months, *(b)* six months, *(c)* nine months and *(d)* 12 months for hip replacement operations. [11445]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The information requested is shown in the table.

*Patient count of finished in-year admission episodes, main operative procedure hip replacement (OPCS-4 = W37-W39); primary care trust (PCT) of residence—Milton Keynes PCT, national health service hospitals, England 2003–04*

| Waiting time grouping | Total patients |
|---|---|
| Up to 3 months | 20 |
| More than 3 up to 6 months | 26 |
| More than 6 up to 9 months | 21 |
| More than 9 up to 12 months | 35 |
| More than 12 up to 18 months | 8 |
| Not known | 1 |
| Total | 111 |

*Note:*

1. A finished in-year admission is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider, excluding admissions beginning before 1 April at the start of the datayear. Please note that admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.

2. Patient counts are based on the unique patient identifier HESID. This identifier is derived based on patient's date of birth, postcode, sex, local patient identifier and national health service number, using an agreed algorithm. Where data are incomplete, HESID might erroneously link episodes or fail to recognise episodes for the same patient. Care is therefore needed, especially where duplicate records persist in the data. The patient count cannot be summed across a table where patients may have episodes in more than one cell.

3. The main operation is the first recorded operation in the hospital episode statistics (HES) data set and is usually the most resource intensive procedure performed during the episode. It is appropriate to use main operation when looking at admission details, e.g., time waited, but the figures for "all operations count of episodes" give a more complete count of episodes with an operation.

4. Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are ungrossed).

5. Time waited (days)—time waited statistics from HES are not the same as the published waiting list statistics. HES provides counts and time waited for all patients admitted to hospital within a given period whereas the published waiting list statistics count those waiting for treatment on a specific date and how long they have been on the waiting list. Also, HES calculates the time waited as the difference between the admission and decision to admit dates. Unlike published waiting list statistics, this is not adjusted for self-deferrals or periods of medical/social suspension.

*Source:*

HES, Health and Social Care Information Centre.

## Influenza Vaccinations

**Dan Norris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the take-up rate for influenza vaccinations was in *(a)* north-east Somerset and *(b)* south Gloucestershire in each of the last five years. [12546]

**Caroline Flint:** The take-up rates for influenza vaccinations for those aged 65 and over in north Somerset and south Gloucestershire in each of the last five years are shown in the table.

*Percentage*

| | North Somerset | South Gloucestershire |
|---|---|---|
| 2000–01 | [1]67 | [1]67 |
| 2001–02 | [1]65 | [1]70 |
| 2002–03 | 71 | 73 |
| 2003–04 | 72 | 76 |
| 2004–05 | 69 | 75 |

[1] Data collected for these years were by health authority. Data by primary care trust were collected from 2002–03 onwards.

## Liquid Eggs (Food Poisoning)

**Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the incidence of food poisoning from liquid eggs; and if she will make a statement. [13122]

**Caroline Flint:** The Health Protection Agency receives reports of outbreaks of infectious intestinal disease. No outbreaks associated with liquid eggs were reported in the years 1992 to 2004.

## Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency

**Paul Flynn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans she has to review the work of the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency. [10851]

**John Austin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans she has to carry out a review of the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency; and if she will make a statement. [12153]

**Jane Kennedy:** The recent Health Select Committee report into the influence of the pharmaceutical industry recommended that the work of the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency should be reviewed. The Government are currently considering its response to the report. This issue will be addressed fully in that response.

### Mumps

**Dr. Kumar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what measures are being taken to reduce the incidence of mumps at universities. [12523]

**Caroline Flint:** The Department continues to advise that all children receive two doses of the measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine as part of the routine childhood immunisation programme. We are also advising 15 to 24-year-olds to ensure they are properly protected against MMR.

### National Alcohol Needs Assessment

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will set out the remit, main findings and recommendations of the National Alcohol Needs Assessment for England. [13541]

**Caroline Flint:** In the alcohol harm reduction strategy for England, there is a commitment for the Department to conduct an audit of the demand for and provision of alcohol treatment in England. The audit is intended to provide information on gaps between demand and provision of treatment services at both national and local levels and will be used as a basis for the Department to develop a programme of improvement to treatment services.

A summary of the report's main findings will be published in September 2005 as part of the wider programme of improvements for alcohol treatment services, which will make best practice recommendations to local alcohol treatment service commissioners and providers.

The programme of improvement will be published on the Department's website.

### National School Fruit Scheme

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many schools are participating in the National School Fruit scheme; how many deliveries are made per week to these schools; what percentage of fruit supplied to schools under the National School Fruit scheme is sourced from *(a)* suppliers within 25 miles of the school supplied, *(b)* UK suppliers and *(c)* overseas suppliers; and what percentage of fruit supplied to schools under the National School Fruit scheme is sourced according to seasonal variations in local and national availability. [11105]

**Caroline Flint:** The number of schools participating in the school fruit and vegetable scheme by February 2005 was 16,069. This figure represents 97 per cent. of eligible schools.

Deliveries are made a maximum of three times per week. We are working to minimise the environmental impact of bulk transport and over the last 12 months have reduced deliveries to five times per fortnight to 39 per cent. of schools.

We do not hold information centrally about the distance of school fruit and vegetable scheme suppliers in relation to the schools they supply, but, wherever possible, we match local produce to local schools.

We have designed the school consumption calendar to reflect any seasonality for produce on a national and international level. During the United Kingdom season, approximately 39 per cent. of fruit and vegetables are sourced from the UK. Some fruit, such as satsumas and bananas, cannot be grown in the UK and other types of fruit, including apples and pears, may only be available in certain areas at certain times of the year. We are keen to explore ways of maximising locally grown produce, but we also need to ensure that all children should have access to the same quality and variety of fruit and vegetables wherever they are in the country.

### Obesity

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps she is taking to tackle childhood obesity; and if she will make a statement. [11660]

**Caroline Flint:** Reducing obesity in both children and adults is one of the key overarching priorities of the Government White Paper, "Choosing Health". The White Paper sets out a comprehensive strategy for tackling obesity and has given a solid foundation for future work. Delivery plans for "Choosing Health, Choosing a Better Diet and Choosing Activity" were published in March this year and show how we will deliver action to tackle childhood obesity.

We have also set a national public service agreement target to halt, by 2010, the year-on-year increase in obesity among children under 11 in the context of a broader strategy to tackle obesity in the population as a whole. National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidance on the prevention, identification, assessment and management of overweight and obesity in adults and children will also be available early in 2007.

Current action on diet includes investment in the "Five-a-day" programme, including the school fruit and vegetable scheme, promotion of breastfeeding, action to improve diet and nutrition across the whole school, including the food in schools programme, as well as work with industry on food promotion to children and reducing salt, fat and sugar. Current action on physical activity includes investing in school sport and the local exercise and activity pilots.

**Dr. Naysmith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made in ensuring that primary care trusts produce strategies to address obesity; what *(a)* guidance and *(b)* resources are made available to trusts to assist them in producing such strategies; and whether that assistance includes information about slimming on referral. [11898]

**Caroline Flint:** As part of the local delivery plan process, strategic health authorities are required to submit plans to tackle obesity. These have been received and are being assessed. The obesity care pathway, weight loss guide and obesity toolkit will help support primary care trusts in delivering their plans, prior to National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidance in 2007. The White Paper, "Choosing Health", also made a commitment to assess the role validated programmes, such as slimming on referral, can play in providing effective behaviour change programmes.

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health which strategic health authorities have submitted plans to tackle obesity as part of the local delivery plan process. [12540]

**Caroline Flint:** All strategic health authorities (SHAs) have been required to develop local delivery plans to tackle obesity. The Department is in the process of agreeing SHA plans and progress will be monitored against these.

**Bob Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the need for action to tackle obesity at primary care level. [13545]

**Caroline Flint:** As part of the local delivery plan process, strategic health authorities are required to submit plans to tackle obesity. These have been received and are being assessed. The obesity care pathway, weight loss guide and obesity toolkit will help support primary care trusts in delivering their plans, prior to National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidance in 2007.

### Orthopaedic Prosthesis

**Anne Main:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 27 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 1377W, on orthopaedic prosthesis, if she will take steps to ensure that no NHS trust standardises orthopaedic prosthesis. [10839]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** There are no plans for the standardisation of orthopaedic prosthesis.

### Positron Emission Tomography Services

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps have been taken following the publication of the Framework for the Development of Positron Emission Tomography Services in England on 28 July 2004 and the subsequent consultation; and if she will make a statement. [13592]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** We are currently considering responses to the draft, "National Framework for the Development of Position Emission Tomography Services in England." The report is due to be published shortly.

### Prisons

**Mrs. James:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she has made of the number of prisoners infected with hepatitis C in England and Wales. [10672]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** I refer my hon. Friend to the reply I gave to my hon. Friend the Member for Leeds, North-East (Mr. Hamilton) on 12 July 2005, *Official Report*, columns 973–74W.

### Processed Food Industry

**Mr. Mike Hall:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she has made of the cost to the processed food industry of the Food Standards Agency's decision to recall products containing Sudan 1 and Para Red. [12866]

**Caroline Flint** *[holding answer 18 July 2005]:* This information is not held centrally by the Food Standards Agency (FSA). Estimated costs on the action taken by the FSA to recall products would be available from the industry.

### Public and Patient Involvement Forums

**Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when the public and patient involvement forums for *(a)* ambulance services, *(b)* mental health trusts and *(c)* acute hospital trusts will be abolished; and what mechanisms will be set up to ensure patient consultation. [10733]

**Ms Rosie Winterton** *[holding answer 11 July 2005]:* It is intended, subject to legislation, that patient forums for ambulance services, mental health trusts and acute hospital trusts will be abolished in August 2006. We plan to combine forums and work is under way to ensure that the work these specialist trust forums are doing is continued under the new arrangements. Section 11 of the Health and Social Care Act 2001 on the duty to consult patients and the public is unaffected by this change.

### Section 64 Funding

**Ms Gisela Stuart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reason bereavement was removed from the criteria for eligibility for section 64 funding for 2005–06. [12255]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** In 2005–06, bereavement organisations received grants totalling more than £200,000 through the section 64 general scheme of grants.

Funding for section 64 grants is limited and always over subscribed. In these circumstances, funding for new projects from 2006–07 was directed at priorities other than bereavement. However, a number of bereavement organisations continue to receive funding through previous section 64 awards through until 2008.

### Smoking

**Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research she has commissioned on the possibility of smoking being a contributing factor in the onset of blindness; and if she will make a statement. [11875]

**Caroline Flint:** The Government have not commissioned research on the possibility of smoking being a contributing factor in the onset of blindness. However, it is widely recognised that smoking is linked to many serious and chronic conditions.

### Surrey and Sussex Strategic Health Authority

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will list the board members of health trusts within the Surrey and Sussex Strategic Health Authority who have left their positions in the last three years. [12798]

**Caroline Flint:** The information is not held centrally, nor is it collected locally by the strategic health authority.

Responsibility for appointments functions relating to the appointment of non-executive directors of national health service trusts was delegated to the NHS Appointments Commission when it was established in 2001. The chair of the NHS Appointments Commission will write to the hon. Member directly with the information he has asked for.

### Walnuttree Hospital, Sudbury

**Mr. Yeo:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations her Department has received from *(a)* patients, *(b)* patients' relatives, *(c)* medical staff and *(d)* other health authority staff regarding the proposal to close the Walnuttree hospital in Sudbury. [9337]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The Department has received letters and emails from patients, patients' relatives and medical staff on the proposal to close the Walnuttree hospital in Sudbury. In addition, a 10,000 signature petition was presented to the Department on 24 November 2004 on behalf of the campaigners, "Hands Off Our Hospital".

### World Health Organisation

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much her Department has given to the World Health Organisation in each year since 1997; whether there are restrictions on the use of these funds; and if she will make a statement. [12719]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The Department pays the United Kingdom's annual subscription to the World Health Organisation (WHO) in line with the United Nation's scales of assessment, which is shown in the table. There are no restrictions on the use of these funds.

*UK annual subscriptions from 1997 to 2004*

| | *Departmental contributions to the WHO* | *Thousand* |
|---|---|---|
| | *United States ($)* | *£*[1] |
| 1997 | 21,560 | 13,342 |
| 1998 | 21,416 | 12,891 |
| 1999 | 19,677 | 12,180 |
| 2000 | 20,751 | 13,170 |
| 2001[2] | 20,293 | 14,400 |
| 2002[2] | 22,683 | 14,950 |
| 2003[2] | 20,071 | 12,673 |
| 2004[2,3] | 22,030 | 12,959 |

[1] Figures are in sterling and based on the United Kingdom's financial year starting from 1997–98 to 2004–05.
[2] Figures are not comparable to previous years due to the introduction of the resource accounting and budgeting out-turn exercise. This information is compiled in line with the requirements of "Government Accounting 2000".
[3] Amount in sterling is provisional.
*Notes:*
1. WHO contributions against the UK are in US dollars and converted into sterling by using the exchange rates used by the Bank of England.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest thousands.

In addition to the annual subscription, the Department has made voluntary contributions targeted to specific WHO programmes in the following areas:

Disease surveillance

Environment and health, including chemical safety and air quality

Immunisation (pandemic flu)

Non communicable diseases (health inequalities, WHO global strategy on diet, physical activity and health)

Patient safety

Tobacco control

Smallpox.

## TREASURY

### Child Trust Fund

**Mr. Sarwar:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many Child Trust Fund cheques have been invested; and if he will make a statement. [13642]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave to the hon. Member for Yeovil (Mr. Laws) on 6 June 2005, *Official Report*, columns 286–87W. Figures are published quarterly and the next figures will be published at the end of August.

### Childcare Vouchers

**Dr. Starkey:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what information his Department is providing to parents to explain the effect of claiming tax-free childcare vouchers on *(a)* child tax credit and *(b)* superannuation contributions. [10790]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Guidance on the effect of accepting tax-free childcare vouchers on tax credits and pension contributions where these are offered by employers in return for a salary sacrifice is available on HMRC's website at www.hmrc.gov.uk/specialist/salary_sacrifice.htm

Employers should advise employees of any effect of childcare vouchers on tax credits and pension contributions.

**Dr. Starkey:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the effect of take-up of tax-free childcare vouchers by employees will be on occupational pension contributions for *(a)* men and *(b)* women. [10791]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The tax and NICs exemption for employer-provided childcare vouchers has no effect on occupational pension contributions for men or women. Whether employers choose to alter pension contributions is entirely a matter for them.

### Class A Drugs

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people have been arrested for trafficking class A drugs at *(a)* airports and *(b)* ports in each of the last five years. [13212]

**Dawn Primarolo:** HMRC does not currently collect arrest data in a way that readily allows production of this kind of breakdown.

HMRC prosecution statistics for class A offences are regularly published by the Home Office in Drug Seizure and Offender Statistics reports. However, these do not include breakdowns by locations of seizure.

The most recent of these reports was published in July 2004, covering results for 2001 and 2002. In 2001, there were 560 prosecutions for illegal import or export of class A drugs. In 2002, there were 1,220.

## Cost Recovery

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 28 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 1424W, on cost recovery, when he expects the National Partnership Group for Palliative Care to publish the further information on full cost recovery to which he refers. [10402]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** I have been asked to reply.

The information on health care resource groups, payment by results and the principles of full cost recovery being prepared for the national partnership group for palliative care is presently out for consultation with the group. We expect to issue this information once the consultation process is complete.

## Council Tax

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 6 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 432W, on council tax, if he will place in the Library a copy of the written advice or reports submitted to the Valuation Office Agency by *(a)* Cole Layer Trumble, *(b)* the International Association of Assessing Officers, *(c)* the International Property Tax Institute, *(d)* the Institute of Revenue Rating and Valuation, *(e)* the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveys and *(f)* KPMG. [13160]

**Dawn Primarolo:** I have asked the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) to arrange for hardcopy versions of "Mass Appraisal of Real Property" and "Property Appraisal and Assessment Administration" published by the International Association of Assessing Officers and "A vision for valuation" published by the RIGS (Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors) to be placed in the House of Commons and the House of Lords Libraries. ("A vision for valuation" is also available on www.rics.org.). The Valuation Office Agency has used these publications to aid their review of potential techniques which may assist the revaluation, and also discussed aspects with representatives of the bodies concerned.

The remaining written advice provided by *(a)*, *(b)*, *(c)*, *(d)*, *(e)* and *(f)* has been given to assist in the formulation of Government policy on the future assessment of properties for council tax purposes using computer aided mass appraisal techniques, which are still under development. This written advice has been provided in confidence, and in addition disclosure could in some cases prejudice the commercial interests of the supplier and their relationship with the VOA.

## Drug-related Deaths (Teesside)

**Dr. Kumar:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer in how many deaths in Teesside the use of *(a)* heroin, *(b)* ecstasy, *(c)* amphetamines, *(d)* other illicit substances, *(e)* alcohol and *(f)* tobacco was recorded as a cause in each year since 1997. [12552]

**John Healey:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Len Cook to Dr. Ashok Kumar, dated 19 July 2005:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking in how many deaths in Teesside the use of *(a)* heroin, *(b)* ecstasy, *(c)* amphetamines, *(d)* other illicit substances, *(e)* alcohol and *(f)* tobacco was recorded as a cause in each year since 1997. (12552)

The most recently available information for mortality is deaths registered in 2004 and deaths occurring in 2003. Relevant figures are only readily available for deaths where the underlying cause was either related to drug poisoning or directly related to alcohol (alcohol abuse, dependence and poisoning, and diseases directly related to alcohol use). It is not possible to identify from death certificates which substance was the primary cause when more than one was involved.

Teesside has not been a recognised administrative area since 1974 when major administrative re-structuring took place. Teesside county borough council now lies within three unitary authorities: Middlesbrough; Redcar and Cleveland; and, Stockton-on-Tees. Figures for these areas are provided in the table below.

It is not known how many people die through tobacco use each year as this information is not recorded on the death certificate. Estimates can be made however and the most recent for England were published by the Health Development Agency in 2004.[1] This report estimated that in England an average of 86,500 deaths were caused by smoking each year over the period 1998–2002. Estimates were not published at unitary authority level, however for Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) the percentages of all deaths from causes associated with smoking at ages 35 and over were published. The unitary authorities of Middlesbrough, Redcar and Cleveland, and Stockton-on-Tees lie within the PCTs of Middlesbrough, Langbaurgh and North Tees. The percentages of deaths of those aged 35 and over in these areas from causes associated with smoking were 38 per cent., 32 per cent. and 35 per cent. respectively.

Figures for alcohol-related deaths to usual residents of the three unitary authorities registered in the years 1997 to 2004 are given in the table below. ONS compiles a special database to analyse mortality from drug-related poisoning, adding more detail than is available on routine annual extracts. This database is compiled using the annual occurrences extract of mortality data. Figures showing deaths related to drug poisoning involving heroin/methadone, ecstasy and amphetamines, occurring in the years 1997 to 2003, to usual residents of the three areas are given in the table below. Information on deaths involving illicit substances is not available, as how the deceased obtained a particular drug is not recorded at death registration.

However the attached table does show the number of deaths where a controlled substance, other than heroin/morphine or amphetamines (including ecstasy), was mentioned.

It should be noted that the figures on drug-related poisoning and alcohol-related deaths are not directly comparable for the following reasons:

The figures for alcohol-related deaths include the long-term effects of alcohol use, such as cirrhosis of the liver, whereas the figures for drugs all relate to poisoning from drug use.

Deaths from poisoning which involved both drugs and alcohol are coded as being due to drug poisoning, in accordance with international rules for coding cause of death.

The figures on alcohol include only those where the underlying cause was alcohol-related. The figures on specific drugs include any mention of the substance where the death was related to drug poisoning.

[1] Twigg L, Moon G and Walker S. The smoking epidemic in England. Health Development Agency, 2004.

*Number of alcohol-related deaths[1] and deaths from drug-related poisoning[2] involving selected drugs[3] to usual residents of the Unitary Authorities of Middlesbrough, Redcar and Cleveland, and Stockton-on-Tees, 1997 to 2004[4]*

| | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Middlesbrough* | | | | | | | | |
| *(a)* heroin/morphine | [5]__ | [5]__ | [5]__ | [5]__ | 6 | [5]__ | [5]__ | __ |
| *(b)* ecstasy | [5]__ | [5]__ | [5]__ | [5]__ | [5]__ | [5]__ | [5]__ | __ |
| *(c)* amphetamines | [5]__ | [5]__ | [5]__ | [5]__ | [5]__ | [5]__ | [5]__ | __ |
| *(d)* other misuse substances | [5]__ | [5]__ | [5]__ | [5]__ | [5]__ | [5]__ | [5]__ | __ |
| *(e)* alcohol-related deaths | 13 | 22 | 16 | 12 | 18 | 23 | 13 | 25 |
| *Redcar and Cleveland* | | | | | | | | |
| *(a)* heroin/morphine | [5]__ | [5]__ | [5]__ | [5]__ | [5]__ | [5]__ | [5]__ | __ |
| *(b)* ecstasy | [5]__ | [5]__ | [5]__ | [5]__ | [5]__ | [5]__ | [5]__ | __ |
| *(c)* amphetamines | [5]__ | [5]__ | [5]__ | [5]__ | [5]__ | [5]__ | [5]__ | __ |
| *(d)* other misuse substances | [5]__ | [5]__ | [5]__ | [5]__ | [5]__ | [5]__ | [5]__ | __ |
| *(e)* alcohol-related deaths | 14 | 14 | 14 | 17 | 20 | 16 | 21 | 18 |
| *Stockton-on-Tees* | | | | | | | | |
| *(a)* heroin/morphine | [5]__ | [5]__ | [5]__ | [5]__ | [5]__ | [5]__ | [5]__ | __ |
| *(b)* ecstasy | [5]__ | [5]__ | [5]__ | [5]__ | [5]__ | [5]__ | [5]__ | __ |
| *(c)* amphetamines | [5]__ | [5]__ | [5]__ | [5]__ | [5]__ | [5]__ | [5]__ | __ |
| *(d)* other misuse substances | [5]__ | [5]__ | [5]__ | [5]__ | [5]__ | [5]__ | 5 | __ |
| *(e)* alcohol-related deaths | 17 | 27 | 13 | 20 | 18 | 23 | 31 | 22 |

[1] For the years 1997–2000 the cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) codes 291, 303, 305.0, 425.5, 571, E860. For the years from 2001 onwards the cause of deaths was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes F10, 142.6, K70, K73, K74, X45.
Deaths were selected using the original underlying cause. The selection of codes to define alcohol-related deaths is described in:
Baker A and Rooney C (2003). Recent trends in alcohol-related mortality, and the impact of ICD-10 on the monitoring of these deaths in England and Wales. Health Statistics Quarterly 17, pp 5–14.
[2] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) codes 292, 304, 305.2–305.9, E850-E858, E950.0-E950.5, E962.0 and E980.0-E980.5 for 1997 to 2000, and the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes F11-F16, F18-F19, X40-X44, X60-X64, X85 and Y10-Y14 from 2001 onwards.
[3] Drugs mentioned on the death certificate of a death where the underlying cause was drug poisoning.
[4] Figures for alcohol-related deaths are numbers registered in each calendar year. Figures for drug-related poisoning deaths are numbers occurring in each calendar year.
[5] Fewer than 5 deaths.

## Economic Conditionality

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what action is being taken to promote the UK position on economic conditionality at the International Monetary Fund. [12464]

**Vera Baird:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps are being taken to promote the Government's policy on economic conditionality within the International Monetary Fund. [13593]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** As set out in the recently published policy paper "Partnerships for Poverty Reduction: rethinking conditionality", the Government believes that the relationship between donors and each developing country should be a partnership, based on shared commitments and priorities taken from the country's own poverty reduction strategy, and that progress should be measured against benchmarks from that strategy.

This approach was endorsed recently in the G8 statement on trade from the recent Gleneagles summit. This stated that this kind of flexibility will

> "help least developed countries to decide, plan and sequence their overall economic reforms in line with their country-led development programmes and their international obligations".

The IMF is currently undertaking a review of their approach to conditionality to be discussed later this year. In the context of this review and individual country discussions, the UK will work in the IMF Executive Board to promote the new approach proposed by the UK. The UK will also use the annual meetings of both the IMF and the World Bank in September 2005 to promote this approach.

## Economic Inactivity

**Mr. Frank Field:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of men and women aged *(a)* 16 to 44 and *(b)* 45 to 64 years who were (i) employed and (ii) economically inactive reported a limited longstanding illness from 1979 to the most recent available date. [11441]

**John Healey** *[holding answer 11 July 2005]:* The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Len Cook to Mr. Frank Field, dated 19 July 2005:*

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your parliamentary question about employed and economically inactive men and women with longstanding illness in the UK. (11441)

Tables 1 and 2 attached provide the available information for the years 1995 to 2005.

For the years 1995 to 1997 the long-term health problem definition included those people whose problem affected the kind of paid work they did. In the 1998 the definition of long-term health problem was extended to include problems affecting the amount of paid work that could be done. For the years 1999 onwards the figures are based on LFS questions designed to reflect the criteria of the Disability Discrimination Act.

The proportion of disabled people in table 2 are on a consistent basis, which is comparable from 1999 onwards. However, table 1 shows a clear discontinuity due to questionnaire changes. This should be taken into account if comparisons are made over time.

These estimates from the labour force survey are, as with any sample survey, subject to sampling variability.

*Table 1: Proportions of people of working age[1] with long-term health problem[2] United Kingdom*

*Percentage (not seasonally adjusted)*

| | *Age 16 to 44* | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Men* | | *Women* | |
| *Three months ending February* | *In employment* | *Inactive* | *In employment* | *Inactive* |
| 1995 | 4.1 | 23.6 | 3.5 | 13.8 |
| 1996 | 4.1 | 26.0 | 3.7 | 14.6 |
| 1997 | 7.1 | 33.9 | 6.2 | 20.1 |
| 1998[3] | 5.4 | 33.1 | 5.6 | 20.2 |

*Percentage (not seasonally adjusted)*

| | Age 45 to 64 | | Age 45 to 59 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Men | | Women | |
| Three months ending February | In employment | Inactive | In employment | Inactive |
| 1995 | 8.0 | 64.9 | 7.1 | 41.2 |
| 1996 | 7.7 | 64.2 | 7.2 | 42.9 |
| 1997 | 12.1 | 69.5 | 10.5 | 50.9 |
| 1998[3] | 9.5 | 69.5 | 10.4 | 50.7 |

[1] Men aged 16 to 64 and women aged 16 to 59.
[2] Long-term health problems defined by self-classification of LFS respondents as limiting the kind of paid work they can do.
[3] In 1998 the definition of long-term health problems was extended to include problems affecting the amount of paid work that could be done.
*Source:*
*ONS Labour Force Survey.*

*Table 2: Proportion of people of working age[1] who are classified as disabled under the criteria of the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) United Kingdom*

*Percentage (not seasonally adjusted)*

| | *Age 16 to 44* | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Men* | | *Women* | |
| *Three months ending February* | *In employment* | *Inactive* | *In employment* | *Inactive* |
| 1999 | 8.2 | 33.7 | 9.1 | 22.3 |
| 2000 | 8.6 | 32.8 | 8.9 | 23.8 |
| 2001 | 8.7 | 33.9 | 9.3 | 23.5 |
| 2002 | 9.0 | 34.6 | 10.1 | 24.0 |
| 2003 | 9.4 | 34.6 | 10.0 | 24.3 |
| 2004 | 8.7 | 32.2 | 9.6 | 23.8 |
| 2005 | 8.8 | 31.8 | 9.9 | 23.5 |

*Percentage (not seasonally adjusted)*

| | *Age 45 to 64* | | *Age 45 to 59* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Men* | | *Women* | |
| *Three months ending February* | *In employment* | *Inactive* | *In employment* | *Inactive* |
| 1999 | 15.6 | 71.8 | 17.1 | 54.8 |
| 2000 | 16.7 | 69.4 | 17.0 | 55.4 |
| 2001 | 17.8 | 72.0 | 17.3 | 56.2 |
| 2002 | 18.6 | 71.3 | 18.2 | 59.0 |
| 2003 | 19.0 | 71.0 | 18.2 | 58.0 |
| 2004 | 19.0 | 71.1 | 18.1 | 58.2 |
| 2005 | 19.1 | 69.4 | 18.9 | 58.6 |

[1] Men aged 16 to 64 and women aged 16 to 59.
*Note:*
Based on DDA (Disability Discrimination Act) "disabled" includes those who have a long term disability (12 months or more) which substantially limits their day-to-day activities, and people who have a long-term disability, which affects the kind or amount of work they might do.
*Source:*
*ONS Labour Force Survey*

## Energy-saving Products

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make it his policy to introduce a stamp duty rebate for the installation of energy saving products at the time of home purchase. [12636]

**John Healey:** The Government keeps all taxes under review.

## Gift Aid

**Mr. Vaizey:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much money was received by charities via Gift Aid in *(a)* 2001, *(b)* 2002, *(c)* 2003 and *(d)* 2004. [13263]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The amounts donated by individuals and tax repaid to charities under Gift Aid for the years 2000–01 to 2004–05 are shown in the table. The figures

for 2004–05 are provisional. HM Revenue and Customs do not have data for corporate Gift Aid donations during this period.

Statistics on Gift Aid are published on the HM Revenue and Customs website at www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/charities/table10–3.xls

£ million

| | Total gift aid donations | Tax repaid |
|---|---|---|
| 2000–01 | 996 | 222 |
| 2001–02 | 1,884 | 415 |
| 2002–03 | 2,300 | 506 |
| 2003–04 | 2,666 | 586 |
| 2004–05 | 2,838 | 625 |

### Handcuff Exports

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what investigations Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs have undertaken of breaches of strategic export controls in relation to the export of oversized handcuffs from the UK to *(a)* the United States of America and *(b)* Hong Kong. [13557]

**Dawn Primarolo:** HMRC has investigated one case concerning alleged exports of oversized handcuffs from the UK to the United States of America and no cases involving exports to Hong Kong.

### Import Duties

**Mr. Crabb:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will list the import duties that apply to goods manufactured outside the EU; and what the purpose is of each. [12470]

**Malcolm Wicks:** I have been asked to reply.

The EU's import duties are set out in the EU's common external tariff and comprise over 15,000 separate tariff lines with varying duty rates. It is not practical to list all of them individually. The information can be found in the UK Customs Tariff published by HMSO on behalf of HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC). A copy is currently available in the Libraries of the House.

The European Community has exclusive competence for commercial policy including the setting of import duties. Import duties are a source of Government revenue. The level of duty reflects both the degree of sensitivity of the product concerned and also what was negotiable over time through various rounds of multilateral trade negotiations.

### Income Tax

**Mr. Tom Harris:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many workers living in *(a)* West Dunbartonshire council and *(b)* West Lothian council local authority areas pay income tax at (i) the basic rate and (ii) the higher rate; [13222]

(2) how many workers living in *(a)* Clackmannanshire council, *(b)* Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, *(c)* Dumfries and Galloway council, *(d)* Dundee city council and *(e)* East Ayrshire council local authority areas pay income tax at (i) the basic rate and (ii) the higher rate; [13259]

(3) how many workers living in *(a)* Aberdeen city council, *(b)* Aberdeenshire, *(c)* Angus council, *(d)* Argyll and Bute council and *(e)* City of Edinburgh local authority areas pay income tax at (i) the basic rate and (ii) the higher rate; [13260]

(4) how many workers living in *(a)* Scottish Borders council, *(b)* Shetland Islands council, *(c)* South Ayrshire council, *(d)* South Lanarkshire council and *(e)* Stirling council local authority areas pay income tax at (i) the basic rate and (ii) the higher rate [13283]

(5) how many workers living in *(a)* North Ayrshire council, *(b)* North Lanarkshire council, *(c)* Orkney Islands council, *(d)* Perth and Kinross council and *(e)* Renfrewshire council local authority areas pay income tax at (i) the basic rate and (ii) the higher rate; [13284]

(6) how many workers living in *(a)* Glasgow city council, *(b)* Highland council, *(c)* Inverclyde council, *(d)* Midlothian council and *(e)* Moray council local authority areas pay income tax at (i) the basic rate and (ii) the higher rate; [13286]

(7) how many workers living in *(a)* East Dunbartonshire council, *(b)* East Lothian council, *(c)* East Renfrewshire council, *(d)* Falkirk council and *(e)* Fife council local authority areas pay income tax at (i) the basic rate and (ii) the higher rate. [13290]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The information on revenue raised from personal taxation by local authority areas is not available pending a review of National Statistics on income tax and personal incomes. Further details of the review can be found on the HMRC website at the following page:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/income_tax/NS_Review.htm.

The only related information available is the published National Statistics on mean and median income by each county, unitary authority or district which can be found on the HM Revenue and Customs website:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/income_distribution/table314-0203.xls.

**Mr. Iain Wright:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many and what proportion of people in *(a)* England and Wales, *(b)* North East region, *(c)* Tees Valley sub region and *(d)* Hartlepool pay income tax at the (i) starting rate of 10 per cent., (ii) basic rate of 22 per cent. and (iii) higher rate of 40 per cent. [13442]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The information for taxpayers in England and Wales is in the table.

Similar information by tax bands on regional or sub-regional income tax revenue statistics is not available pending a review of National Statistics on income tax and personal incomes. Further details of the review can be found on the HMRC website at the following page: http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/income_tax/NS_Review.htm

*England and Wales taxpayers only, 2002–03*

| | *Number of taxpayers (thousand)* | *Percentage* |
|---|---|---|
| Starting rate | 2,700 | 11 |
| Savers' and basic rate[1] | 20,100 | 79 |
| Higher rate | 2,800 | 10 |

[1] Includes taxpayers with a marginal rate of 20 per cent. on savings, 22 per cent. on earnings and 10 per cent. on dividends.

The number of people liable for tax in the North East region, and Hartlepool and Tees Valley unitary authorities, can be found in tables 3.11 'Income and tax, by region and country' and 3.14 'Total income by borough and district or unitary authority' on the HM Revenue and Customs' website www.inlandrevenue.gov.uk/stats/income_distribution/menu.htm

The income tax information is based upon the Survey of Personal Incomes (SPI) and 2002–03 is the latest survey year. The survey is based on information held by the HM Revenue and Customs tax offices on persons who are liable to UK tax.

### Inheritance Tax

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) on how many estates the UK inheritance tax was paid in each year since 1996; [13112]

(2) if he will list the inheritance tax threshold in each year since 1996. [13113]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The number of estates paying inheritance tax each year are published on the HM Revenue and Customs website at

www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/tax_receipts/table1–4.xls

The inheritance tax threshold applying in each year is also given on the HM Revenue and Customs website at

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/inheritance_tax/table-a8.xls

In Budget 2005 the threshold was increased to £275,000 in 2005–06, £285,000 in 2006–07 and £300,000 in 2007–08.

**Mr. Iain Wright:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many estates in Hartlepool have had a value in excess of the nil-band threshold of inheritance tax in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [13445]

**Dawn Primarolo:** 94 per cent. of estates do not pay inheritance tax. Figures are not available at local levels.

### Lorry Road User Charge

**Mr. Duncan:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions with industry associations he *(a)* had prior to and *(b)* has had since his announcement of the lorry road user charge. [12764]

**John Healey:** Ministers and officials from HM Treasury, HMRC and the Department for Transport hold meetings on a regular basis with a wide range of representative bodies from the haulage and other related industries, primarily through the Road Haulage Forum (RHF) and its Lorry Road User Charge sub-group.

I also talk regularly to leaders of the Freight Transport Association and the Road Haulage Association to discuss their concerns.

**Mr. Duncan:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much the Chairman of the Lorry Road User Charge division within HM Revenue and Customs was paid in 2004–05; and if he will make a statement on the future of the post. [12715]

**John Healey:** The Director of the Lorry Road User Charge Programme within HM Customs and Excise received a civil service salary within the senior civil service pay band 2. Details of senior civil service pay bands for 2004–05 were published by the Review Body on Senior Salaries in its Twenty-Seventh Report on Senior Salaries (Cm 6451).

The posts of Chief Executive and Director were merged into one post within HM Revenue and Customs in June 2005. Following the announcement by the Secretary for State for Transport on 5 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 173, that the Government will now take forward the plans for distance-based lorry charging as part of the wider work on national road pricing, this post is now under review.

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people are employed on the project to introduce lorry road user charging; and what their budget is. [5182]

**Mr. Duncan:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how much has been spent on preparatory work for the lorry road user charge; [12747]

(2) how many people are employed in the lorry road user charge division within HM Revenue and Customs. [12763]

**John Healey:** The LRUC programme has regularly reviewed its needs to ensure the right level of skills and resources; during 2004–05, the last complete year for which figures are available, the equivalent of around 159 full-time staff were engaged on the programme. The provisional total for the expenditure by HM Customs and Excise on the LRUC programme since they were assigned responsibility in May 2002 up to 31 March 2005 was £39.1 million.

This work on the LRUC programme has strengthened the Government's view that distance-based charging for using the UK's roads is technically achievable. In particular, "proof of solution" work with prospective suppliers has enabled us to see the technology in action, and is confirming our expectations of its ability to deliver a distance-based charge. The Government will continue to work with the haulage industry and ensure that we carry the full experience gained from this project into the wider work to develop a national road pricing system.

### Money Laundering

**Mr. Roger Williams:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people in the UK *(a)* have had their bank accounts closed and *(b)* been refused a bank account on grounds of suspicion of money laundering in each of the last three years. [12742]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** This information is not held by the Government.

### National Insurance

**Dr. Cable:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the cost would be of increasing the personal and employer and employee national insurance contribution thresholds to £8,615 *(a)* keeping a 10 per cent. starting rate on the first £2,090 above £8,615 and *(b)* removing the starting rate, in both cases decreasing the basic rate limit so that the upper rate was applied at the same point as at present. [13203]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Increasing the personal allowance (PA) and employer and employee national insurance contribution thresholds to £8,615 and reducing the basic rate band limit to £28,680, while keeping the 10 per cent. starting rate on the first £2,090 above the PA would reduce the tax/national insurance contribution revenue by around £38.5 billion in 2005–06.

The cost would fall to £32.6 billion in 2005–06 if the first £2,090 above the PA is absorbed into the basic rate band.

These estimates have been obtained after increasing all personal allowances (i.e. the personal allowances and personal allowances for individuals aged 65 and above) to £8,615, increasing the Primary and Secondary Thresholds to £166 per work and keeping the higher rate income-tax threshold at the current £37,295.

The second costing assumes the first £2,090 is taxed at 22 per cent. on earnings and 20 per cent. on savings—the dividends starting rate is kept at 10 per cent.

There would be no savings from lower tax credits since tax credit entitlement is based on gross income.

The income tax information is based upon the 2002–03 Survey of Personal Incomes (SPI) projected forward to 2005–06 and information on national insurance contribution information has been provided by the Government Actuary's Department (GAD). Estimates are in line with Budget 2005 assumptions.

The figures exclude any estimate of behavioural response to the tax and national insurance contributions changes, which could be significant given the scale of the changes, nor do they consider the longer-term consequences of lower accruals of pension benefits and levels of rebates.

### National Statistics

**Mr. Fallon:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what progress is being made with the Framework Review of National Statistics; when he expects it to be compiled; whether it will be published; and if he will make a statement. [13492]

**John Healey:** The "Framework for National Statistics" came into force in 2000, and included a commitment for its review in five years. The Government will honour this commitment.

### North Sea Oil Revenues

**Mr. Salmond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the Government have revised their forecast of North sea oil revenues in the 2005–06 financial year to take account of higher than expected oil prices and sterling/dollar movements; and if he will make a statement. [12519]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The Government will publish an update of the effect of oil prices on the UK's public finances and updated forecasts for the UK and world economies in the pre-Budget report as usual, taking into account all relevant factors and developments, including oil prices.

### Offshore Tax Avoidance

**Mr. MacNeil:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what guidance he has issued on the awarding of contracts to companies who register crews offshore to avoid tax. [12469]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The Government awards contracts in accordance with procurement procedures. I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 15 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 391W.

### Oil and Gas Revenues

**Mr. Salmond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate oil and gas revenues accruing to the Exchequer in the 2005–06 financial year assuming oil prices at *(a)* $50, *(b)* $60 and *(c)* $80 a barrel. [12520]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The impact of higher oil prices on the public finances is discussed in Box 2.5 in the 2004 Pre-Budget Report.

### Overseas Civil Service

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many former employees of Her Majesty's Overseas Civil Service benefited from a waiver of interest on tax liabilities for the year 1997–98 that were reported after the 31 January deadline as a result of the Hong Kong Government's decision to give a 10 per cent. rebate on tax charged for that year; [13230]

(2) what the total loss to the Exchequer was resulting from waiver of interest charges on tax liabilities of former employees of Her Majesty's Overseas Civil Service for the year 1997–98 that were reported after the 31 January deadline as a result of the Hong Kong Government's decision to give a 10 per cent. rebate on tax charged for that year; [13231]

(3) how many former employees of Her Majesty's Overseas Civil Service were charged interest on tax liabilities for the year 2001–02 that were reported after the 31 January deadline as a result of the Hong Kong Government's decision to give a 50 per cent. rebate on tax charged for that year. [13232]

(4) how much interest was charged on tax liabilities of former employees of Her Majesty's Overseas Civil Service for the year 2001–02 that were reported after the 31 January deadline as a result of the Hong Kong Government's decision to give a 50 per cent. rebate on tax charged for that year. [13233]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The information requested is not available centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

## PAYE

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what progress has been made in modernising the computerisation of Pay As You Earn (PAYE) by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs; when current computer projects concerning PAYE are due to be completed; what the *(a)* original and *(b)* expected cost of each project is; what functional improvements are expected; and if he will make a statement. [12613]

**Dawn Primarolo:** PAYE computer systems and processes are being changed in order to support the recommendations of the 2001 Carter Report on Payroll Services which the Government accepted in the 2002 Budget. They include mandatory online submission of Employer's Annual Returns by large and medium-sized employers and incentives for voluntary online submission by small employers. The changes also support the submission of cleaner data to newly defined quality standards. The changes are scheduled for completion in September 2005.

The original estimated development and running costs for this Programme (for the period 2003–04 to 2008–09) were £122 million. The expected costs for the same period, which are in line with the formally agreed business case, are £156 million. The difference is accounted for primarily by increased IT development and running costs driven out by detailed design and analysis work.

935,000 (62 per cent.) 2004–05 Employer's Annual Returns, covering 87 per cent. of employee data, were made online. This compares with 6.6 per cent. of Returns the previous year.

As part of its normal business, HMRC keeps computer support for PAYE under review with a view to improving processes and meeting public service agreement targets on customer service and efficiency.

## Pension Funds

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent representations he has received from British businesses regarding taxes on pension funds since 1997. [10873]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The Treasury receives representations from a number of parties, including British businesses on a wide range of issues, including tax and pensions.

## Pension Savings (Tax Relief)

**Mr. Denham:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate cost of tax relief on pension savings in 2026. [12791]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** No estimates are available.

## Pensions

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what criteria he used in deciding to make property owners eligible for the self-invested personal pensions scheme. [12853]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** Currently most pension funds may invest in residential property, and many do. Pension tax simplification, which replaces the numerous existing tax regimes with a universal regime for tax-privileged pension savings, will also allow Self-Invested Personal Pensions (SIPPs) and Small Self-Administered Schemes (SSASs) to invest in residential property from 6 April 2006. This new regime will provide greater flexibility to some 15 million pension savers.

Creating a single set of allowable investments across all pension schemes fits the requirement to create a single regime for tax privileged pension saving and corrects an existing distortion by giving investors greater choice.

Paragraphs 55 and 56 of the Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) "Simplifying the Taxation of Pensions" published in April 2004, which can be found at http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/ria/simplifying-pensions.pdf deal specifically with the potential consequences of allowing residential property into SIPPs and SSASs.

The Government will keep this aspect of the tax system, as with all others, under review.

## Revenue and Customs

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff at Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs are engaged in the handling, processing and analysis of information returned on form IHT205. [13255]

**Dawn Primarolo:** No staff spend their whole time dealing with form IHT205, but the department estimates that it occupies the equivalent of about five full-time units. This compares to eight units dealing with the smaller number of "excepted estates" under the pre-2004 arrangements, plus further staff dealing with estates which were then required to submit a full IHT return but would now be able to use form IHT205. The new arrangements are designed to help executors get things right first time and have eliminated most of the follow-up inquiries which used to be necessary. Burdens on executors have reduced accordingly.

## Science Investment

**Dr. Iddon:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to his answer of 7 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 620W, on science investment, by what amount private sector investment would need to *(a)* increase and *(b)* decrease to cause him to change the projected real-terms average annual growth of 5.8 per cent. in public sector funding for the science base over the next three years as outlined in the 2004 Spending Review. [12824]

**John Healey:** The spending plans for the next three years are as stated in the 2004 Spending Review. The 2004 Spending Review increased funding for the public science base, through the DTI and DfES, at an average annual rate of 5.8 per cent. in real terms over the Spending Review 2004 period (2004–05 to 2007–08). The Government have no plans to change its commitment to the public science base over the 2004 Spending Review period, irrespective of levels of private sector investment in R&D over the same period.

## Seal Skins

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many seal skins were *(a)* imported into and *(b)* exported from the UK in each of the last five years, broken down by species; and how much marine mammal oil was (i) imported into and (ii) exported from the UK in each year. [12711]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Figures on the imports and exports of seal skins and marine mammal oil are published in the Overseas Trade Statistics by HM Revenue and Customs which are available in the Library of the House and via www.uktradeinfo.com, which includes latest information. HM Revenue and Customs strongly suspects trade recorded against 43031010 in recent years has arisen as a result of miscoding by the importers concerned. Ongoing activities to ensure the quality of the trade statistics have resulted in some adjustments to the data; some further amendments may be necessary.

## Self-assessment

**Dr. Cable:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what percentage of self assessment tax payers paid their tax liability by *(a)* the due date and *(b)* within 12 months of the due date in each of the last five years for which information is available. [13202]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs only hold the information requested from year 2001–02. The following table shows the number of balancing payments paid by the due date expressed as a percentage of the number of self assessment taxpayers who have filed their returns.

| *Tax year* | *Percentage of taxpayers who pay by the due date* | *Percentage of taxpayers who pay within 12 months of the due date* |
|---|---|---|
| *2001–02* | | |
| Due 31 January 2003 | 89.3 | 98.6 |
| *2002–03* | | |
| Due 31 January 2004 | 89.8 | 98.7 |
| *2003–04* | | |
| Due 31 January 2005 | 88.6 | 98.7 |

## Stamp Duty

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate the Department has made of the aggregate annual cost to those required to complete stamp duty land tax returns of solicitors' work involved in completing such returns *(a)* in respect of all land transactions and *(b)* in respect of those land transactions in which no stamp duty land tax is payable. [12638]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** HM Revenue and Customs does not have an estimate of the compliance costs of stamp duty land tax (SDLT) on solicitors, conveyancers and other practitioners, nor of the costs passed on to purchasers in respect of completion of land transaction returns, regardless of whether SDLT is payable.

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on how many transactions in *(a)* England, *(b)* Wales, *(c)* Scotland, *(d)* the UK and *(e)* each Government office region Stamp Duty was paid in each year since 1997. [13114]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The estimated number of residential transactions, where Stamp Duty was payable, is given in the following table for the years and regions for which the information is available. Stamp Duty was payable for these years if the value of the transaction was above the £60,000 threshold, except for transactions from 30 November 2001 with values above £60,000 and up to £150,000 in certain disadvantaged areas, which were relieved from Stamp Duty.

*Number (thousand)*

| | *1997* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| North East | 15 | 12 | 16 | 17 | 16 | 20 | 31 |
| North West | 41 | 45 | 57 | 68 | 76 | 86 | 83 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 32 | 32 | 39 | 46 | 44 | 51 | 47 |
| East Midlands | 29 | 32 | 41 | 49 | 51 | 51 | 62 |
| West Midlands | 43 | 44 | 54 | 59 | 62 | 81 | 60 |
| East of England | 70 | 70 | 87 | 96 | 109 | 121 | 97 |
| London | 122 | 121 | 155 | 148 | 159 | 163 | 130 |
| South East | 137 | 134 | 167 | 158 | 199 | 230 | 174 |
| South West | 65 | 67 | 87 | 90 | 117 | 137 | 126 |
| England | 554 | 557 | 703 | 729 | 833 | 941 | 809 |
| Wales | 17 | 17 | 23 | 22 | 32 | 37 | 46 |
| Scotland | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 55 | 66 | 75 |
| United Kingdom | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 942 | 1,069 | 964 |

n/a = Not available.

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what percentage of stamp duty land tax returns has been rejected as incorrectly completed by HM Revenue and Customs since the introduction of the form; and what percentage of those so rejected have subsequently been accepted as correct without amendment. [12023]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** In 2005 the percentage of returns received in which HMRC sought additional information or clarification of information included in stamp duty land tax returns has averaged approximately 33 per cent. A recent review suggested that in approximately 5 per cent. of cases received, one or more fields were either not captured or were misinterpreted during the scanning process. This figure includes returns where the handwriting results in information being captured incorrectly. As a result of this review, HMRC have identified a number of modifications which will quickly reduce the percentage of cases in which there is a scanning error.

## Tax Credits

**Mr. Andrew Turner:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many copies of note TC 602 have been printed; what the instructions are for circulation thereof; and how many tax credit recipients have received a copy with each *(a)* payment and *(b)* assessment. [8708]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Form TC 602 is a computer-generated notice (accompanied by guidance notes) issued by HMRC under section 23 of the Tax Credits Act 2002. Its purpose is to set out the amount of tax credit entitlement and how that entitlement will be paid.

An award notice is issued whenever the award or payment details change. Legislation requires that separate notices be issued to each individual in a joint award. Where a claim is made, or a change of circumstance is notified, via the internet an additional copy of each notice is provided for claimants to sign and return to confirm that the details shown are correct.

For the number of award notices issued, and hence the number of forms TC 602 issued, may I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 4 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 99W.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what information on *(a)* official error in payment of and *(b)* overpayment of tax credit is collated on a (i) quarterly; (ii) half-yearly and (iii) annual basis; and if he will make a statement. [8843]

**Dawn Primarolo:** For monthly figures of the amounts written off each month from June 2004 I refer the hon. Gentleman to the reply I gave him on 4 July 2005, *Official Report*, columns 101–2W.

In general, overpayments can only be established at the end of year, when families report their finalised income and circumstances. Information about overpayments is published in the spring of each year under National Statistics.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make a statement on the computer problems which have been experienced by the Inland Revenue Tax Credits department over the last two years. [9330]

**Dawn Primarolo:** It is still the case that the system is stable in terms of speed and accessibility. As I have made clear in recent statements and debates, there has been IT problems which have affected system performance, some of which were mentioned during the PAC hearing on 24 January 2005. Others which have come to light more recently were mentioned in HMRC's contribution to the Ombudsman's recent special report on tax credits. These problems are being resolved as they arise, and none is currently leaving claimants without payment.

**Mr. George Osborne:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people are employed in HM Revenue and Customs to handle *(a)* tax credits overpayments and *(b)* tax credits underpayments. [9731]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Information about the number of people employed to handle overpayments and underpayments in HM Revenue and Customs is not available, as it is not organised along these dividing lines.

**Mr. George Osborne:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much has been paid out to tax credit claimants in compensation for Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs errors in each of the last three years. [9843]

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what his latest estimate is of the number of compensation payments due to errors and delays in the Tax Credit Office in *(a)* 2003–04, *(b)* 2004–05 and *(c)* 2005–06; and if he will make a statement; [8739]

(2) what decisions his Department made in *(a)* 2002 and *(b)* 2003 about notifying tax credit claimants of their compensation entitlements following incorrect payments of the credits due to official error and IT problems; and if he will make a statement. [10017]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The circumstances in which HM Revenue and Customs will make compensation payments to its customers are explained in the Department's Code of Practice 1 "Putting things right" which is available at www.hmrc.gov.uk. The Department will pay compensation for reasonable costs incurred as a direct result of their mistakes or delays and to recognise worry and distress caused by those mistakes and delays. They do not keep separate details of compensation payments made specifically due to errors or delays.

For details of compensation payments the Department made to tax credits claimants in 2002–03, 2003–04 and 2004–05, I refer the hon. Members to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Yeovil (Mr. Laws) on 4 July 2005, *Official Report*, columns 95–96W.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the *(a)* number and *(b)* value was of overpayments of (i) working families tax credit and (ii) family credit for each year from 1995–96 to 2002–03; and if he will make a statement. [9865]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Working families tax credit and family credit awards were fixed for 26 weeks. They were based on a snapshot of income and circumstances around the time of claim, and were not amended in any circumstances for the length of the award, regardless of a rise or fall in income or addition of, for example, another child. The fixed award period meant that it is not possible to calculate under or overpayments.

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many fax machines are sited at the work stations of staff of the tax credit helpline. [10268]

**Dawn Primarolo:** None. The tax credit helpline does not deal with fax requests from the public.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment his Department has made of the *(a)* costs and *(b)* effects of returning to a fixed system of tax credit awards; and if he will make a statement. [10781]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The Government carefully examined the issue of how tax credits could respond to changes in families income and circumstances, and consulted on it when designing the child and working tax credits. A consultation document, 'New Tax Credits Supporting families, making work pay and tackling poverty', was published in July 2001. In the light of that consultation exercise, the April 2002 publication

"The Child and Working Tax Credits: The Modernisation of Britain's Tax and Benefit System Number Ten" set out how the system would work.

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the merits of reforming the tax credits system to provide benefits for carers; and if he will make a statement. [11787]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The Government recognise the problems faced by carers moving into work.

HMRC continues to consult with interested parties on the practicalities of extending support to this group.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what representations he has received from social work departments about the tax credit system. [11845]

**Dawn Primarolo:** HM Revenue and Customs consult extensively with the Tax Credit Consultation Group, which includes representatives from the Local Government Association.

**Mr. Frank Field:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he will reply to the letter of 15 June from the right hon. Member for Birkenhead regarding the tax credits of his constituent, Mrs. Smith. [12147]

**Dawn Primarolo:** HM Revenue and Customs will reply to my right hon. Friend shortly.

They aim to reply to 80 per cent. of correspondence within 15 working days and 95 per cent. within 40 working days.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his latest estimate is of the total number of staff members involved in all forms of tax credit administration; and if he will make a statement. [12274]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The role of many HMRC staff may involve some element of tax credits administration, and the extent changes with the tax credits cycle.

For numbers of staff employed on tax credits I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave him on 18 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 1332W.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average time taken to resolve a dispute over the recovery of overpaid tax credits was in *(a)* 2003–04 and *(b)* 2004–05; and what the figure is to date in 2005–06. [12390]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The information requested is not available.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the proportion of tax credit expenditure that offsets tax liabilities. [12391]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The amount of the net payments of tax credits for 2003–04 that is attributed to negative tax is shown in the Inland Revenue Trust Accounts, Note 3, for the year ending 31 March 2004.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many changes have been made to child and working tax credit award notices and the information included with them; and if he will place samples of each in the Library. [12394]

**Dawn Primarolo:** HMRC review and update all of the main tax credits forms, including the award notice, each year. For April 2006, they plan to introduce an improved version of the notice that has been developed in conjunction with representative groups. Copies of the new design have been placed in the Library today.

**Jessica Morden:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people in each ward of Newport East claim *(a)* child tax credit and *(b)* working tax credit. [13262]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Estimates of the number of in-work families (broken down by families with and without children) in each region, local authority and constituency with tax credits for 2003–04 awards, based on final family circumstances and incomes for 2003–04, appear in the HMRC statistical publication "Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics. Finalised Awards 2003–04. Geographical analyses." More recent provisional estimates for in-work families, as at selected dates in 2004–05, in each such area appear in the publication "Child and Working Tax Credit Statistics Geographical analyses." The estimates are based on samples and are subject to significant sampling uncertainty.

Both of these publications can be found on the HMRC website at http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-stats.htm. Estimates for smaller areas are not currently available.

**Mr. George Osborne:** To ask Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many eligible families did not receive *(a)* the working tax credit and *(b)* the child tax credit in 2003–04; [13688]

(2) what estimates he has made of the number of eligible families not receiving *(a)* the working tax credit and *(b)* the child tax credit, broken down by income range. [13689]

**Dawn Primarolo:** On average for 2003–04 5.7 million families benefited from child tax credit and working tax credit and initial analysis suggests that in its first year, child tax credit achieved an estimated take-up rate of 80 per cent. by caseload. Further work to produce final take-up rate estimates for child tax credit and working tax credit for 2003–04 is continuing and we expect this analysis to be completed towards the end of 2005–06.

**Mr. George Osborne:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of *(a)* new claims, *(b)* renewals and *(c)* changes of circumstance within the tax credit system were decided accurately in 2003–04. [13712]

**Dawn Primarolo:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave my hon. Friend the Member for High Peak (Tom Levitt), on 26 January 2005, *Official Report*, column 407W.

**Mr. Dunne:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the cost to HM Revenue and Customs of processing appeals and complaints regarding the tax credits system was in 2004–05. [8185]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The estimated administrative cost of dealing with tax credit appeals and complaints in 2004–05 was around £15 million.

### Tax Returns

**Mr. Wills:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what percentage of appeals against penalties imposed for late submission of tax returns were upheld by the General Commissioners in *(a)* 2000, *(b)* 2001, *(c)* 2002, *(d)* 2003 and *(e)* 2004. [13294]

**Dawn Primarolo:** HM Revenue and Customs do not have this information.

### Testicular Cancer

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the incidence of testicular cancer per 1,000 population was in *(a)* Gloucestershire and *(b)* Stroud District in each of the last five years. [13617]

**John Healey:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Len Cook to Mr. David Drew, dated 19 July 2005:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question concerning what the incidence of testicular cancer per 1,000 population men was in *(a)* Gloucestershire and *(b)* Stroud District in each of the last five years. (13617)

The most recent available figures for the incidence of testicular cancer are for the year 2002. Over the five year period 1998–2002, there were on average 22 cases of testicular cancer each year in the current county of Gloucestershire, too few to reliably calculate annual age-standardised incidence rates. For the five year period 1998–2002, the age-standardised incidence rate (directly standardised to the European standard population) for Gloucestershire was 8.0 per 100,000 men. For comparison, the corresponding rate for England was 6.5 per 100,000 men.

In the five year period 1998–2002, there were 12 cases of testicular cancer in the local authority of Stroud. The numbers of cases are too few to reliably calculate either annual age-standardised incidence rates or an age-standardised rate for the five-year period.

### Tonnage Tax

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his estimate is of corporation tax forgone since the introduction of tonnage tax; and how much tonnage tax has been raised during that period. [13462]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Estimates of the corporation tax foregone in the first four years of the tonnage tax based on the level of UK shipping activity when tonnage tax was introduced can be found at: http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/international/tonnage.htm

Over this same period around £10 million in corporation tax has accrued to the Exchequer from companies using the net tonnage of ships operated as a means of calculating shipping profits.

### UK Royal Dutch Shell

**Mr. Mark Field:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make a statement on the position of the minority shareholders in UK Royal Dutch Shell who, following the reconstruction of the Shell Group, will be liable for capital gains tax. [12425]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Ministers cannot comment on the tax affairs of individual taxpayers.

The UK has rules relating to share exchanges, which provide for relief by deferring tax on capital gains. Whether that relief is due to shareholders affected by the Shell reconstruction depends on exactly how the reconstruction is carried out. The detail of the reconstruction is, of course, entirely a matter for the companies concerned.

### Vehicles (Revenue)

**Mr. Duncan:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much revenue his Department received from *(a)* fuel duty, *(b)* vehicle excise duty, *(c)* VAT on car sales, *(d)* VAT on fuel and *(e)* company car tax in the last year for which figures are available. [12716]

**John Healey:** The information is as follows:

(a) and *(e)* Revenue collected by HM Revenue and Customs for the latest year available are published on the following websites:

www.uktradeinfo.co.uk

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats

(b) Vehicle Excise Duty are published in table C8 of Financial Statement and Budget Report (HC 372).

(c) and *(d)* HM Revenue and Customs do not collect data on VAT for individual goods or services.

# Written Answers to Questions

*Wednesday 20 July 2005*

## SOLICITOR-GENERAL

### Parliamentary Question

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Solicitor-General what the *(a)* formal job titles and *(b)* grades were of the officials involved in drafting the parliamentary answer to Baroness Ramsey (HL2172); and from which Department each came. [13558]

**The Solicitor-General:** I refer the hon. Member to the replies given by the Attorney General on 28 February 2005, *Official Report*, column WA1 and 14 March 2005, *Official Report*, column WA108. All the officials concerned were members of the senior civil service or, in the case of the FCO, Senior Management Structure.

### Serious Fraud Trials

**Kate Hoey:** To ask the Solicitor-General what the reasons are for deciding that serious fraud trials should not be decided by jury. [12496]

**The Solicitor-General:** The Government's decision to implement section 43 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003 will give effect to recommendations made nearly 20 years ago by Lord Roskill's Fraud Trials Committee, and more recently by Sir Robin Auld in his "Review of the Criminal Courts", that the most serious and complex fraud cases should be heard without a jury. The justification for the change is that the efforts made by the prosecution and the court to keep such cases to a manageable length mean that sometimes the defendant cannot be tried for charges that fully expose the extent of the criminality alleged. Moreover, notwithstanding these efforts, some trials are inordinately long and impose an unreasonable burden on juries, whose members ask to be excused and sometimes as a result the jury becomes unrepresentative. In other cases the number of jurors can fall worryingly low because jurors cannot continue to serve for a prolonged period.

### Attorney-General (Publications)

**Mr. Ancram:** To ask the Solicitor-General if he will list the publications issued by the Attorney-General's office in each of the last seven years; and what the *(a)* circulation, *(b)* cost and *(c)* purpose of each was. [10579]

**The Solicitor-General:** The Law Officers' Departments each publish a number of documents within a year. Detailed information for each publication is not available without incurring disproportionate cost. But the following information can be provided in respect of the costs of departmental report and departmental annual reports and business plans.

| *Department and publication* | *1997–98* | *1998–99* | *1999–2000* | *2000–01* | *2001–02* | *2002–03* | *2003–04* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Law Officers' Departments departmental report[1] | — | 4,327 | 4,485 | 6,849 | 7,618 | 6,197 | 5,160 |
| *Crown Prosecution Service* | | | | | | | |
| Annual report | 22,695 | 22,387 | 18,600 | 24,340 | 34,000 | 35,741 | 29,903 |
| Business plan | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 13,536 | 15,898 |
| *Serious Fraud Office* | | | | | | | |
| Annual report | 22,235 | 21,140 | 20,833 | 25,093 | 32,973 | 31,243 | 41,016 |
| Resource accounts | n/a | n/a | n/a | 2,289 | 2,564 | 2,564 | 2,737 |
| *Treasury Solicitor's Department* | | | | | | | |
| Annual report and accounts | 11,647 | 11,746 | 9,505 | 9,910 | 17,372 | 5,582 | 10,038 |
| Annual resource accounts | n/a | n/a | n/a | 2,413 | 2,564 | 2,564 | 2,591 |

n/a = not available

[1] Published by the Crown Prosecution Service on behalf of the Law Officers' Departments

The Law Officers' Departments departmental report is a requirement of HM Treasury, explaining departmental expenditure plans and performance. It covers all the Law Officers' Departments and is laid in the Library of the House. The report is circulated throughout the Law Officers' Departments, to HM Treasury and is available to CJS partners and other Government Departments on request. From time to time, the Attorney-General's office also publishes an Attorney-General's review and individual reports on specific areas of work.

The Director of Public Prosecutions is required to report annually to the Attorney-General under section 9 of the Prosecution of Offences Act 1985. The business plan describes key business initiatives and how the CPS plans to deliver its performance targets. The annual report is laid in the Library of the House. Both documents are circulated throughout the CPS headquarters and its 42 areas in England and Wales, to Criminal Justice System partners and other Government Departments.

HM Crown Prosecution Service was established as an independent statutory body on 1 October 2000. It is required to publish its Chief Inspector's annual report under section 2(2) of the Crown Prosecution Services Act 2002. A copy is laid in the Library of the House. The annual report and business plan are available on HMCPSI's website. HMCPSI also publishes inspection reports which are its core business and distributed to the Law Officers, senior managers in the CPS, to the staff of the business units inspected and those interviewed, as well as media and academics who have requested copies. Area reports are also sent to Members of Parliament

whose constituents are served by the inspected area. HMCPSI also published a Race Equality Scheme (April 2002) and a Freedom of Information Scheme (July 2003).

The Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office was established in April 2005 and has to date made no publications. For its predecessor, the Customs and Excise Prosecutions Office, details appropriate to annual reports and business plans were in included in the relevant documents for HM Customs and Excise.

The Serious Fraud Office annual report and resource accounts are also a statutory publications, the former designed to inform readers about the work of the office.

The Treasury Solicitor's Department is an agency. As such, its annual report includes its accounts, although its resource accounts have also been published separately since 2000–01. The annual report provides a description of the Treasury Solicitor's business, its aims and objectives and business strategy with a review of performance over the past year and of its finances and accounts. The report is laid in the Library of the House. Copies are provided to the Law Officers, to other Law Officers' Departments, internally to staff and, on request, to media and clients. The business plan is distributed electronically internally. Both annual report and business plan are now available on the website. The Treasury Solicitor's Department has also published the Government Legal Service Journal and Government Legal Service Recruitment Brochure for circulation to universities and other educational establishments or potential applicants, to raise the profile and attract recruits to the Government Legal Service.

**Work-related Stress**

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Solicitor-General how many cases of work-related stress have been reported in the Law Offices in each of the last three years; how much compensation was paid to employees in each year; how many work days were lost due to work-related stress in each year; at what cost; what procedures have been put in place to reduce work-related stress; at what cost; and if he will make a statement. [7876]

**The Solicitor-General:** This answer covers those Departments for which I am accountable—the Crown Prosecution Service CPS, the Treasury Solicitor's Department (TSol), the Serious Fraud Office (SFO), the Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office (RCPO) and EM CPS Inspectorate (HMCPSI).

*CPS*

The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) does not hold records for cases of work-related stress.

There have been two cases in the last three financial years (2002–03 to 2004–05) in which staff have made a claim against the CPS for injury due to work-related stress. One claim was withdrawn, and the Service reached an out of court settlement for £10,000 without acceptance of liability in the remaining case.

The total number of days lost and the estimated cost is shown in the following table for the two cases in which "work-related stress" was alleged.

| | *Days lost* | *Cost (£)* |
|---|---|---|
| 2002–03 | 85 | 23,708 |
| 2003–04 | 32 | 8,925 |
| 2004–05 | 26 | 7,252 |

The CPS provides Counselling and Support services for all its staff. The cost of this over the last three years was £550,054. Over the past year, extra support has been provided to those whose work entails the handling of sensitive and difficult casework.

*SFO*

| *Financial year* | *Number of cases reported* | *Work days lost* |
|---|---|---|
| 2002–03 | 3 | 42 |
| 2003–04 | — | 1 |
| 2004–05 | 2 | 18 |
| Total | 7 | 61 |

No compensation was paid in respect of cases of work related stress. Salaries continued to be paid during each period of absence.

The cost to the SFO of the lost work days was £6,166.

The Serious Fraud Office is committed to meeting targets for reducing the number of working days lost due to sickness absence. The SFO's strategy is based upon the continuing need to support staff as well as to generally help line managers to take a proactive role in what can be a sensitive area. The strategy results in no additional cost to the office.

*TSols*

While The Treasury Solicitor's Department monitors all sick absence, it does not have a specific system in place for reporting and monitoring cases of work-related stress.

The Department subscribes to a free and confidential telephone helpline service, offering support and information on a wide range of issues, including stress. The Welfare Officer is available to all staff during the working day and face-to-face surgeries are held every six weeks. All staff may apply to alter their standard working patterns under the flexible working arrangements scheme. The only direct cost is that for the telephone helpline service at £6,000 per annum.

*HMCPSI*

HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate's (HMCPSI) records show no days having been lost due to cases of work-related stress in any of the last three years. No cost is therefore associated with days lost or compensation paid.

Workload is monitored and managed appropriately by line managers. Staff attendance is also monitored and staff are able to tailor working arrangements to suit personal circumstances by discussion with line managers, in accordance with our policies on leave and attendance as set out in the Staff Handbook.

HMCPSI are committed to providing a healthy and secure environment for its staff. There is a Health and Safety Policy, that covers such issues. Forums for staff to raise any such concerns include Whitley council (where health and safety is a standing agenda item), the

HMCPSI Sounding Board and group meetings. To date no concerns regarding work-related stress have been raised.

*RCPO*

RCPO is a new Department created on 18 April 2005 when staff transferred from HM Customs and Excise and the Inland Revenue. Systems operating in the predecessor Departments do not separately record work-related stress.

The Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office has policies and procedures in place to address the long hours culture, performance management, personal development and attendance management. It also has anti-bullying policies and deploys phased return to work to aid the rehabilitation of staff from long-term sick absence. A welfare service is provided for staff.

## CHURCH COMMISSIONERS

### Housing Portfolio (London)

**Kate Hoey:** To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners what plans the Church Commissioners have to sell off their remaining housing portfolio in London. [13396]

**Sir Stuart Bell:** Following the recent sale of residential properties at Stoke Newington, Maida Vale and part of the Waterloo estate, the Commissioners have decided to prepare their remaining properties on the Octavia Hill estates in London for sale.

Over the coming months the Commissioners will be compiling information on these properties and this process will most likely take them into the autumn. They will be in a position to offer further information on how the sale will proceed when this stage is complete.

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### Biofuels

**Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions she has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on providing further incentives for biofuel production. [12108]

**Mr. Morley** *[holding answer 14 July 2005]:* The Department is in regular contact with Treasury Ministers to discuss a whole range of matters related to energy and environmental policy. In addition, my right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State, meets regularly with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on a wide range of matters that affect the business of the Department. As with all tax matters, decisions on duty incentives rest with the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

### Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of whether feed-based sources of BSE continue to be a problem. [14046]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** An independent review by Professor William Hill FRS, of the University of Edinburgh, was requested by Defra and published on 7 July 2005. The review examined the possible reasons for the cases of BSE occurring since the reinforced feed ban in 1996, together with the control measures being applied by the government. The review's conclusions re-confirmed the elimination of feed-borne sources to be the key to the eradication of BSE, and recommended that risk-based controls and monitoring should be maintained on animals and feed.

The review is available on Defra's internet site on the BSE home-page under 'Latest developments' at: http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/bse/index.html.

### Carbon Emissions

**Mr. Brazier:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the total UK carbon emissions were for *(a)* commercial buses, *(b)* other commercial vehicles, *(c)* cars, *(d)* trains and *(e)* UK airlines for the most recent year for which information is available. [12962]

**Mr. Morley:** The total UK carbon emissions (in mega tonnes), for commercial buses, other commercial vehicles (defined as light goods vehicles and heavy goods vehicles), cars, diesel rail and domestic and international aviation, for 2003, are shown as follows. These data are from the UK Greenhouse Gas Inventory published in 2005.

When reporting emissions from rail following internationally agreed reporting guidelines, the UK Greenhouse Gas Inventory only covers exhaust emission from diesel trains. Emissions from the generation of electricity at power stations that is used to supply electric trains are covered, separately, under 'power station' emissions.

The aviation emissions refer to all civil aircraft at UK airports, not specifically those from UK airlines.

| | *MtC* |
|---|---|
| Buses | 0.97 |
| Other commercial vehicles | 11.68 |
| Cars | 19.39 |
| Diesel rail | 0.26 |
| Aviation (domestic and international) | 8.67 |

**Mr. Brazier:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the annual volumetric change in UK carbon emissions attributable to *(a)* aviation and *(b)* road vehicles was for each of the most recent 10 years for which information is available. [12963]

**Mr. Morley:** The following table shows year on year changes in the volume of emissions of carbon dioxide from 1993–94 to 2002–03, for aviation (domestic and international) and for all road transport. These data are from the UK Greenhouse Gas Inventory published in 2005.

*Percentage increase*

| | *Aviation* | *Road transport* |
|---|---|---|
| 1993–94 | 3.38 | 0.54 |
| 1994–95 | 6.33 | -0.79 |
| 1995–96 | 6.19 | 3.81 |
| 1996–97 | 6.17 | 1.25 |
| 1997–98 | 11.13 | -0.63 |
| 1998–99 | 8.78 | 0.81 |
| 1999–2000 | 10.15 | -0.64 |
| 2000–01 | -2.07 | 0.05 |
| 2001–02 | -1.71 | 2.05 |
| 2002–03 | 2.49 | -0.16 |

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what percentage of the available EU Emissions Trading budget she estimates will be taken up by the aviation sector by 2040. [12555]

**Mr. Morley:** The European Commission is planning to publish a Communication on reducing the climate change impacts of aviation and has indicated that this may favour emissions trading. The UK has made taking forward this work programme a priority for the UK Presidency of the Council of Ministers. We want to use our Presidency to debate the options and agree a way forward.

At present, it is too early to provide a reliable estimate of the amount of allowances covered by either the EU ETS or the aviation sector within it in 2040. Both of these will depend on a number of factors including the overall number of allowances any additional measures introduced and the detailed design for the inclusion of aviation into the EU ETS. These factors have yet to be specified and will be subject to discussion with other member states.

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for what percentage of UK carbon emissions aviation was responsible in *(a)* 1990 and *(b)* 2000; and what estimate she has made of the likely percentage in (i) 2010, (ii) 2020, (iii) 2030, (iv) 2040 and (v) 2050 (A) assuming the absence of new policy levels to change behaviour and (B) assuming (A) but with the entry of aviation into the EU Emissions Trading Scheme. [12556]

**Mr. Morley:** The following table shows an estimate of the percentage of total carbon dioxide emissions which aviation is responsible for at each decade from 1990 to 2050 assuming the absence of new policy.

| | *Aviation as a percentage of total $CO_2$ emissions* |
|---|---|
| 1990 | 2.7 |
| 2000 | 5.5 |
| 2010 | 7.6 |
| 2020 | 11.5 |
| 2030 | 15.3 |
| 2040 | 18.3 |
| 2050 | 21.2 |

The 1990 and 2000 figures are based on the latest UK greenhouse gas inventory.

The projections for aviation emissions are based on central case forecasts by the DfT for the Air Transport White Paper.

Projections of UK carbon dioxide emissions in 2010 and 2050 assume the UK will reach its Energy White Paper targets of 20 per cent. and 60 per cent. carbon dioxide emissions reduction from 1990 levels. These do not include international aviation. Projections for 2020, 2030 and 2040 assume linear interpolation of 2010 and 2050 Energy White Paper levels.

The details of aviation's participation in the EU ETS will be decided by what the European Commission proposes, and what is negotiable and practicable.

## GM Crops

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what measures to avoid the unintended presence of genetically modified organisms in other products her Department has taken, with reference to Article 26A of EU Directive 2001/18. [13037]

**Mr. Morley** *[holding answer 18 July 2005]:* Before there is any commercial GM cultivation we plan to have appropriate measures in place to ensure the co-existence of GM and non-GM crops, consistent with Article 26a of Directive 2001/18. No GM crops are expected to be grown here commercially before 2008 at the very earliest.

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress she has made in establishing a liability regime in respect of GM crops. [13038]

**Mr. Morley** *[holding answer 18 July 2005]:* Last year we held a number of stakeholder workshops as the first step in consulting on measures to ensure the co-existence of GM and non-GM crops. We plan to issue a full consultation paper on this issue later this year. It will set out options for a possible liability regime in respect of financial losses that might be incurred by non-GM farmers, if their crops have an unintended GM presence above the EU 0.9 per cent. labelling threshold.

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what margin of buffer zone, in miles, she estimates is necessary to guarantee zero cross-contamination of non-GM crops by GM crops. [13039]

**Mr. Morley** *[holding answer 18 July 2005]:* Non-GM crops can only be cross-pollinated by GM crops of the same or very closely related species. In addition, for some crops like beet or potatoes, cross-pollination does not affect the harvested material, so if a GM variety cross-pollinated a non-GM variety, the produce of the latter would not have any GM content. Pollen produced by crop plants may be dispersed by insects or on the wind. The frequency of cross-pollination events between crops decreases with distance, but it is known that they may occur infrequently over very long distances. This makes it difficult to think in terms of guaranteeing zero cross-contamination by the use of buffer zones.

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what weight her Department gives to *(a)* environmental and *(b)* human health considerations in determining its policy on the co-existence of GM and non-GM crops. [13040]

**Mr. Morley** *[holding answer 18 July 2005]:* None. GM crops will not be approved for cultivation unless they pass a detailed case-by-case assessment of possible risks to human health or the environment. Co-existence measures are therefore not needed for safety reasons.

### Hydrology (Lancashire)

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will list the seven outlets which drain into rivers in Lancashire, broken down by river. [13482]

**Mr. Morley:** This information has been provided by the Environment Agency, and tables containing details of 203 sewer outlets which drain into rivers in Lancashire will be made available in the Library of the House.

### Pollution (Hertfordshire)

**Anne Main:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* air quality and *(b)* noise quality management areas there are in (i) St Albans and (ii) Hertfordshire; and how many there were in 1997. [13406]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Local authorities only started reviewing and assessing local air quality from 1997 onwards.

Within Hertfordshire, only two authorities have currently designated air quality management areas (AQMAs). Firstly, St. Albans city and district council designated six AQMAs in September 2002 in respect of the annual mean nitrogen dioxide objective. Following the further review and assessment which concluded that there had been an over-estimation of the levels of nitrogen dioxide, five of the AQMAs were revoked, which left one remaining AQMA close to the M25. Furthermore, following the second round of air quality reviews and assessments which started in May 2003, St. Albans declared two more AQMAs in November 2004; one area at the M1 junction 7 with M10; and the other comprising properties in London road, city centre.

The other authority in Hertfordshire, Hertsmere borough council declared 14 AQMAs in September 2001; 10 of which were revoked in 2003. Following the second round of reviews and assessments Hertsmere declared a further two AQMAs in January 2005 bringing the total to six in their borough in respect of nitrogen dioxide, all of which relate to local road transport.

DEFRA does not have an equivalent to the local air quality management system for noise; therefore no noise management area system was in place in 1997 or is in place now. However, legislation exists that allows local authorities to investigate and if necessary mitigate or control noise issues when they occur.

**Anne Main:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the effect of poor air quality on the structure of historic buildings in St. Albans; and what steps are being taken to reduce air pollution in St. Albans city centre. [13407]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Defra has not assessed the effect of poor air quality on the structure of historic buildings in St. Albans. The effect of acid rain on materials has been studied by the then Department of the Environment through the National Materials Exposure Programme (NMEP). This was initiated by Building Effects Review Group (BERG) in 1987 and consisted of 29 sites. The UK NMEP was part of the International Materials Exposure Programme set up under the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe framework. The UK continues to maintain sites in London and Lincoln as part of this programme. Details of this programme can be found at www.unece.org/env/wge/materials.htm.

In recent years concern for the effects of pollutants on heritage buildings has focussed on the multipollutant atmospheres found in modern urban areas. In cities such as St. Albans where brick is commonly used the main concern is the soiling of facades by particulates from vehicles. Details can be found at http://www.corr-institute.se/MULTI-ASSESS/

The pollutants that form acid rain are principally sulphur dioxide and nitrogen oxides. These are released from the combustion of fossil fuels like coal and oil. The UK is a party to several protocols under the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe's Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Pollution aimed at reducing emissions of acidifying gases. The UK has also agreed to meet emissions ceilings according to the national emissions ceilings directive. National emissions of sulphur dioxide have reduced from 3,721 kilotonnes in 1990 to 1,002 kilotonnes in 2002; and national emissions of nitrogen oxides have reduced from 2,771 kilotonnes in 1990 to 1,582 kilotonnes in 2002. These improvements are due mainly to reduced emissions from electricity generation, industry, domestic heating and road transport.

St. Albans city and district council has designated three air quality management areas in respect of the annual mean nitrogen dioxide objective which has to be achieved by end of December 2005; one of the air quality management areas designated in November 2004 comprises properties in London Road, central St. Albans and this relates to emissions from local road transport.

Once a local authority has designated an air quality management area, it has a duty to take action, along with other stakeholders, to work towards meeting the air quality objective(s). Where local road transport is identified as a major source of local air pollution concentrations, those local authorities are being recommended to integrate their air quality action plans into the local transport plan. St. Albans city and district council will therefore be working with Hertfordshire county council to take forward measures to tackle the emissions sources within the city centre.

### REACH

**Dr. Gibson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans the Government have to discuss REACH during its EU Presidency; and if she will make a statement. [11439]

**Mr. Morley:** REACH is a high priority for our Presidency. We look forward to progressing it in Council and building on the good work of the preceding

Presidencies. We will explore areas of common ground on the key issues with a view to achieving political agreement at the November Competitiveness Council. We hope to continue working closely with the European Parliament, member states, the Commission and Stakeholders in order to explore areas of agreement. We must make sure that any agreement in Council is workable and based on an effective balance between economic, social and environmental considerations.

### Severn Trent (Ofwat Inquiry)

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will investigate the transparency of the recent Ofwat inquiry into Severn Trent. [12862]

**Mr. Morley:** Ofwat's investigation is not yet complete. I am confident that the Director General of Water Services will complete a thorough and balanced investigation of the allegations and that he will take whatever action he deems to be necessary to protect the interests of customers and fulfil his statutory duties.

I am aware that Ofwat has committed to publishing its findings and conclusions as well as providing details of its approach.

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions she has had with Ofwat on its investigations into Severn Trent. [12863]

**Mr. Morley:** I have discussions with the Director General of Water Services from time to time.

The Director General has mentioned to me his investigation into irregularities at Severn Trent Water. He has informed me that Ofwat have obtained a written assurance from Severn Trent that, if it were ever found that customers had been over charged, any necessary corrections would be effected in a prompt manner to be agreed between the company and Ofwat. The position of customers is therefore already protected.

### Sewage Disposal

**Mr. Whittingdale:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many properties in Essex are not connected to the public sewer system. [12117]

**Mr. Morley:** Research undertaken for the Consultation Paper for the Review of Private Sewers in England and Wales published in July 2003 estimated that about 4 per cent. of properties nationally connect to entirely private systems. It was estimated that shared private sewers, which then discharge to public sewers further downstream, serve approximately 40–45 per cent. of properties. Specific estimates for individual counties are not held.

**Mr. Whittingdale:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what requirements there are on sewerage companies to accept delivered waste from cess pools and septic tanks for disposal at sewage treatment works. [12118]

**Mr. Morley:** There is no statutory duty on a sewerage undertaker to accept delivered waste from cesspools and septic tanks. Services for the collection, transportation, and treatment of such waste are open to competition and are offered by sewerage companies and by other firms.

**Mr. Whittingdale:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much sewage sludge has been licensed for disposal on farms in the Maldon District; and if she will make a statement. [12119]

**Mr. Morley:** The use of sewage sludge on agricultural land is regulated by The Sludge (Use in Agriculture) Regulations 1989. These set out specific requirements to protect human and animal health and the environment, but do not impose any requirement to obtain a permit or licence.

**Mr. Whittingdale:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what tests have been carried out on sewage sludge at Sheepcoates Farm, Great Totham, by the Environment Agency; and if she will make a statement. [12120]

**Mr. Morley:** Under The Sewage (Use in Agriculture) Regulations 1989 there is no requirement for the Environment Agency to undertake tests at specific sites where sewage sludge is applied. However we understand that the Agency has issued a formal warning following complaints about odours relating to sewage sludge operations at Sheepcoates Farm.

### Sludge

**Mr. Blunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what identified hazards the proposed sludge (Use in Agriculture) Regulations address that are not addressed by the Safe Sludge Matrix; when the regulatory impact assessment on the regulations will be published; and what her assessment is of the cost of implementing the regulations. [13393]

**Mr. Morley:** The Safe Sludge Matrix introduced voluntary controls which provide additional protection against the entry of pathogens into the food chain. The proposed amendments to the regulations would provide additional security by making these standards legally enforceable. They would also extend the ban to include septic tank sludge. A draft Regulatory and Environmental Impact Assessment, including costs, was published in October 2002 as part of the first consultation exercise on the proposals (please see www.defra.gov.uk/environment/consult/sewagesludge/index.htm).

This is currently being revised and updated and a further version will be published as part of the second consultation planned for later this year.

### Sustainable Development Action Plans

**Mr. Llwyd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what guidance she has provided to Government Departments regarding the drawing up of their sustainable development action plans. [13022]

**Mr. Morley:** The UK sustainable development strategy[1] committed all central Government Departments and their executive agencies to produce

[1] Securing the Future: The UK Government Sustainable Development Strategy Cm. 6467 March 2005.

focused sustainable development action plans based onthe strategy by December 2005. The strategy also committed Government to strengthen the Sustainable Development Commission and to expand its role as an independent "watchdog" looking at Government's progress on the strategy.

The Sustainable Development Commission (SDC) has prepared draft guidance for Government Departments on what it considers to be the key elements of a good sustainable development action plan. This guidance has been made available to, and discussed with departmental officials and will be published on the SDC website shortly. A number of departments have already actively sought advice from the SDC about their proposed approach to the development of these plans.

### Sustainable Procurement

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will list the criteria applied by the Sustainable Procurement Taskforce to purchases by Government Departments. [12530]

**Mr. Morley:** The Sustainable Procurement Task Force met for the first time on 26 May 2005. Its remit is to develop a National Action Plan for Sustainable procurement by April 2006. No specific criteria for Government Department purchases have been identified or determined by the Sustainable Procurement Task Force at this stage. The action plan will set out how to embed economic, environmental and social considerations into public procurement decisions.

### UN Environment Programme

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether it is her policy to support the transformation of the United Nations Environment Programme into a world environment organisation with enhanced powers. [13031]

**Mr. Morley:** It is HMG and EU policy to support the development of the United Nations Environment Programme into a specialised UN agency (or United Nations Environment Organisation) with a revised and strengthened mandate, supported by stable, adequate and predictable financial contributions.

The Millennium Review Summit in September provides an opportunity to initiate a process of negotiations on this proposal, in the context of wider UN reform and the UN Secretary-General's recommendation on the need for a more integrated structure of international environmental governance.

This position is set out in the Presidency Conclusions agreed at the 16–17 June 2005 European Council.

### Warm Front Programme

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the targets are for the number of properties to be improved by the Warm Front programme in *(a)* 2005–06, *(b)* 2006–07 and *(c)* 2007–08; and if she will make a statement. [13757]

**Mr. Morley:** The focus of the new phase of Warm Front is to maximise the impact of the scheme in tackling fuel poverty. We have extended the range of assistance offered to qualifying households to ensure that all those who are eligible can be offered central heating—the single measure most likely to take a household out of fuel poverty, whilst retaining the offer of insulation measures to those households where it is available.

The Department agrees with the scheme manager, on an annual basis, the anticipated number of households to be assisted during a year, according to available funding. The final number will, however, depend on the characteristics and needs of those who apply to the scheme.

It is anticipated that the number of households to be assisted under the revised Warm Front since its launch in June 2005 to March 2006 will be in the region of 100,000.

As a result of the last spending round an additional £140 million was allocated to the Warm Front scheme taking Defra's annual spending to tackle fuel poverty to £251 million in 2007–08.

### Water

**Dan Norris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many and what proportion of households in the Wessex Water supply area use metered water. [12515]

**Mr. Morley:** 170,900 household water customers (35.5 per cent.) in the Wessex Water supply area receive a metered supply in 2005–06.

**Mr. Gray:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether the obligations and requirements in relation to water abstraction licensing of water mills that derive power directly from the main stream are different from those water mills with a mill race. [13395]

**Mr. Morley:** Where water is diverted from a watercourse into a mill race then it is regarded as an abstraction. If the quantity diverted exceeds 20 cu m per day then it will be licensable.

Where the generation equipment sits within a watercourse (ie there is no diversion of water) then there is no abstraction, and no licence is required.

**Anne Main:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many gallons of extra water will be needed to supply the 7,000 extra new homes planned in St. Albans; and if she will make a statement on the current level of the water table in the area supplying St. Albans. [13403]

**Mr. Morley:** The Environment Agency has calculated that an extra 7,000 properties in St. Albans would require 2.46 megalitres or 541,200 gallons per day.

For June 2005, the groundwater levels around St. Albans were recorded as 71.23 metres Above Ordnance Datum (mAOD), which is close to the June average of 72.70 mAOD. The level is dropping, which is normal for the time of year.

## LEADER OF THE HOUSE

### Management Consultants

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Leader of the House what estimate he has made of the total expenditure saved in each of the last three years as a result of implementing recommendations by management consultancies within his Office. [13628]

**Mr. Hoon:** My Office has not employed any management consultants during the last three years.

## WALES

### Older People (Quality of Life)

9. **Mr. Martyn Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions he has had with relevant Ministers on measures to improve the quality of life for older people in Wales. [12334]

**Nick Ainger:** I have regular discussions with Cabinet colleagues on a range of issues, including measures to improve the quality of life for older people in Wales.

I am proud that last month the Commissioner for Older People (Wales) Bill was introduced into the other place and received its Second Reading on 14 June.

### Devolution

10. **Huw Irranca-Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales if he will make a statement on the further devolution of legislative powers to Wales. [12335]

**Mr. Hain:** The Government's proposals are contained in the White Paper "Better Governance for Wales" which I published on 15 June.

### Out-of-hours GP Services

12. **Mr. Dunne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what discussions he has had with National Assembly for Wales Secretaries on the cross-border implications of improvements to the out-of-hours GP services available in Wales. [12337]

**Nick Ainger:** I regularly meet with the Health Minister and we discuss a range of health issues.

Local Health Boards are monitoring the performance of providers and look for continual performance improvement. In addition, the Assembly also undertakes performance monitoring against the agreed quality standards.

### Cross-border Health Issues

13. **Mr. Andrew Turner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions he has had with the National Assembly for Wales Health Secretary on cross-border health issues. [12338]

**Nick Ainger:** I met with the Assembly Health Minister early this month and we discussed a range of health issues.

### GDP Levels

14. **James Duddridge:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what discussions he has had with the National Assembly for Wales Secretary for Economic Development on levels of GDP in Wales. [12339]

**Nick Ainger:** My right hon. Friend and I have regular discussions with Assembly Government Ministers on various issues of mutual interest, including those relating to Wales' economic performance. Gross Value Added per head in Wales in 2003, the latest year for which figures are available, was £12,629 or 79.0 per cent. of the UK average, its highest relative level for five years.

### National Assembly (List Members)

**Nia Griffith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what plans he has to introduce legislation affecting the position of list members in the National Assembly for Wales. [12336]

**Mr. Hain:** In the White Paper the proposal is that a simple amendment should be made to the provisions in section 5 of the Government of Wales Act to prevent constituency candidates standing as list members.

### Post Office

**Peter Law:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions he has had with his ministerial colleagues on the future of post offices in Wales. [12325]

**Mr. Hain:** I have regular discussions with Cabinet colleagues and the First Minister on a range of issues, including the post office network in Wales.

## EDUCATION AND SKILLS

### Adult Education (London)

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many people are in adult education in each London borough per 1,000 population. [2481]

**Phil Hope:** This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council (LSC). Mark Haysom, the Council's Chief Executive, will write to the hon. Member with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the Library.

*Letter from Mark Haysom to Ms Sarah Teather, dated 14 July 2005:*

I write in response to your recent Parliamentary Question to the Secretary of State for Education and Skills, in which you asked how many people are in adult education in each London borough per 1,000 in population, this has been forwarded to me for a response.

I enclose a table showing the number of adults who were in some form of education funded by the LSC or by the Higher Education Funding Council in 2003/04 (the most recent figures available). Please note that the table I've enclosed shows the number of people who are resident of one of the London boroughs who are in education either in London or elsewhere. This definition has been chosen as it is the best way to make sense of a proportion based on resident population, in response to your specific request. This is not the same as the number of adults who are accessing learning in an institution within a particular borough.

*Headlines*

Overall, figures show that 15 per cent. of the adult population in London accessed some form of education in Further Education (FE), Adult and Community Learning (ACL) or Higher Education (HE) in 2003–04. Just over half of this provision was in FE, about a third in HE with the remaining one-sixth in ACL.

In addition, a further 50,000 adults in London accessed learning through Ufi and 3,000 were participating in work based learning.

The percentages by borough vary from 11 per cent. to 20 per cent. Interestingly, the boroughs with the highest proportions of adults in learning tend to be in the inner London boroughs. More than 18 per cent. of adults in Lambeth, Hackney, Islington, Newham, Waltham Forest, Haringey, Brent and Lewisham were accessing learning in 2003–04.

*Number of adult learners by residence of borough*

| | FE | ACL | HE | Total | Population | Learners per 1,000 population |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Barking and Dagenham | 8,644 | 2,554.00 | 3,376.00 | 14,574 | 118,500 | 123 |
| Barnet | 19,177 | 2,931.00 | 14,279.00 | 36,387 | 244,500 | 149 |
| Bexley | 10,663 | 4,978.00 | 4,974.00 | 20,615 | 162,800 | 127 |
| Brent | 19,314 | 4,455.00 | 12,020.00 | 35,789 | 202,500 | 177 |
| Bromley | 15,667 | 7,592.00 | 8,799.00 | 32,058 | 226,500 | 142 |
| Camden | 13,896 | 4,173.00 | 9,112.00 | 27,181 | 166,700 | 163 |
| City of London | 447 | 213.00 | 530.00 | 1,190 | 7,000 | 170 |
| Croydon | 20,304 | 6,823.00 | 10,594.00 | 37,721 | 248,000 | 152 |
| Ealing | 16,336 | 3,442.00 | 14,745.00 | 34,523 | 231,800 | 149 |
| Enfield | 16,473 | 1,488.00 | 9,881.00 | 27,842 | 207,800 | 134 |
| Greenwich | 14,610 | 3,994.00 | 7,443.00 | 26,047 | 165,600 | 157 |
| Hackney | 16,781 | 3,847.00 | 8,961.00 | 29,589 | 150,300 | 197 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 9,553 | 4,107.00 | 6,332.00 | 19,992 | 139,300 | 144 |
| Haringey | 16,704 | 3,078.00 | 10,309.00 | 30,091 | 169,100 | 178 |
| Harrow | 12,559 | 4,324.00 | 9,198.00 | 26,081 | 157,900 | 165 |
| Havering | 13,352 | 3,376.00 | 4,488.00 | 21,216 | 169,500 | 125 |
| Hillingdon | 11,262 | 4,461.00 | 7,335.00 | 23,058 | 183,400 | 126 |
| Hounslow | 13,437 | 4,147.00 | 7,572.00 | 25,156 | 159,200 | 158 |
| Islington | 15,254 | 2,681.00 | 8,013.00 | 25,948 | 140,300 | 185 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 7,784 | 2,033.00 | 5,695.00 | 15,512 | 141,400 | 110 |
| Kingston upon Thames | 7,108 | 6,410.00 | 5,641.00 | 19,159 | 115,100 | 166 |
| Lambeth | 22,933 | 7,068.00 | 12,196.00 | 42,197 | 207,300 | 204 |
| Lewisham | 17,105 | 4,804.00 | 10,518.00 | 32,427 | 185,700 | 175 |
| Merton | 9,250 | 3,690.00 | 6,694.00 | 19,634 | 147,100 | 133 |
| Newham | 18,396 | 3,231.00 | 10,029.00 | 31,656 | 172,500 | 184 |
| Redbridge | 12,516 | 4,627.00 | 9,325.00 | 26,468 | 180,700 | 146 |
| Richmond Upon Thames | 10,767 | 5,109.00 | 6,655.00 | 22,531 | 138,400 | 163 |
| Southwark | 18,379 | 2,068.00 | 11,775.00 | 32,222 | 192,500 | 167 |
| Sutton | 9,104 | 649.00 | 4,774.00 | 14,527 | 133,500 | 109 |
| Tower Hamlets | 12,561 | 4,039.00 | 6,885.00 | 23,485 | 150,400 | 156 |
| Waltham Forest | 16,278 | 5,147.00 | 8,521.00 | 29,946 | 164,400 | 182 |
| Wandsworth | 14,322 | 8,375.00 | 10,589.00 | 33,286 | 223,100 | 149 |
| Westminster, City of | 12,563 | 3,064.00 | 7,516.00 | 23,143 | 182,900 | 127 |
| Total | 453,499 | 132,978.00 | 274,774.00 | 861,251 | 5,586,100 | 154 |

10th June 2005

*Notes:*

Further Education (FE) includes funded and unfunded learners in 2003/04. All resident learners aged 19 and above.
Adult and Community Learning (ACL) includes all resident learners aged 19 and above during 2003/04.
Higher Education (HE) includes all resident learners aged 19 and above in 2002/03.
The population figures relate to the number of adults aged 20 and above and are from the 2003 mid-year estimates.

## Apprenticeships

**Mr. Hood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many young people she expects will be participating in apprenticeship schemes by the end of August; and if she will make a statement. [8854]

**Phil Hope:** This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council. Mark Haysom, the council's chief executive, will write to my hon. Friend with this information and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Library.

*Letter from Rob Wye to Mr. Jimmy Hood, dated 20 July 2005:*

I write on Mark Haysom's behalf, due to him currently being on annual leave, in response to your recent Parliamentary Question to the Secretary of State for Education and Skills, which has been referred to the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) by Phil Hope, regarding how many young people we expect will be participating in apprenticeship schemes by the end of August.

The exact number participating in Apprenticeships at any one time depends on the number who start and the length of time to complete. As the length of time for completion varies with the apprenticeship framework, the number is affected by the sectoral mix of apprentices recruited.

The LSC estimates that approximately 274,000 apprentices will be in learning at the end of July 2005. The number is unlikely to change significantly in between the end of July and the end of August.

To these numbers should be added approximately 1,000, the first cohort of young pre 16 apprentices and approximately 500 on the Apprenticeships for Adult trials.

I trust this is helpful.

## Bullying

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what estimate her Department has made of the number of children in *(a)* Lancashire and *(b)* Ribble Valley schools who have been victims of bullying in each of the last five years. [13304]

**Jacqui Smith:** Data on bullying are not collected centrally and there is no reliable basis for an estimate of prevalence in Lancashire and the Ribble Valley. Bullying cases appear to be reported more often now

than previously but we have no hard evidence that bullying is increasing or affecting more children. Indeed, as children and young people increasingly feel safe at school to report bullying, and confident that it will be tackled effectively and sensitively, it is likely reporting will rise.

However, any level of bullying is too high and we are determined to help schools tackle the problem. Our guidance pack "Bullying: Don't Suffer in Silence", the anti-bullying Charter and the anti-bullying website www.dfes.gov.uk/bullying offer detailed advice on preventing and addressing bullying. We also offer specific advice to schools on tackling homophobic bullying and are developing advice on racist bullying.

### Consultants

**Mrs. Dean:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what plans she has to issue guidance on effective commissioning for those in the public and voluntary sectors who are commissioning work from external consultants. [6998]

**Bill Rammell:** The Department for Education and Skills (DfES) provides guidance to its employees regarding purchasing and managing external consultancy services. Departmental and Government-wide procurement policy and best practice advice is available to staff via a web-based Intranet site which contains a section on procuring external consultancy. This includes guidance on how to identify and establish the need for consultancy support, how to appoint a consultant, what are the considerations and risks and how to get the best out of a consultancy appointment. In addition to this guidance, the DfES provides a procurement helpline to employees if they wish to obtain specific advice on any aspect of the procurement process.

The Department promotes Government-wide procurement best practice advice and utilises OGC's web-based product the Successful Delivery Toolkit (www.ogc.gok.uk/sdtoolkit/). The guidance is aimed at public sector organisations and complies with government policy and regulations for procurement but is not specifically tailored to the voluntary sector. The guidance includes the use of consultants covering:

Purchasing consultancy services, covering the tendering process;

Use of professional advisers, including consultants;

Where it may be appropriate to use consultants, for example, in construction or specification writing;

Examples of specific guides that are relevant to the procurement and supply of consultancy services:

(i) Delivering world-class consultancy services to the public sector—A statement of best practice;

(ii) The Government Procurement Code of Good Practice for Customer and Suppliers.

### Education Funding

**Mr. Iain Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills when she will make a decision on schools to be awarded the current round of Targeted Capital Funding. [13434]

**Jacqui Smith:** The Targeted Capital Fund applications received from local authorities are currently being assessed against criteria set out in published guidance. I expect to notify local authorities on the outcome of their bids in autumn 2005.

### English Wine

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if she will ensure that English wine is made available at dinners, receptions and parties she hosts at which hospitality involving wine is appropriate *(a)* during the EU presidency and *(b)* generally; and if she will make a statement. [9163]

**Bill Rammell:** All procurement is in line with EU procurement rules and to obtain value for money for the Department. For events and meetings hosted by the Department as part of the UK presidency of the EU, we have aimed to keep costs to a minimum and, where wine is served, we are generally using house wine. This has included an English wine, served at a dinner for EU Education Ministers.

For events in Brussels, we are working with the Council Secretariat to try to provide British produce (as key ingredients) and drink for EU Council meetings during the UK presidency. For other events, we consider serving English wine subject to availability and value for money.

### Enterprise Education

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if she will make a statement on the *(a)* funding and *(b)* availability of the proposed business schools courses for 12 to 18-year-olds. [10041]

**Jacqui Smith:** The Government have been developing enterprise education via a number of initiatives, such as the enterprise learning pathfinders and the recent enterprise in schools conferences that have been held all over England in the past three months. We are also considering developing plans to enable young people to take part in enterprise summer schools. At this stage, it is too early to give details of the extent of funding and availability of the proposed summer schools.

### Film Making

**Mr. Cameron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what grants her Department has made to film-makers in the past three years; what the object of the films were; and what amounts were given. [13756]

**Bill Rammell:** The Department has made no grants to film-makers in the past three years.

### Langland Report

**Mr. Nicholas Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills when she expects to receive Sir Alan Langland's report on higher education and access to the professions; and when the Government expect to publish its response to the report. [13981]

**Bill Rammell:** I refer my right hon. Friend to the written ministerial statement that I issued earlier today.

## Mathematics

**Mr. Gibb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the answer of 11 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 841W, on mathematics, how many pupils sat for advanced extension awards in mathematics in each year since their introduction. [13287]

**Jacqui Smith:** Advanced extension awards (AEAs) were introduced for advanced level students in England, Wales and Northern Ireland in summer 2002. The number of students who sat for an AEA in mathematics in each year is:

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2001–02 | 964 |
| 2002–03 | 1,005 |
| 2003–04 | 992 |

Figures are those published by the Joint Council for Qualifications in August of each year. They include awards sat by students of all ages in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

## Ministerial Meetings/Visits

**Helen Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many meetings she has had with hon. Members since the general election; and what the purpose of each meeting was. [9300]

**Bill Rammell:** The Secretary of State for Education and Skills has had the following meetings with hon. Members since the general election.

| *Date* | *Member's name* | *To discuss* |
|---|---|---|
| 18 May 2005 | Jonathan Shaw MP | Jonathan Shaw's role as Parliamentary Private Secretary |
| 7 June 2005 | Alan Johnson MP | Regional Development Agency Chairs, Skills Alliance and upcoming meeting about MG Rover |
| 9 June 2005 | Des Browne MP | DfES financial issues |
| 16 June 2005 | Tessa Jowell MP | Positive Activities for Young People, Youth Green Paper |
| 21 June 2005 | Tony Blair MP and Alan Johnson MP | MG Rover |
| 28 June 2005 | Barry Sherman MP | Schools issues |
| 28 June 2005 | Labour Members of Parliament | Schools issues |
| 30 June 2005 | Alan Milburn MP | Constituency issues |

The Secretary of State also holds regular meetings with the hon. Members who are Ministers in her Department.

**Helen Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many constituencies *(a)* she and *(b)* her Ministers have visited since the general election; and what the (i) purpose and (ii) duration was of each visit. [9298]

**Bill Rammell:** Ministers from the Department for Education and skills have made the following visits to constituencies since the general election.

| *Date* | *Constituency* | *Purpose* | *Duration* |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Ruth Kelly* | | | |
| 10 May 2005 | Holborn and St. Pancras | Ministerial Photocall at Sure Start Unit, Thomas Coram Children's Centre | 45 minutes |
| 13 June 2005 | Hackney | Visit the Breakfast Club at Millfields Primary School | 1 hour |
| 20 June 2005 | Lewisham | Visit Lewisham Further Education College | 1 hour |
| 24 June 2005 | Bury | Visit Bury Adult Education Centre | 30 minutes |
| 25 June 2005 | Vauxhall | Visit Archbishop Tenison School for Africa Commission Schools Day | 45 minutes |
| 30 June 2005 | Darlington | Visits to McNay Children's Centre; Department for Education and Skills Mowden Hall site; and Darlington Council | 2 hour 45 minutes |
| *Jacqui Smith* | | | |
| 10 May 2005 | Holborn and St. Pancras | Ministerial Photocall at Surestart Unit, Thomas Coram Children's Centre | 45 minutes |
| 25 May 2005 | Banbury | Visit to Banbury School | 6 hours 30 minutes |
| 26 May 2005 | Holborn and St. Pancras | Attend an Institute of Public Policy Research event—"Future Challenges: Living with Risk" | 1 hour |
| 7 June 2005 | West Chelmsford | Visit to Moulsham High School | 7 hours |
| 7 June 2005 | Cities of London and Westminster | Specialist Schools' Dinner at Mousmann's Restaurant | 2 hours |
| 15 June 2005 | Cities of London and Westminster | Speech at the Joint School Governor Association's Conference | 45 minutes |
| 17 June 2005 | Crewe and Nantwich | Radio 4's "Any Questions" | 1 hour 30 minutes |
| 20 June 2005 | Cities of London and Westminster | Speech at the Holocaust Education Trust Dinner | 2 hours |
| 23 June 2005 | Holborn and St. Pancras | Visit the National Remodelling Team's offices (who manage change and school workforce restructuring) | 1 hour |
| 24 June 2005 | Stratford-on-Avon | Speech at the regional ceremony for the Teaching Awards | 2 hours |
| *Beverley Hughes* | | | |
| 10 May 2005 | Holborn and St. Pancras | Ministerial Photocall at Sure Start Unit, Thomas Coram Children's Centre | 45 minutes |
| 25 May 2005 | Holborn and St. Pancras | Visit the National Remodelling Team's offices (who manage change and school work force restructuring) | 1 hour |
| 2 June 2005 | Carlisle | Speech at the launch of Sure Start Month | 2 hours |
| 8 June 2005 | Regent's Park and Kensington North | Speech at "4 Children's" Annual Conference | 40 minutes |
| 8 June 2005 | Cities of London and Westminster | Speech at the Daycare Trust's reception as part of the National Childcare Week | 1 hour |
| 21 June 2005 | Leeds Central | Speech at National Day Nurseries Association's Annual Conference | 40 minutes |

| Date | Constituency | Purpose | Duration |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Ruth Kelly* | | | |
| 22 June 2005 | Blackburn | Opening Shadsworth's Children's Centre | 45 minutes |
| 22 June 2005 | Manchester, Gorton | Speech at Manchester Education Partnership Conference | 45 minutes |
| 28 June 2005 | Cities of London and Westminster | Speech at "4 Children's" Summer Reception | 30 minutes |
| 29 June 2005 | Holborn and St. Pancras | Speech at the joint seminar for the Community and Youth Work and Transports and General Workers Unions | 30 minutes |
| 29 June 2005 | Cities of London and Westminster | Speech at "Children Now" Conference | 45 minutes |
| 29 June 2005 | North Southwark and Bermondsey | Speech at "Childcare Star" Awards | 2 hours 30 minutes |
| 1 July 2005 | Bury South | Speech at the launch of Bury Children's Services | 30 minutes |
| *Phil Hope* | | | |
| 10 May 2005 | Holborn and St. Pancras | Ministerial Photocall at Sure Start Unit, Thomas Coram Children's Centre | 45 minutes |
| 8 June 2005 | Nottingham South | Speech at the National Institute of Adults Continuing Education Conference | 45 minutes |
| 16 June 2005 | Portsmouth North | Opening of the Highbury Northarbour Centre | 55 minutes |
| 17 June 2005 | Kettering | Opening Tresham Further and Higher Education Institute | 1 hour 30 minutes |
| 22 June 2005 | Tewkesbury | Speech at the Regional Skills Conference for local skills agencies | 45 minutes |
| 24 June 2005 | Derby South | Speech at the launch of the East Midland's Regional Skills Partnership Prospectus | 1 hour 30 minutes |
| 30 June 2005 | Pudsey | Tour of Hainsworth Factory Education Training Programme for employees | 1 hour 10 minutes |
| 30 June 2005 | Leeds Central | Tour of Pittards Factory with their Union Learning Representatives | 1 hour |
| 30 June 2005 | City of Durham | Visit Low Newton Young Offenders Institute | 1 hour 30 minutes |
| *Bill Rammell* | | | |
| 10 May 2005 | Holborn and St. Pancras | Ministerial Photocall at Sure Start Unit, Thomas Coram Children's Centre | 45 minutes |
| 7 June 2005 | Derby South | Speech at the launch of the Centre of Vocational Excellence for Rolls Royce's Learning and Career Development Centre | 3 hours |
| 7 June 2005 | Derby North | Visit Derby University | 4 hours |
| 8 June 2005 | Stoke-on-Trent Central | Visit Stoke-on-Trent College | 2 hours |
| 8 June 2005 | Newcastle-under-Lyme | Speech at Keele University | 2 hours 15 minutes |
| 14 June 2005 | Islington South and Finsbury | Visit Islington College | 1 hour |
| 16 June 2005 | Brent East | Vist College of the North West | 1 hour |
| 16 June 2005 | Brent South | View site of Wembley Stadium; Tour of McVities site | 3 hours |
| 20 June 2005 | East Ham | Visit University of East London | 1 hour |
| 21 June 2005 | City of York | Visit North Yorkshire Learning and Skills Council; Opening the new building of the York Higher Education Academy | 3 hours 30 minutes |
| 21 June 2005 | Vale of York | Visit North Yorkshire Business and Education Partnership at Archbishop Holgate School | 3 hours 30 minutes |
| 5 July 2005 | Lancaster and Wyre | Visit Lancaster University | 1 hour |
| 5 July 2005 | Liverpool, Riverside | Visit Liverpool University; Speech at National Association of Student Employment Staff Conference | 2 hour 40 minutes |
| 6 July 2005 | West Lancashire | Speech at the Aimhigher (Raising Achievement and Increasing Access to Higher Education) Conference | 1 hour |
| *Maria Eagle* | | | |
| 10 May 2005 | Holborn and St. Pancras | Ministerial Photocall at Sure Start Unit, Thomas Coram Children's Centre | 45 minutes |
| *Lord Adonis* | | | |
| 10 May 2005 | Holborn and St. Pancras | Ministerial Photocall at Sure Start Unit, Thomas Coram Children's Centre | 45 minutes |
| 27 May 2005 | Tottenham | Visit Gladesmore School; Visit Park View Academy | 3 hours |
| 9 June 2005 | Warwick and Leamington | Speech at Church of England Conference; Visit Barford St. Peter's Primary School; Speech at the National Primary School's Association Conference | 4 hours |
| 10 June 2005 | City of York | Visit Westfield Primary School | 1 hour 30 minutes |
| 10 June 2005 | Vale of York | Speech to Academies' Principals' Forum | 1 hour |
| 16 June 2005 | Regent's Park and Kensington North | Visit North Westminster Community College | 1 hour |
| 17 June 2005 | Camberwell and Peckham | Visit to Waverley School | 2 hours 30 minutes |
| 17 June 2005 | North Southwark and Bermondsey | Visit to London City Academy | 1 hour |
| 24 June 2005 | Vauxhall | Tours of Stockwell Primary School; Stockwell Park School | 2 hours |
| 1 July 2005 | Hammersmith and Fulham | Visit William Morris Academy | 1 hour |
| 1 July 2005 | Acton, Ealing and Shepherds Bush | Visits to Jack Tizard Special School; Phoenix High School; Bulington Danes School | 2 hours |
| 1 July 2005 | Mitcham and Morden | Visits to Mitcham Vale School; Tamworth Manor School | 1 hour 55 minutes |

## Pupil Statistics

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many children in Hornsey and Wood Green attend school outside the constituency. [13754]

**Jacqui Smith:** The information requested broken down by local education authority has been provided in the following tables.

*Pupils residing in Hornsey and Wood Green constituency attending schools within and outside of constituency*

| | Number | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| Total number of pupils resident in Hornsey and Wood Green | 14,397 | 100.0 |
| Pupils attending schools in Hornsey and Wood Green | 10,776 | 74.8 |
| Pupils attending schools outside Hornsey and Wood Green | 3,621 | 25.2 |

*Source:* PLASC 2005 Provisional data

*Pupils residing in Hornsey and Wood Green constituency attending schools by local education authority*

| *Local education authority* | *Number* | *Percentage* |
|---|---|---|
| Haringey | 12,908 | 83.4 |
| Enfield | 912 | 6.3 |
| Barnet | 611 | 4.2 |
| Camden | 313 | 2.3 |
| Islington | 287 | 2.0 |
| Hertfordshire | 74 | 0.5 |
| Hackney | 56 | 0.4 |
| Brent | 31 | 0.2 |
| City of Westminster | 29 | 0.2 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 20 | 0.1 |
| Waltham Forest | 16 | 0.1 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 9 | 0.1 |
| Other LEAs | 31 | 0.2 |

*Source:*
PLASC 2005 Provisional data

## School Attendance (Milton Keynes)

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many children of school age in Milton Keynes are not attending either a state school or an independent school. [13235]

**Jacqui Smith:** The information requested is shown in the following table.

*Pupils educated otherwise than at school under arrangements made by the local education authority[1]: Milton Keynes local education authority and England*

| | *Pupils in hospital[2]* | *Other pupils not in school[3]* | *January 2005 Total pupils not in school* |
|---|---|---|---|
| England | 243 | 16,741 | 16,984 |
| Milton Keynes local education authority | 0 | 197 | 197 |

[1] Pupils of compulsory school age (5 to 15) as at 31 August 2004.
[2] Includes non-statemented pupils in hospital excluding pupils in maintained general hospital or special hospital schools.
[3] Includes other pupils not in school e.g. pupils taught at home, traveller children, asylum seekers at FE colleges or with voluntary sector providers.

*Source:*
8B Survey

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many children who live in Milton Keynes attend a school in another local authority; and how many children in each school in Milton Keynes live in another local authority. [13236]

**Jacqui Smith:** The information requested broken down by local education authority has been provided in the following tables. The information requested at school level has been made available to the House of Commons Library.

*The number and percentages of pupils residing in Milton Keynes attending schools in other local authorities by phase of education*

| | *Number of pupils* | *Percentage of pupils* |
|---|---|---|
| Total number of pupils resident in Milton Keynes | 38,325 | 100.0 |
| *Local education authority* | | |
| Milton Keynes | 35,896 | 93.7 |
| Buckinghamshire | 1,031 | 2.7 |
| Bedfordshire | 838 | 2.2 |
| Northamptonshire | 513 | 1.3 |
| Other LEAs | 47 | 0.1 |
| Total pupils schooled outside of authority | 2,429 | 6.3 |

*Source:*
PLASC 2005 provisional data

*The number and percentages of the school population in Milton Keynes residing in other authorities*

| | *Number of pupils* | *Percentage of pupils* |
|---|---|---|
| Pupils attending schools in Milton Keynes | 36,337 | 100 |
| *Home authority* | | |
| Milton Keynes | 35,896 | 98.8 |
| Northamptonshire | 153 | 0.4 |
| Buckinghamshire | 138 | 0.4 |
| Bedfordshire | 53 | 0.1 |
| Other LEAs | 8 | [1] |
| Unknown/not given[2] | 89 | 0.2 |
| Total residing outside of authority | 441 | 1.2 |

[1] Denotes percentage of less than 0.05 per cent.
[2] Residence of pupil unknown/not given.

*Source:*
PLASC 2005 provisional data

## School Meals

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if she will make it her policy to encourage all schools to show all existing and all new pupils the clip from Jamie Oliver's programme "Jamie's School Dinners", where a group of pupils were given a demonstration of how processed chicken nuggets are made. [13533]

**Jacqui Smith:** Food education in both primary and secondary school teaches children about the importance of healthy eating. They learn about where food comes from and how it is processed through food technology, science and PSHE. They also learn about diet, nutrition, food safety and hygiene, practical food preparation and cooking.

The DfES does not specify educational resources or how subjects should be taught. Individual teachers use their professional judgement to select the resources that are most appropriate to the needs of their pupils, but TV clips such as this would certainly be a useful and engaging opportunity.

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many school children in Hornsey and Wood Green *(a)* receive free school meals and *(b)* pay for schools meals, broken down by school. [13747]

**Jacqui Smith:** Information on pupils known to be eligible for free school meals is shown in the table. The number of pupils paying for school meals is not collected centrally.

*All schools: school meal arrangements*
*January 2005 (provisional)*
*Each school in Hornsey and Wood Green parliamentary constituency*

| | Number on roll[1] | Number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals[1] | Percentage of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals |
|---|---|---|---|
| Haringey Pupil Referral Unit | 108 | 108 | 100.0 |
| Alexandra Primary School | 210 | 116 | 55.2 |
| Bounds Green Infant School | 280 | 70 | 25.0 |
| Bounds Green Junior School | 240 | 93 | 38.8 |
| Campsbourne Infant School | 190 | 59 | 31.1 |
| Campsbourne Junior School | 209 | 75 | 35.9 |
| Coldfall Primary School | 458 | 65 | 14.2 |
| Coleridge Primary School | 478 | 37 | 7.7 |
| Earlham Primary School | 419 | 239 | 57.0 |
| Highgate Primary School | 380 | 78 | 20.5 |
| Lordship Lane Primary School | 716 | 348 | 48.6 |
| Muswell Hill Primary School | 420 | 47 | 11.2 |
| Nightingale Primary School | 465 | 202 | 43.4 |
| Our Lady of Muswell RC Primary School | 415 | 21 | 5.1 |
| Rhodes Avenue Primary School | 473 | 20 | 4.2 |
| Rokesly Infant School | 319 | 52 | 16.3 |
| Rokesly Junior School | 309 | 71 | 23.0 |
| St. Aidan's Voluntary Controlled Primary School | 249 | 35 | 14.1 |
| St. Gildas' RC Junior School | 213 | 50 | 23.5 |
| St. James' CofE Primary School | 236 | 4 | 1.7 |
| St. Martin of Porres RC Primary School | 243 | 15 | 6.2 |
| St. Mary's CofE Infant School | 233 | 41 | 17.6 |
| St. Mary's CofE Junior School | 218 | 49 | 22.5 |
| St. Michael's CofE Primary School | 202 | 57 | 28.2 |
| St. Michael's CofE Voluntary Aided Primary School | 464 | 25 | 5.4 |
| St. Paul's RC Primary School | 206 | 80 | 38.8 |
| St. Peter-in-Chains RC Infant School | 162 | 28 | 17.3 |
| Stroud Green Primary School | 368 | 140 | 38.0 |
| Tetherdown Primary School | 214 | 1 | 0.5 |
| Weston Park Primary School | 280 | 59 | 21.1 |
| Alexandra Park School | 966 | 249 | 25.8 |
| Fortismere School | 1,612 | 170 | 10.5 |
| Highgate Wood Secondary School | 1,309 | 322 | 24.6 |
| Hornsey School for Girls | 1,451 | 473 | 32.6 |
| St Thomas More RC School | 1,163 | 353 | 30.4 |
| White Hart Lane Secondary School | 1,136 | 645 | 56.8 |
| Gwyn City Academy, Haringey | 712 | 315 | 44.2 |
| Rhodes Neville School | 70 | 23 | 32.9 |

[1] Includes dually registered pupils and boarding pupils.

*Source:*
Annual Schools' Census

**Mr. Clegg:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many school children in Sheffield, Hallam are eligible for free school meals; and what the take-up was in each year since 1997. [13775]

**Jacqui Smith:** The information requested is shown in the tables.

*Maintained primary, secondary and all special schools: school meal arrangements, Sheffield, Hallam parliamentary constituency*

| | | Primary[1] | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Position as at January each year | Number on roll[2,3] | Number of pupils taking free school meals | Percentage of pupils taking free school meals | Number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals | Percentage of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals |
| 1997 | 5,420 | 390 | 7.1 | 470 | 8.7 |
| 1998 | 5,420 | 330 | 6.2 | 410 | 7.6 |
| 1999 | 5,430 | 280 | 5.1 | 360 | 6.7 |
| 2000 | 5,500 | 260 | 4.7 | 320 | 5.9 |
| 2001 | 5,500 | 210 | 3.8 | 290 | 5.2 |
| 2002 | 5,690 | 260 | 4.5 | 310 | 5.5 |
| 2003 | 5,760 | 220 | 3.8 | 280 | 4.8 |
| 2004 | 5,800 | 230 | 3.9 | 310 | 5.3 |
| 2005[4] | 5,720 | 220 | 3.8 | 270 | 4.8 |

| | | Secondary[1] | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Position as at January each year | Number on roll[2,3] | Number of pupils taking free school meals | Percentage of pupils taking free school meals | Number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals | Percentage of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals |
| 1997 | 8,410 | 780 | 9.3 | 1,220 | 14.5 |
| 1998 | 8,580 | 790 | 9.2 | 1,170 | 13.6 |
| 1999 | 8,580 | 810 | 9.4 | 1,090 | 12.6 |
| 2000 | 8,690 | 820 | 9.4 | 1,070 | 12.2 |
| 2001 | 8,810 | 800 | 9.0 | 1,070 | 12.2 |
| 2002 | 9,000 | 730 | 8.1 | 1,060 | 11.7 |
| 2003 | 9,070 | 770 | 8.5 | 1,050 | 11.5 |

| | | Secondary[1] | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Position as at January each year | Number on roll[2,4] | Number of pupils taking free school meals | Percentage of pupils taking free school meals | Number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals | Percentage of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals |
| 2004 | 9,170 | 800 | 8.7 | 1,030 | 11.4 |
| 2005[7] | 9,200 | 650 | 7.1 | 980 | 10.6 |

| | | Special[1] | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Position as at January each year | Number on roll[2,4] | Number of pupils taking free school meals | Percentage of pupils taking free school meals | Number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals | Percentage of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals |
| 1997 | 160 | 110 | 69.9 | 150 | 90.8 |
| 1998 | 180 | 80 | 47.5 | 110 | 99.3 |
| 1999 | 150 | 60 | 41.6 | 70 | 46.8 |
| 2000 | 160 | 60 | 38.5 | 70 | 45.5 |
| 2001 | 150 | 50 | 34.2 | 70 | 44.5 |
| 2002 | 150 | 50 | 31.6 | 50 | 31.6 |
| 2003 | 200 | 70 | 34.9 | 70 | 37.4 |
| 2004 | 210 | 60 | 28.1 | 70 | 33.8 |
| 2005[7] | 220 | 60 | 27.6 | 80 | 35.0 |

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Includes maintained and non-maintained special schools.
[3] 1997 to 2002 exclude dually registered pupils and boarding pupils.
[4] From 2003 includes dually registered pupils and boarding pupils.
[5] 1997 to 2002 exclude boarding pupils.
[6] From 2003 includes boarding pupils.
[7] Provisional.

*Note:*
Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10

*Source:*
Annual Schools' Census

### Schools (Violence)

**Mr. Davey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what estimate she has made of the number of school staff who have been victims of physical violence from students in *(a)* London and *(b)* England since 1997. [11891]

**Jacqui Smith:** Information on major injuries and injuries to workers involving more than three days absence is collected by the Health and Safety Executive. The available information is shown in the following tables. Prior to 2001 it was not possible to identify the type of assailant or to identify school staff accurately.

*Injuries to school staff[1] by pupils[2] in London*

| | 2002-03 | 2003-04 |
|---|---|---|
| Non-fatal major injury | 1 | 7 |
| Over-three-day injury | 25 | 27 |
| All reported injuries | 26 | 34 |

*Injuries to school staff[1] by pupils[2] in England*

| | 2002-03 | 2003-04 |
|---|---|---|
| Non-fatal major injury | 27 | 55 |
| Over-three-day injury | 178 | 217 |
| All reported injuries | 205 | 272 |

[1] The following Standard Occupational Classifications were used to identify school staff; educational assistants, primary and nursery education teaching professionals, school mid-day assistants, school secretaries, secondary education teaching professionals, special needs education teaching professionals, teaching professionals not classified elsewhere.

[2] There are no specific categories in HSE's coding framework that identify students/pupils as types of assailant. In this instance, students/pupils are identified on HSE systems by a combination of agent classifications: "persons receiving service" and "persons receiving care". However, other individuals may be included in these categories.

### Secondary Education (Wellingborough and Rushden)

**Mr. Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if she will make a statement on secondary education in Wellingborough and Rushden. [12104]

**Jacqui Smith:** The Department's Strategy for Children and Learners sets out a range of departmental policies and initiatives which will raise the quality of education, teaching and learning in the Wellingborough and Rushden area and across the country over the next five years.

For 2004/05, this Government have allocated an extra £870 per pupil in real terms to Northamptonshire local education authority since 1997/98, an increase of 32 per cent. Capital resources allocated to Northamptonshire LEA and its schools have increased from £8.5 million in 1997–98 to over £25 million in 2005–06.

Results in Wellingborough and Rushden are largely comparative to Northamptonshire averages. There has been significant improvement in East Northants in English and maths at KS3 and steady improvement at KS4. There is one school in the area, the Weavers School, which is in receipt of the Leadership Incentive Grant and has received additional partnership funding.

The LSC, Connexions and the local authority are working in partnership to improve 14–19 provision and standards in Northamptonshire. Each district partnership (including Wellingborough and East Northants) have been given funding to support area plans.

### Student Finance

**Mr. Nicholas Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if she will establish a commission

to examine the funding of undergraduate education and different schemes for the repayment of graduate contributions. [13993]

**Bill Rammell:** As the former Secretary of State announced in Parliament on 26 January 2004, an independent commission will be established to review the new arrangements for variable tuition fees, based on the first three years operation of the policy, which comes into effect from the 2006/07 academic year. The commission will examine the impact of the arrangements on higher education institutions, and on students and prospective students; and future policy.

## Synthetic Phonics

**Mr. Gibb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the Answer of 21 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 1026W, on Synthetic Phonics, whether she is in a position to announce the names of the people who will work alongside Mr. Jim Rose in conducting the review. [11774]

**Jacqui Smith:** I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to the hon. Member for Witney (Mr. Cameron) on 18 July 2005, *Official Report*, columns 1404–05W.

## Teachers

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what estimate her Department has made of the number of school staff who have been victims of physical abuse from students in *(a)* Ribble Valley and *(b)* Lancashire schools in each of the last five years. [13305]

**Jacqui Smith:** Information on major injuries and injuries to workers involving more than three days absence is collected by the Health and Safety Executive. Under this definition there were no reported physical assaults on school staff by students in Ribble Valley Constituency in 2002/03 or 2003/04. The available information for Lancashire is shown in the table. Prior to 2002/03 it was not possible to identify the type of assailant.

*Reported injuries[1] to school staff[2] by pupils[3] in Lancashire*

| | Non-fatal major injury | Over-3-day injury | All reported injuries |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2002/03 | 1 | 6 | 7 |
| 2003/04 | 7 | 11 | 18 |

[1] The HSE estimates that in recent years the reporting rate for all injuries involving more than three days absence in the education sector was around 32 per cent.
[2] The following Standard Occupational Classifications were used to identify school staff; Educational assistants, Primary and nursery education teaching professionals, School mid-day assistants, School secretaries, Secondary education teaching professionals, Special needs education teaching professionals, Teaching professionals not classified elsewhere.
[3] There are no specific categories in HSE's coding framework that identify students/pupils as types of assailant. In this instance, students/pupils are identified on HSE systems by a combination of agent classifications: 'persons receiving service' and 'persons receiving care'. However, other individuals may be included in these categories.

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the answer of 29 June 2005, *Official Report*, columns 1634–5W, on teacher recruitment, what proportion of teachers were recruited to teach *(a)* science, *(b)* mathematics and *(c)* modern foreign languages on a (i) part-time and (ii) full-time basis in each year between 1994 and 2004. [11111]

**Jacqui Smith:** The following table provides the proportion of newly qualified teachers in science, mathematics and modern foreign languages entering maintained secondary school service on a part-time and a full-time basis in each year between 1993–94 and 2002–03, the latest information available.

*Percentage of newly qualified teachers[1] in science, mathematics and modern foreign languages entering part-time and full-time maintained secondary service in each year, 1993–94 to 2002–03*

| | Science | | Maths | | Modern foreign languages | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Part-time | Full-time | Part-time | Full-time | Part-time | Full-time |
| 1993–94 | 5 | 95 | 4 | 96 | 6 | 94 |
| 1994–95 | 4 | 96 | 4 | 96 | 5 | 95 |
| 1995–96 | 7 | 93 | 7 | 93 | 7 | 93 |
| 1996–97 | 7 | 93 | 5 | 95 | 6 | 94 |
| 1997–98 | 5 | 95 | 3 | 97 | 6 | 94 |
| 1998–99 | 4 | 96 | 3 | 97 | 7 | 93 |
| 1999–2000 | 4 | 96 | 3 | 97 | 5 | 95 |
| 2000–01 | 3 | 97 | 3 | 97 | 4 | 96 |
| 2001–02 | 3 | 97 | 3 | 97 | 4 | 96 |
| 2002–03[2] | 2 | 98 | 3 | 97 | 3 | 97 |

[1] Includes those gaining qualified teacher status and going straight into teaching.
[2] Provisional
*Source:*
Database of Teacher Records.

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many teachers have been employed in Ribble Valley schools in each of the last five years. [13306]

**Jacqui Smith:** The following table gives the full-time equivalent number of teachers in service in Ribble Valley constituency in each January between 2001 and 2005.

*Full-time equivalent teachers in Ribble Valley constituency*

| | Total teachers |
|---|---|
| 2001 | 860 |
| 2002 | 880 |
| 2003 | 890 |
| 2004 | 890 |
| 2005[1] | 900 |

[1] Provisional.

*Note:*
Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
*Source:*
Annual School Census.

### Youth Training

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what evaluation arrangements are in place to assess the *(a)* quality and *(b)* effectiveness of the alternative provision available to young people unable to secure a place on the Entry to Employment programme. [13900]

**Jacqui Smith:** I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 22 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 1049W.

## TRADE AND INDUSTRY

### Coal Mines

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many coal mines closed in each financial year since 1975. [11514]

**Malcolm Wicks:** Annual figures for the period 1975–80 are not readily available. Data readily to hand show the total for this period and the number of larger deep mine closures in each year since 1980 to be as set out in the table:

| *Period* | *Collieries closed* |
|---|---|
| 1975–1980 | 27 |
| 1980–81 | 9 |
| 1981–82 | 12 |
| 1982–83 | 6 |
| 1983–84 | 15 |
| 1984–85 | 1 |
| 1985–86 | 27 |
| 1986–87 | 15 |
| 1987–88 | 14 |
| 1988–89 | 6 |
| 1989–90 | 11 |
| 1990–91 | 9 |
| 1991–92 | 15 |
| 1992–93 | 0 |
| 1993–94 | 31 |
| 1994–95 | 1 |
| 1996 | 4 |
| 1997 | 0 |
| 1998 | 2 |
| 1999 | 2 |
| 2000 | 2 |
| 2001 | 0 |
| 2002 | 2 |
| 2003 | 2 |
| 2004 | 3 |
| 2005 | 1 |

### Consultants

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many consultants were employed by his Department in each of the last three years; and what their names were. [1330]

**Alan Johnson:** Central records indicate that 1,421 consultancy companies were engaged in the financial year 2004–05. I have placed a list of these companies in the Libraries of the House. In addition the Department engaged 687 individual consultants in the financial year 2004–05. Information for further financial years can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Correspondence

**Steve Webb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry when he will reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Northavon dated 10 December 2004 regarding Carnaby Kitchens. [12706]

**Mr. Sutcliffe** *[holding answer 18 July 2005]:* The letter from the hon. Member to my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State was misplaced. It has now been relocated and I will ensure that you receive a response shortly. I apologise for the delay in dealing with your constituent's concerns.

### Democratic Republic of the Congo

**John Bercow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will seek to revise the legislative position on controls on arms brokering to ensure that UK citizens are unable to exploit a legal loophole in order to profit from the sales of arms to the Democratic Republic of the Congo. [11870]

**Malcolm Wicks:** The Government do not accept that any such loophole exists. The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is subject to an EU arms embargo and as such the UK's controls on overseas trade in military equipment to the DRC are fully extraterritorial, applying to persons in the UK and UK persons anywhere in the world, including those whose sole involvement in the transaction is, for example, advertising, transport, or finance.

### Departmental Officials

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many Range 3 officials in his Department progressed to Range 4 in each of the last four years for which figures are available, broken down by directive; and what the requirements are for a Range 3 official in his Department to progress to Range 4. [10874]

**Alan Johnson:** The number of Range 3 officials in my Department progressed to Range 4 in each of the last four years is as follows:

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2001–02 | 63 |
| 2002–03 | 89 |
| 2003–04 | 38 |
| 2004–05 | 42 |

The entry requirements for Range 3 and Range 4 officials in my Department are:

A minimum of 5 GCSE grade C passes or above including English Language and Mathematics, or equivalent qualifications, or NVQ Business Administration level 2 or an equivalent NVQ level 2 with relevance to office work and containing an assessment or examination in English language, or at least three years' work experience in a comparable position.

The job specific requirements for Range 3 officials to be progressed to Range 4 are set out in departmental vacancy notices advertising each post. However, in general, Range 3 officials would need to be able to demonstrate some or all of the following skills to be considered for progression to Range 4:

Ability to manage workload

Good written and oral communication skills

Ability to work with others and build relationships

Drive and commitment

Basic IT skills.

The number of Range 3 officials progressed to Range 4 broken down by Group in each of the last 3 years are as follows:

| *Group* | *2002–03* | *2003–04* | *2004–05* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Innovation | 5 | 1 | 3 |
| Services | 27 | 7 | 27 |
| Business | 12 | 5 | 2 |
| Energy | 8 | 6 | 2 |
| Fair Markets | 24 | 10 | 4 |
| Legal Services | 3 | 3 | 2 |
| Strategy Unit | 1 | 1 | — |
| UK Trade and Investment | 5 | 2 | 2 |
| Office of Science and Technology | 4 | 1 | — |
| Office of Manpower Economics | — | 2 | — |
| Totals | 89 | 38 | 42 |

## Departmental Purchasing

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will list the companies from which his Department has purchased goods and services of a total value above £1 million in each of the last three years; and how much was spent in respect of each company. [11737]

**Alun Michael:** I have placed information for the core Department, the Small Business Service and Employment Tribunals Service in the Libraries of the House.

I have asked the Chief Executives of DTI's other Executive Agencies to respond directly to the hon. Member.

*Letter from Claire Clancy to Mr. Chris Grayling, dated 20 July 2005:*

I am responding to your recent parliamentary question to the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry on behalf of Companies House which is an Executive Agency of the DTI.

Companies House has purchased goods or services of a total value above £1 million from the following companies in each of the last three financial years.

*2002–03*

| | £ |
|---|---|
| Computacenter Ltd. | 4,665,289 |
| The Lewis Group Plc | 1,966,534 |
| O R Telematique | 1,656,051 |
| HBS Group Ltd. | 4,174,286 |
| HEDRA Consortium | 2,624,927 |
| Vertex Data Science Ltd. | 2,168,250 |
| Logica UK Ltd. | 2,591,689 |

*2003–04*

| | £ |
|---|---|
| Computacenter Ltd. | 2,723,346 |
| The Lewis Group Plc | 2,164,421 |
| O R Telematique | 1,905,689 |
| HBS Group Ltd. | 4,588,798 |
| Vertex Data Science Ltd. | 2,239,575 |
| Logica UK Ltd. | 2,441,669 |

*2004–05*

| | £ |
|---|---|
| Computacenter Ltd. | 2,856,698 |
| The Lewis Group Plc | 2,113,639 |
| O R Telematique | 1,831,112 |
| HBS Group Ltd. | 4,750,339 |
| Vertex Data Science Ltd. | 2,370,538 |
| Logica UK Ltd. | 1,175,000 |
| ServiceTec Ltd. | 1,446,361 |

*Letter from Ron Marchant to Mr. Chris Grayling, dated 20 July 2005:*

I am responding to this parliamentary question, tabled on 11 July 2005, concerning the purchase of goods and services from companies with a total value above £1 million in each of the last three years, and how much was spent in respect of each company.

A nil return is appropriate for the Patent Office.

*Letter from Dr. Jeff Llewellyn to Mr. Chris Grayling, dated 20 July 2005:*

The Secretary of State for Trade and Industry has asked me to reply on behalf of the National Weights and Measures Laboratory (NWML) to your question regarding the list of companies from which NWML has purchased goods and services of a value of above £1 million, in each of the last three years.

NWML over the last three years has not purchased goods and services of a total value of above £1 million.

*Letter from Desmond Flynn to Mr. Chris Grayling, dated 20th July 2005:*

The Secretary of State for Trade and Industry has asked me to reply to you directly on behalf of The Insolvency Service in respect of your question (706/2005) asking for a list of the companies from which the Agency has purchased goods and services of a total value above £1 million in each of the last three years; and how much was spent in respect of each company.

A table is attached to this letter showing the information you have requested.

*Over the last three years The Insolvency Service has purchased goods and services of a total value above £1 million from the following companies:*

| £000 *Company Name* | *2002–03* | *2003–04* | *2004–05* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Argles, Stoneham, Burstows | — | 1,502 | 1,422 |
| B and HS Management Ltd. | 1,525 | — | — |
| Brindley, Twist | 1,070 | — | — |
| Taft and James | | | |
| Capital and Regional Property Mgt | 1,608 | — | — |
| Cobbetts Solicitors | 1,041 | — | — |
| Dickinsons, Dees Solicitors | 1,335 | 1,321 | 1,843 |
| Fujitsu Services | 5,599 | 7,738 | 7,675 |
| Hays Office Support | — | — | 2,460 |
| Howes Percival | 2,069 | 1,892 | 1,431 |
| Indigo Selection | 4,700 | 4,005 | 4,555 |
| London Borough of Camden | 1,328 | — | — |
| Michael K. Howard Ltd. | — | — | 2,886 |
| Prudential Property Investment Mgt Ltd. | 1,410 | 2,717 | 3,410 |
| R.J Lewis Group | 1,038 | — | — |
| The Mall Corporation Ltd. | — | 1,650 | 2,020 |

*Over the last three years The Insolvency Service has purchased goods and services of a total value above £1 million from the following companies:*

| £000 Company Name | 2002–03 | 2003–04 | 2004–05 |
|---|---|---|---|
| The Stationery Office | — | — | 1,322 |
| Wragge and Co. | 2,058 | 1,068 | 1,529 |

### Discrimination Law Review

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will set out the remit and timetable of the Discrimination Law Review. [13535]

**Meg Munn:** The Discrimination Law Review is tasked to review the effectiveness of Great Britain's equality legislation, with a view to making recommendations for creating a clearer and more streamlined equality legislation framework, aimed at producing better outcomes for those who experience disadvantage. The full terms of reference for the Review were placed in the Libraries of the House on 13 June 2005. The Review has begun work alongside the current independent Equalities Review which will report to the Prime Minister in 2006. Both the Equalities Review and the Discrimination Law Review will inform proposals for a Single Equality Bill which the Government have made a manifesto commitment to introduce in the lifetime of this Parliament.

### Electricity Generation

**Mr. Bellingham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what percentage of electricity generated to meet demand was contributed by each mode of generation in the last period for which figures are available. [13380]

**Malcolm Wicks:** The 2004 figures, to be published in the Digest of UK Energy Statistics 2005 at the end of this month, show that 40 per cent. of the electricity supplied in the United Kingdom was from gas, 33 per cent. from coal, 19 per cent. from nuclear, 1 per cent. from hydro, 2½ per cent. from other renewables (such as wind, wave, solar and biomass), 1 per cent. from oil, 2½ per cent. from imported electricity, and 1 per cent. from other fuels (such as coke oven gas, blast furnace gas and waste products from chemical processes).

### Export Control Organisation

**Helen Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what account he took of the report of ASE management consultants on the privatisation of the Export Control Organisation in determining whether to privatise it. [12937]

**Malcolm Wicks:** The report has been fully taken into account as part of my consideration of the future of the Export Control Organisation.

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will make a statement on the future of the Export Control Organisation. [13968]

**Malcolm Wicks:** I expect to do so shortly.

### Fuel Poverty

**Alan Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry when he expects to publish the findings of the Peer Review on the methodology for calculating fuel poverty figures for England. [13548]

**Malcolm Wicks:** The Peer Review into the fuel poverty methodology for England is expected to be published on 21 July 2005.

### Home Workers

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assistance is given to staff in his Department who wish to work from home, broken down by grade. [12290]

**Alan Johnson:** The Department introduced a flexible working policy including full guidance for managers and staff to ensure that new ways of working, including homeworking, are available to all individuals and the benefits to stakeholders, customers, managers and staff are maximised.

The Department supports a variety of homeworking options for staff: these include formal homeworking on a permanent basis, or part of the week on a regular basis or working at home on an ad hoc basis. Our staff survey shows that 78 per cent. of staff state that their managers allow working patterns including working at home to help them balance work and home life. Staff who work at home part of the week on a regular basis may have a local agreement to provide them with IT equipment.

Many flexible working patterns, including working from home, are negotiated locally and it is not possible to break down data by grade.

### Industry and Parliament Trust

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the total public sector financial support was for the Industry and Parliament Trust in each year from 2001–02 to 2006–07; and if he will make a statement. [12088]

**Alan Johnson** *[holding answer 18 July 2005]:* The Department has not provided financial support to the Industry and Parliament Trust (IPT) in any of the years specified and does not expect to do so.

### International Trade Advisers

**Mr. Arbuthnot:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the average salary was of International Trade Advisers employed by the regional development authorities in the last period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [10486]

**Ian Pearson:** International Trade Advisers are funded by UK Trade and Investment to deliver trade development services to business. They are employed by local providers of business support services, mostly Business Link Operators. As UK Trade and Investment is not the employer, no average salary figure is readily available. UK Trade and Investment is providing funding of £15.4 million to the local service providers in the 2005–06 financial year to cover the cost of an advice network of 282 advisers, including both adviser salaries and overheads.

### Liquefied Petroleum Gas

**Mr. McGovern:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what steps his Department is taking to promote the uptake of liquid petroleum gas *(a)* in petrol stations and *(b)* among consumers. [13453]

**Malcolm Wicks:** The Department's LPG Boost project, that ended in March 2005, raised the awareness with consumers of the use of LPG.

The Government also continue to support alternative fuels, including LPG, through fuel duty incentives as set out in the Chancellor of the Exchequer's alternative fuels framework, published in the 2003 pre-Budget report.

**Mr. McGovern:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many petrol stations in England sell liquid petroleum gas. [13454]

**Malcolm Wicks:** The Liquefied Petroleum Gas Association (LPGA) informed the Department that there are currently 1,274 liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) filling stations in the UK, of which 669 are at petrol filling stations.

### Manufacturing

**Mr. Crabb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment he has made of the extent to which UK manufacturing job losses can be prevented through better regulation. [12471]

**Barry Gardiner:** The Government have a radical programme aimed at reducing costs to manufacturing and other businesses of complying with regulation. Reduced regulatory burdens will free up business resources to focus on growth and competitiveness—both drivers of job creation.

### Miners' Compensation

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (1) how many claims for vibration white finger have been submitted in *(a)* Bassetlaw and *(b)* the United Kingdom registered as being under the UDM/Vendside scheme for miners compensation by (i) Moss Solicitors, (ii) Brm solicitors, (iii) Beresfords solicitors, (iv) AMS Law solicitors, (v) Wake Smith Solicitors and (vi) the Union of Democratic Mineworkers; [12650]

(2) how many claims for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease have been submitted in *(a)* Bassetlaw and *(b)* the United Kingdom registered as being under the UDM/Vendside scheme for miners compensation by (i) Moss Solicitors, (ii) Brm solicitors, (iii) Beresfords solicitors, (iv) AMS Law solicitors, (v) Wake Smith Solicitors and (vi) the Union of Democratic Mineworkers; [12651]

(3) how many deceased claims for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and vibration white finger have been submitted in *(a)* Bassetlaw and *(b)* the United Kingdom registered as being under the UDM/Vendside scheme for miners compensation by (i) Moss Solicitors, (ii) Brm solicitors, (iii) Beresfords solicitors, (iv) AMS Law solicitors, (v) Wake Smith Solicitors and (vi) the Union of Democratic Mineworkers; [12652]

(4) how many claims for *(a)* chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and *(b)* vibration white finger have been submitted in (i) Bassetlaw and (ii) the United Kingdom registered as being under the Union of Democratic Mineworkers/Vendside scheme for miners' compensation by solicitors. [12986]

**Malcolm Wicks** *[holding answer 18 July 2005]:* Following my request to the Union of Democratic Mineworkers for a list of all the claims they and their client solicitors have submitted, the Department's claims handlers, Capita, are undertaking a check against their own records. Until this exercise has been completed, the Department is unable to provide the requested information.

**Adam Price:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry pursuant to the answer of 11 July to Question reference 9089, which Ministers agreed that the Department would negotiate the strategy with the Union of Democratic Mineworkers and Vendside; on what dates; what reports Ministers received on the progress of negotiations; and on what dates Ministers agreed to the terms of the final outcome of the negotiations. [12826]

**Malcolm Wicks** *[holding answer 18 July 2005]:* My right hon. Friend the Member for Leeds, West (John Battle) agreed that the Department would negotiate the strategy for handling claims submitted by the Union of Democratic Mineworkers in December 1998. The proposed terms of the arrangements were put to Ministers on completion of the negotiations. In January 1999, my right hon. Friend the Member for Leeds, West agreed the terms of the vibration white finger handling arrangements. In November 1999, the then Energy Minister, agreed the handling arrangements for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease claims.

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many deceased claims for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease from *(a)* Beresfords solicitors and *(b)* all solicitors have been rejected or withdrawn. [12903]

**Malcolm Wicks** *[holding answer 18 July 2005]:* Of 15,151 deceased chronic obstructive pulmonary disease claims settled by denial or withdrawal, Beresfords solicitors are registered as the claimant's representatives in 2,333.

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how much the Union of Democratic Mineworkers has been paid in fees for *(a)* chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) claims and *(b)* deceased COPD claims. [12904]

**Malcolm Wicks** *[holding answer 18 July 2005]:* The UDM/Vendside has been paid £16.3 million in fees for COPD claims of which £1.9 million relates to deceased COPD claims.

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many *(a)* deceased chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) claims and *(b)* total COPD claims have been registered by the Union of Democratic Mineworkers. [12905]

**Malcolm Wicks** *[holding answer 18 July 2005]:* The UDM has been registered as claimant's representative for 16,678 COPD claims of which 1,589 are deceased COPD claims.

### Miners' Pensions

**Adam Price:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment he has made of the likely effects of the European Directive on Investment on the Department's role in relation to the *(a)* Miners' Pension Scheme and *(b)* British Coal Staff Superannuation Scheme; and if he will make a statement. [12871]

**Malcolm Wicks:** The schemes are exempt from many of the requirements of Directive 2003/41/EC on the activities and supervision of institutions for occupational retirement provision by virtue of their Crown guarantee; but changes to scheme provisions were necessary to reflect the requirement that member states may not subject Trustees' investment decisions to any form of systematic notification or prior consent.

**Adam Price:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the current value of the Investment Reserve Fund in the *(a)* Miners' Pension Scheme and *(b)* British Coal Staff Superannuation Scheme is. [12872]

**Malcolm Wicks:** The current values of the Investment Reserve Funds (at 31 March 2005) in respect of the Mineworkers' Pension Scheme and the British Coal Staff Superannuation Scheme are, respectively, £487 million and £940 million.

### Newspapers and Magazines (Distribution)

**Jim Dowd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what progress he has made in promoting agreement between retailers and publishers with regard to the future distribution of newspapers and magazines. [8922]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** It is for the companies concerned to make decisions about what distribution arrangements they put in place for their products while ensuring those arrangements comply with the law.

Following a request from certain newspaper and magazine publishers, the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) has considered whether arrangements for distribution of newspapers and magazines are likely to be compatible with competition law after 1 May 2005. OFT published a draft advisory opinion on 19 May and invited written comments by 17 June. I understand OFT has received representations from all parts of the newspaper and magazine supply chain. I am pleased interested parties are trying to arrange satisfactory solutions. OFT is currently considering all representations.

### Non-agricultural Market Access

**Nick Harvey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will make a statement on the Government's position on the Non-Agricultural Market Access negotiations. [13774]

**Ian Pearson:** The UK Government objective in the Non-Agricultural Market Access negotiations of the Doha Development Agenda is for significantly improved real access to markets (except those of LDCs and other weak and vulnerable countries) for all WTO members. The European Commission leads for the European Union in these negotiations.

### Nuclear Power

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will make a statement on the future of nuclear power stations; what proportion of electricity carried across the National Grid is generated by nuclear power; and if he will make a statement on the future of nuclear power in the UK. [13005]

**Malcolm Wicks:** Existing nuclear power stations are expected to continue in operation for some years, in one case, Sizewell B, up to the 2030s.

Our policy on possible new nuclear power stations remains as set out in the 2003 Energy White Paper. The Government has no specific proposals but does not rule out the nuclear option.

The most recent figure for the proportion of electricity supplied by nuclear power plants is given in the Energy Trends March 2005 which states that in 2004 19 per cent. of electricity was supplied.

### Ofgem (Social Action Plan)

**Dr. Iddon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what response he will make to the conclusions on prepayment meter users in the Public Accounts Committee's recent report on Ofgem's Social Action Plan. [13318]

**Malcolm Wicks:** It is for Ofgem to respond to the Committee's conclusions and recommendations.

### Regional Development Agencies

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what offices regional development agencies have outside the UK; and what the cost of each was in the last year for which figures are available. [12016]

**Alun Michael:** The Regional Development Agencies have offices in different countries. The following table gives details of their location by country and the cost associated with those offices.

£000

| Country | Advantage West Midlands | East of England Development Agency | East Midlands Development Agency | North West Development Agency | One North East | South East England Development Agency | South West of England Development Agency | Yorkshire Forward |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Australia | 58 | — | — | [1]50 | [1]55 | 50 | 67 | [1]45 |
| Belgium | 110 | [2]59 | 176 | [3]61 | — | — | — | — |
| Canada | 35 | — | [2]— | — | — | — | — | — |
| China | — | [4]20 | — | — | 79 | 28 | 50 | 178 |
| France | 109 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Germany | 101 | — | — | — | — | 69 | — | — |

£000

| Country | Advantage West Midlands | East of England Development Agency | East Midlands Development Agency | North West Development Agency | One North East | South East England Development Agency | South West of England Development Agency | Yorkshire Forward |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| India | 78 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Japan | 119 | — | — | [1]195 | [1]203 | [5]73 | 340 | [1]182 |
| Korea | — | — | — | — | 75 | 41 | — | — |
| North America | 596 | [4]200 | [7]368 | [1]370 | [1]370 | 431 | 149 | [1]352 |
| Singapore | 127 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Sweden | 118 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |

[1] Collaboration between North West Development Agency, One North East and Yorkshire Forward.
[2] Contribution towards East of England Office (other partners include all local authorities, Government Office-East, Regional Learning and Skills Council, Norfolk Constabulary and Anglia Polytechnic University (Business School).
[3] Partnership with North West Regional Assembly.
[4] Contribution towards Essex county council office in Jiangsu Province, China.
[5] Cost of offices in Osaka and Yokohama.
[6] Joint office with East of England International.
[7] There are offices in both countries, but expenses are paid centrally and cannot be separately identified.

The London Development Agency do not have any offices outside the UK.

### Rental Costs

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how much was paid by his Department in rent on *(a)* 1 Victoria Street, *(b)* 10 Victoria Street, *(c)* Kingsgate House and *(d)* 151 Buckingham Palace Road in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available; and how much he expects to pay in each of the next five years. [10523]

**Alan Johnson:** The rents paid (ex VAT where payable) for the last ten years are:

£6.5 million per annum to January 2001, £7.75 million to March 2005

£2.5 million per annum to February 2002, £3.0 million to March 2005

£3.7 million per annum. to March 2002, £6.2 million to March 2005

£7.75 million per annum to March 2004, £8.5 million to March 2005.

An estimate of future costs cannot be given either because of forthcoming rent reviews or because the level of future occupation is under review.

### Sickness Absence

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many days the Department has lost due to sickness in the past five years for which figures are available. [11473]

**Alan Johnson:** These figures contained in the annual report "Analysis of Sickness Absence in the Civil Service" published by the Cabinet Office. Table A of the report gives details of both the average working days absence per staff year and the number of staff years on which that calculation is based. The most recent of which (for calendar year 2003) was announced by Ministerial Statement on 1 November and copies placed in the Libraries of the House. Reports for 1999, 2000, 2001 and 2002 are also available in the Libraries and on the Cabinet Office website at: http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/management_information/conditions_of_service/caje/publications/index.asp#sickness

The DTI takes the management of sickness absence very seriously and is tightening up procedures for reporting and improving data collection and handling absences, including coaching managers on dealing with specific cases. Recommendations from the "Managing Attendance in the Public Sector" report are being considered and implemented as appropriate.

### Small Arms Exports

**Andrew George:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many small arms were exported by G8 countries to *(a)* Sudan, *(b)* Uganda, *(c)* Democratic Republic of Congo, *(d)* Zimbabwe, *(e)* Ivory Coast, *(f)* Liberia, *(g)* Ethiopia, *(h)* Eritrea and *(i)* Somalia in the last 10 years for which records are available. [13079]

**Malcolm Wicks:** The information requested is not available because the system of classification used to record trade does not separately identify small arms.

### Spam Emails

**Mr. Ian Austin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what estimate he has made of the cost of spam emails to UK business in the last period for which figures are available. [12619]

**Alun Michael:** I understand that according to one industry source, the average time spent managing spam is 10 minutes per employee per day. The Government have not made an estimate of the quantity or cost of spam e-mails sent to UK businesses.

### Special Advisers

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will list the special advisers to his Department; what the area of expertise of each is; and what the employment cost of special advisers was in 2004–05. [8928]

**Alan Johnson:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister gave to you on 4 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 36W.

### UK Trade and Investment

**Mr. Arbuthnot:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will reverse the decision to

reduce the expenditure UK Trade and Investment allocates to export development; and if he will make a statement. [10479]

**Ian Pearson:** As with the rest of Government, UKTI has to work within the resources allocated to it by the 2004 Spending Review and the conditions attached to that settlement.

### Vehicle Statistics

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many *(a)* cars, *(b)* vans, *(c)* trucks and *(d)* bus and coaches were built in the UK in each of the last three years; and how many people are employed in the automotive industry. [13007]

**Alun Michael:** UK vehicle production, and automotive industry employment for the last three years was as follows.

| | *Cars* | *Vans* | *Trucks* | *Bus and coach* | *Employment* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2002 | 1,629,744 | 175,426 | 15,569 | 2,089 | 243,000 |
| 2003 | 1,657,558 | 172,955 | 14,179 | 1,737 | 237,000 |
| 2004 | 1,646,750 | 191,773 | 16,104 | 1,291 | [1]235,000 |

[1] 2004 employment has been estimated as 2004 ABI data are published in December 2005.

*Notes:*

1. Car manufacturing data have been sourced from Office of National Statistics.
2. Commercial vehicle data have been sourced from SMMT as ONS do not provide a breakdown by type of vehicle.
3. Employment data have been sourced from the ONS Annual Business Inquiry, and include vehicle, engine, body and component manufacture, auto electrical equipment, and tyres.

### Wind Farms

**Mr. David Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what applications have been made to his Department in connection with the proposed development of the Gwynt y Mor wind farm off the coast of North Wales. [12697]

**Malcolm Wicks:** There have been no applications for development consent for the proposed Gwynt y Mor offshore wind farm.

**Mr. Bellingham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment he has made of the relative efficiency of each mode of electricity generation. [13384]

**Malcolm Wicks:** Data on the average thermal efficiencies and load factors of large generators by fuel type are published in table 5.10 of the DTI's "Digest of United Kingdom Energy Statistics"

http://www.dti.gov.uk/energy/inform/dukes/dukes2004/index.shtml

However, the technical and economic efficiency of generators have been a commercial matter for generating companies since industry privatisation in 1990–91.

**Mr. Hood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many wind farms are in operation in Scotland; what plans there are to build more wind farms in Scotland; and if he will make a statement. [10286]

**Malcolm Wicks:** There are currently 27 wind farms operating in Scotland, and I am delighted to say that I will be opening the 28th at Artfield Fell, Stranraer later this month.

The question of plans for further wind farm developments in Scotland is a devolved matter and therefore any inquiries along these lines should be directed to the Scottish Executive.

### World Trade Organisation

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will make a statement on the recent Non-Agricultural Market Access negotiations at Doha. [13563]

**Ian Pearson:** The Non-Agricultural Market Access negotiations are part of the Doha Development Agenda trade round on which the European Commission leads for the European Union. Negotiations are on-going.

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what representations he has received from and when he next plans to meet UK and foreign business representatives regarding the Non-Agricultural Market Access negotiations at the World Trade Organisation; and if he will make a statement. [13564]

**Ian Pearson:** I meet business representatives on a regular basis and discuss a wide range of issues with them, including, where appropriate the Non-Agricultural Market Access regulations.

## MINISTER FOR WOMEN

### Institutionalised Sexism

**Colin Challen:** To ask the Minister for Women what guidance her Department has recently issued to organisations in the public sector on combating institutionalised sexism. [13317]

**Meg Munn:** I have issued no such guidance recently.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

### Parliamentary Mail Services

**Mr. Doran:** To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission, if he will make a statement on the provision of parliamentary mail services. [14205]

**Nick Harvey:** The sorting of incoming Parliamentary mail, its preparation for delivery or forwarding, and collection and despatch of outward mail, have been provided by Royal Mail to both Houses for many years on an informal contractual basis, subject to annual revision in line with rising costs. In 2004 it was decided that, in order to comply with EU procurement rules and to ensure value for money, these mail services would be

the subject of a full tender exercise. Following the placing of an advertisement in the *Official Journal*, and the drafting of a full specification, four companies, including Royal Mail, were invited to tender. The award of the contract to Royal Mail, subject to agreement of detailed contractual terms, is being announced today to the parties concerned. It will run for three years from August 2005. Costs for the service are expected to be between £1 million and £1.5 million a year.

The new contract will provide for a significantly enhanced service to Parliament. More mail will be delivered to offices first thing in the morning; the 7pm collection will apply to all post boxes on the estate; forwarding will be more efficiently handled off-site; and there will be a rigorous and robust set of service standards, with regular service reviews and customer input. The price will be reviewed in line with RPI over years two and three of the contract.

This contract is quite separate from that for off-site screening of incoming mail, which will from August 2005 be carried out by Pitney Bowes under a separate contract let in 2004, and the provision by post office counters of postal services at its three outlets on the estate.

## DEFENCE

### Airlift Capacity

**Ann Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many and what type of aircraft *(a)* constitute the airlift capacity and *(b)* are planned to constitute the airlift capacity in (i) 2010 and (ii) 2015; and what tonnage this (A) comprises and (B) is planned to comprise in each year. [12676]

**Mr. Ingram:** The following table provides details of our current planning assumptions for airlift capability in 2010 and 2015:

| | *2010* | | *2015* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Number of aircraft* | *Maximum capacity (tonnes) for fleet* | *Number of aircraft* | *Maximum capacity (tonnes) for fleet* |
| C-130K | 14 | 280 | 0 | 0 |
| C-130J | 25 | 425 | 25 | 425 |
| A400M | 4 | 128 | 25 | 800 |
| C-17 | 4 | 300 | 5 | 375 |
| Total | 47 | 1,133 | 55 | 1,600 |

### Armed Forces Compensation Scheme

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent representations he has received on the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme as it applies to servicemen and women who have experienced hearing loss. [13526]

**Mr. Touhig:** I have recently replied to a letter from Dr. John Low, Chief Executive of the Royal National Institute for the Deaf (RNID) and the Department has also responded to a letter from Mr. Chris Underwood who is the RNID's Campaign Manager. Both raised concerns about the 50dB threshold used to determine eligibility for awards under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme where bilateral noise induced sensorineural hearing loss has resulted from military service. I have offered to meet Dr. Low to discuss his concerns.

### Cadets

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* state schools and *(b)* independent schools have (i) army, (ii) sea and (iii) air cadets. [13010]

**Mr. Touhig:** Army cadet detachments are found in 52 state schools and 199 independent schools.

Royal Naval detachments are found in nine state schools and 110 independent schools.

RAF detachments are found in 39 state schools and 155 independent schools.

In general, all Combined Cadet Force contingents begin by providing Army detachments, and subsequently providing detachments of the other armed forces, should there be a requirement, when the contingent is well established.

### Counter-insurgency Strategy

**Dr. Julian Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what lessons he has drawn from past counter-insurgency campaigns overseas on the effects of announcing in advance timetables for the withdrawal of forces. [12659]

**John Reid:** The Government seek to apply lessons learned from past campaigns wherever possible, including through the Ministry of Defence's operational audit process. In particular, we believe that the United Kingdom force levels in all operations, including those with a counter-insurgency dimension, should be a function of the operational requirement for forces, not of artificial timetables.

### Critical Manning

**Mr. Moore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list the critical manning groups which have been identified in each of the three services; and what the shortfall against requirement was in each case. [9627]

**Mr. Touhig** *[holding answer 5 July 2005]:* The critical manning groups identified by each service and the shortfalls against requirement, as at 30 June 2005 and rounded to the nearest 10, are as follows:

| | *Strength* | *Requirement* |
|---|---|---|
| *Royal Navy* | | |
| Submarine Nuclear Watchkeepers | 120 | 170 |
| Leading Hand Warfare | 1,300 | 1,810 |
| Submarine Leading Hand Communicators | 40 | 80 |
| Leading Air Engineering Mechanics | 390 | 580 |
| Royal Marines (marine rank) | 2,520 | 3,100 |
| Petty Officer Marine Warfare | 40 | 60 |
| Fast Jet Pilot | 60 | 70 |
| Merlin Pilot | 60 | 80 |
| Merlin Observer | 60 | 100 |
| Merlin Aircrewman | 40 | 50 |
| Leading Aircraft Controller | 50 | 70 |
| Air Engineering Mechanics | 970 | 1,140 |

| | Strength | Requirement |
|---|---|---|
| *Army* | | |
| Vehicle Mechanic | 3,990 | 4,370 |
| Recovery Mechanic | 470 | 660 |
| Armourer | 500 | 570 |
| Ammunition Technician | 280 | 440 |
| Chef | 2,300 | 2,610 |
| Movements Controller | 360 | 390 |
| Petroleum Operator | 210 | 290 |
| Explosives Ordinance Disposal | 520 | 700 |
| Clerk of Works | 210 | 270 |
| Mechanical Engineering Fitter | 540 | 600 |
| Communications Systems Engineer | 730 | 960 |
| Geographic Technician | 300 | 370 |
| Information Systems Engineer | 280 | 380 |
| Military Intelligence Operator | 880 | 1,330 |
| Military Intelligence Linguist | 220 | 230 |
| Human Intelligence Operator | 40 | 80 |
| General Medical Practitioner | 110 | 210 |
| Nurse (officer) | 260 | 380 |
| Nurse (soldier) | 240 | 390 |
| *Royal Air Force* | | |
| Fighter Controller (Squadron Leaders and below) | 320 | 400 |
| Provost/Security (Squadron Leaders and below) | 140 | 170 |
| Admin Training (Squadron Leaders and below) | 230 | 260 |
| Medical Officers | 220 | 280 |
| Medical Support Officers | 70 | 90 |
| Legal Officers | 40 | 50 |
| Chaplains | 80 | 90 |
| Weapon Systems Operator Linguist | 40 | 70 |
| Air Load Master | 480 | 510 |
| Ground Engineering Technician | 590 | 640 |
| Vehicle Technician | 400 | 430 |
| Driver | 1,280 | 1,250 |
| Firefighter | 620 | 650 |
| RAF Regiment Gunner | 1,840 | 1,940 |
| Workshops Technician | 160 | 170 |
| Ground Equipment Technician | 680 | 740 |

### Defence Assistance Fund

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what the total cost of the Defence Assistance Fund was for each of the last four years; how much of that funding in each year was used to promote military exports; and what the allocated funding is for 2005–06; [13455]

(2) what the cost of the Defence Assistance Fund was for the last year for which figures are available; how much of the funding was used to promote military exports; and what the allocated funding is for 2005–06. [13458]

**John Reid:** Defence Assistance Fund (DAF) expenditure was £7.2 million in 2001–02; £9.7 million in 2002–03, £10.4 million in 2003–04 and £13.5 million in 2004–05. Of this, the amount spent on supporting defence exports was £5 million in 2001–02; £4.2 million in 2002–03, £6 million in 2003–2004 and £4.7 million in 2004–05. The DAF allocation for 2005–06 is £17.6 million.

### Departmental Advertising

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much the Department spent on advertising in each of the last five years. [10256]

**Mr. Touhig:** Until 2001–02 details of the Ministry of Defence's expenditure on advertising were included in those for "advertising and publicity" in the annual departmental performance reports, copies of which were placed in the Library of the House.

For 1999–2000 the information is shown on page 60, Cm 5000; for 2000–01 the information is shown on page 68, Cm 5290 and for 2001–02 the information is shown on page 71, Cm 5661.

The introduction of resource accounting and budgeting (RAB) in the Ministry of Defence has changed the way in which we account for and record our expenditure. Under RAB there is no specific heading for recording expenditure on advertising. This expenditure is included in the figures for "publicity and recruiting" but these figures could be separated only at disproportionate cost. The final outturn figure for publicity and recruiting, which includes advertising, for 2002–03, was £52.5 million and for 2003–04 they were £53.6 million.

The figures for financial year 2004–05 have not yet been finalised and will not be available until the departmental resource and accounts are published later this year.

### Fire Study Recommendations

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which recommendations made in the Fire Study 2000 have been implemented to date. [13456]

**Mr. Touhig:** The Fire Study 2000 recommendations are the subject of an ongoing implementation programme. It is planned to introduce a single, fully integrated and regionally based structure for the delivery of fire services, in line with Fire Study 2000, by the end of September 2006, and this has been accompanied by a review of the delivery of training at national, regional and local level and a rationalisation of vehicle and equipment requirements. As also recommended by Fire Study 2000, the introduction of specialist sponsored reserves for overseas deployments is also being developed.

### Headquarters Land

**Robert Key:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on progress on the co-location of headquarters land. [11563]

**Mr. Ingram:** Work to rationalise and collocate HQ land command (currently based in Wilton) and HQ Adjutant General (currently based in Upavon) is ongoing. A review of the higher level organisations is underway and in parallel, a detailed cost/benefit analysis is being carried out on a number of site options. By the end of the year we expect to be reasonably clear about the size and structure of the new organisation(s). Sites currently under consideration are all within the travel to work area for most existing staff. Any significant collocation is unlikely to commence much before 2007, but if a major new build is required, moves may extend well beyond 2008.

### Health and Safety

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans his Department has to monitor the prevalence of noise-related hearing loss among servicemen and women serving in Iraq. [13578]

**Mr. Touhig:** There are currently no specific measures in place to monitor the prevalence of noise related hearing loss among servicemen and women serving in Iraq. However hearing tests of all service personnel are carried out at periodic medical examinations.

### Iraq

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions he has had with the Iraqi government on testing for Iraqi citizens who have been exposed to depleted uranium ammunition deployed by the UK in Iraq. [13670]

**Mr. Touhig:** None. However, Ministry of Defence officials are attending United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) seminars at which depleted uranium (DU) matters, including environmental monitoring and sampling techniques are discussed with Iraqi representatives.

### Japanese Internees

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he will apologise to Professor Jack Hayward and others for the distress caused by maladministration in the development and announcement of the ex gratia scheme for British groups interned by the Japanese during the Second World War; and what tangible options are under consideration for the expression of that apology. [13498]

**Mr. Touhig** *[holding answer 19 July 2005]:* I made a public apology to Professor Hayward and those similarly affected by the way the scheme was introduced in my written statement on 13 July 2005, *Official Report*, columns 28–29WS. The possibility of giving tangible expression to this apology is currently under consideration; the options under consideration are financial. I expect to be able to make an announcement soon.

### Management Consultants

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his Department's total spending on management consultants has been in each of the last three years. [13058]

**Mr. Touhig:** MOD expenditure on External Assistance (EA), broken down into separate categories, is available in the Library of the House for financial years 1995–96 to 2003–04. Figures for financial year 2004–05 will be placed in the Libraries shortly.

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the total expenditure saved in each of the last three years as a result of implementing recommendations by management consultancies within his Department. [13627]

**Mr. Touhig:** This information is not held centrally in the form requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Royal Navy Ships

**Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Royal Navy ships have been *(a)* decommissioned and *(b)* mothballed in each of the last 10 years. [13047]

**Mr. Ingram:** Since 1996 the number of Royal Navy ships either withdrawn from service or placed into very low readiness (other than for purposes of major refit) are as follows:

| | *Withdrawn from service* | *Placed into very low readiness (excluding for refit)* |
|---|---|---|
| 1996 | 3 | 0 |
| 1997 | 8 | 0 |
| 1998 | 4 | 0 |
| 1999 | 4 | 2 |
| 2000 | 4 | 0 |
| 2001 | 6 | 0 |
| 2002 | 5 | 1 |
| 2003 | 3 | 2 |
| 2004 | 2 | 0 |
| 2005 | 8 | 0 |

During the remainder of 2005 it is planned that a further four ships will be withdrawn from service and one ship will be placed into very low readiness. Vessels are routinely placed into very low readiness when undergoing major refit work. Therefore, only those ships that have been placed into very low readiness but which did not undergo refit have been included in the table. Vessels held in very low readiness remain available to the Royal Navy until reaching their out of service date and could be regenerated to the Fleet if required.

### Sollis Project

**Mike Gapes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the Sollis Project. [12857]

**Mr. Ingram:** To date, extensive searches of MOD records have found no reference to a Sollis Project.

### Sonar 2087

**Dr. Julian Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which vessels are due to be fitted with Sonar 2087; and by what dates. [13051]

**Mr. Ingram:** On current plans eight of the Royal Navy's Type 23 Frigates will be fitted with the 2087 sonar system. It has already been fitted to HMS Westminster and will be installed on the seven remaining vessels during their next available upkeep periods. The currently planned start dates for these upkeep periods, which are subject to periodic review, are:

| *Ship* | *Upkeep start date* |
|---|---|
| HMS Northumberland | Under way |
| HMS Richmond | Under way |
| HMS Somerset | April 2006 |
| HMS St. Albans | May 2007 |
| HMS Sutherland | July 2007 |
| HMS Kent | January 2010 |
| HMS Portland | November 2010 |

## Submarines

**Dr. Julian Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which *(a)* Trafalgar and *(b)* Swiftsure-class submarines are (i) operational and (ii) non-operational; and for what reasons each non-operational submarine is not available to the fleet. [13053]

**Mr. Ingram:** There are 11 Swiftsure and Trafalgar Class submarines of which nine are currently available for fleet tasking. HMS Sovereign, HMS Spartan, HMS Superb, HMS Trafalgar, HMS Turbulent, HMS Torbay and HMS Trenchant are all fully operational. HMS Tireless and HMS Sceptre, while available to the fleet, are at a lower state of availability. HMS Tireless is currently undergoing a period of planned maintenance that will include a significant capability upgrade to include fitting Tomahawk Land Attack Missiles (TLAM). HMS Sceptre will shortly start an equivalent maintenance and upgrade period.

Two submarines are currently non-operational. HMS Talent is undergoing a scheduled long overhaul period, which includes a refuel of her nuclear reactor. HMS Triumph is about to start her long overhaul period and refuel.

## Surveys

**Mr. Moore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the top four reasons provided in exit surveys in the *(a)* Naval Service and *(b)* Royal Air Force for personnel leaving were; and what proportion of responses these answers represented in each year since 1997. [8620]

**Mr. Touhig:** Exit surveys are conducted within the Naval Services and RAF but it should be noted that, except for RAF officers, as only a relatively small proportion of those choosing to leave respond to these surveys, their results cannot be seen as necessarily representative of their Services as a whole.

The information requested is given the following tables.

### *RN Ratings*

*April 1997 to February 1998*

| *Aspects crucial or important in the decision to leave* | | *Number* | *Percentage* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Ability to plan own life | 265 | 53.8 |
| 2 | Separation from family and friends | 237 | 48.1 |
| 3 | Promotion prospects | 223 | 45.2 |
| 4 | Job satisfaction | 154 | 31.2 |

*March 1998 to February 1999*

| *Main reason for the decision to leave (1st choice aspects)* | | *Number* | *Percentage* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Desire to live at home | 62 | 13 |
| 2 | Wish to take up a different career | 55 | 11.5 |
| 3 | Promotion prospects | 46 | 9.6 |
| 4 | To marry and raise a family | 45 | 9.4 |

*March 1999 to February 2000*

| *Main reason for the decision to leave (1st choice aspects)* | | *Number* | *Percentage* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Desire to live at home | 65 | 14.2 |
| 2 | Separation from family and friends | 61 | 13.3 |
| 3 | Wish to take up a different career | 56 | 12.2 |
| 4 | To marry and raise a family | 52 | 11.4 |

*March 2000 to February 2001*

| *Main reason for the decision to leave (1st choice aspects)* | | *Number* | *Percentage* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Desire to live at home | 87 | 17.2 |
| 2 | Wish to take up a different career | 70 | 13.8 |
| 3 | To marry/raise a family | 52 | 10.3 |
| 3 | Separation from family and friends | 52 | 10.2 |
| 3 | Job satisfaction | 52 | 10.2 |

*March 2001 to February 2002*

| *Main reason for the decision to leave (1st choice aspects)* | | *Number* | *Percentage* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Desire to live at home | 110 | 19.4 |
| 2 | Wish to take up a different career | 83 | 14.7 |
| 3 | To marry/raise a family | 65 | 11.5 |
| 4 | Separation from family and friends | 57 | 10.1 |

*March 2002 to February 2003*

| *Main reason for the decision to leave (1st choice aspects)* | | *Number* | *Percentage* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Desire to live at home | 124 | 23.7 |
| 2 | Wish to take up a different career | 103 | 19.7 |
| 3 | To marry/raise a family | 45 | 8.6 |
| 4 | Separation from family and friends | 29 | 5.5 |

*March 2003 to January 2004*

| *Main reason for the decision to leave (1st choice aspects)* | | *Number* | *Percentage* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Desire to live at home | 132 | 22.7 |
| 2 | Wish to take up a different career | 96 | 16.5 |
| 3 | To marry/raise a family | 65 | 11.2 |
| 4 | Separation from family and friends | 40 | 6.9 |

### *RN Officers*

*June 1997 to May 1998*

| *Aspects in decision to leave (in order of importance)* | | *Number* | *Percentage* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Job prospects if you were to remain | 78 | 53.1 |
| 2 | Kind of Service jobs to expect in the future | 76 | 51.7 |
| 3 | Extent of domestic disruption | 45 | 30.6 |
| 4 | Ability to plan your own life | 42 | 28.6 |

*June 1998 to May 1999*

| *1st choice aspects crucial or important in decision to leave* | | *Number* | *Percentage* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Kind of Service jobs to expect in the future | 14 | 11.8 |
| 2 | Job prospects if you were to remain | 12 | 10.1 |
| 3 | Wish to take up a different career | 12 | 10.1 |
| 4 | The desire to live at home | 12 | 10.1 |

*June 1999 to May 2000*

| Main reason crucial in the decision to leave (in order of importance) | | Number | Percentage |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Kind of Service jobs to expect in the future | 21 | 17.1 |
| 2 | Job prospects if you were to remain | 18 | 14.6 |
| 3 | Wish to take up a different career | 14 | 8.9 |
| 4 | Separation from family and friends | 6 | 4.9 |

*June 2000 to May 2001*

| Main (1st choice) reason crucial in the decision to leave | | Number | Percentage |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Wish to take up a different career | 30 | 17.2 |
| 2 | Job prospects if you were to remain | 24 | 13.8 |
| 3 | A job opportunity (offer of a job) | 13 | 7.5 |
| 4 | The desire to live at home | 13 | 7.5 |

*June 2001 to May 2002*

| Main (1st choice) reason crucial in the decision to leave | | Number | Percentage |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | A job opportunity (offer of a job) | 17 | 12.3 |
| 2 | Job prospects if you were to remain | 16 | 11.6 |
| 3 | The desire to live at home | 12 | 8.7 |
| 4 | The kind Service jobs in the future | 11 | 8 |

*June 2002 to May 2003*

| Main (1st choice) reason crucial in the decision to leave | | Number | Percentage |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | A job opportunity (offer of a job) | 15 | 10.8 |
| 2 | To marry/raise a family | 13 | 9.4 |
| 3 | Job prospects if you were to remain | 12 | 8.6 |
| 4 | Wish to take up a different career | 11 | 7.9 |
| 4 | The appointing process | 11 | 7.9 |
| 4 | Desire to live at home | 11 | 7.9 |

*June 2003 to May 2004*

| Main (1st choice) reason crucial in the decision to leave | | Number | Percentage |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Wish to take up a different career | 12 | 14.6 |
| 2 | A job opportunity (offer of a job) | 11 | 13.4 |
| 3 | Kind of Service jobs in the future | 7 | 8.5 |
| 3 | Wish to marry/raise a family | 7 | 8.5 |

## RM Other Ranks

*April 1997 to March 1998*

| Aspects crucial or important in the decision to leave | | Number | Percentage |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1st choice aspect | Pay in general | 26 | 17.3 |
| 2nd choice aspect | Promotion prospects | 17 | 11.7 |
| 3rd choice aspect | Promotion prospects | | |
| | Pay in general | 17 | 11.7 |
| 4th choice aspect | Drafting process | 15 | 10.8 |

*April 1998 to March 1999*

| Aspects crucial or important in the decision to leave | | Number | Percentage |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1st choice aspect | Wish to take up a different career | 22 | 14.9 |
| 2nd choice aspect | Desire to live at home | 19 | 12.8 |
| 3rd choice aspect | Wish to take up a different career | 15 | 10.2 |
| 4th choice aspect | Pay in general | 13 | 9.3 |

*May 2000 to April 2001*

| Main (1st choice) reason crucial in the decision to leave | | Number | Percentage |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Wish to take up a different career | 42 | 26.9 |
| 2 | Desire to live at home | 21 | 13 |
| 3 | Job satisfaction | 14 | 18.7 |
| 3 | Pay in general | 14 | 18.7 |
| 4 | To marry/raise a family | 8 | 4.97 |

*April 2001 to March 2002*

| Main (1st choice) reason crucial in the decision to leave | | Number | Percentage |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Wish to take up a different career | 41 | 23.7 |
| 2 | Desire to live at home | 24 | 13.9 |
| 3 | To marry/raise a family | 16 | 9.2 |
| 4 | Pay in general | 11 | 6.4 |

*May 2002 to April 2003*

| Main (1st choice) reason crucial in the decision to leave | | Number | Percentage |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Wish to take up a different career | 36 | 22.2 |
| 2 | To marry/raise a family | 23 | 14.2 |
| 3 | Desire to live at home | 18 | 11.1 |
| 4 | Pay in general | 13 | 8 |

*RAF Airmen's top four reasons for leaving on own decision 1998 to 2004 (no survey before 1998)*

| | 1998 | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| | | N = 399 |
| 1 | Promotion prospects | 28.3 |
| 2 | Lack of job satisfaction | 22.8 |
| 3 | If I stayed in any longer it would be difficult to start a second career | 16.0 |
| 4 | Promotion does not appear to be related to abilities | 14.3 |

| | 1999 | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| | | N = 717 |
| 1 | Promotion prospects | 22.5 |
| 2 | Lack of job satisfaction | 16.6 |
| 3 | If I stayed in any longer it would be difficult to start a second career | 14.6 |
| 4 | Family stability | 14.4 |

| | 2000 | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| | | N = 896 |
| 1 | Promotion prospects | 23.4 |
| 2 | Lack of job satisfaction | 19.9 |
| 3 | Family stability | 15.7 |
| 4 | If I stayed in any longer it would be difficult to start a second career | 15.3 |

| | | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| | 2001 | N = 769 |
| 1 | Promotion prospects | 17.3 |
| 2 | Lack of job satisfaction | 16.6 |
| 3 | If I stayed in any longer it would be difficult to start a second career | 15.5 |
| 4 | Family stability | 15.3 |

| | 2002 | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| | | N = 774 |
| 1 | Lack of job satisfaction (1=) | 18.5 |
| 2 | Family stability (1=) | 18.5 |
| 3 | If I stayed in any longer it would be difficult to start a second career | 17.1 |
| 4 | Promotion prospects | 16.9 |

| | 2003 | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| | | N = 697 |
| 1 | Family stability | 20.7 |
| 2 | Lack of job satisfaction | 19.9 |
| 3 | Promotion prospects | 15.2 |
| 4 | If I stayed in any longer it would be difficult to start a second career | 15.1 |

| | 2004 | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| | | N = 542 |
| 1 | Lack of job satisfaction | 26.2 |
| 2 | Service morale | 21.6 |
| 3 | Family stability | 20.8 |
| 4 | If I stayed in any longer it would be difficult to start a second career | 20.7 |

*RAF Officers top four reasons for leaving 1996 to 2004*

| | 1996–97 (n=173) | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Employment opportunities outside the RAF | 80.3 (n=139) |
| 2 | Career prospects outside the RAF | 72.3 (n=125) |
| 3 | Job satisfaction | 66.5 (n=115) |
| 4 | The impact of change on the RAF | 64.8 (n=112) |

| | 1997–98 (n=249) | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Employment opportunities outside the RAF | 74.7 (n=186) |
| 2 | Service morale | 68.3 (n=170) |
| 3 | Career prospects outside the RAF | 67.9 (n=169) |
| 4 | Future of the RAF | 65.5 (n=163) |

| | 1998–99 (n=228) | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Employment opportunities outside the RAF | 75.4 (n=172) |
| 2 | The effects of civilianisation and contractorisation on the RAF | 67.1 (n=153) |
| 3 | Career prospects outside the RAF | 66.7 (n=152) |
| 4 | Service morale | 65.4 (n=149) |

| | 1999–2000 (n=276) | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Employment opportunities outside the RAF | 72.5 (n=200) |
| 2 | Job satisfaction | 66.6 (n=184) |
| 3 | Career prospects outside the RAF | 63.1 (n=174) |
| 4 | Service morale | 62.7 (n=173) |

| | 2000–01 (n=262) | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Future job satisfaction | 71.8 (n=188) |
| 2 | Employment opportunities outside the RAF | 71.0 (n=186) |
| 3 | Career prospects outside the RAF | 66.1 (n=173) |
| 4 | Current job satisfaction | 62.6 (n=164) |

| | 2001–02 (n=196) | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Future job satisfaction | 77.0 (n=151) |
| 2 | Employment opportunities outside the RAF | 66.3 (n=130) |
| 3 | Family stability | 62.8 (n=123) |
| 4 | Promotion prospects | 61.7 (n=121) |

| | 2002–03 (n=184) | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Future job satisfaction | 78.3 (n=144) |
| 2 | Family stability | 66.3 (n=122) |
| 3 | Separation from family | 64.7 (n=119) |
| 4 | Employment opportunities outside the RAF | 62.0 (n=114) |

| | 2003–04 (n=180)[1] | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Family stability | 81.3 (n=122) |
| 2 | To spend more time with my family | 81.2 (n=121) |
| 3 | Employment opportunities outside the RAF | 79.2 (n=122) |
| 4 | Career prospects outside the RAF | 78.1 (n=121) |

[1] Percentages for 2003–04 responses include only those individuals who answered an individual item, not for the whole response rate. Responses for 1996 to 2003, however are for the whole response rate.

## TA Deployment

**Ann Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the minimum qualification is for a Territorial Army private soldier to be called up for deployment. [12681]

**Mr. Touhig:** All Territorial Army (TA) personnel currently called up for deployments must be at least 18 years of age and have completed Phase 1 and Phase 2 training. Upon mobilisation, all soldiers receive health checks and additional preparation and training for 10 days at the Reserves Training and Mobilisation Centre (RTMC), before attending five days further pre-deployment training, designed specifically for the theatre to which they are deploying, at the Operational Training Advisory Group (OPTAG). Provided all training and medical standards have been met, soldiers are deemed fit to deploy to theatres and at this stage the majority will join a regular unit, for up to two months prior to deployment, where they will undergo further integration and training.

## Type 45 Destroyers

**Dr. Julian Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what the planned in-service date will be for each Type 45 Destroyer; [12662]

(2) whether it remains his intention that eight Type 45 Destroyers will be built; [12660]

(3) when each of the remaining Type 45 Destroyers will be ordered. [12661]

**Mr. Ingram:** In July 2004 the Secretary of State for Defence announced plans for a class of eight Type 45 Destroyers, of which six hulls are on contract. Formal approval, and a subsequent order, for ships seven and eight will be sought at the appropriate time. The currently forecast In Service Date (ISD) for the First of Class, HMS Daring, is May 2009. The remaining five ships are planned to enter service at intervals over a four year period following the First of Class ISD.

## War Graves

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many UK war graves there are in *(a)* Singapore, *(b)* Malaysia, *(c)* Hong Kong, *(d)* Burma, *(e)* India, *(f)* Pakistan and *(g)* Thailand; what the cost was of the upkeep (i) in each country and (ii) per grave in each of the last five years; and when each site was last inspected. [13002]

**Mr. Touhig:** The following table shows the Commonwealth War Graves Commission's (CWGC) figures for the number of United Kingdom (UK) world war and non world war graves for each country listed and the date when each site was last inspected.

| *Country* | *World war graves* | *Non world war graves* | *Last CWGC inspection*[1] |
|---|---|---|---|
| Singapore | 2,729 | 1,385 | June 2005 |
| Malaysia | 1,531 | 2,428 | October 2004 |
| Hong Kong | 1,842 | 3,007 | September 2004 |
| Myanmar (Burma) | 7,311 | — | April 2005 |
| India | 7,484 | 200 | March 2005 |
| Pakistan | 834 | — | April 2005 |
| Thailand | 5,129 | 1 | February 2005 |

[1] The dates shown are those when each site was last inspected by CWGC staff. They do not include visits which may have been made by UK Government representatives.

The CWGC does not hold upkeep costs or costs per grave for each country. However, the world wide figures for the upkeep costs per grave in each of the last five years are as follows:

£

| | *Cost* |
|---|---|
| 2000–01 | 27.57 |
| 2001–02 | 28.09 |
| 2002–03 | 30.31 |
| 2003–04 | 32.00 |
| 2004–05 | 34.63 |

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many people work for the War Graves Commission in *(a)* Europe, *(b)* Asia and *(c)* the Middle East. [13003]

**Mr. Touhig:** The number of people who work for the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) is in the region of 945 in Europe, 135 in Asia and 52 in the Middle East.

The figure for Europe includes CWGC staff based in the United Kingdom but who travel extensively in other parts of the world. The figures do not include the work undertaken by contract staff.

# CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

## British Library

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the total cost of consultants employed by the British Library was in each of the past five years. [12097]

**Mr. Lammy:** The total cost of consultants employed by the British Library in the last five years is as follows:

| | *Total value of consultancy contracts let (£) per year* |
|---|---|
| 2000–01 | 435,000 |
| 2001–02 | 623,000 |
| 2002–03 | 529,000 |
| 2003–04 | 259,000 |
| 2004–05 | 546,000 |

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the average length of contracts awarded to consultants at the British Library was in each of the past five years. [12098]

**Mr. Lammy:** The average length of contracts awarded to consultants by the British Library in the last five years is as follows:

| | *Average duration of consultancy contracts (months)* |
|---|---|
| 2000–01 | 7.4 |
| 2001–02 | 3.1 |
| 2002–03 | 5.8 |
| 2003–04 | 5.5 |
| 2004–05 | 5.1 |

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many consultants have become permanent members of staff of the British Library following the end of their contract in each of the last five years. [12099]

**Mr. Lammy:** So far as the British Library is aware, no consultants have become permanent members of staff of the British Library following the end of their contract over the past five years.

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment she has made of the added value made to the British Library by consultants employed by them in each of the past five years. [12100]

**Mr. Lammy:** The Department has made no assessment of the added value made to the British Library by consultants employed by them over the past five years. Under the terms of its financial memorandum, it is the Library's responsibility to ensure best value for money from consultancy services.

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many members of staff are employed by the British Library in *(a)* Boston Spa, *(b)* St. Pancras and *(c)* Colindale. [12101]

**Mr. Lammy:** The members of staff employed by the British Library are as follows:

| *Location* | *Headcount* | *Full time equivalent* |
|---|---|---|
| St. Pancras | 1,112 | 1,011.3 |
| Boston Spa | 1,045 | 944.98 |
| Colindale | 109 | 107.4 |
| Other sites | 79 | 75.66 |
| Total | 2,345 | 2,139.34 |

### National Lottery

**Mr. Prisk:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which village halls and community centres have benefited from Lottery funding in the Hertford and Stortford constituency since 1997. [12767]

**Mr. Caborn:** Since 1997, Lottery distributors have made 204 awards totalling more than £8.4 million in the Hertford and Stortford constituency.

13 of these awards, between them totalling more than £215,000, were made by the former Community Fund (now part of the Big Lottery Fund) to the following village halls and community centres:

Bengeo Sports Association

Hunsdon Village Hall

Little Berkhamsted Parish Council

Much Hadham Parochial Church Council

Parish Hall, Stansted Abbotts

Sawbridgeworth Memorial Hall

The Eastwick and Gilston Village Hall

The High Wych Memorial Hall (three awards)

Thorley Community Centre Limited

Wareside Village Hall

Widford Village Hall

The Heritage Lottery Fund also awarded a grant to Church House, Sawbridgeworth, for the purpose of providing a meeting room for community use.

Further Lottery awards have been made by other distributors, including Arts Council England and Sport England for eligible activities taking place within community buildings.

### Olympics 2012

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the implications are of the successful bid to hold the 2012 Olympic Games in London for the *(a)* workload and *(b)* staffing levels of her Department. [11676]

**Tessa Jowell:** We have already undertaken detailed planning on the resources needed to successfully deliver the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. A transitional Organising Committee are already in place and an Olympic Delivery Authority will be established as part of the London Olympics Bill.

Within Government, the OGC are advising on the additional resources required to ensure Government will fulfil their obligations and delivers the commitments given.

**Dr. Cable:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assurances the Government have given to the International Olympic Committee of financial guarantees for the London Olympics in the event of cost overruns. [11895]

**Tessa Jowell** *[holding answer 13 July 2005]:* London's bid underwent rigorous assessment by the International Olympic Committee, Treasury and the Office of Government Commerce. The Government remains committed to ensuring the 2012 Games are delivered on time and on budget.

As part of the bidding process we have provided the International Olympic Committee with a guarantee that:

"the Government will act as the ultimate guarantor of Olympic funding should there be a shortfall between the LOCOG's (London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games) costs and revenues".

Copies of the guarantees given by the Government to the International Olympic Committee were deposited in the House Libraries on 19 November 2004.

### Young People (Summer Activities)

**Tony Baldry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 11 July 2005, *Official Report*, columns 550–51, to the hon. Member for Worsley (Barbara Keeley), on young people (summer activities), if she will list the programmes of summer activities for young people that her Department intends to fund during the summer holidays. [12751]

**Mr. Caborn** *[holding answer 14 July 2005]:* My Department supports a number of activities funded across Government, our public bodies and by the Big Lottery Fund which will deliver a range of sporting and cultural opportunities for young people this summer. There are two main national programmes:

Positive Activities for Young People—with Department for Education and Skills, Youth Justice Board, ODPM, Government Offices and the Big Lottery Fund and

Do it For Real—run by the Big Lottery Fund

In addition there will be a wide range of local opportunities for young people supported by our public bodies and local authorities :

Many Museums will providing summer schools, festivals and other projects

Libraries will once again be running the summer reading challenge and other events.

Sport England will be supporting local clubs and projects such as the Street Games in London and the North East.

Art Council England will be supporting local arts clubs activity.

### Youth Development Sport Schemes

**Dr. Kumar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what support her Department is giving to sporting schemes and youth development through sport in *(a)* Teesside and *(b)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency. [12955]

**Mr. Caborn:** This data are not held centrally in the format requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The PE, School Sport and Club Links (PESSCL) national strategy—being implemented jointly with the Department for Education and Skills—aims to increase the percentage of five to16-year-olds in England spending two hours each week on high quality PE and school sport within and beyond the curriculum, to 75 per cent. by 2006, and to 85 per cent. by 2008. The 2003–04 school sports survey—the largest and most comprehensive survey of school sport in England—found that overall 62 per cent. of pupils in the 6,500 schools taking part in the survey were already spending at least two hours a week on high quality PE and school sport in a typical week.

Spearheading action is the establishment of a network of 400 sports colleges and school sport partnerships. To date there are six live school sport partnerships (SSPs) in Teesside. This includes two in Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland. SSPs are 'families of secondary and primary schools' which come together to increase the amount and quality of sports opportunities for all children.

## DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

### Airwave System

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will publish the evaluation he has made of the Airwave system in advance of a decision on Firelink. [13664]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister is still engaged in the Firelink procurement and does not propose to release evaluation considerations because of the commercial sensitivity of the information.

### Civil Service

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will set out the remit and membership of the Sustainable Procurement Task Force. [13529]

**Mr. Morley:** I have been asked to reply.

Established in May 2005, the Sustainable Procurement Task Force is charged with drawing up an action plan by April 2006 to bring about a step-change in sustainable public procurement so that the UK is among the leaders in the EU by 2009.

The Action Plan will set out how to:

Avoid adverse environmental impacts arising on the government estate and in the supply-chain.

Make more efficient use of public resources.

Stimulate the market to innovate and to produce more cost effective and sustainable options for all purchasers.

Set an example for business and the public and demonstrate that government and the wider public sector is serious about sustainable development.

The Task Force is business led under the chairmanship of Sir Neville Simms but the membership of the group has been chosen to bring in a wide cross-section of expertise. Further information about the Sustainable Procurement Task Force can be found at: www.sustainable-development.gov.uk/delivery/global-local/ProcurementTaskForce.htm

### Consultants

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what his Department's total spending on management consultants has been in each of the last three years. [13155]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister was formed in May 2002. The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what estimate he has made of the total expenditure saved in each of the last three years as a result of implementing recommendations by management consultancies within his Department. [13621]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Council Tax

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether occupied Crown property is exempt from council tax. [11984]

**Mr. Woolas:** The largest class of dwellings owned by the Crown is armed forces' accommodation. This is exempt from council tax under section 4 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992. The Ministry of Defence pays contributions in lieu of council tax to billing authorities instead. The Local Government Finance Act 1992 applies to other occupied Crown owned property in the same way as it does to other domestic accommodation.

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what definition of *(a)* composite hereditament and *(b)* hereditament is used for council tax purposes. [11985]

**Mr. Woolas:** For council tax purposes, the definition of a composite hereditament which is used is that contained in Part III of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 and the definition of a hereditament which is used is that in section 115(1) of the General Rate Act 1967, if that Act had remained in force.

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what the penalties are for non-payment of council tax. [12002]

**Mr. Woolas:** If the appropriate reminder notices have been sent and a debt remains unpaid, a local billing authority may apply to the magistrates court for a Liability Order which formally establishes that there is a debt. The Liability Order enables enforcement action to be taken.

Local authorities have a wide range of enforcement powers, including attachment of earnings orders, deductions from some benefits, the levying of distress by bailiffs and, ultimately, where the billing authority has sought to levy distress and has failed to find any or sufficient goods on which to levy the amount, if the non-payment is due to wilful refusal or culpable neglect on the part of the council taxpayer, application to the magistrates court for commitment to prison.

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister pursuant to the answer of 5 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 298W, on council tax, what the percentage second homes council tax discount levied by the local authorities that cover his official residences at *(a)* Admiralty House and *(b)* Dorneywood is. [12031]

**Jim Fitzpatrick** *[holding answer 14 July 2005]:* The council tax on the flat at Admiralty House occupied by my right hon. Friend the Deputy Prime Minister is levied by the Westminster city council. The second home discount on council tax is 10 per cent.

Dorneywood is owned and operated by the Dorneywood Trust which is a registered charity and is not accountable to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister.

### Council Tax/Business Rates

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister under what circumstances Travellers in unauthorised developments may be liable for business rates; and if he will make a statement. [11390]

**Mr. Woolas:** Liability for non-domestic rates falls on a person—the ratepayer—who is in occupation of all or part of a hereditament that is shown in a local non-domestic rating list, whether or not the hereditament forms part of an unauthorised development. Whether Travellers are liable for non-domestic rates will depend on the facts of the particular case.

### Departmental Purchasing

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will list the companies from which his Department has purchased goods and services of a total value above £1 million in each of the last three years; and how much was spent in respect of each company. [11734]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister was formed in May 2002. For financial year 2002–03 it is not possible to provide an accurate list of companies with whom the Department has purchased goods and services with a value above £1,000,000 as expenditure in 2002–03 for ODPM suppliers cannot be separately identified from expenditure incurred by the Department for Transport on their suppliers. For 2003–04 and 2004–05 a table of those companies with whom the Department has purchased goods and services with a value above £1,000,000 has been provided as follows.

| | *Company* | £ |
|---|---|---|
| *2003–04* | | |
| 424050 | Marshall Specialist Vehicles Ltd. | 23,574,253.63 |
| 408530 | Land Securities Properties Ltd. | 14,552,163.81 |
| 411628 | Fire Service College | 13,146,005.84 |
| 416615 | Professional Protection Systems | 11,421,687.44 |
| 423422 | Ashdown House Ltd. | 7,340,359.75 |
| 407504 | Building Research Establishment | 4,828,502.30 |
| 408972 | Westminster City Council | 4,785,817.29 |
| 412271 | Carat Ltd. | 4,296,512.59 |
| 409389 | Regus (UK) Ltd. | 4,216,376.86 |
| 3355 | BNFL Plc Instruments | 4,037,096.32 |
| 408427 | Sheffield University | 3,555,081.10 |
| 416726 | Respirex International | 3,426,755.39 |
| 3406 | Balfour Kilpatrick Ltd. | 3,423,174.50 |
| 407762 | Capgemini UK Plc | 3,085,533.11 |
| 425676 | E2V Technologies (UK) Ltd. | 2,643,750.00 |
| 409018 | Mott Macdonald | 2,602,363.33 |
| 409038 | Xansa Recruitment Ltd. | 2,137,730.49 |
| 407765 | Capgemini UK Plc | 2,085,871.19 |
| 403552 | Healey & Baker | 1,997,024.75 |
| 414802 | West Yorkshire Police Authority | 1,916,859.53 |
| 409231 | P A Consulting Group | 1,844,801.61 |
| 416708 | Hughes Safety Showers Ltd. | 1,718,855.36 |
| 412310 | London Fire & Emergency Planning | 1,713,874.94 |
| 404870 | Miller Mitchell Burley Lane | 1,478,481.00 |
| 407423 | Adecco | 1,463,587.79 |
| 3130 | Siemens Environmental Systems Ltd. | 1,432,301.57 |
| 414946 | Thames Valley Police | 1,362,991.44 |
| 413647 | Marchington Properties Ltd. | 1,335,004.68 |
| 401968 | Computacenter (UK) Ltd. | 1,331,393.34 |
| 407359 | West Midlands Police Authority | 1,207,870.80 |
| 3031 | Dalkia Energy & Technical Servs | 1,199,643.75 |
| 405007 | National Centre for Social Research | 1,190,735.50 |
| 403506 | Harry Weeks Travel & Leisure Group | 1,074,660.50 |
| 403390 | Greater Manchester Police | 1,068,703.78 |
| 404144 | Kent Police Authority | 1,039,386.76 |
| 3146 | British Nuclear Fuels | 1,025,024.48 |
| *2004–05* | | |
| 424050 | Marshall Specialist Vehicles Ltd. | 25,362,102.22 |
| 408530 | Land Securities Properties Ltd. | 14,711,250.00 |
| 411628 | Fire Service College | 14,228,804.48 |
| 423422 | Ashdown House Ltd. | 9,336,797.00 |
| 409231 | P A Consulting Group | 8,042,674.63 |
| 417823 | Sheffield Hallam University | 5,945,155.64 |
| 408972 | Westminster City Council | 5,147,389.51 |
| 428249 | Mitie Managed Services Southern | 5,145,799.42 |
| 412271 | Carat Ltd. | 4,445,960.80 |
| 407504 | Building Research Establishment | 4,293,235.19 |
| 417011 | National Transcommunications Ltd. | 4,199,412.00 |
| 409389 | Regus (UK) Ltd. | 3,152,920.10 |
| 427555 | Scout Solutions Projects Ltd. | 3,126,204.88 |
| 402805 | Employers Org For Local Government | 2,986,288.87 |
| 425676 | E2V Technologies (UK) Ltd. | 2,643,750.00 |
| 409018 | Mott Macdonald | 2,625,283.72 |
| 424311 | Serco Government Consulting | 2,328,000.14 |
| 405758 | Public Private Partnerships Programme | 2,207,788.44 |
| 3355 | BNFL Plc Instruments | 2,072,820.75 |
| 404870 | Miller Mitchell Burley Lane | 1,645,621.66 |
| 416726 | Respirex International | 1,568,366.45 |
| 401968 | Computacenter (UK) Ltd. | 1,562,105.49 |
| 402559 | Fabermaunsell | 1,418,256.01 |
| 416705 | Aire Group Ltd. | 1,395,866.48 |
| 407423 | Adecco | 1,370,821.38 |
| 403506 | Harry Weeks Travel & Leisure Group | 1,324,644.07 |
| 409349 | R T P I | 1,258,944.79 |
| 428057 | 7E Communications Ltd. | 1,230,589.62 |
| 403750 | IBM UK Ltd. | 1,216,655.58 |
| 412310 | London Fire & Emergency Planning | 1,205,999.74 |
| 406303 | SQW Ltd. | 1,205,929.41 |
| 405007 | National Centre For Social Research | 1,183,601.33 |
| 425406 | Robson Brown Ltd. | 1,165,734.88 |
| 403803 | Improvement & Development Agency | 1,132,169.83 |
| 428535 | Grayling UK Ltd. | 1,321,425.26 |
| 403458 | Kellogg Brown & Root Ltd. | 1,109,127.00 |
| 428175 | DTZ Debenham Tie Leung | 1,074,730.01 |
| 408757 | Turner & Townsend (13426542) | 1,048,666.88 |

### Fire Service

**Mr. Lidington:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister on what evidence the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, the hon. Member for Poplar and Canning Town (Jim Fitzpatrick), based the comment in his letter of 1 July to all hon. Members that *(a)* the Chief Fire Officers' Association and *(b)* the Local Government Association support the Government's plans to regionalise fire control rooms; and if he will make a statement. [12441]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Chief Fire Officers' Association policy document, "CFOA Position on Regional Control Centres" of April 2005 expresses the organisation's support for the project (on http://www.cfoa.org.uk/cfoa_public). CFOA and the Local Government Association have expressed their support as "critical friends" of the project through membership of the project board, when briefing Regional Management Boards, and at other meetings.

**Mr. Fallon:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what estimate he has made of the total cost of establishing the proposed regional Fire Control Centre for south-east England. [4934]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** Figures for the south-east only are not currently available, as the business case for the FiReControl project currently exists only at a national level. The estimated total net cost of setting up the new control centres across England is about £72 million. RCCs, once fully operational, should reduce running costs by 30 per cent.

The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister is working closely with Fire and Rescue Authorities to provide more detailed information on both costs and benefits at local level.

**Mr. Galloway:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister (1) what assessment he has made of the impact of the recent cuts in the number of fire engines at Euston and Bethnal Green and the closure of Manchester Square fire station on the ability of the fire service to respond to the events of 7 July; and if he will make a statement; [12868]

(2) if he will reverse the recent reductions in fire cover in central London following the events of 7 July; and if he will make a statement. [12869]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** I discussed these matters with the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority (LFEPA) on Friday 8 July. I am advised that the London Fire Brigade's Integrated Risk Management Plan (the London Safety Plan) specifically addresses the question of maintaining resilience to deal with major acts of terrorism or other catastrophic emergencies. Fire engines are being redeployed to other stations rather than withdrawn from service and they remain available to provide support on incidents such as those on 7 July.

The authority assured both my right hon. Friend the Deputy Prime Minister and me that their planning—including recent changes to the location of fire engines and the significant Government investment in new specialist vehicles, equipment and training—have proved up to the task.

Each fire and rescue authority's arrangements are the responsibility of the elected members of the authority concerned. It is, therefore, for LFEPA to determine appropriate fire cover for its area.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister when he expects to conclude the procurement process for Firelink. [13653]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister expects to award the Firelink contract in November 2005.

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will list representations he has received on the Firelink Project. [11596]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** Various members have written with questions about the Firelink procurement. Responses to these questions have been recorded in the *Official Report*. Since the National competition was announced my predecessors and I have received representations from hon. Members of this House on behalf of constituents and from a number of potential suppliers. The Government are committed to run a fair and open competition for Firelink in accordance with EU requirements. The decision as to which company will be awarded the contract will be made within the rules of the competition.

### Group 4 Securicor

**Mr. Henderson:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how much was spent by his Department and any public body or agency for which he is responsible on security contracts with Group 4 Securicor in the past year; and if he will list *(a)* the nature and location of services provided and *(b)* the start and end dates of any current such contracts. [13468]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister has no contracts with Group 4 Securicor to provide security services.

### Gypsy/Traveller Sites

**Julie Morgan:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will list the Gypsy and Traveller sites that have benefited from a refurbishment grant since the scheme was introduced, broken down by *(a)* date, *(b)* cost, *(c)* number of pitches and *(d)* estimated number of individuals expected to reside there. [12739]

**Yvette Cooper:** Information which lists the authorities awarded Gypsy Site Refurbishment grant, their sites, the amount of grant awarded and the year in which grant was paid has been placed in the Library of the House. This year's grant has not yet been announced.

The published caravan count holds information on the number of pitches on authority sites and is available in the Library of the House.

The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister does not hold information on the estimated number of people expected to reside on each site.

### Press Officers

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many press officers the Department and its predecessors employed in each year since 1997; and what the cost was in each year. [8133]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister was created on 29 May 2002.

On 1 April 2003, ODPM*(c)* employed 21.8 full-time equivalent (FTE) press officers. Pay costs for the period 1 June 2002 to 31 March 2003 were £0.86 million.

On 1 April 2004, 23 FTE press officers were employed. Pay costs for the period 1 April 2003 to 31 March 2004 were £1.036 million.

On 1 April 2005, 20 FTE press officers were employed. Pay costs for the period 1 April 2004 to 31 March 2005 were £1.059 million.

Figures for years prior to the creation of ODPM are not available.

### Regional Emergency Control Centres

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what role chief fire officers will have in signing off the safety case for the introduction of regional emergency control centres; and if he will make a statement. [13665]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Chief Fire Officers Association (CFOA) is working closely with the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister to ensure that the project will achieve its aim of improving public and firefighter safety. Its representative chairs the project's Senior Operations Group, which comprises officers at Principal and Chief

Officer level. CFOA was fully engaged in drawing up the fire safety and protection strategy for the new control centres, set out in their circular 2005/1068 issued on 7 July.

### Regional Housing Boards

**Mr. Betts:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what the recommended investment strategy is for each regional housing board for 2006 to 2008. [13517]

**Yvette Cooper:** The submissions setting out recommendations on the allocation of Regional Housing Pot resources for 2006–07 and 2007–08 are, or will shortly be, available on Regional Housing Board or Government Office websites. The Government will set out its response in due course.

### Standards Board for England

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what recompense for legal costs is available to individuals investigated by the Standards Board for England; and if he will make a statement. [12204]

**Mr. Woolas:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to my hon. Friend the Member for Hendon (Mr. Dismore) on 6 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 409W.

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many complaints investigated by the Standards Board for England in each of the past three years have related to elected councillors. [12248]

**Mr. Woolas:** The Standards Board for England can consider allegations of misconduct against elected or co-opted members of relevant authorities. Its records do not differentiate between these types of members.

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many complaints to the Standards Board for England about *(a)* Labour, *(b)* Conservative, *(c)* Liberal Democrat, *(d)* Independent and *(e)* other parties' councillors have been (i) referred for investigation and (ii) found to be in breach of the board's code of conduct. [12263]

**Mr. Woolas:** The Standards Board for England does not record information regarding the political affiliation of councillors who are the subject of allegations of misconduct.

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether his Department has undertaken research into the average cost of defending oneself in an investigation undertaken by the Standards Board for England. [12272]

**Mr. Woolas:** The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister has undertaken no such research.

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many people the Standards Board for England employs; and in what capacity each person is employed. [12273]

**Mr. Woolas:** Information on the number of staff employed by the Standards Board for England and which Departments they work in is provided in the board's annual report and accounts, a copy of which is available in the Library of the House.

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many people are eligible for investigation by the Standards Board for England. [12282]

**Mr. Woolas:** The code of conduct for members, alleged breaches of which are investigated by officers of the Standards Board for England, applies to over 100,000 members of local authorities, including parish councils, and of other public bodies, such as national park authorities, the Broads Authority, fire and civil defence authorities, police authorities, and passenger transport authorities.

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what proportion of complaints made to the Standards Board for England have been about *(a)* elected representatives, *(b)* members of police authorities, *(c)* members of fire authorities, *(d)* members of park authorities and *(e)* members of the Broads Authority in each of the past four years. [12283]

**Mr. Woolas:** Information on the proportion of allegations of misconduct received each year by the Standards Board for England relating to members of police authorities, fire and civil defence authorities, national park authorities and the Broads Authority is given as follows. The board's records do not distinguish between allegations made in respect of elected and co-opted members.

*2002–03*

Members of police authorities: 0.3 per cent. of total number of allegations

Members of fire and civil defence authorities: 0.1 per cent.

Members of national park authorities and Broads Authority: 0.2 per cent.

*2003–04*

Members of police authorities: 0.2 per cent. of total number of allegations

Members of fire and civil defence authorities: 0.2 per cent.

Members of national park authorities and Broads Authority: 0.3 per cent.

*2004–05*

Members of police authorities: 1.2 per cent. of total number of allegations

Members of fire and civil defence authorities: 0.2 per cent.

Members of national park authorities and Broads Authority: 0.1 per cent.

The board does not keep separate records of the numbers of allegations received in respect of members of national park authorities and the Broads Authority, so combined figures are given for these bodies.

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what the average time was for a case referred to the Standards Board for England to be resolved in each year since its inception. [12291]

**Mr. Woolas:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to my hon. Friend the Member for Hendon (Mr. Dismore) on 6 June 2005, *Official Report*, columns 407–08W.

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what training investigating officers in the Standards Board for England receive in local government before starting employment; and how long such training lasts. [12292]

**Mr. Woolas:** Training provided for staff in the Standards Board for England's investigations Department consists of a six-week induction programme, part of which focuses on the structure and functions of local government and on how decisions are taken in local authorities. The board also provides training seminars and investigative skills training as part of its professional development programme. All staff are included in continuing professional development, which includes a regular assessment of training needs and the provision of training as appropriate.

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what proportion of investigations officers employed by the Standards Board for England have previously worked in local government. [12293]

**Mr. Woolas:** Of the staff currently employed by the Standards Board for England who investigate allegations of misconduct, 65 per cent. have experience of working in local government.

### Thurrock Development Corporation

**Andrew Mackinlay:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister (1) what the total cost has been of the Thurrock Development Corporation; and if he will make a statement; [12498]

(2) when the chief executive of the Thurrock Development Corporation was appointed; when he took up his appointment; and if he will make a statement; [12499]

(3) on what date the Thurrock Development Corporation opened an office in Thurrock; and what the reasons are for the delay in opening this office; [12500]

(4) when he proposes to lay an Order transferring planning functions to the Thurrock Development Corporation; to what parliamentary procedure it will be subject; and if he will make a statement; [12501]

(5) if he will make a statement on the progress made since its inception by the Thurrock Urban Development Corporation; what key decisions it has taken; and what the timetable is for its future work programme. [12507]

**Yvette Cooper** *[holding answer 18 July 2005]:* The Thurrock Thames Gateway Development Corporation was established in October 2003. Since then the Corporation has focussed on the development of its strategic plans and strategies with particular emphasis on corporate governance, business planning, regeneration, development control and spatial land use issues. The Corporation has also worked with local and regional partners with respect to the preparation of a broad programme of capital interventions, which will kick start the regeneration and growth of the area. Funding for the Corporation's first capital project (a regional RSPB Visitors Centre at Rainham Marshes) was announced in June 2005.

The appointment of the chief executive was announced by the Corporation on 14 October 2004. He took up the post on 18 October 2004. To 31 March 2005, the total cost of setting up the Corporation was £1,321,927. An Order making the Corporation the local planning authority for strategic development will be laid before Parliament shortly under the negative resolution procedure. The acute lack of office accommodation in Thurrock has prevented the Corporation from establishing itself in the Thurrock area. However the organisation will be moving to their new offices in Thurrock (Gateway House, Purfleet) at the beginning of August 2005.

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS

### Afghanistan

**Linda Gilroy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will press the Afghan administration to take steps to prevent people associated with making substantial income from the narcotics trade in Afghanistan from participating in elections. [13334]

**Dr. Howells** *[holding answer 19 July 2005]:* The UK has suggested to the Joint Election Management Board (JEMB) and the UN that Parliamentary candidates be asked to make a specific statement confirming that they have no connections with the illegal drugs trade in Afghanistan.

Candidates for the Parliamentary and Provincial elections can only stand if they meet the criteria stipulated in article 85 of the Afghan Constitution, articles 14 and 15 of the Electoral Law or the JEMB regulations. The criteria include: being an Afghan citizen, having reached the required age, having resigned from his/her position as an electoral officer or senior government, security or justice official, not having been convicted of crimes against humanity or any other crime, not having been deprived of his/her civil rights by a court, not commanding or belonging to an unofficial armed group.

**Linda Gilroy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his Italian counterpart on the development of the justice sector in Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [13335]

**Dr. Howells** *[holding answer 19 July 2005]:* My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary held talks with the Italian Foreign Minister on 19 July.

The UK supports Italy's role as lead nation for justice sector reform in Afghanistan. We welcome Italy's newly launched three year action plan which will focus on judicial capacity building and which aims to train 1,500 people.

As lead nation on counter narcotics the UK is working in support of the Afghan government's 2005 implementation plan, of which criminal justice is a key pillar.

### Bill Sponsorship

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what Bills were sponsored by his Department in each Session since 1979. [10564]

**Mr. Straw** *[pursuant to the reply, 18 July 2005, Official Report, c. 1368W]:* I regret that the answer on 18 July 2005 was incomplete. The list of legislation for which the

Foreign and Commonwealth Office has been responsible since 1997 should also have included the Landmines Act 1998.

### Iraq

**Sir Menzies Campbell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the UK Government have been consulted by either party regarding Iran's proposed assistance with the training and upgrading of Iraq's armed forces; and if he will make a statement. [13205]

**Mr. Straw:** Our understanding is that Iran will not be training Iraqi armed forces. On 12 July, the Iraqi Defence Minister, Sa'dun al-Dulaymi said, in response to a journalist's question about the Iranian Defence Minister's claims that Iraq had agreed to Iranian training of Iraqi troops, that this had not been discussed between Iran and Iraq, adding that "we have 10 centres of training here in Iraq and we have the full capacity."

### Israel

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the extension of the nationality and entry into Israel law (temporary order) prohibiting residents or citizens of Israel who are married to residents of the occupied territories from living in Israel with their spouses was rescinded or amended at the review on 31 May 2005 of the citizenship and entrance to Israel law; and if he will make a statement. [13554]

**Dr. Howells:** On 15 May 2005 the Israeli Cabinet approved an amendment to the nationality and entry into Israel law, allowing men over the age of 35 and women over 25 to apply for immigration in the framework of family re-unification. The amendment has not yet passed the Knesset. On 30 May 2005 the Knesset extended the validity of the current law for a further three months.

We are concerned about this law and its effects, and we have raised these concerns with the Israeli Government. We will continue to monitor the situation with regard to this law.

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the Israeli Government on the *(a)* apprehension, *(b)* imprisonment and *(c)* current restrictions on Mordechai Vanunu; and if he will make a statement. [13656]

**Dr. Howells:** I refer my hon. Friend to the reply I gave to the hon. Member for West Worcestershire (Sir Michael Spicer) on 18 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 1372W.

### Palestine

**Dan Norris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what his latest assessment is of the measures the Palestinian Authority is taking to prevent terror attacks being launched against Israel; [13416]

(2) what his assessment is of compliance by Hamas with the cease-fire commitment it agreed with the Palestinian Authority in Cairo in March. [13417]

**Dr. Howells:** We are greatly concerned at the escalation of violence in Israel and the Occupied Territories since 12 July 2005. We note that the Palestinian Authority has taken some steps to prevent militants from firing rockets into Israel from Gaza. Palestinian security forces have suffered casualties in attempting to do so. We call upon the Palestinian Authority to take immediate and effective action to control the security situation and urge Israel to co-operate in this regard, including by showing maximum restraint.

Palestinian militants, including Hamas militants, have fired rockets and mortars at Israeli targets, and there have also been violent clashes between Hamas militants and Palestinian Authority security forces. This appears to be in contravention of the agreement on 17 March 2005 in Cairo made by Palestinian militant groups to extend a period of calm until the end of 2005. We urge all groups to end violence, and call on Hamas to renounce violence for good and enter the political process.

**Dan Norris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his latest assessment is of the progress made by the Palestinian Authority in implementing the recommendations of the European Commission's observation mission on democratic elections. [13418]

**Dr. Howells:** I refer my hon. Friend to the reply I gave to my hon. Friend the Member for Ogmore (Huw Irranca Davies) on 6 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 487W.

### People Trafficking

**Mr. Sarwar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he has taken to tackle the trafficking of young women from Eastern Europe since the enlargement of the EU in 2004; and if he will make a statement. [13460]

**Dr. Howells:** Trafficking in human beings, for any purpose, is a particularly abhorrent crime and the UK is committed to taking firm action to combat it.

Since accession, all nationals of the new EU member states have rights of free movement throughout the EU. The UK also provides full access to its labour market to workers from the new member states through the worker registration scheme. A national from a new member state can therefore move to and work legally in the United Kingdom. But there is self-evidently a very clear distinction between voluntary movement of this sort and trafficking.

Trafficking is a priority issue for the UK's presidency of the EU. We aim to bring a particular focus on raising best practice, by improving the exchange of law enforcement information and supporting the development of intelligence-led policing. As presidency we will also work closely with other EU member states and the Commission on developing an EU plan to combat human trafficking, which provides a balanced and coherent framework that will support the efforts of

law enforcement and protect the victims of trafficking. We will also continue to work closely with the relevant international organisations, UN agencies and NGOs.

Nationally, as part of the UK's work to tackle organised immigration crime, the UK has established, under a multi-agency taskforce known as Reflex, a network of immigration liaison officers covering 23 key source and transit countries in Europe. One of Reflex's three key objectives is to target human trafficking and recent successful operations have specifically targeted the trafficking of women from Eastern Europe.

From the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, we have funded a number of projects to help combat the trafficking of young women from Eastern Europe, including through providing advisors to the Bulgarian and Macedonian Anti-Human Trafficking and Smuggling Units, support for Polish-Ukrainian cross-border co-operation and a project which raises awareness in Lithuania about the dangers of bogus employment agencies and facilitators and provides assistance to victims of trafficking.

### Sudan

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress is being made on the introduction of no-fly zones in Darfur. [12438]

**Ian Pearson:** The Government of Sudan (GoS) signed the Abuja Security Protocol on 9 November 2004, which commits them to refrain from all hostile military overflights over Darfur. Under United Nations Security Council Resolution 1591, the African Union (AU) is requested to monitor compliance by GoS with this commitment. We continue to make clear to both the GoS and the rebels that they must abide fully by the commitments they have made, and the UN Security-Council Resolution.

In early February the GoS announced that they would remove their Antonov aircraft from Darfur and refrain from hostile use of aircraft there. The Antonovs appear to have been withdrawn. Although helicopter gunships remain in Darfur, the AU and the UN Secretary-General report that the Government have not conducted any air attacks since January. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for International Development (Hilary Benn) raised this issue during his visit to Sudan on 12–14 June, where all sides agreed with this assessment.

### Uzbekistan

**Mr. Hands:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 29 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 1583W, on Uzbekistan, what response the Uzbek Government made to the General Affairs and External Relations Council's call on 13 June 2005 on the Government of Uzbekistan to convene a parliamentary committee to investigate the unrest in that country; and what the policy of the UK Government is on the partnership and co-operation agreement. [10946]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** On 13 June 2005, the EU's General Affairs External Relations Council (GAERC) called on the Uzbek Government to allow an international independent inquiry into the events of 12–13 May 2005 in Andizhan. The Uzbek President, Islam Karimov, responded to the repeated calls of the international community to allow such an investigation by creating a parliamentary committee, and inviting diplomats from the US, France, Russia, China and Uzbekistan's regional neighbours to observe its work. We and our EU partners, however, considered this an inadequate response, on the grounds that the enquiry needed to be external and independent.

The partnership and co-operation agreement (PCA) enshrines the basis of EU-Uzbekistan relations: mutual respect for the principles of democracy, rule of law, and human rights. There is growing evidence, such as the recent Office for the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) report, which draws on the testimony of eyewitnesses now in Kyrgyzstan, that the Uzbek authorities used disproportionate and indiscriminate force in Andizhan. As presidency of the EU, we and our partners have condemned the Uzbek leadership for breaching these principles.

The EU is currently reviewing certain trade-related elements of the PCA, and cancelled the sub-committee on Trade and Investment meeting scheduled for 13 July 2005. We have also delayed consideration of President Karimov's March 2005 proposals for a further deepening of EU-Uzbek relations under the PCA.

On 18 July 2005, the GAERC invited Mr. Jan Kubis, the EU's newly appointed special representative for Central Asia, to visit the region as soon as possible. The EU will consider further appropriate action in the light of Mr. Kubis' report. The GAERC will, in particular, keep under review the case for suspension of further elements of the PCA, the introduction of an embargo on exports to Uzbekistan of arms, military equipment which might be used for internal repression, as well as other targeted measures.

### Voting Rights

**Mr. Djanogly:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which *(a)* Commonwealth and *(b)* other countries have reciprocal measures in place with the United Kingdom to allow British nationals, when resident in that country, to vote in the *(a)* local and *(b)* national elections. [13502]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander** *[holding answer 19 July 2005]:* The Representation of the People Act 1983 provides that all Commonwealth citizens who are lawfully resident in the UK are entitled to vote in parliamentary and local elections. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has no information on the voting rights of British nationals in other Commonwealth or third countries. The voting rights of overseas nationals in Commonwealth countries are a matter for the country concerned. We are not aware of any formal reciprocal arrangements with any country.

According to Article 19 of the Treaty Establishing the European Community (TEC) British nationals resident in another EU member state have the right to vote in local but not in national elections; they can also vote in elections for the European Parliament.

### Weapons of Mass Destruction

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether it is his policy to support the creation of a weapons of mass destruction-free zone in the Middle East. [13021]

**Dr. Howells:** I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave to my hon. Friend the Member for Islington, North (Jeremy Corbyn) on 12 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 878W.

### Zimbabwe

**Kate Hoey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on which non-governmental and voluntary organisations the British Embassy in Harare relies for monitoring and intelligence on the ground when assessing the individual circumstances relating to claims by Zimbabwean nationals for asylum in the UK. [12491]

**Ian Pearson:** The British embassy in Harare liaises with a variety of well-respected and well-established NGOs in order to assess the overall human rights situation in Zimbabwe and individual cases of Zimbabweans seeking asylum in the UK. However, given the environment in which NGOs have to operate, and the hostile attitude of the Government of Zimbabwe towards those NGOs in the human rights sector, we judge that it would be detrimental to their work to identify the specific groups involved.

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### African Child Immigrants

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many children from Africa have been killed in England and Wales in each of the last five years. [12804]

**Hazel Blears:** In 2001–02 there were four victims of homicide, under 16 years of age, known to be African and one in 2002–03. There were none recorded in the years 1999–2000, 2000–01 and 2003–04.

### Antisocial Behaviour Orders

**Mr. Gerrard:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many antisocial behaviour orders have been issued in respect of persons with a known disability. [12164]

**Hazel Blears:** Information is not collected centrally about the characteristics of persons issued with an antisocial behaviour order.

### Asylum Seekers

**Mr. Gerrard:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum seekers have been detained under Immigration Act 1971 powers in each of the last five years; at what stage of the asylum process they were detained; and for how long. [12967]

**Mr. McNulty:** Information on the number of asylum seekers detained under the Immigration Act 1971 powers over a period of time is not available.

It is not possible to say which stage of the asylum process people are at when they are detained. The decision to detain is made on a case by case basis and may be appropriate in one or more of the follow circumstances: to effect removal; to establish a person's identity and claim; where a person presents a risk of abscond or where the application is capable of being considered quickly.

Information on the number of asylum seekers and the length of their detention is only available from December 2001. Quarterly snapshots are published showing the number of people detained under Immigration Act powers on the last Saturday of each quarter and these can be broken down by the length of detention. This information can be found in the Quarterly Asylum Statistics publications on the Home Office Research Development and Statistics Directorate website at http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html.

### Consultation (Faith Communities)

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent consultations have been carried out by his Department with representatives of faith communities; and if he will make a statement. [3232]

**Paul Goggins:** Faith communities have been involved in the following recent consultations carried out by the Home Office:

Needs of Faith Communities in Major Emergencies

Strength in Diversity

Burial Law and Policy in the 21st Century

Ministers of Religion from Abroad: Consultation on the English

Language Requirement

Discrimination Legislation

Incitement to Religious Hatred Legislation

Compact- Stop and Search- Holocaust Memorial Day

Citizens Day

ID Cards Consultation

Funding and Faith Monitoring

Charities Bill

### Criminal Justice Act 2003

**Mrs. Gillan:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he has established the mechanism to monitor the use of new sentences under the Criminal Justice Act 2003 in order to assess the impact on correctional resources; and if he will make a statement. [12065]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** Use of the new sentences is being monitored through the regular data collections covering sentencing decisions, probation workloads and prison populations. In addition more in-depth analysis will be possible through two sample surveys of court decision making which will compare the position before and after the Criminal Justice Act 2003 measures were implemented.

At this stage it is too early to assess the actual impact upon correctional resources.

### Departmental Report (Production Cost)

**Mrs. Gillan:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the total production cost of the Home Office Departmental Report 2004–05 was.[12064]

**Mr. Charles Clarke:** The Home Office Departmental Report 2004–05 (Cm 6528) sets out to Parliament how the Department has delivered its public services and how it achieved its key targets during 2004–05.

The report also sets out the structure of the Department and summarises the plans for the next financial year—2005–06. The report reflects the Department's three pillars of responsibility, around which the ministerial team is organised. These are: policing, security, community safety and active communities; National Offender Management Service and the criminal justice system; and immigration, citizenship and nationality. Our activities and achievements are brigaded under the Department's strategic objectives.

The report is available to other stakeholders including the public and is accessible via the Home Office website.

The total production costs of the report incurred by the Department including design, layout and printing costs excluding VAT is £60,228 while the total VAT inclusive cost is £67,732. This does not included the potential cost of an HMTL web-version for the visually impaired, which it is intended to produce in the near future. Nor, as in previous years, does it include the costs of Home Office staff time involved in the production of the report as identifying these would involve disproportionate cost.

### Domestic Violence

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to his answer of 5 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 382W, on domestic violence, if he will make it his policy to extend the self-completion component of the British Crime Survey to adults over 59 years; and if he will make a statement. [12060]

**Hazel Blears:** Respondents over the age of 60 are not asked to undertake British Crime Survey (BCS) self-completions. Traditionally, this has been because older people are sometimes less able or willing to use the laptop computers. There is evidence from the BCS that older respondents in the 16 to 59 age group are more likely to require interviewer assistance for the self-completion (see Budd and Mattinson, 2000). There is, however, also anecdotal evidence from interviewers and survey companies to suggest that this is increasingly less of a problem.

However, the decision to limit the upper age range has remained, primarily for research reasons. Inclusion of the 60 and over age group in modules relating to 'interpersonal violence' issues (such as sexual victimisation) is methodologically problematic. The issue of 'elder abuse' (in common with the issue of child abuse) tends to be explored in a different context, using dedicated surveys.

### Fraud Prevention

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress the Department has made with the second phase of its project, begun in November 2004, to explore the benefits, feasibility and legal impediments of sharing public sector deceased person information with other public agencies and organisations involved in fraud prevention; and whether he intends to bring forward legislation on these matters in the current parliamentary session. [13662]

**Andy Burnham:** The project is largely complete and results suggest that there would be benefits in sharing public sector deceased person information with the private sector, but this may be constrained by existing legislation. In light of this, the Office for National Statistics is exploring the extent to which information can be shared under existing powers and practices. It is anticipated that examination of these options will be completed by autumn 2005.

### Gun Crime

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the work undertaken with communities to tackle gun crime. [13734]

**Hazel Blears:** The Government consider that the involvement of communities in tackling gun crime is vital to resolving this complex issue. Organisations such as the Trident Independent Advisory Group have demonstrated their effectiveness in raising awareness in communities and of providing a means to ensure that the community plays a part in tackling the problem.

Where funding is provided, projects are monitored to ensure that they have effectively carried out the work for which the grant was made.

### Identity Cards

**Harry Cohen:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will modify ministerial statements, public documents and answers to parliamentary questions which refer to the privacy protection afforded by the Data Protection Act 1998 in the context of the identity card to alert the reader to the fact that the European Commission has formally expressed an opinion that the Data Protection Act 1998 is a defective implementation of Directive 95/46/EC; and if he will make a statement. [13167]

**Andy Burnham:** The Identity Cards Bill is fully compliant with the Data Protection Act 1998 and with Directive 95/46/EC—the provisions of which the Act (together with other provisions in UK law) accurately and proportionately reflects. We are in discussion with the European Commission about some issues in respect of the operation of the data protection regime in the UK, which result from their work in reviewing the way in which all member states have implemented the directive.

**Harry Cohen:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will introduce an amendment to modify the Identity Card Bill so that personal information from the national register associated with the identity card cannot be used by any public authority

for the purpose of the efficient and effective delivery of public services without the consent of the identity card holder; and if he will make a statement. [13169]

**Andy Burnham:** The Government will not introduce such an amendment. The Bill as drafted only allows information to be used without a person's consent by specified public authorities named on the face of the Bill, or others subsequently approved by Parliament. These arrangements will be subject to independent oversight.

**Mark Fisher:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the identity card will be a *(a)* contact and *(b)* contactless card. [12612]

**Andy Burnham:** It is currently planned that identity cards issued to British nationals eligible for a passport could be used by individuals for travel within Europe. In order to facilitate this, the card will need to meet standards established by the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO), which require the card to be contactless in order to be considered a valid travel document.

In addition, we are also investigating whether it would be beneficial and cost effective to be compatible with other card reader national infrastructures, such as the Chip & PIN network, which requires contact card.

Thus it is possible that an identity card will function as both a contact and contactless card.

### Identity Theft

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to his Answer of 28 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 1458W, on identity fraud/theft, what definition *(a)* he and *(b)* the Association for Payment Clearing Services uses of identity theft. [10090]

**Mr. Charles Clarke:** The Home Office Identity Fraud Steering Committee, of which Association for Payment Clearing Services (APACS) is a member, has produced a high-level definition of identity crime, within which identity theft is defined broadly as occurring when sufficient information about an identity is obtained to facilitate identity fraud, irrespective of whether, in the case of an individual, the victim is alive or dead.

For their purposes, APACS consider identity theft on cards as occurring when a criminal uses fraudulently obtained personal information to open or access card accounts in someone else's name.

### National Offender Management Service

**Mrs. Gillan:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress his Department is making with the proposed introduction of the National Offender Management Service. [9056]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** A NOMS Offender Management model has been developed to implement in both community and custodial sentences. A pathfinder in the north-west region has been operational since October 2004. The first evaluation report (Action Research) was published on 30 June 2005, and outlines the value of the north-west's testing of the model. The information gained is being fed into the implementation plans for prison and probation areas. A national offender manager and 10 regional offender managers have been appointed. The latter will play the main role in commissioning and will help to build partnership working locally.

### Passports

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the umbrellas purchased by the Passport Agency in the summer of 1999 for use by customers have been retained by the agency. [13210]

**Mr. Charles Clarke:** The UK Passport Service purchased 1,200 umbrellas in 1999 due to the abnormal situation of those calling personally at our offices having to queue in the rain. The appointment system that has operated in all offices since 2002 resulted in the umbrellas no longer being required and they were donated to the charity, Oxfam. In 2004–05, 94 per cent. of customers that applied personally were seen within 20 minutes of their appointment time. Customers' brief wait to be seen will normally be inside our office building.

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 12 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 911W, on passports, what the reasons are for the increase in the average unit cost of producing passports from 2005–06 to 2006–07. [13480]

**Andy Burnham:** The increase in the average unit cost of producing passports from 2005–06 to 2006–07 is due largely to the delivery of a number of key counter fraud initiatives in 2006–07 notably interviews for all first time adult applicants, linkages with other public sector databases and the full implementation of facial biometric passports.

### Payroll Giving

**Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps he is taking to advertise and promote recent changes to the Payroll Giving Grants programme. [12364]

**Paul Goggins** *[holding answer 18 July 2005]:* There have been no changes to the Payroll Giving Grants Programme since its launch in January 2005. The programme is being promoted in a number of ways including: distribution of promotional materials; extensive media coverage; and the creation of an awards scheme.

### Police

**Ed Balls:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many deaths in police custody occurred in *(a)* West Yorkshire police authority and *(b)* the UK in each year since 2001. [11823]

**Hazel Blears:** The total number of deaths of people during or following police custody are as follows:

| | *West Yorkshire police area* | *England and Wales*[1] |
|---|---|---|
| 2001–02 | 1 (0) | 21 (3) |
| 2002–03 | 1 (0) | 40 (8) |
| 2003–04 | 0 | 38 (7) |

[1] The statistics for deaths in police custody are collated for the period 1 April to 31 March.

*Note:*
The figures in brackets indicate the deaths that occurred within police stations.

The Home Office do not collate statistics on deaths during or following police custody for Scotland or Northern Ireland.

**Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance his Department gives to police forces on the employment of interpreters *(a)* from the National Register of Public Service Interpreters and *(b)* engaged through agencies. [13332]

**Hazel Blears** *[holding answer 19 July 2005]:* The Home Office has issued no advice on the employment of interpreters, which is an operational matter for chief officers of police.

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to his answer of 4 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 144W, when the Metropolitan Police commenced checking the list of names; how many officers are in the team which is doing the checking, broken down by rank; and if he will make a statement. [10461]

**Hazel Blears:** Since the War Crimes Unit was disbanded in 1999, the Metropolitan Police has continued to investigate all allegations of war crimes as and when they have arisen. Following receipt of the most recent allegations, it has now deployed a team of officers to investigate suspected Nazi War Criminals residing in the UK; this includes checking the list of 75 names against existing material. The team consists of a Senior Investigating Officer, an Investigating Officer, two Detective Sergeants, two Detective Constables, a Police Analyst and an Indexer.

### Pre-sentence Reports

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department where the information about convicted prisoners in pre-sentence reports originates. [8380]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** Pre-sentence reports (PSR) are informed by the Crown Prosecution Service court papers and there will normally be at least one face-to-face interview with the offender. Where the offender is already known to the probation service, probation files may also be used. Those consulted during the completion of a PSR will vary according to the needs of the case but might include social services, local authorities or other criminal justice agencies.

### Prisons

**Mrs. Gillan:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the proportion of ethnic minority staff in public prisons were at 1 July. [12041]

**Fiona Mactaggart** *[holding answer 14 July 2005]:* At 30 June 2005, 5.6 per cent. of staff within public sector prisons, who have declared their ethnicity, were recorded as being from black and other minority ethnic groups.

### Retina Identification

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment his Department has made of the accuracy of retina identification where a person is wearing contact lenses. [12536]

**Andy Burnham:** The Home Office is not proposing to use retina identification but may deploy iris identification.

We do not believe that iris identification will present difficulties for the average contact lens wearer.

### Secure Training Centres

**Ms Keeble:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answers of 11 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 790W and 11 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 791W, what the reasons were for the discrepancies in figures for total hospital admissions compared with admissions to hospital for illnesses and non-accidental injuries in Rainsbrook in 2002, 2003 and 2004 and in Hassenfield in 2003 and 2004. [12130]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** The answer to question 1567 11 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 790W gave total figures for admissions to hospital. The answer to question 1568 11 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 791W provided details of young people admitted because of illness and those admitted for treatment of non-accidental injuries. The difference between the figures in the answer to question 1567 and the totalled figures in the answer to question 1568 is accounted for by: *(a)* the additional category of admissions for the treatment of accidental injuries; and *(b)* the fact that one of the young people from Rainsbrook who went to hospital because of illness in 2004 was admitted twice. A full breakdown of admissions by establishment is given in the following table:

*Hospital admissions of secure training centre trainees 2001–05, broken down by reason for admission*

| | *Admissions to hospital 2001 to 2005* | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *STC* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005*[1] |
| *Due to illness* | | | | | |
| Medway | 2 | 1 | 1 | [2]2 | [2]2 |
| Rainsbrook | 1 | 2 | 2 | [4]5 | 1 |
| Hassockfield | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Oakhill[3] | — | — | — | 0 | 0 |
| *Due to non accidental injuries* | | | | | |
| Medway | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Rainsbrook | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Hassockfield | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Oakhill[3] | — | — | — | 0 | 0 |

*Hospital admissions of secure training centre trainees 2001–05, broken down by reason for admission*

| STC | Admissions to hospital 2001 to 2005 | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005[1] |
| *Due to accidental injuries* | | | | | |
| Medway | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Rainsbrook | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Hassockfield | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Oakhill[5] | — | — | — | 0 | 0 |

[1] Up to 27 May.
[2] Includes one termination of pregnancy.
[3] Includes one termination of pregnancy.
[4] One young person was admitted twice.
[5] Oakhill opened 19 August 2004.

### Sentencing

**Dr. Vis:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many people remanded into custody were given community penalties in each of the last five years; [1830]

(2) how many convicted but unsentenced people remanded into custody were given a custodial sentence in each of the last five years; [1831]

(3) how many people remanded into custody were given a custodial sentence in each of the last five years; [1832]

(4) how many people remanded into custody in each of the last five years were *(a)* acquitted and *(b)* had cases which were not proceeded with. [1836]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** The final court outcomes for persons proceeded against and remanded in custody at some stage in magistrates courts and the Crown court in each year from 1999 to 2003 is provided in the table. Information relating to the number of offenders committed for sentence to the Crown court from 1999 to 2003 is also provided.

*Persons on remand committed for sentence to the Crown court who were given custodial sentences, England and Wales*

*Persons (Thousand)*

| | Final court outcome | |
|---|---|---|
| | Remanded in custody[1] | Of which: Immediate custody |
| 1999 | 7.4 | 5.6 |
| 2000 | 6.8 | 5.3 |
| 2001 | 6.3 | 4.8 |
| 2002 | 7.6 | 5.7 |
| 2003 | 7.5 | 5.4 |

[1] Includes those remanded for part of the time in custody and part on bail.

## CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

### Court Service Computer System

**Mr. Greg Knight:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what the total cost has been to date of the computer system Xhibit used by the Court Service in Lincoln; whether she plans to introduce the system in other courts; what estimate she has made of the total cost of rolling out such a system in England and Wales; what assessment she has made of the *(a)* effectiveness and *(b)* reliability of such a system; and if she will make a statement. [10735]

**Ms Harman:** XHIBIT (eXchange Hearing Information By Internet Technology) was first used at Lincoln Crown Court on 11 April 2005. The Department is paying a fixed cost for the development and introduction of XHIBIT to all courts in England and Wales, and so is not charged on an individual court basis. XHIBIT will be in use in all 101 Crown court centres across England and Wales by April next year. The total charge to introduce and operate the system will be £20 million.

The decision to introduce nationally was based on pilots in Essex and at Snaresbrook Crown Court. These pilots, along with an assessment of the first 11 courts to receive XHIBIT, is showing that the new system is making Crown courts more effective. For example, it reduces the clerical effort required to capture and distribute hearing information, such as, results, bail orders and imprisonment orders. Previously, such information took days to reach other criminal justice agencies, now they can get it in minutes allowing them to operate better. Local assessment of XHIBIT's effectiveness in Lincoln is scheduled for September 2005. XHIBIT's reliability is currently above that which the supplier is contracted to provide. This is monitored on a daily basis by the XHIBIT National Support Centre.

### Data Protection Act

**Harry Cohen:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs if she will introduce legislation to modify the Data Protection Act 1998 so that *(a)* the enforcement powers of the Information Commissioner under the Data Protection Act 1998 are equivalent to those of most other European Data Protection Commissioners, *(b)* the definition of personal data is broadened so that it reflects that of the Directive 95/46/EC and the intent of Article 8 of the Human Rights Act, *(c)* the provisions in the Data Protection Act 1998 which pertain to the transfer of personal data outside the European Economic Area reflect those provisions in most data protection laws enacted by other member states of the European Union, *(d)* there is a guarantee of the right of access to personal data in the UK, *(e)* moderately structured manual records about employees are reclassified as accessible

records so that such records qualify for the protection afforded by the Act and *(f)* CCTV systems which record the actions of identifiable individuals are subject to data protection; and if she will make a statement. [13163]

**Bridget Prentice:** We currently have no plans to modify the Data Protection Act 1998, as the Act properly and proportionately implements Directive 95/46/EC. The Act includes the powers available to the Information Commissioner; the definition of personal data (which is already relatively broad, as the directive requires it to be); the provisions relating to transfer of personal data outside the European Economic Area; the guarantee of the right of subject access (except where the Act provides legitimate exemptions, as allowed by the directive); and the position of structured manual records (where the directive makes clear that a high degree of structure must be involved). The full provisions of the Act also apply to CCTV systems recording the actions of identifiable individuals, as such information is clearly personal data within the meaning of the legislation.

## Safety Cameras

**Mr. David Jones:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what guidance is given to *(a)* the Crown Prosecution Service and *(b)* the Court Service with regard to participation in safety camera partnerships. [11712]

**Dr. Ladyman:** I have been asked to reply.

Safety Camera Partnerships consist of local authorities, the police, the magistrates courts and other local stakeholders.

The Department for Transport issues a Handbook of Rules and Guidance for the National Safety Camera Programme for England and Wales which defines the rules and guidelines that partnerships are required to follow in order to participate in the netting off arrangement. The Handbook for 2005–06 can be found in the Library of the House and on the Department for Transport website, www.dft.gov.uk. No further guidance beyond that in the Handbook is issued by the Department to the Crown Prosecution Service or Courts Service.

## TRANSPORT

### A14 (Kettering)

**Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 7 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 612W, on traffic statistics, what options the Highways Agency is considering for resolving the bottleneck on the A14 around Kettering; and what the timetable is for feasibility studies. [13620]

**Dr. Ladyman:** The Secretary of State's July 2003 response to the London to South Midlands Multi Modal Study recommendations to widen the A14 through the East Midlands to dual three lanes, tasked the Highways Agency (HA) with further work on the A14 Kettering Bypass section of the route.

The HA has commissioned an options study, and is currently gathering information and constructing a transport model for the area. The study is expected to report in February 2006. HA will then present the study's findings in spring/summer 2006 for a decision on how to proceed.

The traffic data requested are as follows. Further counts are being undertaken, which will be presented with the study.

*Traffic counts*

Traffic data are measured by automatic counters embedded in the A14 carriageway at three locations in the greater Kettering area. The data for the two most recent years are provided as follows, as average annual weekday traffic, rounded figures.

| | *Welford (A14 J0–1)* | *Kettering (A14 J8–9)* | *Thywell (A14 J11–12)* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2003 | 44,700 | 70,000 | 44,200 |
| 2004 | 47,300 | 70,900 | 45,500 |
| Increase | +2,600 | +900 | +1,300 |

### Aviation (Complaints)

**Mr. Duncan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many complaints his Department has received about *(a)* night flights, *(b)* aircraft noise and *(c)* aircraft pollution in each year since 1997, broken down by (i) airport, (ii) Government Office Region and (iii) constituency. [12750]

**Mr. Darling:** Complaints about night flights, aircraft noise and pollution (as distinct from representations about policy) are properly a matter for individual airports, many of which regularly publish their own summary statistics of complaints or enquiries. The Department also receives a number of representations direct from members of the public or via Members of Parliament and, in responding, is able to comment on the Government's overall policy on these matters. The Department does not operate a 'complaints database' and could not provide information in the form requested.

### Bus Lanes (Motorcycles)

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will amend his Department's Local Transport Note 1/97, Keeping Buses Moving to take account of schemes which allow motorcycles to use bus lanes. [12922]

**Ms Buck:** Although Local Transport Note 1/97 recommends against generally allowing motorcycles to use bus lanes because of concerns for the safety of other road users, particularly cyclists and pedestrians, and of motorcyclists themselves, it remains open to local authorities to permit this if they consider it appropriate. The Department will be reviewing the Local Transport Note advice but is awaiting the results of monitored trials by Transport for London before doing so.

Initial indications from the trials were that the number of collisions involving motorcycles during bus lane operating times increased when motorcycles were allowed in. Transport for London has extended the duration of the trial to gather more robust data before drawing conclusions. It is anticipated that 36-months of casualty data will be available for the trials in March 2006.

### Container Handling Capacity

**Mrs. Dunwoody:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he expects there to be a shortfall in the UK's container handling capacity in *(a)* 2005–06 and *(b)* 2006–07. [13242]

**Dr. Ladyman:** The Department has not produced such an assessment and it is primarily for individual ports to assess their capacity requirements against short-term traffic expectations.

The Department has now commissioned consultants to produce national port traffic forecasts looking ahead to 2030, covering container and other major traffic sectors.

### Delayed Traffic Light Phasing

**Anne Main:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the impact of delayed traffic light phasing on *(a)* traffic management, *(b)* pedestrian safety, *(c)* noise pollution and *(d)* air quality; and if he will make a statement. [13404]

**Ms Buck:** Urban traffic control techniques are a key part of the delivery of sustainable local transport. The introduction of traffic signal control at individual junctions or over wide areas often requires a balance of the conflicting demands of vehicular traffic capacity and provision for vulnerable users such as pedestrians.

Studies have shown that good, coordinated traffic signal operation can reduce delays to traffic which in turn can lead to reductions in pollution. Benefits will vary from site to site but typical delay reductions due to coordinated operation under the SCOOT urban traffic control system, used in many UK towns and cities, compared with un-coordinated operation were measured as 23 per cent. in Worcester and 30 per cent. in Southampton.

The Department commissioned a research project in 2003 to explore how casualty rates for pedestrians and cyclists are affected by traffic signal control strategies ways of operating. It is intended that the findings of the project will form good practice guidance for local highway authorities who have responsibility for managing traffic in urban areas. The project is due to report around the end of 2005.

### Departmental Purchasing

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will list the companies from which his Department has purchased goods and services of a total value above £1 million in each of the last three years; and how much was spent in respect of each company. [11732]

**Ms Buck:** Information in respect of companies from which the Department for Transport has purchased goods and services with a total value in excess of £1 million has been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Separate figures are provided for the central Department and each executive agency. Details of companies where spend by the central Department and executive agencies is greater than £1 million in aggregate, but less than £1 million separately, are not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Staff/Targets

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many full-time equivalents have worked for the Department for each of the last five financial years for which figures are available. [11525]

**Ms Buck:** The information is available in table C of Civil Service Statistics 2004 which is available on the internet at http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/management_information/statistical_information/statistics/publications/xls/report_2004/table_c.xls.

This table shows the numbers of staff by Department and agency between 1998 and 2004, on a full-time equivalent basis. Copies of Civil Service Statistics are also available in the Library.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will list the targets that his Department has set for itself during the next 12 months. [12269]

**Ms Buck:** Public service agreement (PSA) targets are set every two years as part of the spending review. The Department's current set of PSA targets were set in spending review 2004 and came into effect in April 2005. All PSA targets and performance against them are reported in our annual reports and autumn performance reports, as well as on the Department's website.

### Hydrogen Fuel Cell Buses

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for how long the hydrogen fuel cell buses pilot scheme has been running; what the cost is; when the pilot is due to end; and what estimate has been made of the cost of *(a)* purchasing, *(b)* running and *(c)* maintaining (i) a hydrogen fuel cell bus and (ii) an ordinary bus. [12856]

**Dr. Ladyman:** The trial began in January 2004 and is due to finish in December 2005, although London and seven other cities taking part in similar trials are currently in discussions with the European Commission about extending the project for a further year.

We estimate that the total costs of the London trial will amount to over £3 million. Costs have been shared among a number of partners. The European Commission provided just over £1 million of support, and the UK Government provided just under £500,000 through the Department for Transport's New Vehicle Technology Fund programme. The trial was overseen by Transport for London and a number of other project partners provided financial and other support including London Bus Services Ltd., FirstGroup, Daimler-Chrysler, Ballard, BP and the Energy Savings Trust.

Comparing the purchase, maintenance and running costs of the hydrogen fuel cell buses against conventionally fuelled buses is neither straightforward nor meaningful. The hydrogen fuel cell buses are prototype vehicles which are not mass produced or commercially available. The approximate cost of each fuel cell bus was around £900,000, which is some seven times the cost of a similar, new diesel bus, but this cost included maintenance costs for the duration of the trial. As to running costs, the hydrogen fuel was granted a fuel duty exemption for the duration of the trial, making a direct comparison with the costs of diesel fuel difficult.

### Investment Priorities

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make a statement about his priorities in investment over the next year. [13208]

**Ms Buck:** The Department for Transport's investment priorities for next year were published on 4 July 2005 in the DfT business plan, "Delivering better transport: Priorities for 2005–06 to 2007–08." The plan was developed in the context of our long-term strategy which was published in the 2004 "Future of Transport" white paper.

Priority projects for the plan period include the completion of section 2 of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link, widening key sections of the M25, and progressing the West Coast Main Line upgrade.

### Light Rail Schemes

**Mr. Duncan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will list the light rail schemes which have commenced construction since 1997. [12745]

**Mr. Darling:** The following light rail schemes have commenced construction since 1997:

Manchester Metrolink Phase II (to Eccles), 1997.

Tyne and Wear Metro Sunderland extension, 2000.

Nottingham Express Transit , 2000.

Docklands Light Railway extension to London City Airport , 2002.

Docklands Light Railway extension to Woolwich Arsenal, 2005.

Some advanced works have also been undertaken since 1997 for the following proposed schemes: Manchester Metrolink Phase III extensions; Merseytram; Leeds Supertram.

## Lorry Road User Charge

**Mr. Duncan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects a Lorry Road User Charge to commence operation in the UK. [12867]

**Mr. Darling:** I announced to the House on 5 July that we will take forward work on distance-based lorry charging as part of our wider work on road pricing. We will continue to work with the haulage industry to ensure that its needs are represented as we develop a national road pricing system.

## Motorways

**Mr. Greg Knight:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) when the *(a)* M1, *(b)* M18 and *(c)* M62 motorways between London and Hull will be devoid of roadworks; [12374]

(2) how many stretches of motorway on the *(a)* M1, *(b)* M18 and *(c)* M62 between London and Hull have been affected by (i) lane closures and (ii) motorway repair or construction work in the last month; for what reason such works were not phased to take place consecutively; and if he will make a statement; [12375]

(3) what his policy is regarding the phasing of roadworks on motorways so that those undertaking long journeys are not faced with repeated motorway lane closures. [12376]

**Dr. Ladyman:** The Highways Agency has a duty to keep the network under review and to carry out works to ensure the safety of the travelling public. This will include planned maintenance and improvements as well as emergency repairs.

The following stretches of the motorway on the M1, M18 and M62 between London and Hull were affected by (i) lane closures and (ii) motorway repair or construction work in the last month:

*M1 Motorway*

| *Date/Time* | *Location* | *Description* |
|---|---|---|
| 29 June 2005 21.00–04.00 | M1 J32 Northbound | Lane 3 closure for barrier repairs |
| 3 July 2005 10.12–11.05 | M1 J25–24A, Southbound, Nottinghamshire | Lanes 2 and 3 closed after Southbound entry sliproad—Road Traffic Collision involving three vehicles |
| 12 July 2005 22.00–06.00 | M1 J32 Northbound | Hardshoulder and Lane 1 closure to install South Yorkshire CCTV. |
| 12 July 2005 22.00–06.00 | M1 J32 Southbound | Hardshoulder and Lane 1 closure to install South Yorkshire CCTV |
| 12 July 2005 20.23–05.52 | M1 J25 ½ mile before J25 Southbound | Lane 1 and 2 closed road traffic collision involving heavy goods vehicle |
| 13 July 2005 21.00–04.00 | M1 J31 Northbound and Southbound | Lane 3 closure for barrier repairs. |
| 4 May-end August | M1 J29–30 Northbound and Southbound | Major maintenance work commenced on 4 May and is due for completion by the end of August. The work involves the replacement of worn out carriageway. Three lanes are maintained at peak times in the day and mainly two at night with certain works reducing this to one lane at night. All the work is done at night. |
| 14 June-14 July | M1 Junctions 8–19 | 59 Planned closures of varying lengths . All lane closures were overnight and mainly for routine maintenance works (lighting, signs, inspections etc.) |

*M18 Motorway*

| *Date/Time* | *Location* | *Description* |
|---|---|---|
| 13 June 2005 09.30–15.30 | M18 Jet 4 Southbound entry | Lane 2 closure to carry out barrier repairs |
| 13 June 2005 21.00–04.00 | J1 Northbound and Southbound | Lane 3 closure to carry out barrier repairs |
| 17 June 2005 10.00–15.30 | J7 Northbound | Hardshoulder and Lane 1 closure to carry out a Principal Inspection |
| 27–30 June 2005 21.00–06.00 | M18 J3–5 Northbound and Southbound | Various lane closures to install Cyclic and Road Studs |
| 8–14 July 2005 20.00–06.00 | M18 J7–6 Northbound and Southbound | Various lane closures to carry out concrete repairs |
| 11 July 2005 09.30–15.30 | M18 J3 Southbound | Hardshoulder closure to carry out barrier repairs |
| 11 July 2005 09.30–15.30 | M18 J5 Northbound | Hardshoulder closure to carry out barrier repairs |
| 12 July 2005 22.00–06.00 | M18 J3 Northbound | Hardshoulder and Lane 1 closure to install South Yorkshire CCTV |
| 12 July 2005 22.00–06.00 | J6-Southbound Entry | Hardshoulder and Lane 1 closure to install South Yorkshire CCTV |
| 13 July 2005 21.00–04.00 | M18 J2 Roundabout | Lane 2 closure to carry out barrier repairs. |

*M62 Motorway*

| *Date/Time* | *Location* | *Description* |
|---|---|---|
| 1–30 June 2005 | M62 J37–38 Gilberdyke to Newport | Various 24 hour lane closures major works to resurface of concrete carriageway |
| 6–30 June 2005 09.30–15.30 and 21.00–04.00 | M62 J34–38 | Lane 3 and hardshoulder closures |
| 17 June 2005 09.30–15.30 | M62 J37–36 Westbound | Hardshoulder closure to carry out barrier repairs |
| 29 June 2005 09.30–15.30 and 21.00–04.00 | M62 J36 Eastbound and Westbound | Lane 3 closure to carry out barrier repairs |
| 9 July 2005 07.00–11.00 | M62 J36 Eastbound and Westbound | Lane 3 closure to carry out barrier repairs |

The need to carry out works in a way that ensures the safety of the travelling public means that it is not always possible to carry out planned works consecutively.

To minimise disruption all planned routine maintenance works to the motorway network are carried out at night, when traffic volumes are at their lowest. These works are generally phased so that there are at least 10 kilometres between each set of works. Roadworks are also planned so that the length of road restricted by traffic management is generally no greater than 4.5 kilometres in length. There will be times when the application of this restriction may be untenable or unsafe and in such cases the impact on the travelling public is of primary concern when considering whether adjacent schemes should go ahead concurrently.

It is sometimes necessary to close lanes on the motorway at short notice due to incidents. The Agency aims to keep these closures and disruption to a minimum. Likewise when major maintenance is necessary lanes are closed over a period of time. Any associated routine maintenance works are undertaken during these periods in order to avoid further inconvenience to motorists and to minimise the safety risks for our workforce.

**Mr. Greg Knight:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what representations he has received in the last 12 months concerning the rules and restrictions which are in place in respect of motorway service areas; what plans he has to change them; and if he will make a statement. [12873]

**Dr. Ladyman:** In the last 12 months the Department has received representations concerning the regulations governing motorway service areas from a number of bodies including: the motorway service area operators, the road haulage industry, the RAC foundation, the AA Motoring Trust and the Association of Chief Police Officers.

**Mr. Greg Knight:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport why fencing is being erected adjacent to the northbound carriageway of the M1 motorway, north of Junction 11 where the motorway abuts open fields. [12875]

**Dr. Ladyman:** The fencing in question is immediately to the north of housing in Leagrave. It is being provided as part of the second phase of a scheme specifically designed to bring effective noise protection to residential properties in Luton adjacent to M1 between junctions 10 and 12.

**Mr. Greg Knight:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for what reason the M1 motorway was closed between junctions 34 and 35 on 7 July; for how long the motorway was closed; and on whose authority it was closed. [13595]

**Dr. Ladyman:** The northbound carriageway of the M1 between junctions 34 and 35 was closed from 11 pm on 7 July until 5 am on 8 July in connection with ongoing works at Tinsley Viaduct. The closure took place to enable concreting works in the hard shoulder to be carried out safely and was authorised and agreed by the Highways Agency.

### Moving Vehicles (Music Volume)

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will introduce legislation to control the playing of loud music from a moving vehicle; and if he will make a statement. [13618]

**Dr. Ladyman:** Legislation already exists to deal with this problem. Under regulation 97 of the Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986, it is an offence to use a motor vehicle on the road in such a manner as to cause any excessive noise which could have been avoided by the exercise of reasonable care on the part of the driver. Enforcement of these powers is a matter for the police.

### Passenger Transport (Fuel Consumption)

**Mr. Brazier:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the average fuel consumption in miles per gallon per passenger was for *(a)* commercial buses, *(b)* trains and *(c)* UK airlines for typical load factors and for typical journey distances for the most recent year for which information on each mode is available. [12964]

**Ms Buck:** It is only possible to give broad estimates of fuel consumption per passenger mile since the estimates depend on assumed passenger loading factors and average fuel consumption of each mode of transport.

| *Transport mode* | *Load factor (passengers per vehicle)* | *Fuel consumption (miles per gallon per passenger)* |
|---|---|---|
| Buses (national) | 9 | 98 |
| Passenger rail (diesel) | 90 | 182 |
| Air long haul | [1]300 | 66 |
| Air short haul | [1]100 | 40 |

[1] Approximately.

Fuel consumption estimates for buses are based on National Atmospheric Emissions Inventory (NAEI) estimates combined with road passenger kilometres taken from the 2002 Transport Statistics for Great Britain. Rail factors are also based on NAEI factors for diesel trains and the Department for Transport's statistics on rail passenger kilometres. Air factors are taken from DETR's Company GHG Reporting

Manual 1999. Long haul journeys refer to average journeys of 6,500 km and short haul refers to journeys of around 500 km.

All data has been converted into miles per gallon using information on the carbon content and density of the different fuel types.

### Public Transport

**Anne Main:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many extra *(a)* bus routes, *(b)* train services, *(c)* community bus services and *(d)* other forms of public transport provision have been provided in (i) St. Albans and (ii) Hertfordshire since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [13402]

**Ms Buck:** We do not have information on the number of new bus routes in Hertfordshire provided by bus operators on a commercial basis or by the local authority using Revenue Support Grant or other funding.

Hertfordshire has however been able to use the Department's Rural Bus Subsidy Grant, first introduced in 1998, to provide rural bus services. The county's allocation for 2005–06 is £709,000, which is currently supporting 14 bus services, three of which serve the St. Albans district council area.

In addition between 1998 and 2003 the Department's Rural Bus Challenge scheme awarded funding for nine projects in Hertfordshire, totalling over £1.6 million. Three of these were for community transport schemes and one provided services in the St. Albans area. Neither of the above bus grants scheme were available in 1997.

Hertfordshire has also benefited from the continuing implementation of the West Coast Project with improved intercity journey times from Watford Junction, new rolling stock on West Coast trains and Silverlink, and longer platforms capable of taking 12 car trains.

The Thameslink service from St. Albans to central London, the Monday-Friday morning peak service has since 1997 been enhanced from nine to 11 trains per hour, and the Sunday service from four to six trains per hour.

**Dr. Pugh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether any feasibility study has been done *(a)* by his Department and *(b)* bodies working in conjunction with the Department on the practicality of installing devices capable of detecting the presence of explosives at underground or railway stations. [12495]

**Ms Buck:** The Department keeps developments on current and possible future protective security regimes including screening technologies under constant review. It is not our policy to comment on such detail.

**Dr. Pugh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions his Department has had with the Israeli government concerning security on public transport systems. [12497]

**Ms Buck:** The Department has discussed a wide range of transport security issues with Israel and other governments over the years. It is not our policy to comment on such detail.

### Railways

**Alan Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has to award freight grants to encourage hauliers to place more freight on rail. [12743]

**Derek Twigg:** The Department for Transport currently operates three schemes to encourage modal shift from road to rail. These are as follows:

*Track Access Grant:*

Provides revenue support for the movement of non-containerised goods by rail.

*Company Neutral Revenue Support:*

Provides revenue support for the movement of containerised traffic by rail.

The Department has made available funding of approximately £25 million per annum for 2005–06 and 2006–07 to support both of the above schemes. Both of the schemes remain open for new applications.

The third scheme is the Freight Facilities Grant, which is available for the construction of rail facilities to enable the movement of primary aggregates by rail instead of road. This scheme is currently funded through DEFRA's Aggregate's Levy Sustainability Fund and we expect up to £2 million to be available for rail over the next two years.

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has to increase investment to the Coventry and Nuneaton Rail Line. [13207]

**Derek Twigg:** I understand that three separate studies are currently considering transport provision along this corridor. These are: the Light Rapid Transit study being led by Centra; the Coventry, Solihull, Warwickshire Transport and Regeneration Study; and a Heavy Rail study commissioned by Warwickshire county council. Each of these pieces of work is nearing completion. It would be premature for me to form a view on the necessary investment or otherwise in advance any consideration of these studies.

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many miles of railway in England will be closed in the next *(a)* three and *(b)* five years; and if he will make a statement. [8688]

**Derek Twigg:** It is not possible to provide the figures in the format requested, as there are currently no new proposals to close any railway lines.

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what representations he has received from the Association of Train Operating Companies on congestion charging for rail travel. [9279]

**Derek Twigg:** No representations on congestion charging for rail travel have been received from the Association of Train Operating Companies.

### Regulation

**Mr. Geoffrey Robinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the average time taken by his Department to draft regulations following primary legislation was in 2004–05. [13772]

**Ms Buck:** The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Renewables Transport Fuel Obligation

**Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has to apply the Renewables Transport Fuel Obligation; and if he will make a statement. [13162]

**Dr. Ladyman:** The Government are currently considering whether an obligation might be an appropriate mechanism to support the introduction of renewable road transport fuels, but no decision has yet been taken.

### Road Haulage Forum

**Mr. Duncan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many times the Road Haulage Forum has met in each year since its establishment. [12748]

**Mr. Darling:** The Road Haulage Forum has met on 17 occasions to date, as shown in the table.

| | *Road haulage forum meetings* |
|---|---|
| 1999 | 8 April, 19 July, 6 September, 8 December |
| 2000 | 9 February, 17 April, 26 July, 19 October, 14 November |
| 2001 | 19 February, 5 July |
| 2002 | 28 January, 23 October |
| 2003 | 11 September |
| 2004 | 26 April, 9 December |
| 2005 | 29 June |

### Roads Budget (Milton Keynes)

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much central funding Milton Keynes unitary authority has received for its roads budget in each year since 1997. [12917]

**Dr. Ladyman:** The Department for Transport has approved approximately £18.6 million of funding support for Milton Keynes unitary authority between April and March 2005 in local transport capital settlements. Approximately £10.9 million has been for capital highways maintenance and £7.7 million for local improvements to the road network and roads based public transport.

In addition central funding support for services, including routine highways services, is provided through revenue support grant. This is not allocated by the Government between individual council services.

The funding support provided directly to Milton Keynes unitary authority through the local transport capital settlement for each year is shown in the following table. It has been for Milton Keynes unitary authority to determine exactly how these allocations are spent, in line with its local transport plan and priorities.

*Milton Keynes unitary authority local transport capital settlement*

£000

| | *Capital highways maintenance* | *Integrated transport block* | *Major schemes* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1997–98 | 173 | 60 | 0 | 233 |
| 1998–99 | 694 | 169 | 0 | 863 |
| 1999–2000 | 920 | 523 | 0 | 1,443 |
| 2000–01 | 1,279 | 729 | 0 | 2,008 |
| 2001–02 | 2,069 | 1,600 | 0 | 3,669 |

*Milton Keynes unitary authority local transport capital settlement*

£000

| | *Capital highways maintenance* | *Integrated transport block* | *Major schemes* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2002–03 | 2,194 | 1,601 | 0 | 3,795 |
| 2003–04 | 1,645 | 1,510 | 0 | 3,155 |
| 2004–05 | 1,920 | 1,555 | 0 | 3,475 |

### Sickness Absence

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many days the Department has lost due to sickness in the past five years for which figures are available. [11474]

**Ms Buck:** The Department for Transport was established following machinery of Government changes on 29 May 2002.

The annual report "Analysis of Sickness Absence in the Civil Service" published by the Cabinet Office in November 2004 contains reported sickness absence data for the calendar year 2003 for the Department and its agencies.

Table A of the report gives details of both the average working days absence per staff year and the number of staff years on which that calculation is based on. Reports for earlier years are available on the Cabinet Office website.

From our internal recording process the total number of days recorded as sick across the Department including its agencies for 2004 is 175,860.

The Department is committed to managing sick absence effectively and to putting in place the recommendations of the "Managing Sickness Absence in the Public Sector" report. The DfT board takes an active interest in the issue of attendance management.

### South West Trains

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has to change the process for awarding the franchise held by South West Trains. [9073]

**Derek Twigg:** The award of the South Western franchise to replace the existing South West Trains and Island Line franchises in February 2007 will follow a similar process to that adopted for the Greater Western and Thameslink/ Great Northern replacements currently out to market. The process is set out in "Franchise Replacement Process, June 2005", which is available on the SRA website.

### Speed Cameras

**Mr. Scott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many speed related accidents occurred in *(a)* each of the three years before and *(b)* each year since the introduction of the speed camera at the southern end of the M11. [11962]

**Dr. Ladyman:** Tables highlighting accident data for the southbound carriageway of the M11 between Junctions 5 and 4 in the location of the camera are shown in the table. The tables show speed related injury

accidents since 1998, three years prior to installation of the camera, and for three years after its introduction. The camera was installed in May 2001.

*Before the camera was installed*

| | *Number of accidents* | *Number speed related* | *Speed accident injuries* |
|---|---|---|---|
| From Sept 1998 | 3 | 1 | 1 slight |
| 1999 | 3 | 3 | 2 slight, 1 severe |
| 2000 | 4 | 1 | 1 slight |
| To May 2001 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 10 | 5 | 5 |

*After the camera was installed*

| | *Number of accidents* | *Number speed related* | *Speed accident injuries* |
|---|---|---|---|
| From June 2001 | 5 | 3 | 2 slight, 1 severe |
| 2002 | 5 | 3 | 1 slight, 2 severe |
| 2003 | 4 | 1 | 1 severe |
| To August 2004 | 4 | 4 | 3 slight, 1 severe |
| Total | 18 | 11 | 11 |

Although numbers of speed related accidents have increased since the installation of the camera, traffic flows have also significantly increased on this section of M11. However, because there has been a significant growth in traffic over this period the accident rate on this section has dropped overall, and is lower than the national average for a motorway.

The need for further safety measures on this section of road is continuously reviewed as is the need for the existing speed camera.

**Mr. David Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many drivers have been penalised in the North Wales Police force area in each of the last three years as a result of detection by *(a)* fixed and *(b)* mobile speed cameras. [12602]

**Dr. Ladyman:** The Department does not record fines paid, by camera type (fixed/mobile) but only records total fines received. In the last three audited years, the number of fixed penalty fines paid as a result of detections by safety cameras in the North Wales police force area was:

2001–02: 10,813

2002–03: 43,484

2003–04: 56,247

### Tonnage Tax

**Mrs. Dunwoody:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the possible effects on the UK economy of a requirement for beneficiaries of the tonnage tax to employ only UK officers and crew. [13243]

**Dr. Ladyman:** No such assessment has been made. Under EU anti-discrimination law, we cannot reserve jobs solely for UK seafarers but have to include European economic area nationals as well.

### Uninsured Drivers

**Mr. Ian Austin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has to use *(a)* the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency and *(b)* motor insurance databases to reduce the number of uninsured drivers. [12616]

**Dr. Ladyman:** Following the report on uninsured driving by Professor David Greenaway we commenced actions which will use both the DVLA and motor insurance databases to tackle the problem of uninsured driving.

The police already make considerable use of the motor insurance database (MID) to help detect uninsured driving. However we introduced in the Serious and Organised Crimes Act 2005 provisions to improve police access to the MID. This will enable them to have data on uninsured vehicles for use with their automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) equipment. This should significantly improve their detection capabilities. We plan to have the necessary regulations in place by autumn this year.

### Vehicle Registration

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 7 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 613W, on Vehicle Registration, what changes there have been to the requirement or option to submit V28 forms to the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency since 1996. [13193]

**Dr. Ladyman:** No changes have been made in this period to the requirement for local authorities or other enforcement agencies to notify DVLA on the V28 form of abandoned vehicles. The form was modified earlier this year to remove the option to notify a vehicle as "scrapped". This follows the introduction of the End of Life Vehicle Regulations 2003 which require cars and light vans to be disposed of through authorised treatment facilities.

### Yellow School Buses

**Alison Seabeck:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment his Department has made of the effect of the yellow school bus pilots on traffic congestion. [13361]

**Ms Buck:** We know from our evaluation of various small-scale yellow and other dedicated school bus schemes that well-designed schemes have the potential to reduce car dependency for journeys to school and the traffic congestion that results from this. However, care needs to be taken to ensure that schemes are appropriate to local circumstances and, in particular, that they do not reduce levels of walking or cycling or undermine the viability of important commercial bus services.

We approved £18.7 million funding for a much larger yellow bus scheme serving schools in West Yorkshire as part of the local transport settlement for 2004–05. We are currently working closely with West Yorkshire PTE to evaluate the impacts of this scheme on a range of issues including traffic levels around schools and the number of pupils transferring from car to bus.

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Children in Poverty

**Mr. Hepburn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many children of school age in

*(a)* the Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* the UK live in a family where neither parent works. [12067]

**John Healey:** I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Len Cook to Mr. Stephen Hepburn, dated 20 July 2005:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question about children living in families where neither parent works. (12067)

The attached table shows the number and proportion of children, aged five to fifteen, in families with no resident parent in work for the three-month period ending November 2004. The figures include the children of married or cohabiting couples where neither parent is working, and those living with a lone parent who is not working.

These estimates are based on Labour Force Survey data which, as with any sample survey, is subject to sampling variability.

*Children of school age[1] living in families with no resident parent in work[2]; September to November 2004; not seasonally adjusted*

| | *Level (Thousand)* | *Proportion[3] (percentage)* |
|---|---|---|
| *United Kingdom* | | |
| Children of couples where neither parent is working | 364 | 6 |
| Children of lone parents who are not working | 922 | 46 |
| Children in all families where no resident parent is working | 1,286 | 16 |
| *North East* | | |
| Children of couples where neither parent is working | 19 | 9 |
| Children of lone parents who are not working | 50 | 50 |
| Children in all families where no resident parent is working | 69 | 23 |
| *South Tyneside[4]* | | |
| Children of couples where neither parent is working | 6 | 34 |
| Children of lone parents who are not working | 3 | 51 |
| Children in all families where no resident parent is working | 9 | 39 |
| *Jarrow[4]* | | |
| Children of couples where neither parent is working | 3 | 33 |
| Children of lone parents who are not working | 2 | 52 |
| Children in all families where no resident parent is working | 5 | 38 |

[1] Children aged 5 to 15 years.
[2] Estimates have not been adjusted for families in which the economic status of one or both parents is unknown.
[3] Percentages are based on families including couples and lone parents.
[4] Estimates for South Tyneside and Jarrow are based on smaller sample sizes and are therefore subject to a higher degree of sampling variability. They should therefore be treated with caution.
*Source:*
Labour Force Survey

## Consultants

**Mr. Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which consultants have been employed by his Department in each of the last three years. [893]

**Margaret Hodge:** It is not possible to break this figure down into separate years because contracts can span more than one year and be extended due to delays. In the last three financial years the Department for Work and Pensions has employed consultants from the following 152 suppliers:

Booz Allen Hamilton
Cap Gemini UK plc
PA Consulting
IBM
Deloitte MCS Ltd.
ASE
Shreeveport Management Consultancy
PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP
Capita
CGEY
Accenture
Computer People
KPMG
PKF
Cathedral
Robson Rhodes/PWC
IT NET UK Ltd.
IT NET: French Thornton
Experian Ltd.
Fujitsu
SAIC Consulting
Buckner & Co.
EDS
Odgers Ray and Berndtson
HEDRA plc
Bird & Bird
Yale
Gartner
David Pearl Assoc.
Cornwell Management Consultants plc
Parity
Oakleigh
Pearn Kandola Occupational Psychologists
Lorien
Kudos Mentis
Arnold & Porter
Hays
Other
Setanta
DBI
Anite
Peter Hyde Consulting
Dibb Lupton Alsop
Rocksharp
Methods
BMRB
Triad (Generic Software)
Employer's Forum on Disability

Walker—Cox
Cavendish Consulting
Quontan Ltd.
Trans4mation
A Robinson Associates
WS Atkins
QinetiQ
Whitehead Mann Ltd.
RDL
Mentis/Westminster Court
EDI
Impact Plus plc
TMG Human Resources
Keith Elliott
Jenkins Consulting Ltd.
Origo
Experience Corp.
Rowland Fisher Lexon Consulting
Jobs for the Future
Bevan Brittan
S & J Associates
Oracle
MJS Business Consultancy
Penna consulting
Learning Laboratory
Nigel Heslop
Alexander Hughes
LearningCortex Ltd.
Ernst & Young
Atos Origin
RFLC
Bywater plc
Compass Management Consulting Ltd.
James Clark & Partners
Informed Solutions
OPTA
SAS
Rocket Science
Victoria Preston
Channel Dynamics
CESG
The Development Partnership
Workbox
Maxxim Consultancy
Pira International
Shared Intelligence
Exor
Rapport Communication
Nudl
Cassin Scott
MORI
Lesley Rudd
Towers Perrin
Sue Slipman
RSM Robson Rhodes
ESRI UK Ltd.
Semio
Logica CMG
FiL & Emp For (P/ship)
L S Consulting
Marilyn Howard
Orgin Inc. Jeff Jablow
Strudel
Wilson Sherriff
Dr. Alan Waring
SchlumbergerSema
IDU
NOP World
Mike Smith
Rosemary Nichols Consulting
TMP/Hudson (Kudos)
Brian Wilson & Assoc.
Policy Studies Institute
Socia
Legal Recoveries & Collections
Renaissance Ltd.
Realchoices
Forum Theatre
CMG
InSearch
Executive Development International
A T Colligan
Smythe, Dorward, Lambert
Mr. R. Hull
STRAD Consulting
Xansa
David Mason Consultancy
Interface Advantage Ltd.
Taylor Clarke Partnership
Furner Communications
Hazel Genn
IFF Research
McKenzie Associates
Inbucon Consulting
Atlan
TALL
Achilles Information Ltd.
BT Consulting
Bigmouthmedia
Rolelay UK Ltd.
LS Consulting
Red Island
Procurement Inline Ltd.
Benartzi & DiCenzo

**Mrs. Dean:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has to issue guidance on effective commissioning for those in the public and voluntary sectors who are commissioning work from external consultants. [7031]

**Margaret Hodge:** DWP recognises the need for effective commissioning on external consultancy. All requests for external consults for DWP and its businesses are acquired competitively through existing OGC and our own specialised frameworks to secure optimum value for money.

I also refer my hon. Friend to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Financial Secretary to the Treasury (John Healey) on 27 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 1286W.

DWP has no responsibility regarding the voluntary sector and does not fund any voluntary bodies to commission external resources.

### Coventry Area Pathfinders (IT Problems)

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether the IT problems in the Coventry area Pathfinders have been resolved. [11702]

**Mr. Plaskitt** *[holding answer 14 July 2005]:* Local authorities procure their IT systems through a tendering process and enter into a contract with their chosen IT supplier. Local authorities are then responsible for managing the contract including the quality of the product procured and the service provided. Therefore, this is a matter for the chief executive of Coventry city council.

### Departmental Advertising

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much the *(a)* Department and *(b)* non-departmental bodies for which the Department is responsible has spent on advertising in the last three years, broken down by media type. [9501]

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much the Department has spent on advertising in each of the last five years. [10240]

**Margaret Hodge:** The Department's media spend is available for the last three financial years and is set out in the following tables. Spend before this period, and the requested information on advertising spend of the Department's non-departmental public bodies is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

*2004–05*

£

| *Campaign/subject* | *TV* | *Radio* | *Press*[1] | *Other*[2] |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| State pension deferral | — | — | 115,440 | — |
| Disability Discrimination Act | — | 1,016,540 | 885,000 | 90,000 |
| Targeting benefit fraud | 1,481,000 | 1,140,000 | 4,460,000 | 2,778,000 |
| Direct payment | 2,668,000 | 930,000 | 475,000 | 735,000 |
| Council tax benefit | — | 12,810 | 660,970 | — |
| Pension credit | 1,687,580 | 46,840 | 2,633,520 | 20,500 |
| Winter fuel payments | — | — | 514,910 | — |
| IB reforms pilots | — | 35,290 | 70,630 | — |
| Lone parent leaflet promotion marketing | — | — | 215,740 | — |
| National vacancy campaign | — | — | 323,500 | 66,000 |
| Total | 5,880,300 | 3,191,800 | 10,606,580 | 7,128,300 |

*2003–04*

£

| *Campaign* | *TV* | *Radio* | *Press*[1] | *Other*[2] |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Age positive | — | — | 70,400 | — |
| Second state pension | — | — | 209,180 | — |
| Pension service awareness | — | — | 906,100 | — |
| New deal | 3,526,190 | 818,030 | 1,043,320 | — |
| Disability Discrimination Act | — | 40,290 | — | — |
| Targeting benefit fraud | 1,835,000 | 1,145,000 | 1,423,000 | 3,980,000 |
| Direct payment | 3,594,000 | 1,872,000 | 5,389,000 | 240,000 |
| Council tax benefit | — | — | 556,230 | — |
| Pension credit | 3,570,860 | 30,990 | 6,305,170 | — |
| Winter fuel payments | — | — | 625,000 | — |
| Jobseekers direct | 1,565,730 | — | 66,420 | — |
| IB reforms pilot | — | 45,090 | 67,510 | — |
| Jobcentre plus customer marketing | — | — | 11,860 | 1,389,000 |
| National employer campaign | — | — | 1,158,020 | — |
| Total | 14,091,780 | 3,951 ,400 | 17,831,210 | 5,609,000 |

*2002–03*

£

| *Campaign* | *TV* | *Radio* | *Press*[1] | *Other*[2] |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Age positive | — | — | 644,490 | 61,850 |
| Future pensioners/informed choice | 1,576,510 | — | 1,301,440 | — |
| Second state pension | — | — | 488,700 | — |
| New deal for musicians | — | — | 32,900 | — |
| Disability Discrimination Act | — | 50,060 | — | — |
| Targeting benefit fraud | — | 35,000 | — | — |
| Direct payment | — | 383,000 | 475,000 | — |

*2002-03*

£

| *Campaign* | *TV* | *Radio* | *Press*[1] | *Other*[2] |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Winter fuel payments | — | — | 627,450 | — |
| Inherited serps | — | — | 645,730 | — |
| Total | 1,576,510 | 468,060 | 4,215710 | 61,850 |

[1] Press includes national press, regional press, specialist press, advertorials and featurelink.
[2] Other includes outdoor, online and ambient media.

*Notes:*
1. These tables do not include the following as the information is not held centrally and to obtain it would incur disproportionate cost: spend by non-departmental bodies for which the Department is responsible;
details of highly localised publicity activity by the Department's customer-facing businesses;
recruitment or procurement advertising. This also applies to figures for Jobcentre Plus publicity in 2002 to 2003 as at that time allocations sat with various policy teams and within regional budgets for ad hoc allocations.
2. The figures in these tables refer to media spend only, excluding production and other costs.
3. All figures have been rounded to the nearest thousand.
4. All figures are quoted net of VAT.

### Departmental IT Projects

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which of his Department's IT projects are categorised as red light; and if he will make a statement. [10779]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The Department for Work and Pensions has a strong record in adopting the Office of Government Commerce's (OGC) policy and best practice initiatives. All the Department's Mission Critical/High and Medium Risk Projects are subject to OGC Gateway Reviews. Disclosure of details relating to the traffic light status awarded by OGC Gateway Reviews would be likely to prejudice both the ability of OGC to examine the effectiveness, efficiency and economy with which Government Departments exercise their functions and also the formulation and development of Government policy.

### Departmental Staff

**Mike Wood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much staff time, and at what grade, has been spent at relevant assessment panels and moderating meetings in *(a)* 2003–04 and *(b)* 2004–05 in relation to his Department's Performance and Development System; how much money has been claimed in travel and subsistence by (i) panel members, (ii) chairs and (iii) human resources staff in each of those years; and what the cost has been of (A) hiring venues and (B) providing refreshments at the meetings in each of those years. [11311]

**Mrs. McGuire:** The information requested is not available.

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many full-time equivalents have worked for the Department for each of the last five financial years for which figures are available. [11522]

**Mrs. McGuire:** Table C of Civil Service Statistics shows the numbers of staff by department and agency between 1998 and 2004, on a full-time equivalent basis.

Civil Service Statistics 2004 is available in the Library.

### Departmental Union Representation

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many trade union learning representatives there are in his Department. [3315]

**Mrs. McGuire:** There are at present 337 accredited trade union learning representatives in the Department for Work and Pensions.

### Departmental Website

**Mr. Gerrard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his policy is on the time periods after which publications are removed from his Department's website. [12948]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** DWP publications are kept "live" on the website for the current and the previous calendar years.

Older publications are available from DWP's Library Archive, and can be requested via e-mail or post. Information on how to do this is displayed prominently on the relevant pages of the website.

### Disability Allowance

**Mrs. Dorries:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many young people have been registered for disability allowance in the Mid-Bedfordshire parliamentary constituency in each year since 1997. [10906]

**Mrs. McGuire:** The administration of disability living allowance is a matter for the chief executive of the disability and carers service, Mr. Terry Moran. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Terry Moran to Mrs. Nadine Dorries, dated 20 July 2005:*

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many young people have been registered for disability living allowance in the Mid-Bedfordshire parliamentary constituency in each year since 1997. The Minister for Disabled People, Anne McGuire MP, promised you a substantive reply from the Chief Executive of the Disability and Carers Service.

The requested information available is in the attached table.

I hope this is helpful.

*DLA recipients under the age of 16 in Mid-Bedfordshire constituency as at February each year since 1997*

*Thousand*

| | *DLA liveload*[1] |
|---|---|
| 1997 | 0.1 |
| 1998 | 0.2 |
| 1999 | 0.2 |
| 2000 | 0.2 |

*DLA recipients under the age of 16 in Mid-Bedfordshire constituency as at February each year since 1997*

*Thousand*

| | DLA liveload[1] |
|---|---|
| 2001 | 0.2 |
| 2002 | 0.2 |
| 2003 | 0.3 |
| 2004 | 0.4 |
| 2005 | 0.4 |

[1] Figures are less than 500 and subject to a high degree of sampling variation.

*Notes:*

1. Based on a 5 per cent. sample and therefore subject to sampling variation.
2. Figures are in thousands and rounded to the nearest hundred.
3. From November 2002, the methodology for producing these figures was changed to allow statistics to be published much sooner. This has resulted in a small increase in the reported caseload. This is because some cases which have actually terminated but have not yet been updated on the computer system are now included.
4. Parliamentary constituencies are allocated using the relevant ONS post code directory.

*Source:*

Information Directorate, 5 per cent. data.

## Disability Benefits

**Ian Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many recipients of *(a)* incapacity benefit and *(b)* severe disablement allowance there were in Wrexham in each year since 1997, broken down by ward. [126]

**Mrs. McGuire:** Ward level data is not available prior to 1998. The available information is in the tables.

*Incapacity benefit claimants in the parliamentary constituency of Wrexham: 1998 ward boundaries*

| | As at August | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Ward name* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* |
| Acton | 195 | 180 | 190 |
| Borras Park | 115 | 120 | 125 |
| Caia Park | 485 | 490 | 470 |
| Garden Village | 95 | 95 | 85 |
| Gresford East and West | 110 | 100 | 100 |
| Grosvenor | 170 | 170 | 165 |
| Gwersyllt East and South | 205 | 215 | 205 |
| Gwersyllt North | 160 | 155 | 160 |
| Gwersyllt West | 175 | 175 | 180 |
| Holt | 115 | 105 | 110 |
| Little Acton | 95 | 95 | 75 |
| Llay | 230 | 235 | 235 |
| Maesydre | 145 | 135 | 135 |
| Marford and Hoseley | 45 | 45 | 45 |
| Offa East | 379 | 370 | 345 |
| Offa West | 223 | 220 | 220 |
| Queensway | 465 | 440 | 445 |
| Rhosnesni | 115 | 115 | 100 |
| Rossett | 75 | 85 | 85 |
| Stansty | 125 | 130 | 125 |
| Whitegate | 150 | 150 | 170 |

*2003 ward boundaries*

| | As at August | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Ward name* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* |
| Acton | 185 | 195 | 195 | 180 |
| Borras Park | 130 | 120 | 115 | 120 |
| Brynyffynnon | 185 | 185 | 175 | 180 |
| Cartrefle | 190 | 180 | 175 | 190 |
| Erddig | 70 | 75 | 75 | 75 |
| Garden Village | 80 | 75 | 75 | 70 |
| Gresford East and West | 100 | 110 | 100 | 95 |

*2003 ward boundaries*

| | As at August | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Ward name* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* |
| Grosvenor | 140 | 140 | 145 | 130 |
| Gwersyllt East and South | 190 | 200 | 195 | 200 |
| Gwersyllt North | 170 | 190 | 175 | 165 |
| Gwersyllt West | 190 | 185 | 185 | 190 |
| Hermitage | 220 | 225 | 230 | 225 |
| Holt | 115 | 115 | 110 | 105 |
| Little Acton | 80 | 80 | 90 | 75 |
| Llay | 250 | 250 | 255 | 245 |
| Maesydre | 120 | 120 | 110 | 110 |
| Marford and Hoseley | 45 | 45 | 40 | 50 |
| Offa | 120 | 110 | 100 | 100 |
| Queensway | 260 | 280 | 265 | 240 |
| Rhosnesni | 110 | 110 | 100 | 105 |
| Rossett | 90 | 85 | 70 | 70 |
| Smithfield | 210 | 210 | 205 | 180 |
| Stansty | 120 | 115 | 110 | 115 |
| Whitegate | 215 | 215 | 215 | 190 |
| Wynnstay | 255 | 250 | 255 | 240 |

*Severe disability allowance claimants in the parliamentary constituency of Wrexham: 1998 ward boundaries*

| | As at August | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Ward name* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* |
| Acton | 25 | 30 | 25 |
| Borras Park | 10 | 10 | 15 |
| Caia Park | 85 | 85 | 85 |
| Garden Village | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| Gresford East and West | 10 | 10 | 15 |
| Grosvenor | 25 | 30 | 30 |
| Gwersyllt East and South | 25 | 25 | 20 |
| Gwersyllt North | 20 | 20 | 25 |
| Gwersyllt West | 25 | 30 | 35 |
| Holt | 20 | 15 | 15 |
| Little Acton | 15 | 15 | 15 |
| Llay | 30 | 30 | 30 |
| Maesydre | 35 | 35 | 35 |
| Marford and Hoseley | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Offa East | 75 | 90 | 85 |
| Offa West | 45 | 50 | 35 |
| Queensway | 50 | 55 | 45 |
| Rhosnesni | 15 | 15 | 20 |
| Rossett | 20 | 25 | 20 |
| Stansty | 25 | 20 | 25 |
| Whitegate | 20 | 20 | 25 |

*2003 ward boundaries*

| | As at August | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Ward name* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* |
| Acton | 25 | 20 | 15 | 20 |
| Borras Park | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| Brynyffynnon | 25 | 20 | 25 | 20 |
| Cartrefle | 30 | 25 | 30 | 25 |
| Erddig | 30 | 20 | 15 | 15 |
| Garden Village | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| Gresford East and West | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| Grosvenor | 30 | 30 | 35 | 30 |
| Gwersyllt East and South | 25 | 25 | 20 | 25 |
| Gwersyllt North | 20 | 15 | 15 | 15 |
| Gwersyllt West | 30 | 40 | 35 | 35 |
| Hermitage | 40 | 35 | 35 | 30 |
| Holt | 15 | 15 | 15 | 15 |
| Little Acton | 20 | 15 | 15 | 10 |
| Llay | 30 | 30 | 30 | 30 |
| Maesydre | 25 | 30 | 20 | 25 |
| Marford and Hoseley | 5 | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| Offa | 30 | 20 | 25 | 30 |
| Queensway | 20 | 20 | 15 | 20 |
| Rhosnesni | 20 | 15 | 15 | 15 |
| Rossett | 20 | 15 | 15 | 10 |
| Smithfield | 30 | 20 | 20 | 15 |
| Stansty | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 |
| Whitegate | 30 | 25 | 25 | 25 |
| Wynnstay | 45 | 35 | 35 | 30 |

*Notes:*
1. Incapacity benefit figures include credits-only cases.
2. 1998 to 2000 figures are based on April 1998 ward boundaries.
3. 2001 to 2004 figures are based on April 2003 ward boundaries.
4. All benefit counts at ward level are rounded to a multiple of 5 to protect the confidentiality of individual claimants.
*Source:*
Information Directorate, Department for Work and Pensions.

### Housing Benefit

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what measures are in place to ensure that those on housing benefit are not discouraged from returning to work; [5439]

(2) what assessment he has made of the impact of the introduction of local housing allowances on disincentives to work. [5463]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** We are committed to making work pay for all those who are able to work, and to supporting households in sustaining employment.

We have made significant progress in taking forward our Housing Benefit Reform Programme which was launched in October 2002. As part of this reform, we implemented the local housing allowance in nine pathfinder authorities for tenants in the deregulated private sector. Nine more local authorities will implement the local housing allowance between April and July 2005. Early results from the Pathfinders are contained in the evaluation report "Delivering the Local Housing Allowance: A summary of the early experiences of implementing the Local Housing Allowance in the nine Pathfinder areas", published in April, which is available in the Library.

In April 2004, we introduced a number of measures to improve work incentives for housing benefit recipients. These included removing the need for people to reclaim housing benefit when they start a job. In most cases this ensures that benefit claims remain "live" while local authorities determine whether someone is entitled to continue claiming housing benefit. We also applied the additional earnings disregard in housing benefit and council tax benefit to those customers who are working for 16 or more hours a week and who have children or are disabled, and to some people of 50 or over who have recently returned to work. In addition, we extended housing benefit run-on to people receiving incapacity benefit and severe disablement allowance.

As part of our reform programme, we are also reducing administrative complexity and providing housing benefit recipients with a clearer understanding of their benefit entitlement on return to work.

We have also introduced a range of other measures which act as real incentives for people to move off benefit and into work. The National Minimum Wage was introduced in April 1999. It established minimum standards of pay in the labour market. In October 2004 the minimum wage was increased from £4.50 per hour to £4.85 for workers aged 22 and over and from £3.80 per hour to £4.10 per hour for people aged 18–21.

Building on the success of working families' tax credit (WFTC), disabled person's tax credit and the children's tax credit, from April 2003 we introduced two new tax credits: the child tax credit (CTC) and the working tax credit (WTC) both of which are designed to make work pay.

The Adviser Discretion Fund was introduced in July 2001, giving Jobcentre Plus Advisers direct access to funds to remove immediate barriers to employment and help people move quickly into work. In October 2004 we introduced Job Grant to help people manage until they receive their first wages. Additionally, housing benefit and council tax benefit extended payments allow maximum housing benefit and council tax benefit to continue for the first four weeks after starting work.

The effectiveness of work incentives will be monitored as part of the comprehensive Pathfinder evaluation.

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether IT systems used to administer housing benefit by local authority departments, local Jobcentre Plus offices and his Department are able to communicate with each other directly; and if he will make a statement. [5443]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** Currently there are no facilities for direct communication between the Department for Work and Pension Information Technology (IT) Systems and Local Authority Housing Benefit IT systems. The Department does, however, supply local authorities with Remote Access Terminals that allow authorised users to view details of income support, pension credit and jobseekers allowance customers that are relevant to housing benefit and council tax benefit entitlement.

DWP also provides electronic transfers of data to relevant local authorities on awards, changes and terminations of income support, job seekers allowance and pension credit for customers known to be in receipt of housing benefit or council tax benefit. This allows any changes reported to DWP to be reflected in local authority systems.

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what assessment he has made of the likely effects on costs of the introduction of the local housing allowance across England; and if he will make a statement; [5462]

(2) what the estimated cost of extending the local housing allowance scheme across England is, broken down by *(a)* benefit payments and *(b)* IT expenditure. [5464]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** We have put in place an independent, comprehensive evaluation of the nine pathfinders which will not conclude until spring 2006. This will inform the design of the scheme and the associated costs.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many housing benefit recipients were subject to the single room rent restriction on 1 April. [5631]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit Quarterly Summary Statistics for February 2005 (the latest available published data) show that there were 11,200 housing benefit recipients assessed under the single room rent.

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether housing benefit paid to council tenants is funded from *(a)* social security funds, *(b)* local authority funds and *(c)* central Government funds. [12859]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** Central Government funds housing benefit via interim payments of subsidy made to local authorities during the year. Authorities are then required to submit claims for subsidy, after the end of the financial year. These are compared to the interim amounts and further payments to, or recoveries from, authorities may be made.

Subject to certain restrictions housing benefit to which there is an entitlement is subsidised in full. Any shortfall in Government funding is met from local authority funds.

### Incapacity Benefit

**Mr. Heathcoat-Amory:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) if he will list the countries to which incapacity benefit claimants may move and continue to receive their benefit; and in which countries the benefit continues to be index-linked; [8994]

(2) how many incapacity benefit recipients live outside the UK in a country where they can receive *(a)* index-linked benefit entitlement and *(b)* non index-linked benefit entitlement. [8995]

**Mrs. McGuire:** As at February 2005 there were 9,800 recipients of incapacity benefit (IB) and severe disablement allowance (SDA) living outside the UK. Information on their countries of residence is not available.

IB is uprated in all countries where it can be paid. It is payable to recipients living in European Union (EU) and European Economic Area (EEA) countries and Switzerland under the European Community's social security regulations. It is also payable under bilateral social security agreements to recipients who live in the Isle of Man or the Channel Islands or in one of the countries in the following list:

*Non-EU/EEA countries where incapacity benefit is payable under bi-lateral agreements*

Bosnia-Herzegovina
Barbados
Croatia
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
Israel
Jamaica
State Union of Serbia and Montenegro
Turkey
USA

### Medical Examination Centres

**Roger Berry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has to close medical examination centres; and if he will make a statement. [8181]

**Mrs. McGuire:** Following the award of a new medical services contract, the Department and Atos Origin are currently discussing a range of proposals, including an estates strategy that will both improve service standards and secure investment in other areas. Further information will be made available once these discussions have been concluded.

**Paul Holmes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will list medical examination centres in the UK. [10078]

**Mrs. McGuire:** A list of all the existing medical examination centres in the UK has been placed in the Library.

**Mr. Todd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what criteria have been used in deciding the programme of closures of medical examination centres. [7515]

**Mrs. McGuire:** Following the award of a new medical services contract, the Department and Atos Origin are currently discussing a range of proposals, including an estates strategy that will both improve service standards and secure investment in other areas. Further information will be made available once these discussions have been concluded.

**Dr. Iddon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what assessment he has made of the impact of closure of the medical examination centre in Bolton on the residents of Bolton South East constituency; [7564]

(2) what saving will be obtained by closure of the Bolton Medical Examination Centre; [7565]

(3) how many redundancies will arise from the closure of the Bolton Medical Examination Centre; [7566]

(4) where those living in the Bolton South East constituency will be sent by his Department for medical examinations following the closure of the Bolton Medical Examination Centre; [7567]

(5) when the decision was made to close the Medical Examination Centre in Bolton; [7569]

(6) which *(a)* organisations and *(b)* individuals were consulted about the decision to close the Medical Examination Centre in Bolton; [7570]

(7) how many people from the Bolton South East parliamentary constituency have been examined at the Bolton Medical Examination Centre in each year since 1997; and how many were examined elsewhere in each year. [7571]

**Mrs. McGuire:** Following the award of a new medical services contract, the Department and Atos Origin are currently discussing a range of proposals, including an estates strategy that will both improve service standards and secure investment in other areas. Further information will be made available once these discussions have been concluded.

Available information on the number of incapacity benefit customers from the Bolton South East constituency attending Bolton Medical Examination Centre and other Medical Examination Centres in each year from 1997 to 2005 is set out in the following table:

| | *Bolton* | *Others* |
|---|---|---|
| 1997 | 0 | 0 |
| 1998 | 189 | 29 |
| 1999 | 578 | 77 |

| | Bolton | Others |
|---|---|---|
| 2000 | 1089 | 74 |
| 2001 | 1341 | 73 |
| 2002 | 1682 | 84 |
| 2003 | 1630 | 56 |
| 2004 | 1462 | 27 |
| 2005 | 686 | 10 |

*Notes:*

1. Atos Origin have only been able to provide information since 1 September 1998 when they were awarded the Contract.
2. The Others column relates to people who live in the BL1 and BL4 (Bolton South East constituency postcodes) who attended a different medical examination centre as it was more convenient for them to do so.

## National Insurance

**Barbara Follett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment his Department has made of the merits of reducing the lower earnings limit to bring more low-paid workers into the National Insurance system. [12301]

**Mr. Plaskitt** *[holding answer 18 July 2005]:* Currently the lower earning limit is £82 per week. There are around 1.7 million people with earnings below this level in the UK. Many of these people, particularly women, will benefit from credits or Home Responsibilities Protection that bring them into the National Insurance system.

At the Labour Party National Policy Forum held in July 2004, it was agreed with the trade unions that the Government would carry out a review of the lower earnings limit in determining access to benefits for low-paid workers.

This review is underway and will help inform the national pensions debate. Producing fairer outcomes for women and carers is one of the principles driving reform.

## Newtown Office

**Lembit Öpik:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) if he will reverse the decision to close his Department's office in Newtown, Powys; and if he will make a statement; [11949]

(2) what assessment he has made of the likely economic effect on Newtown, Powys, of the closure of his Department's facility in the town; and if he will make a statement. [11950]

**Margaret Hodge:** The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, who will write to the hon. Member.

*Letter from Leslie Strathie to Mr. Lembit Öpik, dated 20 July 2005:*

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your questions concerning the closure of the Jobcentre Plus office in Newtown and the economic effect on the town. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Firstly, I must make it clear that there are no plans to close the Jobcentre Plus Office in Newtown. As David Anderson, the former Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus outlined in his letter to you of 31 March, it is the behind the scenes Benefit Processing work that will eventually transfer to our Processing Centre in Wrexham.

The centralisation of Benefit Processing, at a smaller number of larger sites, will play a crucial role in helping Jobcentre Plus to meet the Government's efficiency challenge and I know that Charles Morse, the District Manager for North West Wales and Powys wrote to you on 27 May detailing the timescales for the transfer of this work.

It is not envisaged that the transfer of Benefit Processing to Wrexham will have an adverse impact upon the wider local economy. Customers will continue to have access to the fully integrated Jobcentre Plus service at Afon House and, through our enhanced Personal Adviser service for customers on inactive benefits, we will continue to target our help at some of our most disadvantaged customers.

Nevertheless, I recognise that the decision to centralise Benefit Processing has led to surplus staff. Unfortunately, it has not proved possible to identify suitable redeployment opportunities for all those staff involved. Consequently, it has been necessary to run a Voluntary Early Release Scheme and in the coming months, as we complete the transfer of work to Wrexham, a number of staff will be leaving Jobcentre Plus under the terms of our scheme.

While the loss of experienced staff is always regrettable, the challenges that Jobcentre Plus has taken up are about providing a better and more efficient service to our customers, and there is no doubt in my mind that the decision to centralise Benefit Processing is the correct one. Charles Morse will continue to keep you fully informed as our plans take shape.

I hope this is helpful.

## Pension Credit

**Mr. Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people were entitled to pension credit in *(a)* 2003 and *(b)* 2004; how many are currently entitled; and what estimate he has made of entitlement in (i) 2006, (ii) 2007 and (iii) 2008. [12695]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** National Statistics covering estimates of entitlement and take-up of pension credit in 2003–04 are planned for release in December 2005.

The current indicative projections of entitlement from 2004–05 onwards are shown in the table.

*Projections of entitlement to pension credit*

*£ million*

| | Entitled households | Entitled individuals |
|---|---|---|
| 2004–05 | 3.80 | 4.90 |
| 2005–06 | 3.85 | 5.00 |
| 2006–07 | 3.95 | 5.15 |
| 2007–08 | 4.10 | 5.35 |

*Notes:*

1. All figures are for Great Britain. They are in millions and rounded to the nearest 50,000.
2. Entitlement levels for pension credit are estimated using the 2002/03 Family Resources Survey modelled using the Department's Policy Simulation Model.
3. Results are subject to sampling and reporting errors and estimation assumptions, and are therefore indicative only.
4. Analysis suggests that due to uncertainties, a margin of error of 250,000 should be placed around the central projections. So the projection for 2004–05 could lie in the range 3.55 million to 4.05 million households.
5. The projections of individuals include some people aged under 60 who are partners of claimants aged 60 or over.

*Source:*

Policy Simulation Model based on the 2002/03 Family Resources Survey.

## Pensions

**Sir Malcolm Rifkind:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many occupational pension schemes have started winding up in each year since 1997. [12219]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The information is not available in the form requested.

Such information as is available from the register of pension schemes that is maintained by The Pensions Regulator indicates that around 170 private sector defined benefit schemes started to wind up in 2000, around 170 in 2001, around 180 in 2002, and around 130 in 2003. In total around 720 private sector defined benefit schemes were recorded as having started to wind up sometime between 2000 and October 2004. These figures do not include schemes which completed wind up during that period. Figures on schemes starting to wind up between 1997 and 2000 are not available as the register does not contain information on whether the schemes that started to wind up before 2000 started before or after 1997.

**Sir Malcolm Rifkind:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many stakeholder pension schemes have been opened in each year since 2002. [12220]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The information requested is in the table.

| *Calendar year* | *Number of stakeholder pensions opened* |
|---|---|
| 2002 | 638,000 |
| 2003 | 560,000 |
| 2004 | 524,000 |
| Total | 1,722,000 |

*Notes:*
1. Figures from the Association of British Insurers (ABI).
2. Figures rounded to the nearest 1,000.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his latest estimate is of the expenditure on national insurance rebates for those contracted out of the *(a)* State Earnings Related Pension Scheme and *(b)* State Second Pension in each year from 1997–98 to 2009–10. [12395]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The figures requested are given in the following table:

| | *Rebate in cash terms to 2004–05, constant 2005–06 prices thereafter (£ billion)* |
|---|---|
| 1996–97 | 6.9 |
| 1997–98 | 7.4 |
| 1998–99 | 7.8 |
| 1999–2000 | 8.2 |
| 2000–01 | 8.7 |
| 2001–02 | 9.0 |
| 2002–03 | 10.4 |
| 2003–04 | 10.1 |
| 2004–05 | 10.3 |
| 2005–06 | 10.7 |
| 2006–07 | 10.9 |
| 2007–08 | 10.4 |
| 2008–09 | 10.5 |
| 2009–10 | 10.6 |

*Note:*
Figures are for Great Britain only and are consistent with Budget 2005 estimates.

*Source:*
The Government Actuary's Department.

**Mr. Denham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) if he will estimate the cost of state second pension payments in 2026 if no new rights are accrued from 2006 onwards; [12792]

(2) if he will estimate the cost of payments on the state second pension in 2026. [12793]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The information requested is not available in the format requested. Such information as is available is as follows.

The long term projection for state earnings-related pension scheme (SERPS) payments and state second pension payments in 2026 is £21.1 billion. If no new rights were accrued for the state second pension from 2006 onwards, the estimated cost of SERPS and state second pension payments in 2026 would be £16.1 billion.

*Notes:*
1. Figures are for Great Britain in 2005–06 price terms, in billions rounded to the nearest £100 million.
2. The former costs are consistent with the pre-Budget report 2004.

For the latter figure:

3. The cost of future state earnings-related pension scheme payments and state second pension payments are calculated by using the December 2004 Update of the Government Actuary's Quinquennial Review of the National Insurance Fund, and use 2003 based population projections.
4. The cost is the net cost payable after accrued contracting out deductions have been made.
5. Contracting-out is also assumed to cease in 2006.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the proportion of retirement pension awards made in each of the last five years that were subsequently found to be incorrect and rectified. [10763]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The information is not available in the form requested. Available information on state pension accuracy rates is set out in the following table:

*State pension awards 2000–01 to 2003–04: estimated accuracy rates*

| | *Accuracy rate* |
|---|---|
| 2000–01 | 97.8 |
| 2001–02 | 97.8 |
| 2002–03 | 97.0 |
| 2003–04 | 98.6 |

*Notes:*
1. The estimates are subject to sampling error.
2. The percentages quoted relate to the estimated proportion of cases where the payment is free of official error of 50p a week or more.

*Source:*
Pension Service Internal Assurance Services/Information Directorate, Department for Work and Pensions

**Sir Malcolm Rifkind:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his latest estimate is of the number of active stakeholder pension schemes in existence. [12216]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** Information is not available in the format requested. Stakeholder pensions are designed to be flexible, with holders being permitted to take breaks in contributions without incurring penalty charges.

In the tax year 2002–03, 1,060,000 stakeholder pension policies received a contribution.

*Note:*

1. It is not an indication that stakeholder pensions sold since launch in 2001 but not receiving a contribution in 2002–03, will receive no further contributions.

2. This information is derived from a sample of annual returns of information submitted to the Inland Revenue (now HM Revenue and Customs) by stakeholder pension providers.

3. The figure is rounded to the nearest 10,000.

### Press Officers

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many press officers the Department and its predecessors employed in each year since 1997; and what the cost was in each year. [8136]

**Mrs. McGuire:** The Department for Work and Pensions was formed on 8 June 2001 from parts of the former Department of Social Security, the former Department for Education and Employment and the Employment Service. Information prior to 2001 is not held centrally and can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

*Number of Press Officers employed*

| | *National Press Officers*[1] | *Regional Press Officers*[1] |
|---|---|---|
| 2001–02 | 21 | 0 |
| 2002–03 | 16 | 13 |
| 2003–04 | 20 | 20 |
| 2004–05 | 19 | 23 |

[1] The number of staff is the number in post at 31 March each year.

| | *Cost (£)* |
|---|---|
| 2001–02 | 816,725 |
| 2002–03 | 1,739,935 |
| 2003–04 | 1,146,255 |
| 2004–05 | 1,533,703 |

*Note:*
The costs are based on average salaries for the year and take into account the actual number of Press Officers and changes in post each month.

### Social Fund

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has to reform the Social Fund. [11855]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The social fund plays an important role in the Government's agenda for tackling poverty and social exclusion. It provides valuable support to millions of people on low incomes, including some of the most vulnerable people in our society. We have recently announced a number of planned improvements to the social fund.

The Child Poverty Review, published on 12 July 2004, announced the Government's intention to abolish the Budgeting Loan "double debt" rule and to reduce the current standard repayment rate of 15 per cent. of a customers benefit to 12 per cent. These changes will come into effect on 3 April 2006 and will make budgeting loans more consistent and easier to understand and the social fund more effective in assisting those families most likely to experience debt problems.

These changes, which will make it easier for applicants to access loans, will be supported by a net increase in loans funding of £210 million over the three years from 2006–07. In the short-term these changes will strengthen the social fund's contribution to increasing access to affordable credit for those on the lowest incomes. In the longer term we intend to consider more widely the role the social fund might play in the wider financial inclusion agenda.

### Taxis

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much the Department has spent on taxis in each of the last five years. [6493]

**Mrs. McGuire:** The information is not available.

### Vaccine Reactions

**Dr. Desmond Turner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many payments have been made for adverse reactions to vaccines for *(a)* hepatitis B, *(b)* polio, *(c)* MMR, *(d)* tetanus and *(e)* influenza in each of the last 10 years. [6928]

**Mrs. McGuire:** The Vaccine Damage Payment scheme provides for a tax-free lump sum payment to those who are severely disabled as a result of vaccinations against certain diseases specified in the Vaccine Damage Payment Act. Influenza and Hepatitis B are not included in the Act.

The Department does not hold information about the specific vaccines linked to a successful Vaccine Damage Payment claim.

Claimants are asked to specify on the claim form all the vaccinations that the disabled person received. Many vaccinations can be given in close proximity to each other and it is not always possible to determine exactly which vaccination is linked to the adverse reaction. Decisions are therefore not based on one particular vaccine. All the vaccinations given to the disabled person and their full medical history are considered. It is therefore not possible to attribute payments to a specific vaccination.

### Vibration White Finger

**Mr. Todd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will issue guidance to staff handling claims for reduced earnings allowance in respect of PD A11 (vibration white finger) to take account of changes in rules consequent on the report from the Industrial Injuries Advisory Council. [12670]

**Margaret Hodge:** As with ail changes to the list of prescribed diseases under the Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit scheme, guidance will be issued to alert staff to the changes to Prescribed Disease A11 (PD A11) and the effects of those changes on benefit entitlement.

### Winter Fuel Payment

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many households there were in North

East Milton Keynes with at least one person aged 75 years or over receiving the winter fuel payment in 2004–05. [13143]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** For winter 2004–05 there were 3,920 households in North East Milton Keynes with at least one person aged 75 or over that received the winter fuel payment. Information on winter fuel payments is available in the Library.

*Notes:*

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest five.

2. Local authorities and parliamentary constituencies are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant ONS postcode directory.

3. Any residence found to have four or more occupants is not included in these figures as it is assumed to be a Residential Care or Nursing Home.

4. Please note that the figures for 2004–05 refer only to the main payment run so they do not include the late payment run figures. We estimate that there are approximately 100,000 people in Great Britain paid in late payment runs (0.8 per cent. of all payments). Since most of the payments made in late payment runs are to people who are not receiving another benefit from DWP and whose claims had not been received by the qualifying week, most are men aged 60.

*Source:*

Information Directorate, 100 per cent. sample.

### Work Disincentives

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will list the disincentives to work that existed within the benefit system in 1997. [3151]

**Margaret Hodge:** Since 1997 the Government's priority has been to tackle the scourge of unemployment, inactivity and poverty through investment in, and reform of, the welfare state. The UK now has one of the strongest labour markets in the world, with the best combination of employment and unemployment of the major world economies. More people are moving from welfare back into work with employment up almost 200,000 in the last year and by over 2 million since 1997. With more people in jobs than ever before, we now spend £5 billion less on unemployment benefits than we did in 1997.

A central part of our strategy is to ensure that work pays, establishing a real incentive for people to move off benefit and into work.

The National Minimum Wage was introduced in April 1999 as part of our overall strategy, establishing minimum standards of pay in the labour market. In October 2004 the minimum wage was increased from £4.50 per hour to £4.85 for workers aged 22 and over and from £3.80 per hour to £4.10 per hour for people aged 18–21 inclusive.

Building on the success of working families' tax credit (WFTC), disabled person's tax credit and the children's tax credit, from April 2003 the Government introduced two new tax credits, the child tax credit (CTC) and the working tax credit (WTC). Entitlement to the tax credits is based on the particular circumstances of an individual or family.

The Adviser Discretion Fund was introduced in July 2001, giving Jobcentre Plus Advisers direct access to funds to remove immediate barriers to employment and thus help people move quickly into work. In addition, from October 2003, access to the Fund was further extended to all incapacity benefit customers in Pathways to Work pilot areas from the first day of their claim.

Job Grant was also introduced in October 2004 to help people manage until they receive their first wages. It replaced both the Lone Parents Run-On and the original Job Grant schemes.

Additionally the housing benefit and council tax benefit extended payments allow maximum housing benefit and council tax benefit to continue for the first four weeks after starting work. Help with mortgage interest in the first four weeks of employment may also be available through Mortgage Interest Run-On in the income-related benefits.

Today, Britain is working again. We are transforming the welfare state from a passive one-size-fits-all model to an active system that delivers both rights and responsibilities, tailoring help to the individual and providing the support and incentives people need to move from welfare and into work.

## TREASURY

### Boundary Reviews

**Mr. Betts:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the population aged 18 years and over was at the last Census in each constituency agreed by the Boundary Commission as part of the current round of boundary reviews. [13518]

**John Healey:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Len Cook to Mr. Clive Betts, dated 20 July 2005:*

As National Statistician and Registrar General for England and Wales, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the population aged 18 years and over was at the last Census in each constituency agreed by the Boundary Commission as part of the current round of boundary reviews. (13518)

I refer you to the answer given in the *Official Report* volume 436 number 34 column 1166.

### Child Trust Fund

**Mr. Kemp:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many applications there have been for the new child trust fund nationally since its introduction; and how many children are eligible to receive it; [13566]

(2) how many applications there have been for the new child trust fund *(a)* nationally and *(b)* in Houghton and Washington East constituency since its introduction; and how many children (i) in the UK and (ii) in that constituency are eligible to receive it. [13567]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** Children are eligible for the child trust fund if they were born on or after 1 September 2002, a child benefit award has been made for them and they live in the UK and are not subject to immigration restrictions.

A CTF voucher is needed to open a child trust fund account and all eligible children receive one automatically once a child benefit award is made. No separate application is needed. So far around 1.7 million vouchers have been issued and I am encouraged by the fact that around one third of these vouchers have already been used and that awareness of the fund is virtually universal and many parents now see the child trust fund as the primary savings vehicle for their child. This positive action will help us to achieve our goal that every child—regardless of their background—gets the best start in life.

Information on the number of CTF vouchers issued by parliamentary constituency is only available at disproportionate cost. However for information on the number of children born to mother resident in each UK constituency since 1 September 2002 I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Battersea (Martin Linton) on 30 November 2004, *Official Report*, columns 87–88W.

## EU Directive 2001/17/EC

**Peter Viggers:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the Government's policy is on EU Directive 2001/17/EC. [13046]

**Mr. Steen:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans he has to implement EU Directive 2001/17/EC; and by what method he proposes to implement it. [13368]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** Directive 2001/17/EC was implemented in the UK by the Insurers (Reorganisation and Winding-Up) Regulations 2004 for all insurance undertakings, apart from Lloyd's. Lloyd's unique structure did not prove readily compatible with the provisions of these regulations without further complex adaptation and refinement. Following consultation on draft regulations earlier this year, we intend to make the Insurers (Reorganisation and Winding-Up) (Lloyd's) Regulations 2005 using powers under section 2(2) of the European Communities Act.

## GDP (North-East)

**Mr. Iain Wright:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the GDP per head is in *(a)* England, *(b)* the North East region, *(c)* the Tees Valley sub region and *(d)* Hartlepool. [13435]

**John Healey:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Len Cook to Mr. Iain Wright, dated 20 July 2005:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about GDP per head for England, the North East region, the Tees Valley sub region and Hartlepool. (13435)

The latest published information for GVA per head for England and the North East is for 2003. The Tees Valley is in the NUTS2 area of Tees Valley and Durham. Hartlepool is in the NUTS3 area of Hartlepool and Stockton-on-Tees, which is currently the lowest geographic level at which GVA per head is published. The latest published information for these two areas is for 2002.

The estimates in the table are based on the regional Gross Value Added[1] (GVA) estimates published in December 2004. These are available on the National Statistics website at: http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=7359

*Gross Value Added (GVA)[1] £ per head at current basic prices*

| | 2002 | [2]2003 |
|---|---|---|
| England | 15,633 | 16,339 |
| North East | 12,078 | 12,736 |
| Tees Valley and Durham | 11,184 | — |
| Hartlepool and Stockton-on-Tees | 12,019 | — |

[1] Information presented here is Gross Value Added (GVA) which is Gross Domestic Product (GDP) less taxes (plus subsidies) on products.
[2] Provisional

## Income Tax

**Mr. Graham Stuart:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average wage is in Beverley and Holderness. [13292]

**John Healey:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Len Cook to Mr. Graham Stuart, dated 20 July 2005:*

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question what was the average wage in Beverley and Holderness is. (13292)

Average earnings are estimated from the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings and are provided for employees on adult rates of pay whose pay was unaffected by absence during the pay period, by their place of work. This is the standard definition used for Annual Survey of Hours and Earning tables. The Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings does not collect data on the self employed and people who do unpaid work.

I attach a table showing the average gross weekly earnings for full time employees in Beverley and Holderness in 2004. The data is also available on the National Statistics website on table 9:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/STATBASE/Product.asp?vlnk=13101

The Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, carried out in April of each year, is the most comprehensive source of earnings information in the United Kingdom. It has a one per cent sample of all employees.

*Means and Medians for full-time employees in Beverley and Holderness in 2004*

| | Beverley and Holderness |
|---|---|
| Median | 387.7 |
| CV percentage* | [1]9.7 |
| Mean | 440.1 |
| CV percentage* | [1]5.0 |

[1] Guide to quality: The Coefficient of Variation (CV) is given to indicate the quality of a figure, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality.
The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV e.g. for an average of 200 with a CV of 5 per cent., we would expect the population average to be within the range 180 to 220.
*Notes:*
1. The Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, (ASHE), carried out in April of each year, is the most comprehensive source of earnings information in the United Kingdom. It is a 1 per cent. sample of all employees.

2. The ASHE replaces the New Earnings Survey (NES) from October 2004. The main difference between the ASHE and NES being that estimates are weighted to population totals from the Labour Force Survey.
3. Average gross weekly earnings for Adult Full-Time Employees whose pay for the survey period was not affected by absence.
*Source:*
Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, ONS

## IT Projects

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which of his Department's IT projects are categorised as red light; and if he will make a statement. [10780]

**John Healey:** The Treasury has a strong record in adopting OGC policy and best practice initiatives and all the Department's Mission Critical, High and Medium Risk Projects are subject to OGC Gateway Reviews.

The purpose of the 'traffic light' system is to bring to the attention of the Senior Responsible Owner significant or urgent issues that need to be addressed, and any designation of 'red', 'amber' or 'green light' conveys no suggestion as to whether a project should be continued. Information on our projects will continue to be published.

## National Statistics

**Mr. Geoffrey Robinson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the total population was of each of the counties surrounding London in each year since 1975. [13761]

**John Healey:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Len Cook to Mr. Geoffrey Robinson, dated 20 July 2005:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your question concerning the total population of all the counties surrounding London in each year since 1975. (13761)

The attached table provides population estimates for mid-1975 to mid-2003 for the counties of Buckinghamshire, Hertfordshire, Surrey, Essex and Kent and the former county of Berkshire.

The Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) between 1995 and 1998 resulted in major changes to some county boundaries. Therefore data has been provided on both former and current county boundaries for later years to enable comparison over time.

The most recent population estimates published are for mid-2003. (Estimates for mid-2004 will be published on 25 August 2005.)

*Mid-year population estimates: 1975 to 2003*[1,2]

*Thousand*

| *Year*[2] | *Buckinghamshire*[3,4] *Former county* | *Milton Keynes UA* | *Current county* | *Hertfordshire*[3,4] *Former/Current county* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1975 | 509.9 | — | — | 940.8 |
| 1976 | 519.5 | — | — | 942.4 |
| 1977 | 528.5 | — | — | 945.6 |
| 1978 | 539.7 | — | — | 950.7 |
| 1979 | 552.5 | — | — | 956.7 |
| 1980 | 562.1 | — | — | 962.1 |
| 1981 | 568.9 | — | — | 969.2 |
| 1982 | 577.1 | — | — | 970.8 |
| 1983 | 575.5 | — | — | 977.4 |
| 1984 | 589.3 | — | — | 981.4 |
| 1985 | 595.5 | — | — | 985.7 |
| 1986 | 606.0 | — | — | 984.1 |
| 1987 | 613.4 | — | — | 983.2 |
| 1988 | 618.6 | — | — | 980.8 |
| 1989 | 624.8 | — | — | 980.1 |
| 1990 | 631.0 | — | — | 979.9 |
| 1991 | 634.0 | — | — | 984.3 |
| 1992 | 640.4 | — | — | 988.9 |
| 1993 | 645.8 | — | — | 991.1 |
| 1994 | 652.0 | — | — | 995.4 |
| 1995 | 660.3 | — | — | 999.8 |
| 1996 | 665.4 | — | — | 1,002.7 |
| 1997 | 670.8 | 199.7 | 471.1 | 1,009.7 |
| 1998 | 674.9 | 202.9 | 472.1 | 1,016.4 |
| 1999 | 682.5 | 206.7 | 475.9 | 1,024.0 |
| 2000 | 687.0 | 209.8 | 477.2 | 1,029.8 |
| 2001 | 691.8 | 212.7 | 479.1 | 1,035.5 |
| 2002 | 692.1 | 214.1 | 477.9 | 1,037.2 |
| 2003[1] | 693.7 | 215.7 | 478.0 | 1,040.9 |

| *Year*[2] | *Surrey*[3,4] *Former/Current county* | *Essex*[3,4] *Former county* | *Southend UA* | *Thurrock UA* | *Current county* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1975 | 1,005.2 | 1,416.1 | — | — | — |
| 1976 | 1,007.7 | 1,428.6 | — | — | — |
| 1977 | 1,008.8 | 1,438.2 | — | — | — |
| 1978 | 1,010.8 | 1,449.1 | — | — | — |
| 1979 | 1,013.7 | 1,461.5 | — | — | — |
| 1980 | 1,017.3 | 1,474.5 | — | — | — |
| 1981 | 1,010.8 | 1,481.9 | — | — | — |
| 1982 | 1,009.7 | 1,482.8 | — | — | — |
| 1983 | 1,010.1 | 1,491.1 | — | — | — |
| 1984 | 1,015.1 | 1,496.5 | — | — | — |

| | Surrey[3,4] | Essex[3,4] | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Year[2] | Former/Current county | Former county | Southend UA | Thurrock UA | Current county |
| 1985 | 1,016.2 | 1,505.0 | — | — | — |
| 1986 | 1,016.6 | 1,512.9 | — | — | — |
| 1987 | 1,006.9 | 1,522.2 | — | — | — |
| 1988 | 1,008.4 | 1,530.4 | — | — | — |
| 1989 | 1,010.6 | 1,533.4 | — | — | — |
| 1990 | 1,015.7 | 1,535.6 | — | — | — |
| 1991 | 1,023.3 | 1,539.0 | — | — | — |
| 1992 | 1,024.3 | 1,546.9 | — | — | — |
| 1993 | 1,025.6 | 1,550.6 | — | — | — |
| 1994 | 1,027.4 | 1,558.5 | — | — | — |
| 1995 | 1,030.2 | 1,564.9 | — | — | — |
| 1996 | 1,030.9 | 1,571.3 | — | — | — |
| 1997 | 1,038.8 | 1,578.7 | — | — | — |
| 1998 | 1,040.2 | 1,586.7 | 163.8 | 138.7 | 1,284.2 |
| 1999 | 1,055.7 | 1,597.4 | 162.9 | 139.5 | 1,295.0 |
| 2000 | 1,057.0 | 1,607.5 | 161.6 | 141.5 | 1,304.4 |
| 2001 | 1,060.2 | 1,616.3 | 160.4 | 143.3 | 1,312.6 |
| 2002 | 1,061.3 | 1,623.0 | 160.4 | 144.5 | 1,318.1 |
| 2003[1] | 1,064.6 | 1,629.6 | 160.3 | 145.3 | 1,324.1 |

| | Kent[3,4] | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Year[2] | Former county | Medway UA | Current county |
| 1975 | 1,445.4 | — | — |
| 1976 | 1,452.6 | — | — |
| 1977 | 1,456.3 | — | — |
| 1978 | 1,461.6 | — | — |
| 1979 | 1,468.1 | — | — |
| 1980 | 1,478.2 | — | — |
| 1981 | 1,484.8 | — | — |
| 1982 | 1,486.6 | — | — |
| 1983 | 1,486.2 | — | — |
| 1984 | 1,491.2 | — | — |
| 1985 | 1,495.1 | — | — |
| 1986 | 1,500.6 | — | — |
| 1987 | 1,509.2 | — | — |
| 1988 | 1,519.0 | — | — |
| 1989 | 1,522.2 | — | — |
| 1990 | 1,524.4 | — | — |
| 1991 | 1,528.3 | — | — |
| 1992 | 1,528.9 | — | — |
| 1993 | 1,528.4 | — | — |
| 1994 | 1,532.7 | — | — |
| 1995 | 1,535.2 | — | — |
| 1996 | 1,539.0 | — | — |
| 1997 | 1,545.4 | — | — |
| 1998 | 1,552.1 | 245.3 | 1,306.7 |
| 1999 | 1,563.1 | 246.4 | 1,316.7 |
| 2000 | 1,573.2 | 248.5 | 1,324.7 |
| 2001 | 1,580.9 | 249.7 | 1,331.2 |
| 2002 | 1,590.1 | 250.4 | 1,339.7 |
| 2003[1] | 1,599.9 | 251.1 | 1,348.8 |

| | Berkshire[3,4] | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Year[2] | Former county | Bracknell Forest UA | West Berkshire UA | Reading UA | Slough UA | Windsor and Maidenhead UA | Wokingham UA |
| 1975 | 661.1 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 1976 | 665.4 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 1977 | 670.8 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 1978 | 676.8 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 1979 | 681.9 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 1980 | 688.7 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 1981 | 697.9 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 1982 | 703.8 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 1983 | 709.3 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 1984 | 717.0 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 1985 | 724.8 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 1986 | 734.1 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 1987 | 739.4 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 1988 | 744.9 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 1989 | 745.0 | — | — | — | — | — | — |

| | | Berkshire[3,4] | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Year[2] | Former county | Bracknell Forest UA | West Berkshire UA | Reading UA | Slough UA | Windsor and Maidenhead UA | Wokingham UA |
| 1990 | 750.8 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 1991 | 751.9 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 1992 | 757.1 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 1993 | 762.9 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 1994 | 768.1 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 1995 | 778.7 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 1996 | 786.4 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 1997 | 792.8 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 1998 | 795.8 | 109.0 | 143.7 | 144.1 | 118.0 | 133.0 | 148.1 |
| 1999 | 796.8 | 109.8 | 144.1 | 143.5 | 118.5 | 132.9 | 147.9 |
| 2000 | 800.7 | 109.7 | 144.2 | 143.9 | 119.7 | 133.7 | 149.5 |
| 2001 | 803.3 | 109.7 | 144.5 | 144.7 | 120.6 | 133.5 | 150.3 |
| 2002 | 802.0 | 109.6 | 143.8 | 144.2 | 119.9 | 134.0 | 150.5 |
| 2003[1] | 803.7 | 110.1 | 144.2 | 144.1 | 118.8 | 135.3 | 151.2 |

[1] Mid-2003 population estimates are the latest data available. Mid-2004 population estimates will be published on 25 August 2005.
[2] Population estimates for 1981 to 2000 have been revised in light of the 2001 census. These figures are on 2001 boundaries. Figures for 1975 to 1980 are on 1981 boundaries.
[3] The Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) between 1995 and 1998 resulted in major changes to some county boundaries. From 1997 Milton Keynes UA was no longer included in Buckinghamshire. From 1998 Medway UA was no longer included in Kent and Southend-on-Sea UA and Thurrock UA were no longer included in Essex. Also in 1998 Berkshire ceased to exist and was split into Reading UA, Bracknell Forest UA, West Berkshire UA, Slough UA, Windsor and Maidenhead UA and Wokingham UA.
[4] The data for 1975 to 1980 and for 1981 to 2003 are not directly comparable due to a number of boundary changes (in addition to the Local Government Reorganisation) between 1981 and 2001. There have been no boundary changes since mid-2001 affecting these counties.

*Notes:*
1. Population estimates are shown in thousands and rounded to the nearest 100 people.
2. Figures may not add exactly due to rounding.

*Source:*
Office for National Statistics

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the population of *(a)* Stroud District and *(b)* Gloucestershire was in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [13616]

**John Healey:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the national statistician who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Len Cook to Mr. David Drew, dated 20 July 2005:*

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your question concerning the populations of *(a)* Stroud and *(b)* Gloucestershire in each of the last five years for which figures are available. (13616)

The most recent population estimates published are for mid-2003. (Estimates for mid-2004 will be published on 25 August 2005.) Therefore, the table below provides population estimates for Stroud and Gloucestershire for mid-1999 to mid-2003.

*Mid-year population estimates: 1999 to 2003*

*Thousand*

| | Stroud | Gloucestershire |
|---|---|---|
| 1999 | 107.7 | 561.0 |
| 2000 | 107.9 | 564.6 |
| 2001 | 108.0 | 565.0 |
| 2002 | 108.2 | 565.9 |
| 2003 | 108.8 | 568.5 |

*Note:*
Population estimates are shown in thousands and rounded to the nearest 100 people.

*Source:*
Office for National Statistics

## Red Diesel

**Mr. Weir:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his plans for the red diesel rebate will affect the position of charter angling boats; and if he will make a statement. [13409]

**John Healey:** The excise duty paid on marine fuel (red diesel) used by crewed charter vessels with paying customers is fully repayable under the terms of the Energy Products Directive (2003/96/EC Article 14(1)*(c)*).

## Registrar General

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many applications were received by the Registrar General during the period 1997 to 2004 in response to the concession announced on 21 April 1993 whereby personal information could be extracted from the 1911 decennial census if it would enable the applicant to establish a legal entitlement such as an inheritance. [13577]

**John Healey:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the national statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Len Cook to Mr. Michael Hancock, dated 20 July 2005:*

As National Statistician and Registrar General for England and Wales I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many applications were received during the period 1997 to 2004 in response to the concession announced on 21st April 1993 whereby personal information could be extracted from the 1911 decennial census if it would enable the applicant to establish a legal entitlement such as an inheritance. (13577)

During the period 1997 to 2004 there were 5 applications for the release of personal information from the 1911 census for the purpose of establishing a legal entitlement.

## Revenue and Customs

**Peter Luff:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he will reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Mid-Worcestershire of 16 May requesting a meeting with the appropriate Minister to discuss the closure of the Revenue and Customs office in Droitwich Spa. [12834]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The chairman of HM Revenue and Customs replied to the hon. Gentleman on 19 July.

**Mr. Phillip Hammond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff at Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs are engaged in the handling, processing and analysis of stamp duty land tax (SDLT) returns; and what proportion of that staff time is attributable to returns in respect of transactions below the SDLT threshold. [13256]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** On average, 276 staff in HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) are currently engaged in the handling, processing and analysis of SDLT returns. This encompasses guidance and support—by telephone and through correspondence—for customers submitting returns. We do not keep records for the proportion of staff time spent on transactions below the SDLT threshold.

## Suicides

**Chris Bryant:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* male and *(b)* female suicides there have been in each year since 1975. [13413]

**John Healey:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Len Cook to Mr. Chris Bryant, dated 20 July 2005:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many *(a)* male and *(b)* female suicides there have been in each year since 1975. (13413)

In routine statistics, ONS defines suicides as deaths from both intentional self-harm and 'injury of undetermined intent'. The most recent available figures are for the calendar year 2003. The figures in the attached table show the numbers of deaths for intentional self-harm and injury of undetermined intent by sex for the calendar years 1975 to 2003.

*Number of deaths from intentional self-harm[1] and injury of undetermined intent[2] by sex, England and Wales, 1975 to 2003[3]*

| Calendar year | Males | Females |
|---|---|---|
| 1975 | 2,938 | 2,132 |
| 1976 | 3,131 | 2,193 |
| 1977 | 3,158 | 2,245 |
| 1978 | 3,256 | 2,251 |
| 1979 | 3,341 | 2,280 |
| 1980 | 3,392 | 2,291 |
| 1981 | 3,590 | 2,188 |
| 1982 | 3,542 | 2,110 |
| 1983 | 3,548 | 1,987 |
| 1984 | 3,619 | 1,988 |
| 1985 | 3,813 | 2,052 |
| 1986 | 3,819 | 1,865 |
| 1987 | 3,817 | 1,740 |
| 1988 | 4,174 | 1,761 |
| 1989 | 3,779 | 1,542 |
| 1990 | 4,050 | 1,494 |
| 1991 | 4,058 | 1,428 |
| 1992 | 4,060 | 1,426 |
| 1993 | 3,875 | 1,376 |
| 1994 | 3,887 | 1,257 |
| 1995 | 3,830 | 1,327 |
| 1996 | 3,654 | 1,239 |
| 1997 | 3,722 | 1,259 |
| 1998 | 3,929 | 1,225 |
| 1999 | 3,904 | 1,284 |
| 2000 | 3,659 | 1,262 |
| 2001 | 3,529 | 1,167 |
| 2002 | 3,470 | 1,195 |
| 2003 | 3,458 | 1,201 |

[1] The cause of death for intentional self harm was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Eighth Revision (ICD-8) codes E950-E959 for the years 1975 to 1978, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) codes E950-E959 for the years 1986 to 2000, and, for the years 2001 to 2003, the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes X60-X84.

[2] The cause of death for injury of undetermined intent was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Eighth Revision (ICD-8) codes E980-E989 for the years 1975 to 1978, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) codes E980-E989 excluding E988.8 for the years 1986 to 2000, and, for the years 2001 to 2003, the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes Y10-Y34 excluding Y33.9 where the Coroner's verdict was pending.

[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year from 1975 to 1992 and for deaths occurring in each calendar year from 1993 onwards.

## Tax Credits

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people have been in receipt of the incorrect level of working tax credit, broken down by constituency; how many of these could not have been reasonably expected to know that a mistake had been made; and if he will make a statement. [8927]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Overpayments can arise for a number of reasons or from a combination of factors, for example, when a claimant's entitlement varies following a change in their circumstances.

Overpayments such as those arising from a change in circumstance or income are a normal feature of the tax credits system. They are not errors.

It is not possible to give separate information on underpayments and overpayments for working tax credits and child tax credits, nor is it possible to identify the cause of these overpayments or underpayments at constituency level.

**Mr. George Osborne:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many people have been waiting for an appeal relating to their tax credit payments in each month since 2002; [9728]

(2) what the total number of appeals on tax credit awards settled by agreement has been for each month since 2002; [9847]

(3) what the average length of time taken to process appeals for tax credits has been *(a)* when the case has been settled by agreement, *(b)* when the case has proceeded to a tribunal, *(c)* in all other cases and *(d)* in all cases in total for each of the last two years; [9848]

(4) what length of time the longest tax credit appeal case has taken. [9849]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The Department aims to settle tax credits appeals by agreement with the claimant wherever possible. If agreement is not reached in this way, the Department refers the appeal, an explanation of their

decision and any relevant papers to the Appeals Service who arrange for appeals to be heard by an independent appeals tribunal.

No information is available on the average length of time taken to process appeals for tax credits or on the length of time taken on the longest tax credit appeal case, as this is not data that the Department collates. The Appeals Service aims to consider an appeal referred to them within 12 weeks of receipt of the submission, and in 2004–05 achieved an average of less than eight weeks.

Until recently the Department did not collate figures relating to the number of people with an open appeal. However, the Department holds recent information on this, and figures for the last three months are:

| *Month end* | *Total number open of appeals* |
|---|---|
| March 2005 | 11,500 |
| April 2005 | 7,500 |
| May 2005 | 6,500 |

No figures are available of the number of appeals settled by agreement each month. But for the year to 31 March 2005 the Department had dealt with around 37,000 appeals, and of these around 1,650 were resolved at an appeals tribunal. So around 95 per cent. of tax credits appeals are settled by agreement.

The appeals process is explained in more detail in leaflet WTC/AP, available at http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/leaflets/wtc_ap.pdf.

Information on appeals dealt with by a tribunal can be found at: http://www.appeals-service.gov.uk/.

**Mr. George Osborne:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many of the overpaid tax credit awards in 2003–04 he expects to be rectified; and if he will make a statement; [11448]

(2) what proportion of the tax credit overpayment in 2003–04, excluding overpayments of £10 or less, he expects to be recovered. [11449]

**Dawn Primarolo:** I refer the hon. Gentleman to the reply I gave to the hon. Member for Yeovil (Mr. Laws) on 4 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 96W.

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many cases of over-payment of tax credits are awaiting a decision in the Chorley constituency. [12048]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Details on the number of disputed overpayments awaiting a decision by constituency are not available.

**Mr. George Osborne:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) if HM Revenue and Customs will send all customers who have received an overpayment, a letter setting out *(a)* the total amount they owe, *(b)* the reasons why the overpayment or excess payment in-year occurred and the date or dates it happened and *(c)* the applicable repayment arrangements enclosing a copy of Code of Practice 26 and drawing particular attention to the circumstances when recovery can be waived and the availability of additional tax credits in cases of hardship; [13467]

(2) whether, when in-year recovery of excess tax credits is justified, the Revenue will take steps to pay additional tax credits automatically to families in receipt of income support and income-based jobseeker's allowance; [13470]

(3) if he will take steps to ensure that all HM Revenue and Customs staff who have contact with tax credit customers are alert to the circumstances when additional tax credits might be appropriate so that they can invite an immediate claim; [13472]

(4) whether, when it has been decided that an excess payment in-year is recoverable in accordance with Code of Practice 26, recovery will be at the same rates as those for overpayments in the previous year; [13474]

(5) if he will take steps to ensure that *(a)* customers are alerted on the payments page of an award notice to the fact that the recovery of an overpayment of tax credits can be challenged if the overpayment was due to official error and in circumstances where a customer reasonably thought they were being paid the correct amount and *(b)* customers' attention will be drawn on the same page to Code of Practice 26 and the fact that, if they want to dispute an overpayment, they need to complete form TC846; [13475]

(6) if he will ensure that HM Revenue and Customs do not seek to recover either an excess payment made in the current year, or an overpayment from the previous year, until it has come to a decision, based on all the relevant facts, as to whether or not the excess payment should be recovered in accordance with Code of Practice 26; [13476]

(7) if he will take steps to ensure that tax credits staff who are in direct contact with customers are made aware of situations where interim payments of tax credits may be appropriate; [13477]

(8) if he will *(a)* print details of the availability of additional tax credits prominently on the payments page of an award notice and *(b)* give greater prominence to the issue of financial hardship and how HM Revenue and Customs can help in the guidance notes which accompany an award notice; [13478]

(9) if, whenever a Revenue error is identified which has led to an overpayment of tax credits, the customer will be immediately notified of what has happened and informed of the circumstances when recovery can be waived; [13684]

(10) if his Department will consider writing off all excess and overpayments caused by official error which occurred during 2003–04 and 2004–05; [13686]

(11) if his Department will consider adoption of a statutory test for recovery of excess payments and overpayments of tax credits, consistent with the test that is applied to social security benefits, with a right of appeal to an independent tribunal. [13690]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The hon. Gentleman's questions relate to the recommendations in the report of the Parliamentary Ombudsman, "Tax Credits: Putting Things Right". I am considering the report and, as my right hon. Friend the Chief Secretary to the Treasury

said in the debate on 12 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 723, I shall be providing the Parliamentary Ombudsman with my response shortly.

**Mr. George Osborne:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the largest annual income for a household in receipt of tax credits was in the last 12 months. [13685]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The information requested is not available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

## INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### Africa

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his policy is on the development of rural road networks in Africa. [12554]

**Hilary Benn:** DFID recognises the importance of improved rural road networks; which significantly improves the access that poor people have to markets, health services and schools. We support the view of the Commission for Africa that without investment in rural infrastructure, and rural roads in particular, potential for economic growth and improved livelihoods will not be fully realised.

DFID directly supports rural road development in Ethiopia, Mozambique, Malawi, Ghana and Nigeria. Our policy recognises the importance of adopting labour-based road-building technologies where appropriate, to maximise employment, and the need for adequate attention to maintenance.

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether he plans to withhold aid from any regime in Africa on the grounds of their political policies. [12559]

**Hilary Benn:** DFID has recently launched a new policy on conditionality. Our policy makes it clear that we do not believe that conditionality can "buy" reform. Our aid programmes are based on partner commitment to reducing poverty, respect for human rights and international obligations and the strengthening of financial systems. Should a partner country move substantially away from these commitments, then we will consider revoking our aid commitments.

Within this framework of partner commitments, 'political policies' per se are not specifically identified. But political actions which relate to rights and international obligations, for example with respect to good governance, the rule of law and conduct of elections, will be considered in respect of whether a country is substantially undermining the basis of our partnership.

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how he plans to ensure that UK aid and debt relief is directed to those who need it most in Africa. [12561]

**Hilary Benn:** The Department for International Development uses a financial model to help inform decisions on bilateral aid allocation in Africa and other regions. The model takes account of the extent of a country's poverty and the likely effectiveness of aid in reducing poverty there. The amount of aid which countries are likely to receive from other donors is also taken into account. As such, there is a good correlation between UK aid to African countries and levels of poverty. For example, the three poorest countries in terms of GNI per capita, Sierra Leone, Malawi and Tanzania, are also the three highest recipients of UK aid per capita.

Once aid has been allocated, we take a number of actions to ensure it reaches the poor and impacts on poverty. We have learnt that the best way for aid to deliver sustainable poverty reduction is to support developing countries own priorities—and to build capacity and accountability for delivery of services which improve the lives of the poor. As such, we help countries to develop and implement their own Poverty Reduction Strategies, which take into account the interests and needs of the poor. An important part of this is to strengthen monitoring systems and the accountability of governments to their citizens (including the poor). We also work closely with countries to strengthen public financial management and tackle corruption.

Before providing funds directly through government systems, we undertake a rigorous assessment of whether policies are sound and funds will be properly used. Where risks are too high, we channel funds directly to the poor through the United Nations or non-government organisations.

Debt relief is provided to countries which qualify for the enhanced Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) initiative. This also requires that countries have demonstrated their commitment to poverty reduction through developing and implementing sound Poverty Reduction Strategies, which includes careful monitoring of impact on the poor.

### African Health Workers

**Andrew George:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many health workers were recruited from Africa by the respective G8 countries in each of the past 10 years for which records are available. [13078]

**Hilary Benn:** No figures are available for the number of health workers recruited from Africa by G8 countries over the last 10 years. For the UK, in September 2004, fewer than 5,600 doctors (4.9 per cent. of the total) working in NHS hospital and community health services had a primary medical qualification from Africa. Many of these have been working in the NHS for many years.

UK policy explicitly prevents the targeting of developing countries for recruitment of health workers. An element of this policy is the code of practice for International Recruitment of Healthcare Professionals (available at http://www.dh.gov.uk), which prevents the NHS from actively recruiting healthcare professionals from low and middle-income countries unless there is a Government-to-Government agreement in place. The code of practice was revised and strengthened last year

to widen its scope to include temporary workers and to enable all healthcare organisations, including in the independent sector, to sign up to it's principles.

### Arms Trade Treaty

**Andrew George:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which of the G8 countries are willing to sign the proposed international Arms Trade Treaty. [13077]

**Dr. Howells:** I have been asked to reply.

There is no text of an international treaty on the trade in conventional arms to which the Government has committed itself. Any eventual text will be the product of negotiations. We are working to secure a formal process of negotiation within the UN as soon as it is feasible to do so. We welcome the commitment made by G8 leaders at the Gleneagles summit on

"the need for further work to build a consensus for action to tackle the undesirable proliferation of conventional arms".

### Court of Auditors

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State, Department for International Development what the status is of *(a)* investigations and *(b)* court cases resulting from ineligible expenditure referred to in paragraph (i) 65 on page 345, (ii) 43 on page 335, (iii) 31 on page 332, (iv) 9.45 and (v) 7.39 of the European Court of Auditors annual report for 2003; and if he will make a statement. [10085]

**Hilary Benn:** The European Court of Auditors cannot at this stage provide a greater level of specific information on the first three points than has been provided so far through its adopted reports. This is in order to protect the professional relationship between the Court, the Commission and any other institutions involved. Audit findings remain confidential while investigations continue.

In the fourth case (referred to in paragraph 9.45) it is encouraging that the Economic and Social Committee have taken corrective action to prevent similar errors recurring in future. In the case reported in paragraph 7.39, the irregularities (found at the level of implementing organisations) were not fraud cases, and in the event of any resulting ineligible expenditure, the Commission will deduct those amounts from future declarations unless the organisation can produce additional evidence.

### Debt

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) how much debt is owed by each developing country; [11746]

(2) who the top 20 creditor nations to the developing world are; and how much is owed to each. [11747]

**Hilary Benn:** DFID does not keep comprehensive records of the debts of developing countries or of debts owed to other creditor nations. Further information can however be found at http://devdata.worldbank.org/data-query. Details of the debts of heavily indebted poor countries to individual creditors are also provided in the heavily indebted poor countries Statistical Updates, available at www.worldbank.org/debt.

### Democratic Republic of the Congo

**Mark Simmonds:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment has been made of the effectiveness of EU development assistance in the Democratic Rupublic of the Congo; and if he will make a statement. [11819]

**Hilary Benn:** The EU has an important role in Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), in terms of political support to the transition and as a donor. EU member states and the EC work together in Brussels and Kinshasa to try to ensure that messages and actions are properly co-ordinated. The EU's special representative to the Great Lakes, Aldo Ajello, has an important role in helping to ensure the effectiveness of EU engagement.

The European Commission has a large and ambitious programme in the difficult operating environment of the DRC. EC support to the DRC over the period 2003–07 is £205 million. We work closely with the EC on all aspects of their programme and believe it to be effective.

The EC have so far committed €80 million to DRC's elections trust fund managed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), making the EC the largest donor to the electoral process in the DRC. It is also providing up to €8.9 million to the elections security project to train and equip DRC's police force in preparation for the series of elections due in the next year.

The EC also has substantial involvement in providing support on health and water and sanitation. It chairs the water and sanitation donor group in Kinshasa and is also an active member on the donor group supporting the development of the DRC's Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper. The EC is also active in work to improve the management of the DRC's natural resources, in particular in forestry, and is developing a new justice sector programme in the East of DRC.

There are also two EU member state joint missions currently operating in the DRC. EUPol Kinshasa is training and equipping 1,008 members of the Congolese National Police to protect Kinshasa's key institutions over the course of the transition period. EUSec DRC is providing expertise on security sector reform to the Government of DRC. DFID are funding two UK security sector reform experts to take part in this mission.

One of the key ways of improving all aid effectiveness in the DRC is through better co-ordination among donors and harmonisation of their approaches within the framework of national plans. There is an active discussion under way in Kinshasa on how to promote this, including DFID, the EC and other donors. One of the priorities for the UK's EU presidency role in Kinshasa is making progress on improved donor co-ordination and aid effectiveness in the DRC.

Globally, the EC's reforms of its external assistance overall are beginning to show improvements in efficiency and better portfolio management. While this is very encouraging, DFID continues to monitor EC effectiveness closely.

### Departmental Purchasing

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will list the companies from which his Department has purchased goods and services of a total value above £1 million in each of the last three years; and how much was spent in respect of each company. [11730]

**Mr. Thomas:** All contracts issued by DFID Headquarters are published on the DFID website. Significant IT purchases are made through the Office of Government Commerce (OGC) framework agreements and reported separately to the OGC. Collating expenditure figures for all DFID Departments would incur a disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Staff

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many full-time equivalents have worked for the Department for each of the last five financial years for which figures are available. [11486]

**Mr. Thomas:** The number of home civil service (HCS) full time equivalent staff that have worked for DFID in each of the past five years is as follows:

| | *Number of HCS staff* |
|---|---|
| 2004 | 1,780 |
| 2003 | 1,600 |
| 2002 | 1,520 |
| 2001 | 1,260 |
| 2000 | 1,210 |

The figures given above, at 1 April each year, are published in Table C of Civil Service Statistics 2004—copies of which are available in the Libraries of the House. The comparable figure for 1 April 2005 is 1,830.

In addition to permanent and pensionable HCS staff, DFID also employs a number of staff on fixed term contracts (FTC) to work on development assistance programmes in the UK and overseas, as well as a large number of locally engaged staff, or staff appointed in country (SAIC), to work in its network of overseas offices. The corresponding figures for these categories of staff are as follows:

| | *FTC* | *SAIC* |
|---|---|---|
| 2005 | 40 | 990 |
| 2004 | 150 | 910 |
| 2003 | 260 | 870 |
| 2002 | 360 | 740 |
| 2001 | 540 | 420 |
| 2000 | 600 | 400 |

*Note:*
All of the quoted figures above are rounded to the nearest 10.

### Equatorial Guinea

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) what aid his Department gave to Equatorial Guinea in 2004–05; and if he will make a statement; [12258]

(2) if he will make a statement on the education system in Equatorial Guinea; [12180]

(3) what proportion of girls remained in education up to the age of 15 years in Equatorial Guinea in 2004; [12184]

(4) what assessment he has made of the health concerns facing the people of Equatorial Guinea; and if he will make a statement. [12183]

**Hilary Benn:** DFID does not have a bilateral development programme in Equatorial Guinea. Our assistance is provided through multilateral channels such as the European Commission, UN agencies and the World Bank. The UK share of the EC's official development assistance was £0.3 million in 2000, £0.3 million in 2001, £2.72 million in 2002, and £0.96 million in 2003. The figure for 2004 is not yet available.

The latest World Development Indicators show that the percentage of female pupils in secondary education was: 38 per cent. in 2000, 38 per cent. in 2001 and 41 per cent. in 2002. Total adult literacy in 2000 was 83 per cent.; 74 per cent. for females and 93 per cent. for males. The gross enrolment ratio of females as a percentage of males at secondary school between 1998–2002 was 58 per cent.

DFID has made no health assessment of Equatorial Guinea.

### Fair Trade

**Andrew George:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what agreements the G8 countries reached during the Gleneagles summit on promoting the sale of fair trade goods. [13080]

**Hilary Benn:** As stated in the G8 Africa Communique, the G8 'welcomed the growing market for fair trade goods and their positive effect in supporting livelihoods and increasing public awareness of the positive role of trade and development.' Paragraphs 22 *(d)* . In the UK, DFID has provided £750,000 over three years to the Fairtrade Foundation (FTF) in support of its development awareness and education campaigns. Through investing in the future of Fairtrade, DFID aims to help achieve sustained improvement in livelihoods of disadvantaged producers in the south.

### G8 (Africa/Palestine)

**Tony Baldry:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much of the $25 billion in new money for development for Africa committed at the recent G8 meeting will be paid by *(a)* the UK and *(b)* the European Union; and over what time scale in each case. [11972]

**Hilary Benn:** Commitments made by the G8 and other donors will lead to an increase in official development assistance to Africa of $25 billion a year by 2010.

By 2010, the UK's contribution to the additional $25 billion is likely to be around $3.3 billion. In the period of the current spending review, we are committed to

providing over £1.2 billion to Africa in financial years of 2007–08, which will increase to £2.10 billion ($3.3 billion) by 2010.

The EU has committed to double aid by 2010 from around $40 billion a year in 2004 to over $80 billion a year in 2010 and has agreed to allocate at least 50 per cent. of this increase to Africa. Therefore, by 2010, the EU will collectively provide $20 billion of the additional $25 billion.

**Tony Baldry:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much of the $25 billion in new money for development for Africa agreed at the recent G8 meeting is planned to be allocated to *(a)* caring for AIDS orphans, *(b)* eradicating polio, *(c)* primary education, *(d)* secondary education, *(e)* university and further education and *(f)* tackling (i) malaria, (ii) HIV/AIDS and (iii) tuberculosis; and by what mechanism the money will be distributed in each case. [11974]

**Hilary Benn:** As G8 leaders agreed at the Gleneagles summit,

> "it is up to African countries themselves and their Governments to lead on development".

This includes deciding how best to use resources to accelerate progress in achieving the Millennium Development Goals. These policy decisions cannot and should not be imposed by donors. The UK will therefore provide additional resources in support of national poverty reduction plans, where partners have shown that they are committed to poverty reduction, protecting human rights and improving public financial management. We will deliver this as far as possible through national budgets, with more than half of our country programmes as poverty reduction budget or programme support by 2007–08. We will encourage G8 partners to do the same.

There are a few cases where aid is earmarked for sectors at the global level and channelled through specific mechanisms. This is generally for reasons of international co-ordination or advocacy. For example, funding for polio will be channelled through the polio eradication initiative. The UK has committed £20 million to close the polio funding gap this year and the G8 has committed to ensuring that the $829 million needed for 2006–08 found. The G8 committed to replenish the global fund to fight AIDS, TB and malaria (which needs $7.18 billion for 2005–08) and ensure that the education for all fast track initiative has the resources necessary for countries to implement their education strategies (estimated to require $2.3 billion extra a year). In the case of the fast track initiative, resources may either be channelled through the initiative or directly to support national education strategies. For both AIDS and education, additional resources will be required beyond those channelled through these global mechanisms. These will largely be provided by donors in support of developing countries' national strategies.

**Tony Baldry:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much of the $3 billion aid package for the Palestinian Authority agreed by the G8 is intended for *(a)* Gaza and *(b)* the West Bank. [11975]

**Hilary Benn:** The G8 expressed support at the Gleneagles summit for Mr. James Wolfensohn, Quartet Special Envoy for Disengagement, to stimulate a global financial contribution of up to $3 billion per year over the coming three years. This will assist Palestinian economic regeneration and further Palestinian governance reform following Israeli disengagement from Gaza and parts of the West Bank.

Mr. Wolfensohn is working closely with both the Palestinian Authority (PA) and Israel to assess what needs to be done. Priority areas for joint working include: freedom of movement for Palestinians to move and trade; the fate of settlement assets, houses and greenhouses; a link between Gaza and the West Bank; and the need for a Gaza airport and seaport. Reform priorities for the Palestinians are: fiscal stabilisation; preparation of a medium-term development plan; and funding a package of quick impact economic programmes. The UK is working with the PA and the World Bank to help develop the PA's integrated development plan for Gaza and the West Bank. DFID is looking for the best way to support this and Mr. Wolfensohn's plans.

**Tony Baldry:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much of the $3 billion aid package for the Palestinian authority agreed by the G8 is being contributed by the UK; and how it is to be distributed. [11977]

**Hilary Benn:** The G8 expressed support at the Gleneagles summit for Mr. James Wolfensohn, Quartet Special Envoy for Disengagement, to stimulate a global financial contribution of up to $3 billion per year over the coming three years. This will assist Palestinian economic regeneration and governance reform following Israeli disengagement from Gaza and parts of the West Bank. Details of how funding would be distributed have yet to be finalised. The UK is working closely with Mr. Wolfensohn and the Palestinian authority to help develop their plans and to ensure that our assistance is targeted at the highest priorities.

DFID's current plans are to spend £30 million per year on bilateral assistance to the Palestinians. DFID also contributes our share of European Community spending, amounting to a further £30 million last year. In 2004–05, the UK also contributed some £3.5 million through the Global Conflict Prevention Pool. This is jointly administered by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Ministry of Defence and DFID.

**Mr. Clappison:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what measures have been taken to ensure transparency and accountability in the use of aid promised to the Palestinian Authority following the G8 summit. [12056]

**Hilary Benn:** The G8 expressed support at the Gleneagles summit for James Wolfensohn, Quartet Special Envoy for Disengagement, to stimulate a global financial contribution of up to $3 billion per year over the coming three years. This will assist the Palestinians following Israeli disengagement from Gaza and parts of the West Bank. International financial support will depend on the Palestinian Authority (PA) providing a credible financial plan for development, with guarantees of fiscal prudence and transparency.

A significant proportion of UK aid to the PA is channelled through the World Bank-managed Public Financial Management Reform Trust Fund. Disbursement of funding is conditional on the PA's achievement of agreed reform benchmarks and is carefully monitored by the World Bank. Substantial improvements in the transparency and accountability of the PA's financial management systems have been made in recent years.

**Mr. Clappison:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions took place in advance of the G8 summit between members of the G8 and the Palestinian Authority in respect of aid to the Authority; and what agreements have been entered into between the Authority and the G8 relating to aid. [12057]

**Hilary Benn:** Quartet Special Envoy for disengagement James Wolfensohn is working closely with both the Palestinian Authority (PA) and Israel to assess what needs to be done in order to support economic development and further Palestinian governance reform. Mr. Wolfensohn is leading in discussions with the PA, and has identified three key areas of reform: fiscal stabilisation; medium-term development planning; and quick impact economic programmes. He briefed the G8 fully at the Foreign Ministers' meeting on 23 June and at the summit in Gleneagles. G8 members support his excellent work. G8 members are also in contact with the PA bilaterally.

At the G8 summit in Gleneagles, the G8 expressed its support for Mr. Wolfensohn's intention to stimulate a global financial contribution of up to $3 billion per year from private and public sector sources for the next three years. No explicit agreements have yet been entered into. The UK, along with the rest of the international community, is considering how we can best support this. International financial support will be dependent on the PA providing a credible financial plan for development, with guarantees of fiscal prudence and transparency.

### Gender Equality (Africa)

**Andrew George:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) what proportion of the funds pledged during the Gleneagles Summit will be used to promote gender equality in Africa; [13082]

(2) what agreements were reached at the G8 Summit at Gleneagles to ensure that the Millennium Development Goal *(a)* to eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education and *(b)* that all boys and girls complete a full course of primary schooling are reached in 2015; and what assessment the UK had made of the likelihood of meeting that target before the G8 Summit. [13085]

**Hilary Benn:** At the G8 Summit at Gleneagles, the G8 Heads agreed a package of comprehensive support to help accelerate progress towards the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), particularly in Africa which is falling behind. In advance of the Summit, the United Nations published a comprehensive review of prospects for achieving the MDGs called 'Investing in Development', which informed UK policy.

As part of the Gleneagles agreement, the G8 leaders agreed to support African Governments' commitment to ensure that, by 2015, all children have access to and complete free and compulsory education of good quality. We also called on African countries to implement the African Charter on Human and People's Rights and its protocols, in order to encourage respect for the rights of ethnic minorities, women and children.

The UK firmly believes, as the G8 Heads recognised, that it should be up to developing countries to decide how best to use resources on a country-by-country basis to achieve the MDGs. The additional resources should therefore not be allocated to specific sectors. We will support developing countries to build on their existing national strategies and processes such as the Poverty Reduction Strategy process to develop more ambitious plans for achieving the MDGs, including with increased resources. In some limited cases, commitments have been made for specific interventions at the global level. This is generally for reasons of international coordination or advocacy. Support is still for implementation of nationally defined policies. In the case of the Education for All Fast Track Initiative, resources can be channelled through the Initiative or provided directly to support national education strategies. At Gleneagles, the G8 Heads agreed to ensure that this Initiative has the resources necessary for countries to implement their education strategies (estimated to cost around US$2.3 billion extra per year).

### Gross Domestic Product

**Peter Law:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what percentage of gross domestic product was allocated to aid to developing countries in each of the last 30 years. [12281]

**Hilary Benn:** The internationally recognised statistic is the oda/GNI ratio, ie official development assistance (oda) as a percentage of a donor's gross national income (GNI). The ratio for the UK over the past 30 years is set out as follows:

*UK oda/GNI ratio*

| | *Percentage* |
|---|---|
| 1975 | 0.38 |
| 1976 | 0.39 |
| 1977 | 0.44 |
| 1978 | 0.46 |
| 1979 | 0.51 |
| 1980 | 0.35 |
| 1981 | 0.43 |
| 1982 | 0.37 |
| 1983 | 0.35 |
| 1984 | 0.33 |
| 1985 | 0.33 |
| 1986 | 0.31 |
| 1987 | 0.28 |
| 1988 | 0.32 |
| 1989 | 0.31 |
| 1990 | 0.27 |
| 1991 | 0.32 |
| 1992 | 0.31 |
| 1993 | 0.31 |
| 1994 | 0.31 |
| 1995 | 0.29 |
| 1996 | 0.27 |
| 1997 | 0.26 |

*UK oda/GNI ratio*

| | *Percentage* |
|---|---|
| 1998 | 0.27 |
| 1999 | 0.24 |
| 2000 | 0.32 |
| 2001 | 0.32 |
| 2002 | 0.31 |
| 2003 | 0.34 |
| 2004 | [1]0.36 |

[1] provisional

*Source:*

DAC Online Database

### Health Care (Developing Countries)

**Tony Baldry:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) what the Government's policy is on charging user fees for healthcare in developing countries; [7674]

(2) what discussions he has had with the World Bank on charging user fees for healthcare in developing countries. [7676]

**Hilary Benn:** I refer the hon. Member for Banbury to my response given to the hon. Member for St. Ives (Andrew George) on 30 June 2005, *Official Report*, columns 1679–680W.

**Tony Baldry:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether he expects user fees for healthcare in developing countries to be addressed at the G8 summit. [7675]

**Hilary Benn:** The G8 summit discussed financing of healthcare in Africa. The Africa communiqué said people should have

"access to basic health care (free wherever countries choose to provide this)".

DFID is encouraging the removal of charges at the point of need in basic healthcare. We successfully sought, significantly increased resources for health and other priorities at the summit. However we recognise that the question of user fees is one for partner countries and that there are different approaches to financing healthcare.

### Iran

**Mark Simmonds:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of British emergency aid in the aftermath of the Iranian earthquake in Bam. [9270]

**Mr. Thomas:** The UK committed £3.7 million in response to humanitarian needs in the wake of the Bam earthquake of 26 December 2003, including the UK's share of the European community contribution. DFID humanitarian advisors conducted two monitoring missions to assess the effectiveness of this support. The British embassy, Tehran has also been involved in monitoring the response. On the basis of this monitoring, we believe our assistance was well targeted, effective and appreciated by the beneficiaries.

DFID focussed its immediate support on life saving action through deployed search and rescue teams, the provision of tents and shelter materials and the hiring of aircraft for delivery of relief items and in the medium-term to sectors where it could have the greatest impact, including urban water supply and sanitation, primary health care and agricultural irrigation and livestock replenishment.

DFID support to Bam's agricultural sector was provided through the United Nations Development Programme for its work to repair wells and irrigation channels and for Action Against Hunger's work to provide livelihoods for vulnerable families. DFID assistance contributed to a successful 2004 date harvest of higher quality and quantity than normal and also to the provision of livelihoods to 1,200 families, including providing goats to several hundred families. DFID's funds through the United Nations Development Programme were almost completely spent on providing water supply for agriculture in and around Bam. This covered 10 per cent. of the agricultural area of Bam, and in that area prevented the date groves from drying up at a crucial point in the agricultural cycle. The United Nations Development Programme estimated that there would otherwise have been an 80 per cent. smaller date harvest.

In the health sector, the humanitarian effort prevented outbreaks of disease despite the threat following earthquakes. DFID played an important part in this, channelling its support through the World Health Organisation (WHO) for its activities in primary health care, and also through the United Nations Children Fund for its work in water and sanitation. There were delays by WHO in kitting out 10 urban health centres because of slower than expected progress in building the health centres, which were late in starting because of the need to wait for the necessary planning permission.

A planned commitment of £450,000 to the International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC) was not disbursed, as the IFRC subsequently advised us that our support was no longer needed as their appeal was sufficiently funded by other contributions they received.

### Legislation

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will list Bills sponsored by his Department in each Session since 1997. [10890]

**Hilary Benn:** DFID has sponsored two Bills since 1997. They were enacted as the Commonwealth Development Corporation Act 1999 and the International Development Act 2002.

### Malaria

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what sums have been allocated to fight malaria in *(a)* Kenya, *(b)* Burundi, *(c)* Ethiopia, *(d)* Malawi and *(e)* Eritrea, with particular reference to (i) children and (ii) pregnant women in each of the last three years. [11598]

**Hilary Benn:** DFID supports malaria control through bilateral programmes in a number of countries. The following table shows the total funding DFID has provided for projects for malaria and other communicable diseases in Kenya, Burundi, Ethiopia, Malawi and Eritrea.

In addition, DFID has spent a further £13 million in these five countries on health projects which may have an impact on malaria. DFID is increasingly funding the broader health plans of developing countries. Such projects will build Governments' capacity to make the best use of their resources to diagnose and treat all main causes of illness.

£000

| Countries | Financial year 2002–03 | 2003–04 | 2004–05 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Kenya | 3,488 | 3,765 | 5,117 |
| Burundi | 238 | 1,400 | 0 |
| Ethiopia | 0 | 2,473 | 0 |
| Malawi | 1,568 | 3,793 | 2,505 |
| Eritrea | 0 | 0 | 0 |

DFID is also a major donor to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria (GFATM). We have pledged more than £259 million through to 2008. Approximately 31 per cent. of GFATM funds go to malaria control, including projects in all five of these countries.

Further information on total funding in these countries for malaria control can be obtained from the World Malaria Report 2005: http://rbm.who.int/wmr2005

DFID supports countries to focus on groups most vulnerable to the impact of malaria—specifically pregnant women and children under five. For example in Kenya, Malawi and Ethiopia, DFID has supported the provision of highly subsidised or free insecticide treated mosquito nets to these groups.

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what budget has been allocated to fund the provision of long-lasting insecticide-treated nets in Africa in 2005–06; and for how many people he estimates this will provide protection. [11599]

**Hilary Benn:** DFID provides finance for malaria control, including long-lasting insecticide-treated nets (LLINs), through bilateral country programmes, support to multilateral organisations such as the World Bank and European Commission, and contributions to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. DFID also works with other donors to support national malaria programmes. When funds are pooled in these ways, it is not possible to calculate the exact number of LLINs distributed as a direct result of DFID support.

However, we estimate that in 2005–06, DFID bilateral expenditure on African mosquito net programmes will be £40 million, which will see eight to 10 million nets (a mixture of insecticide treated and long lasting insecticide-treated nets) distributed, protecting 16 to 20 million people.

## Malawi

**Mr. Andrew Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much UK Government aid has been allocated to the treatment of *(a)* HIV/AIDS, *(b)* tuberculosis and *(c)* malaria in Malawi in each of the last two years. [8638]

**Hilary Benn:** The Malawi National AIDS Strategy and the National AIDS Commission (NAC) are the foundation for DFID's support to HIV and AIDS. £3.5 million is allocated to support the national response for HIV and AIDS through pooled funding with the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), the Norwegian Embassy and the World Bank to the NAC. The NAC is fully funded, by donors as well as Government of Malawi. There is no shortfall at the moment. Currently DFID has disbursed approximately £1 million towards this program. The following are the disbursement details:

| Financial year | Disbursed amount (£) |
|---|---|
| 2003–04 | 500,000 |
| 2005–06 | 400,000 |
| Total | 900,000 |

More support is also channelled through the Ministry of Health through the Sexual Reproductive Health programme. It is however difficult to disaggregate HIV spend. Expenditure for the programme has been as follows:

| Financial year | Disbursed amount (£) |
|---|---|
| 2003–04 | 5,871,583 |
| 2004–05 | 5,958,780 |
| Total | 11,830,363 |

DFID also supports the Banja La Mtsogolo Integrated Sexual and Reproductive Health Programme (BLM) to promote safer sexual and reproductive health practices by Malawians including increased use of high quality, accessible sexual reproductive health services which complement government services. Expenditure for the past two areas including technical assistance is as follows:

| Financial year | Disbursed amount (£) |
|---|---|
| 2003–04 | 977,759 |
| 2004–05 | 1,395,854 |
| Total | 2,373,604 |

DFID provides support to the Malawi National TB Control Programme. The purpose of the National TB Control Programme is to improve on an equitable basis, case detection, and quality of diagnosis and TB treatment outcomes. DFID's expenditure for past two years is as follows:

| Financial year | Disbursed amount (£) |
|---|---|
| 2003–04 | 779,024 |
| 2004–05 | 752,560 |
| Total | 1,531,584 |

DFID has been providing its support through UNICEF Malawi to assist the Ministry of Health in building the capacity of the Malaria National Control Programme, to be able to reduce the morbidity and mortality of children under 5 and women of childbearing age from malaria. The funds covered a wide range at central and district levels and included commodities (such as Insecticide Treated Bed nets, pre-treatment kits, and the drug Fansidar), social marketing, monitoring and supervision.

DFID's expenditure for past two years is as follows:

| Financial year | Disbursed amount (£) |
|---|---|
| 2003–04 | 3,792,678 |
| 2004–05 | 2,505,083 |
| Total | 6,297,761 |

**Stephen Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will list non-governmental organisations in Malawi that seek to reduce poverty to which his Department has allocated funding in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [11689]

**Hilary Benn:** DFID financed both directly and indirectly approximately 100 non-governmental organisations in Malawi over the course of the last three years. The following table lists those non-governmental organisation financed directly from DFID.

£

| Non-governmental organisation | 2002–03 | 2003–04 | 2004–05 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Afrobarometer | — | — | 10,348 |
| Banja la Mtsogolo | 1,868,670 | 1,309,288 | 1,635,202 |
| Blantyre Synod | — | 27,563 | — |
| British Council | 4,523 | — | — |
| Civil Society Coalition for Basic Quality Education | — | — | [1](109,608) |
| Concern Universal | — | 206,429 | 363,399 |
| Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere (CARE) | 124,362<br>— | 846,487<br>[1](189,033) | 621,654<br>[1](332,970) |
| Civil Society on Agriculture Network (CISANET) | — | 25,000 | — |
| Danish Institute of Human Rights (DIHR) | — | — | 73,769 |
| Federation for Disability Organisation in Malawi (FEDOMA) | — | 19,542 | — |
| Malawi Human Rights Resource Centre | 2,149 | 11,964 | — |
| Nation Democratic Institute | 597,381 | 671,164 | 832,576 |
| Opportunity International Bank of Malawi | 331,117 | 1,230,968 | 246,556 |
| OXFAM | — | 738,667 | 279,173 |
| Public Affairs Committee (PAC) | — | — | 23,977 |
| Pan African Civic Educators Network Trust (PACENET) | 5,592 | — | — |
| Penal Reform International | 446,412 | 548,340 | 894,540 |
| Society of Accountants of Malawi (SOCAM) | — | 1,049 | — |
| White Ribbon Alliance | — | 7,194 | — |
| Women and Law Society in Southern Africa (Wilsa) | — | — | 6,724 |

[1] DFID managed Dutch funds are shown in brackets.

DFID Malawi has also supported non-governmental organisations in Malawi indirectly through its support to the National Aids Commission, through the Tikambirane governance programme (managed by United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and British High Commission (BHC)) and the National Sexual and Reproductive Health programme with Government of Malawi where responsibility for the direct engagement with civil society is held by our partners. In these instances it is difficult to itemise DFID's share of financing to each non-governmental organisation given the nature of the funding mechanisms used. DFID South Africa also supports non-governmental organisations in Malawi indirectly through the following regional programmes: the Soul City Regional Programme; the Roll Back Malaria Programme; and the Regional Hunger and Vulnerability Programme.

DFID Malawi works in partnership with non-governmental organisations operating in Malawi in order to help promote the outcomes of the Government of Malawi's Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper. To this

end, DFID also works to strengthen civil society's capacity to work with government at the policy level through country, regional and centrally funded initiatives.

### Millennium Development Goals

**Andrew George:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) what agreements were reached at the G8 summit at Gleneagles to ensure that the Millennium Development Goal to reduce by half the proportion of people living on less than a dollar a day is reached in 2015; and what assessment the UK had made of the likelihood of meeting that target before the G8 summit; [13083]

(2) what agreements were reached at the G8 summit at Gleneagles to ensure that the Millennium Development Goal to reduce by half the proportion of people who suffer from hunger is reached in 2015; and what assessment the UK had made of the likelihood of meeting that target before the G8 summit; [13084]

(3) what agreements were reached at the G8 summit at Gleneagles to ensure that the Millennium Development Goal target to make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications technologies, in co-operation with the private sector, is reached in 2015; and what assessment the UK had made of the likelihood of meeting that target before the G8 summit; [13165]

(4) what agreements were reached at the G8 summit in Gleneagles to ensure that the Millennium Development Goals target to reduce by half the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water is reached in 2015; and what assessment the UK had made of the likelihood of meeting that target before the G8 summit; [13090]

(5) what agreements were reached at the G8 summit in Gleneagles to ensure that the Millennium Development Goals target to achieve significant improvement in lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers is reached by 2020; and what assessment the UK had made of the likelihood of meeting that target before the G8 summit; [13091]

(6) what agreements were reached at the G8 summit in Gleneagles to ensure that the Millennium Development Goals target to develop further an open trading and financial system that is rule-based, predictable and non-discriminatory and includes a commitment to good governance, development and poverty reduction nationally and internationally is reached in 2015; and what assessment the UK had made of the likelihood of meeting that target before the G8 summit; [13092]

(7) what agreements were reached at the G8 summit in Gleneagles to ensure that the Millennium Development Goals target to address the least developed countries special needs is reached in 2015; and what assessment the UK had made of the likelihood of meeting that target before the G8 summit; [13093]

(8) what agreements were reached at the G8 summit in Gleneagles to ensure that the Millennium Development Goals target to address the special needs of landlocked and small island developing states is reached in 2015; and what assessment the UK had made of the likelihood of meeting that target before the G8 summit; [13094]

(9) what agreements were reached at the G8 summit in Gleneagles to ensure that the Millennium Development Goals target to develop decent and productive work for youth in cooperation with the developing countries is reached in 2015; and what assessment the UK had made of the likelihood of meeting that target before the G8 summit. [13096]

**Hilary Benn:** At the G8 summit at Gleneagles, G8 Heads agreed a package of comprehensive support to help accelerate progress towards the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), particularly in Africa which is falling behind. In advance of the summit, the United Nations published a comprehensive review of prospects for achieving the MDGs called 'Investing in Development', which informed UK policy.

This package of support includes substantial additional resources: an extra US$50 billion globally and US$25 billion for Africa by 2010. In addition, the G8 agreed debt cancellation worth up to US$40 billion for 18 of the poorest countries and up to $55 billion for 38 countries in total.

On trade, the G8 Heads expressed political commitment to an ambitious outcome at the Doha ministerial in Hong Kong and committed to provide increased assistance for building the capacity to trade. The additional resources will be targeted where they can make the most difference: on low-income countries that are committed to growth and poverty reduction, to a democratic, accountable and transparent government and to sound public financial management, while recognising that aid is important to respond to humanitarian crises and countries affected by or at risk of conflict.

Achieving the MDGs to reduce by half the proportion of people living on less than a dollar a day and those who suffer from hunger will depend on progress in a range of different areas. This is why G8 Heads emphasised the importance of coordinated and coherent action.

The Evian G8 water action plan commits G8 member countries to playing a more active role in the international efforts towards achieving the water and sanitation Millennium Development Goals. At Gleneagles, G8 Heads agreed to increase aid to the sector, while maintaining political momentum and commitment on the water issue and reinforcing coordination and monitoring mechanisms. The UK recently announced it was doubling, over the next three years, its funding for improvements in water and sanitation in Africa.

G8 Heads agreed a range of measures aimed at boosting growth and attracting new investment, contributing to building Africa's capacity to trade and improving the lives of slum dwellers. Work will continue on building an infrastructure consortium for Africa, involving the African Union (AU), the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), the World Bank, the African Development Bank and the EU. The sectors to be covered by this major new effort are water and sanitation, energy, transport, telecommunications and urban infrastructure.

Work will continue to support investment, enterprise development and innovation, for example, through support to the AU/NEPAD investment climate facility.

International financial institutions and African Governments are encouraged to increase access to financial services for poor people through increased partnerships between commercial banks and micro-finance institutions.

In recognition of the particular problems faced by least developed countries (LDC)s, the G8 committed to provide them with additional support for trade capacity building. They also agreed to work for appropriate flexibility in the Doha development agenda (DDA) trade negotiations to help LDCs to decide, plan and sequence their economic reforms in line with their country-led development programmes and their international obligations. Moreover, they reiterated their commitment to duty and quota for free market access for LDC products, and the importance of addressing products of interest to LDCs as part of the single undertaking of the DDA.

The G8 summit did not reach any specific agreements regarding landlocked and small island development states, although other measures agreed there will benefit these countries, including additional development resources and progress on climate change and trade.

G8 leaders committed to support youth employment in Africa for both men and women, including vocational education and training relevant to market demands.

To help develop skilled professionals for Africa's private and public sectors, the G8 Heads agreed to support networks of excellence between African and other countries' institutions of higher education and centres of excellence in science and technology.

**Andrew George:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) what agreements were reached at the G8 summit at Gleneagles to ensure that the Millennium Development Goal target to reduce by two thirds the mortality rate among children under five years is reached in 2015; and what assessment the UK had made of the likelihood of meeting that target before the G8 summit; [13086]

(2) what agreements were reached at the G8 summit in Gleneagles to ensure that the Millennium Development Goals target to reduce by three quarters the maternal mortality ratio is reached in 2015; and what assessment the UK had made of the likelihood of meeting that target before the G8 summit; [13087]

(3) what agreements were reached at the G8 summit in Gleneagles to ensure that the Millennium Development Goals target to halt and begin to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS is reached in 2015; and what assessment the UK had made of the likelihood of meeting that target before the G8 summit; [13088]

(4) what agreements were reached at the G8 summit in Gleneagles to ensure that the Millennium Development Goals target to halt and begin to reverse the increase in the incidence of malaria and other major diseases is reached in 2015; and what assessment the UK had made of the likelihood of meeting that target before the G8 summit; [13089]

(5) what agreements were reached at the G8 summit at Gleneagles to ensure that the Millennium Development Goals target to provide access to affordable essential drugs in developing countries in co-operation with pharmaceutical companies is reached in 2015; and what assessment the UK had made of the likelihood of meeting that target before the G8 summit. [13097]

**Hilary Benn:** At the G8 summit at Gleneagles, G8 Heads agreed a package of comprehensive support to help accelerate progress towards the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), particularly in Africa which is falling behind. In advance of the summit, the United Nations published a comprehensive review of prospects for achieving the MDGs called 'Investing in Development', which informed UK policy.

G8 Heads agreed several specific measures to tackle the health and HIV/AIDS related MDGs. They undertook to support African Governments' commitment to ensure access to basic health care for all (free wherever countries choose to provide this) to reduce mortality among those most at risk of dying from preventable causes, particularly women and children. This includes a commitment to invest in improved health systems, which are critical for progress across the board.

On malaria, the G8 committed to work with African countries to scale up action to reach 85 per cent. of the vulnerable populations with the interventions that will save 600,000 children's lives a year by 2015. These include ensuring access to anti-malaria insecticide-treated mosquito nets, adequate and sustainable supplies of Combination Therapies including Artemisin, presumptive treatment for pregnant women and babies, household residual spraying and the capacity in African health services to effectively use them.

The G8 Heads committed to the aims of an AIDS-free generation, significantly reducing HIV infections, aiming as close as possible to universal access to treatment for all who need it by 2010 and ensuring proper support for all children left orphaned or vulnerable by AIDS. They committed to increase resources to tackle AIDS, including through replenishing the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis (TB) and malaria (GFATM). They also undertook to work with the World Health Organisation (WHO), the Joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and other international bodies to develop and implement a package for HIV prevention, treatment and care, and to improve coordination through implementing the 'Three Ones' principles.

To encourage the development of vaccines, microbicides and drugs for AIDS, TB, malaria and other neglected diseases, the G8 leaders committed to increase direct investment and take forward market incentives, through mechanisms such as Public Private Partnerships and Advance Purchase Commitments. We also re-affirmed our commitments made at the G8 summit at Evian, agreeing to improve access to affordable medicines by encouraging differential pricing of drugs by originator companies and by supporting the appropriate use of flexibilities in agreements on intellectual property rights where necessary.

**Andrew George:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what agreements were reached at the G8 summit in Gleneagles to ensure that the Millennium Development Goals target to deal

comprehensively with developing countries' debt problems through national and international measures to make debt sustainable in the long-term is reached in 2015; and what assessment the UK had made of the likelihood of meeting that target before the G8 summit. [13095]

**Hilary Benn:** G8 Finance Ministers met on 11 June and re-affirmed their commitment to the full implementation and financing of the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative. They also agreed a new proposal to cancel the debt stock of qualifying HIPCs to the International Development Association of the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the African Development Fund of the African Development Bank. In addition, they agreed the need to find a solution to Nigeria's debts. G8 leaders re-affirmed their support for these agreements when they met at Gleneagles, and welcomed the Paris club's agreement on 29 June which will result in the elimination all of Nigeria's $29 billion bilateral debt to Paris club creditors.

The UK is committed to broad and generous debt relief for poor countries in order to make debt sustainable in the long-term and to free up resources for their achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. We continue to lobby others in support for this objective. Progress towards the Millennium Development Goals varies, but Sub Saharan Africa in particular will not meet any of the goals by 2015 if current rates of progress continue. We believe that debt relief, including the G8's new proposal, will help countries to make the investments in health, education and infrastructure, that are needed to reach the Millennium Development Goals.

### Niger

**John Bercow:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what action has been taken by his Department to address the food shortage in Niger. [11864]

**Hilary Benn:** DFID has been closely monitoring the deteriorating nutritional situation in Niger, and recently conducted a humanitarian assessment in the Sahel region. DFID was one of the first donors to respond to the recent UN Flash Appeal providing, on 10 June 2005, an immediate initial donation of £500,000 to the World Food Programme's emergency food operation, which supplies food and nutritional inputs to up to one million highly vulnerable households.

Following its recent assessment of the food security situation in the region, DFID has agreed to provide an additional £1,500,000 in humanitarian assistance to Niger, mainly through non-governmental organisations. This support will be focused on nutritional therapy, basic health care, improving food access and protection of livelihoods in the worst affected areas and will benefit up to one million people. We shall continue to monitor developments closely.

### NPAD

**Andrew George:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which African Union countries have had their country reviewed under the Africa Peer Review Mechanism of the New Partnership for African Development; and what assessment he has made of the findings of the reviews. [13071]

**Hilary Benn:** Ghana, Rwanda, Kenya and Mauritius signed up to the Africa Peer Review Mechanism in 2003 and are the first wave of countries currently undergoing peer review. Country review missions have been undertaken in Ghana and Rwanda and reports have been submitted to the respective governments. A summary of the Ghana report has been made publicly available. The formal peer review is then scheduled to take place in August 2005 at the next African Peer Review (APR) Forum (which consists of participating African Heads of State).

We look forward to discussing the outcomes of the peer review with the Governments of Rwanda and Ghana after this time.

### Palestine

**Dan Norris:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent measures have been introduced to facilitate the reform of Palestinian security forces. [13420]

**Hilary Benn:** General Ward was appointed by the United States as Co-ordinator for Security Sector Reform in February. He is leading the mission established to facilitate reform of the Palestinian security forces following the 1 March London Meeting on Supporting the Palestinian Authority (PA). His mission has made progress with the PA in consolidating and restructuring the Palestinian security forces, although further reform is still required.

The UK fully supports General Ward's mission, and has seconded a governance expert to his team. We are also supporting security sector reform through our contributions to the European Union Co-ordinating Office for Palestinian Police Support (EUCOPPS). This has provided equipment and technical and operational assistance to the Palestinian civil police, and has worked with them to develop a Palestinian Civil Police Development Plan. This plan is now being implemented.

**Dan Norris:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what progress is being made in coordinating stronger ties between the Palestinian Authority and Israel in order to address Palestinian poverty. [13421]

**Hilary Benn:** Mr. James Wolfensohn, Quartet Special Envoy for Disengagement, has identified six priority areas for joint working between Israelis and Palestinians in his plans for a successful Israeli disengagement from Gaza and parts of the West Bank. These include freedom of movement and trade for Palestinians, a transport link between Gaza and the West Bank, and an airport and seaport for Gaza. Some progress has been made, but there is still work to be done.

Co-operation between the two parties and an easing of Israeli restrictions on movement of goods and people are essential for successful Palestinian economic regeneration and poverty reduction. The Palestinian Authority, for its part, needs to maintain and develop its programme of reforms. The UK is working closely with

international partners on these fronts. The Government fully supports Mr. Wolfensohn's efforts and DFID has seconded a member of staff to his team to assist.

**Dan Norris:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what cooperation his Department has received from members of the Arab League in alleviating poverty in the Palestinian Territories. [13422]

**Hilary Benn:** Members of the Arab League contributed around $100 million to the Palestinians during 2004, approximately 80 per cent. from Saudi Arabia.

Mr. James Wolfensohn, Quartet Special Envoy for Disengagement, briefed G8 leaders at the Gleneagles summit on his plans to support Palestinian development in the context of disengagement and beyond. He received the full backing of G8 leaders. Mr. Wolfensohn has proposed contributions of up to $3 billion annually for the next 3 years from the international community. It is important that all those who are working for progress, including Arab states, support this initiative.

**Dan Norris:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his assessment is of Israeli proposals to provide transport links between the West Bank and Gaza. [13423]

**Hilary Benn:** Free movement of goods and people between the West Bank and Gaza will be essential for Palestinian economic regeneration following Israeli disengagement from Gaza and parts of the West Bank. Mr. James Wolfensohn, Quartet Special Envoy for Disengagement, has identified the provision of a transport link between Gaza and the West Bank as one of six priority areas for joint action between Israelis and Palestinians. Current proposals include the use of convoys of buses. the construction of a sunken road, and a rail link. A committee, chaired by Mr. Wolfensohn, will study options for the future. The UK, along with other members of the international community, fully supports Mr. Wolfensohn's efforts.

## School Twinning

**Dr. Tony Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will discuss with the Secretary of State for Education and Skills establishing a scheme to twin schools in this country with schools in Africa. [12897]

**Hilary Benn** *[holding answer 19 July 2005]:* We are already working closely with the Department for Education and Skills (DfES) on school twinning schemes. This fits with DFID objectives and with the DfES International Strategy. We fund a Global School Partnerships programme, which links schools in the UK with schools in developing countries; whereas the DfES has developed the Global Gateway, an international website to help schools find partner schools in other countries. Through the Global Gateway, the DfES has supported the BBC World Class project which links 1,000 schools in Africa with 1,000 schools in UK. Together with the DfES, DFID also provides co-funding for 80 places per year, specifically for teachers from developing countries, under the DfES Teachers' International Professional Development programme.

## Sickness Absence

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many days the Department has lost due to sickness in the past five years for which figures are available. [11463]

**Mr. Thomas:** The total number of working days lost due to sickness in DFID over the past five calendar years, together with average number of days lost per employee, is as follows:

*Days*

| | *Total* | *Average per employee* |
|---|---|---|
| 2004 | 13,475 | 6.8 |
| 2003 | 11,872 | 7.0 |
| 2002 | 12,888 | 8.0 |
| 2001 | 11,545 | 8.3 |
| 2000 | 8,426 | 6.2 |

The figures given above, which relate only to home civil servants and those employed by DFID on UK fixed term contracts, are contained in the annual report "Analysis of Sickness Absence in the Civil Service" published by the Cabinet Office. The most recent, covering the 2003 calendar year, was announced by ministerial statement on 1 November 2004. Copies are available in the Libraries of the House.

At 1 April 2005, DFID also employed some 990 locally engaged staff, or staff appointed in country (SAIC), to serve in its network of overseas offices. Sickness absence records for SAIC are not held centrally and information on the number of working days lost due to sickness for these employees could be obtained only by incurring a disproportionate cost.

## Somalia

**Mark Simmonds:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment has been made of the number of displaced Somalis crossing the border into Kenya to escape fighting; and whether his Department is providing humanitarian assistance. [11815]

**Hilary Benn:** DFID has not made any independent assessment of the number of displaced Somalis crossing the border into Kenya, however the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) estimates that there are 232,333 refugees in Kenya that require humanitarian support, of whom just over 151,000 are Somalis.

We contributed £400,000 last year to support UNHCR's ongoing efforts to promote the voluntary repatriation of 23,000 Somali refugees in exile in Kenya, Ethiopia, Djibouti, Yemen and elsewhere. We are also currently considering providing further funding to the UNHCR through the 2005 UN Consolidated Appeals Process for Somalia.

In the last two months, an estimated 15,000 Somalis people have crossed the border into Mandera district, Kenya following fighting between two rival clans. There have been some initial relief distributions from the UN and local NGOs. The Kenyan authorities, with local elders are meeting in the next few weeks to try and address the causes of the conflict. The UN Office for the

Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs is coordinating a response to the situation. DFID's office in Kenya is closely monitoring the situation.

## Sri Lanka

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will make a statement on the use of British aid in Sri Lanka following the tsunami. [12934]

**Mr. Thomas:** Immediately following the tsunami DFID provided some £7 million of direct assistance to Sri Lanka. In addition DFID financed a number of relief activities across the region, at a cost of over £26 million. While it is difficult to attribute precisely Sri Lanka's share of this funding, we would estimate that approximately one third, or £8.7 million, went to the island. The following table provides full details.

To support longer term recovery Britain has agreed to meet 10 per cent. of the Government of Sri Lanka's interest payments to the World Bank, for the next 10 years. This will be worth over £41 million and the Government have agreed that the funds released will be spent on tsunami relief and recovery and on poverty reducing programmes for the poorest communities.

Sri Lanka has received generous support from international organisations and from the public, sufficient to fully finance the recovery and reconstruction needs. However, following my visit to Sri Lanka last month I have agreed that we should offer further assistance to strengthen Government's capacity to implement these recovery programmes effectively and equitably. Discussions are under way in Sri Lanka to identify the best way to tackle this issue and programme DFID support.

*Sri Lanka: Post-tsunami assistance provided by British Government*

| | UK (£) | US ($) |
|---|---|---|
| *Donations in kind* | | |
| 1. 5,000 tarpaulins and 246 tents for temporary shelter 27 December 2004 (including airlift) | 250,000 | 482,500 |
| | 250,000 | 482,500 |
| *DFID funded flights for Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC)* | | |
| 1. 2 January Save the Children (STN to CMB) | 93,165 | 179,808 |
| 2. 3 January World Vision (BDS to CMB) | 161,975 | 312,612 |
| 3. 12 January World Vision (DXB to CMB) | 88,889 | 171,556 |
| 4. 19 January World Vision (BRU to CMB) | 22,949 | 44,292 |
| 5. 21 January Merlin (LHR to CMB) | 3,906 | 7,539 |
| 6. 22 January OXFAM (EMA to CMB) | 90,619 | 174,895 |
| 7. 24 January Save the Children (EMA to CMB) | 142,955 | 275,903 |
| | 604,458 | 1,166,604 |
| *DFID staff secondments* | | |
| 1. Air Operations (seconded to World Food Programme for 3 months from 4 January 2005) | 28,000 | 54,040 |
| 2. Humanitarian Information Centre (NIC) Advisor (seconded to OCHA for 3 months—4 February 2005) | 28,000 | 54,040 |
| 3. Two watsan engineers (seconded to UNICEF for 3 months—17 February 2005) | 55,000 | 106,150 |
| 4. Shelter Advisor (Seconded to UNHCR) | 8,000 | 15,440 |
| | 119,000 | 229,670 |
| *Funding through NGOs/ UN Agencies* | | |
| 1. Save the Children Fund (non-food items, food, shelter, watsan) | 400,000 | 772,000 |
| 2. Basic needs (trauma and mental health) | 57,993 | 111,926 |
| 3 World Vision (Non-food items distribution, Shelter supply distribution) | 250,000 | 482,500 |
| 4. International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) (general tsunami appeal) | 500,000 | 965,000 |
| 5. World Food Programme (WFP) (food) | 500,000 | 965,000 |
| 6. Help Age (Distribution of non-food items and restoration of residential facilities for older people) | 137,308 | 265,004 |
| 7. Christian Aid, OFEER (1,000 transitional shelter units) | 260,008 | 501,815 |
| 8. Norwegian Refugee Council (1,000 transitional shelter units) | 478,568 | 923,636 |
| 9. Zoa (Water and sanitation, 2,000 transitional shelter units) | 1,124,610 | 2,170,497 |
| 10. Mercy Corps (livelihoods) | 300,000 | 579,000 |
| 12. Red R-IHE (shelter) | 151,852 | 293,074 |
| 13. OCHA (Co-ordination and information management) | 250,000 | 482,500 |
| 14. ADRA (livelihoods) | 490,000 | 945,700 |
| 15. International Health Partners (Airfreighting drugs) | 32,261 | 62,264 |
| 16. Islamic Relief (Transitional shelter and cash for work) | 590,022 | 1,138,742 |
| 17. ADRA (water infrastructure in transitional shelters) | 440,000 | 849,200 |
| | 5,962,622 | 11,507,860 |
| Sub total for Sri Lanka | 6,936,080 | 13,386,634 |
| *Regional funding, a proportion of which is for Sri Lanka* | | |
| 1. OCHA (Regional funding includes SL, but proportion not quantifiable) | 10,000,000 | 19,300,000 |
| 2. UNHCR (SL and Indonesia) | 400,000 | 772,000 |
| 3. UNICEF (India, Indonesia, Maldives and SL) | 4,000,000 | 7,720,000 |
| 4. UNICEF (Allocation for SL approximately 1/3 of this total) | 2,000,000 | 3,860,000 |
| 5. IFRC (Allocation for SL approximately 1/3 of this total) | 2,000,000 | 3,860,000 |
| 6. UNSECOORD (Allocation for SL approximately 1/3 of this total) | 400,000 | 772,000 |
| 7. WHO (Allocation for SL approximately 1/3 of this total) | 3,000,000 | 5,790,000 |
| 8. FAO (Allocation for SL approximately 1/3 of this total) | 600,000 | 1,158,000 |
| 9. World Food Programme/UNJLC (logistics) | 1,000,000 | 1,930,000 |
| 10. UK military assistance in kind (estimated cost) | 2,750,000 | 5,307,500 |
| 11. Treasury estimate for tax relief on public contributions to the DEC appeal made through the Gift Aid scheme. | 50,000,000 | 96,500,000 |
| Sub total for regional funding including Sri Lanka | 76,150,000 | 146,969,500 |
| *Longer term assistance* | | |
| 1. Debt relief over next 10 years (10 per cent. of Government of Sri Lanka's interest payments to IFIs, approximately $8 million p.a), to be used for post-tsunami work and other poverty reduction work | 41,036,269 | 79,200,000 |
| 2. Further support for longer term reconstruction is under consideration | tbc | tbc |

*Note:*
Exchange rate of £1:$1.93 is from the *Financial Times* of 3 January 2005

## Statutory Instrument Sponsorship

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will list the statutory instruments sponsored by his Department since 1997. [10562]

**Hilary Benn:** Lists of all statutory instruments (Sis) from 1 January 1998 to 30 June 2005, prepared by the Office of Public Sector Information (OPSI) have today been placed in the Library. These lists, prepared in alphabetical order by department, detail for each year from 1998 the number and title of each statutory instrument sponsored by the department. There are separate lists for General and Local Sis. Sis which have been originated by departments but which were also Orders in Council are only listed under the Privy Council Office (PCO).

### United Nations Population Fund

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment his Department has made of the effect of the activities of the United Nations Population Fund on rates of abortion and sterilisation in China. [10889]

**Mr. Thomas:** I refer the Member for Southend West to the reply I gave to him dated 18 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 1362W.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will list countries represented on the Executive Board of the United Nations Population Fund. [10556]

**Mr. Thomas:** The countries represented on the Executive Board of the United Nations Population Fund are:

*Membership of the Executive Board*
*(term expires on the last day of the year indicated)*
*2005*

*African states:*
Botswana (2006)
Cameroon (2006)
Cape Verde (2005)
Republic of the Congo (2006)
Eritrea (2006)
Gambia (2006)
Tunisia (2005)
Uganda (2007)

*Asian and Pacific states:*
China (2006)
Democratic People's Republic of Korea (2007)
India (2005)
Indonesia (2006)
Islamic Republic of Iran (2006)
Kazakhstan (2007)
Nepal (2005)

*Latin America and Caribbean states:*
Cuba (2006)
El Salvador (2005)
Guatemala (2007)
Guyana (2007)
Uruguay (2005)

*Eastern European states:*
Belarus (2007)
Poland (2006)
Russian Federation (2005)
Ukraine (2007)

*Western European and other states:*
Australia (2005)
Denmark (2006)
Germany (2006)
Italy (2005)
Japan (2005)
Netherlands (2006)
Norway (2005)
Portugal (2007)
Sweden (2006)
Switzerland (2007)
Turkey (2007)
United States (2007)

### Water and Sanitation

**Ann McKechin:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will make a statement on his Department's funding for water and sanitation projects; and what proportions of this funding are provided for *(a)* private sector, *(b)* public sector and *(c)* community sector initiatives. [13385]

**Hilary Benn:** Water and sanitation, like education and health, are fundamental to the development of poor countries. On World Water Day, I announced that the UK will double its funding for water and sanitation in Africa over the next three years, from £47.5 million this year to £95 million in 2007. DFID is prioritising immediate action in 12 African countries. I also announced increased support for the European Union water facility and World Bank water programmes. The key to spending more money well will be helping governments in Africa to improve the priority given to water and sanitation in their own country plans, so that they better reflect the needs and aspirations of the poorest.

DFID will finalise a report, "Financing DFID Support to the Water Sector 2002–04" in August which will provide full statistics on DFID's bilateral funding, contributions to multilateral agencies and civil society organisations, public private partnerships, and contributions to research programmes. It will also estimate the proportions of the poverty reduction budget support (PRBS) and debt relief benefiting the water and sanitation sector. Many programmes directed primarily at education, health and other sectors also include a significant water and sanitation component. The total of all of these forms of support to the water sector is estimated at over £220 million in 2003–04. Comprehensive figures on total DFID support to water in 2004–05 are not yet available.

**Ann McKechin:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which water and sanitation projects funded by his Department in the financial years *(a)* 2003–04 and *(b)* 2004–05 were (i) mostly private sector, (ii) mostly public sector and (iii) mostly community sector initiatives. [13386]

**Hilary Benn:** DFID will finalise a report, "Financing DFID support to the water sector 2002–04" in August which will provide full statistics on DFID's bilateral funding, contributions to multilateral agencies and civil society organisations, public private partnerships, and contributions to research programmes. The total of all of these forms of support to the water sector is estimated at over £220 million in 2003–04. Comprehensive figures on total DFID support to water in 2004–05 are not yet available.

### World Bank and IMF

**Vera Baird:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to promote oversight of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund by the parliaments of developing countries. [13510]

**Hilary Benn** *[holding answer 19 July 2005]:* DFID recognises the importance of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank being transparent and accountable to parliaments in developing countries. Clearly, such accountability needs to be at the heart of their relationship.

The main means by which parliaments should engage with the Bank and the IMF activities is through the Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS) process. This is a national strategy for development that sets the agenda, which donors, including the World Bank, should follow in each country.

In the past, parliamentary involvement in the PRS process has often been weak. However, over the past two years, DFID country offices have begun to support stronger involvement of parliamentarians in the PRS process. We are providing active support for parliamentary involvement in Malawi and Tanzania, where an independent Monitoring Group was established to oversee the joint commitments made around the PRS.

In Board meetings, DFID encourages the World Bank and the IMF to engage with parliaments as much as possible. We also actively push for them to make more of their documents public and will continue to pursue this both at Board meetings and in discussions with staff. In fact, in March this year a new Bank disclosure policy was approved which, among other things, makes Board minutes public. The World Bank is now working closely with parliamentarians in some of its borrowing member countries to involve them in the design and implementation of its lending programmes.

The World Bank Institute has a major Parliamentary Strengthening Programme. A key objective is to strengthen the capacity of parliaments to scrutinise the allocation and use of public funds, and oversee the PRS. Since it began in 1996, it has delivered activities in a range of countries including Bangladesh, Cambodia, Ghana, Kenya, Indonesia and Uganda.

The World Bank Institute has also supported the African Parliamentarians Network Against Corruption (APNAC) and the Global Organization of Parliamentarians against Corruption (GOPAC) to encourage parliamentary scrutiny and action against corruption.

Outside the PRS, the main means of oversight is the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank. This provides opportunities for parliaments to scrutinise the World Bank and engage more deeply in development policy issues. The independent Network has some 450 members from over 90 countries and facilitates direct dialogue between parliamentarians and the World Bank to achieve greater transparency of policies and practices.

## NORTHERN IRELAND

### 999 Calls

**Mr. Peter Robinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many emergency 999 calls were made in Northern Ireland in the last five years, broken down by emergency service. [12070]

**Mr. Woodward:** The numbers of emergency 999 calls received by emergency services in Northern Ireland in the last five calendar years are as follows:

| | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Fire | 55,890 | 63,594 | 53,453 | 60,908 | 54,056 | 287,901 |
| Ambulance | 91,392 | 104,167 | 109,870 | 115,009 | 113,242 | 533,680 |
| Police | [1]64,248 | 124,393 | 120,355 | 108,068 | 106,506 | 523,570 |
| Total | 211,530 | 292,154 | 283,678 | 283,985 | 273,804 | 1,345,151 |

[1] Figures prior to June 2000 not available.

### Acute Hospital Beds

**Mr. Lidington:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the average bed occupancy rate for each acute hospital in Northern Ireland was in the last period for which figures are available. [12379]

**Mr. Woodward:** The information requested is detailed in the following table. The last period for which figures are available is 2003–04.

*Percentage bed occupancy rates (all beds) at each acute hospital 2003–04*

| *Hospital* | *Percentage occupancy* |
|---|---|
| Altnagelvin Area | 80.8 |
| Belfast City | 83.8 |
| Causeway Hospital | 81.4 |
| Craigavon Area | 79.7 |
| South Tyrone | 96.6 |
| Downe | 81.0 |
| Lagan Valley | 82.3 |
| Musgrave Park | 75.7 |
| Mater Infirmorum | 92.5 |
| Daisy Hill | 75.2 |
| Royal Victoria | 88.9 |
| Erne | 69.8 |
| Tyrone County | 85.5 |
| Ulster | 88.3 |
| Antrim | 77.7 |
| Mid Ulster | 75.3 |
| Whiteabbey | 95.8 |
| Total | 83.0 |

This information can be found in the annual hospital statistics publication which is available from the House Library or

http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/stats&research/order.asp

Figures that appear in the answer are the most up-to-date and take into account any amendments received subsequent to publication.

### Audiology Goods and Services

**Mr. McGrady:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will introduce direct referral of patients in need of a hearing aid from GP to audiology clinic. [12080]

**Mr. Woodward:** Direct referral by a GP to an audiology clinic already occurs in a number of Health and Social Services Trusts.

The Department will consider the feasibility of implementing direct referrals to all Health and Social Services Trusts. Any new proposals will be determined on the basis of what best meets the clinical requirements of individual patients.

### Cancer Research

**Mr. Peter Robinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much money was spent on cancer research in Northern Ireland in the last 10 years. [11782]

**Mr. Woodward:** Funding for cancer research was centralised in 1999, when the research and development (R&D) office of the HPSS was established. Since then, that office has allocated a total of £5.9 million for cancer research and related education and training initiatives. Details of expenditure on cancer research are not readily available prior to 1999. The R&D office is currently engaged in a major research programme involving some 15 different projects focussing on the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of cancer.

Funding for cancer research in Northern Ireland is also available from sources outside the Department, for example the Medical Research Council, the United Kingdom Cancer Research Council, the Imperial Cancer Research Foundation, Action Cancer and the Ulster Cancer Foundation. The pharmaceutical industry also provides funding to support clinical trials in cancer therapy. My Department does not hold information on these initiatives centrally.

### Consultations

**Mr. Peter Robinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the total cost was of each consultation exercise carried out by Northern Ireland Government Departments in the last five years. [12074]

**Angela E. Smith:** The information sought by the hon. Gentleman is not readily available in the format requested. However, the amount spent on consultation exercises undertaken by Northern Ireland governmental Departments, including the Northern Ireland Office, between June 2001 and July 2004 is shown in the following table.

*NI Departments consultation costs*
*June 2001 to July 2004*
*Northern Ireland Administration*

| *Department* | *£ Consultation costs* |
|---|---|
| The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development | 52,840 |
| The Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure | 31,918 |
| The Department of Education | 576,529 |
| The Department of the Environment | 147,589 |
| The Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment | 49,125 |
| The Department for Employment and Learning | 145,594 |



*NI Departments consultation costs*
*June 2001 to July 2004*
*Northern Ireland Administration*

| *Department* | *£ Consultation costs* |
|---|---|
| The Department of Finance and Personnel | 5,477 |
| The Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety | 374,378 |
| The Department for Regional Development | 178,164 |
| The Department for Social Development | 232,562 |
| The Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister | 499,171 |
| Total | 2, 293,347 |
| The Northern Ireland Office | 28,347 |
| Grand total | 2,321,694 |

### Costello Report

**Mr. Lidington:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much *(a)* the Department of Education and *(b)* each education and library board plans to spend in (i) the 2005–06 financial year and (ii) in each of the next three financial years on implementing the proposals of the Costello Report on Post-Primary Education; and if he will make a statement. [12958]

**Angela E. Smith:** The total resources available to the Department of Education in the current financial year and over the next two financial years for the implementation of new arrangements for post-primary education are as follows:

| | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| 2005–06 | 5.6 |
| 2006–07 | 7 |
| 2007–08 | 12.1 |

Of this, the following resources have been allocated to the education and library boards to enable them to support and facilitate schools in their sector to deliver the Entitlement Framework by developing collaborative arrangements with other schools and further education colleges and generally to support work by schools to prepare for the implementation of new post-primary arrangements:

| | *£000* |
|---|---|
| 2005–06 | 510 |
| 2006–07[1] | 520 |
| 2007–08[1] | 535 |

[1] Planning figure

Budgets for 2008–09 have not yet been determined.

### DLA

**Mrs. Iris Robinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people are in receipt of the high rate mobility component of disability living allowance, broken down by *(a)* constituency, *(b)* council area and *(c)* postcode district. [11957]

**Mr. Hanson:** The information requested is shown in the following tables.

| Parliamentary constituency | DLA recipients in receipt of high rate mobility component |
|---|---|
| Belfast East | 3,890 |
| Belfast North | 6,379 |
| Belfast South | 3,461 |
| Belfast West | 8,354 |
| East Antrim | 3,411 |
| East Londonderry | 3,425 |
| Fermanagh and south Tyrone | 4,358 |
| Foyle | 7,035 |
| Lagan Valley | 4,171 |
| Mid Ulster | 4,870 |
| Newry and Armagh | 6,180 |
| North Antrim | 4,036 |
| North Down | 3,015 |
| South Antrim | 4,272 |
| South Down | 5,633 |
| Strangford | 4,377 |
| Upper Bann | 6,566 |
| West Tyrone | 6,236 |
| Postcode missing[1] | 966 |
| Total | 90,635 |

[1] Constituency is assigned using the claimant's postcode, if the postcode is missing it is not possible to assign a constituency.
All data is taken at 31 May 2005.

| Council area | DLA recipients in receipt of high rate mobility component |
|---|---|
| Antrim | 2,210 |
| Ards | 3,358 |
| Armagh | 2,863 |
| Ballymena | 1,956 |
| Ballymoney | 1,362 |
| Banbridge | 2,238 |
| Belfast | 18,258 |
| Carrickfergus | 1,596 |
| Castlereagh | 2,788 |
| Coleraine | 1,936 |
| Cookstown | 2,219 |
| Craigavon | 5,234 |
| Derry | 7,035 |
| Down | 3,466 |
| Dungannon | 3,237 |
| Fermanagh | 2,288 |
| Larne | 1,161 |
| Limavady | 1,489 |
| Lisburn | 5,001 |
| Magherafelt | 1,484 |
| Moyle | 718 |
| Newry and Mourne | 5,344 |
| Newtownabbey | 3,631 |
| North Down | 2,561 |
| Omagh | 3,105 |
| Strabane | 3,131 |
| Postcode missing[1] | 966 |
| Total | 90,635 |

[1] Council area is assigned using the claimant's postcode, if the postcode is missing it is not possible to assign a council area.
All data is taken at 31 May 2005

| Postcode district | DLA recipients in receipt of high rate mobility component |
|---|---|
| BT1 | 44 |
| BT2 | 54 |
| BT3 | [1]— |
| BT4 | 1,137 |
| BT5 | 1,992 |
| BT6 | 1,404 |
| BT7 | 638 |
| BT8 | 939 |
| BT9 | 536 |
| BT10 | 546 |
| BT11 | 3,036 |
| BT12 | 2,903 |
| BT13 | 2,345 |
| BT14 | 2,560 |
| BT15 | 1,828 |
| BT16 | 804 |
| BT17 | 2,004 |
| BT18 | 370 |
| BT19 | 1,375 |
| BT20 | 817 |
| BT21 | 302 |
| BT22 | 1,214 |
| BT23 | 1,980 |
| BT24 | 713 |
| BT25 | 542 |
| BT26 | 220 |
| BT27 | 836 |
| BT28 | 1,526 |
| BT29 | 397 |
| BT30 | 1,838 |
| BT31 | 396 |
| BT32 | 1,227 |
| BT33 | 557 |
| BT34 | 2,877 |
| BT35 | 2,730 |
| BT36 | 2,061 |
| BT37 | 1,308 |
| BT38 | 1,638 |
| BT39 | 682 |
| BT40 | 1,002 |
| BT41 | 1,833 |
| BT42 | 1,148 |
| BT43 | 619 |
| BT44 | 802 |
| BT45 | 1,168 |
| BT46 | 354 |
| BT47 | 2,948 |
| BT48 | 4,644 |
| BT49 | 1,041 |
| BT51 | 875 |
| BT52 | 658 |
| BT53 | 1,216 |
| BT54 | 333 |
| BT55 | 187 |
| BT56 | 217 |
| BT57 | 145 |
| BT60 | 1,543 |
| BT61 | 711 |
| BT62 | 1,719 |
| BT63 | 957 |
| BT64 | 94 |
| BT65 | 601 |
| BT66 | 1,749 |
| BT67 | 1,123 |
| BT68 | 43 |
| BT69 | 126 |
| BT70 | 1,198 |
| BT71 | 2,412 |
| BT72 | [1]— |
| BT73 | [1]— |
| BT74 | 754 |
| BT75 | 143 |
| BT76 | 95 |
| BT77 | 47 |
| BT78 | 1,865 |
| BT79 | 1,577 |
| BT80 | 1,506 |
| BT81 | 793 |
| BT82 | 1,977 |
| BT92 | 609 |
| BT93 | 413 |
| BT94 | 542 |
| BT95 | [1]— |
| BT99 | [1]— |
| Postcode missing[2] | 468 |
| Total | 90,635 |

[1] Denotes where there are less than 5 claimants in any one geographical area. Due to customer confidentiality, it is the Department for Social Developments policy not to disclose such information.

[2] Postcode district is assigned using the claimant's postcode, if a postcode is missing it is not possible to assign a postcode district.
All data is taken at 31 May 2005.

## Domestic Violence

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many cases of domestic violence were reported to the police in Northern Ireland in *(a)* 1995–96, *(b)* 1996–97 and *(c)* 2004–05. [14007]

**Mr. Woodward:** Figures on cases of domestic violence reported to the police are only available from 2001–02 onwards. These are provided in the following table:

| | *Number of cases of domestic violence reported to police* |
|---|---|
| 2001–02 | 14,937 |
| 2002–03 | 15,512 |
| 2003–04 | 16,926 |
| 2004–05 | 20,959 |

## DRD Retail Planning Document

**Mark Durkan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will make a statement on the timescale for public consultation on the Department of Regional Development's Retail Planning Policy document. [12008]

**Angela E. Smith:** My Noble Friend in another place (Lord Rooker) is considering the draft of Planning Policy Statement 5—Retailing, Town Centres and Commercial Leisure Developments.

## Education Funding

**Mrs. Iris Robinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much of the recently announced £12.5 million education funding will be allocated to the *(a)* pre-school, *(b)* primary school, *(c)* post-primary school, *(d)* integrated, *(e)* Irish-medium and *(f)* special needs sector; what criteria will be used to determine allocations; how much is new funding; and when he plans to begin distribution of the funding. [11980]

**Angela E. Smith:** Consideration is currently being given to the arrangements for distribution of the £12.5 million to the five education boards and the other education authorities. The £12.5 million comprises £3.5 million for special education, £2.5 million for school meals, £2.5 million for school maintenance, and a total of £4.0 million to help deal with the impact of falling pupil numbers and support the boards in developing shared services. £2.5 million of the £12.5 million is coming from the education budget, and £10.0 million has been found from earmarked funds in the budgets of other Government Departments. It is planned to notify allocations for special education, school meals and maintenance before the beginning of the next school year. Allocations in relation to falling pupil numbers and shared services are conditional on boards bringing forward robust plans.

## Educational Psychologists

**Mr. Lidington:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many full-time equivalent posts for educational psychologists there are in *(a)* each education and library board and *(b)* Northern Ireland; and how many of those posts are vacant. [12381]

**Angela E. Smith:** The information requested is as follows:

| *Education and library board* | *Number of FTE[1] educational psychologist posts* | *Number of vacancies* |
|---|---|---|
| Belfast education and library board | 26.12 | nil |
| Southern education and library board | 29.31 | nil |
| Western education and library board | 25.5 | 2 |
| North Eastern education and library board | 26.5 | 1 |
| South Eastern education and library board | 22.8 | nil |
| Total Northern Ireland | 130.23 | 3 |

[1] Full Time Equivalent

## Emergency Services (Attacks)

**Mr. Peter Robinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many attacks have been recorded on members of each emergency service in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years. [12069]

**Mr. Woodward:** Recorded attacks on fire and rescue and ambulance services were as follows:

| | *Northern Ireland fire and rescue service* | *Northern Ireland ambulance service* |
|---|---|---|
| 2000 | [1]— | 38 |
| 2001 | [2]124 | 95 |
| 2002 | 410 | 122 |
| 2003 | 327 | 188 |
| 2004 | 327 | 125 |
| Totals | 1188 | 568 |

[1] No records of attacks were kept prior to September 2001.
[2] From September.

Attacks on the Police Service of Northern Ireland were recorded as follows:

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2000–01 | 1,421 |
| 2001–02 | 2,107 |
| 2002–03 | 1,691 |
| 2003–04 | 1,085 |
| 2004–05 | 1,331 |
| Total | 7,635 |

## English Language Support

**Lady Hermon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will assess the adequacy of English as an additional language support in each education and library board area in Northern Ireland. [13280]

**Angela E. Smith:** The Department of Education has written to each of the education and library boards asking them to advise the Department of the action they are taking to ensure the provision of adequate EAL services in their area.

The Department has met with the Northern Ireland Council for Ethnic Minorities (NICEM), representatives of the Education and Library Boards and the Ulster Teachers' Union (UTU) and Irish National Teachers' Organisation (INTO) to discuss

how best to ensure the language service will be matched to the needs of these children. Discussions will continue over the summer months.

### Hospital Telephone Calls

**Mrs. Iris Robinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many telephone calls were received each week on average by each of the hospitals in the Province in the last period for which figures are available. [10960]

**Mr. Woodward:** The information requested is not available centrally.

### Hospitals

**Mark Durkan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* intensive care and *(b)* high dependency unit beds there are in hospitals in Northern Ireland; how many (i) nursing and (ii) other staff are attached to each unit; and what plans he has to increase the number of (A) beds and (B) nursing staff at such units. [11309]

**Mr. Woodward:** The information is as follows:

*Table 1: Total number of intensive care and high dependency beds in hospitals in Northern Ireland as at 8 July 2005.*

| Hospital | ICU | HDU |
|---|---|---|
| Altnagelvin | 5 | 5 |
| Antrim | 6 | 2 |
| Belfast City | 7 | 5 |
| Causeway | 2 | 2 |
| Craigavon | 6 | 2 |
| Daisy Hill | 0 | 5 |
| Erne | 3 | 4 |
| Lagan Valley | 0 | 2 |
| Mater | 4 | 2 |
| Mid-Ulster | 0 | 3 |
| Royal | 17 | 8 |
| Tyrone County | 0 | 2 |
| Ulster | 6 | 4 |
| Whiteabbey | 0 | 2 |

*Source:*
HPSS Trusts

In addition to beds included in table 1, there are a number of critical care beds held for a specific purpose:

14 post operative high dependency unit beds are situated at Greenpark HSS Trust;

Eight intensive care and six high dependency unit beds are situated at the Royal Victoria hospital in the cardiac surgery specialty;

Seven paediatric intensive care beds and two high dependency beds are located in the Royal Belfast hospital for sick children.

*Table 2: Total number of critical care beds, and the number of dedicated nursing staff attached to critical care units[1], in hospitals in Northern Ireland as at 8 July 2005*

| Hospital | Total beds | Nursing staff[2] (WTE) |
|---|---|---|
| Altnagelvin | 10 | 57.17 |
| Antrim | 8 | 47.46 |
| Belfast City | 12 | 67.5 |
| Causeway | 4 | 22.13 |
| Craigavon | 8 | 50.25 |

*Table 2: Total number of critical care beds, and the number of dedicated nursing staff attached to critical care units[1], in hospitals in Northern Ireland as at 8 July 2005*

| Hospital | Total beds | Nursing staff[2] (WTE) |
|---|---|---|
| Daisy Hill | 5 | 9.67 |
| Erne | 7 | 22.61 |
| Mater | 6 | 26.0 |
| Royal | 25 | 157.59 |
| Ulster | 10 | 56.78 |

[1] It has not been possible to provide a breakdown of staffing levels between intensive care and high dependency beds as staff generally work between these two critical care units.
[2] Nursing staff includes qualified and unqualified staff.
*Source:*
HPSS Trusts

It has not been possible to provide an accurate figure for nursing staff in all critical care units. The hospitals listed in the table 2 have a specific complement of nursing staff dedicated to their critical care units. Critical care units at other hospitals may be staffed by a team of nurses who cover critical care and other specialties eg surgery.

Other staff attached to critical care units include administrative and clerical staff, professional and technical staff and medical staff. A complete and fully representative figure for the number of other staff attached to critical care units is not available as they are often drawn from a hospital's pool of staff.

Intensive care and high dependency provision has been expanded from 64 in 2000 to over 100 beds at present. The further development of critical care is regularly reviewed, and some additional capacity, with corresponding staff increases, is anticipated during the 2005–06 financial year. In the longer term, capacity at the Royal will increase from the current complement of 25 beds to 40 beds following the opening of phase 2, which is expected in 2010.

### Message in a Bottle Scheme

**Lady Hermon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will introduce to Northern Ireland the Message in a Bottle Scheme used in Scotland. [13277]

**Mr. Woodward:** The Message in a Bottle Scheme is a community safely initiative for vulnerable people. It is promoted in Great Britain on a voluntary basis by, among others, Lions and Rotary Clubs and Neighbourhood Watch Schemes and sponsored by local authorities, ambulance services trusts and police forces. I have asked the Northern Ireland Ambulance Service to investigate how effective the scheme is judged to be elsewhere and the scope to introduce it in Northern Ireland.
I will write to the hon. Lady when more information is available.

### National Lottery

**Lady Hermon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will publish the report of the departmental study group on the impact on churches and others opposed to gambling of reliance of the voluntary and community sector on lottery-based funding. [13278]

**Mr. Hanson:** The Voluntary and Community Unit of the Department of Social Development commissioned research jointly with the Community Relations Council to assess the level of access to lottery funds by religious groups and the impact on groups with religious objections to applying for lottery funding. The Department and the Council are in the process of preparing a summary publication of the research for general release later in the year when the research report will be placed on the DSD website.

## Pensions

**Mrs. Iris Robinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people are in receipt of state retirement pensions in each *(a)* constituency, *(b)* council area and *(c)* postcode area in Northern Ireland. [11981]

**Mr. Hanson:** The information requested is shown in the following tables.

| *Parliamentary constituency* | *Total RP recipients* |
|---|---|
| Belfast East | 16,437 |
| Belfast North | 15,364 |
| Belfast South | 14,426 |
| Belfast West | 11,823 |
| East Antrim | 14,339 |
| East Londonderry | 13,605 |
| Fermanagh and South Tyrone | 13,288 |
| Foyle | 12,465 |
| Lagan Valley | 16,813 |
| Mid Ulster | 11,728 |
| Newry and Armagh | 14,605 |
| North Antrim | 18,096 |
| North Down | 17,153 |
| South Antrim | 15,097 |
| South Down | 15,719 |
| Strangford | 16,624 |
| Upper Bann | 16,017 |
| West Tyrone | 11,607 |
| Postcode missing[1] | 3,146 |
| Total | 268,352 |

[1] Constituency is assigned using the claimant's postcode, if the postcode is missing it is not possible to assign a constituency.

*Note:*

All data are taken at 4 June 2005.

| *District council* | *Total RP recipients* |
|---|---|
| Antrim | 6,870 |
| Ards | 12,834 |
| Armagh | 8,241 |
| Ballymena | 10,742 |
| Ballymoney | 4,563 |
| Banbridge | 6,504 |
| Belfast | 45,840 |
| Carrickfergus | 6,355 |
| Castlereagh | 12,677 |
| Coleraine | 9,688 |
| Cookstown | 4,571 |
| Craigavon | 12,644 |
| Derry | 12,465 |
| Down | 10,135 |
| Dungannon | 6,931 |
| Fermanagh | 8,091 |
| Larne | 5,501 |
| Limavady | 3,917 |
| Lisburn | 16,222 |
| Magherafelt | 5,423 |
| Moyle | 2,791 |
| Newry and Mourne | 11,937 |
| Newtownabbey | 13,729 |
| North Down | 14,928 |
| Omagh | 6,328 |
| Strabane | 5,279 |
| Postcode missing[1] | 3,146 |
| Total | 268,352 |

[1] Council area is assigned using the claimant's postcode, if the postcode is missing it is not possible to assign a council area.

*Note:*

All data are taken at 4 June 2005.

| *Postcode district* | *Total RP recipients* |
|---|---|
| BT1 | 69 |
| BT2 | 111 |
| BT3 | [1]— |
| BT4 | 5,144 |
| BT5 | 7,859 |
| BT6 | 5,874 |
| BT7 | 1,761 |
| BT8 | 4,855 |
| BT9 | 3,756 |
| BT10 | 2,182 |
| BT11 | 5,099 |
| BT12 | 3,856 |
| BT13 | 4,664 |
| BT14 | 4,845 |
| BT15 | 4,936 |
| BT16 | 2,776 |
| BT17 | 3,144 |
| BT18 | 2,844 |
| BT19 | 6,206 |
| BT20 | 5,891 |
| BT21 | 1,782 |
| BT22 | 3,245 |
| BT23 | 8,235 |
| BT24 | 2,727 |
| BT25 | 1,950 |
| BT26 | 1,570 |
| BT27 | 4,010 |
| BT28 | 5,601 |
| BT29 | 1,259 |
| BT30 | 4,732 |
| BT31 | 1,045 |
| BT32 | 3,452 |
| BT33 | 1,956 |
| BT34 | 7,651 |
| BT35 | 5,044 |
| BT36 | 7,005 |
| BT37 | 4,865 |
| BT38 | 6,565 |
| BT39 | 3,558 |
| BT40 | 4,595 |
| BT41 | 5,430 |
| BT42 | 5,990 |
| BT43 | 3,741 |
| BT44 | 3,516 |
| BT45 | 4,231 |
| BT46 | 1,267 |
| BT47 | 7,422 |
| BT48 | 6,302 |
| BT49 | 2,846 |
| BT51 | 3,987 |
| BT52 | 2,560 |
| BT53 | 3,852 |
| BT54 | 1,303 |
| BT55 | 1,590 |

| Postcode district | Total RP recipients |
|---|---|
| BT56 | 1,376 |
| BT57 | 828 |
| BT60 | 3,995 |
| BT61 | 2,473 |
| BT62 | 4,580 |
| BT63 | 2,914 |
| BT64 | 101 |
| BT65 | 558 |
| BT66 | 4,865 |
| BT67 | 2,683 |
| BT68 | 153 |
| BT69 | 339 |
| BT70 | 2,377 |
| BT71 | 4,605 |
| BT72 | [1] |
| BT73 | [1] |
| BT74 | 2,711 |
| BT75 | 542 |
| BT76 | 317 |
| BT77 | 175 |
| BT78 | 3,951 |
| BT79 | 3,103 |
| BT80 | 3,074 |
| BT81 | 1,138 |
| BT82 | 3,348 |
| BT84 | [1] |
| BT89 | [1] |
| BT92 | 2,104 |
| BT93 | 1,403 |
| BT94 | 2,017 |
| BT95 | [1] |
| BT99 | [1] |
| Postcode missing[2] | 1,852 |
| Total | 268,352 |

[1] Denotes where there are less than 5 claimants in any one geographical area. Due to customer confidentiality, it is the Department for Social Development's policy not to disclose such information.

[2] Postcode district is assigned using the claimant's postcode, if a postcode is missing it is not possible to assign a postcode district.

*Note:*

All data are taken at 4 June 2005.

## Personal Care

**Mr. Dodds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what response he plans to make to the report submitted by the inter-departmental group on personal care to the Northern Ireland Executive on 8 August 2002. [11621]

**Mr. Woodward:** I have asked officials to update the findings of the report submitted to the Northern Ireland Executive on 8 August 2002. I shall then consider the revised costed options in the context of other Budget priorities before making any response.

## Police Service

**Lady Hermon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many typist posts there were within the Police Service Northern Ireland on 1 January; and how many are anticipated to be required at *(a)* 1 January 2006, *(b)* 1 January 2007 and *(c)* 1 January 2008, broken down by district command unit area. [11234]

**Mr. Woodward:** The following table provides the number of typist posts within the PSNI as of the 1 January 2005 to 2008. Unfortunately, the individual area figures for 2007 and 2008 are not yet available and will be determined by workload and staff modelling in the preceding years.

| Location | 1 January 2005 | 1 January 2006 | 1 January 2007 | 1 January 2008 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| HQ Departments | 96.25 | 103 | [1] | [1] |
| Antrim DCU | 9 | 4.75 | [1] | [1] |
| Ards DCU | 7.5 | 5.25 | [1] | [1] |
| Armagh DCU | 4 | 4 | [1] | [1] |
| Banbridge DCU | 5.25 | 3.5 | [1] | [1] |
| Belfast East DCU | 11 | 7.25 | [1] | [1] |
| Belfast North DCU | 14.25 | 11.25 | [1] | [1] |
| Belfast South DCU | 17.5 | 13.25 | [1] | [1] |
| Belfast West DCU | 11.75 | 8 | [1] | [1] |
| Ballymena DCU | 7.25 | 4.75 | [1] | [1] |
| Ballymoney DCU | 3.75 | 2.75 | [1] | [1] |
| Carrickfergus DCU | 4.25 | 2.75 | [1] | [1] |
| Coleraine DCU | 9 | 5.25 | [1] | [1] |
| Cookstown DCU | 4 | 3.25 | [1] | [1] |
| Craigavon DCU | 10.75 | 7.75 | [1] | [1] |
| Castlereagh DCU | 6.25 | 4 | [1] | [1] |
| Dungannon DCU | 6.5 | 4.5 | [1] | [1] |
| Down DCU | 8 | 5.5 | [1] | [1] |
| Fermanagh DCU | 5 | 5 | [1] | [1] |
| Foyle DCU | 8.5 | 8.25 | [1] | [1] |
| Lame DCU | 4 | 3 | [1] | [1] |
| Limavady DCU | 3.75 | 3 | [1] | [1] |
| Lisburn DCU | 8.75 | 8.25 | [1] | [1] |
| Maghaerafelt DCU | 3.5 | 2.25 | [1] | [1] |
| Moyle DCU | 1 | 1 | [1] | [1] |
| Newtownabbey DCU | 6.25 | 5.25 | [1] | [1] |
| North Down DCU | 7.75 | 5 | [1] | [1] |
| Newry and Mourne DCU | 9 | 6.25 | [1] | [1] |
| Omagh DCU | 6.25 | 4 | [1] | [1] |
| Strabane DCU | 6 | 3.75 | [1] | [1] |
| Urgan Region | 1.75 | 1.75 | [1] | [1] |
| Rural Region | 4.5 | 3 | [1] | [1] |
| TOTAL | 312.25 | 260.5 | 246.75 | 233 |

[1] To be modelled

## Pupil Expulsions/Misbehaviour

**Mr. Peter Robinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many children were *(a)* suspended for a time and *(b)* permanently expelled from a school in Northern Ireland in each of the past five years, broken down by education board. [12044]

**Angela E. Smith:** The information requested is as follows:

*(a) the number of pupils suspended in each education and library board*

| | BELB | WELB | NEELB | SEELB | SELB | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1999–2000 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| 2000–01 | 1,066 | 919 | 1,189 | 803 | 763 | 4,740 |
| 2001–02 | 1,277 | 882 | 1,107 | 919 | 914 | 5,099 |
| 2002–03 | 1,014 | 906 | 1,201 | 992 | 1,169 | 5,282 |
| 2003–04 | 1,191 | 936 | 1,286 | 987 | 1,085 | 5,485 |

n/a = not available.

*(b) the number of pupils expelled in each education and library board area*

| | BELB | WELB | NEELB | SEELB | SELB | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1999–2000 | 19 | 25 | 20 | 3 | 16 | 83 |
| 2000–01 | 5 | 19 | 29 | 11 | 16 | 80 |
| 2001–02 | 7 | 16 | 18 | 12 | 23 | 76 |
| 2002–03 | 18 | 12 | 17 | 16 | 7 | 70 |
| 2003–04 | 6 | 12 | 15 | 12 | 26 | 71 |

**Mrs. Iris Robinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many pupils were responsible for *(a)* bullying of a pupil, *(b)* physical attack on staff and *(c)* verbal abuse of staff in each school in the South Eastern education and library board in each of the past two years. [11983]

**Angela E. Smith:** The Department of Education do not collect or publish this information for individual schools. Information about the reasons for the number of suspensions in each education and library board in 2002–03 and 2003–04 and for expulsions in 2003–04 is available on the Department's website at:

www.deni.gov.uk/facts_figures/education_stats/index_other.htm

## Reasonable Chastisement

**Mark Durkan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what timetable he expects to be followed for legislation to amend the law on reasonable chastisement in Northern Ireland; whether he expects this amendment to be contained in new child protection legislation; and if he will make a statement. [12063]

**Angela E. Smith:** The parliamentary debates on physical punishment, which resulted in the enactment of section 58 of the Children Act 2004, have been closely followed and the possible introduction of a similar amendment in Northern Ireland is the subject of ongoing inter-departmental discussions.

## Replica Firearms

**Mr. Peter Robinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many crimes have been committed in each of the last three years where replica firearms have been used. [11778]

**Mr. Woodward:** The Chief Constable of the Police Service of Northern Ireland has informed me that for statistical purposes there is no distinction made between replica and imitation firearms and that all incidents of misuse are recorded as imitation firearms.

The number of crimes in which an imitation firearm was used in each of the last three years is as follows:

| | Number of crimes |
|---|---|
| 2002–03 | 36 |
| 2003–04 | 42 |
| 2004–05 | 24 |

## Residential Addresses

**Mrs. Iris Robinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many residential addresses there are in each *(a)* constituency, *(b)* council area and *(c)* postcode area in Northern Ireland. [11956]

**Angela E. Smith:** The numbers of residential properties in each of the Northern Ireland constituencies is set out in Table A.

The numbers of residential properties in each of the Northern Ireland council districts is set out in Table B.

Information regarding the number of residential properties in each post-code area could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost.

*Table A: Count of residential property by parliamentary constituency*

| Parliamentary constituency | Count |
|---|---|
| Belfast East | 36,564 |
| Belfast North | 38,131 |
| Belfast South | 44,329 |
| Belfast West | 32,939 |
| East Antrim | 35,974 |
| East Londonderry | 38,178 |
| Fermanagh and South Tyrone | 38,359 |
| Foyle | 40,426 |
| Lagan Valley | 41,863 |
| Mid Ulster | 32,329 |
| Newry and Armagh | 39,731 |
| North Antrim | 42,001 |
| North Down | 37,415 |
| South Antrim | 39,122 |
| South Down | 41,111 |
| Strangford | 40,933 |
| Upper Bann | 43,035 |
| West Tyrone | 33,021 |

*Table B: Count of residential property by local government district council*

| Local government district council | Count |
|---|---|
| Antrim | 18,376 |
| Ards | 31,257 |
| Armagh | 21,334 |
| Ballymena | 23,389 |
| Ballymoney | 10,936 |
| Banbridge | 17,449 |
| Belfast | 123,186 |
| Carrickfergus | 16,062 |
| Castlereagh | 27,724 |
| Coleraine | 26,639 |
| Cookstown | 12,610 |
| Craigavon | 33,640 |
| Derry | 40,426 |
| Down | 25,833 |
| Dungannon | 19,624 |
| Fermanagh | 24,169 |
| Larne | 13,513 |
| Limavady | 11,539 |
| Lisburn | 42,719 |
| Magherafelt | 14,285 |
| Moyle | 7,676 |
| Newry and Mourne | 33,717 |
| Newtownabbey | 33,410 |
| North Down | 32,927 |
| Omagh | 18,541 |
| Strabane | 14,480 |

## School Governance

**Lady Hermon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what plans his Department has to review arrangements for school governance in Northern Ireland; and if he will make a statement. [13279]

**Angela E. Smith:** A review of the arrangements for school governance in Northern Ireland has already commenced with a preliminary examination of the training and support programmes available for school governors and a focused review of school governance in the integrated school sector. The Department will gradually expand the review to cover a range of governance issues across all school sectors and will make proposals for change in due course.

## Special Educational Needs

**Mr. Lidington:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the *(a)* average and *(b)* longest time taken to process and determine an application for a statement of special educational needs was in (i) Northern Ireland and (ii) each education and library board area in the last year for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [12378]

**Angela E. Smith:** In relation to the longest time taken, I refer the hon. Gentleman to the previous answer given to the hon. Member for Strangford on 20 June, *Official Report*, column 866W.

I shall write further when I receive the details from the Education and Library Boards relating to the average time.

## Speech/Occupational Therapists

**Mr. Lidington:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many established full-time equivalent posts there are in each health and social services board for *(a)* speech therapists and *(b)* occupational therapists; and how many of those posts are vacant. [12383]

**Mr. Woodward:** Information requested is provided in the following tables.

*Number of speech therapists and occupational therapists by health and social services board as at 31 March 2005 (excluding current vacancies)*

| | Speech therapists | | Occupational therapists | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *HPSS board* | *Headcount* | *WTE* | *Headcount* | *WTE* |
| NHSSB | 83 | 73.55 | 159 | 143.07 |
| SHSSB | 57 | 50.73 | 128 | 112.63 |
| EHSSB | 161 | 134.82 | 307 | 273.65 |
| WHSSB | 48 | 45.93 | 83 | 76.37 |
| Total | 349 | 305.03 | 677 | 605.72 |

*Source:*
Human Resource Management System

*Number of speech therapy and occupational therapy vacancies (including long-term vacancies) by health and social services board as at 31 March 2005*

| | Speech therapy | | Occupational therapy | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *HPSS board* | *Headcount* | *WTE* | *Headcount* | *WTE* |
| NHSSB | 10 | 7.1 | 12 | 10.5 |
| SHSSB | 5 | 3.6 | 7 | 6.3 |
| EHSSB | 7 | 5.5 | 41 | 34.6 |
| WHSSB | 0 | 0.0 | 1 | 1.0 |
| Total | 22 | 16.2 | 61 | 52.4 |

*Source:*
NI HPSS Organisations

*Number of speech therapy and occupational therapy long-term vacancies (vacant more than 3 months) by health and social services board as at 31 March 2005*

| | Speech therapy | | Occupational therapy | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *HPSS board* | *Headcount* | *WTE* | *Headcount* | *WTE* |
| NHSSB | 6 | 3.6 | 10 | 9.0 |
| SHSSB | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 |
| EHSSB | 4 | 3.0 | 20 | 17.6 |
| WHSSB | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 |
| Total | 10 | 6.6 | 30 | 26.6 |

*Source:*
NI HPSS Organisations

## Super Output Areas

**Mr. Dodds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will list the super output areas (SOAs) in North Belfast that are in the top 10 percent. of most deprived SOAs in Northern Ireland. [11602]

**Angela E. Smith:** The following table lists the 19 super output areas (SOAs) in Belfast North parliamentary constituency that are within the most deprived ten percent. of SOAs in Northern Ireland.

*Table: SOAs in Belfast North parliamentary constituency that are within the most deprived ten percent. of SOAs in Northern Ireland*[1,2]

| *SOA Name* |
|---|
| Ardoyne 1 |
| Ardoyne 2 |
| Ardoyne 3 |
| Cliftonville 3 |
| Crumlin 1 |
| Crumlin 2 |
| Dunanney |
| Duncairn 1 |
| Duncairn 2 |
| Legoniel 1 |
| New Lodge 1 |
| New Lodge 2 |
| New Lodge 3 |
| Water Works 1 |
| Water Works 2 |
| Water Works 3 |
| Woodvale 1 |
| Woodvale 2 |
| Woodvale 3 |

[1] Source—Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure 2005 (NISRA).
[2] Based on the Multiple Deprivation Measure (MDM).

## Unemployment

**Mr. Peter Robinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the unemployment rate in Northern Ireland was in each of the last 10 years. [12055]

**Angela E. Smith:** Labour force survey estimates of the unemployment rate in Northern Ireland for each of the last 10 years can be found in the following table:

*Northern Ireland unemployment rates (seasonally adjusted)*

| *Period (spring)* | *Percentage Unemployment rate* |
|---|---|
| 1995 | 11.2 |
| 1996 | 9.8 |
| 1997 | 7.8 |
| 1998 | 7.5 |
| 1999 | 7.4 |
| 2000 | 7.1 |
| 2001 | 6.3 |
| 2002 | 5.5 |
| 2003 | 5.3 |
| 2004 | 5.0 |
| 2005 | 4.9 |

*Source:*
NI Labour Force Survey

### Water Rates

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether the Government's proposals for reform of water rates in Northern Ireland are intended to be revenue-neutral. [12078]

**Mr. Woodward:** Unlike in England and Wales, domestic customers in Northern Ireland do not pay separate water charges. The current proposals for the introduction of direct domestic charges for water and sewerage services, together with the extension of the non-domestic charging regime, are intended to recover the full costs of delivering water and sewerage services in Northern Ireland.

## HEALTH

### "Influence of the Pharmaceutical Industry" Report

**Paul Flynn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when her Department expects to respond to the Health Select Committee's Fourth Report of Session 2004–05, on the Influence of the Pharmaceutical Industry, HC 42. [11320]

**Jane Kennedy:** The Government are currently considering their response to the Health Select Committee report, which will be published shortly.

### Adverse Drug Reactions

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 4 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 201W, on adverse drug reactions, what the comparable figures for *(a)* 1997, *(b)* 2001 and *(c)* 2003 were. [11357]

**Jane Kennedy:** The table shows the total number and number of fatal suspected adverse drug reaction (ADR) reports received via the yellow card scheme for patients aged 50 to 64, 65 to 74 and 75 years and over in 1997, 2001 and 2003.

| *Age (years)* | *Number of ADR reports* | *Number of fatal ADR reports* |
|---|---|---|
| *1997* | | |
| 50–64 | 3,838 | 84 |
| 65–74 | 2,439 | 88 |
| 75 and over | 1,765 | 106 |
| *2001* | | |
| 50–64 | 5,145 | 137 |
| 65–74 | 2,835 | 104 |
| 75 and over | 2,248 | 151 |
| *2003* | | |
| 50–64 | 3,687 | 139 |
| 65–74 | 2,543 | 118 |
| 75 and over | 2,525 | 170 |

It is important to note that a report of an adverse drug reaction does not necessarily mean that it was caused by the drug. Many factors have to be taken into account in assessing causal relationships including temporal association, the possible contribution of concomitant medication and the underlying disease. It is particularly important to note that causality has not been established for fatal reports.

### Adverse Drug Reactions (Older People)

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she has made of the number of bed days lost due to adverse drug reactions in *(a)* 50 to 64-year-olds, *(b)* 65 to 74-year-olds and *(c)* over 75-year-olds in each of the last five years. [6656]

**Jane Kennedy:** No estimate has been made by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) of the number of bed days lost due to adverse drug reactions. The MHRA has, however funded a study conducted from November 2001 to April 2002, published in the British Medical Journal (BMJ) on 2 July 2004[1], conducted in two large hospitals in Merseyside. This suggested that adverse drug reactions account for 6.5 per cent. of hospital admissions. The median bed stay was eight days, accounting for 4 per cent. of the hospital bed capacity. Patients admitted with adverse drugs reactions, who were of a median age of 76 years, were significantly older than patients without adverse drug reactions, who were of a median age of 66 years. A copy of the BMJ article is available in the Library.

*Source:*

[1] Pirmohamed, M. et al. "Adverse drug reactions as cause of admission to hospital: prospective analysis of 18,820 patients". BMJ 2004;329:15–19

### Alcohol-related Illnesses

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 11 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 728W, to the hon. Member for Southend West, (Mr. Amess) on hospitals (alcohol-related cases), what equivalent information is available for *(a)* Greater London, *(b)* each strategic health authority and *(c)* each NHS trust in London. [13481]

**Caroline Flint:** The information requested is shown in the tables.

*Count of finished admission episodes for selected alcohol related diseases[1] strategic health authorities (SHAs) of treatment—London, method of admission: emergency national health service hospitals, England, datayear, 2003–04*

| | Primary diagnosis | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | F10 | K70 | T51 |
| SHA of treatment | Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol | Alcoholic liver disease | Toxic effect of alcohol |
| North West London Strategic HA | 802 | 385 | 45 |
| North Central London Strategic HA | 615 | 288 | 24 |
| North East London Strategic HA | 917 | 262 | 28 |
| South East London Strategic HA | 1,103 | 300 | 40 |
| South West London strategic HA | 685 | 207 | 27 |
| Total | 4,122 | 1,442 | 164 |

*Count of finished admission episodes for selected alcohol related diseases[1] by SHAs of treatment, method of admission: emergency. National health service hospitals, England, datayear, 2003–04*

| | Primary diagnosis | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | F10 | K70 | T51 |
| SHA of treatment | Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol | Alcoholic liver disease | Toxic effect of alcohol |
| Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire Strategic HA | 814 | 372 | 65 |
| Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Strategic HA | 409 | 179 | 66 |
| Essex Strategic HA | 555 | 205 | 24 |
| North West London Strategic HA | 802 | 385 | 45 |
| North Central London Strategic HA | 615 | 288 | 24 |
| North East London Strategic HA | 917 | 262 | 28 |
| South East London Strategic HA | 1,103 | 300 | 40 |
| South West London Strategic HA | 685 | 207 | 27 |
| Northumberland, Tyne and Wear Strategic HA | 921 | 363 | 32 |
| County Durham and Tees Valley Strategic HA | 925 | 253 | 49 |
| North & East Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire Strategic HA | 938 | 225 | 41 |
| West Yorkshire Strategic HA | 1,087 | 397 | 149 |
| Cumbria and Lancashire Strategic HA | 1,216 | 356 | 64 |
| Greater Manchester Strategic HA | 1,589 | 756 | 103 |
| Cheshire and Merseyside Strategic HA | 2,934 | 725 | 72 |
| Thames Valley Strategic HA | 683 | 313 | 51 |
| Hampshire and Isle of Wight Strategic HA | 666 | 222 | 60 |
| Kent and Medway Strategic HA | 544 | 293 | 59 |
| Surrey and Sussex Strategic HA | 1,102 | 362 | 38 |
| Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire Strategic HA | 755 | 358 | 66 |
| South West Peninsula Strategic HA | 904 | 295 | 65 |
| Dorset and Somerset Strategic HA | 289 | 131 | 12 |
| South Yorkshire Strategic HA | 660 | 286 | 19 |
| Trent Strategic HA | 1,164 | 411 | 68 |
| Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland Strategic HA | 550 | 200 | 54 |
| Shropshire and Staffordshire Strategic HA | 905 | 227 | 53 |
| Birmingham and the Black Country Strategic HA | 1,553 | 589 | 47 |
| West Midlands South Strategic HA | 764 | 291 | 30 |
| Total | 26,049 | 9,251 | 1,451 |

*Count of finished admission episodes for selected alcohol related diseases1 by trust, SHA of treatment—London, method of admission: emergency national health service hospitals, England, datayear, 2003–04*

| | | Primary diagnosis | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | F10 | K70 | T51 |
| | Primary care trust (PCT) or NHS trust | Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol | Alcoholic liver disease | Toxic effect of alcohol |
| 5AT | Hillingdon PCT | 26 | — | — |
| 5C5 | Newham PCT | 6 | — | |
| 5NC | Waltham Forest PCT | * | — | — |
| RAL | Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust | 96 | 102 | * |
| RAP | North Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust | 55 | 26 | * |
| RAS | The Hillingdon Hospital NHS Trust | 124 | 20 | * |
| RAT | North East London Mental Health NHS Trust | 96 | — | — |
| RAX | Kingston Hospital NHS Trust | 110 | 44 | * |
| | RC3 Ealing Hospital NHS Trust | 112 | 53 | — |
| RF4 | Barking, Havering and Redbridge Hospitals NHS Trust | 144 | 86 | * |
| RFW | West Middlesex University NHS Trust | 80 | 46 | 7 |
| RG2 | Greenwich Healthcare NHS Trust | 106 | 40 | 6 |
| RG3 | Bromley Hospitals NHS Trust | 67 | 33 | 6 |
| RGC | Whipps Cross University Hospital NHS Trust | 200 | 62 | * |
| RGZ | Queen Mary's Sidcup NHS Trust | 58 | 51 | * |
| RJ1 | Guy's and St. Thomas1 NHS Trust | 596 | 69 | 15 |
| RJ2 | The Lewisham Hospital NHS Trust | 63 | 35 | 7 |
| RJ5 | St. Mary's Hospital NHS Trust | 55 | 68 | * |
| RJ6 | Mayday Healthcare NHS Trust | 88 | 55 | 7 |
| RJ7 | St. George's Healthcare NHS Trust | 131 | 68 | 12 |
| RJZ | King's Healthcare NHS Trust | 106 | 72 | * |
| RKE | Whittington Hospital NHS Trust | 123 | 56 | * |
| RKL | West London Mental Health NHS Trust | 82 | — | — |
| RNH | Newham Healthcare NHS Trust | 56 | 39 | * |

*Count of finished admission episodes for selected alcohol related diseases[1] by trust, SHA of treatment—London, method of admission: emergency national health service hospitals, England, datayear, 2003–04*

| | | Primary diagnosis | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | F10 | K70 | T51 |
| | Primary care trust (PCT) or NHS trust | Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol | Alcoholic liver disease | Toxic effect of alcohol |
| RNJ | Barts and The London NHS Trust | 135 | 47 | 10 |
| RPG | Oxleas NHS Trust | 22 | — | — |
| RQM | Chelsea and Westminster Healthcare NHS Trust | 36 | 43 | 21 |
| RQN | The Hammersmith Hospitals NHS Trust | 137 | 81 | * |
| | RQX Homerton University Hospital NHS Trust | 181 | 28 | 7 |
| RQY | South West London and St. George's MH NHS Trust | 230 | — | — |
| RRP | Barnet Enfield and Haringey Mental Health NHS Trust | 154 | — | — |
| RRV | University College London Hospitals NHS Trust | 52 | 49 | * |
| RV3 | Central And North West London Mental Health NHS Trust | 33 | — | — |
| RV5 | South London and Maudsley NHS Trust | 85 | — | * |
| RV8 | North West London Hospitals NHS Trust | 117 | 74 | 7 |
| RVL | Barnet And Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust | 81 | 55 | 11 |
| RVR | Epsom/St. Helier NHS Trust | 126 | 40 | 6 |
| RWK | East London and The City Mental Health NHS Trust | 98 | — | — |
| TAF | Camden and Islington Mental Health and Social Care Trust | 54 | — | — |
| | Total | 4,122 | 1,442 | 164 |

[1] Alcohol related diseases defined as following ICD-10 codes recorded in primary diagnosis;
F10: Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol.
K70: Alcoholic liver disease.
T51: Toxic effect of alcohol.
*Notes:*
1. A finished admission episode is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. Please note that admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.
2. Due to reasons of confidentiality, figures between one and five have been suppressed and replaced with *.
3. The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 14 (seven prior to 2002–03) diagnosis fields in the hospital episode statistics (HES) data set and provides the main reason why the patient was in hospital.
4. Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data, that is, the data is ungrossed.
*Source:*
HES, Health and Social Care Information Centre.

### Alzheimer's Disease

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research she has commissioned to determine more cost-effective ways of treating Alzheimer's disease in addition to that being undertaken by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence. [11589]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answer 13 July 2005]:* The National institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) is a special health authority, set up in April 1999 specifically to give advice to the national health service on best clinical practice, including the clinical and cost effectiveness of drugs and other treatments.

The majority of the Department's expenditure on health research is allocated to and managed by NHS organisations. Details of individual projects supported in the NHS, including some 160 to do with Alzheimer's disease can be found on the national research register at: www.dh.gov.uk/research.

### Ambulance Services

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many ambulances there are in Lancashire; and if she will make a statement; [12427]

(2) how many ambulances are operated by Lancashire ambulance trust; how many people work for Lancashire ambulance trust; and what assessment she has made of the service provided by the trust. [12549]

**Mr. Byrne:** The number of ambulances operated by Lancashire ambulance service national health service trust is not held centrally.

Each ambulance service should plan to provide appropriate resources to meet local demand. This may include resources in addition to ambulance provision, for example, using community paramedics or emergency care practitioners.

As a result of the Department's strategic review of ambulance services, we expect the number of ambulance vehicles to increase over the next few years. The size of the fleet and fleet mix will vary across the country depending on operational and geographical requirements.

The number of staff employed by the Lancashire ambulance service NHS trust is shown in the table.

| *Lancashire ambulance service NHS trust* | *Headcount* |
|---|---|
| All non-medical staff | 924 |
| *Professionally qualified clinical staff* | 622 |
| Ambulance staff | 622 |
| *Support to clinical staff* | 207 |
| Support to doctors and nurses | 19 |
| Support to ambulance staff | 188 |
| *NHS infrastructure support* | 95 |
| Central functions | 36 |
| Hotel property and estate staff | 18 |
| Managers and senior managers | 41 |

*Source:*
Health and Social Care Information Centre Non-Medical Workforce Census 2004

NHS trusts are assessed by the Healthcare Commission on an annual basis. In 2004–05, Lancashire ambulance service NHS trust received three stars, the highest rating.

### Arm's Length Bodies

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what arm's length bodies have been *(a)* established and *(b)* dissolved by her Department since 30 November 2004. [12623]

**Jane Kennedy:** The list shows which of the Department's arm's length bodies have been established and dissolved since 30 November 2004.

*Bodies dissolved*

Family Health Services Appeal Authority
Health Development Agency
National Clinical Assessment Authority
National Radiological Protection Board
NHS Information Authority
NHS Modernisation Agency
NHS University (NHSU)
Public Health Laboratory Service

*Bodies established*

Human Tissue Authority
Health and Social Care Information Centre
NHS Connecting for Health
NHS Institute for Innovation and Improvement

### Arm's-length Bodies

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many staff *(a)* by headcount and *(b)* by full-time equivalent, were employed in the arm's length bodies contained in her Department's review of arm's length bodies as at (i) September 2003, (ii) September 2004 and (iii) the most recent date for which figures are available. [3359]

**Jane Kennedy:** The numbers of staff working in the Department's arm's length bodies are not readily available for September 2003 and 2004. The data shown in the table is available only in whole-time equivalents.

| *Body title* | *31 March 2003* | *1 April 2004* | *1 April 2005* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence | n/a | 8 | 11 |
| Commission for Patient and Public Involvement in Health | 5 | 197 | 189 |
| Commission for Health Improvement | 347 | n/a | n/a |
| Commission for Social Care Inspection | n/a | 2,622 | 2,551 |
| Dental Practice Board | 354 | 321 | 272 |
| Dental Vocational Training Authority | 2 | 4 | 3 |
| Family Health Services Appeal Authority | 13 | 15 | 12 |
| General Social Care Council | 85 | 173 | 262 |
| Health Protection Agency | n/a | 3,144 | 3,287 |
| Healthcare Commission | n/a | 771 | 761 |
| Health and Social Care Information Centre | n/a | 360 | 366 |
| Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority | 80 | 106 | 99 |
| Independent Regulator of NHS Foundation Trusts (Monitor) | n/a | 28 | 28 |
| Medical Devices Agency | 154 | n/a | n/a |
| Medicines Control Agency | 490 | n/a | n/a |
| Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency | n/a | 806 | 862 |
| Mental Health Act Commission | 35 | 36 | 46 |
| National Biological Standards Board | 283 | 308 | 313 |
| National Blood Authority | 5,679 | 5,599 | 5,759 |
| National Care Standards Commission | 2,291 | n/a | n/a |
| National Institute for Clinical Excellence | 43 | 230 | 230 |
| National Patient Safety Agency | 55 | 238 | 238 |
| National Radiological Protection Board | 318 | 315 | n/a |
| National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse | 38 | 88 | 94 |
| NHS Appointments Commission | 44 | 49 | 60 |
| NHS Counter Fraud and Security Management Service | 78 | 250 | 250 |
| NHS Direct | n/a | 1,987 | 2,989 |
| NHS Estates | 412 | 412 | 412 |
| NHS Litigation Authority | 145 | 217 | 152 |
| NHS Logistics | 1,340 | 1,403 | 1,457 |
| NHS Modernisation Agency | 610 | 842 | n/a |
| NHS Pensions Agency | 286 | 339 | 363 |
| NHS Professionals | n/a | 671 | 671 |
| NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency | 316 | 333 | 341 |
| NHSU | n/a | 262 | n/a |
| NHS Connecting for Health | n/a | 767 | 767 |
| Postgraduate Medical Education and Training Board | n/a | 27 | 36 |
| Prescription Pricing Authority | 2,275 | 2,438 | 1,940 |
| Public Health Laboratory Service | 3,216 | 69 | n/a |
| United Kingdom Transplant | 122 | 121 | 130 |
| Totals | 19,111 | 25,556 | 24,951 |

### Bed Occupancy Rates

**Mr. Lidington:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average bed occupancy rate for each acute hospital in England was in the last period for which figures are available. [12388]

**Mr. Byrne:** I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave the hon. Member for Sutton and Cheam (Mr. Burstow) on 29 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 1606W.

### Broadmoor

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many people with Asperger's Syndrome are resident at Broadmoor; [12796]

(2) how many people diagnosed with Asperger's syndrome have left Broadmoor in each of the last five years. [12797]

**Mr. Byrne:** There are currently 16 people resident at Broadmoor hospital who have Asperger's syndrome of some degree. The number of patients diagnosed with Asperger's syndrome that have left Broadmoor since 2000 is shown in the table.

| | *Number of patients discharged* |
|---|---|
| 2000 | 0 |
| 2001 | 1 |
| 2002 | 1 |
| 2003 | 1 |
| 2004 | 1 |
| 2005 | 1 |

## Cancer Treatment

**Lady Hermon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research has been carried out by her Department into the effectiveness of Anastrozole in treating breast cancer. [11286]

**Jane Kennedy:** None. It is for the manufacturer to demonstrate the safety and efficacy of medicinal products.

**Mr. Roger Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence is taking to expedite approval of cancer treatments. [11513]

**Jane Kennedy:** The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) is an independent organisation which develops its guidance, including for cancer treatments, after careful consideration of the available evidence and in consultation with stakeholders. The process by which NICE develops its guidance is a matter for the Institute. Its processes have been developed through wide consultation, are transparent and have been endorsed by the World Health Organisation. NICE reviews its processes regularly in order to identify opportunities for efficiencies in the way they are applied.

## Chlamydia

**Dr. Evan Harris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS facilities in England which test for Chlamydia *(a)* exclusively use the nucleic acid amplification test (NAAT), *(b)* use NAAT alongside other methods and *(c)* do not use NAAT; and what percentage of all Chlamydia tests in 2004 used NAAT. [12953]

**Caroline Flint:** This information is not collected centrally. Nucleic acid amplification tests (NAATs) are a mandatory requirement of the national chlamydia screening programme, which will be rolled-out across the whole country by March 2007. The chief medical officer wrote to all strategic health authorities in September 2003 and outlined the clinical governance issues raised by the continued use of sub-optimal tests for the detection of chlamydia infection. The Department also announced a further £8 million investment to assist national health service laboratories to support the change to NAATs.

## Clinical Decisions

**Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the conclusion of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence Citizens' Council on the account to be taken of age as a factor in making clinical decisions. [11428]

**Jane Kennedy:** The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) consulted on the draft "Social Value Judgements Guidelines" for a period of three months ending on 30 June 2005. NICE is currently considering responses to that consultation.

## Clinical Negligence

**Steve Webb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the total level of financial provision by the NHS in England is for future liabilities in respect of clinical negligence; if she will estimate what the level of such provision was on a consistent basis in each year since 1997; if she will break down the most recent total by type of liability; and if she will make a statement on recent trends in such liabilities. [10940]

**Jane Kennedy** *[holding answer 11 July 2005]:* The total level of financial provision by the national health service in England for future liabilities in respect of clinical negligence, as agreed by the National Audit Office, is shown in the table.

| | *Provision for clinical negligence (£ billion)* |
|---|---|
| 1996–97 | 1.3 |
| 1997–98 | 2.3 |
| 1998–99 | 3.2 |
| 1999–2000 | 3.9 |
| 2000–01 | 4.4 |
| 2001–02 | 5.25 |
| 2002–03 | 5.89 |
| 2003–04 | 7.78 |

In 2003–04, the provision for clinical negligence was calculated as shown in the table.

| *Provision* | *Amount (£ billion)* |
|---|---|
| Opening position | 5.89 |
| New provisions for reported claims | 0.17 |
| Increase in provisions for incidents incurred but not yet reported | 0.34 |
| Treasury change of discount rate | 1.39 |
| Total | [1]7.78 |

[1] Totals subject to rounding

*Notes:*

1. Treasury changes in accounting practice over the years mean that figures are not directly comparable.
2. Increases in provisions for incidents incurred but not yet reported were only recorded from 2002–03.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many primary care trusts have settled claims out of court for operations that resulted in the patient becoming permanently disabled in each of the last 10 years. [12734]

**Jane Kennedy:** This information is not collected centrally.

## Clinical Trials

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the impact of the EU

Clinical Trials Directive on *(a)* the (i) administrative burden involved in undertaking and (ii) cost of clinical trials and *(b)* the ability of hospitals and patients to be involved in clinical trials. [12451]

**Jane Kennedy** *[holding answer 18 July 2005]:* The Government are monitoring the impact of the clinical trials directive in collaboration with its partners in clinical research. The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) is the licensing authority for clinical trials under the Medicines for Human Use (Clinical Trials) Regulations 2004, which implemented Directive 2001/20/EC (the Clinical Trials Directive) in United Kingdom law with effect from 1 May 2004. The MHRA asked the UK Clinical Research Collaboration (UKCRC) to analyse the available evidence on impacts that can be attributed to the Directive. The UKCRC has reviewed the preliminary evidence and found that no sources of information measure reliably the effects of the directive on the volume and type of clinical research, the difficulties or benefits it has produced, or the impact on research costs. It has agreed on the need for a reliable and independently derived set of metrics.

At this early stage, there is evidence of good performance by the MHRA in approving clinical trials promptly and of a reduction in the time taken for ethics committee review. There is also evidence that in other respects, in 2004–05 it took longer to set up trials and to secure permission to begin them in some national health service organisations. This may in part have been due to confusion in universities and the NHS about the interpretation of the law, leading to inconsistent behaviour and delay in reaching agreement. Financial information also suggests an initial decline in the numbers of early phase trials recruiting volunteers outside the NHS. Members of the UKCRC, including the Government, have agreed to collaborate on actions designed to speed up the approval of trials and reduce costs. The Government aims to work with its partners to build on this country's excellent reputation in clinical research.

### Clostridium Difficile

**Mr. Lidington:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 27 June 2005, *Official Report*, columns 1344–45W on *Clostridium difficile*, what the first date was on which *Clostridium difficile* was reported to her Department in respect of each hospital trust. [11106]

**Jane Kennedy** *[holding answer 11 July 2005]:* The Department is not routinely informed of laboratory typing results of *Clostridium difficile* isolates. The data provided in the answer of 27 June 2005, *Official Report*, columns 1344–45W, were obtained on 13 June as part of information gathering following the outbreak at Stoke Mandeville hospital and included all isolates of type 27 detected since 1999.

### Commission for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether she has initiated a review of the powers available to the Commission for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence following the recommendations in the fifth report of the Shipman Inquiry; and if she will make a statement. [12529]

**Jane Kennedy:** We are currently working on our response to the recommendations in the fifth report of the Shipman Inquiry, and intend to reply to the report as a whole in a Command Paper. I do not propose to respond to questions about individual recommendations before laying our report before Parliament.

### Complementary Medical Practitioners

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she plans to publish for consultation proposals for the statutory regulation of complementary and alternative medical practitioners. [12628]

**Jane Kennedy:** On 22 December 2004, the Department announced that a £900,000 grant would go to the Prince of Wales's Foundation for Integrated Health, to support its ongoing work on the regulation of complementary therapies.

Proposals for statutory regulation of complementary and alternative medical practitioners will be considered in the context of the outcome of the current review of non-medical regulation, which is due to report by the end of 2005.

### Correspondence

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health under what circumstances letters signed by hon. or right hon. Members and sent to her on behalf of constituents are answered by e-mails sent by customer call centre officials; and if she will make a statement. [12368]

**Jane Kennedy** *[holding answer 18 July 2005]:* All letters written by hon. or right hon. Members on behalf of constituents to the Secretary of State are answered by letter by the Secretary of State or by Ministers of the Department.

### Delayed Discharges

**Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many delayed discharge patients there were in hospital in the latest month for which figures are available, broken down by local authority area; and how many patients in each hospital had their discharge delayed while awaiting community care packages in that period. [9897]

**Mr. Byrne:** Information showing the number of delayed discharges by local authority and the number of patients delayed while waiting for a care package in their own home by national health Service trust or primary care trust as at April 2005 has been placed in the Library.

### Dementia

**Helen Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many units there are in England which specialise in the care of people with early onset dementia; and where they are situated. [5107]

**Mr. Byrne:** This information is not collected centrally. However, as part of the annual mapping exercise of adult mental health services, organisations have in some instances indicated where services for those with early onset dementia are provided. Durham university's centre for public mental health, which carries out the mapping exercise on behalf of the Department, can produce this information on request.

## Dentistry

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what inspection procedures are in place for the work of dentists who undertake NHS work. [6748]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The Dental Practice Board (DPB) for England and Wales is responsible for establishing the probity of payment claims for dentists working in the national health service general dental service and making payments to them for the work they have done. The DPB continually monitors dentists prescribing patterns and activity and the quality of treatment provided through the dental reference service (DRS). The DRS scrutinises a randomly selected sample of payment claims using questionnaires to patients, clinical record checks and treatment examinations. The form that patients sign at the dentist includes an agreement to attend an examination if requested. Adverse reports arising from the 55,000 random references are investigated and can be referred to the primary care trust (PCT) for disciplinary action.

The DRS is currently piloting new clinical monitoring arrangements in order to support practitioners and PCTs with clinical governance and quality assurance issues under the new dental contracting arrangements, which will come into effect next April.

**Steve Webb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will estimate the percentage of *(a)* adults, *(b)* children and *(c)* the total population registered with (i) a general dental services dentist and (ii) a personal dental services dentist in (A) England, (B) each strategic health authority and (C) each primary care trust in each year since 1997; and if she will make a statement. [8092]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The information requested has been placed in the Library.

**Mr. MacShane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement on the availability of NHS dental care in Rotherham. [8884]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Over the past two years, Rotherham primary care trust (PCT) has made considerable progress in improving access to national health service dentistry.

In 2004–05, Rotherham PCT received a total of £182,000 in capital funding and £78,000 in revenue funding, a large proportion of which has been distributed to seven practices within the PCT area to increase NHS access. The PCT anticipates this funding will deliver an additional 10,560 NHS patient registrations. This funding is also being used to fund the development of two new dental surgeries in a health centre in Rotherham, expected to be completed in 2005–06. The PCT has also been awarded funding to re-open a recently closed surgery, which should provide 2,833 additional patient registrations.

As at 31 May 2005, there are 33 dental practices within the Rotherham PCT area, a number of which are currently accepting new NHS patients. The Rotherham Health Advice Centre actively manages access to NHS dentistry by directing patients to practices with vacancies as they become available. The dental access centre in the Dearne Valley accepts patients from all over South Yorkshire for a range of emergency dental treatment. In addition, three practices within Rotherham provide emergency pain-relief sessions.

Rotherham PCT has recruited three Polish dentists from the Department's central international recruitment initiative. These dentists are now providing NHS services to patients in the area. The PCT has also been proactive in working with its dentists to move them to personal dental service contracts—with over 60 per cent. of practices having taken up this opportunity to move to new ways of working.

## Departmental Staff

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many full-time equivalents have worked for the Department for each of the last five financial years for which figures are available. [11484]

**Jane Kennedy:** Information on core Departmental numbers for the last five years is available at:

www.civilservice.gov.uk/management_information/statistical_information/statistics/archived data/archived data on staff in post/index.asp

Copies of Civil Service statistics are also available in the Library.

## Digital Hearing Aids

**Paul Farrelly:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the average waiting time was for *(a)* a digital hearing aid assessment and *(b)* the routine supply of a digital hearing aid to wearers of existing hearing aids at the Leighton hospital in Crewe in the last period for which figures are available; [11837]

(2) how much funding her Department has made available for the provision of digital hearing aids *(a)* in England, *(b)* to primary care trusts in North Staffordshire and *(c)* to the University hospital of North Staffordshire; [11838]

(3) what the average waiting time was *(a)* in England and *(b)* at the University of North Staffordshire for (i) a digital hearing aid assessment and (ii) the routine supply of a digital hearing aid to users of existing hearing aids in the last period for which figures are available; [11839]

(4) what the reasons are for the current waiting times which hearing aid wearers have for a digital hearing aid assessment at the University of North Staffordshire. [11857]

**Mr. Byrne:** The Department has invested £125 million into the modernising hearing aid services (MHAS) project since 2000. As a result, from April 2005, all 164 national health service audiology services in England should be routinely fitting digital hearing aids.

Information on waiting times and local funding for provision of digital hearing aids is not held centrally.

## Drugs Blacklist

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health which drugs are blacklisted from NHS prescriptions; what the reason is for the inclusion of each on the list; and when each drug was blacklisted. [12205]

**Jane Kennedy:** There are currently over 3,000 products which appear in Schedule 1 of the NHS (CMS Contracts) (Prescription of Drugs etc) Regulations 2004—often referred to as the blacklist. This list can be found in Part XVIIIA of the Drug Tariff which is published monthly by The Stationery Office, or on the Prescription Pricing Authority's website at: www.ppa.org.uk/edt/July_2005/mindex.htm.

Reasons for the inclusion of individual products could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. However, products may be placed on this schedule because they are either expensive in comparison to similar alternatives or have no therapeutic value.

Many of the products listed were first subject to such restrictions in 1985 with the introduction of the selected list scheme following advice from the advisory committee on drugs. Again, this information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether generic substitutes are available for those drugs that are blacklisted from NHS prescriptions; and if she will make a statement. [12206]

**Jane Kennedy:** Suitable alternative treatments to those listed in Schedule 1 of the NHS (CMS Contracts) (Prescription of Drugs etc) Regulations 2004 are generally available on the national health service. Alternatives may not be available where a treatment has been listed because it has no therapeutic value.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will place in the Library her Department's guidance to pharmacists about the blacklisting of drugs from NHS prescriptions ; and if she will make a statement. [12207]

**Jane Kennedy:** The pharmacists' terms of service, contained in the NHS (Pharmacy Services) Regulations 2005, SI 2005/641, says that they should not dispense a prescription on the national health service for products which are on Schedule 1 of the NHS (CMS Contracts) (Prescription of Drugs etc) Regulations 2004.

The new GP Contract Regulations (NHS (CMS Contracts) Regulations 2004) also specify that doctors should not issue prescriptions on the NHS for such products.

Copies of both sets of regulations are available in the Library.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health which drugs have been removed from the NHS prescription blacklist in each year since 1997. [12209]

**Jane Kennedy:** A list of which drugs have been removed from Part XVIIA (Schedule 1) of the Drug Tariff in each year since 1997 has been placed in the Library.

## Elderly Care

**Sir Malcolm Rifkind:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what her latest estimate is of the number of people who have had to sell their homes to pay for their long-term elderly care since 1997. [12213]

**Mr. Byrne:** It is not necessary for people to sell their houses on entry into residential care in order to fund their care costs.

Since October 2001, councils have been able to enter into a deferred payments agreement. The aim is to allow people with property, but without income and other assets sufficient to meet their full assessed contribution, to have a legal charge placed on their property to meet any shortfall. Hence, people are able to keep their homes on admission to residential care and for the duration of the deferred payments agreement.

There are a number other of measures in place to avoid people being forced to sell their former homes to pay for their residential care. These are set out in the National Assistance (Assessment of Resources) Regulations 1992 and the Charges for Residential Accommodation Guide (CRAG).

Local councils must ignore the value of the property where it continues to be occupied by the resident's spouse or partner; a lone parent with a dependent child who is the resident's estranged or divorced partner; another relative who is over 60 or who is incapacitated; or a child under 16 whom the resident is liable to maintain. Councils also have the discretion to disregard the value of the property in any other circumstances that they consider reasonable. For example, this discretion might be used where a former carer continues to live in the property.

Since April 2001, councils must ignore the value of a resident's former home for the first 12 weeks of a permanent stay in residential care.

## Emergency Contraception

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether her Department was consulted by Oxford primary care trust about its decision to expand a pilot scheme offering free morning-after pills to teenagers to cover 24 pharmacies in their region; and if she will make a statement. [12775]

**Caroline Flint:** This is a local decision. There are a large number of schemes running in England and Wales where emergency contraception is being supplied to women of all ages free of charge in pharmacies. In these schemes emergency contraception is issued to women by pharmacists using a patient group direction under national health service arrangements. While the Government supports the development of these schemes, the decision to establish pharmacy supply under a patient group direction is a matter for local decision.

## General Nursing Council Inspections

**Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reasons the General Nursing Council Inspector has ceased to visit hospitals. [3147]

**Jane Kennedy:** The General Nursing Council ceased to exist in the late 1970s. It became the United Kingdom Central Council, which in turn gave way to the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) in 2003. The NMC does not have any statutory responsibility for visiting hospitals or any other health care providers.

### Health Bodies (Consultation)

**Mr. Havard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions have taken place between the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence, the All Wales Medicines Strategy Group and the Scottish Medicines Consortium on *(a)* the dissemination of best practice and *(b)* steps to minimise duplication and improve cost and clinical effectiveness of new medical technologies and treatments. [8510]

**Jane Kennedy:** The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) is an independent body and should be contacted direct for this information.

The All Wales Medicines Strategy Group (AWMSG) was established in October 2002 and appraises new drugs for use within Wales as interim guidance prior to the final publication of NICE appraisals. The AWMSG does not appraise medicines that have already been considered by NICE or on which NICE will soon publish guidance.

The Scottish Medicines Consortium, established in October 2001, sends its recommendations to NICE on a regular basis for information.

### Health Protection Agency

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health at which sites the Health Protection Agency operates; how many full-time equivalent staff work at each site; what the specialisms of the agency are at each site; and what plans she has for the HPA in her review of non-departmental bodies. [11807]

**Caroline Flint** *[holding answer 14 July 2005]:* A list of sites at which the Health Protection Agency (HPA) currently operates and the whole-time equivalent staff numbers at each site has been placed in the Library. Data are not collected for the specialisms at each site. The specialisms and numbers of staff in each specialism for the HPA as a whole are shown in the table.

| | *2005* | *2004* |
|---|---|---|
| Medical | 258 | 249 |
| Nursing | 166 | 154 |
| Professional, administrative and operational support | 751 | 730 |
| Scientific | 361 | 350 |

Following the review of arm's length bodies, our intention for the HPA is that, subject to legislation, it will take on the functions of the National Biological Standards Board. The HPA was created as a United Kingdom non-departmental public body on 1 April 2005.

### Healthy Eating

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of overall funding to improve eating habits in 2005–06 is allocated to improving children's diets; and how much she plans to allocate to *(a)* improving eating habits and *(b)* improving children's diets in each of the next five years. [12736]

**Mr. Byrne:** "Choosing a Better Diet", a food and health action plan published on 9 March 2005 sets out the Government's strategy to improve people's health through improved diet and nutrition. £183.1 million has been allocated in 2005–06 to improving eating habits, of which £173.5 million has been specifically allocated to improving children's diets. Funding for each of the next five years has not yet been allocated.

### Hip Replacements

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many hip replacement operations were performed in each of the last five years, broken down by primary care trust. [12733]

**Mr. Byrne:** This information is not collected centrally in the form requested.

Information on how many hip replacement operations were performed in each of the last five years, broken down by local authority boundaries, is available on the National Centre for Health Outcomes Development website at: www.nchod.nhs.uk

### Illicit Medicines

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate has been made by the *(a)* Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency and *(b)* her Department of the amount of medicine purchased by the public through illicit means; and what the 10 most common medicines purchased in this way are according to the most recently available figures. [12534]

**Jane Kennedy:** The criminal investigation unit of the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) investigates all suspected breaches of medicines legislation brought to its attention. Examples of illicit purchases include the internet, pubs, clubs, boot fairs and by mail order. Illicit sales by their nature involve hidden transactions for which records are not usually kept and occur outside of the tightly regulated and monitored licensed system. The MHRA and the Department therefore have no estimates for these types of purchases.

The illegal sales that the MHRA has investigated predominantly involve lifestyle drugs which include those to treat erectile dysfunction, obesity, hair loss and anti-smoking. Erectile dysfunction medicines include Viagra, Cialis, Levitra and Uprima which are all licensed for supply in the United Kingdom. However, unlicensed generic versions coming mainly from India and China have been and are being investigated.

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate has been made by the *(a)* Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency and *(b)* her Department of the amount of undetected counterfeit medicine products within the legitimate UK supply chain. [12535]

**Jane Kennedy:** The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA), as the United Kingdom regulatory authority for medicines and medical devices, has made no such estimate.

As part of its anti-counterfeiting strategy, the MHRA is extending its existing Medicines Market Surveillance programme, which currently targets medicines at the point of retail, to further target medicines across the whole of the legitimate UK supply chain. Over a period of time, this will provide evidence of the existence or not of counterfeit medicines in the legitimate UK supply chain. The extended market surveillance programme is being supported by key stakeholders such as the pharmaceutical industry, trade groups, patient groups, distributors and the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain (RPSGB) and is a good example of collaborative work in this area.

### Independent Mental Capacity Advocate Service

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will list the organisations and individuals consulted before the consultation on the Independent Mental Capacity Advocate Service was issued; and if she will make a statement. [12722]

**Mr. Byrne:** The Department launched the consultation on the arrangements for the future provision of the independent mental capacity advocacy (IMCA) service on 5 July 2005. Through this consultation, the Department wishes to identify how best to deliver the new independent advocacy provision for particularly vulnerable people who lack capacity.

The consultation on the IMCA service builds on the many discussions held with interested stakeholders during the passage of the Mental Capacity Act 2005.

The Government consulted informally with a small number of stakeholders prior to the launch of the consultation document. These included Mencap, Help the Aged, the Association of Directors Social Services and the NHS Confederation as well as a consultant from Durham University who has been advising on the Independent Mental Health Act Advocate project and has established links with independent advocacy providers.

The Government want to hear the views of all those interested in this important new service, including people who lack capacity, their families and carers, health and social care professionals care homes and independent and voluntary sector providers and independent advocacy organisations.

The consultation period ends on 5 September 2005.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many copies of the consultation document on the Independent Mental Capacity Advocate Service have been produced; at what cost; and if she will make a statement. [12723]

**Mr. Byrne:** The Department launched the consultation on the arrangements for the future provision of the independent mental capacity advocacy (IMCA) service on 5 July 2005. The Government have published 1,000 copies of the main consultation document and 800 copies of the accessible version. A CD-rom of the consultation documents with audio recording of the easy read version, and translations of the executive summary in several ethnic minority languages will be available shortly. Costs for producing and publishing these documents are estimated at around £22,000.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health which organisations were sent copies of the consultation document on the Independent Mental Capacity Advocate Service; how many were sent to each; and if she will make a statement. [12724]

**Mr. Byrne:** The Department launched the consultation on the arrangements for the future provision of the independent mental capacity advocacy (IMCA) service on 5 July 2005. A copy of both the consultation paper and the accessible version were sent to the following organisations:

Action for Advocacy
Action on Elder Abuse
ADSS, c/o West Sussex County Council
Advocacy in Gateshead and South Tyneside
Advocacy Matters
Advocacy Matters (Wales)
Advocacy Northants
Advocacy Partners
Advocacy Project
Advocacy Services in Staffordshire (ASIST)
Age Concern
Age Concern West Sussex Advocacy Project
All Wales People First
All Wales Senior Nurse Advisory Group Mental Health
Allies Advocacy
Alzheimer's Concern Ealing
Alzheimer's Society
Asian Disability Awareness Action in Bradford (ADAAB)
Association of British Dispensing Opticians
Association of Directors of Social Services
Association of Palliative Care-Ethics Committee
Association of Public Authority Receivers
Association for Real Change (ARC)
Association of Nurse Consultants
Autism Cymru
Basildon and Thurrock Independent Advocacy Service (BATIAS)
Bedfordshire Advocacy Service for Older People
Beth Johnson Foundation
Birmingham Disability Resource Centre
Books Beyond Words
Bournemouth and Poole Advocacy Services (Rethink)
British Association and College of Occupational Therapists
British Association of Social Workers
British Bankers Association
British Council of Disabled People (BCODP)
British Deaf Association
British Institute of Learning Disabilities (BILD)
British Medical Association
British Psychological Society
BTCV Birmingham
Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Mental Health NHS Trust
Campbell Hooper
Cardiff and the Vale Parents Federation
Carers UK

Carlisle People First
Central England People First Ltd.
Central Office for Research Ethics Committees (COREC)
Central Office of the British International Doctors Association (BIDA)
Change
Changing Perspectives
Choice Support
Citizen Advocacy Information and Training (CAIT)
Citizen Advocacy Lincolnshire Link
Citizen Advocacy Trust in Gloucestershire
Citizens Advice
Cloverleaf Advocacy
Colchester Mind Advocacy Service
Commission for Racial Equality
Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI)
Complaints Procedure Advocacy
Consumer Forum
Counsel and Care
County Durham and Darlington Priority Services
Cranstock Day Service
Dartford and Gravesham Advocacy Network
Dementia Care Trust
Disability Advocacy Project
Disability Awareness in Action (DAA)
Disability Rights Commission
Disability Service Central Manchester
Dorset Advocacy
Dorset Mental Health Advocacy
Downs Syndrome Association
English Community Care Association
Essex Social Services
First Asian Support Trust (FAST)
Foundation for people with Learning Disabilities
Gateshead Advocacy and Information Network (GAIN)
General Medical Council
General Social Care Council
GLAD
Gloucestershire Advocacy Support Centre
Harrogate Social Services Directorate
Headway
Healthcare Commission
Help the Aged
Help the Hospices
Home Farm Trust
Impact Advocacy Service
Independent Healthcare Forum
Intensive Care Society
Inverclyde Advocacy Service
Isle of White Healthcare Trust
Kennet and N Wilts Advocacy Project
Kensington and Chelsea Advocacy Alliance
Kent Autistic Trust
King's Fund
Kingston Advocacy Group
Law Society of England and Wales
Leonard Cheshire
Lewisham Independent Pensioner's Advocacy
Local Government Association
Manchester Advocacy Services
Medical Research Council
Mencap
Mental Health Act Commission
Mental Health Foundation
Millennium Disability Agency (MILDA)
MIND
Mind in Brighton and Hove
Minority Ethnic Learning Disability Initiative Ltd. (MELDI)
Motor Neurone Disease Association
National Assembly for Wales
National Autistic Society
National Centre for Independent Living
National Coalition of Citizen Advocacy Schemes
National Coalition of Volunteer/Citizen Advocacy Services
National Forum for People with Learning Disabilities
National Medium Secure Units Social Care Managers' Group
Neurological Alliance
New Dimensions Group
Newcastle Social Services
New Ideas
NHS Confederation
North Staffordshire Users Group
North West Kent REC
North West Wales Health Trust
Nottinghamshire Health Care Trust
Oxfordshire Advocacy Development Group
Patient Concern
People First
Person to Person Citizen Advocacy
Plymouth Racial Equality Council
The Prevention of Professional Abuse Network (POPAN)
Portsmouth Advocacy and Appropriate Adult Services/11 per cent. Advocacy
Preston People First
Rescare
Respond
Rethink
Rethink Southend Advocacy Service
Rix and Kay Solicitors
Rotherham Learning Disability Service
Royal College of Nursing
Royal College of Ophthalmologists
Royal College of Psychiatrists
Royal College of Anaesthetists
Royal College of General Practitioners
Royal College of Physicians
Royal College of Physicians Ethics Committee
Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists
Royal College of Surgeons of England
SCA Advocacy
Scope
Sefton Pensioners Advocacy Centre
Sense
Services for Adults with Learning Disabilities
Sheffield Social Services
Shared Voice in MIND

Sheffield Social Services
Skills for People
Social Care Institute of Excellence (SCIE)
Somerset Advocacy
South Wiltshire Advocacy Network (SWAN)
Spiral Skills Advocacy Project
STEP (and Solicitors for the Elderly)
Swindon People First
Talkback Self Advocacy
The Ann Craft Trust
The Centre for Policy on Ageing
The Oaklea Trust
The Stroke Association
The Zito Trust
Thomas Snell and Passmore
Turning Point
UK Acquired Brain Injury Forum
UK Acquired Brain Injury Forum (UKABIF)
UK Advocacy Network
United Response
Values into Action
Voice UK Ltd.
Wirral Information Resource for Equality and Disability (WIRED)
Witham Citizen's Advocacy

The documents have been published on the Department's website at: www.dh.gov.uk/Consultations/LiveConsultations/fs/en.

A CD-rom of the consultation documents with audio recording of the easy read version, and translations in several ethnic minority languages will be available shortly.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she expects the head of the Independent Mental Capacity Advocate Service to be appointed; and if she will make a statement. [12725]

**Mr. Byrne:** No decisions will be made on any arrangements for future provision of the independent mental capacity advocacy service until after the conclusion of the consultation on 30 September 2005.

### Mental Health Services

**Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what resources have been allocated to mental health services for people aged *(a)* 50 to 64, *(b)* 65 to 74 and *(c)* 75 years or over as part of the National Service Framework for (i) older people and (ii) mental health. [11478]

**Mr. Byrne:** The resources that are necessary to deliver services in line with the national service frameworks (NSFs) for older people and mental health are included in the unified allocations made directly to primary care trusts (PCTs). It is for PCTs in partnership with strategic health authorities and other local stakeholders to determine how best to use these resources to deliver services in line with the NSFs.

In July 2002, an extra £1 billion was announced for social services for older people by 2006.

### Mersey Regional Ambulance Service

**Helen Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether a compromise agreement was signed by Mersey Regional Ambulance Service and their Chief Executive prior to her departure from the organisation. [12998]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answer 18 July 2005]:* The information is not collected centrally. Employment matters are the responsibility of the local ambulance trust.

### MRI Scans

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will take steps to collect information on the number of MRI scans carried out in the County Durham and Tees Valley Strategic Health Authority area. [12505]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answer 18 July 2005]:* Data on the number of magnetic resonance imaging scans carried out at County Durham and Tees Valley Strategic Health Authority is already collected and published on the Department's website at: www.performance.doh.gov.uk/hospitalactivity/.

### Myasthenia Gravis

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps she is taking to improve the care offered to those with myasthenia gravis. [12630]

**Mr. Byrne:** The Department intends to publish best practice guidance on musculoskeletal conditions later this year. In addition, the Government have already published the national service framework for people with long-term conditions.

### Nappies

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what measures she has put in place to ensure the safety of commercial cloth laundering services supplying NHS maternity wards with communally laundered cloth nappies for newborn babies; at what temperature these nappies are washed; and at what minimum temperature she recommends reusable nappies are washed in the home to avoid the risk of infection; [11667]

(2) how many cases of enteric viruses were recorded in NHS hospitals using commercially laundered nappies in the last period for which figures are available; [11668]

(3) when she expects the proposed BSI safety standard for commercial cloth nappy laundry services to be finalised. [11669]

**Mr. Byrne:** Commercial cloth laundering services supplying national health service maternity wards with communally laundered cloth nappies for newborn babies must comply with HSG(95)18, a copy of which is available in the Library. The guidelines set a thermal disinfection wash cycle in which the water temperature has been raised to 65 degrees centigrade for not less than 10 minutes or to 71 degrees centigrade for not less than three minutes.

The Department advises parents that washable cloth nappies be laundered in a 60 degree centigrade wash. A hot wash cycle will destroy most vegetative bacteria and enteric viruses. However, water temperature is only one factor in the laundering process, as the cleansing effect of the detergent and the dilution effect of the pre-wash, wash and rinse is also important.

Information on the number of cases of enteric viruses in NHS hospitals using commercially laundered nappies is not collected centrally. The number of hospital episodes for babies under three years of age with a primary diagnosis of enteric virus in England in 2003–04 is shown in the table.

Information on when the proposed British Standards Institute safety standard for commercial cloth nappy laundry services will be published is yet to be finalised and is not currently available.

*Hospital episodes: babies and children under the age of three with primary diagnosis of enteric virus, England, 2003–04*

| Primary diagnosis[1] | Less than 1 day | 1–6 days | 7–28 days | 29–90 days | Age 91–181 days | 182–272 days | 273–364 days | 1 year old | 2 years old | 3 years old | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A080 | 1 | 2 | 37 | 94 | 167 | 252 | 279 | 669 | 213 | 80 | 1,794 |
| A081 | — | — | 1 | — | — | 2 | 1 | — | 1 | 2 | 7 |
| A082 | — | — | 2 | 11 | 12 | 11 | 7 | 11 | 2 | — | 56 |
| A083 | 1 | 2 | 78 | 309 | 322 | 486 | 438 | 820 | 306 | 176 | 2,938 |
| A084 | 3 | 4 | 163 | 823 | 1,094 | 1,440 | 1,430 | 3,622 | 1,622 | 977 | 11,178 |
| A085 | — | 1 | 4 | 6 | 6 | 9 | 3 | 12 | 3 | 5 | 49 |
| B341 | 1 | — | 2 | 4 | — | 2 | 3 | 4 | 7 | 3 | 26 |
| Total | 6 | 9 | 287 | 1,247 | 1,601 | 2,202 | 2,161 | 5,138 | 2,154 | 1,243 | 16,048 |

[1] *Diagnosis codes:*
A080—Rotaviral enteritis
A081—Acute gastroenteropathy due to Norwalk agent
A082—Adenoviral enteritis
A083—Other viral enteritis
A084—Viral intestinal infection, unspecified
A085—Other specified intestinal infection
B341—Enterovirus infection, unspecified
Source:
Hospital episode statistics.

### National Infection Control Manual

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she will publish a national infection control manual. [10032]

**Jane Kennedy:** In the light of the recommendation in the report from the National Audit Office in 2000 that the Department should produce an infection control manual, the Department carried out a scoping study aimed at establishing what infection control specialists wanted from an infection control manual. The study showed a clear consensus that what was wanted was a reliable and high quality infection control information resource, bringing together all national guidance and other source literature relevant to the prevention and control of infection, rather than an infection control manual as such.

To meet this requirement a National Resource for Infection Control (NRIC) has been produced. The NRIC website went live in May 2005 at www.nric.org.uk and will be further developed over the next two years.

### Neonatal Care

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the total expenditure on NHS hospital neonatal care has been in each of the last eight years. [4469]

**Mr. Byrne:** The information requested is not collected centrally. Neonatal care services are provided through national health service general funding allocations. It is not possible to identify the neonatal element of this expenditure separately as it is included within the data for maternity gross expenditure, which is shown in table 1.

The Department has made additional funding available specifically to improve neonatal intensive care services. This expenditure is shown in table 2.

*Table 1: Hospital and community health services (HCHS) maternity gross expenditure*

| HCHS Programme budget cash figures: Gross expenditure | £ million Obstetric in patient funding |
|---|---|
| 1995–96 | 718 |
| 1996–97 | 718 |
| 1997–98 | 730 |
| 1998–99 | 764 |
| 1999–2000 | 801 |
| 2000–01 | 844 |
| 2001–02 | 752 |
| 2002–03 | 854 |

*Notes:*
Figures are for England only.
Adjustments to expenditure figures are as follows:
*Excluded from figures:*
Well babies
Private patients
Supra regional offices
Special health authorities
Non-England United Kingdom residents
Non-UK residents funded by the Department.
*Added to figures:*
Private purchases
Health care purchased from the national health service outside of England.

*Table 2: Additional funding to improve neonatal intensive care services*

£ million

| | Funding | |
|---|---|---|
| | Capital | Revenue |
| 2000–01 | 6.5 | 5 |
| 2001–02 | — | 5 |
| 2002–03 | — | 5 |
| 2003–04 | 20 | 12 |
| 2004–05 | — | 19.857 |
| 2005–06 | — | 20 |

### Neonatal Intensive Care

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make it her policy to introduce mandatory neonatal testing for cystic fibrosis in all English hospitals. [13661]

**Mr. Byrne:** Ministers have agreed to the implementation of newborn screening for cystic fibrosis. About a fifth of babies born in England are offered newborn screening for cystic fibrosis. The United Kingdom national screening committee (NSC) has commissioned a programme of work to support national health service implementation from the UK newborn screening programme centre, based at Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children.

Initially the emphasis is on developing the framework for the new programme and ensuring that existing screening provision meets consistent standards. The pace of further introduction of screening will depend on primary care trust's local priorities and resource commitment. The NSC will provide continued advice and help through the work of the UK newborn screening programme centre.

### NHS Staff Assaults

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she will publish Counter Fraud and Security Management Service figures on the number of prosecutions of persons alleged to have assaulted a member of NHS staff. [11060]

**Jane Kennedy** *[holding answer 11 July 2005]:* Information relating to the number of successful prosecutions obtained in 2004–05 against those who have physically assaulted national health service staff will be published shortly.

### No Secrets Guidance

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to her answer of 13 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 107W, on No Secrets Guidance, what data are being collected by the Commission for Social Care Inspection in respect of the guidance. [8027]

**Mr. Byrne:** The delivery and improvement statements submitted to the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) by councils in May 2005 included the following questions:

Has the local authority (LA) established multi-agency adult protection procedures in accordance with No Secrets?

Does the LA produce a multi-agency annual report or statement on vulnerable adults work?

Does this detail the number of adult protection referrals received, investigations undertaken and investigations upheld as adult protection?

The CSCI is currently undertaking a validation process and data from the delivery and improvement statements will be available from the CSCI in August 2005.

### Osteoporosis Care

**Mr. Boswell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment her Department has made of the availability of treatments for osteoporosis following publication of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidance on the secondary prevention of osteoporotic fractures. [12570]

**Mr. Byrne:** No assessment has been made.

The new National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) guidance will provide clear advice to the national health service and patients in England and Wales in an area where for some time there has been uncertainty.

NICE is also developing guidance on the primary prevention of osteoporotic fragility fractures in postmenopausal women which is due to be published in September 2005, together with a clinical guideline on the assessment of fracture risk and the prevention of osteoporotic fractures in individuals at high risk which is due for publication in February 2006.

Once NICE has issued guidance, we expect health authorities to take full account of it.

### Patient and Public Involvement in Health

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what policy considerations underlay the abolition of the Commission for Patient and Public Involvement in Health. [11882]

**Jane Kennedy** *[holding answer 12 July 2005]:* The policy considerations which underlie the abolition of the Commission for Patient and Public Involvement in Health (CPPIH) derive from the intention that the abolition of CPPIH will provide the opportunity for arrangements to be made for the provision of stronger, more efficient support and advice to forums. The reconfiguration of the Department's arms length bodies also announced the aim of reducing bureaucracy to generate £0.5 billion savings and to improve investment in the front line.

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps she plans to take to promote partnership working between NHS trusts, patient representatives and the voluntary sector to develop a patient-led NHS. [12908]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answer 18 July 2005]:* Section 11 of the Health and Social Care Act 2001 places a duty on national health service organisations to work with patients, the public and their representatives, including patient groups and the voluntary and community sector (VCS), to ensure services are fully informed by the experiences of those using them.

"Making Partnership Work for Patients, Carers and Service Users—A Strategic Agreement between the Department of Health, the NHS and the Voluntary and Community Sector", published September 2004, is aimed at strengthening partnerships between the NHS and the private and VCS health care sectors in order to improve the quality and range of service planning and provision of NHS services. A national strategic partnership forum with membership from all these sectors has been established to help the voluntary, community and public sectors work effectively together to deliver responsive, high quality health and adult social care services for patients, service users and carers.

### Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many full-time equivalent employees there are at the Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority centre in the City of Newcastle; and what plans she has for the PPA in her review of non-departmental bodies. [11809]

**Jane Kennedy** *[holding answer 14 July 2005]:* Information on staffing figures for the Prescription Pricing Authority (PPA) is not held by the Department. The PPA is an independent body and should be contacted direct for this information.

It is anticipated that the PPA will become part of the Business Services Authority (BSA) from April 2006. The BSA will also include the Dental Practice Board and the NHS Pensions Agency. It has not yet been finalised if the Counter Fraud and Security Management Services will form part of the BSA. Over time, the BSA expects to reduce the total number of posts by 25 per cent. compared to today. Where these posts will be reduced has not yet been determined as the business strategies are being formulated.

### Prescriptions

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent by each primary care trust in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Greater London on NHS prescriptions in each year since 1997. [12208]

**Jane Kennedy:** The expenditure by primary care trusts (PCTs) in Essex on prescribing costs is shown in table 1. Table 2 shows expenditure for London.

The data shown is prescribing costs, which is the total cost relating to prescribing by general practitioners within the PCT area. The figures provided are from 2000–01, the first year that PCTs existed, through to 2003–04, which is the latest year for which figures are available.

*Table 1: Expenditure by PCTs in Essex strategic health authority (SHA) area on prescribing costs*

| | | | | £ thousands |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *2000–01* | *2001–02* | *2002–03* | *2003–04* |
| Basildon PCT | n/a | 10,322 | 11,963 | 13,253 |
| Billericay, Brentwood and Wickford PCT | n/a | 14,973 | 17,714 | 19,728 |
| Castle Point and Rochford PCT | n/a | n/a | 21,467 | 22,443 |
| Chelmsford PCT | n/a | n/a | 14,056 | 16,186 |
| Colchester PCT | n/a | 16,527 | 18,160 | 20,198 |
| Epping Forest PCT | 10,281 | 11,310 | 12,589 | 14,420 |
| Harlow PCT | n/a | 8,634 | 9,999 | 11,034 |
| Maldon and south Chelmsford PCT | n/a | 8,650 | 9,756 | 10,856 |
| Southend-on-Sea PCT | 17,374 | 19,340 | 21,437 | 23,216 |
| Tendring PCT | 16,300 | 17,971 | 20,290 | 21,978 |
| Thurrock PCT | n/a | 13,562 | 15,592 | 17,801 |
| Uttlesford PCT | n/a | 7,659 | 8,602 | 9,491 |
| Witham, Braintree and Halstead care trust | n/a | n/a | 8,288 | 17,863 |

*Table 2: Expenditure by PCTs in London on prescribing costs*

| | | | | £ thousands |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *North West London SHA area:* | *2000–01* | *2001–02* | *2002–03* | *2003–04* |
| Brent Teaching PCT | n/a | n/a | 27,423 | 33,157 |
| Ealing PCT | n/a | n/a | 32,863 | 38,442 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham PCT | n/a | n/a | 17,011 | 17,450 |
| Harrow PCT | n/a | n/a | 25,334 | 27,822 |
| Hillingdon PCT | 22,609 | 25,036 | 26,846 | 29,342 |
| Hounslow PCT | n/a | n/a | 23,597 | 26,091 |
| Kensington and Chelsea PCT | n/a | n/a | 14,563 | 16,459 |
| Westminster PCT | n/a | n/a | 19,636 | 20,976 |
| *North Central London SHA area:* | | | | |
| Barnet PCT | n/a | 35,773 | 39,302 | 43,156 |
| Camden PCT | n/a | n/a | 20,504 | 21,875 |
| Enfield PCT | n/a | 27,249 | 29,999 | 33,288 |
| Haringey Teaching PCT | n/a | 22,340 | 24,014 | 25,780 |
| Islington PCT | n/a | n/a | 19,799 | 21,342 |
| *North East London SHA area:* | | | | |
| Barking and Dagenham PCT | n/a | 15,735 | 17,869 | 19,290 |
| Chingford, Wanstead and Woodford PCT | n/a | 12,728 | 14,502 | n/a |
| City and Hackney Teaching PCT | n/a | 20,478 | 22,080 | 23,998 |
| Havering PCT | n/a | 24,852 | 28,445 | 30,966 |

*Table 2: Expenditure by PCTs in London on prescribing costs*

| *North West London SHA area:* | *2000–01* | *2001–02* | *2002–03* | *£ thousands 2003–04* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Newham PCT | n/a | 24,569 | 27,235 | 30,293 |
| Redbridge PCT | n/a | 17,254 | 18,709 | n/a |
| Redbridge PCT (following merger) | n/a | n/a | n/a | 28,237 |
| Tower Hamlets PCT | n/a | 18,285 | 20,327 | 22,387 |
| Waltham Forest PCT (following merger) | n/a | n/a | n/a | 25,849 |
| Walthamstow, Leyton and Leytonstone PCT | n/a | 14,278 | 15,959 | n/a |
| *South East London SHA area:* | | | | |
| Bexley care trust PCT | n/a | n/a | n/a | 28,178 |
| Bexley PCT | 10,181 | 22,347 | 24,698 | n/a |
| Bromley PCT | n/a | 31,599 | 35,465 | 38,775 |
| Greenwich PCT | n/a | 21,908 | 24,689 | 27,024 |
| Lambeth PCT | n/a | n/a | 28,192 | 30,984 |
| Lewisham PCT | n/a | n/a | 27,651 | 30,552 |
| Southwark PCT | n/a | n/a | 24,724 | 27,040 |
| *South West London SHA area:* | | | | |
| Croydon PCT | n/a | n/a | 33,478 | 36,019 |
| Kingston PCT | n/a | 14,138 | 17,376 | 17,297 |
| Nelson and West Merton PCT | 13,131 | 14,219 | n/a | n/a |
| Richmond and Twickenham PCT | n/a | n/a | 18,510 | 19,109 |
| Sutton and Merton PCT | n/a | n/a | 38,450 | 41,540 |
| Teddington, Twickenham and Hamptons PCT | n/a | 8,600 | n/a | n/a |
| Wandsworth PCT | n/a | n/a | 26,905 | 28,955 |

n/a = Indicates that a PCT was not in existence in that year.

*Notes to tables:*

1. Prescribing costs is the total cost relating to prescribing by GPs within the area accounted for by the PCT.

*Source:*

Audited summarisation schedules of the above PCTs, 2000–01 to 2003–04.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average cost of *(a)* a national health service prescription and *(b)* a private prescription was in each year since 1975. [12210]

**Jane Kennedy:** The table shows the national health service prescription charges since 1975.

The level of fees that the pharmacist charges for dispensing private prescriptions is not regulated by any body or organisation; it is a private transaction between the pharmacist and the customer. Therefore, the dispensing fee(s) incurred are set by the individual pharmacy or pharmacy chain.

*NHS prescription charges since 1975*

| *Date* | *Charge(£)* |
|---|---|
| 1 April 1975 | 0.20 |
| 16 July 1979 | 0.45 |
| 1 April 1980 | 0.70 |
| 1 December 1980 | 1.00 |
| 1 April 1982 | 1.30 |
| 1 April 1983 | 1.40 |
| 1 April 1984 | 1.60 |
| 1 April 1985 | 2.00 |
| 1 April 1986 | 2.20 |
| 1 April 1987 | 2.40 |
| 1 April 1988 | 2.60 |
| 1 April 1989 | 2.80 |
| 1 April 1990 | 3.05 |
| 1 April 1991 | 3.40 |
| 1 April 1992 | 3.75 |
| 1 April 1993 | 4.25 |
| 1 April 1994 | 4.75 |
| 1 April 1995 | 5.25 |
| 1 April 1996 | 5.50 |
| 1 April 1997 | 5.65 |
| 1 April 1998 | 5.80 |
| 1 April 1999 | 5.90 |

*NHS prescription charges since 1975*

| *Date* | *Charge(£)* |
|---|---|
| 1 April 2000 | 6.00 |
| 1 April 2001 | 6.10 |
| 1 April 2002 | 6.20 |
| 1 April 2003 | 6.30 |
| 1 April 2004 | 6.40 |
| 1 April 2005 | 6.50 |

## Primary Care Trusts

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the budget deficits of London primary care trusts were in 2004–05; and what the projected budget deficits are for 2005–06. [12232]

**Jane Kennedy:** The latest year for which audited data on the financial position of national health service organisations is available is 2003–04. The Department does not currently publish unaudited information.

Audited information in respect of the 2004–05 financial position of all strategic health authorities, primary care trusts and NHS trusts will be published in their individual annual accounts, and will be available centrally in autumn 2005.

## Ritalin

**Mr. Gibb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what her estimate is of the number of children currently being prescribed Ritalin. [11704]

**Jane Kennedy:** I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave the hon. Member for Wealden (Charles Hendry) on 6 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 438W.

### Seroxat

**Paul Flynn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she expects the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency to publish the findings of its investigation of pharmaceutical companies withholding information about Seroxat. [12474]

**Jane Kennedy:** This is a criminal investigation and therefore its results will not be published. At the conclusion of the investigation the evidence gathered will be supplied to Government prosecutors instructed by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency and they will apply the tests set out in the Code for Crown Prosecutors in order to decide whether a prosecution would be appropriate, as with other potential prosecution cases supplied to them by the MHRA.

It should be noted that the investigation is only concerned with alleged non disclosures of information by GlaxoSmithKline Public Limited Company and its predecessor companies, no other pharmaceutical companies are under investigation.

The investigation is ongoing and it is not possible to provide an accurate estimate of how long it will take to conclude, as this will depend upon the nature, volume and complexity of the evidence uncovered in the course of the investigation. The investigation is being treated as a high priority by the MHRA and substantial additional resources have been applied by the MHRA with a view to expediting its progress.

### Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital Trust

**Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps she is taking to alleviate the financial deficit of Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital Trust. [11313]

**Mr. Byrne:** It is the responsibility of strategic health authorities to deliver both overall financial balance for their local health communities and to ensure each and every body achieves financial balance.

Officials from the Department have been in discussion with Shropshire and Staffordshire SHA to ensure it is taking appropriate action in relation to the financial position of Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital National Health Service Trust.

### Single Assessment Process/Supporting People Programme

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what work is being undertaken by her Department to ensure that the Single Assessment Process and the Supporting People programme complement each other in terms of assessment for eligibility and quality assurance framework. [10175]

**Mr. Byrne:** Following the publication of "Independence, Well-being and Choice, and Opportunity Age" in March 2005, the Department is working closely with both the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and the Department for Work and Pensions to determine the extent to which different assessment processes used to determine eligibility for a range of services, can be streamlined and complement each other.

### Smoking

**Mr. Sheerman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she has made of the number of people who fell ill as a result of second hand smoke in *(a)* Huddersfield, *(b)* the West Yorkshire primary care trust area and *(c)* England in the last period for which figures are available; and what estimate she has made of the cost to the NHS in each of these areas of treating people with diseases caused by second hand smoke in that period. [5638]

**Caroline Flint:** Information on the number of people who became ill as a result of second hand smoke in Huddersfield and the West Yorkshire primary care trust area and the cost of treating them is not held centrally.

The most recent estimate of the number of workplace deaths caused by second hand smoke was published in the "British Medical Journal" on 2 March 2005, in a report by Professor Konrad Jamrozik. This gave an estimate of 617 deaths a year in the United Kingdom.

The report went onto estimate that second hand smoke in the home accounts for a further 2,700 deaths in persons aged 20–64 years and 8,000 deaths among people aged 65 years. The author acknowledges that the results are "distinctly sensitive" to some of the underlying assumptions.

A copy of the paper is available in the Library.

The cost to the national health service of treating disease and illness caused by smoking is between £1.4 billion and £1.7 billion a year.

### Social Care

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average length of time taken is to process an application for registration with the General Social Care Council. [13536]

**Mr. Byrne:** The information requested is not held centrally by the Department. Information requested needs to be sought direct from the General Social Care Council.

### Stroke Services

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what definition her Department uses for data collection purposes of specialist stroke service. [8010]

**Mr. Byrne:** Acute trusts that have hospitals dealing with stroke patients have been asked whether they now provide specialist stroke services according to the definition set out in standard five of the national service framework for older people.

### Taxis

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps she takes to control taxi use by officials in her Department. [12627]

**Jane Kennedy:** The Department requires that staff use taxis only if their use is cost effective and no suitable public transport is available.

Staff in the Department will soon be reminded of the need to follow these requirements.

# Written Answers to Questions

*Thursday 21 July 2005*

## MINISTER FOR WOMEN

### Work-life Balance

23. **Sir Nicholas Winterton:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what recent representations she has received regarding the achievement of an acceptable work-life balance by women with children who work outside the home. [13825]

**Meg Munn:** The Department has received a number of representations on work-life balance as part of the recent "Work and Families: Choice and Flexibility" consultation.

### Post-conflict Reconstruction

24. **Hugh Bayley:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what discussions she has had with ministerial colleagues about protecting the rights of women in situations of post-conflict reconstruction. [13826]

**Meg Munn:** I fully support the positive action taken by the Government to protect the rights of women in situations of post-conflict reconstruction. The UK is committed to the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security (October 2000) and is developing a Government-wide Action Plan to support its implementation.

### Pensions (Gender Equality)

25. **Dr. Phyllis Starkey:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on gender equality in future pension provision. [13827]

**Meg Munn:** I recently discussed the issue of women and pensions with my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions and the EOC. One of the Government's principles for pension reform is fair outcomes for women and carers and any proposals for reform will be judged against this.

### Gender Pay Gap

26. **Mr. Carmichael:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what steps the Government is taking to reduce the gender pay gap. [13828]

**Meg Munn:** The Women and Work Commission will make recommendations on tackling the gender pay gap this autumn. We are funding the Equal Pay Panel of Experts, developed by the TUC, to give free advice sessions to organisations looking to carry out equal pay reviews.

### Domestic Violence

27. **Mary Creagh:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what plans the Government has to improve the services offered to women seeking refuge from domestic violence. [13829]

**Meg Munn:** The Home Office and the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister are working together to develop a set of accredited occupational standards to ensure quality of service for a wide range of professions across the diverse domestic violence sector.

## TRADE AND INDUSTRY

### Unfair Dismissal

10. **Simon Hughes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will review law and practice for dealing with claims of unfair dismissal. [13811]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The Government introduced new Dispute Resolution Regulations and Tribunal Rules of Procedure in October 2004. These are designed to improve the chance of workplace disputes being resolved in the workplace, without having to resort to full tribunal hearings. This includes claims for unfair dismissal. We have committed to carrying out a review of the Regulations in October 2006, two years after their introduction.

### Microgeneration

11. **Dr. Whitehead:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what role renewable and sustainable microgeneration will play in achieving renewable electricity generation targets set out in the Energy White Paper. [13812]

**Malcolm Wicks:** Renewable and sustainable microgeneration has the potential to make an important contribution towards the achievement of the renewable electricity generation targets set out in the Energy White Paper. The range of technologies included under the microgeneration umbrella; the different stages of their development; and the fact that the overall industry is in a formative stage makes it difficult to quantify the future costs and benefits of microgeneration.

The Department has recently put out a tender for some research to try to gain a clearer picture of the real costs and benefits of these technologies and their potential role in the energy market. This study will feed into work on the Government's strategy for the promotion of microgeneration which will be published next year.

13. **Mark Lazarowicz:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what steps he is taking to promote microgeneration. [13814]

**Malcolm Wicks:** We are already doing much to promote microgeneration technologies. For example we have:

provided £41 million of support for solar power projects and £12.5 million of support for household and community renewables projects through the Clear Skies Initiative;

ensured that most microgeneration technologies benefit from a 5 percent. VAT level.

amended the Renewables Obligation Order to make it easier for smaller generators to claim Renewable Obligation Certificates;

issued Planning Policy Statement 22 last year to establish that local authorities could set targets for on-site renewable generation.

In addition, I recently launched a consultation that gives stakeholders the opportunity to feed into the development of the Government strategy to promote microgeneration, which will be published next year.

**Manufacturing (Yorkshire/Humber)**

12. **Kali Mountford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what steps he is taking to assist manufacturing companies in Yorkshire and Humber. [13813]

**Alun Michael:** The Regional Development Agency, Yorkshire Forward, has made manufacturing a key priority in the Regional Economic Strategy and manufacturing companies are benefiting from its schemes to support improvements in productivity, innovation and skills.

**Minimum Wage**

14. **Mr. McGovern:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many workers he estimates will benefit from the recently announced increase in the minimum wage; and how many of these workers he estimates will be women. [13815]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The DTI estimates that around 1.3 million workers will receive a guaranteed pay rise from the October 2005 uprating of the national minimum wage. The DTI estimates that around 900,000 will be women. These estimates are based on the April 2004 annual survey of hours and earnings and expected average earnings growth between 2004 and 2005.

**Manufacturing (Stoke-on-Trent)**

15. **Mr. Flello:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what action he is taking to help manufacturing companies in Stoke-on-Trent. [13816]

**Alun Michael:** Advantage West Midlands has a number of initiatives in place to support manufacturing in Stoke. The Manufacturing Advisory Service and Business Links provide specialist advice and support to manufacturing whilst grants available include selective finance for investment and grants for research and development.

**Hydrogen Energy**

16. **Mr. Carmichael:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will make a statement on the Government's hydrogen energy strategy. [13817]

**Malcolm Wicks:** Hydrogen has significant potential over the next 20–30 years to contribute to cost-competitive $CO_2$ reductions and enhanced security of supply for the UK. I therefore announced last month a Government commitment of some £15 million over four years for a UK wide hydrogen and fuel cell demonstration programme.

**Coal Compensation Claims**

17. **Mr. Illsley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will make a statement on the investigations taking place into the firms dealing with coal compensation claims. [13818]

**Malcolm Wicks:** I refer my hon. Friend to my written statement to the House of 30 June 2005 and the written statement I made today.

**Building Industry (Capacity)**

18. **Alison Seabeck:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what discussions he has had with the construction industry, the Construction Industry Training Board and the trade unions on developing capacity in the building industry. [13819]

**Alun Michael:** Recent ministerial meetings have taken place with various construction industry representative organisations (18 July 2005) and the Union of Construction, Allied Trades and Technicians (30 June 2005). Issues discussed were wide ranging, and included the development of skills and capacity in the construction industry. I have also attended a number of events organised by the industry and have recently hosted a reception at DTI for leading industry representatives.

Under the aegis of the Strategic Forum for Construction, under the chairmanship of Peter Rogers; which comprises senior members of the industry, its clients and which is supported by the DTI, CITB-Construction-Skills is working with other sector skills councils to carry out a thorough skills needs analysis for the industry.

The Strategic Forum is also currently setting up a dedicated group to coordinate the industry's efforts for the Olympics. The work on the skills implications of construction will be a core element of this coordinated effort. I have also attended a number of events organised by the industry and have recently hosted a reception at DTI for industry representatives.

**Carbon Capture Technology**

19. **Mr. Weir:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assistance his Department has given to the development of carbon capture technology in the oil and gas industries.

**Malcolm Wicks:** Carbon capture is a technology which is currently in the early stages of development rather than the deployment phase. I recently published a "Carbon Abatement Technologies Strategy for Fossil Fuel Use". The new strategy is available in the House of Commons Library.

At the same time I also announced some £25 million in capital grants from next year for demonstrating these technologies. This is in addition to £20 million we have allocated for R&D into carbon abatement technologies over the period 2005–06 to 2007–08. Companies in the oil and gas industries will be eligible to apply for such support.

### Advertising Expenditure

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how much the *(a)* Department and *(b)* non-departmental bodies for which the Department is responsible has spent on advertising, broken down by media type in the last three years. [9503]

**Alan Johnson:** Expenditure on advertising by my Department through COI for 2002–03, 2003–04 and 2004–05 was £11,533,364, £4,173,758 and £2,009,800 respectively. Figures include advertising by the Small Business Service and exclude VAT.

Records of expenditure on advertising by non-departmental bodies are not held centrally and could be produced only at disproportionate cost.

### Clear Skies Programme

**Colin Challen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will extend the Clear Skies Programme beyond March 2006. [13821]

**Malcolm Wicks:** In September 2004 the Clear Skies Programme was extended to March 2006 with an increase in budget from £10 million to £12.5 million. There are no plans to extend the Programme beyond this deadline. We are currently developing a new low carbon buildings programme, (as recommended in the Renewable Innovation Review—February 2004) to supersede both the Clear Skies and the Major Photovoltaics Programmes. A consultation on the framework of the new Programme was launched on June 23 and a copy of the consultation document can be found on the DTI website at the following link: http://www.dti.gov.uk/energy/consultations/index.shtml.

### Copyright

**Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will make a statement on the Government's plans to extend the period covered by copyright from 50 to 100 years. [12712]

**Alan Johnson:** I refer the hon. Member to my answer to the question from the hon. Member for Maldon and East Chelmsford (Mr. Whittingdale) on 27 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 1228W.

### Correspondence

**Sir Michael Spicer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry when he will reply to the letter of 24 May from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire about the use of hydrogen gas for transport modes. [12095]

**Malcolm Wicks:** The letter, which was originally sent to my noble Friend, Lord Whitty and was subsequently transferred to this Department for response, was misplaced. It has now been relocated and I will ensure that you receive a response shortly. I apologise for the delay in dealing with your constituent's concerns.

### Development Funding (North-East)

**Mr. Iain Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what estimate he has made of future European enterprise and other economic development funding for the North East region of the UK. [13436]

**Alun Michael:** The principal sources of EU funding for enterprise and economic development are the European Structural Funds. As the European Council of 16–17 June did not reach agreement on the EC budget for the next Financial Perspective from 2007 to 2013, the overall level of future EU spending on the Structural Funds has still to be decided. The UK argues that future EU spending in this area should be focused on the poorest member states. It is not possible, at this stage, to estimate the level of any future UK receipts for an individual region.

### Disabled Staff

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many staff are registered with his Department as being disabled, broken down by grade; and what the equivalent figures were for each of the last five years for which figures are available. [10527]

**Alan Johnson:** The Department collects disability data on a voluntary basis. The information tabulated as follows is extracted from our personnel records database and gives the number and percentages of staff with disabilities by bands in DTI headquarters (including small business services) for each of the last five years.

| | *Number at April 2001* | *Percentage at April 2001* | *Number at April 2002* | *Percentage at April 2002* | *Number at April 2003* | *Percentage at April 2003* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Band A | 92 | 7.6 | 116 | 9.2 | 106 | 9.4 |
| BandB | 81 | 4.5 | 107 | 5.8 | 107 | 5.8 |
| BandC | 44 | 3.5 | 62 | 4.4 | 71 | 4.8 |
| SCS | 7 | 2.9 | 11 | 4.6 | 12 | 4.4 |
| Fast Stream | 2 | 2.1 | 2 | 2.0 | 2 | 1.7 |
| Unknown | — | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| Total | 226 | 4.9 | 298 | 6.0 | 299 | 6.0 |

| | *Number at April 2004* | *Percentage at April 2004* | *Number at April 2005* | *Percentage at April 2005* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Band A | 97 | 10.8 | 85 | 11.2 |
| BandB | 119 | 6.8 | 119 | 7.4 |
| BandC | 87 | 6.1 | 81 | 5.6 |
| SCS | 11 | 4.7 | 9 | 3.9 |
| Fast Stream | 0 | 0.0 | 2 | 2.0 |
| Unknown | 1 | — | — | — |
| Total | 315 | 6.2 | 296 | 7.1 |

### Electricity Generation

**Mr. Bellingham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will list *(a)* the sites, *(b)* the level of subsidy and *(c)* the electricity generation output of each application that has been supported under the Clear Skies scheme. [13381]

**Malcolm Wicks:** The Clear Skies scheme is split into two grant streams, one for householders and one for community groups. Under stream one for householders approximately 5,500 installations have been given financial support and it would be inappropriate to give individual site details due to the data protection act. Under stream two there have been 304 community applications supported and a detailed list of these can be found on the Clear Skies website at:

http://www.clear-skies.org/communities/ApplicationGuidelines.aspx.

The grant level for each eligible technology on the household side is as follows:

Solar water heating—400 per installation, regardless of size.

Wind—1,000 per kw installed up to a maximum of 5,000.

Hydro—1,000 per kw installed up to a maximum of 5,000.

Ground source Heat Pumps—1200 regardless of size.

Room heaters/stoves with automated wood pellet feed—600 regardless of size.

Wood fuelled boiler systems—1500 regardless of size.

### Employment Act

**Mr. Hood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment he has made of the effects of the introduction of the Employment Act 2002 on the *(a)* working patterns and *(b)* employment opportunities for parents with disabled children; and if he will make a statement. [14074]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The Government have introduced a number of measures to help working parents and parents with disabled children participate within the labour force.

The Employment Act 2002 gave parents more choice and flexibility in balancing work and family life; extending the period of maternity leave and pay, introducing paid paternity and adoption leave for the first time, and providing the right to request flexible working. The scope of the flexible working law is wider for parents of disabled children, enabling requests to be made up until the child's 18th birthday. This recognises the particular challenges these parents face in balancing work and caring responsibilities.

The flexible working law has been a success. Almost a quarter (22 per cent.) of those employees eligible to make a request have done so in the last two years, and over this period the proportion of requests being refused has declined by half. Due to the small proportion of employees with disabled children it is difficult to assess the specific impact on this group.

The Government have provided support and guidance to a number of organisations, including those who have an interest in parents of disabled children, such as Contact a Family. This is to ensure that these families are able to fully benefit from the opportunities that the measures provide, and help them find the right working patterns and employment to suit their needs.

### Energy (Research)

**Alan Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how much public funding has gone into scientific research into *(a)* renewable energy systems and *(b)* nuclear energy in each of the last five years. [13389]

**Malcolm Wicks:** The following table sets out the expenditure of the DTI and Research Councils on research and development for nuclear fission, fusion and renewables between 2000–01 and 2004–05.

*£ million*

| | *2000–01* | *2001–02* | *2002–03* | *2003–04*[1] | 2004–05[2] |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Nuclear fission | 0.13 | 2.32 | 2.41 | 2.31 | 2.32 |
| Nuclear fusion | 17.0 | 14.4 | 14.6 | 15.63 | 19.53 |
| Renewable energy[3] | 15.46 | 18.82 | 24.40 | 29.07 | 25.16 |

In addition further research relating to energy is included in the work of the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research which has some £10 million funding from research councils over 2000–05, and in the work of the Carbon Trust. The UK also participates in international collaborative energy research via the EU and the International Energy Agency.

[1] Includes elements of estimated expenditure

[2] Estimated spend with some elements not included

[3] Includes full range of renewables and also Research Council spend on carbon capture, energy storage and networks.

**Mr. Weir:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry whether the Government plans to limit investment in research and development solely to systems analysis relating to hydrogen infrastructure and novel non-nuclear hydrogen production technology. [13410]

**Malcolm Wicks:** Hydrogen has significant potential over the next 20 to 30 years to contribute to cost competitive $CO_2$ reductions and enhanced security of supply for the UK. The Government are committed to supporting research, development, and demonstration projects for hydrogen and fuel cell technologies.

On the 14 June the Government announced a commitment of some £15 million over four years for a UK wide hydrogen and fuel cell demonstration programme. The precise nature of the scheme is still being developed and no money has yet been earmarked for specific projects. It follows that no particular technical application has been ruled out.

The money for the demonstration programme is in addition to the £4 million per year which is dedicated to hydrogen research and development across the public

sector. Of this some £2.5 million is funded by the EPSRC, including the Sustainable Hydrogen Energy Consortium funded under the EPSRC's Supergen programme. Additional funding for some £2.5 million is funded by the EPSRC, including the Sustainable Hydrogen Energy Consortium funded under the EPSRC's Supergen programme. Additional funding for applied research and development comes from the collaborative research and development product under the Department's Technology Programme.

### Export Control Organisation

**Malcolm Bruce:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (1) pursuant to the Answer of 13 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 78W, on the Export Control Organisation, through which mechanisms he will announce his decision on *(a)* the future of the Export Control Organisation and *(b)* whether to delegate authority to issue export licences to a private contractor; and if he will make a statement; [13723]

(2) whether he is required to inform *(a)* other Government departments, *(b)* hon. Members and *(c)* the public that a decision has been made on whether to delegate authority to issue export licences to a private contractor; and if he will make a statement. [13801]

**Malcolm Wicks:** We have now reviewed the options for outsourcing the work of the Export Control Organisation. On the basis of a thorough analysis we have concluded that in this particular case, there are doubts about whether outsourcing the licensing function would achieve sufficient additional benefits. We have therefore decided not to proceed with outsourcing these activities. Industry and other interested parties are being informed of this conclusion through various channels.

### Export Credits Guarantee Department

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry whether the Export Credits Guarantee Department has received notification from Biwater that its contract has been cancelled by the Tanzanian authorities for non-performance. [12596]

**Ian Pearson:** Biwater has advised the Export Credits Guarantee Department (ECGD) that the contract between the Tanzanian project company, City Water Services Ltd. (CWS), and the Dar Es Salaam Water Authority, was not formally terminated by the water authority, but instead, on 1 June 2005, Tanzanian Government entities took possession of CWS's assets and premises and simultaneously deported the three senior Biwater executives who were responsible for running CWS. Biwater and CWS took the view that those acts amounted to a repudiation of the contract and formally accepted that repudiation, thus bringing the contract to an end.

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what procedures the Export Credits Guarantee Department follows where the contractor defaults due to cancellation of a contract by the purchasing country on the grounds of non-performance. [12597]

**Ian Pearson:** Non-performance is not an insured risk under an ECGD insurance policy. Termination of a contract only becomes relevant when an exporter makes a claim under the policy for amounts unpaid under the contract. ECGD would consider the terms of the policy and the terms of the contract in order to determine whether the exporter had a valid claim under the policy.

The same procedures apply to overseas investments that are covered under an ECGD Overseas Investment Insurance policy.

Where ECGD provides a guarantee to a bank, it may be entitled to recoup from the exporter the amount of any guarantee payments which it might make to the bank up to a pre-agreed limit (usually 10 per cent. of ECGD's maximum liability).

ECGD would attempt to minimise loss or make recoveries by, among other things, directing the exporter to pursue any available remedies including arbitration or other proceedings.

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry in how many instances the Export Credits Guarantee Department has sought recourse from companies in receipt of ECGD guarantees or insurance in the last five years. [12598]

**Ian Pearson:** None.

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry on how many occasions in the last five years contracts underwritten by the Export Credits Guarantee Department have been terminated by the buyer; and if he will list the *(a)* countries, *(b)* dates and *(c)* projects in relation to contracts which have been terminated. [12599]

**Ian Pearson:** The Export Credits Guarantee Department (ECGD) would only keep a record of a contract that has been terminated if a claim has been paid on that contract. ECGD have not paid a claim on a contract that has been terminated in the past five years.

However, I refer the hon. Member for North Norfolk to the answer given today to PQ No. 12596.

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what physical assets the Export Credits Guarantee Department has as collateral on loans guaranteed by the Department. [12601]

**Ian Pearson:** The Export Credits Guarantee Department do not hold any physical assets, but does have registered charges as security on certain assets which are financed with the assistance of ECGD guarantees.

### Group 4 Securicor

**Mr. Henderson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how much was spent by his Department and public bodies and agencies for which he is responsible on security contracts with Group 4 Securicor in 2004–05; and if he will list *(a)* the nature and location of services provided and *(b)* the start and end dates of such contracts. [13522]

**Alan Johnson:** The Department had a contract with Group 4 Securicor for the provision of manned guarding and reception at Atholl House, Aberdeen between August 1993 and April 2005 at a cost in 2004–05 of £105,526.

Public bodies sponsored by the Department are responsible for their own security arrangements and such information is not held centrally.

*Letter from Ron Marchant to Mr. Henderson, dated 21 July 2005:*

I am responding to this parliamentary question, tabled on 15 July 2005, regarding amounts spent on security contracts with Group 4 Securicor in the past year, including details of the nature and location of services provided, and the start and end dates of any such current contracts.

The Patent Office has neither spent any sums, or hold such contracts with this company.

*Letter from Tim Moss to Mr. Henderson, dated 21 July 2005:*

I am responding to your recent Parliamentary Question to the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry on behalf of Companies House, which is an Executive Agency of the DTI.

Companies House has not used Group 4 Securicor for any services within the last year.

*Letter from Desmond Flynn to Mr. Henderson, dated 21 July 2005:*

The Secretary of State for Trade and Industry has asked me to reply to you directly on behalf of The Insolvency Service in respect of your question (833/2005) asking how much was spent on security contracts with Group 4 Securicor in the past year; the nature and location of services provided and the start and end dates of any current such contracts.

Between April 2004 and March 2005 The Insolvency Service spent £131,686.77 with Group 4 Securicor, for security guarding of our Birmingham HQ building. This contract commenced on 5 June 2000 and came to an end on 4 June 2005 after the contract was re-tendered.

*Letter from Jeanne Spinks to Mr. Henderson, dated 21 July 2005:*

You asked the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, how much was spent by his Department, and any public body or agency for which he is responsible, on security contracts with Group 4 Securicor in the past year; the nature and location of services provided and the start and end dates of any current such contracts. I have been asked to reply on behalf of the Employment Tribunals Service (ETS).

The Employment Tribunals Service has not held any contracts with Group 4 Securicor in the past year.

*Letter from Iain MacGregor to Mr. Henderson, dated 21 July 2005:*

The Secretary of State for Trade and Industry has asked me to reply on behalf of the National Weights and Measures Laboratory (NWML) to your question regarding the amount spent on Security contracts with Group 4 Securicor, in the past year.

NWML has not spent any money on security contracts with Group 4 Securicor in the past year, thus we submit a nil return.

## Industrial Diseases

**Paddy Tipping:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the *(a)* minimum, *(b)* maximum and *(c)* average payment made in respect of (i) chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and (ii) vibration white finger has been in (A) Nottinghamshire and (B) the UK. [12657]

**Malcolm Wicks** *[holding answer 19 July 2005]:* The figures requested for payments are as follows:

£

| | *Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease* | | *Vibration white finger* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Nottinghamshire*[1] | *UK* | *Nottinghamshire* | *UK* |
| Minimum | 0.57 | 0.57 | 195.94 | 65.08 |
| Maximum | 367,053 | 367,053 | 46,661 | 113,698 |
| Average | 4,254 | 6,356 | 9,018 | 8,815 |

[1] Nottinghamshire covers the constituencies of Ashfield, Bassetlaw, Broxtowe, Gedling, Mansfield, Newark, Nottingham East, Nottingham North, Nottingham South, Rushcliffe and Sherwood.

## Internal Market Services Directive

**Mr. Davidson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (1) what assessment he has made of the impact of the draft EU Directive on Services in the Internal Market on the *(a)* rights of workers under employment law, *(b)* health and safety regulations and *(c)* consumer protection law in England and Wales; [9556]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effect of the EU Directive on Services in the Internal Market on UK employment, broken down by sector. [9561]

**Ian Pearson:** Negotiations on the draft Directive on Services in the Internal Market are at an early stage. Until the text is finalised it is difficult to assess its precise effects. DTIs Partial Regulatory Impact Assessment for the proposal can be found at www.dti.gov.uk/ccp/topics2/pdf2/servicesria.pdf. An independent consultancy, Copenhagen Economics, has assessed the economic impact of the Directive. They predicted that the Services Directive would add £25 billion to the EU economy, create an extra 600,000 jobs, boost EU GDP by 0.6 per cent. and lead to an increase in real wages of 0.4 per cent. Copies of both documents are available in the Libraries of the House.

## Medical Research Council

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what funding has been provided from the Medical Research Council for research into myeloma in each financial year since 1997–98. [12624]

**Alan Johnson:** The figures for MRC expenditure for research on myeloma since 1997 are as follows:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 1997–98 | 440,000 |
| 1998–99 | 410,000 |
| 1999–2000 | 390,000 |
| 2000–01 | 360,000 |
| 2001–02 | 420,000 |
| 2002–03 | 0 |
| 2003–04 | 550,000 |

These figures do not include two studies, Myeloma VII and Myeloma VIII which took place between 1997 and 2004, which were funded through MRC's Clinical Trials Unit.

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the total cost of consultants employed by the Medical Research Council has been in each of the last five years for which records are available. [12176]

**Alan Johnson:** In the last five years the MRC has spent the following amounts on management consultancy and other Professional fees including legal, other audit fees, professional utility advice, professional accommodation advice and computing systems support.

| | £000 |
|---|---|
| 2000–01 | 1,172 |
| 2001–02 | 3,396 |
| 2002–03 | 3,287 |
| 2003–04 | 7,828 |
| 2004–05 | 10,337 |

## Miners' Compensation

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what account was taken by his Department in agreeing the costs schedule for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and vibration white finger mining compensation claims of payments to solicitors for processing unsuccessful claims. [12396]

**Malcolm Wicks:** The framework of the costs agreement in both schemes is that no costs are paid by the Department for unsuccessful claims.

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many claims for *(a)* chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and *(b)* vibration white finger have been submitted in (i) Bassetlaw and (ii) the United Kingdom for miners' compensation by (A) Moss Solicitors, (A) Brm Solicitors, (C) Beresfords Solicitors, (D) AMS Law Solicitors, (E) Wake Smith Solicitors and (F) Union of Democratic Mineworkers. [12985]

**Malcolm Wicks** *[holding answer 18 July 2005]:* The figures for claimants' representatives are as follows:

| | *Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease* | | *Vibration white finger* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Solicitor* | *Bassetlaw* | *United Kingdom* | *Bassetlaw* | *United Kingdom* |
| AMS Law | 399 | 9,603 | 516 | 4,856 |
| Beresfords | 1,388 | 79,078 | 739 | 10,870 |
| BRM | 262 | 5,219 | 0 | 1 |
| Moss Solicitors | 461 | 7,525 | 513 | 6,734 |
| UDM | 1,141 | 15,524 | 1,017 | 10,511 |
| Wake Smith | 289 | 4,049 | 6 | 326 |
| Total | 3,940 | 120,998 | 2,791 | 33,298 |

## Nuclear Power

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many people work *(a)* directly and *(b)* indirectly in the nuclear industry in (i) the UK, (ii) Lancashire and (iii) Cumbria. [13006]

**Malcolm Wicks:** The DTI has not conducted work to collate employment figures for the nuclear industry. The numbers of employees given in the following table are based on surveys by the Nuclear Industry Association (NIA) and Cogent Sector Skills Council. These include both for the civil nuclear programme and the defence programme.

| *Employment* | *Direct* | *Indirect*[1] |
|---|---|---|
| UK | 54,000 | 108,000 to 160,000 |
| Lanes | 3,500 | 7,000 to 12,000 |
| Cumbria | 11,500 | 23,000 to 35,000 |

[1] The figures for indirect employment are given as a range because of difficulty in assessing indirect employment.

**Mr. Ian Austin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the level of UK investment in the international thermonuclear experimental reactor is. [12614]

**Alan Johnson:** The UK will not invest directly in the international thermonuclear experimental reactor (ITER) as it is not a party to the agreement establishing the project. The EU contribution to the project will be provided through the Euratom budget and by the host state, France.

**Mr. Ian Austin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what estimate he has made of the cost of replacing the UK's nuclear power stations. [12615]

**Malcolm Wicks:** No estimate has been made of the cost for replacing the UK's nuclear power stations, either with new nuclear stations or other types of generation.

## Oil Producers

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will list sub-Saharan African countries which produce substantial quantities of oil. [13919]

**Malcolm Wicks:** The following table lists oil production in 2004 from sub-Saharan African countries.

| *Country* | *2004 oil production (thousand barrels per day)* | *Percentage share of global production* |
|---|---|---|
| Angola | 991 | 1.3 |
| Cameroon | 62 | 0.1 |
| Chad | 168 | 0.2 |
| Republic of Congo | 240 | 0.3 |
| Equatorial Guinea | 350 | 0.4 |
| Gabon | 235 | 0.3 |
| Nigeria | 2,508 | 3.2 |
| Sudan | 301 | 0.4 |

*Source:*
BP Statistical Review of World Energy 2005

## Telephone Services

**John Hemming:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what recent steps the Department has taken to prevent silent telephone calls by commercial power diallers; and if the Department will support a policy of introducing recorded messages to inform recipients of silent telephone calls of what has happened. [11323]

**Alun Michael:** The Department introduced the Telephone Preference Service scheme, under the Telecommunications (Data Protection and Privacy) Regulations 1999, which provides protection to

subscribers from unsolicited direct marketing calls. Although the Telephone Preference Service was not designed to provide a solution to silent calls, consumers who register receive significantly fewer marketing calls, including silent calls that are made by commercial power diallers. Marketing calls are the only calls which are eliminated by registering for this service.

The Communications Act 2003 confers powers on the Office of Communications (Ofcom) to regulate forms of behaviour, which fall within the Act's definition of persistent misuse of an electronic communications network or service. Silent calls made by commercial power diallers are an example of behaviour, which might represent persistent misuse. Ofcom took action against two companies on 30 April 2004, which were found to have generated unacceptably high levels of unsolicited silent calls. Ofcom initiated a second investigation into one of the companies to ascertain whether the company is complying with the undertakings that were given following their initial action. In addition, Ofcom has launched an investigation into a further seven companies, whom they suspect were making silent calls.

The Department is in discussions with Ofcom about providing a solution to silent calls and in particular a policy of introducing recorded messages to inform recipients of silent calls of what has happened. We will carefully consider all aspects of this possible solution.

### Wind Farms

**Mr. Bellingham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment he has made of the *(a)* environmental and *(b)* economic (i) cost and (ii) benefit of wind farms. [13383]

**Malcolm Wicks:** I refer the hon. Member to the Energy White Paper of 2003, and the Regulatory Impact Assessment for the recent consultation on the Renewables Obligation Review which highlight the wider case for supporting renewable forms of electricity generation.

The recent Sustainable Development Commission Report "Wind Power in the UK" also gives authoritative Information about wind farms including their environmental and economic impacts.

## PRIME MINISTER

### Correspondence

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Prime Minister how many letters to his Office from hon. Members in session *(a)* 2004–05 and *(b)* 2005–06 remain unanswered, broken down by those which are (i) one month old, (ii) two months old, (iii) three months old, (iv) four months old and (v) over six months old. [13846]

**The Prime Minister:** In total, I have received over 650,000 items of post since November 2004 including a number of campaign cards. My Office deals with all correspondence as efficiently as possible,

I received 513 letters from Members of Parliament for the 2004–05 session, and to date have received 266 letters from Members of Parliament for the 2005–06 session, including invitations and requests concerning constituency matters, which were dealt with as appropriate. Information regarding the dates on which individual pieces of correspondence were answered is not held in the format requested.

### Departmental Staff

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Prime Minister how many full-time equivalents have worked for his Office for each of the last five financial years for which figures are available. [11488]

**The Prime Minister:** For these purposes my Office forms part of the Cabinet Office. I refer the hon. Member to Table C of "The Civil Service Statistics 2004", copies of which are available in the Libraries of the House.

### Downing Street (Improvements)

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Prime Minister how much has been spent on *(a)* maintaining, *(b)* decorating and *(c)* otherwise improving 10 Downing street since 1 May 1997; how much (i) has been spent on wallpaper since 1 May 1997 and (ii) was spent on wallpaper between 1992 to 1997; and what plans there are for further such spending. [9743]

**The Prime Minister:** Refurbishment and maintenance at 10 Downing street is part of a continuing programme of work. The Downing street complex is maintained to standards appropriate to its Grade 1/2 listed status in consultation with English Heritage. The building also fulfils an important representational role.

For details of maintenance, decorating and otherwise improving 10 and 11 Downing street between May 1997 and 2000–01, I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Yeovil (Mr. Laws) on 24 July 2002, *Official Report*, columns 1370–71W.

Subsequent figures for the whole Downing street complex are:

£

| | *Amount* |
|---|---|
| 2001–02 | 802,658 |
| 2002–03 | 319,177 |
| 2003–04 | 179,424 |

The expenditure in 2001–02 was partly attributable to the installation of comfort cooling across the complex. It also covered maintenance, conversion of rooms into office accommodation, modernising of a meeting room, replacement of the water tank, replacement staircase carpeting and the continuing upkeep of the State Rooms. Only a small proportion relates to work on the Prime Minister's personal accommodation.

Figures for 2004–05 are not yet available.

Expenditure on wallpaper is not separately recorded within the overall costs of redecoration works.

### Office Costs

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Prime Minister how much his Office cost to run in each year since 1997; and what the cost was in each of the preceding 10 years. [10471]

**The Prime Minister:** For figures before 2002–03 I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Yeovil (Mr. Laws) on 25 March 2003, *Official Report*, columns 125–27W. Figures since then are set out in the table.

Before 2001–02 the infrastructure costs for the Prime Minister's Office were managed from central Cabinet Office budgets and could be made available only at disproportionate cost. To enable a direct comparison with the previous answer the costs from 2002–03 onwards have been shown both including and excluding the infrastructure element.

*£ million*

| | *Running costs excluding infrastructure* | *Running costs including infrastructure* |
|---|---|---|
| 2002–03 | 13.6 | 14.2 |
| 2003–04 | 14.6 | 15.1 |
| 2004–05 | 15.8 | 17.0 |

### Publications

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Prime Minister if he will list the publications issued by his Office in each of the last eight years; and what the *(a)* circulation, *(b)* cost and *(c)* purpose of each was. [10470]

**The Prime Minister:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 12 February 2002, *Official Report*, column 260W to the hon. Member for Buckingham (Mr. Bercow).

The cost of other publications produced by my Office since then total £6,994.

## CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

### Dr. David Kelly

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what the current status is of the inquest into the death of Dr. David Kelly. [12850]

**Ms Harman:** On 16 March 2004 the Oxfordshire coroner decided not to resume the inquest which he had adjourned pending Lord Hutton's public inquiry into the circumstances surrounding the death of Dr. David Kelly.

### Election Registration

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what plans she has to alter the registration procedures for voting in elections. [13669]

**Ms Harman:** We are currently considering how the electoral registration system in Great Britain might be improved both to improve security and increase access. This consideration is being informed by the recent Constitutional Affairs and Office of the Deputy Prime Minister Select Committee report Electoral Registration and by the various Electoral Commission reports on the subject. Additionally, my Department recently published a policy paper for discussion, which invited comments on some aspects of electoral registration. This paper is available in the House Library.

We intend to bring forward legislation on this issue when parliamentary time allows.

### Endowment Mis-selling

**Paul Flynn:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what plans she has to regulate firms who handle claims for compensation for endowment mis-selling; and if she will make a statement. [13967]

**Bridget Prentice:** The Government plan to provide for the introduction of statutory regulation of claims management companies in the Compensation Bill. We are currently considering the scope of regulation.

### Family Law Act 1996

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what plans she has to bring into force section 60 of the Family Law Act 1996; and if she will make a statement. [6175]

**Ms Harman:** There are no plans to implement section 60 of the Family Law Act 1996. Provisions to protect victims from domestic violence are provided for in the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004.

### Freedom of Information Act

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many Freedom of Information Act 2000 applications to see sections of the 1911 decennial census for England and Wales have been *(a)* received and *(b)* rejected by the National Archives since 1 January. [13576]

**Ms Harman:** In the period from 1 January to 15 July 2005, The National Archives received 72 applications. After consultation with the Office for National Statistics (ONS) as the transferring department, 47 of these applications have not been granted, because they are covered by s.41 of the FOI Act. The remaining 25 applications are currently being considered on a case by case basis in consultation with ONS.

### Human Rights

**Tony Lloyd:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs which rulings of the European Court of Human Rights have not been fully implemented by the United Kingdom Government; what the obstacles are to full implementation of those rulings; and if she will make a statement. [14755]

**Ms Harman:** There are 32 active cases against the United Kingdom pending before the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, which under Article 46 of the European Convention on Human Rights is responsible for supervising their execution. Some of these are quite recent, and in some a referral to the

Grand Chamber of the Court is being considered. In other cases the Government are of the view that implementation is complete, but the cases are under review by the Council of Europe Secretariat. In some cases, further administrative or legislative steps are needed. It is the policy of the Government to implement all judgments of the European Court of Human Rights as soon as possible.

### Legal Aid

**Mr. Djanogly:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs whether she plans to use the same quality assessment for price competitive tendering as that used for civil legal aid contracts. [13887]

**Bridget Prentice:** Ensuring a high quality of advice for clients is a priority for the Legal Services Commission (LSC). The LSC has developed, and is continuing to develop, a number of successful quality assessment systems, such as peer review, which are used in both civil and criminal contracts. These systems will be applied as appropriate to contracts awarded under the price competitive tendering scheme.

**Mr. Djanogly:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what assessment she has made of the likely effects of price competitive tendering on civil legal aid. [13888]

**Bridget Prentice:** Competitive tendering is one of several policy initiatives that the Government are exploring in order to achieve greater value for money across the Criminal Defence Service as a whole. This will help to ensure that legal aid resources can be more effectively focused on the vulnerable individuals and groups supported by the Community Legal Service.

**Mr. Djanogly:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what steps she plans to take to monitor the quality of criminal legal aid work throughout the term of a contract under price competitive tendering. [14073]

**Bridget Prentice:** Improving the quality of service for clients is a key objective of the Legal Services Commission (LSC). All firms wishing to bid for a contract under the price competitive tendering project will have to pass a quality assessment. Once a contract is awarded, the LSC will employ quality assurance mechanisms to monitor the quality of advice being provided throughout the term of the contract. Among those quality assurance mechanisms currently under consideration are peer review and file assessment.

### Management Consultants

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what estimate she has made of the total expenditure saved in each of the last three years as a result of implementing recommendations by management consultancies within her Department. [13633]

**Bridget Prentice:** The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Personal Injuries

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what progress has been made with research into the effects of changing the small claims limit for personal injuries. [13667]

**Bridget Prentice:** The Better Regulation Task Force in its report, "Better Routes to Redress" recommended that research should be carried out into the potential impact of raising the small claims limit for personal injury cases from the current limit of £1,000. The Government indicated that they would carry out this research and would also consider other options for dealing with these claims in a more proportionate and cost effective way. That research is currently under way and consultation will take place on any proposals which may emerge.

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs whether she plans to hold a public consultation prior to changing the small claims limit for personal injuries. [13668]

**Bridget Prentice:** The Government agreed to carry out research into the potential impact of raising the small claims limit, as recommended by the Better Regulation Task Force in its report: "Better Routes to Redress". The Government indicated that they would also consider other options for dealing with these claims in a more proportionate and cost effective way. That research is currently under way and consultation will take place on any proposals which may emerge.

### Voter Registration

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs if she will estimate the socio-economic breakdown of those citizens who have failed to register to vote; and if she will conduct research into this issue. [8948]

**Ms Harman:** My Department has been conducting research into the attitudes of the electorate, especially those who are currently not on the register of who did not vote. A report is being prepared. The variable that has the most significant effect on non-registration is age, with younger respondents being less likely to be registered.

The joint Constitutional Affairs and ODPM Select Committee reported in March this year that registration was significantly lower among younger age groups and amongst black and ethnic minority groups. It also cited research from 1991 that reflected both these differences and the significantly lower levels of registration in metropolitan areas compared to non-metropolitan areas, and between those in rented accommodation compared to owner occupiers.

The Electoral Commission is also undertaking research into registration rates and will report in due course.

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many representations she has received on *(a)* postal ballot fraud and *(b)* voter under-registration in the last 12 months. [8950]

**Ms Harman:** While we do not keep a detailed breakdown of the content of correspondence, my Department received a significant number of representations about postal voting in the run up to and following the June 2004 elections, many of which raised the issue of postal vote fraud and security.

Since the recent general election we have received approximately 52 items of correspondence relating to registration issues, the majority of which relate to difficulties with the correspondents' registration, while some relate to under-registration in the wider sense. In the same period we have received some 74 items of correspondence relating to postal voting, some of which relate to fears of fraud, while the majority relate to voters' either not receiving their ballot papers or receiving them too late to take part in the election.

## WALES

### Consultants

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what his Department's total spending on management consultants has been in each of the last three years. [13137]

**Mr. Hain:** The Wales Office has not awarded any contracts to management consultants in any of the last three years.

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what estimate he has made of the total expenditure saved in each of the last three years as a result of implementing recommendations by management consultancies within his Department. [13634]

**Mr. Hain:** The Wales Office has not used any management consultants in the last three years.

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales if he will list management consultants employed by his Office in each of the last three years. [14359]

**Mr. Hain:** The Wales Office has not awarded any contracts to management consultants in the last three years.

### Correspondence

**Mr. Roger Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many items of correspondence have been dealt with by *(a)* the Secretary of State for Wales and *(b)* his Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State in each year since 1999. [13172]

**Mr. Hain:** The following table shows the number of items of correspondence dealt with by Wales Office Ministers since July 1999.

*Number*

| | *Secretary of State* | *Under Secretary of State* | *Inter-departmental correspondence* |
|---|---|---|---|
| July 1999–March 2000 | 1110 | 369 | 5980 |
| April 2000–March 2001 | 573 | 186 | 6649 |
| April 2001–March 2002 | 295 | 39 | 5058 |
| April 2002–March 2003 | 297 | 56 | 5873 |
| April 2003–March 2004 | 177 | 41 | 5660 |
| April 2004–March 2005 | 152 | 71 | 5326 |

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many letters to his Department from hon. Members in session *(a)* 2004–05 and *(b)* 2005–06 remain unanswered, broken down by those which are (i) one month old, (ii) two months old, (iii) three months old, (iv) four months old and (v) over six months old. [13852]

**Mr. Hain:** There are no unanswered letters from hon. Members to the Wales Office for either of these parliamentary sessions.

### Departmental Budget

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much was allocated to the Office and its predecessor for each year since 1975. [11515]

**Mr. Hain:** The Wales Office was created in July 1999 and no figures are available before that date.

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 1999–2000 | 1,217,000 |
| 2000–01 | 2,557,000 |
| 2001–02 | 2,490,000 |
| 2002–03 | 3,107,000 |
| 2003–04 | 3,173,000 |
| 2004–05 | 3,997,000 |
| 2005–06 | 4,679,000 |

### Departmental Estate

**Mr. Roger Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what the estimated *(a)* market value and *(b)* annual rental value is of each property owned by his Department; who the occupier of each property is; and if he will make a statement. [12135]

**Mr. Hain:** The only property owned by the Wales Office is Gwydyr House in Whitehall, which has an estimated market value of £2.95 million. The building is occupied by the Wales Office apart from two rooms, which are occupied by the National Assembly for Wales. As the property is not rented out, the annual rental value is not known.

### Departmental Purchasing

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales if he will list the companies from which his Department has purchased goods and services of a total value above £1 million in each of the last three years; and how much was spent in respect of each company. [11789]

**Mr. Hain:** The Wales Office has not purchased goods or services from any company for a value of £1 million in any of the last three years.

### Departmental Staff

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many full-time equivalents have worked for the Department for each of the last five financial years for which figures are available. [11523]

**Mr. Hain:** Data on staffing levels in the civil service is collected by the Cabinet Office and published in the Civil Service Statistics. A copy of the Civil Service Statistics, 2004 is available in the Library, and at:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/management_information/statistical_information/statistics/publications/xls/report_2004/table_c.xls

### Hospitals (Opening Dates)

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what the opening dates of hospitals in Wales were between 1975 and 1998. [6687]

**Mr. Hain:** Between 1975 and 1998 approximately 31 hospitals in Wales were opened. However, a record of the formal openings is not held centrally, and due to disproportionate costs, we are unable to provide a comprehensive list of opening dates.

### Inward Investment

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what discussions he has had with Secretaries in the National Assembly for Wales on encouraging inward investment in Wales. [12522]

**Mr. Hain:** I have regular discussions with the First Minister on a range of issues including measures to promote the economy in Wales.

During 2004–05, Wales secured 56 inward investment projects. These projects expect to create or safeguard 3,854 jobs and invest capital expenditure totalling £153 million.

### Job Losses

**Lembit Öpik:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what support the Government are offering to support the manufacturing industry in Wales, with particular reference to possible job losses at *(a)* Sony and *(b)* Christie Tyler. [10758]

**Mr. Hain:** Manufacturing remains vital to the Welsh economy and we want to see a successful manufacturing sector producing high value-added products.

We are working in partnership with industry, trade unions, regional development agencies, and other stakeholders to deliver the Government's Manufacturing Strategy launched in May 2002, and reviewed in 2004.

It sets out the actions, such as the Manufacturing Advisory Service, up-skilling the workforce, and R and D tax credits, needed to create a high value, high skill manufacturing sector capable of introducing new products and processes into our economy and creating new markets to deliver a boost to our prosperity.

This is complemented by a range of measures administered by the Assembly Government to assist the manufacturing sector. These include financial assistance, business advice, promoting innovation e.g. the Technium programme through to initiatives to improve skills and promote entrepreneurship.

In respect of Sony, the job losses announced recently are regrettable. The Assembly Government with its Team Wales partners, including the Welsh Development Agency (WDA) Elwa and Jobcentre Plus are already working with the company to find alternative employment for those affected. I have also discussed with the Sony Group chairman and chief executive, Sir Howard Stringer, the possibility of further investment at the Pencoed plant and Sir Howard has assured me that he will look into this.

As regards Christie Tyler, specific assistance has already been offered to the receivers through the WDA, to identify prospective purchasers for the businesses through the Agency's extensive network, both in the UK and overseas. Any leads that are identified are being immediately passed to the receivers.

Part of Christie Tyler group, Cambria Mobel in Pontypridd, has now been sold on a solvent basis to Sofa Brands International, safeguarding the jobs under threat. In addition to this, I understand Management Buyouts (MBO) are being looked at for other parts of the group.

Despite the recent losses, unemployment in Wales is now 4.5 per cent. compared to 8.3 per cent. in 1997, and I am encouraged by the progress that is being made.

### Legislation

**Mr. Roger Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many *(a)* legislative debates and *(b)* committees on Bills pertaining to England and Wales (i) he and (ii) his Parliamentary Under-Secretary have spoken in since his Office was established. [13301]

**Mr. Hain:** Wales Office Ministers have spoken in many legislative debates and committees since 1999.

Details of the occasions are not collated centrally and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

**Mr. Roger Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what research costs were incurred *(a)* in the preparation of and *(b)* before presentation to Parliament of the (i) Better Governance for Wales White Paper, (ii) the Transport (Wales) Bill, (iii) the Commissioner for Older People (Wales) Bill and (iv) the draft Tourism Accommodation (Wales) Bill. [13302]

**Mr. Hain:** The Wales Office published the "Better Governance for Wales" White Paper in response to a request from the Assembly Government, which arose from the report to them of the Richard Commission. The cost of the Richard Commission is a matter for the Assembly.

The Wales Office published the Transport (Wales) Bill and the Commissioner for Older People (Wales) Bill in draft for pre legislative scrutiny, and is planning to do the same for the Tourism Accommodation (Wales) Bill later in this session. These publications are a normal part of legislative scrutiny, and where appropriate costs are met from the Wales Office administration costs budget. Any costs incurred from research in the preparation of these Bills are matters for the Assembly.

**Mr. Roger Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what criteria he will use to measure the consensus required to trigger a referendum on primary legislative powers for the National Assembly for Wales. [13308]

**Mr. Hain:** Better Governance for Wales (Cm 6582) describes the circumstances in which the Government would consider a referendum. Paragraph 3.24 says:

"the decision to hold one would need to be approved in both Parliament and the Assembly. If one was proposed by the Assembly Government, the motion would need to be endorsed by

two thirds of all Assembly Members voting in favour. If the Secretary of State was minded to table an Order in Parliament, he would first be obliged to undertake such consultation as he considered appropriate. The referendum would not take place unless the Order was approved by Parliament."

**Mr. Roger Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much external research was commissioned by his Department *(a)* before introduction to Parliament, *(b)* during passage in Parliament and *(c)* after Royal Assent for (i) the Government of Wales Act 1998, (ii) the Public Services Ombudsman Wales Act 2005, (iii) the Children's Commissioner for Wales Act 2001, (iv) the Health (Wales) Act 2003 and (v) the Public Audit Wales Act 2004. [12131]

**Mr. Hain:** The Health (Wales) Bill and Public Audit Wales Bills were both published for public consultation and pre legislative scrutiny before being introduced into Parliament.

The idea of a Children's Commissioner was a cross-party consensus dating back to the creation of the National Assembly in 1999 and was one of the recommendations of the Waterhouse Report. The Assembly's Health and Social Services Committee was given the task of drawing up proposals for the role, remit and functions of the Commissioner and carried out a public consultation, which included taking oral evidence from witnesses. The Commissioner is subject to audit from the National Audit Office and has to produce an annual report.

In December 2002 the Wales Office jointly published with the Welsh Assembly Government "Ombudsmen's Services in Wales: Time for change?", a consultation document on the principle of bringing together the offices of Commissioner for Local Administration in Wales (which includes the Local Commissioner), Welsh Administration Ombudsmen and Health Service Commission for Wales into a unified service. In October 2003 a consultation document on the detailed powers and jurisdiction of that new office, entitled, "A Public Services Ombudsman for Wales: Powers and Jurisdiction" was published.

In respect of the Government of Wales Act 1998, the former Welsh Office established the National Assembly Advisory Group (NAAG) in December 1997, following the successful outcome of the referendum on devolution in Wales, to undertake wide-ranging consultation and consideration of the shape of the new Assembly.

### Management Consultancies

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales which five management consultancies received the highest value of contracts awarded by his Department in each of the last three years; and what the total value was of the contracts awarded to each. [12576]

**Mr. Hain:** The Wales Office has not awarded any contracts to management consultants in any of the last three years.

### NHS (Wales)

**Mr. Crabb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales pursuant to the statement by the parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, of 12 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 252WH, on NHS (Wales), if he will list the 70 hospitals closed in Wales between 1979 and 1997. [13677]

**Mr. Hain:** A list of these hospitals is not held centrally, and due to disproportionate costs it is not possible to provide one.

However, Health Statistics Wales and Health Solutions Wales have verified that approximately 70 hospitals were closed in the period 1979 to 1997.

### Olympic Games

**Mr. Roger Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues in the Department of Culture, Media and Sport on holding Olympic events in Wales; and if he will make a statement. [13953]

**Mr. Hain:** Cardiff's millennium stadium will play host to qualifying matches in the Olympic football tournament.

Wales will also host training and acclimatisation camps, and stands to benefit from the enormous tourism and business opportunities presented by the London Olympics and Paralympics.

### Olympics

**Peter Law:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales if he will discuss with the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, opportunities to place contracts with companies based in *(a)* Blaenau Gwent and *(b)* Wales to make sustainably sourced building materials for the Olympic village in East London. [13324]

**Mr. Hain:** The 2012 London Olympics presents a wonderful opportunity to progress UK's sustainable development objectives. I have already raised this issue with my right hon. Friend, urging the use of solar energy panels for the Olympic village and the proposed housing development on the site once the games are over.

Wales has a number of progressive companies which are involved in developing products and services in line with sustainability principles and I will continue to press the case for such companies from Wales to be involved in the substantial building programme for the Olympic games.

### Secondments

**Mr. Roger Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many *(a)* senior and *(b)* junior full-time staff are seconded (i) from the National Assembly for Wales Government to the Welsh Office and (ii) from the Welsh Office to the National Assembly for Wales Government. [13173]

**Mr. Hain:** As of 1 July 2005 the number of full-time staff seconded from the National Assembly for Wales to the Wales Office was 30. There are no secondments from the Wales Office to the National Assembly. All these secondments are of staff below the senior civil service.

### Sickness Absence

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many days the Office has lost due to sickness in the past five years for which figures are available. [11477]

**Mr. Hain:** The information requested is shown in the following table:

| | *Day* |
|---|---|
| 2000 | 231 |
| 2001 | 277 |
| 2002 | 206 |
| 2003 | 270 |

In June 2003, the Wales Office became part of the Department of Constitutional Affairs for pay and rations purposes. No separate figures for the Wales Office are available from 2004 onwards.

### Special Schools

**Mr. Roger Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many special schools have closed in each constituency in Wales in each year since 1997. [13295]

**Mr. Hain:** No special schools have closed in Wales during this period.

### Tax Credits

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what discussions he has had with National Assembly for Wales secretaries on the effects of tax credits on the take up of childcare in Wales. [14040]

**Mr. Hain:** I regularly meet with Ministers from the Welsh Assembly Government to discuss a range of issues, including the effects of tax credits on the take-up of childcare in Wales.

The childcare element of working tax credit has been a success, with over 15,500 Welsh families benefiting from it. This is almost 85 per cent. higher than the peak of over 8,000 under the working families tax credit.

By April 2005, families benefiting from the childcare element of working tax credit were receiving an average of £46.22 per week, compared to £38 per week in November 2002 through Working families tax credit.

### Wales Office

**Mr. Roger Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what record is kept of work done by civil servants in the Assembly for Wales Government that has been requested by the Wales Office. [13966]

**Mr. Hain:** Under section 41 of the Government of Wales Act 1998, civil servants working for the Assembly Government may act as agents of a relevant authority and vice versa; the definition of "relevant authority" includes the Wales Office.

A number of such agreements have been made under which Assembly Government civil servants have acted and are acting as agents of the Wales Office, including in relation to work on Bills. No central record is kept of these agreements.

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### Agriculture Shows

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which agriculture shows *(a)* she and *(b)* each Minister in her Department (i) visited and (ii) plans to visit in 2005. [9600]

**Margaret Beckett:** So far this year, Defra Ministers have attended the Royal Show, the Great Yorkshire Show; the Cornwall Show and the Devon Show.

### Animal Welfare

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans she has to enact a single statute to protect the welfare of livestock and horses as proposed by the Farm Animal Welfare Council. [14042]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Government welcome the Farm Animal Welfare Council (FAWC) report on the welfare of farmed animals at gatherings, published on 30 June. We are currently considering the report's recommendations before we consult interested parties.

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Maidstone and The Weald (Miss Widdecombe) of 29 June 2005, *Official Report*, columns 1533–34W, on animal welfare, on what basis he has concluded that the evidence relating to welfare at circuses is anecdotal; and if he will make a statement. [15070]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The basis for our conclusion are the number of prosecutions that have been brought against owners and trainers of circus animals, and the evidence that has also been submitted to the recent consultations on the Animal Welfare Bill by those who are either opposed to or want animal performances in circuses to continue.

### Asbestos

**Mr. Nicholas Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what environmentally acceptable disposal routes for asbestos her Department has identified; and in what order of desirability. [13988]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Landfill is the normal option for the disposal of asbestos. The Landfill (England and Wales) Regulations 2002 as amended allow asbestos to be disposed of in a separate cell of either a non-hazardous or a hazardous waste landfill. Specific handling requirements on the bagging and cover of deposited asbestos are set out in the regulations, together with provisions to prevent future disturbance of the waste and potential release of fibres.

### Beef

**Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment her Department has made of the impact of Brazilian beef imports on the British beef industry. [12366]

**Mr. Bradshaw** *[holding answer 18 July 2005]*: The Department is aware of the level of imported beef and beef products from South America. We are also committed to facilitating enhanced competitiveness and sustainability in the UK beef industry through initiatives such as the Red Meat Industry Forum.

### Birds (Imports)

**Mr. Laurence Robertson:** *To ask the Secretary of* State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what restrictions to reduce the risk of disease apply to the importation of birds; and if she will make a statement. [13121]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** There are different requirements governing the import of birds from member states of the EU and import of birds from third countries. There are three categories of birds—poultry, captive birds and pet birds. The import requirements are laid down in EU legislation.

All poultry and captive birds imported into the EU from third countries must enter at designated border inspection posts where they are subject to veterinary inspections. All consignments are subject to documentary and identity checks. These checks ensure that the import conditions are met. Captive birds and poultry must undergo a period of quarantine. Pet birds from third countries do not have to enter through a border inspection post, but must serve a period of quarantine. This can be at the owner's house where they are inspected by a veterinary officer.

All imports from EU countries must be accompanied by agreed health certification. Poultry must originate from approved establishments and come from flocks which have been held in community establishments for 21 days prior to export. Poultry must have undergone health examination by an official or authorized veterinarian. Captive birds must come from a holding and an area not subject to disease. The rules for pet birds imported from other member states are the same as those from third countries.

If there is an outbreak of disease in an exporting country Defra takes appropriate emergency safeguard measures as allowed by Community legislation. This may include a ban on imports of animals and animal products from all, or parts, of that country.

The situation in affected countries is kept under review and controls on imports are modified in line with community decisions. Safeguard measures are currently in place to ban or restrict imports of animals, meat and other products of susceptible species in respect of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Pakistan, the People's Republic of China, including the territory of Hong Kong, North Korea, Thailand, Vietnam and South Africa.

### Bovine TB

**Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many farms in England were under official movement or marketing restrictions at the height of the foot and mouth disease epidemic in 2001; and how many are under official movement or marketing restrictions because of bovine TB. [12365]

**Mr. Bradshaw** *[holding answer 18 July 2005]:* The number of farms within infected areas and therefore subject to both movement and marketing restrictions in Great Britain at the height of the foot and mouth outbreak in 2001 was 112,735. We are unable to give a breakdown for England separately.

Latest provisional statistics indicate that on the 18 July 2005, there were a total of 5,002[1] farm holdings under TB movement restrictions, 2,337[1] as a direct result of a TB incident and 2,665[1] under restrictions for other reasons. The majority of these are as a result of TB tests being overdue.

[1] Provisional data downloaded from the State Veterinary Service Vetnet TBiC system on 18 July 2005. Subject to change as more data become available.

**Dan Norris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the incidence of bovine TB was in *(a)* North East Somerset, *(b)* South Gloucestershire and *(c)* the former county of Avon area in the last period for which figures are available. [12516]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Disaggregated data for the geographic areas of North East Somerset, South Gloucestershire and the former county of Avon are not centrally held, and can only be obtained at disproportionate cost. An aggregate figure for "Avon" (which covers the former county of Avon, South Gloucestershire, Bath and North East Somerset and North Somerset) is set out in the following table.

| | *Avon* |
|---|---|
| *1 January-31 December 2004:* Confirmed New Incidents as a percentage of tests on unrestricted herds | 4.37 |

*Note:*
Provisional data downloaded from the State Veterinary Service Data Warehouse on 19 May 2005. Subject to change as more data become available.

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate her Department has made of the number of badgers that have been confirmed to have died due to infection with bovine tuberculosis in England and Wales, between 1975 and 2004 broken down by county; and if she will make a statement. [13032]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The number of badgers that have been confirmed to have died due to infection with bovine tuberculosis in England and Wales has not been estimated by Defra or its agencies.

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment her Department has made of the effect of bovine tuberculosis on badger population numbers in England and Wales in the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [13034]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Reliable data on the causes of deaths in badgers and their effect on population numbers in England and Wales do not exist. In the only long term study, conducted by the Central Science Laboratory at

a study site in Gloucestershire, mortality due to TB was estimated to be around 7 per cent. during the period 1978 to 1993. However, the study site is of limited size, and the result cannot be extrapolated to the rest of England and Wales.

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate her Department has made of the mortality rate of badgers in England and Wales in each of the last five years. [13035]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Mortality rates of mammals can only be determined from long term, intensive studies. Only two such studies exist on badgers, both in southern England (Woodchester Park, Gloucestershire, and Wytham Woods, Oxfordshire). Mortality rates at these sites varies from year to year in relation to weather conditions and hence food availability. Cub mortality is thought to be relatively high, both pre-emergence from the sett, and also up to the end of the first year. At Woodchester Park, where TB status is also recorded for each animal trapped, the average mortality rates for uninfected adult animals were 30.4 per cent. for males and 23.6 per cent. for females. For the small proportion of animals which had a history of more than one positive test for TB, mortality was 66.7 per cent. and 48.0 per cent. for males and females respectively. Overall at Woodchester, the average mortality is thought to be about 50 per cent.

It is important to note that these studies are in high density populations, and therefore cannot be extrapolated to the country as a whole. Mortality rates will be different from these in lower density locations. In a study of suburban badgers in Bristol, mortality rates were 40.3 per cent. for adult females, and 28.1 per cent. for adult males.

Other studies have estimated that approximately 50,000 badgers are killed on roads each year, making it the most important cause of death.

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many cases of bovine tuberculosis have been recorded in *(a)* the North West and *(b)* Chorley in the last three years. [13483]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Statistics on bovine TB are aggregated according to the office structure of the State Veterinary Service (SVS). The North West is not currently a recognised region within the SVS structure. Data sets for the Carlisle and Preston Animal Health Offices are in the following table along with the data set for Cheshire. We are unable to provide figures for Chorley, as data disaggregated at this level are not held centrally.

| | *Total new herd TB incidents* | | | | *Confirmed new TB incidents* | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | [1]*2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *Total* | [1]*2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *Total* |
| Carlisle | 33 | 70 | 65 | 168 | 10 | 15 | 17 | 42 |
| Cheshire | 27 | 36 | 46 | 109 | 15 | 12 | 16 | 43 |
| Preston | 9 | 5 | 7 | 21 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |

[1] In 2001, the TB testing and control programme was largely suspended due to the foot and mouth disease (FMD) outbreak. When testing resumed In 2002, resources were concentrated on herds with overdue TB tests which would have had e longer period In which to contract the disease. Also the proportion of high risk herds tested immediately after the FMD outbreak was greater than that prior to the outbreak. As a result, data for 2002 is not comparable with other years.

*Note:*

All data downloaded on 19 May 2005 from SVS TB Data Warehouse. All data are provisional and subject to change as more data become available.

**Steve Webb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she plans to take to assist farmers whose farms are shut down because of identified cases of bovine TB; and if she will make a statement on the progress of the trials which her Department is undertaking into methods to tackle bovine TB. [13699]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** It is Government policy to pay 100 per cent. of market value, with no upper limit, for cattle that are compulsorily slaughtered under TB control measures.

We are sympathetic to farmers whose herds are currently under restrictions, but this is a necessary measure to tackle bovine TB. The Government are committed to finding the best way to combat this disease, backed by available scientific evidence and taking account of all interested parties, including farmers and the taxpayer.

The Independent Scientific Group on Cattle TB aims to reveal the outcome of the pro-active culling effect of the randomised badger culling trial to Ministers in spring 2006 and publish its final report, covering all its works and findings, in spring 2007. In the interim we are developing a model to assess a range of potential policy options, including wildlife controls.

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will make a statement on the recent discovery of bovine TB in pigs in Bodmin, Cornwall. [13871]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** We are aware of a confirmed case of bovine TB in pigs on a Cornish farm. Tests are being carried out to establish the origin of the disease. However, cattle on the same farm have tested negative for bovine TB. Movement restrictions have been placed on the premises while the investigation continues. Although we have looked at possible sources of infection including unpasteurised cows' milk from another farm that has been fed to the pigs, and wildlife involvement, we do not yet have a definite origin.

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will list the locations of sites selected for the bovine TB vaccination of badgers trial; whether the vaccine is the same as that used in the Irish trial; and if she will make a statement. [13931]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** We are currently considering a number of potential locations in south west England. Once potential locations have been identified we will seek landowner permission to carry out the proposed trial.

We do not know which strain of Bacille Calmette Guerin (BCG) will be used in the Irish field trial. We are aware however that the Pasteur strain was used in their experimental studies. We intend to use the Danish strain of BCG for our trial. We chose the Danish strain because it is produced to a recognised quality assurance standard and the manufacturers are willing to release appropriate data in support of Defra's application to the Veterinary Medicines Directorate to undertake the field trial.

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when the Government will announce the results of the road traffic accident survey on the prevalence of tuberculosis in badgers. [13195]

**Mr. Bradshaw** *[holding answer 19 July 2005]:* We anticipate releasing the 2002–04 road traffic accident (RTA) data, along with illustrative maps showing locations where badgers were picked up in the first week in August 2005, on the Independent Scientific Group on Cattle TB and Defra websites.

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she is taking to ensure that animals from tuberculosis-infected areas are tested before being moved into non-infected areas, with particular reference to Yorkshire; what tests will take place; who will fund them; and if she will make a statement. [4869]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** We are considering a proposal for pre-movement testing in GB developed by a farmer-chaired stakeholder group. The group was asked to make recommendations on the basis that testing is paid for by the herd owner. The group delivered its report on 29 April, and published on DEFRA website on 1 June.

Government are now carefully considering the recommendations of the group, along with colleagues from Scotland and Wales, and will bring forward proposals to be introduced as early as possible.

## Carbon Dioxide Emissions

**Mr. Llwyd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the annual UK emissions of carbon dioxide were, including emissions from aircraft taking off from UK airports in each of the past five years. [13001]

**Mr. Morley:** Annual UK emissions of carbon dioxide from domestic aviation and UK total carbon dioxide emissions are shown in the following table for the years 1999 to 2003 in million tonnes of carbon dioxide ($MtCO_2$). The data on aviation covers emissions from all civil domestic passenger and freight traffic movements inside the UK. This data is from the UK Greenhouse Gas Inventory published in 2005.

*$MtCO_2$*

| | *Domestic aviation* | *UK total emissions* |
|---|---|---|
| 1999 | 1.8 | 556.4 |
| 2000 | 2.0 | 560.4 |
| 2001 | 2.1 | 577.2 |
| 2002 | 2.1 | 559.9 |
| 2003 | 2.1 | 572.2 |

Under guidelines agreed internationally, emissions from international aviation taking off and landing at UK airports are not included in UK total emissions, but are estimated for information purposes. Emissions of carbon dioxide from international aviation, for 1999 to 2003, are estimated in the following table.

*$MtCO_2$*

| | *International aviation* |
|---|---|
| 1999 | 27.4 |
| 2000 | 30.2 |
| 2001 | 29.5 |
| 2002 | 28.9 |
| 2003 | 29.7 |

## Cetaceans

**Linda Gilroy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many dolphin and porpoise strandings there were in the south-west in each of the last five years. [12995]

**Mr. Bradshaw** *[holding answer 18 July 2005]:* From 1 January 2000 until 18 July 2005 a total of 376 harbour porpoises and a total of 867 dolphins (including common, white beaked, white sided and striped) were reported as strandings in the south-west. Table 1 gives a breakdown by year for the number of harbour porpoise and Table 2 gives the breakdown for dolphins.

Strandings data is obtained under the Defra-funded Cetacean and Turtle Strandings Scheme, carried out by the Natural History Museum in partnership with the Institute of Zoology and Scottish Agricultural College.

*Table 1: Total numbers of stranded harbour porpoise for 2000—up to 18 July 2005*

| | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Cornwall | 21 | 25 | 68 | 40 | 114 | 18 |
| Devon | 8 | 12 | 14 | 11 | 21 | 9 |
| Dorset | 2 | 4 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| Total | 31 | 41 | 88 | 51 | 135 | 30 |

*Table 2: Total numbers of stranded dolphins for 2000—up to 18 July 2005*

| | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Cornwall | 36 | 81 | 89 | 196 | 105 | 47 |
| Devon | 15 | 37 | 25 | 65 | 61 | 9 |
| Dorset | 9 | 5 | 25 | 38 | 12 | 12 |
| Total | 60 | 123 | 139 | 299 | 178 | 68 |

**Linda Gilroy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the latest population estimates for dolphins and porpoises in south-west waters are. [13132]

**Mr. Bradshaw** *[holding answer 18 July 2005]:* Obtaining population estimates for mobile species such as cetaceans is difficult. According to scientific advice recently published by the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea, dolphins *Delphinus delphis* present in south-west waters form part of a single genetic population in the North East Atlantic. Although no single abundance survey has been carried out for this area, scientific work base don surveys for various parts of the North East Atlantic suggests a population of the order of 380,000 animals. Similarly, the harbour porpoise *Phocoena phocoena* is widely distributed in all waters around the UK. The 2002 report of the Advisory Committee on Ecosystems of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ECES) estimated 36,280 harbour porpoise in south-west waters.

A consortium of international researchers, co-ordinated by the Sea Mammal Research Unit, is currently carrying out a second SCANS survey of the distribution and abundance of small cetaceans—particularly harbour porpoises, bottlenose dolphins *Tursiops truncates* and common dolphins. The survey area is intended to cover the shelf waters of the Atlantic margin, the North sea and adjacent waters. The UK contributed £275,000 to this project. The results of the second SCANS survey should be available by the end of 2006.

**Linda Gilroy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will publish the results of the 2005 trial of separator grids in the bass pair trawl industry; and if she will make a statement. [13133]

**Mr. Bradshaw** *[holding answer 18 July 2005]:* During the 2004–05 season, a preliminary analysis by the Sea Mammal Research Unit (SMRU) of research conducted on behalf of DEFRA suggests that there was a total mortality of 142 common dolphins in the UK pair trawl fishery for bass, compared with 429 in 2003–04 and 114 in 2002–03.

During fishing operations, trials of the separator grid were undertaken by SMRU with some positive results, though further testing will be needed to improve its performance. A fuller analysis by SMRU on observations made in the UK pair trawl fishery for bass will be published on the DEFRA website in the autumn.

### Common Agricultural Policy

**Paul Flynn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which companies and individuals in England received payments of more than £200,000 under the Common Agricultural Policy in 2004; and what sum was received in each case. [12639]

**Jim Knight:** I have been advised by the Rural Payments Agency that a copy of this information in the form of a CD ROM was forwarded to you on Tuesday 22 March 2005. This information is also available in the Library of the House in the same format.

I understand that Lord Bach wrote to you on 18 July explaining that a further regional analysis of CAP payments for the European Agriculture Guidance and Guarantee Fund year 2003–04 will be published on the RPA website on Wednesday 20 July at 12.30pm.

### Community Energy Programme

**Mr. MacNeil:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will make a statement on the future of the Community Energy Programme in *(a)* Scotland and *(b)* England and Wales. [14049]

**Mr. Morley:** Defra has made £10 million available to extend the Community Energy programme to 2007–08. We are currently working with the Energy Saving Trust and Carbon Trust, the joint programme managers, to finalise the details of this extension. We will announce these details before the first bidding round, which we expect to run in the autumn.

### Correspondence

**Mr. Steen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when she will reply to the letter from the hon. member for Totnes dated 25 May relating to the Stoke Fleming parish council's community composting centre. [13884]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** I replied to the hon. Member's letter on 18 July. I apologise for the delay.

### Digital Mapping

**Mr. Todd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress has been made in producing digital maps of farmland; and if she will make a statement on the effect of the time taken in preparation of the maps on the ability of landowners to participate in her Department's schemes. [9360]

**Jim Knight:** The Rural Payments Agency (RPA) has developed the Rural Land Register (RLR) from paper based maps used to support subsidy claims. From 2002 to 2004 land was digitised from area aid applications received from farmers. All prospective subsidy applicants have to apply to RPA to have their land registered. Currently RPA has received 18,114 requests for new land registrations. To date there have been 94,801 land registrations or applications for land registration and of these 89,678 or 94 percent. of applicants and previous subsidy claimants have been sent digitised maps.

It is a requirement of Environmental Stewardship (ES) for farmers to have their land registered on the RLR. RPA has been prioritising land registration and modifications to existing land registration requests associated with prospective ES applications. However, a proportion of potential applicants have encountered delays in entering the ES. The original deadline for the first application window was extended and monthly start dates have been introduced for the entry level strand of ES to minimise the impact.

### Egg Imports

**Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what vaccines have been developed to inoculate against salmonella from imported eggs; and if she will make a statement. [13123]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Products to vaccinate hens against salmonella infection have been developed by the pharmaceutical industry, There are seven veterinary medicinal products authorised in the UK for use in poultry (laying birds) to protect against infections with either Salmonella Enteritidis, Salmonella Typhimurium or Salmonella Gallinarum.

These vaccines are used in conjunction with a number of other measures relating to hygiene, biosecurity and management to help protect the hens against certain strains of salmonella of public health significance, In Great Britain a large proportion of the flocks producing eggs for human consumption are vaccinated against salmonella. Vaccination against salmonella of flocks producing eggs for human consumption is one of the requirements of the British Egg Industry Council operated Lion Code. The members operating to the Lion Code produce around 80 per cent. of the eggs in Great Britain. A number of producers who are not members also vaccinate their flocks against salmonella.

There is no statutory requirement to vaccinate flocks producing eggs against salmonella. The producer will decide on vaccination of the flock depending on individual circumstances and veterinary advice.

In other countries flocks producing eggs for human consumption may or may not be vaccinated against salmonella. Some countries have a statutory requirement to vaccinate flocks against salmonella, and in others the vaccination of flocks producing eggs for human consumption is not permitted. In some countries the situation is similar to Great Britain, where vaccination may be carried out on a voluntary basis. Imported eggs may therefore come from flocks which have been vaccinated against salmonella in some cases and not vaccinated against salmonella in others.

It is, of course, important that caterers and consumers follow the advice of the Food Standards Agency on the handling, cooking, and storage of eggs.

### Endangered Species

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will publicise the penalties for offences relating to the illegal trade in endangered species. [14044]

**Jim Knight:** On 27 June, I announced that the maximum prison sentence for certain offences relating to the illegal trade in endangered species is being increased from two to five years, with effect from 21 July 2005. This increase will bring with it enhanced powers of arrest for police officers.

Information is available on the Defra website (www.defra.gov.uk). Full details have also been sent to all organisations that are members of the Partnership for Action Against Wildlife Crime (PAW), this includes the statutory enforcement agencies, the main conservation organisations, and the main traders and other users of wildlife with an interest in this area.

### Energy Crops

**Mr. Salmond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what incentives are offered to UK farmers to develop energy crops for use in *(a)* bio-mass and *(b)* dual bio-mass and coal fired power stations; [12261]

(2) what the Government's policy is on the *(a)* growing, *(b)* promotion and *(c)* use of energy crops in the UK. [12299]

**Mr. Morley:** As part of our overall strategy for improving sustainability and reducing the impact of climate change, the Government supports the use of energy crops for the generation of electricity and heat. Grants are available to farmers in England to plant energy crops. The single payment and €45/ha energy aid payment are also available in certain circumstances. Funding has been provided to develop supply chains throughout the UK to supply energy crops to all types of energy end-users. A UK-wide grant scheme is developing dedicated biomass heat, combined heat and power, and electricity generation projects, particularly those fuelled by energy crops. Recent changes to the rules on co-firing of biomass with fossil fuel in conventional power stations give longer timescales for the use of biomass. This makes co-firing with energy crops a more attractive option for both farmers and power generators. The Biomass Study Task Force, led by Sir Ben Gill, which is to report later this year, is working with stakeholders to identify the barriers to developing biomass energy and will recommend ways to overcome the problems.

### Engagements

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which country *(a)* she and *(b)* each minister in her Department (i) has visited and (ii) plans to visit in 2005. [9033]

**Margaret Beckett:** So far this year, Defra Ministers have undertaken official visits to various EU member states as well as to the USA, Kenya, India, New Zealand and South Korea.

### England Rural Development Programme

**Mr. Letwin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what representations she has received concerning the allocation of England Rural Development Programme Vocational Training Scheme funds between regional and national schemes. [9169]

**Margaret Beckett:** I have received one representation concerning the allocation of funds between regional and national projects under the Vocational Training Scheme (VTS).

The VTS is administered by the Rural Development Service and applications for funding may be made to address particular needs for training farmers and foresters. The scheme is selective and projects are assessed on a wide range of criteria including fit with national and regional priorities, and value for money. The VTS has an total annual budget of £4 million under the England Rural Development Programme (ERDP). The majority of this budget is allocated for regional projects, but a reserve of £300,000 has been set aside in 2005–06 to fund projects that have national coverage, or which would operate in four or more regions. If regional

funds are under-subscribed, it is possible for additional moneys to be made available to high priority national projects.

### European Landscape Convention

**Mr. Caton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when the UK will sign and ratify the European Landscape Convention. [13748]

**Jim Knight:** Signature and ratification of the European Landscape Convention remains under consideration. It is likely that my right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State, will be in a position to make a recommendation to colleagues shortly.

### Fallen Stock

**Hywel Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions she had with her counterpart in the National Assembly for Wales Government about the fallen stock scheme prior to its implementation. [12373]

**Mr. Bradshaw** *[holding answer 18 July 2005]:* None directly, however the Scheme was fully supported by this Department and Devolved Administrations, which have jointly agreed to provide funding to the tune of £20 million over three years.

### Farm Subsidies

**Anne Milton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much the Department spent on computer systems to support the single payment system. [11402]

**Jim Knight:** The Rural Payments Agency (RPA) is currently budgeting to directly spend £70.9 million to develop new computer software to support the single payment scheme (SPS). In addition to the software development costs, the RPA is also budgeted to spend £20.2 million on hardware and infrastructure improvements to host the software. There are further indirect costs for project management, business process redesign, assurance and the implementation of SPS.

The development of a new computer system to deliver SPS is an integral part of a broader Change Programme. This Programme is targeted to make greater use of technology and innovation to deliver all RPA services more efficiently and effectively. As well as implementing the Single Payment Scheme (SPS), this Programme will bring about a significant reduction of the size of the organisation by reducing the number of operational sites from 12 to six (four have already closed) and a reduction in staffing of approximately 1,650 (from a baseline of 3,299) as part of the Gershon efficiencies.

**Anne Milton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the *(a)* minimum, *(b)* maximum, *(c)* average and *(d)* median time taken for farmers to obtain field numbers for non-arable land was in the last period for which figures are available. [11403]

**Jim Knight:** The Rural Payments Agency (RPA) is responsible for the allocation of field numbers on land used for the purposes of claiming CAP subsidy. Since September 2004 RPA has maintained a digitised record of all land on which subsidy is claimed. Following the introduction of the single payment and environmental stewardship schemes requests to register new land and modify existing registrations have increased by around 1,000 per cent. over previous levels. This has resulted in significant backlog of requests.

RPA has not historically maintained statistics on the response times for processing requests. Following the deployment of additional resources to this task RPA is processing more than 1,000 requests per week and is prioritising cases to support claims to the single payment and environmental stewardship schemes. Moreover, RPA is seeking to further increase processing capacity to expedite the clearance of outstanding requests.

**Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many farmers did not receive their entry level scheme packs on time; and if she will make a statement. [13185]

**Jim Knight:** Environmental Stewardship was launched on 3 March and farmers and landowners can apply to join Entry Level Stewardship (ELS) at any time. The immediate focus for many has however been to secure an ELS agreement with the earliest start date available, of 1 August.

In the light of current difficulties with the printing of some ELS application packs, and delays in land registration for some customers, the contingency arrangements we have put in place—an extension of the closing date for applications and prioritisation of registration requests submitted to the Rural Payments Agency—should help ensure that as many applicants as possible can benefit from the 1 August start date. In addition, moving to monthly agreement start dates after 1 August means that the impact on customers of any further delays are minimised. These difficulties should however not mask the progress already made. By 8 July, over 28,000 ELS application packs had been issued and of these, more than 5,000 applications had been completed and returned to the Rural Development Service.

### Fisheries

**Mr. Iain Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she is taking to promote larger mesh nets for fishing boats to permit smaller fish to escape the nets. [13440]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Mesh sizes have been increased progressively over a number of years. For example, the mesh size for targeting cod was 80 mm when the Common Fisheries Policy was introduced in the 1980s, was increased to 100 mm in the early 1990s and is now 120 mm in the North Sea and west of Scotland. The most significant problems for the adoption of higher mesh sizes is in mixed fisheries where fish of different sizes are caught together. European Union funding of up to 40 per cent. is available for fishermen to adopt environmentally friendly fishing methods such as more selective gear to reduce impact on fish stocks (e.g. hand lining, separator trawls, benthic release panels).

**Mr. Iain Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she is taking to promote diversification in the fishing industry, with particular reference to tourism and leisure. [13441]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Defra has tasked the Regional Development Agencies to increase their role in rural economic development and this has a strategic fit with their regional responsibilities for the development of leisure and tourism as an industry. While the RDAs are best placed to understand the needs of their regions many of the lagging rural districts, identified by Defra and regional partners, contain fishing ports and their needs will form a key part of strategic plans for an area.

We liaise with RDAs to keep them informed of prospects for the fishing industry and to provide advice on local fisheries developments, which influence planning for diversification.

The new EU grant scheme for fisheries under negotiation in the Agriculture and Fisheries Council will include powers from 2007 to grant aid diversification from fisheries. We will consider how to make best use of those provisions in conjunction with the new Rural Development Regulation.

**Mr. Iain Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she is taking to reduce bureaucracy for the fishing industry. [13439]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Better regulation and simplification of legislation are a priority for the Department. We have already improved application procedures for the fisheries grant scheme and are appointing facilitators to help fishermen through the process. We are rewriting other guidance for fishermen, beginning with material on licensing procedures.

We are working with the National Federation of Fishermen's Organisations on a joint research project to identify specific reforms which should be a priority for action.

Most fisheries legislation originates in the EU and it is a priority for the UK Presidency to get simplification of EU law. The Commission has agreed to bring forward an action plan for fisheries by the end of the year, and we will be proposing specific issues which need early attention.

### Flood Defences

**Mr. Rob Wilson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much central Government funding has been made available for the improvement of flood defences in the Reading, East constituency in each year since 1997; and what plans she has to provide additional funding. [13768]

**Mr. Morley:** Defra has overall policy responsibility for flood and coastal erosion risk in England, funds most of the Environment Agency's activities in this area and provides grant aid on a project by project basis to the other flood and coastal defence operating authorities (local authorities primarily) to support their investment in improvement works.

The Environment Agency is the principal authority responsible for management of flood risk. The agency allocates funding to stretches of river and areas at risk of flooding rather than to parliamentary constituencies. Since 1997 the agency has spent £3.78 million in the Reading, East constituency mainly on the reconstruction of two weirs, namely Caversham on the River Thames and Blakes Lock on the River Kennet. An additional average of about £25,000 a year has also been spent on general maintenance of watercourses in the Reading, East constituency. Much of this work has been keeping the channel clear of debris such as supermarket trolleys and vehicles.

Defra has not provided grant aid for improvement projects to local authorities in the constituency during this period although they may have received some support for their own spend on flood risk management through the Office of the Deputy Prime Ministers local government finance mechanism.

Total Government funding has increased from £310 million per year in 1996–97 to £570 million. We plan to maintain this level up to 2007–08 (the last year of the current spending review period with its real value being maintained by efficiency savings in the agency.

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much central Government funding has been made available for the improvement of flood defences, broken down by London constituency, in each year since 1995; what plans she has to provide additional funding; and if she will make a statement. [14986]

**Mr. Morley:** Defra has overall policy responsibility for flood and coastal erosion risk in England, funds most of the Environment Agency's activities in this area and provides grant aid on a project by project basis to the other flood and coastal defence operating authorities (local authorities primarily) to support their investment in improvement works.

The Environment Agency is the principal authority responsible for management of flood risk. The Agency allocates funding to stretches of river and areas at risk of flooding rather than to parliamentary constituencies. Defra funding to local authorities is allocated to individual improvement projects which may span more than one constituency. The information requested has not been recorded centrally and I regret I am not able to answer the question without incurring disproportionate cost. However I did write to all Members in February to notify them of projects approved and/or completed since May 1997 in the counties in which their constituencies are located together with the cost of the projects. The full list was placed in the Library and also published on the Defra website.

Total Government funding has increased from £310 million per year in 1996–97 to £570 million. We plan to maintain this level up to 2007–08 with its real value being maintained by efficiency savings in the Agency.

### GM Animal Feed

**Mr. Meacher:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on what published and peer-reviewed feeding studies Government policy

that approved varieties of GM animal feed are not a long-term danger to farm animals or to consumers of the products of those animals is based. [12181]

**Caroline Flint:** I have been asked to reply.

The assessment of genetically modified (GM) materials for use in animal feed is conducted on a case by case basis and involves the scrutiny of a range of data relevant to the material for which approval is being sought, including results from animal feeding studies. There is no requirement for the data provided for assessment to be peer-reviewed and published in the scientific literature, although in many cases data has been through this process. Nevertheless, the evaluation of the application dossiers by expert panels involves detailed and independent scrutiny of the data. GM crops are only considered for approval if they are judged by the expert assessors to meet strict safety criteria.

### Hormone Disruptors

**Mr. Sarwar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the implications for the environment of the release of hormone disrupting substances; and whether these are linked to the incidence of breast cancer. [13449]

**Mr. Morley:** The Department is funding a considerable research programme to improve our understanding of the possible implications for the environment of exposure to hormone (endocrine) disrupting substances, in conjunction with other Government Departments and Agencies.

We have completed specific programmes of research on endocrine disruption in the marine environment (EDMAR) and in invertebrates and top predators (EDIT). We commissioned a new programme, "Endocrine Disruption in Aquatic Environments (EDAQ)", in 2003. We have also made a considerable contribution to investigations into the potential impacts of sewage effluents on freshwater fish.

The development of breast cancer is a complex issue and there are several recognised risk factors, including lifestyle and diet. However, there is currently no convincing evidence to link chemicals in the environment to breast cancer.

### Law Infringements

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, if she will list the environmental law infringements by the UK of which she ahs been notified since 1 January by the European Commission; and if she will make a statement. [15077]

**Mr. Morley:** A list of all infringements, including environmental, initiated by the European Commission against the UK, since 1 January 2005, can be found at: http://europa.eu.int/comm/secretariat_general/sgb/droit_com on the European Commission website.

### Management Consultancies

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which five management consultancies received the highest value of contracts awarded by her Department in each of the last three years; and what the total value was of the contracts awarded to each. [12581]

**Jim Knight:** The information is as listed in the following tables:

*2002–03*

| | £ |
|---|---|
| P A Consulting Group | 5,281,766.67 |
| Logica UK Ltd. | 3,781,131.46 |
| Hedra Consortium | 1,240,476.13 |
| Cornwell Management Consultants plc | 915,374.51 |
| Deloitte Consulting | 705,000.00 |

*2003–04*

| | £ |
|---|---|
| P A Consulting Group | 6,899,587.19 |
| Deloitte M C S Ltd. | 2,679,518.23 |
| Hedra Consortium | 2,090,149.22 |
| Cornwell Management Consultants plc | 2,057,281.94 |
| I B M United Kingdom Ltd. | 1,505,892.18 |

*2004–05*

| | £ |
|---|---|
| P A Consulting Group | 5,251,231.95 |
| Hedra Consortium | 1,664,383.25 |
| Deloitte M C S Ltd. | 1,607,051.16 |
| Q I Consulting | 981,331.39 |
| Logica cmg | 539,186.83 |

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her Department's total spending on management consultants has been in each of the last three years. [13064]

**Jim Knight:** The information requested is as follows:

| *Financial year* | £ *Amount* |
|---|---|
| 2002–03 | 15,317,093 |
| 2003–04 | 20,260,714 |
| 2004–05 | 14,122,596 |

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate she has made of the total expenditure saved in each of the last three years as a result of implementing recommendations by management consultancies within her Department. [13625]

**Jim Knight:** The provision of an aggregated response across all business areas in Defra, covering all management consultancy engagements, would be a major administrative exercise which would give rise to disproportionate cost.

Defra engages management consultants across its entire business, with the sole purpose of providing the Department with more effective delivery of the policy aims set by Ministers. The employment of private sector support is not, of itself, intended to provide savings on departmental expenditure, but rather enables progress to be made at a rate commensurate with meeting our strategic goals.

Consultancy recommendations implemented by the Department ensure that Defra has sufficient capability and capacity to deliver its outcomes. The rationale for reliance on consultancy support is largely based on the need to bring sufficient resources with the appropriate skills to bear on critical programmes. The longer-term question of providing a more skilled and professionalised work force, which may in turn lessen reliance on external support, is of course being addressed as part of wider civil service reform.

Defra's major programmes have benefited from the experience and expertise of management consultants, and the true benefits cannot be measured by a simple assessment of the direct costs incurred, but must include an analysis of the financial savings over the life of the programme, and the wider impact on Defra's customers and society in general.

Defra is committed to maximising the value of its expenditure on management consultants, and has begun a programme to review how all professional services, including consultancy, are managed, and how to work more effectively across Whitehall to deliver savings on the services procured. Defra's new strategic partnership with IBM also offers the potential to rationalise consultancy support, and reduce expenditure on ad hoc call-off contracts.

### Marine Environment

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the acidity levels of the world's oceans, with particular reference to the capacity to sustain ecosystems. [12999]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Royal Society published last month a report on ocean acidification as a result of increased concentrations of carbon dioxide. This drew attention to the increased acidity which has already been observed, and predicted that further increases would have serious implications for marine ecosystems.

The Department, jointly with DTI, has already funded some research at the Plymouth Marine Laboratory (PML) on the impact of increased levels of carbon dioxide and the consequent acidification on the oceans and marine ecosystems.

Earlier this year Defra, DTI the Norwegian Institute for Water Research and English Nature agreed to oversee a further programme of research with PML to investigate the potential impact of increased seawater acidity on shallow sea ecosystems, biodiversity and the health of key organisms, including their capacity to adapt. This will enable us to better understand and predict the consequences of the Increasing acidity of seawater.

The OSPAR Commission for the protection of the marine environment of the North East Atlantic has begun work on an assessment of the implications of increased carbon dioxide levels. The United Kingdom will be contributing to this work, drawing on the results of the Royal Society study and of the work at PML.

### Milk

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her estimate is of the proportion of milk *(a)* delivered by milkmen and *(b)* bought in shops in 2004–05. [13611]

**Jim Knight:** The most recent figures available show that in 2004, 13.5 per cent. of milk purchased by households was delivered by milkmen and 86.5 per cent. was bought in retail outlets.

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate she has made of the average number of times a milk bottle is reused. [13485]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** According to the Dairy Industry Association, the figure is nine times.

### Newcastle Disease

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many birds have been affected by the outbreak of Newcastle Disease in Surrey; what assessment she has made of whether the disease was present in the birds when they were imported; what steps are being taken to trace other consignments of birds from the same origin; and what information she has received from the French authorities on *(a)* the origins of the disease and *(b)* the reasons it was not detected on the originating premises. [14033]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** There are approximately 9,000 pheasants on the infected estate, which are being captured and then humanely slaughtered.

The State Veterinary Service is tracing and finding details locally of all imports of pheasants in the last two months and movements related to the infected premises, The information will help give an indication of any likely disease spread. UK officials have contacted the French authorities regarding the outbreak and possible link to France, who have immediately began a thorough investigation. There has been a rapid exchange of information concerning the movement of birds between France and the infected premise in England.

The French authorities identified a number of farms that had supplied birds to the infected farm and have undertaken active surveillance and sampling, which has now allowed them to conclude by blood sampling that birds on one farm have been exposed to the Newcastle Disease virus in the Loire Atlantique region of France, which has approximately 20,000 pheasants and 35,000 partridges. Although the source of infection for this farm has yet to be identified and virus isolation results are not yet available, the French authorities have taken decisive action to control the disease.

We are working closely with the French authorities who are keeping us fully informed and who are carrying epidemiological investigations on the suspect farm to determine the source and any spread of the disease.

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she is taking to control the outbreak of Newcastle Disease in Surrey. [14038]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Government's strategy is to stamp out and eradicate the disease outbreak quickly; to encourage keepers to use greater biosecurity and adopt vaccination; to reduce the impact on trade and the rural economy; and recover the UK status as free from Newcastle Disease as soon as possible.

Defra acted immediately following suspicion of disease, control measures asset out in the Defra Exotic Animal Disease Generic Contingency Plan have formed the basis of the Government's response. Local and national disease control centres have been set up.

Full control measures, as required by EU law, have been taken. Restrictions have been imposed upon the farm where the disease has been confirmed, which includes movement restrictions and biosecurity measures. In addition, a declaratory order has been made declaring an infected area and establishing a surveillance zone of 10 km around the infected premises to impose restrictions to prevent the spread of disease.

The State Veterinary Service is tracing and finding details locally of all imports of pheasants in the last two months and movements related to the infected premises. The information will help give an indication of any likely disease spread.

### Peat

**Mr. Davey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will make a statement on commercial peat extraction, with particular reference to Cumbria; which areas have been confirmed under special protection status over the past 12 months; and which areas are being considered for special protection status. [13837]

**Jim Knight:** In the last 12 months no additional Cumbrian areas, being worked for peat, have been selected as Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) under the EC Habitats Directive. Two such areas, Solway Moss and Bolton Fell Moss, are currently under consideration for SAC status.

### Pesticides/Chemicals (Royal Commission)

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what representations she has made to the Royal Commission on the use of pesticides and chemicals. [13612]

**Mr. Morley:** With respect to representations made regarding the Royal Commission's study into Bystander Exposure to Pesticides; Defra officials have provided written and oral briefing, answered specific questions raised by the Royal Commission and commented factually on the draft report.

The Government's response to The Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution's 24th, "Chemicals in Products, Safeguarding the Environment and Human Health" was presented to Parliament by the Secretary of State in August 2004.

### Pollution (Fines)

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will list companies fined for pollution incidents in each of the past five years, broken down by amount of fine; how many were fined more than once in that period; and what steps are taken to combat repeat offences. [14008]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** A list of all companies convicted of and fined for pollution offences by the Environment Agency ("the Agency") in the calendar years 2000 to 2004 will be made available in the Library of the House.

A list covering all companies convicted of and fined for pollution offences by the Agency more than once in the same five-year period will also be made available in the Library of the House.

The Environment Agency uses protective, deterrent and incentive measures to tackle repeat offences.

Protective measures include:

enforcement notices to require companies to remedy technical defects; and

increasing the level of oversight (such as monitoring, inspections and audits) at poor performing sites, including repeat offenders, through the use of risk-based regulation.

Deterrent measures include:

naming and shaming offenders in the Agency's annual "Spotlight on business" report (Spotlight 2004 will be published on 28 July 2005);

increased charges for permits to reflect any additional oversight required;

the Agency's Enforcement and Prosecution Policy which identifies repeat offenders and suggests firmer enforcement responses in instances of repeat offending; and

fines and custodial sentences through the courts.

Incentive measures include:

recognising improved performance in the Agency's "Spotlight on business" report;

reduced fees for better performers through risk-based charging schemes; and

reduced oversight for operators that justify it.

A list of successful prosecutions by local authorities from 2001–02 to 2003–04 will also be made available in the Library of the House. It is a matter for the individual local authorities to decide what steps to take regarding repeat offenders. The Local Government Association is a signatory to the Cabinet Office Enforcement Concordat.

The Department is still collecting the data for successful prosecutions by local authorities in the year 2004–05, which will be published on the departmental website in December as part of the annual statistical report on the local authority pollution control systems.

### Potato Ring Rot

**Mr. Roger Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of whether all the potatoes identified as being infected with ring rot in this country were processed in the same grading station in Holland. [11315]

**Mr. Bradshaw** *[holding answer 11 July 2005]:* A revised final potato ring rot report was published on 26 April this year which included new information arising from investigations by the Netherlands Plant Protection Service suggesting there may have been cross contamination of a number of stocks at a Dutch processing facility between December 2002 and March

2003. As the report explains, previous generations of the stocks from which infected potatoes in the UK outbreaks derived were processed at the facility concerned during the period in question, as were four stocks of different varieties which resulted in outbreaks in the Netherlands in 2004. Despite this common link, the resulting investigation in the Netherlands, which included enhanced testing of remaining stocks, has not identified the original source of infection, The report is available at http://www.defra.gov.uk/planth/ring/repfinal.htm.

### Recycling

**Mr. Clegg:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much her Department has spent in the last year on measures to raise public awareness of recycling. [13776]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Defra has spent £16,168,903.75 in the last year 2004–05, on measures to raise public consciousness about recycling.

**Mr. Clegg:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what percentage of *(a)* domestic, *(b)* commercial and *(c)* industrial refuse was recycled in (i) Sheffield and (ii) in the latest year for which figures are available. [13777]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Latest results are from the Defra Municipal Waste Management Survey, 2003–04 and the Environment Agency Nation Waste Production Survey, 1998–99 are shown as follow s:

*Percentage of waste recycled*

| | *(a) Household* | *(b) Commercial* | *(c) Industrial* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Sheffield | 11.7 | — | — |
| England | 17.7 | — | — |
| South Yorkshire[1] | — | 18.8 | 48.6 |
| England and Wales | — | 23.9 | 44.1 |

[1] Results not available for Sheffield.

Results from the Environment Agency National Waste Production Survey, 2002–03 are expected to be available in August 2005.

### Red Diesel

**Mr. Iain Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions she has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on steps to minimise increases in red diesel costs for the fishing and marine industries. [13438]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** None. Marine diesel is already exempt from excise duty. However my officials are meeting representatives of the fishing industry to discuss the increase in fuel prices and how the industry can respond.

### Rivers

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what percentage of the length of rivers in England and Wales was accessible to the public in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2004. [14828]

**Jim Knight:** According to the feasibility study "Improving Access for Canoeing on Inland Waters: A Study of the Feasibility of Access Agreements", published in May 2004 the lengths of water for canoeing on canals, rivers with public navigation rights and rivers with formal access agreements in England total over 5,000 km (34 per cent. of the major river and canal network). We do not hold figures for 1997.

Responsibility for promoting recreation in Wales, including access to rivers, lies with the National Assembly for Wales and the Welsh Assembly Government rather than with Defra.

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions she has had with *(a)* the Secretary of State for Culture Media and Sport, *(b)* the British Canoe Union and *(c)* others on improving the accessibility of rivers in England and Wales to the public. [14852]

**Jim Knight:** None recently but my officials have regular contact with those in the Department for Culture Media and Sport and I am making arrangements to meet the British Canoe Union.

### Sea Fish

**Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will list the sea fish commonly found in UK waters whose numbers have declined since 1995; and if she will make a statement. [13061]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Fishery scientists from the UK and the other exploiting nations compile fisheries data, biological data and survey data in order to assess the status of fish stocks. The Advisory Committee on Fishery Management (ACFM) of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES), an independent scientific body, uses these data sources to provide information on the annual status of fish stocks.

The state of the stocks is described in terms of the spawning stock biomass (SSB, the weight of mature fish), the fishing rate (F), and the number of juvenile fish (R, recruits in each year-class). One way in which the decline in fish numbers may be assessed is on the basis of changes in SSB from the level estimated for 1995 relative to the current estimate for 2004.

Based on advice from the ACFM meeting of October 2004, which evaluated stock assessments using fisheries data for years up to and including 2003, and survey data up to and including 2004 the following stocks have shown a decline in SSB compared with 1995:

| | *UK waters* | *Sea fish* |
|---|---|---|
| (i) | North sea | Cod, Norway pout, sandeel and sole |
| (ii) | Irish sea | Sole |
| (iii) | Eastern channel | Plaice |
| (iv) | Western channel | Sole |
| (v) | Celtic sea | Cod, whiting and plaice |

For a number of stocks it has not been possible to make a comparison because the level of SSB was uncertain in 2004. This includes some stocks which have shown a long term decline such as cod in the Irish sea and west of Scotland.

### Sickness Absence

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many days the Department has lost due to sickness in the past five years for which figures are available. [11467]

**Jim Knight:** Figures are available in the annual report "Analysis of Sickness Absence in the Civil Service" published by the Cabinet Office, the most recent of which (for calendar year 2003) was announced by ministerial statement on 1 November 2004 and copies placed in the Libraries of the House.

Reports are also available via the Cabinet Office website at: http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/management_information/conditions_of_service/caje/publications/index.asp#sickness.

As Defra was formed in 2001, figures are only available for 2002 and 2003, and are summarised in the following table.

| | *Column A: Average days absent per staff year* | *Column B: Total staff years* | *Total days absence. (column A × column B)* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2003 | 8.3 | 7,285 | 60,465 |
| 2002 | 8.7 | 10,320 | 89,784 |

Defra is committed to the effective management of sickness absence and introduced a new policy for sickness absence management in December 2004, which introduced many of the recommendations of the recently published report "Managing Sickness Absence in the Public Sector".

### Special Advisers

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will list *(a)* the special advisers in her Department, *(b)* their specific areas of expertise and *(c)* the total cost of employing them in the latest year for which figures are available. [8823]

**Margaret Beckett:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Prime Minister on 4 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 36W.

### State Veterinary Service

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many veterinary surgeons are employed in each office of the State Veterinary Service, broken down by *(a)* gender and *(b)* full or part-time employment. [13614]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The number of veterinarians employed by the State Veterinary Service will vary from time to time, The State Veterinary Service also engages local veterinary inspectors and temporary veterinary inspectors to act on its behalf as required.

### Supermarkets

**Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans she has to strengthen the supermarkets' code of practice; and if she will make a statement. [13124]

**Jim Knight:** Responsibility for the supermarket Code of Practice rests with the Office of Fair Trading. In March it invited comments from supermarkets, suppliers and stakeholders on issues to do with the code and wider competition concerns about the grocery market. It is currently considering the responses received.

### Veterinary Surgeons Act

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when she expects to publish conclusions on amending the Veterinary Surgeons Act 1966; and what assessment she has made of the recent proposals of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons. [12457]

**Mr. Bradshaw** *[holding answer 19 July 2005]:* The Government remain committed to modernising the Veterinary Surgeons Act 1966 as soon as parliamentary time allows. An analysis of the results of our public consultation on the future regulation of the veterinary profession has been published on the Department's website.

I welcome the proposals from the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) Council which are currently being considered by veterinarians and other interested parties. It would be premature for me to make any comment at this stage on the specific proposals. However, a new Bill must provide a proportionate level of regulation to protect the public interest. This will involve striking the right balance between public concerns about self regulation, the standards expected of veterinarians by their clients, the protection of animal welfare and the costs to both veterinary practices and individual vets. We should also take proper account of developments in the regulation of other professions.

My officials will seek a general discussion with the RCVS once the results of the consultation are available. We will also consult other interested parties before deciding how to move these issues forward.

### Waste and Emissions Trading Act

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs under what circumstances her Department may decide not to fine a local authority which failed to meet its landfill allowance requirements under the Waste and Emissions Trading Act 2003. [14221]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Secretary of State has the power under section 26(1)*(c)* of the Waste and Emissions Trading Act 2003 (the "WET Act") to waive financial penalties for an authority that exceeds its landfill allowances. The Secretary of State's policy in relation to the exercise of these powers is set out in a guidance document available on the Defra website http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/waste/localauth/lats/pdf/lats-s26guide.pdf.

In summary, the Secretary of State's policy is to be very selective about the exercise of her powers under section 26(1)*(c)* (ii). In general, she will only waive a financial penalty in circumstances where it can be demonstrated that an authority's failure to meet its duty under section 9(1) of the WET Act was primarily due to circumstances beyond the authority's control.

### Waste Disposal

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much of the *(a)* paper, *(b)* plastic, *(c)* glass, *(d)* aluminium and *(e)* steel waste collected in London in 2004 was (i) reprocessed within London, (ii) reprocessed in the UK but outside London and (iii) exported for reprocessing; and to which countries such material was exported. [10788]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Defra does not collect information on the amount of paper, plastic, glass, aluminium and steel collected in London which is then reprocessed within London or reprocessed in the UK but outside London. In general, these wastes would be classified as non-hazardous and their notification of export for reprocessing is not required unless specific countries of destination have made a request to the European Commission for additional controls. In these cases notification to the Environment Agency would be required. No such notifications were made to the Environment Agency during 2004.

Through their contractors, local authorities will know to which destinations these materials are sent and the quantities involved so that they can ensure that they are complying with the requirements of the duty of care i.e. that the material is being transported by properly licensed waste carriers, delivered to an authorised person and that the relevant documents, such as a waste transfer note, are retained by them for the prescribed period.

### Water Charges

**Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will update the rules which allow water companies to base charges to customers on national rateable values of their property. [14341]

**Mr. Morley:** Defra will be working with Ofwat to update the existing analysis of the relative distributional effects of rateable value and council tax in the light of the findings of the Lyons Inquiry into local government funding and any consequential changes to council tax, We will also consider, in the light of that work, the case for a review of the current rateable value based charging system for households paying an unmeasured charge. The Lyons Inquiry is due to report by the end of 2005,

### Wild Animals

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will make it her policy to ban the use of wild animals in circuses. [15080]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The introduction of the welfare offences as part of the Animal Welfare Bill will raise the welfare standards for domestic and captive animals kept by man, including circus animals, We have no plans to ban the use of wild animals in circuses, but we do recognise that the issue will come under close scrutiny when the Animal Welfare Bill is considered by Parliament.

### World Trade Organisation (Environmental Incentives)

**Mr. Letwin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the effects of non-agricultural market access negotiations within the World Trade Organisation on the ability of the Government to provide environmentally beneficial fiscal incentives. [9168]

**Margaret Beckett:** The Government's objective in the non-agricultural market access (NAMA) negotiations is to ensure that improvements in trading conditions that benefit exporters, importers and consumers also facilitate sustainable development and good governance.

These negotiations are at an early exploratory stage. However, at this point the Government do not believe that the NAMA outcome will affect the ability of the Government to pursue environmental objectives.

## NORTHERN IRELAND

### Advertising

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much the Department spent on advertising in each of the last five years. [10233]

**Mr. Hain:** The total expenditure on advertising by the 11 Northern Ireland departments in the year 2003–04 was £3,729,756.

The figure for the Northern Ireland Office in the same period was £194,954.

The information requested for the other years could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

### Alcohol-related Crime

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people in Northern Ireland have been convicted of crimes in which alcohol has been a contributory factor in each of the last five years. [13913]

**Mr. Woodward:** Statistics relating to offences where alcohol may have been a contributory factor are not available as conviction data sources do not collate background information relating to the commission of offences.

### Cancer Services

**Mr. Peter Robinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much money the Government have spent on cancer services in Northern Ireland in each of the past five years. [14514]

**Mr. Woodward:** We estimate that the total acute hospital expenditure on cancer services was some £62 million in the financial year 2002–03 and some £72 million in the financial year 2003–04. This figure is expected to increase still further in future years.

Further financial information could be made available only at disproportionate cost.

## CCTV

**Mr. Peter Robinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many CCTV cameras he estimates are operating on streets in Northern Ireland; and how many towns are covered by CCTV. [12050]

**Mr. Woodward:** Aside from privately owned CCTV cameras upon which I cannot comment, PSNI manages CCTV systems in four locations incorporating 79 cameras as shown in the table.

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| South Belfast | 29 |
| North Belfast | 30 |
| East Belfast | 11 |
| Craigavon | [1]9 |

[1] Portadown town centre scheme

In addition, town centre CCTV schemes operate in a further 17 different locations throughout Northern Ireland.

**Mr. Peter Robinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what estimate he has made of the number of CCTV cameras in operation in Belfast city centre. [12075]

**Mr. Woodward:** While I cannot comment in respect of privately owned CCTV cameras such as those operated by traders, the Police Service of Northern Ireland has 29 CCTV cameras in operation in the city centre.

## Child Protection

**Mark Durkan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will ensure *(a)* that the new child care protection legislation will contain the elements which were to be part of a Northern Ireland Assembly Private Member's Bill designed to strengthen the operation of area child protection committees and *(b)* that the new legislation will be a priority for the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety. [14490]

**Mr. Woodward:** I can confirm that, in bringing forward new Child Protection legislation, the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety will consider the elements of the Northern Ireland Assembly Private Member's Bill designed to strengthen the operation of Area Child Protection Committees and that this legislation will be a priority for the Department.

## Disability Living Allowance

**Mr. Peter Robinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many pensioners in East Belfast constituency are in receipt of disability living allowance, broken down by *(a)* care and *(b)* mobility components. [14532]

**Mr. Hanson:** The information requested is shown in the table for May 2005.

| *Component* | *Number of pensioners* |
|---|---|
| Care only | 253 |
| Mobility only | 356 |
| Care and mobility | 1,884 |
| Belfast East Total | 2,493 |

Additional information on combined care and mobility awards is provided to avoid double counting.

Constituency is assigned using the claimant's postcode, if the postcode is missing it is not possible to assign a constituency.

## Domestic Violence

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people have been convicted of domestic violence offences in Northern Ireland in each of the last 10 years. [13910]

**Mr. Woodward:** Domestic violence is not a statutory offence and therefore the information requested is not available.

## Energy Suppliers (Customer Advice)

**Mr. Dodds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what procedures are in place to monitor the quality of advice provided by energy suppliers to their domestic customers; what formal qualifications are required of persons providing such advice; and what assessment he has made of the adequacy of the provision of such advice. [13408]

**Angela E. Smith:** The Northern Ireland Authority for Energy Regulation ("NIAER") monitors the provision by Northern Ireland Electricity (NIE) and Phoenix Natural Gas of energy efficiency advice to customers through the published annual reviews of its social action plans.

Basic advice on the efficient use of electricity is provided by Northern Ireland Electricity's call handlers who attend regular training sessions provided by the Energy Saving Trust ("EST") Advice Centre, and EAGA Partnership Ltd. which has been contracted by the Department for Social Development to administer the warm homes scheme. In addition, Northern Ireland Electricity's team of field service representatives provide advice to customers in their homes. The team members are required to obtain the City and Guilds 6176 Energy Awareness qualification.

Basic advice on the efficient use of gas is provided by the call handlers in Phoenix Natural Gas who are trained internally. This advice is also provided by Phoenix Natural Gas sales staff who are required to obtain the City and Guilds 6176 Energy Awareness qualification.

Calls received by Northern Ireland Electricity and Phoenix Natural Gas call handlers can also be referred to the EST advice centre. The centre has signed up to the Energy Advice Providers' Code of Practice and all EST advice centre staff are required to obtain the City and Guilds 6176 Energy Awareness qualification.

The NIAER is satisfied that the advice provided by Northern Ireland Electricity, Phoenix Natural Gas and the EST advice centre to domestic customers is of good quality and complies with best practice in using energy more efficiently.

### Fire Officers (Assaults)

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many fire officers have been hospitalised as a result of being assaulted while on duty during the past 12 months. [13911]

**Mr. Woodward:** During the period 1 July 2004 to 30 June 2005 a total of four firelighters were hospitalised as a result of being assaulted while on duty.

### Heart By-pass Operations

**Mr. Peter Robinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many heart by-pass operations were carried out in NHS hospitals in Northern Ireland in each year since 1995. [14523]

**Mr. Woodward:** The number of heart by-pass operations performed in hospitals in Northern Ireland in each year since 1994–95, is detailed in the following table.

*Heart by-pass operations in Northern Ireland*

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 1994–95 | 845 |
| 1995–96 | 872 |
| 1996–97 | 872 |
| 1997–98 | 834 |
| 1998–99 | 763 |
| 1999–2000 | 599 |
| 2000–01 | 581 |
| 2001–02 | 501 |
| 2002–03 | 530 |
| 2003–04 | 483 |

*Source:*
Hospital In-patients System

### Homelessness

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people in Northern Ireland are classified as homeless. [13909]

**Mr. Hanson:** During the 2004–05 year 17,362 households presented to the Housing Executive as homeless in Northern Ireland of which 8,470 households were accepted as full duty homeless cases. A full duty applicant is someone to whom the Housing Executive owes a duty under the Housing (NI) Order 1988.

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people in Upper Bann are officially classified as homeless. [13941]

**Mr. Hanson:** During the 2004–05 year 1,061 households presented to the Housing Executive as homeless in Upper Bann of which 376 households were accepted as full duty homelessness cases. A full duty applicant is someone to whom the Housing Executive owes a duty under the Housing (NI) Order 1988.

### Homosexuals (Assaults)

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what estimate he has made of the number of attacks on homosexuals in Northern Ireland that were perpetrated by other homosexuals in each of the last 10 years. [13915]

**Mr. Woodward:** The information requested is not available.

### Hospital Chaplaincies

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how members of churches other than the four main churches are provided for by way of hospital chaplaincies at each hospital in Northern Ireland. [13944]

**Mr. Woodward:** Each HSS Trust has appointed chaplains from the Roman Catholic, Presbyterian, Church of Ireland and Methodist churches to provide pastoral support and other services in each Trust hospital. Hospital chaplaincy services provided by Trusts for members of other denominations are set out in the following table.

*Hospital chaplaincies*

| *HSS Trust* | *Service* |
|---|---|
| Altnagelvin HSS Trust | The Methodist chaplains provide a service for other denominations. |
| Armagh and Dungannon HSS Trust | At St. Luke's, Longstone and Mullinure hospitals, the Methodist chaplains provide a service for other denominations in the first instance. If requested to do so, the Trust organizes specific religious attendances for members of a non-Christian Church or faith. |
| Belfast City Hospital HSS Trust | The Methodist Chaplain makes an initial visit to patients who do not belong to one of the four main churches. If requested to do so, the Methodist Chaplain would liaise with the appropriate faith leader to ensure that patients receive the necessary pastoral support. |
| Causeway HSS Trust | The Methodist Chaplain is responsible for co-ordinating the pastoral needs of those patients who do not belong to one of the four main denominations. Causeway Hospital Chapel is interdenominational reflecting a Christian ethos. Patients who are not Christian, or who do not practise any religion and who do not wish to use the Chapel, can use a quiet room for reflection as organised by the Ward Manager. |
| Craigavon Area Hospital Group Trust | The Methodist Chaplain has responsibility for the care of members of other religious groups who do not fall within the four main denominations. |

*Hospital chaplaincies*

| *HSS Trust* | *Service* |
|---|---|
| Craigavon and Banbridge Community HSS Trust | Within the Psychiatric Unit, which is situated on Craigavon Area Hospital Group Trust site, all Wards have contact numbers for those churches other than the four main churches. The Psychiatric Unit avails of the services provided by Craigavon Area Hospital Group Trust, such as the Church facility, which is a multi-faith church. The Trust also facilitates requests from patients within the Psychiatric Unit, who wish to have contact with their own Minister. |
| Down Lisburn HSS Trust | The Methodist Chaplain provides a service for other denominations and is the link for patients and their spiritual provider. |
| Foyle HSS Trust | If an individual requires the assistance of a church outside the four main denominations, hospital staff at Stradreagh, Gransha or Waterside Hospitals would make contact with the local church. |
| Homefirst | If requested, any of the four chaplains at Holy well hospital would provide the initial link between patients from other denominations or religious faiths and their cleric/faith leader. |
| Mater Hospital HSS Trust | If a patient is from a church other than the four main churches, the Trust asks the patient if they wish to contact a chaplain, or if they wish the Trust to do this on their behalf. For any other issues, the Trust involves the Patient Support Officer. |
| Newry and Mourne HSS Trust | The Methodist chaplain makes an initial visit to patients who do not belong to one of the four main churches. On request, the Methodist Chaplain would liaise with the appropriate faith leader to ensure that patients receive the necessary pastoral support. |
| North and West Belfast HSS Trust | The Methodist minister looks after the spiritual needs of patients who do not belong to one of the four main churches. |
| Royal Group of Hospitals HSS Trust | The Royal hospitals chaplaincy service accommodates all Christian and non-Christian faiths. For patients of non-Christian denominations, the Trust's Chaplains liaise with faith representatives in the community to ensure that patients obtain support from their individual faith leaders. The Trust also provides a quiet room for visitors and patients for Christian and non-Christian prayer. Prayer mats, copies of the Koran, Hebrew scriptures, Hebrew Bible and washing facilities are also available. |
| South and East Belfast HSS Trust | The hospital administration and nursing departments contact other clerics/ faith leaders as required for other denominations. |
| Sperrin Lakeland HSS Trust | The Methodist Chaplain looks after patients with "unknown" or "other" religions. |
| Ulster Community and Hospitals Trust | The Methodist Chaplain deals with all other denominations outside of the main churches. Contact details for the local Rabbi for the Jewish community and a representative for Jehovah Witness are available if they are required. |
| United Hospitals Trust | In Whiteabbey, Mid Ulster, Antrim and Braid Valley hospitals, the Methodist Chaplain deals with all denominations outside of the main churches. The Presbyterian Chaplain provides this service at Moyle Hospital. |

### Hospitals (Alcohol-related Conditions)

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people were treated by accident and emergency departments in Northern Ireland hospitals for alcohol-related conditions and injuries in the last 12 months. [13908]

**Mr. Woodward:** Information on the number of people treated by accident and emergency departments for alcohol-related conditions and injuries is not collected centrally.

### Hospitals (Assaults)

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many hospital staff in Northern Ireland have been hospitalised as a result of assault while on duty during the past 12 months. [13912]

**Mr. Woodward:** There have been 3,825 physical attacks recorded against HPSS staff during the period 1 April 2004 to 31 March 2005. Detailed information about the hospitalisation of these staff is not held centrally and can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many accident and emergency hospital staff in Northern Ireland have been the victims of assault while on duty during the past 12 months. [13914]

**Mr. Woodward:** There have been 3,825 physical attacks recorded against HPSS staff during the period 1 April 2004 to 31 March 2005. Detailed information about the department in which the attack took place is not held centrally and can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

## Hospitals (Complaints)

**Mr. Peter Robinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many complaints have been made about the quality of care and treatment in hospitals in Northern Ireland in the last five years, broken down by hospital. [14522]

**Mr. Woodward:** Information on the number of complaints made about the quality of care and treatment is not available by hospital. However, information is available by Trust and is detailed in the table. The Trusts are categorised according to whether they are Hospital Trusts, Community Trusts, Mixed (Hospital and Community) Trusts, or "other" Trusts.

*Number of complaints received by each Health and Social Services trust recorded against "Treatment and Care (quality)" category, by type of Trust and year*

| *Health and Social Services Trust* | *2000–01* | *2001–02* | *2002–03* | *2003–04* | *2004–05*[1] |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Belfast City Hospital | 30 | 48 | 32 | 61 | 41 |
| Green Park | 18 | 14 | 4 | 5 | 16 |
| Mater Infirmorum | 22 | 27 | 37 | 27 | 27 |
| Royal Group of Hospitals | 114 | 109 | 105 | 89 | 132 |
| United Hospitals | 77 | 53 | 79 | 72 | 96 |
| Craigavon Area Group | 84 | 71 | 55 | 41 | 66 |
| Altnagelvin Group | 51 | 65 | 42 | 37 | 47 |
| Total Hospital Trusts | 396 | 387 | 354 | 332 | 425 |
| North and West Belfast | 6 | 11 | 17 | 11 | 19 |
| South and East Belfast | 31 | 28 | 35 | 43 | 49 |
| Homefirst | 22 | 24 | 42 | 104 | 37 |
| Craigavon and Banbridge | 4 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 22 |
| Foyle | 7 | 5 | 11 | 13 | 15 |
| Total Community Trusts | 70 | 70 | 108 | 175 | 142 |
| Down Lisburn | 66 | 45 | 56 | 52 | 53 |
| Ulster Community and Hospitals | 100 | 71 | 59 | 54 | 54 |
| Causeway | 44 | 66 | 73 | 59 | 62 |
| Armagh and Dungannon | 22 | 22 | 9 | 18 | 14 |
| Newry and Mourne | 22 | 33 | 23 | 27 | 27 |
| Sperrin Lakeland | 25 | 20 | 18 | 19 | 19 |
| Total Mixed Trusts | 279 | 257 | 238 | 229 | 229 |
| Northern Ireland Ambulance Service | 31 | 34 | 24 | 23 | 22 |
| Total Other Trusts | 31 | 34 | 24 | 23 | 22 |
| Total Northern Ireland | 776 | 748 | 724 | 759 | 818 |

[1] Figures for 2004–05 are provisional and may be subject to change.

*Source:*
CHS

## Housing Executive

**Mr. Peter Robinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the funding to the Housing Executive for Northern Ireland has been in each of the last 10 years, broken down by region. [13963]

**Mr. Hanson:** The Department for Social Development funded the Northern Ireland Housing Executive the following amounts of Housing Deficit Grant in each of the last 10 years:

| | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| 1995–96 | 167.713 |
| 1996–97 | 184.790 |
| 1997–98 | 193.019 |
| 1998–99 | 210.531 |
| 1999–2000 | 200.352 |
| 2000–01 | 195.567 |
| 2001–02 | 202.088 |
| 2002–03 | 226.111 |
| 2003–04 | 226.142 |
| 2004–05 | 219.446 |

The information is not available by region.

## Human Rights Commission

**Mr. Dodds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what criteria were applied in the selection of members of the Human Rights Commission in Northern Ireland. [7089]

**Mr. Hanson:** At both stages of the process (sift and interview), the Commissioner applicants were assessed against four criteria. The Chief Commissioner applicants were assessed against six, including the four used for the Commissioner.

The criteria applying for both Chief Commissioner and Commissioner posts were: corporate focus; responsibility and accountability; judgment and strategic thinking; and specialist expertise.

The two additional criteria for Chief Commissioner applicants were leadership; and management in a challenging environment.

**Mr. Dodds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the *(a)* community, *(b)* religious and *(c)* political background is of the new appointees to the Human Rights Commission in Northern Ireland. [7090]

**Mr. Hanson:** In accordance with the guidelines of the Office of the Commissioner for Pubic Appointments (OCPA), applicants for the position of chief

commissioner and commissioner were asked to declare political activity undertaken in the last five years, as defined in eight categories.

The press release of 16 June which announced the new chief commissioner and commissioners to the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission, set out this activity as follows:

Professor Monica Mc Williams—founder member of the NI Women's Coalition and was an MLA 1998–2003. Professor McWilliams indicated that she would step down from her involvement with the NI Women's Coalition.

Professor Colin Harvey—Member of the Policy Committee of the SDLP from 2001–02, and has canvassed for the party in recent years.

Jonathan Bell—Independent, then Democratic Unionist Party, Councillor on Craigavon Borough Council until May 2005. Since May 2005 Ards Borough Councillor, Democratic Unionist Party.

Ann Hope—Canvassed on behalf of the Northern Ireland Women's Coalition at elections.

Eamonn O'Neill—currently SDLP Councillor, Down Council (leader of SDLP group). Member of the Northern Ireland Assembly 1998–2003—Chaired the Assembly's Culture, Arts and Leisure Committee.

Geraldine Rice—Alliance Party of Northern Ireland Councillor on Castlereagh Borough Council since 1989. Elected Deputy Mayor May 2005.

The equal opportunities monitoring form completed by all candidates asked candidates to declare their background as being "of the Protestant community"; "of the Roman Catholic community" or neither "a Protestant or Roman Catholic community background".

The community background of the seven commissioners and one chief commissioner as indicated in their forms is as follows:

Protestant—three

Roman Catholic—three

Neither Protestant or Roman Catholic community background—two

**Mr. Dodds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people appointed to the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission have declared their membership of *(a)* the Communist party, *(b)* the Northern Ireland Women's Coalition, *(c)* the Social Democratic and Labour party, *(d)* the Ulster Unionist party, *(e)* the Democratic Unionist party, *(f)* the Alliance party and *(g)* Sinn Fein. [7834]

**Mr. Hanson:** The political activity monitoring forms returned with the application forms did not request political party membership details, but asked about any political activity, defined in certain categories that the applicants had undertaken in the last five years. This is a requirement set by the Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments (OCPA) guidance.

The parties in relation to which the appointed candidates declared political activity in the last five years were recorded as:

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| *(a)* Communist party | 0 |
| *(b)* Northern Ireland Women's Coalition | 2 |
| *(c)* Social Democratic and Labour party | 1 |
| *(d)* Ulster Unionist party | 1 |
| *(e)* Democratic Unionist party | 1 |
| *(f)* Alliance party | 1 |
| *(g)* Sinn Fein | 0 |

One individual declared activity within the last five years for two parties, the Ulster Unionist party and the Democratic Unionist party. This is reflected in the statistics.

### Lifeguards

**Mr. Peter Robinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland which local government councils employ lifeguards along the coastline in their borough or district; and how many lifeguards are employed in each. [14510]

**Angela E. Smith:** This information is not held centrally.

### Mental Health Consultants

**Mr. Dodds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the average length of time was for a person referred to a mental health consultant to be seen by that consultant in Northern Ireland in the last year for which figures are available. [9482]

**Mr. Woodward:** Information about average waiting times is not collected centrally.

I refer the hon. Member to the March 2005 edition of the Quarterly Waiting List Statistics Release which can be found in the House Library or http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/publications/2005/info-Release-Mar05.pdf

Tables 7a and 7b in this publication provide a breakdown of outpatients waiting for a first appointment by specialty and timeband and Table 8 provides this information by Programme of Care and timeband.

### Motoring Offences

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people in Northern Ireland have been convicted for *(a)* careless driving and *(b)* motoring offences that resulted in a fatality in each of the last five years. [13947]

**Mr. Woodward:** The following tables provide the information requested between 1999 and 2003, the latter being the most up-to-date figures currently available.

*Total number of convictions in Northern Ireland for careless driving—1999 to 2003*

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 1999 | 2,159 |
| 2000 | 2,371 |
| 2001 | 1,975 |
| 2002 | 1,556 |
| 2003 | 1,692 |

*Total number of convictions in Northern Ireland for motoring offences that resulted in a fatality—1999 to 2003*

| | *Convictions for motoring offences resulting in a fatality* |
|---|---|
| 1999 | 20 |
| 2000 | 17 |
| 2001 | 15 |
| 2002 | 10 |
| 2003 | 24 |

## Myeloma

**Mark Durkan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether approval is pending for Velcade treatment for people with myeloma; and if he will make a statement on available treatments in Northern Ireland for myeloma. [13932]

**Mr. Woodward:** The drug Velcade is licensed for use in Northern Ireland and clinicians are in a position to prescribe the product, taking account of the clinical circumstances of the individual patient, the licensed indications and in the context of local prescribing budgets.

There are a wide range of treatments for myeloma in Northern Ireland, including chemotherapy, radiotherapy, blood transfusion and a range of medicines both to treat the underlying disease and provide symptomatic relief for the individual. Many emerging therapies and combination therapy regimens are currently being tested in clinical trials.

## Parliamentarians (State Benefits)

**Dr. McCrea:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what state benefits have been received by each of the Sinn Fein *(a)* members of the Legislative Assembly, *(b)* Members of Parliament and *(c)* Members of the European Parliament in the last 10 years. [11130]

**Mr. Hanson:** We are unable to provide the information requested as it is personal data and its release would breach data protection principles.

## Police

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much has been spent using credit cards held by senior police officers in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years. [13938]

**Mr. Woodward:** Credit cards, used solely for business purposes to cover expenditure such as travel and accommodation, are available solely to the top team of senior managers in the Police Service of Northern Ireland.

The table illustrates the total credit card expenditure by the top team of senior managers for the last three financial years.

The periods prior to this are no longer held on the PSNI financial systems, and are only available as archived records. To trawl such records would involve a manual trawl at disproportionate cost.

This expenditure has been included in the PSNI accounts and subject to audit as with all other expenditure.

| | *Total spend (£)* |
|---|---|
| 2002–03 | 31,113.62 |
| 2003–04 | 39,954.76 |
| 2004–05 | 23,113.16 |

## Police Service

**Lady Hermon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how the Belfast city centre beat arrangement between the Police Service Northern Ireland and Belfast city traders and Chamber of Commerce is being funded. [11233]

**Mr. Woodward:** The partnership agreement will provide two dedicated police officers to address issues specific to the city centre, including:

Illegal street trading

Antisocial behaviour

The basic salary cost of both officers will be funded by the partners. The lead partner is Belfast City Centre Management, who received funding from Belfast city council and the Chamber of Trade. The Police Service of Northern Ireland will meet all other costs as part of the pilot of this new initiative.

## Population Statistics

**Mrs. Iris Robinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people over the age of 18 years and below pensionable age there are in each *(a)* constituency, *(b)* council area and *(c)* postcode area in Northern Ireland. [11982]

**Angela E. Smith:** Population estimates at 30 June 2003 for persons aged 18 and over but less than pensionable age (60 years for women and 65 years for men) for each parliamentary constituency and local government district are given in the following tables. Population estimates by age for individual postcodes in Northern Ireland are not available.

*Table 1: Usually resident mid-year population estimate (2003) for each parliamentary constituency for persons aged 18 and over and less than pensionable age*

| *Parliamentary constituency* | *Number* |
|---|---|
| Belfast East | 43,600 |
| Belfast North | 45,400 |
| Belfast South | 60,700 |
| Belfast West | 47,600 |
| East Antrim | 50,300 |
| East Londonderry | 52,100 |
| Fermanagh and South Tyrone | 53,200 |
| Foyle | 62,100 |
| Lagan Valley | 61,200 |
| Mid Ulster | 51,000 |
| Newry and Armagh | 59,200 |
| North Antrim | 59,700 |
| North Down | 50,700 |
| South Antrim | 60,400 |
| South Down | 61,400 |
| Strangford | 58,800 |
| Upper Bann | 61,000 |
| West Tyrone | 51,000 |

*Table 2: Usually resident mid-year population estimate (2003) for each local government district for persons aged 18 and over and less than pensionable age*

| *Local government district* | *Number* |
|---|---|
| Antrim | 29,500 |
| Ards | 44,200 |
| Armagh | 31,900 |
| Ballymena | 34,500 |
| Ballymoney | 16,000 |
| Banbridge | 25,500 |
| Belfast | 158,500 |
| Carrickfergus | 22,700 |
| Castlereagh | 37,500 |
| Coleraine | 32,000 |
| Cookstown | 19,300 |
| Craigavon | 47,500 |
| Derry | 62,100 |
| Down | 37,500 |
| Dungannon | 27,700 |
| Fermanagh | 33,700 |
| Larne | 18,000 |
| Limavady | 20,100 |
| Lisburn | 64,200 |
| Magherafelt | 23,600 |
| Moyle | 9,200 |
| Mewry and Mourne | 51,100 |
| Newtownabbey | 47,200 |
| North Down | 45,300 |
| Omagh | 28,800 |
| Strabane | 22,200 |

### Post-primary Education

**Mr. Lidington:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much money he has allocated to the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools to undertake a review of post-primary education in the Catholic sector; and if he will make a statement. [13200]

**Angela E. Smith:** Additional resources of £508,000 have been allocated to the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools in the current financial year to enable it to support and facilitate schools in the Catholic managed sector to develop collaborative arrangements with other schools and further education colleges to provide access to the entitlement framework and generally to support work by schools to prepare for the implementation of new post-primary arrangements. A total of £510,000 has been allocated to the education and library boards for the same purpose.

### Premature Baby Units

**Lady Hermon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much funding was allocated to Northern Ireland's premature baby units in each of the last five years; and what plans he has to change such funding. [13889]

**Mr. Woodward:** The Department allocates funding to the Health and Social Services Boards under an agreed capitation formula that recognises the healthcare needs of the populations within each Board area. Resources are, therefore, not centrally allocated to the funding of specific services such as premature baby units.

Boards use their allocated funding to commission a range of maternity and paediatric services, including provision for premature babies. They continuously review their allocations in light of emerging priorities and changes in demand for specific services in their area.

**Lady Hermon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many staff were employed in each premature baby unit in Northern Ireland in each of the past five years, broken down by grade. [13890]

**Mr. Woodward:** The information requested has been placed in the Library.

### Prosecution Service

**Mark Durkan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will make a statement on plans for a Public Prosecution Service Office in Derry. [13872]

**Mr. Hanson:** The procedure for the opening of the PPS Regional Offices is a phased "rollout" over a period beginning with the creation of the first PPS Pilot in December 2003 and completion by December 2006. A public procurement programme is in place to acquire suitable premises capable, in the case of Londonderry of accommodating some 60 staff. At this point a number of sites in the Londonderry area are being considered.

The PPS Project Board intends to meet the December 2006 deadline for the completion of the PPS Rollout.

### Public Transport (Violence)

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* bus drivers and *(b)* railway employees in Northern Ireland have been the victim of offences of violence in each of the last 10 years. [13945]

**Mr. Woodward:** Translink has advised that the number of reported assaults against on-duty bus drivers over the past 10 years is as follows:

*Bus drivers*

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 1995 | 48 |
| 1996 | 90 |
| 1997 | 89 |
| 1998 | 97 |
| 1999 | 75 |
| 2000 | 64 |
| 2001 | 78 |
| 2002 | 72 |
| 2003 | 40 |
| 2004 | 25 |
| January to June 2005 | 11 |

Translink has advised that similar statistics relating to its railway employees are not available within the available timescale. I shall reply to the hon. Gentleman with that information as soon as possible.

### Racist Attacks

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people in Northern Ireland have been the victim of racist attacks in each of the last 10 years. [13948]

**Mr. Hanson:** The following table shows the number of racist incidents recorded by the Police Service of Northern Ireland in the last seven financial years for which data is available.

The Police Service of Northern Ireland record the number of incidents which are perceived to be racial, by the victim or any other person, whether a crime has occurred or not.

| | *Number of racist incidents recorded by PSNI* |
|---|---|
| 1998–99 | 93 |
| 1999–2000 | 237 |
| 2000–01 | 260 |
| 2001–02 | 185 |
| 2002–03 | 226 |
| 2003–04 | 453 |
| 2004–05 | 813 |

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people have been convicted of racially motivated crimes in Northern Ireland in each of the last 10 years. [13949]

**Mr. Hanson:** Data relating to convictions for crimes with a racial motivation are available for 2003–04 and 2004–05.

In 2003–04, 23 crimes with a racial motivation resulted in a conviction or a caution. The respective figure for 2004–05 was 70.

### Regional Transportation Plan

**Mr. Peter Robinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what progress the Government have made in the implementation of each category of the Regional Transportation Plan approved by the Northern Assembly before suspension. [14501]

**Mr. Woodward:** My Department continues to be committed to the delivery of the Regional Transport Strategy for Northern Ireland (RTS). Good progress has been made, with the launch of the Belfast Metropolitan Transport Plan, the Regional Strategic Transport Network Transport Plan and further development of the Sub Regional Transport Plan. An Accessible Transport Strategy has also been published. Together these provide a very good framework for moving forward on transport initiatives. My Department produces a RTS Annual Monitoring Report, which outlines progress on all aspects of the Strategy. The latest report for 2004–05 is now available on the Department's internet site and conventional printed copies of the report will be sent shortly to elected representatives and other interested parties. Copies of the report will also be available in the Library.

### Residential Homes

**Mr. Peter Robinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many beds for elderly people in residential homes there have been in each year between May 1998 and the latest available date. [14524]

**Mr. Woodward:** The information requested is not available for May 1998, as it is collected annually at 31 March. Information collected on the number of beds for elderly people in residential homes for each of the years requested is shown in the following table.

| *As at 31 March* | *Number of beds* | *Difference from previous year* |
|---|---|---|
| 1998 | 4,876 | — |
| 1999 | 4,836 | −40 |
| 2000 | 4,726 | −110 |
| 2001 | 4,579 | −147 |
| 2002 | 4,596 | 17 |
| 2003 | 4,706 | 110 |
| 2004 | 4,624 | −82 |

### School Bullying

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what statistics schools in Northern Ireland are required to collect on incidents of bullying. [13904]

**Angela E. Smith:** There is no requirement for schools to collect statistics on incidents of bullying.

However, when a pupil is suspended from school, the school must complete a notification of pupil suspension form, which is forwarded to the local education and library board. The reason for suspension is recorded on the form. The reasons for suspension, including bullying, have been collected by the Department from 2002–03 school year and the information is available on the Department's website at www.deni.gov.uk/facts_figures/education_stats/index_other.htm.

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many complaints about the handling of incidents of bullying in schools in Northern Ireland have been lodged in each of the last five years. [13905]

**Angela E. Smith:** The information the Department holds regarding complaints about the handling of incidents of bullying in schools comes from written cases referred to it. The number of complaints in each of the last five school years is as follows.

| *School year* | *Number of complaints* |
|---|---|
| 2000–01 | 20 |
| 2001–02 | 8 |
| 2002–03 | 9 |
| 2003–04 | 3 |
| 2004–05 | 7 |

### Taxi Drivers (Violence)

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many taxi drivers in Northern Ireland have been the victim of offences of violence in each of the last 10 years. [13946]

**Mr. Woodward:** The information requested is only available from April 2001. The following table provides figures relating to the number of violent crimes (offences against the person, sexual offences, and robbery) in which the victim's occupation or victim type was given

as "Taxi Driver". It should be noted that it is not known whether the taxi driver was actually working at the time of the offence, and therefore these figures do not provide an accurate reflection of how many taxi drivers have been attacked while working.

| | *Number of incidents* |
|---|---|
| 2001–02 | 115 |
| 2002–03 | 137 |
| 2003–04 | 89 |
| 2004–05 | 101 |

### Ulster Hospital

**Mr. Peter Robinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the bed capacity is of the Ulster hospital. [14530]

**Mr. Woodward:** Bed capacity is currently 593 at the Ulster hospital.

### Water Rates

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the conclusions of the Equality Impact Assessment were on the impact of reforming water rates on *(a)* Protestant areas and *(b)* middle class socio-economic groups. [11958]

**Mr. Woodward:** The information requested is as follows:

(a) A draft Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA), was issued for consultation on 29 November 2004 as part of an Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) of the Water Reform proposals. The EQIA concluded that a charging system based on property capital values would result in Protestants being likely to bear a disproportionately greater burden of domestic water and sewerage charges, reflecting the fact that there is a markedly higher representation of Protestants in those areas of Northern Ireland with higher house prices.

(b) Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 requires public bodies to give due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity across nine specific groups: age; gender; religious belief; political opinion; sexual orientation; marital status; dependants; disabled; and race. The draft EQIA does not therefore reach conclusions on the basis of class or socio-economic groupings.

The conclusions of the draft EQIA are currently being reviewed in light of the comments made in the consultation and the evidence submitted of negative impacts on other Section 75 Groups, including pensioners, the disabled and other Section 75 Groups living in low-income households. The results of this review will be reflected in the final Equality Impact Assessment which will issue with the IIA Consultation Report later in the year.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

### Members' Allowances

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what consultations the Commission will hold with hon. Members on plans to change hon. Members' stationery and postage allowances; and if he will make a statement. [14191]

**Nick Harvey:** The Commission has been considering the level of expenditure by Members on stationery and pre-paid envelopes, which is a charge on the administration estimate. No change will be made to the current entitlement regime without consultation.

### Security Barriers (Bridge Street)

**Mr. Andrew Turner:** To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what consultation took place with Transport for London before the installation of steel security barriers in Bridge Street; and what steps will be taken to enable the 211 bus from Waterloo to stop conveniently for visitors to Portcullis House. [14101]

**Nick Harvey:** Before the installation of the security barriers, Transport for London and Westminster city council were consulted about the implications for traffic operations including buses. The current relocation of the bus stop is considered to be the best option in the circumstances.

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Asbestos

**Mr. Nicholas Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what advice he has received from the Health and Safety Commission concerning the implementation of the asbestos hazard management regulations; and what resources are being applied to the enforcement of the regulatory requirements for asbestos hazard management. [13990]

**Margaret Hodge:** In its annual report for 2004–05, the Health and Safety Commission reported that the campaign to raise awareness of the duty to manage asbestos continued in order to encourage increased compliance amongst dutyholders. One of the important elements of the campaign last year was the launch of the successful video "How are you managing?".

Health and Safety Executive inspectors are working in a number of ways to encourage dutyholders to comply with the legal requirement to manage asbestos. These include visits to large organisations' head offices, site visits and presentations at events. The planned resource for this work in 2005–06 is similar that allocated in the preceding year when more than 1,000 visits were conducted. At the majority of these visits improvements were secured by the provision of advice but on at least 50 occasions enforcement notices were issued.

### Attendance Allowance

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how much attendance allowance has been withheld from pensioners in self-funded care homes in Scotland since the introduction of free personal care in Scotland; [8889]

(2) how many people in Scotland have been paid attendance allowance for which they are ineligible as a result of being in receipt of free personal care; whether the Department intends to seek repayment of such overpayments; and if he will make a statement. [8890]

**Mrs. McGuire:** The administration of attendance allowance is a matter for the Chief Executive of the Disability and Carers Service, Mr. Terry Moran. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Terry Moran to Mr. Danny Alexander, dated 21 July 2005:*

In response to your recent Parliamentary Questions, the Minister for Disabled People, Anne McGuire, promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State how much attendance allowance has been withheld from pensioners in self-funded care homes in Scotland since the introduction of free personal care in Scotland. You also asked how many people in Scotland have been paid attendance allowance for which they are ineligible as a result of being in receipt of free personal care and whether the Department intends to seek repayment of any such amounts.

We do not routinely collect statistics that would answer your first question and there would be a disproportionate cost in obtaining the information.

From a recent sampling exercise it would appear that around 200 customers aged 65 or over receiving attendance allowance or disability living allowance care component have been overpaid. This is because they did not report that they are in receipt of free personal care and are residing in a care home in Scotland. We are currently making enquiries of those customers to establish whether an overpayment has arisen.

There may have been other cases in the past where an overpayment arose following a delayed notification that they were in receipt of free personal care. We do not routinely record this information. I am therefore unable to assess how many other cases may have arisen. These will have been dealt with as the information came to our attention.

Where an overpayment has arisen we will look at each case to consider whether recovery of the overpayment is required. In order to ensure that all customers are treated consistently each case will be considered in accordance with the Department's normal business rules. In doing so, great care will be exercised given the likely age and frailty of the customers involved.

I am sorry I cannot be more helpful

**Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions for what reasons those over the age of 65 require six months of night-time care before they qualify for the higher rate of attendance allowance. [13753]

**Mrs. McGuire:** Attendance allowance provides a contribution towards the extra costs faced by severely disabled people aged 65 or over as a result of long-term disability. The purpose of the six-month qualifying period is to establish that disability and the care needs arising from it are long-term, rather than the result of short-term or transient illness. However, the decision maker will always look at for how long care has been required when the disabled person claims the allowance or reports an increase in their care needs, and will consider whether some or all of the qualifying period had already been completed.

### Benefit Cut-off

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much people with disabilities are allowed to earn before their benefits are affected; and if he will make a statement. [13922]

**Mrs. McGuire:** Benefits paid specifically for disability, disability living allowance and attendance allowance are, however, not subject to earnings restrictions.

Disabled people may be entitled to the full range of social security benefits, depending on their individual circumstances. Where they are entitled, they will be subject to the earnings restrictions that apply to those benefits in the same way as all other claimants.

Income related benefits, such as income support, housing benefit and council tax benefit all have a variety of disregards, dependant upon the claimant's circumstances, above which certain earnings are taken into account. The number of hours a person can work whilst claiming these benefits is also restricted. There is a higher disregard for those receiving a disability premium.

### Carers Allowance

**Mr. Hood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people are in receipt of carers allowance in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* Scotland and *(c)* the Lanark and Hamilton East constituency; and if he will make a statement. [14068]

**Mrs. McGuire:** The latest available information is that at 28 February 2005, some 436,820 people in Great Britain were receiving carer's allowance, of whom 42,330 were in Scotland. Details of the numbers of carer's allowance recipients in each parliamentary constituency in Scotland at that date are in the table. Information about the number of people receiving carer's allowance in Northern Ireland is a matter for the Northern Ireland Office.

*Carer's allowance: number of recipients in each parliamentary constituency in Scotland as at 28 February 2005*

| *Constituency* | *Numbers* |
|---|---|
| Aberdeen Central | 225 |
| Aberdeen North | 460 |
| Aberdeen South | 310 |
| Airdrie and Shotts | 835 |
| Angus | 590 |
| Argyll and Bute | 435 |
| Ayr | 615 |
| Banff and Buchan | 665 |
| Caithness Sutherland and Easter Ross | 540 |
| Carrick Cumnock and Doon Valley | 1,010 |
| Central Fife | 870 |
| Clydebank and Milngavie | 635 |
| Clydesdale | 840 |
| Coatbridge and Chryston | 670 |
| Cumbernauld and Kilsyth | 495 |
| Cunninghame North | 630 |
| Cunninghame South | 755 |
| Dumbarton | 655 |
| Dumfries | 645 |
| Dundee East | 700 |
| Dundee West | 620 |
| Dunfermline East | 640 |
| Dunfermline West | 450 |
| East Kilbride | 560 |
| East Lothian | 575 |
| Eastwood | 500 |
| Edinburgh Central | 320 |
| Edinburgh East and Musselburgh | 630 |
| Edinburgh North and Leith | 450 |
| Edinburgh Pentlands | 485 |
| Edinburgh South | 445 |
| Edinburgh West | 455 |
| Falkirk East | 650 |
| Falkirk West | 630 |
| Galloway and Upper Nithsdale | 765 |
| Glasgow Anniesland | 870 |

*Carer's allowance: number of recipients in each parliamentary constituency in Scotland as at 28 February 2005*

| *Constituency* | *Numbers* |
|---|---|
| Glasgow Baillieston | 1,010 |
| Glasgow Cathcart | 620 |
| Glasgow Govan | 570 |
| Glasgow Kelvin | 350 |
| Glasgow Maryhill | 760 |
| Glasgow Pollok | 805 |
| Glasgow Rutherglen | 695 |
| Glasgow Shettleston | 880 |
| Glasgow Springburn | 870 |
| Gordon | 410 |
| Greenock and Inverclyde | 550 |
| Hamilton North and Bellshill | 665 |
| Hamilton South | 720 |
| Inverness East Nairn and Lochaber | 615 |
| Kilmarnock and Loudoun | 775 |
| Kirkcaldy | 585 |
| Linlithgow | 645 |
| Livingston | 755 |
| Midlothian | 555 |
| Moray | 590 |
| Motherwell and Wishaw | 690 |
| North East Fife | 370 |
| North Tayside | 495 |
| Ochil | 700 |
| Orkney and Shetland | 200 |
| Paisley North | 530 |
| Paisley South | 515 |
| Perth | 550 |
| Ross Skye and Inverness West | 560 |
| Roxburgh and Berwickshire | 395 |
| Stirling | 490 |
| Strathkelvin and Bearsden | 425 |
| Tweeddale Ettrick and Lauderdale | 335 |
| West Aberdeenshire and Kincardine | 330 |
| West Renfrewshire | 475 |
| Western Isles | 215 |

*Notes:*

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 5.

2. From November 2002, the methodology for producing these figures was changed to allow statistics to be published much sooner. This has resulted in a small increase in the reported caseload. This is because some cases which have actually terminated but have not yet been updated on the computer system are now included.

*Source:*

Information Directorate, 100 per cent. data.

### Carer's Allowance

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what research his Department has undertaken to assess the reasons for the difference between the number of people claiming carer's allowance and the number of people who are entitled to claim. [5616]

**Mrs. McGuire:** No research into this area has been possible because entitlement to carer's allowance depends upon a number of factors, one of which is that the disabled person being cared for must be in receipt of attendance allowance or the equivalent rates of the disability living allowance care component. Entitlement to those benefits can only be reliably established after a claim has been made and the care and mobility needs of the disabled person fully assessed. As there is no means of reliably calculating the number of people receiving them as a proportion of the overall eligible population, it is not possible to make a realistic estimate of the number of people who, if they claimed, might be entitled to carer's allowance.

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people his Department estimate have an underlying entitlement to carer's allowance but are ineligible due to *(a)* overlapping benefit rules and *(b)* earnings above the limit. [5617]

**Mrs. McGuire:** As at 28 February 2005, some 265,000 people who were entitled to carer's allowance were not receiving it because of the operation of the overlapping benefit rules. Carers who earn over the earnings limit are not entitled to the allowance, and thus do not retain underlying entitlement.

*Source:*

DWP Information Directorate 5 per cent. sample

### Child Maintenance

**Mr. Hood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the financial effects on the first family when the non-resident parent has a child born to his new partner under child maintenance arrangements; what effects this has on child maintenance payments; and if he will make a statement. [10065]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The Department has not commissioned any research that specifically investigates the financial impact suffered by the first family when a non-resident parent has a child born to his new partner and any subsequent impacts upon child maintenance.

Research has been commissioned to examine factors affecting non-resident parent compliance with maintenance assessments, "National Survey of Child Support Agency Clients", Nick Wikeley, CDS 2001, a copy of which is in the Library. This found that the partnering status of a non-resident parent is a factor. Non-resident parents who have re-partnered or remarried tend to be less likely to comply with maintenance assessments.

### Child Support Agency

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his estimate is of the outstanding stock of Child Support Agency unpaid debts for each reporting period from 2002–03 to 2005–06; and if he will make a statement. [974]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the chief executive, Mr. Stephen Geraghty. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Mike Isaac to Mr. David Laws, dated 21 July 2005:*

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive. As he is currently on leave I am responding on his behalf.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what his estimate is of the outstanding stock of Child Support Agency unpaid debts for each reporting period from 2002–03 to 2005 and if he will make a statement.

The Agency refers to debt as the amounts outstanding on full maintenance assessments and excludes amounts deemed as probably uncollectable. These amounts outstanding are reported in the notes to the Agency's Annual Report and Accounts and are subject to external audit by the National Audit Office. The accounts for 2004/05 will be available from the end of July 2005 and the requested information for previous years is shown in the table below.

| | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| 2002–03 | 664.0 |
| 2003–04 | 720.2 |
| 2004–05 | [1] |

[1] Available by end of July

In order to reduce the amount of debt the Agency is tapping into what works well in public and private sectors to improve its working practices. The Agency is increasing resources on enforcement activity and there is an increasing trend in the application of sanctions.

In response to the Work and Pensions Select Committee recommendation the Agency is developing a strategy for reducing the debt. This debt strategy will form one part of the new Chief Executive's future performance improvement plans.

I hope you find this answer useful.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will make a statement on progress in resolving the computer problems at the Child Support Agency; and if he will make a statement. [987]

**Margaret Hodge:** The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive, Mr. Stephen Geraghty. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Mike Isaac to Mr. David Laws, dated 21 July 2005:*

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, if he will make a statement on progress in resolving the computer problems at the Child Support Agency.

The Agency has acknowledged that there are problems with the IT system. Work to stabilise the system is on-going and this has already brought about improvements. The Agency is continuing to work with the computer supplier (EDS) to remedy the problems and IT releases were successfully implemented in December 2004 and May 2005 to resolve various system performance issues and build upon the improvements already made.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his latest estimate is of the backlog of uncleared Child Support Agency cases for *(a)* each quarter from March 2003 to June 2005 and *(b)* each month from April 2004 to June 2005; and if he will make a statement. [989]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the chief executive, Mr. Stephen Geraghty. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Mike Isaac to Mr. David Laws, dated 21 July 2005:*

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive. As he is currently on leave I am responding on his behalf.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what his latest estimate is of the backlog of uncleared Child Support Agency cases for *(a)* each quarter from March 2003 to June 2005 and *(b)* each month from April 2004 to June 2005; and if he will make a statement.

In its response to the Work and Pensions Select Committee on the performance of the Child Support Agency, the Government agreed that the management information for the new scheme was not as robust or as comprehensive as it needed to be. It went on to state that the Agency was confident that by 1 November 2005 the management information would be improved and on a par with old scheme information.

Progress is being made to achieve improvements in the quality of new scheme information and, from January 2005, more robust management information is available in respect of the Agency's intake, clearances and work-on-hand position as recorded on the IT system. Consequently, I am currently only able to provide reliable new scheme information from this point forward.

*New scheme application work on hand*

| *Month (2005)* | *New scheme* |
|---|---|
| January | 259,000 |
| February | 265,000 |
| March | 266,000 |
| April | 267,000 |
| May | 265,000 |
| June | 263,000 |

*Notes:*
1. An application is counted as "cleared" when a maintenance calculation has been carried out and a charging schedule set up, or it has been closed, or it has been established that it is not a valid application (because it is subject to a reduced benefit decision, is good cause, or is in actual fact a change of circumstance on an existing case).
2. Work in hand in this context is the totality of all cases yet to be cleared, as defined above.
3. Figures rounded to nearest 1,000.

I am sorry that we are not able to be more helpful at present.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many cases have been stuck in the new Child Support Agency computer system each month since it was introduced; what the average time taken until first payment for stuck cases is in each month; and in what proportion of stuck cases *(a)* assessments and *(b)* first payments have been made. [1994]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive, Mr. Stephen Geraghty. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Mike Isaac to Mr. David Laws, dated 21 July 2005:*

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive. As he is currently on leave I am responding on his behalf.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many cases have been stuck in the new Child Support Agency computer system each month since it was introduced; what the average time taken until first payment for stuck cases is in each month; and in what proportion of stuck cases *(a)* assessments and *(b)* first payments have been made.

I am unable to provide a complete response to your question, as we do not collect information at the level of detail required to be able to provide robust and accurate figures under each of the specific headings requested. I can tell you that the number of cases we have currently identified which require technical intervention by EDS for them to be progressed is approximately 20,000. As of June 2005 the number of additional cases that now require such intervention each month is approximately 1,200. In the past 6–8

months approximately 32,000 cases have had the required technical intervention work carried out by EDS and have now been made available again to be progressed by Child Support Agency staff.

The Agency has set up the Live Recovery Reprofiling project to investigate the underlying system faults that give rise to unprogressible cases. This project is currently drawing up the required plans and timetables to allow this work to be scheduled and managed in a controlled and efficient manner.

I hope you find this response helpful.

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will introduce a free phone inquiry telephone number for the Child Support Agency. [3961]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The administration of the Child Support Agency is a mater for the chief executive, Mr. Stephen Geraghty. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Mike Isaac to Tim Farron, dated 21 July 2005:*

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive. As he is currently on leave I am responding on his behalf.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, if he will introduce a free phone enquiry telephone number for the Child Support Agency.

I thought it might be helpful if I explained a little about our telephone policy. We now place greater emphasis on collecting information and discussing and resolving issues through telephone contact with our customers. Advanced telephony arrangements introduced with the Child Support Reforms can route enquiries directly to specific front-line staff responsible for an individual case, who are able to access case details at the time of the call.

Our main telephone contact points can be reached by means of local-call rate numbers, which provide for equality of access to our services regardless of where someone might live. In addition all staff are advised that customers should be called back if they request it or if the member of staff thinks that the call may turn out to be lengthy.

We have no current plans to introduce a freephone number for the Child Support Agency.

I hope you find this helpful.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many requests to increase staffing levels have been made to each Child Support Agency business unit director, broken down by area; how many requests were accepted; and for how many staff in each case. [6198]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the chief executive, Mr. Stephen Geraghty. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Mike Isaac to Mr. David Laws, dated 21 July 2005:*

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many requests to increase staffing levels have been made to each Child Support Agency business unit director broken down by area; how many requests were accepted; and for how many staff in each case.

I am afraid that the specific information you have asked for is not available. However, I thought it might be helpful if I explain that the Child Support Agency plan staffing on an annual basis, setting out workforce plans by business unit/territory. These workforce plans are underpinned by recruitment plans based on anticipated wastage of staff calculated by looking at historical leaver data. The plans are monitored monthly and reviewed on a quarterly basis to take account of any business changes.

As a result of the Departmental *Spending Review 2004* the Agency headcount target for March 2006 was increased by 1,561 from 8,000 to 9,561 (*Dataview* counting methodology).

From April 2005 the Agency began counting staffing in line with the agreed Cabinet Office *Mandate* counting methodology. This excludes staff on maternity pay from the staff in post count and accounts for an approximate 1 per cent. reduction in staffing totals. As a result the March 2006 headcount target was adjusted accordingly to 9388.

From the beginning of the 2005/6 operational year the Child Support Agency moved from a business unit structure to a new "territorial" structure. The table below outlines the target staffing distribution to reflect the increase of staffing and the new territorial structure.

| *Territorial structure* | *Authorised headcount March 2006* |
|---|---|
| Northern Territory | 3,145 |
| Southern Territory | 3,915 |
| National Helpline | 493 |
| Enforcement | 610 |
| HQ and Support Services | 1,211 |
| Agency contribution to Independent Case Examiner's staffing | 14 |
| Total | 9,388 |

I am sorry we could not be more helpful but I hope that you have found this answer useful.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on how many occasions access to the Child Support Agency's computer system by former members of staff has been identified. [8744]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Stephen Geraghty to Mr. Laws, dated 21 July 2005:*

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question on how many occasions access to the Child Support Agency's computer system by former members of staff has been identified.

The Child Support Agency and the Department as a whole has strict rules on who can access records that are held on its computer systems. Staff are only able to access systems that are necessary for them to carry out their duties.

I am pleased to tell you that there has been no cases recorded where former members of staff have accessed the Child Support Agency computer systems.

I hope that you find this answer useful.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what records he keeps of call backs *(a)* promised and *(b)* made by Child Support Agency staff. [8754]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive, Mr. Stephen Geraghty. He will write to the hon. Member.

*Letter from Mike Isaac to Mr. Laws, dated 21 July 2005:*

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive. As he is currently on leave I am replying on his behalf.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what records he keeps of callbacks *(a)* promised and *(b)* made by Child Support Agency staff.

The Agency keeps clerical monthly statistics on callbacks generated. We are in the process of automating the process to improve the quality and accuracy of these records.

However I can tell you that all our staff receive customer service training and are instructed to call customers back when asked to do so or when they perceive that a call may be lengthy.

I am sorry that I could not be more helpful at this time.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what systems have been established to monitor the quality of Child Support Agency staff responses to telephone calls. [9325]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive, Mr. Stephen Geraghty. He will write to the hon. Member.

*Letter from Mike Isaac to Mr. Laws, dated 21 July 2005:*

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive. As he is currently on leave I am responding on his behalf.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what systems have been established to monitor the quality of Child Support Agency staff responses to telephone calls.

The Agency has in place a number of measures to monitor the quality of calls. National Helpline team leaders can either listen in to "live" calls from a remote location or to tape recordings of closed calls. They score calls for quality and identify any training needs, which are then addressed. The tapes are also used in regular coaching sessions with staff.

The National Helpline conducts a Department for Work and Pensions approved quarterly customer survey. The resultant feedback from our customers is used to develop improvement plans. Regular surveys are also carried out to monitor the accuracy of the technical information given to customers.

I hope you find this answer useful.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* serious complaints and *(b)* complaints about Child Support Agency (CSA) payments have been received by CSA staff in each of the last five years; and how serious complaints are (i) identified and (ii) defined. [9328]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the chief executive, Mr. Stephen Geraghty. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Mike Isaac to Mr. David Laws dated 21 July 2005:*

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive. As he is currently on leave I am responding on his behalf.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many *(a)* serious complaints and *(b)* complaints about Child Support Agency payments have been received by Child Support Agency staff; and how serious complaints are identified and defined.

I have provided the number of complaints received in the Agency in the table below covering a 14 month period to May 2005. I cannot supply the number of complaints about payments as the information is not sufficiently categorised to provide that level of detail.

We consider that any complaint we receive to be a "serious complaint", and we do not have a separate definition of "serious". We operate a three-tier complaints process. A Stage 1 complaint is the first we receive from a client either in writing or over the telephone and is dealt with by a Complaints Resolution Team located within each of our Business Units. A Stage 2 complaint is one where the client complains to the Business Unit's Area Director following a response at Stage 1. Most complaints are settled at Stage 1 or 2 but if a client is unhappy with the Area Director's response they can write directly to the Chief Executive. This constitutes a Stage 3 complaint.

At each level of the complaints process clients are advised as to how they can escalate their complaint should they remain dissatisfied with the reply they receive.

Once the three-tiered process has been completed the client can contact the Independent Case Examiner [if they remain dissatisfied]. The Independent Case Examiner is external to the Agency and acts as an impartial adjudicator in respect of the complaints which are appropriate for her involvement.

In addition to this process, a client can complain directly to their Member of Parliament who can refer the complaint on their behalf to the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration.

*Total complaints received March 2005 Year to Date (YTD), and May 2005 (YTD)*

| *Child Support Agency complaints* | *April 2004-March 2005* | *April 2005-May 2005* |
|---|---|---|
| Total agency cases | [1]1,375,000 | [2]1,463,000 |
| Stage 1 | 39,783 | 6,534 |
| Stage 2 | 5,580 | 1,053 |
| Stage 3 | 2,549 | 349 |
| Member of Parliament to chief executive | 5,787 | 893 |
| Member of Parliament to business unit | 8,871 | 1,512 |
| Treat official | 1,108 | 210 |
| Total complaints | 63,678 | 10,551 |
| Complaints received by independent case examiner | 2,367 | n/a |
| Complaints accepted by independent case examiner | 1,259 | n/a |

n/a = not available
[1] As at 31 March 2005.
[2] As at 31 May 2005.
Notes:
1. Member of Parliament to chief executive, Member of Parliament to business unit and treat official complaints are outside the 3-tier client complaints process.
2. Treat official complaints are those received by a Minister's private office but referred for initial consideration by an official of the agency.
3. Complaints received by the independent case examiner: These include complaints where the agency had not issued a response by or on behalf of the chief executive so the independent case examiner could not accept the complaint. The figure also includes complaints on legislation etc where the independent case examiner cannot accept the complaint.
4. Complaints accepted by the independent case examiner: These are the complaints where the complainant has received a response by or on behalf of the chief executive.

I am sorry if this answer is not all that you may have wished for but I hope it has proved useful to you.

**Janet Anderson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many recipients of child support are in receipt of manual payments as a result of

computer failure at the Child Support Agency; and in how many cases there is a consequent shortfall in the amount of child support they receive. [9370]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive, Mr. Stephen Geraghty. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Mike Isaac to Janet Anderson, dated 21 July 2005:*

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive. As he is currently on leave I am responding on his behalf.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many recipients of child support are in receipt of manual payments as a result of computer failure at the Child Support Agency; and in how many cases there is a consequent shortfall in the amount of child support they receive.

We have around 980 customers who are regularly paid their maintenance manually. I am unable to give a breakdown between computer failure and other reasons for payments having to be made manually.

When a manual payment is made, any monies received from the non-resident parent and owed to the parent with care are paid in full.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

**Anne Main:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will expedite the transfer of the case of Mr. Ronald Ceasar (ref: PCU/145410/KH/MC) to the new system of Child Support Agency payments. [10837]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave the hon. Member for Bolton, South-East (Dr. Iddon), on 20 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 705W.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average cost per case is of a Child Support Agency case processed under the *(a)* new scheme on the new computer system, *(b)* new scheme on the old computer system, *(c)* new scheme with a clerical assessment, *(d)* old scheme on the old computer system and *(e)* old scheme on the new computer system. [13882]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Mike Isaac to Mr. David Laws, dated 21 July 2005:*

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive. As he is currently on leave I am responding on his behalf.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what the average cost per case is of a Child Support Agency case processed under the *(a)* new scheme on the new computer system, *(b)* new scheme on the old computer system, *(c)* new scheme with a clerical assessment, *(d)* old scheme on the old computer system and *(e)* old scheme on the new computer system.

Information is not currently available in the format requested. We expect information on administration costs for the Child Support Agency to be available after the Departments new Resource Management System is introduced in the Child Support Agency in 2006. In the meantime, the Agency does publish interim unit cost information in accordance with Public Service Agreement (PSA 9) which is contained in the Annual Report and Accounts.

## Correspondence

**Mr. Frank Field:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when the chief executive of the Child Support Agency will reply to the letter of the right hon. Member for Birkenhead of 23 June, regarding his constituent Ms Jones. [11443]

**Mr. Plaskitt** *[holding answer 11 July 2005]*: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the chief executive, Mr Stephen Geraghty. He will write to the hon. Member.

*Letter from Stephen Geraghty to Mr. Frank Field dated 21 July 2005:*

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, when the Chief Executive of the Child Support Agency will reply to the letter of the honourable Member for Birkenhead of 23 June regarding his constituent Ms Jones.

As details about individual cases are confidential I have written to you separately about this case.

**Tony Lloyd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will direct the disability and carers service to provide a substantive response to the letters of the hon. Member for Manchester Central dated 3 June and 6 July regarding AL (ref: NE215064B). [14822]

**Mrs. McGuire:** The administration of disability living allowance is a matter for the chief executive of the disability and carers service, Mr. Terry Moran. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Terry Moran to Mr. Tony Lloyd, dated 21 July 2005:*

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, if he will direct the Disability and Carers Service to provide a substantive response to the letters of the honourable Member for Manchester Central dated 3rd June and 6th July regarding AL (ref: NE215064B),The Minister for Disabled People, Anne McGuire MP, promised you a substantive reply from the Chief Executive of the Disability and Carers Service.

A substantive reply to your letter of 3 June was sent to you on 8 June. A duplicate copy of the letter was sent to you on 12 July in response to your further letter of 6 July.

I trust the copy was safely received.

## CSA

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many houses are subject to a Child Support Agency Inhibition Order; and of these how many are *(a)* fully and *(b)* partially owned by a person other than the non-resident parent from whom maintenance arrears are being sought. [10142]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the chief executive.

He will write to the hon. Member.

*Letter from Mike Isaac to Mr. Danny Alexander dated 21 July 2005:*

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive. As he is currently on leave I am responding on his behalf.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many houses are subject to a Child Support Agency Inhibition Order; and of these how many are *(a)* fully and *(b)* partially owned by a person other than the non-resident parent from whom maintenance arrears are being sought.

As the Bill of Inhibition is registered against an individual, we are unable to provide any figures as to whether the individual's property is owned partially, or wholly, by another party. However, it follows that a Bill of Inhibition registered against a non-resident parent whose home is wholly owned by another party would be ineffective.

In the 2004/2005 financial year, the Agency applied for 203 Bills of Inhibition against non-compliant non-resident parents.

I hope that this reply is helpful.

### Departmental Expenditure

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the budget of his Department was for press and communications for *(a)* 1997–98, *(b)* 2003–04 and *(c)* 2004–05; what it is for 2005–06; and if he will make a statement. [960]

**Mrs. McGuire:** The Department for Work and Pensions was formed in June 2001 from the former Department of Social Security and parts of the former Department for Education and Employment including the Employment Service. Information on costs prior to 2001 is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The main Communications budget allocation for 2003–04 was £67,748,000 of which £2,545,258 was for Press. The corresponding figures for 2004–05 were £51,708,618, of which £2,756,088 was for Press. These figures include both staff and non-staff costs, including all major marketing campaigns.

The budget allocation for 2005–06 has not yet been finalised.

### Departmental Relocation

**Mr. Gale:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many of his Department's posts *(a)* have been relocated and *(b)* are under consideration for relocation from London to the deprived areas of the south-east. [6270]

**Mrs. McGuire:** The Department and its sponsored organisations are implementing the Lyons Review recommendations to relocate 4,187 posts out of London and the south-east by 2010. This will not exclude consideration of relocating some posts to relatively deprived areas in the south-east. So far, the department has not identified any posts suitable for transfer to deprived areas in the south-east.

### Departmental Spending

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the level of total departmental spending was in each year from 1980–81 to 2004–05; and what the projected figures are for each year to 2009–10 in *(a)* 2003–04 prices and *(b)* cash terms. [819]

**Mrs. McGuire:** The Department for Work and Pensions was formed in June 2001 from the Department of Social Security and parts of the former Department for Education and Employment including the Employment Service and has since undergone significant reorganisation.

The Departmental Report for 2004 (Cm 6221), which is available in the Library, contains spending figures for the years 1998–99 to 2005–06 these being the only years covered within the financial tables. Data for the years prior to 1998–99 does not exist in the format requested.

The Departmental Report for 2005 (Cm 6539) to be published in June 2005 will contain spending figures for the years 1999–2000 to 2007–08. The Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses (Cm 6521) also contains spending data for the same years in real and near-cash terms in Chapter 1.

The Department's spending levels beyond 2007–08 will be subject to the 2006 Spending Review that has not yet commenced.

### Departmental Staff

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the *(a)* pay scale, *(b)* turnover in the last period for which figures are available and *(c)* required level of training is for (i) disability employment advisers, (ii) jobcentre plus personal advisers and (iii) Pathways to Work advisers. [11852]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. She will write to the hon. Member.

*Letter from Leslie Strathie to Mr. David Laws, dated 21 July 2005:*

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question concerning what the *(a)* pay scale, *(b)* turnover in the last period for which figures are available and *(c)* required level of training is for (i) disability employment advisers, (ii) jobcentre plus personal advisers and (iii) Pathways to Work advisers. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

It is the policy within Jobcentre Plus (as with other parts of the Department for Work and Pensions) to collect staffing information by grade and location, not by job role. It is not, therefore, possible to provide pay or turnover information by job role. However, as all job roles upon which information is being sought are within the same civil service grade—Executive Officer—it is possible to provide you with information relating more generally to our staff in this grade.

At 1 July 2005, the national pay scale for executive officers was £17,290to £22,820 (with those working in London on a slightly higher scale). A small number of senior advisers receive an additional responsibilities allowance of £1,000 per annum.

The national turnover rate amongst executive officers for the period June 2004 to May 2005 was 3.84 per cent.

I am able to be more specific with the information requested on training. All advisers are required to complete the basic training package; in total up to approximately 34 days learning. In

addition, disability employment advisers receive a further eight days training to equip them with the specialist advisory skills required to support the most disadvantaged disabled customers in securing work, and to work with others to encourage and support good practices in the recruitment, retention and development of disabled customers. For Pathways to Work Advisers there is an additional 18 days training.

I hope this is helpful.

### Disability Allowance

**Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will take steps to increase the amount of money that people with disabilities are allowed to earn before their benefits are affected; and if he will make a statement. [12950]

**Mrs. McGuire:** Benefits paid specifically for disability, disability living allowance and attendance allowance are not subject to earnings restrictions but are assessed on need for additional help with care and mobility.

Income related benefits, such as income support, housing benefit and council tax benefit all have a variety of disregards, dependant upon the claimant's circumstances, above which certain earnings are taken into account. There is a higher disregard for those receiving a disability premium. The number of hours a person can work while claiming these benefits is restricted.

People with disabilities may be entitled to the full range of social security benefits, depending on their individual circumstances; where they are, they will be subject to the earnings restrictions that apply to those benefits in the same way as all other claimants.

We have no plans to change these rules.

### Disability and Careers Service

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will list the courses the Disability and Careers Service offers to employees based on *(a)* gender, *(b)* ethnic origin, *(c)* sexuality and *(d)* any combination of the above; how much each course costs to run; and if he will make a statement. [12494]

**Mrs. McGuire:** The administration of the Disability and Carers Service is a matter for the chief executive, Mr. Terry Moran. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Terry Moran to Philip Davies, dated 21 July 2005:*

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, if he will list the courses the Disability and Carers Service offers to employees based on *(a)* gender, *(b)* ethnic origin, *(c)* sexuality and *(d)* any combination of the above; how much each course costs to run. The Minister for Disabled People, Anne McGuire MP, promised you a substantive reply from the Chief Executive of the Disability and Carers Service.

The information I have available regarding courses for Disability and Carers Service employees, and the cost in the last financial year, where known, is shown in the attached annexe.

I am unable to provide any details regarding attendees' gender, ethnicity, and sexuality, as this information is not routinely collected, but all of our courses are available to all of our staff.

I am sorry I cannot be more helpful.

| *Training event* | *Approximate costs in the year April 2004 to March 2005 (£)* |
|---|---|
| Half Hour Closures | 521,541 |
| AA New Claims | 23,094 |
| Appeals inc. Modernisation | 41,837 |
| Assertiveness and related courses | 65,570 |
| Assessing and Developing Leadership Skills and related courses | 2,201 |
| Assessment Centre Skills Workshop | 468 |
| Auditing Staff Club Accounts | 0 |
| Better Letters | 0 |
| BSI Training | 0 |
| Care First for ATOS Referrals | 0 |
| Career Review—Recognising and Recording Achievement | 2,384 |
| Complaints Investigator's Training | 0 |
| Contributing to Teams | 0 |
| Counselling Introduction | 4,447 |
| Creative Problem Solving | 2,000 |
| Creativity and Imaginative Solutions | 0 |
| CSO PC support | 520 |
| Customer Service Workshop | 34,085 |
| Dealing with Abusive Customers | 10,089 |
| Dealing With Vulnerable Groups—Deaf Awareness, Life Events, Visual Impairment | 7,793 |
| Decision Maker Training | 869,845 |
| Desk Training | 968,132 |
| Developmental: Further Education | 11,500 |
| Developmental: Job Shadow | 30,518 |
| Developmental: NVQ/SVQ | 19,501 |
| Developmental: Observing at Meetings | 2,422 |
| Developmental: Presentations | 8,609 |
| Developmental: Prince's Trust | 4,377 |
| Developmental: Working Parties | 13,549 |
| Disability Awareness Workshops | 7,173 |
| Diversity Awareness video | 4,650 |
| Diversity: Managing Diverse Teams | 6,693 |
| Drafting and Briefing Skills | 7,939 |
| Driver Training | 465 |
| Effective Management | 741 |
| Effective Writing | 3,674 |
| EFQM Excellence Model Assessor Training | 0 |
| DOI CSO Training | 108 |
| DOI Training/Awareness | 550 |
| Equal Opportunities at Work | 2,084 |
| Equal Opportunities: A Manager's Role | 0 |
| Equal Ops Refresher | 1,862 |
| External Recruitment Skills Workshop | 1,374 |
| Facilitating Groups | 3,276 |
| FAMIS Courses | 0 |
| Finance HEO/EO Workshop | 0 |
| First Aid | 4,431 |
| Generic People Skills Workshop | 32,630 |
| Handling and Resolving Conflict | 11,952 |
| Harassment Officer's Training | 3,075 |
| Health and Safety | 37,857 |
| Health and Safety—Risk Assessment (inc. DOI) | 12,432 |
| Health and Safety—The Managers Role | 7,169 |
| Helpline Training | 765,032 |
| Human Rights Act Training | 551 |
| IiP internal Assessor | 4,692 |
| Induction | 86,335 |
| Industrial Relations | 0 |
| Internal Vacancy Filling and Promotion Skills Workshop | 3,512 |
| Interviewing the Public—including PVP | 2,268 |
| IT Training/Skills | 198,608 |
| Junior and Middle Management Induction | 12,760 |
| Leadership for Results | 1,510 |
| Leading an Effective team | 4,085 |
| Learning at Work | 15,181 |
| Learning Resource Centre | 5,125 |
| Making Effective Presentations | 4,807 |
| Managers as Mentors | 0 |
| Managing/Implementing Change | 13,505 |
| Managing the Development of Your Staff | 3,318 |
| Mentoring Events | 819,606 |
| Meeting Skills | 5,131 |
| Motivation | 2,520 |
| MP's Enquiries | 0 |
| Non-technical training—miscellaneous | 81,564 |
| New Tax Credits | 0 |

| Training event | Approximate costs in the year April 2004 to March 2005 (£) |
|---|---|
| Overview Training | 10,487 |
| Participating in Meetings | 0 |
| Payment Modernisation Programme—ACT | 0 |
| People Management Part 1 | 8,856 |
| People Management Part 2—Dealing with Difficult People | 3,344 |
| Performance Management Workshops | 8,804 |
| Personal Account Security Enhanced for non interviewing staff | 0 |
| Personal Appraisal for Job Holders | 5,509 |
| Personal Development Planning | 10,162 |
| Personal Effectiveness for Managers | 2,800 |
| Planning and Managing Projects | 0 |
| Preparing for Retirement and related courses | 13,938 |
| Problem Solving and Decision Making | 1,907 |
| Promotion Report Writing | 0 |
| PV Procedures | 6,951 |
| Running Staff Clubs | 1,407 |
| Secure Print Operator | 343 |
| Security Specialist Event | 9,647 |
| Self Development for AAs | 29,457 |
| Self Development for AOs | 47,529 |
| Self Development for Middle Managers—360 degree Feedback | 203 |
| Serving the Needs of the Community | 927 |
| Specialist Trace Officer | 0 |
| Specialist Training—Disability Awareness | 161,654 |
| Specialist Training for Visiting Officers | 0 |
| Speed Reading Courses | 3,656 |
| Stress Management | 5,858 |
| Stress Management for Managers | 25,855 |
| Team Development | 982 |
| Team Leadership for Call Centre Managers | 0 |
| Team Leader Training | 41,830 |
| Technical/Benefit Related Training: Appeals | 27,194 |
| Technical/Benefit Related Training: MARS | 103,803 |
| Technical/Benefit Related Training: Miscellaneous | 746,666 |
| Technical Benefit Related Training: New Claims | 301,740 |
| Telephone Techniques | 20,998 |
| Time Management | 4,099 |
| Training for Trainers Events | 12,081 |
| Union Events | 520 |
| Unit Costing—Agency Costing System (ACOS) | 1,184 |
| Voice Care | 24,550 |
| Widening Horizons | 2,210 |
| Working in Teams | 0 |
| Pre retirement course | [1]11 |
| E-learning/Open learning—Attendance Management | 4,637 |
| E-learning/Open Learning—External Recruitment | 0 |
| E-learning/Open Learning—Internal Vacancy Filling and Promotion | 1,599 |
| E-learning/Open Learning—Performance and Development | 6,905 |
| E-learning—Activity Based Information (ABI) for Managers | 404 |
| E-learning—DOI Awareness | 317 |
| E-learning—Introduction to Windows 2000 | 482 |
| E-learning—Risk Management | 26 |
| E-learning—Junior Management | 450 |
| E-learning—Middle Management | 0 |
| E-learning—Using Outlook 98 | 0 |
| E-learning—Better Letters | 601 |
| E-learning—Here and Now! | 0 |
| E-learning—Getting Started with the Intranet | 419 |
| E-learning—Security Awareness | 1,356 |
| E-learning—Using Outlook 2000 to e-mail | 719 |
| E-learning—The Diversity Toolkit | 21,075 |
| E-learning | 3,109 |
| Elearning | 3,854 |

[1] Per attendee

| DCS Disability Specialists Group[1] | There are no costs available for these courses |
|---|---|
| Understanding our customers | — |
| Customer awareness for telephony staff | — |
| Understanding learning disabilities | — |
| Understanding mental health problems | — |
| Understanding emotional and behavioural disorders in children | — |
| Understanding colleagues with complex needs | — |
| Visiting customers with disabilities | — |
| Customer awareness, communication and personal presentation | — |
| Understanding cognitive impairments—this course is currently under development | — |

[1] Delivers customer focused impairment awareness training to DCS staff. This is modular training and is tailored to the needs of staff receiving it, and is therefore either in-depth or overarching in its content. DWP principles of Diversity and Equality underpin all of the training

## Disability Living Allowance

**Anne Main:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) if he will meet the Director of Life Ability Community to discuss the production of a visual impairment specific disability living allowance claim form; [13898]

(2) if his Department will produce a visual impairment-specific disability living allowance claim form; and if he will make a statement. [13899]

**Mrs. McGuire:** The administration of disability living allowance is a matter for the chief executive of the Disability and Carers Service, Mr. Terry Moran. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Terry Moran to Mrs Anne Main dated 21 July 2005:*

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, if he will meet the director of Life Ability Community to discuss the production of a visual impairment specific disability living allowance claim form and also If his department will produce a visual impairment specific disability living allowance claim form. The Minister for Disabled People, Anne McGuire MP, promised you a substantive reply from the Chief Executive of the Disability and Carers Service.

The Disability and Carers Service is committed to listening to the views of their customers and representatives and would be pleased to include Life Ability Community in future consultation. In the first instance the Secretary of State has asked my Customer and External Relations Director, Kim Archer to arrange a meeting with Life Ability Community to discuss their needs. Ms Archer can be contacted on 020 7962 8297 or at Disability & Carers Service, Room 505, The Adelphi, 1–11 John Adam Street, London WC2N 6HT. she will be pleased to help in any way she can.

A number of activities have already taken place with customer groups this year, through the DWP Disability Forum and other activities. We have also consulted extensively via the Modern Services Working Group of which the Royal National Institute for the Blind is represented. Modem Services Working Group were consulted during development of the proposed revised claim form and their comments have been incorporated.

Entitlement to disability living allowance depends on the care and mobility needs arising from a person's illness or disability, not on the particular disability itself Therefore when designing claim forms we have to bear in mind that approx two thirds of our customers have more than one illness or disability present It would be impractical for both claimants and the business to design claim forms for individual impairments.

The revised claim form will be easier for the claimant to complete. It will be in a more suitable format than the current generic claim form for claimants with any single disability,

whether physical, mental or sensory, or combinations of any of these. Testing of this claim form begins in September 2005 in two pilot areas.

Claim forms and leaflets can already be requested in large print or Braille.

I hope this is helpful.

**Mr. Crabb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people are receiving disability living allowance; and how many are in Pembrokeshire. [13955]

**Mrs. McGuire:** As at 28 February 2005, the latest date for which information is available, some 2,673,000 people in Great Britain were receiving disability living allowance, of whom 7,100 were in Pembrokeshire.

*Notes:*

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest hundred. They are based on a 5 per cent. sample and therefore subject to sampling variation.

2. From November 2002, the methodology for producing these figures was changed to allow statistics to be published much sooner. This has resulted in a small increase in the reported caseload. This is because some cases which have actually terminated but have not yet been updated on the computer system are now included.

*Source:*

Information Directorate, 5 percent. data.

**Mr. MacNeil:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 4 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 69W, on disability living allowance, whether actions taker by his Department or by the Disability and Carers Service have intentionally or unintentionally had the consequence of reducing the award rate. [14602]

**Mrs. McGuire:** The administration of disability living allowance is a matter for the chief executive of the Disability and Carers Service, Mr. Terry Moran. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Terry Moran to Mr. Angus MacNeil, dated 21 July 2005:*

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, pursuant to the answer of 4 July 2005, Official Report, column 69W, on disability living allowance, whether actions taken by his Department or by the Disability and Carers Service have intentionally or unintentionally had the consequence of reducing the award rate. The Minister for Disabled People, Anne McGuire MP, promised you a substantive reply from the Chief Executive of the Disability and Carers Service.

There have been no changes to the policy, or the entitlement rules laid down in law, which would intentionally or unintentionally reduce the award rate of disability living allowance. Our intention still remains to pay the right money to the right person at the right time.

### Disability Rights Commission

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many charges of *(a)* racial discrimination, *(b)* sexual discrimination, *(c)* disability discrimination and *(d)* a combination of the above have been made by the staff of the Disability Rights Commission against the Commission in each of the past 10 years. [12493]

**Mrs. McGuire:** There have been three such claims made by DRC staff to Employment Tribunals since the Commission opened its doors for business in April 2000:

Sex discrimination (2003)

Disability discrimination (2004, withdrawn)

Sex and disability discrimination (2005).

None of these claims proceeded as far as a hearing before the tribunal.

### Disabled People (Employer Insurance)

**Mr. Caton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) if he will assess the merits of providing financial assistance to companies that incur additional insurance costs because they employ disabled people; [7518]

(2) what recent estimate his Department has made of the numbers of disabled people *(a)* refused employment and *(b)* dismissed because employers claim that insurance costs are prohibitive; [7519]

(3) what assessment his Department has made of the accuracy of risk assessments undertaken by insurance companies that increase insurance premiums when disabled people are employed. [7520]

**Mrs. McGuire:** The Department for Work and Pensions does not intend to make an assessment of the merits of providing financial assistance to companies that incur additional insurance costs because they employ disabled people. The Government do not provide funding to employers to enable them to meet their obligations under the Disability Discrimination Act 1995. In fulfilling their duty to make reasonable adjustments, employers are required only to make adjustments that are reasonable for them to make given all the circumstances of the case. Factors such as the cost of the adjustment and the employer's available resources are taken into account in determining what is reasonable.

No data is held on people who have been refused employment or dismissed because employers claim that insurance costs are prohibitive. Therefore the Department for Work and Pensions has not made any estimates of the numbers of disabled people who have been affected in these circumstances. If insurance costs are "prohibitive" it may be unreasonable for an employer to pay the higher premium. Furthermore, an unacceptably high premium, or a refusal by an insurance company to provide cover for the disabled individual, may provide grounds for the employer to justify discriminatory action against the insurance company.

The Department has made no estimate of the accuracy of risk assessments undertaken by insurance companies that increase premiums when disabled people are employed. The Government are not in a position to intervene in the decisions of insurance companies when determining whether or not to offer insurance. "An Insurer's Guide to the Disability Discrimination Act 1995", published by the Association of British Insurers includes guidance to the insurance industry on the use of relevant information and data in underwriting and we would expect insurance companies to follow this guide. The guide has been endorsed by the Disability Rights Commission which has undertaken to monitor its effects to help the industry improve its performance. The Disability Rights Commission proposes to begin research this summer.

### EDS

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what changes have been agreed in relation to the *(a)* accuracy and *(b)* quality of data and management information supplied by EDS in response to the internal audit recommendation of 2004–05; and what led to the recommendation. [1989]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The internal audit recommendation followed a review of the Performance Management, Management Information and Data Warehouse of the new Child Support System. This issue was also identified in the Work and Pensions Select Committee report on the Child Support System (Second report of the session 2004–05 HC 441. I refer the hon. Member to the Government's response to this report (HC477) and specifically the response to the first recommendation, which relates to management information.

### Employers' Liability Insurance

**Mr. Nicholas Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent representations he has received concerning employers' liability insurance. [13989]

**Mrs. McGuire:** We have received no recent representations concerning employers' liability insurance.

### English Wine

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will ensure that English wine is made available at dinners, receptions and parties he hosts at which hospitality involving wine is appropriate *(a)* during the EU presidency and *(b)* generally; and if he will make a statement. [9156]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** On all issues of hospitality the primary consideration is one of Value for Money. All departmental organisers of EU presidency events have been advised of Cabinet Office guidance which encourages the provision of British food and drink where possible.

### Group 4

**Mr. Henderson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was spent by his Department and public bodies and agencies for which he is responsible on security contracts with Group 4 Securicor in 2004–05; and if he will list *(a)* the nature and location of services provided and *(b)* the start and end dates of such contracts. [13523]

**Margaret Hodge:** The Department and its public bodies or agencies have had no expenditure with Group 4 Securicor on security contracts in the past year.

### Home Responsibilities Protection Scheme

**Mr. Hood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many carers in *(a)* Scotland and *(b)* the Lanark and Hamilton East constituency have participated in the Home Responsibilities Protection Scheme in each year from 2001; and if he will make a statement. [14059]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The information requested is not available at constituency level. Such information as is available is in the table.

*Carers in Scotland eligible for home responsibilities protection*

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2001–02 | 309,000 |
| 2002–03[1] | 500,000 |
| 2003–04[1] | 465,000 |

[1] The figures for 2002–03 and 2003–004 are provisional.

*Source:*

1 per cent. sample of the Lifetime Labour Market Database of the National Insurance Records System

These figures represent the number of people for whom HRP is available if they do not achieve a qualifying year for state pension purposes through national insurance contributions. They do not represent the numbers who need HRP in order to qualify for a full basic state pension.

### Honours

**Mr. Pope:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many officials currently in the Department received honours in the recent Queen's Birthday Honours List; and at what rank of honour. [5111]

**Mrs. McGuire:** I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster on 22 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 1059.

### Housing Benefit

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many people have used the rapid claims procedure for housing benefit in each year since its introduction, broken down by region; [5441]

(2) what percentage of new housing benefit recipients in each year since 1997 had to *(a)* fill in more than one form and *(b)* attend more than one office in order successfully to complete their claim, broken down by region. [5444]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The information is not collected. Local authorities provide details of the number of new claims made to housing benefit and council tax benefit, but are not required to provide details of the type of claim forms received.

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many housing benefit claims were outstanding on average in each year since 1997, broken down by region. [5454]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The information is in the table.

*Average number of claims outstanding in each Government Office Region; 2000–01 to 2004–05*

| *Government Office Region* | *2000–01* | *2001–02* | *2002–03* | *2003–04* | *2004–05* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| East Midlands | 52,414 | 31,346 | 34,377 | 50,943 | 18,764 |
| Eastern | 66,383 | 47,811 | 31,817 | 52,888 | 42,869 |
| London | 154,426 | 75,947 | 131,966 | 89,734 | 67,282 |

*Average number of claims outstanding in each Government Office Region; 2000–01 to 2004–05*

| *Government Office Region* | *2000–01* | *2001–02* | *2002–03* | *2003–04* | *2004–05* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| North-east | 38,189 | 35,045 | 27,555 | 58,937 | 10,771 |
| North-west | 140,411 | 38,100 | 75,383 | 49,153 | 29,240 |
| Scotland | 67,348 | 62,659 | 63,599 | 62,680 | 29,474 |
| South-east | 117,054 | 63,838 | 39,174 | 88,327 | 27,539 |
| South-west | 85,895 | 32,218 | 36,425 | 153,382 | 21,492 |
| Wales | 102,592 | 27,980 | 39,297 | 51,279 | 24,776 |
| West Midlands | 60,002 | 31,892 | 45,498 | 76,722 | 29,432 |
| Yorks and Humberside | 122,778 | 73,130 | 71,210 | 292,469 | 28,311 |
| National total | 1,007,492 | 519,966 | 596,299 | 1,026,513 | 329,948 |

*Notes:*
1. Not all LAs have returned data in every quarter, so the reported figures are the weighted averages of those that have returned figures.
2. Local authorities may not use the same method of counting.
3. Data is not available prior to 2000.
4. Prior to 2004–05 the count included both new and renewal claims, after this point existing claims were no longer renewed.

*Source:*
Local Authority (LA) quarterly statistical returns

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many landlords renting accommodation to housing benefit recipients were prosecuted for breaching environmental standards in each year since 1997, broken down by region. [5489]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The information is not available because it is not collected by centrally.

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the cost of administering housing benefit was in each year since 1997. [5492]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The cost of administering housing benefit cannot be separated from the cost of administering council tax benefit; joint claims are usually administered together.

The available information is in the table.

*Costs to local authorities of administering housing benefit and council tax benefit for the years 1997–98 to 2003–04; Great Britain*

| | *Million* |
|---|---|
| 1997–98 | 516 |
| 1998–99 | 526 |
| 1999–2000 | 597 |
| 2000–01 | 613 |
| 2001–02 | 654 |
| 2002–03 | 693 |
| 2003–04 | 765 |

*Notes:*
1. These figures should not be regarded as the exact cost because it is not always possible for local authorities to accurately separate their HB/CTB administration costs from other expenditure.
2. 2003–04 is the latest year for which information is available.

Source:
Local authority reported expenditure.

## Health and Safety Executive

**Mr. Nicholas Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will make a statement on the Health and Safety Executive campaign Government Setting an Example. [13979]

**Mrs. McGuire:** The Government Setting an Example programme was designed to develop best practice on health, safety and sickness absence within Government Departments. The Health and Safety Executive has now brought this work together with its priority programme on the health services into a public services programme.

This supports the work of the ministerial taskforce on health, safety and productivity by working with management and employee representatives to focus on the key causes of work related sickness absence across the public sector.

## Incapacity Benefit

**Mr. Heathcoat-Amory:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what estimate the Government have made of the *(a)* prevalence and *(b)* value of incapacity benefit fraud among those benefit recipients who do not live in the UK; [8992]

(2) how the Government seek to prevent fraud by incapacity benefit recipients who do not live in the UK; and how much has been spent in each year since 1997 on the prevention of such fraud. [8993]

**Mrs. McGuire:** The 2001 National Benefit Review of IB Fraud indicated that fraud in IB is very low. There is no reason to believe it would be any higher in those claiming abroad who are subject to the same periodic medical examinations to confirm they remain entitled to benefit as are UK based claimants.

No estimates have been made of the level of fraud amongst those claiming incapacity benefits from abroad and there are no additional measures in place to counter such fraud. Therefore information is not available as to how much has been spent on the prevention of such fraud.

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people living abroad are receiving incapacity benefit; and if he will make a statement. [9691]

**Mrs. McGuire** *[holding answer 5 July 2005]:* As at February 2005, there were 9,800 incapacity benefit and severe disability allowance claimants living overseas.

Incapacity benefit is payable to recipients living in European Union (EU) and European Economic Area (EEA) countries and Switzerland under the European Community's social security regulations. It is also

payable under bilateral social security agreements to recipients who live in the Isle of Man or the Channel Islands or in one of the countries in the list.

Non-EU/EEA countries where incapacity benefit is payable under bi-lateral agreements:

Bosnia-Herzegovina

Barbados

Croatia

Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Israel

Jamaica

State Union of Serbia and Montenegro

Turkey

USA

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many incapacity benefits claimants there are in each local authority area; and what proportion of the working age population they represent. [9864]

**Mrs. McGuire:** The information has been placed in the Library.

**Mr. Frank Field:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the projected numbers of people on incapacity benefit are for *(a)* 2010–11, *(b)* 2020–21, *(c)* 2030–31, *(d)* 2040–41 and *(e)* 2050–51, broken down by rate of benefit. [9949]

**Margaret Hodge** *[holding answer 5 July 2005]:* Between 1979 and 1997 the number of people receiving incapacity benefit rose from 700,000 to 2.5 million—the equivalent of an additional 2,000 inactive people every single week. However, between November 1997 and November 2004 inflows declined by around 30 per cent. This has resulted in the slowing down of the growth in the caseload since 1997. In fact in the year to February 2005 the caseload fell by 29,000—a small but significant change, reflecting the success of our management of the economy and the success of our welfare to work policies.

Projections of the number of claimants ignore the progress we have made since 1997. At least a million claimants (the Shaw Trust estimate 1.5 million) receiving incapacity benefit say they expect to work in the future, given the right support. We are already providing this support in the Pathways to Work pilots, which are doubling their recorded job entries, but we want to do even more and that's why we will be publishing a Green Paper in the autumn outlining our proposals. Our ambition is to move a million people off incapacity benefit and into work.

The available information is in the following table.

*Projected incapacity benefit claimants in the UK for years shown, broken down by benefit rate.*

| | *2010–11* | *2020–21* | *2030–31* | *2040–41* | *2050–51* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Invalidity benefit—basic | 230 | 74 | 11 | [1]— | 0 |
| Incapacity benefit—short-term lower rate | 100 | 113 | 108 | 107 | 108 |
| Incapacity benefit—short-term higher rate | 99 | 118 | 117 | 115 | 119 |
| Incapacity benefit—long-term | 1,263 | 1,783 | 1,892 | 1,864 | 1,951 |
| Incapacity benefit—earnings-related | 194 | 65 | 9 | 0 | 0 |

[1] Indicates figures below 500.

*Notes.*

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest thousand and shown in thousands.
2. These projections do not take account of any future changes to the welfare system.

Source:

DWP projections based on figures underlying HM Treasury's Annex A in the Budget Report.

**Mr. Hood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether there is an established mechanism by which the view of disabled people on the proposed incapacity benefit reforms are taken in to account; whether a report has been commissioned to consider the views of the disabled people in reform of the incapacity benefit system; and if he will make a statement. [10757]

**Margaret Hodge:** The views of disabled people are central to the development of our proposals for the reform of incapacity benefit and the consultation process follows the guidance set out in the code of practice on consultation published by the Cabinet Office in January 2004.

Consultation on this issue has been ongoing since the publication of our Green Paper on Pathways to Work in November 2002. Since the publication of the five year strategy and as we continue to develop our proposals the Department is engaged in a range of meetings and events with stakeholders to ensure that we capture as much input as possible.

Once our forthcoming Green Paper is published in the autumn we will undertake a formal consultation period of 12 weeks in line with the code of practice on consultation. The Green Paper will be available in a range of formats and will be publicised through a number of events for stakeholders and through a range of activities on the internet, including stakeholder websites.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what plans he has to *(a)* pilot and *(b)* evaluate the effects of benefit sanctions within incapacity benefit; and what research he has commissioned into the effect on incapacity benefit recipients of being sanctioned for failure to attend a work-focused interview; [11851]

(2) pursuant to his answer of 22 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 1076W, on Pathways to Work, what the diagnoses were of those sanctioned; and what proportion were receiving incapacity benefit for mental health conditions. [11861]

**Mrs. McGuire:** People claiming incapacity benefit in Pathways to Work areas may be sanctioned for failing to attend or take part in a work focused interview (WFI) with a Jobcentre Plus personal adviser. Specific information on the diagnosis of those sanctioned is not available.

There have been an insufficient number of sanctions to warrant a specific study of their effects. However, the Department is regularly monitoring the numbers and is currently reviewing priorities for future evaluation. As part of the evaluation of the Pathways pilots the Department has commissioned studies to examine the experiences of incapacity benefit customers and personal advisers, including sanctions imposed.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his estimate is of the proportion of incapacity benefit claimants in the UK who were aged over *(a)* 40, *(b)* 50, *(c)* 55, *(d)* 60 and *(e)* 65 in (i) 1985–86, (ii) 1990–91, (iii) 2000–01 and (iv) the latest year for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [963]

**Mrs. McGuire:** The information is not available in the format requested. The available information is in the table.

*Sickness benefit (SB), invalidity benefit (IVB), severe disability allowance (SDA) and incapacity benefit (IB) claimants in Great Britain by age group at dates shown*

| | Year ending | | Quarter ending | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | April 1996 | March 1991 | February 2001 | November 2004 |
| All ages | 1,398,200 | 1,972,000 | 2,692,100 | 2,696,500 |
| Under 40 | 327,900 | 432,500 | 780,500 | 782,600 |
| Percentage | 23.45 | 21.93 | 28.99 | 29.02 |
| 40–49 | 230,600 | 346,900 | 587,700 | 638,800 |
| Percentage | 16.49 | 17.59 | 21.83 | 23.69 |
| 50–54 | 173,000 | 257,900 | 438,800 | 391,600 |
| Percentage | 12.37 | 13.08 | 16.30 | 14.52 |
| 55–59 | 250,600 | 345,500 | 492,000 | 528,300 |
| Percentage | 17.92 | 17.52 | 18.28 | 19.59 |
| 60–64 | 316,800 | 367,500 | 365,700 | 325,100 |
| Percentage | 22.66 | 18.64 | 13.58 | 12.06 |
| 65 and over | 99,300 | 221,700 | 27,400 | 30,100 |
| Percentage | 7.10 | 11.24 | 1.02 | 1.12 |

*Notes:*
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest hundred. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
2. "Claimant" figures include all credits only cases.
3. Sickness/invalidity benefit was replaced by incapacity benefit in April 1995.

*Source:*
*Information directorate 1 per cent. sample for 1986 and 1991. 5 per cent. sample for 2001 and 2004.*

## Internal Audit Recommendations

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will place in the Library internal audit recommendations made in the last four years for *(a)* Jobcentre Plus, *(b)* the Pension Service and *(c)* the Disability and Carers Directorate. [1341]

**Mrs. McGuire:** The Department will review all internal audit recommendations for the last four years and in due course will place these in the Library. The only exceptions to this will be those recommendations where there is specific commercial or policy reason not to make the information available and those recommendations already placed in the Library on 22 March 2005 for the Child Support Agency.

## Local Housing Allowance Scheme

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the most recent average waiting time for a new claim to be assessed under the Local Housing Allowance scheme is in each of the original nine Pathfinder authorities; and what the average waiting time was for a housing benefit claim to be assessed in each of these authorities in each year since 1997. [1329]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The available information is in the following table.

*Average housing benefit (rent allowance) claim processing times in local housing allowance pathfinder authorities.*

| | 2000–01 | 2001–02 | 2002–03 | 2003–04 | 2004–05[1] |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Brighton and Hove | 79.77 | n/a | 30.7 | 29.99 | 34.02 |
| Blackpool | 44.81 | 44.13 | 47.96 | 31.42 | 26.05 |
| Leeds | 47.84 | 36.76 | 41.54 | 31.01 | 90.08 |
| Lewisham | 55.41 | 44.74 | 43.89 | 44.29 | 34.06 |
| Teignbridge | 41.51 | 37.63 | 36.22 | 40.17 | 31.8 |
| Edinburgh | n/a | 77.79 | 78.41 | 98.54 | 89.44 |
| Conwy | 79.69 | 67.69 | 62.5 | 40.34 | 31.47 |
| Coventry | 61.9 | 65.64 | 65.18 | 53.99 | 53.77 |
| NE Lincolnshire | 32.89 | 49.38 | 64.59 | 48.96 | 35.76 |

n/a = not available.
[1] First three quarters.

*Notes:*
1. Average processing times are given in days.
2. Data is collected on rent allowance claims which includes, but is not exclusive to, the local housing allowance.
3. Data on average processing times is not available prior March 2000 when the best value performance indicators were introduced
4. The increase in processing times in Leeds have been caused by a change of IT system.

*Source:* Local Authority MIS data.

### Jobcentre Plus

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many Jobcentre Plus offices there are in Coventry. [13923]

**Margaret Hodge:** In Coventry there are currently three Jobcentres, one Jobcentre Plus office and one Social Security office.

### Management Consultants

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the total expenditure saved in each of the last three years as a result of implementing recommendations by management consultancies within his Department. [13624]

**Margaret Hodge:** The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Maternity Pay

**Mr. Hood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how much employers spent in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* Scotland on statutory maternity pay in (i) 2002, (ii) 2003, (iii) 2004 and (iv) 2005; and if he will make a statement; [10060]

(2) what the cost of statutory maternity pay has been to employers in the UK in 2005; and if he will make a statement. [10284]

**Mrs. McGuire:** Information is not available for Scotland. The available information, which is on a UK basis, is in the following table.

*UK expenditure on statutory maternity pay by employers*

*£ million*

| | *Outturn* | *Forecast* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *2002–03* | *2003–04* | *2004–05* | *2005–06* |
| Initial employer expenditure | 840 | 1,208 | 1,319 | 1,357 |
| Amount recovered through national insurance deductions | 785 | 1,129 | 1,233 | 1,268 |
| Net employer expenditure | 55 | 79 | 86 | 89 |

*Notes*:
1. Expenditure information is on an accruals basis.
2. Outturn information is available for the financial year 2002–03. Data for other financial years are forecasts.
3. Although statutory maternity pay is originally paid for by the employer, they are entitled to receive a reimbursement of 92 per cent. of their costs through deductions to national insurance contributions. Small employers, in addition to the 92 per cent. reimbursement, receive Small Employers Relief of 12.5 per cent. which brings their total reimbursement to 104.5 per cent. As a result the final net expenditure paid by the employer is much lower than their initial outlay.
4. There is a large increase in expenditure between 2002–03 and 2003–04 because the number of weeks a woman is entitled to claim SMP rose from 18 to 26.

*Source*:
Source of forecast information is the Government Actuary Department's forecasting model for Budget 2005.

**Mr. Hood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many women in Scotland received maternity payments in *(a)* 2003, *(b)* 2004 and *(c)* 2005; and if he will make a statement. [10062]

**Mrs. McGuire:** The information is not available below GB level.

**Helen Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) when he expects the review of eligibility for earnings disregards under maternity allowance and statutory maternity pay to be completed; [12594]

(2) how many women are receiving *(a)* maternity allowance and *(b)* statutory maternity pay; and if he will make a statement on eligibility for earnings disregards in relation to such benefits. [12595]

**Mrs. McGuire:** Neither maternity allowance nor statutory maternity pay is subject to earnings disregards; they are income replacement benefits.

As 28 February 2005, there were 25,600 women in receipt of maternity allowance. During 2004–05, the number of new statutory maternity pay claims was 313,000.

### Ministerial Taskforce for Health, Safety and Productivity

**Mr. Nicholas Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when the Ministerial Taskforce for Health, Safety and Productivity last met; and what progress it has made in reducing days lost through sickness and absence in the public sector. [13978]

**Margaret Hodge:** The Ministerial Task Force on Health, Safety and Productivity met on 22 June and 20 July 2005. The Task Force produced a report on "Managing Sickness Absence in the Public Sector" in December 2004. It has since reviewed how its recommendations are being implemented within the civil service.

A number of pilots to test effectiveness of management interventions and develop best practice are now in place, including in my own Department. Some are already showing positive results. For example in HM Prison Service there has been a fall in sickness rates of 4.7 per cent. overall in one year.

The Task Force will be agreeing realistic targets for the public sector and monitoring progress.

### New Deal

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people have started on a new deal scheme more than once. [12521]

**Margaret Hodge:** The new deal has been successful in helping more than 1.3 million people into work. 577,020 people have started the new deal more than once. There are several possible reasons for this. In a dynamic, shifting labour market, it is inevitable that some people entering the new deal will return to unemployment. Equally a person may cease their involvement on the new deal because they move from jobseekers' allowance on to another benefit or stop claiming at all. These people may subsequently reclaim and return to the new deal. However, the new deal is a long-term investment to make a real difference to the lives of its participants.

Those who do return to benefits have still added to their skills, confidence and experience, making it easier for them to find a job in the future.

### Parliamentary Questions

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he will reply to question reference 7079 from the hon. Member for Sutton and Cheam. [14637]

**Mrs. McGuire:** A reply was given on 19 July.

### Part-time Study Rules

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether young homeless people will be allowed to take part in the pilot scheme allowing low-skills benefits claimants in England to take up free, full-time training towards a first level 2 qualification, without losing benefits. [12235]

**Margaret Hodge:** Yes. The New Deal for Skills Adult Learning Option trial, due to start in autumn 2006, will test the effectiveness of providing financial support for adult Jobcentre Plus customers to allow them to take up a first full Level 2 qualification through Learning and Skills Council funded provision.

The option is for benefit recipients for whom a lack of skills is the barrier to employment and young homeless people who meet this criterion will be eligible for consideration on the same basis as other Jobcentre Plus customers.

### Pathways Programme

**Mr. Hood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will make a statement on the effectiveness of the Pathways programme since its introduction in *(a)* helping people on incapacity benefit to obtain employment and *(b)* providing help to disabled people to manage their condition. [10756]

**Margaret Hodge:** We have early signs that the Pathways to Work approach is having a positive impact, providing a framework of high-quality active support for people on incapacity benefits. To the end of March 2005 there have been around 13,400 Pathways job entries and there is increasingly clear evidence of a significant increase in the proportions of new claimants leaving benefit.

In our Pathways pilot areas we have achieved an increase of about 8 per cent. in the number of people who move off incapacity benefit within six months when compared to non pilot areas. The increase exceeds our initial expectations.

Around 20 per cent. of all those attending work-focused interviews (WFIs) take up one of the forms of back-to-work help available in Pathways areas.

The element of Pathways designed to provide help to disabled people to manage their condition is the NHS Condition Management Programme which has been particularly welcomed by both customers and personal advisers. There have been 4,900 starts to Condition Management Programmes since their introduction in October 2003. Some of those whose health condition improved cited the Condition Management Programme as a contributing factor.

The Pathways to Work pilots are operating in seven areas and we will add 14 additional pilot areas from October 2005 onwards.

The latest Pathways statistics, "Pathways to Work Performance and Analysis", have been placed in the Library.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he plans to roll out Pathways to Work across the UK; and what the planned expenditure on Pathways to Work is in *(a)* 2005–06, *(b)* 2006–07, *(c)* 2007–08 and *(d)* 2008–09. [11854]

**Margaret Hodge:** The Pathways to Work programme is currently available in seven areas covering around 9 per cent. of all incapacity benefit claimants.

Between October 2005 and October 2006 we will be further extending Pathways in three phases to around one-third of claimants. We will look to continue this phased roll-out on the way to providing national coverage.

The planned expenditure on the current Pathways to Work model is in the table.

*Planned expenditure on the current Pathways to Work model*

| | *Cost (£ million)* |
|---|---|
| 2005–06 | 65 |
| 2006–07 | 132 |
| 2007–08 | 149 |
| 2008–09 | 149 |

### Pension Credit

**Adam Afriyie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what his latest estimate is of the number of pensioners who are not claiming pension credits to which they are entitled; [12257]

(2) what his latest estimate is of the number of pensioners who are not claiming each of the means-tested benefits to which they are entitled. [12262]

**Mr. Pl[illegible]:** Latest estimates of the number of pensioners entitled to but not receiving the main income-related benefits relate to the financial year 2002–03. These cover minimum income guarantee, housing benefit and council tax benefit and are published in the Department for Work and Pensions report Income Related Benefits Estimates of Take-Up in 2002–03. A copy of the report is in the Library.

There are now over 2.7 million households in Great Britain receiving pension credit. Estimates based on the Family Resources Survey suggest that there are 3.85 million households entitled to pension credit in Great Britain in 2005–06. These two figures come from different sources, are calculated differently and are not directly comparable.

**Mr. Crabb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which categories of benefits are disregarded in assessing income for the purposes of calculating the pension credit. [13956]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The benefits disregarded in assessing income for the purposes of calculating pension credit are listed at regulation 15 of the State Pension Credit Regulations 2002. A copy of which is available in the Library.

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what percentage of pensioner households in Scotland are in receipt of pension credit. [13959]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** At 31 March 2005, 280,795 pensioner households in Scotland were in receipt of pension credit. This figure represents approximately 37 percent., of the total number of households in Scotland with at least one member aged 60 or over, based on data from the 2001 Census.

*Notes:*

1. The number of pension credit households is rounded to the nearest five.

2. Census data on pensioner households in Scotland obtained from the General Register Office for Scotland.

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners there were in the Stroud constituency in the last year for which figures are available; and how many were in receipt of pension credit. [13615]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The most recent estimates of pensioner population by parliamentary constituency are contained in "Census 2001—Census Area Statistics for Parliamentary Constituencies in England and Wales", which is available in the Library. Information on numbers of households and individuals in receipt of pension credit in each constituency at 31 March 2005 is contained in the most recent quarterly pension credit progress report, which was published on 20 June. A copy of the report is in the Library.

## Pension Rights

**Sir Malcolm Rifkind:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his latest estimate is of the number of occupational pension scheme members who are facing losses to their pension savings due to their schemes being wound up by their employers. [12215]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** We have not made any estimate of the total number of occupational pension scheme members who are facing losses to their pension savings due to their schemes being wound up by their employers. Based on our most recent data collection for the financial assistance scheme (FAS), we know of around 70,000 non–pensioner members in schemes that are potentially eligible for assistance from the FAS as a result of their schemes being wound up in circumstances of insolvency or where the employer no longer exists.

## Pension Service

**Mr. Todd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average response time is to queries submitted to the Pension Service Retirement Pension Forecasting Team; and if he will make a statement. [13307]

**Mr. Timms:** The average response time to inquiries from customers requesting an individual pension forecast is 10.2 working days.

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many full-time equivalent helpline staff are employed by the Pension Service. [10265]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The Pension Service does not employ any helpline staff, although it provides a number of telephone services including a generic telephone number for members of the public to contact the appropriate pension centre. The generic number enables customers to be connected to the staff best placed to assist them.

The Pension Service also provides the pension credit application line (PCAL) and pensions direct for state pension and widows benefit customers and their representatives. These services will all provide help or advice where but are not regarded as helplines. The primary purpose of PCAL, in particular, is to take applications for pension credit and its staff are not employed directly by the Pension Service.

## Pensions

**Sir Malcolm Rifkind:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of how many people in employment in the UK have no pension provision. [12217]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** We estimate that the number of people in employment (including the self-employed) in the UK currently not accruing a basic state pension is 1.08 million (full-time employment 370,000, part-time employment 710,000).

We estimate that the number of people in employment (including the self-employed) in the UK currently not contributing to a private pension scheme (occupational, personal or stakeholder) is 11.2 million (full-time employment 7.9 million, part-time employment 3.3 million)

We estimate that the number of people in employment (including the self-employed) in the UK currently not accruing a basic state pension and currently not contributing to a private pension scheme (occupational, personal or stakeholder) is 900,000 (full-time employment 270,000, part-time employment 640,000).

*Notes:*

1. All figures are estimates and are taken from the Family Resources Survey (FRS). 2003–04 is the latest year for which data is available. Figures are rounded up to the nearest 10,000.

2. Our estimates from the data are of the numbers who are not accruing a pension at a given point in time. Some of those will be people who have made provision previously, and many will build up pensions subsequently.

3. With regards to the basic state pension, the data shows whether individuals would gain state pension entitlement if they remained in the same position all year. In practice some shown as not accruing will go on to gain a year's entitlement, and others who appear to be accruing will not.

4. All full-time employees should be earning enough to accrue a basic state pension. However some self employed may work full-time but not reach the lower profits level, and some employees may report they work full-time for less than the national minimum wage. Of the 370,000 people in full-time employment currently not accruing a state pension, 250,000 are self employed.

5. Private pension refers to either an occupational pension or personal pension or stakeholder pension.

*Source:*

Family Resources Survey 2003–04.

**Sir Malcolm Rifkind:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of active stakeholder pensions receive employer contributions. [12218]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** Information is not available in the format requested. Stakeholder pensions are designed to be flexible, with holders able to take breaks in contributions without incurring penalty charges. This means that those stakeholder pensions that did not receive contributions in a particular year are not necessarily permanently dormant.

Out of the 1,060,000 stakeholder pensions receiving contributions in the 2002–03 tax year, 40 per cent. (420,000) had an employer contribution. Not all stakeholder pensions receiving a contribution in that year will have been eligible for an employer contribution: stakeholder pensions are available to everyone including the self employed, carers and those in training or education.

This information is derived from a sample of annual returns of information submitted to the Inland Revenue (now HM Revenue and Customs) by stakeholder pension providers. The figures are rounded to the nearest 10,000.

**Mr. Denham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the net public expenditure cost, after allowing for pension credit and tax income, of the basic state pension in 2026 if the basic state pension is increased annually from 2006 by the increase in average earnings plus £2 per week. [12795]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** It is estimated that by increasing the basic state pension each year by earnings plus £2 per week the total net additional cost in 2026 would be £29 billion.

*Notes:*

1. Figures are for Great Britain in 2005–06 price terms, using the GDP deflator index, rounded to the nearest £500 million. It is assumed the policy change comes into effect from April 2006.

2. Gross costs are estimated by the Government Actuary's Department and are consistent with Budget 2005 assumptions and use 2003 based population projections.

3. Costs are net of income related benefits (savings credit, guarantee credit, housing benefit and council tax benefit) and income tax, and are calculated using the Department's policy simulation model for 2005–06.

4. The category A rate of basic state pension has been uprated by earnings plus £2 and category B pensions have been uprated by earnings plus £1.20 (i.e. approximately 60 per cent. of the category A rate).

5. The state second pension is assumed to be unchanged.

### Departmental Cost Savings

**Dr. Cable:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what value for money procurement savings were identified and what reduction in civil service posts occurred in his Department in 2004–05. [4548]

**Mrs. McGuire:** In pre-Budget report 2004 the Chancellor reported OGC value for money gains in central civil government procurement for 2003–04 of £2 billion. OGC value for money procurement gains for 2004–05 are being calculated and will be published in the 2005 Treasury Autumn Performance Report.

In Budget 2005 the Chancellor announced a headcount reduction of 12,500 posts by the end of 2004–05, towards the Government's target of a gross reduction of 84,000 civil service and administrative posts by 2008. The number of posts in the Department for Work and Pensions reduced by 9,970 during 2004–05.

### Sign Language and Lip-speakers

**Malcolm Bruce:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* sign language interpreters and *(b)* lip-speakers were (i) in training, (ii) employed and (iii) unemployed in the UK in each year since 1997. [931]

**Mrs. McGuire:** Information on the number of sign language interpreters who were employed and unemployed in each year since 1997 is not available. Employment statistics are drawn from the Labour Force Survey. However, there is no question in the survey that relates to whether or not respondents can lip read, or are sign language interpreters.

I understand from the Department for Education and Skills that the information on the respective numbers in training could be calculated only at disproportionate cost.

**Malcolm Bruce:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will take steps to implement the Council of Europe's Parliamentary Assembly's recommendation on the protection of sign languages. [986]

**Mrs. McGuire:** The Government recognised British Sign Language (BSL) as a language in its own right and committed additional funding for initiatives to increase training opportunities for BSL tutors and raise awareness of the language in 2003 before the Council of Europe's Parliamentary Assembly's recommendation was made. These steps are consistent with action that recommendation 1598 (2003) encourages member states to take.

The Council's Committee of Ministers has responsibility on behalf of member states for steering action in response to Parliamentary Assembly recommendation 1598(2003) on the protection of sign languages. The Committee's reply to the Parliamentary Assembly of 5 July 2004 said that a study of the needs of sign language users should inform the decision on any future instrument on the rights of sign language users and that it would update the Assembly on further developments including a possible international conference on sign languages.

### Simone Hampshire

**Derek Wyatt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how much time elapsed between agreement by the Child Support Agency of the payments to Simone Hampshire, a constituent of the hon. Member for Sittingbourne and Sheppey, and her receipt of such payments; [2109]

(2) if his Department will investigate the Child Support Agency's handling of the case of Simone Hampshire; [2634]

(3) if he will make representations to the Child Support Agency to resolve the case of Simone Hampshire. [2635]

**Mr. Plaskitt** *[holding answer 8 June 2005]:* The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive, Mr. Stephen Geraghty. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Mike Isaac to Mr. Derek Wyatt, dated 21 July 2005:*

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Questions about the Child Support Agency the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions; how much time elapsed between agreement by the Child Support Agency of the payments to Simone Hampshire and her receipt of such payments; if his Department will investigate the Child Support Agency's handling of the case of Simone Hampshire; and if he will make representations to the Child Support Agency to resolve the case of Simone Hampshire.

As details about individual cases are confidential I have written to you separately about this case on 16 June 2005.

### Tax Credits

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will make a statement on the new tax credits system developed by Affinity for his Department; how it interfaces with the main tax credit system; and what the estimated *(a)* cost and *(b)* timescale is. [9867]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** When the new tax credits commenced in 2003 a new data exchange mechanism was introduced to support the electronic exchange of data between the Department for Work and Pensions and Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs services (the "Tax Credits Gateway"). The Department also has enquiry facilities for tax credits award details ("View Only Access") and IT to support electronic applications and reporting of changes of circumstances ("e-portal").

Delivery, in partnership with HM Revenue and Customs is expected to be completed during summer 2006 with a planned cost of £114 million.

### Teenage Pregnancy

**Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps are being taken through the tax and benefits system to tackle teenage pregnancy and to encourage responsible parenting in Kettering. [13917]

**Margaret Hodge:** The tax credits and benefits systems are there to provide financial support and stability to people with children. Our highly successful welfare to work programmes and our regime of work focused interviews ensure that where possible, these people are helped into work.

There are no further plans to tackle teenage pregnancy or responsible parenting using the benefit system. However the forthcoming welfare reform will encourage self-reliance and independence.

## TREASURY

### Alcohol-related Deaths

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many deaths in which the primary cause was alcohol there were in Milton Keynes in each of the last five years. [13994]

**John Healey:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Len Cook to Mr. Mark Lancaster, dated 21 July 2005:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many deaths in which the primary cause was alcohol there were in Milton Keynes in each of the last five years. (13994)

The latest year for which figures are available is 2004. The attached table shows the numbers of deaths among residents of Milton Keynes Unitary Authority where the underlying cause of death indicated a condition directly related to alcohol use in the years 2000 to 2004.

*Alcohol-related deaths[1] to usual residents of Milton Keynes unitary authority, registered 2000 to 2004*

| | *Number of deaths* |
|---|---|
| 2000 | 19 |
| 2001 | 21 |
| 2002 | 26 |
| 2003 | 20 |
| 2004 | 22 |

[1] For the year 2000 the cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9). The codes used by ONS to define alcohol-related deaths are listed as follows:
291—Alcoholic psychoses
303—Alcohol dependence syndrome
305.0—Non-dependent abuse of alcohol
425.5—Alcoholic cardiomyopathy
571—Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis
E860—Accidental poisoning by alcohol
For the years 2001–04 the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) was used. To maintain comparability with earlier years the following codes were used:
F10—Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol
142.6—Alcoholic cardiomyopathy
K70—Alcoholic liver disease
K73—Chronic hepatitis, not elsewhere classified
K74—Fobrosis and cirrhosis of liver
X45—Accidental poisoning by and exposure to alcohol
*Note:*
Deaths were selected using the original underlying cause.
*Source:*
The selection of codes to define alcohol-related deaths is described in:
Baker A and Rooney C (2003). Recent trends in alcohol-related mortality, and the impact of ICD-10 on the monitoring of these deaths in England and Wales. "Health Statistics Quarterly" 17, pp 5–14.

### Animal Feed Imports

**Mr. Meacher:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will ensure compensation is paid to UK farmers, food manufacturers and their insurers if UK port authorities fail to detect contaminated animal feed imports. [12167]

**Caroline Flint:** I have been asked to reply.

There is a requirement under General Food Law (EC Regulation 178/2002) for both food and feed business operators to comply with the requirements of food law and verify that their requirements are met. The port health authorities are required to monitor imports and to ensure that businesses discharge their legal responsibilities, they are not responsible for checking imports on behalf of United Kingdom farmers and food manufacturers. Compensation would not therefore be provided as a result of failing to detect contaminated animal feed imports by the port health authorities.

### Correspondence

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many letters to his Department from hon. Members in Session *(a)* 2004–05 and *(b)* 2005–06 remain unanswered, broken down by those which are (i) one month old, (ii) two months old, (iii) three months old, (iv) four months old and (v) over six months old. [13851]

**John Healey:** Correspondence with the hon. Members is recorded by financial year not parliamentary Session. As at 19 July, the information sought is as follows:

| | *2004–05* | *2005–06 to date* |
|---|---|---|
| 1 month old | 0 | 15 |
| 2 months old | 0 | 3 |
| 3 months old | 0 | 2 |
| 4 months old | 2 | 0 |
| 6 months old | 1 | 0 |
| Total over 1 month old | 3 | 20 |

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the take-up rate of the *(a)* child element of child tax credit, *(b)* family element of child tax credit and *(c)* child care tax credit in working tax credit, broken down by (i) case load and (ii) expenditure. [13877]

**Dawn Primarolo:** I refer the hon. Gentleman to my answer to the hon. Member for Tatton (Mr. Osborne) on 19 July 2005.

### Council Tax

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate the Valuation Office Agency has made of the number of residential properties in each council tax band in Wales in *(a)* 2004–05 and *(b)* 2005–06. [11419]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The actual number of dwellings shown in each council tax band in Wales is as follows:

*For 2004–05 (at 31 March 2005)*

| *Council tax band* | *Number of dwellings* |
|---|---|
| A | 255,796 |
| B | 325,976 |
| C | 265,144 |
| D | 200,642 |
| E | 164,444 |
| F | 64,577 |
| G | 38,353 |
| H | 3,400 |



*For 2005–06 (at 30 June 2005)*

| *Council tax band* | *Number of dwellings* |
|---|---|
| A | 199,231 |
| B | 285,281 |
| C | 289,244 |
| D | 206,943 |
| E | 168,897 |
| F | 103,650 |
| G | 49,262 |
| H | 12,053 |
| I | 5,529 |

### Debt Relief

**Ann McKechin:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) to which poor countries the Government's current debt relief programmes apply; [13575]

(2) what steps he plans to take to ensure *(a)* that para. 31 of the 2005 G8 Communiqué will be put fully into effect and *(b)* that international financial institutions no longer impose conditions which run counter to the policy there expressed; [13585]

(3) what outstanding bilateral debts the UK has from low-income countries; and from when each dates. [13586]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The G8 agreement for multilateral debt relief is for all HIPCs who have reached completion point. Currently 18 countries could be eligible for debt worth up to $40 billion (Benin, Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guyana, Honduras, Mali, Mauritania, Madagascar, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Niger, Rwanda, Senegal, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia). As more countries reach completion point (currently 9 pre-completion point countries, and 11 pre-decision point countries) in the HIPC initiative this will increase in value to $55 billion.

The UK will also continue with its initiative to pay for the debt servicing of eligible non-HIPCs to the World Bank and African Development Bank. Eligible countries would be those low-income IDA-only borrowers who have sufficiently strong public financial management systems in place to ensure that the savings from debt relief are used for poverty reducing expenditures.

The G8 proposal is fully consistent with para. 31 of the 2005 G8 Communique with countries eligible for relief ready to demonstrate their commitment to poverty reduction and sound financial management.

Please see the following table for the countries with outstanding bilateral debt owed to the UK. These are the amounts owed to ECGD under Paris Club bilateral rescheduling agreements.

*Sovereign debts owing to ECGD under bilateral debt agreements following Paris Club reschedulings, all countries as at 17 July 2005*

| *Country* | *Debts incurred prior to* | *Outstanding (£ million)* |
|---|---|---|
| Algeria | October 1993 | 123.3 |
| Angola | January 1987 | 141.1 |
| Argentina | December 1983 | 33.3 |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina | December 1982 | 1.3 |
| Brazil | April 1983 | 133.4 |
| Cameroon | January 1989 | 52.3 |
| Central African Republic | January 1983 | 0.4 |

*Sovereign debts owing to ECGD under bilateral debt agreements following Paris Club reschedulings, all countries as at 17 July 2005*

| Country | Debts incurred prior to | Outstanding (£ million) |
|---|---|---|
| Congo Republic | August 1986 | 151.5 |
| Democratic Republic of Congo | July 1983 | 73.9 |
| Cote D'Ivoire | July 1983 | 17.3 |
| Croatia | December 1982 | 43.1 |
| Cuba | September 1982 | 103.5 |
| Ecuador | January 1983 | 52.4 |
| Egypt | November 1986 | 143.5 |
| Gabon | July 1986 | 139.5 |
| Guinea | January 1986 | 3.9 |
| Indonesia | July 1997 | 743.0 |
| Jamaica | October 1983 | 0.9 |
| Jordan | January 1989 | 344.8 |
| Kenya | January 1991 | 19.8 |
| Liberia | January 1983 | 22.8 |
| Macedonia | December 1982 | 2.4 |
| Malawi | January 1982 | 0.3 |
| Morocco | May 1983 | 13.3 |
| Nigeria | October 1985 | 4,392.7 |
| Pakistan | October 1997 | 6.8 |
| Peru | January 1983 | 101.4 |
| Philippines | April 1984 | 5.2 |
| Russia | January 1991 | 651.8 |
| Senegal | January 1983 | 1.0 |
| Serbia and Montenegro | December 1982 | 252.8 |
| Sierra Leone | July 1983 | 3.3 |
| Somalia | October 1983 | 30.5 |
| Sudan | January 1984 | 580.6 |
| Togo | January 1983 | 20.5 |
| Vietnam | January 1990 | 9.8 |

## Fisheries (EU Council Directive)

**Mr. Weir:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will amend Her Majesty's Customs and Excise Notice 263 to take account of the terms of EU Council Directive 2003/96/EC. [14891]

**John Healey:** No. Notice 263 explains the eligibility and procedures for reclaiming excise duty on fuel used in commercial vessels to make marine voyages. It is fully in line with Article 14 (1) *(c)* of EU Council Directive 2003/96/EC, which requires the exemption from duty of fuel used in commercial navigation, including fishing.

## Lorry Road User Charge Division

**Mr. Duncan:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether it is his intention to redeploy the HM Revenue and Customs Lorry Road User Charge division; and if he will make a statement. [12714]

**John Healey:** Yes.

## Money Laundering

**Mr. Roger Williams:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people who had their application to open a bank account declined on the basis that they represented a risk of money laundering were subsequently allowed to open a bank account in the UK, having provided further information. [14014]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 19 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 1690W.

## National Statistics

**Mr. Geoffrey Robinson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people worked in *(a)* inner London and *(b)* Greater London in each year since 1975. [13762]

**John Healey:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Len Cook to Mr. Geoffrey Robinson, dated 21 July 2005:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about employment in inner and Greater London since 1975. (13762)

The table overleaf shows the number of people working in inner London and the London region for each three-month period ending May of each year from 1992 to 2005. Estimates for earlier years are not available.

These estimates are based on Labour Force Survey (LFS) data which, as with any sample survey, is subject to sampling variability. The LFS is a survey of households, but the attached estimates are based on respondents' reported place of work rather than residence.

*Number of people working in inner London and London region; March to May; 1992 to 2005; not seasonally adjusted*

Thousand

| Period | Inner London | London |
|---|---|---|
| March–May 1992 | 1,903 | 3,602 |
| March–May 1993 | 1,890 | 3,444 |
| March–May 1994 | 1,872 | 3,402 |
| March–May 1995 | 1,899 | 3,471 |
| March–May 1996 | 1,900 | 3,471 |
| March–May 1997 | 1,984 | 3,599 |
| March–May 1998 | 1,994 | 3,603 |
| March–May 1999 | 2,052 | 3,770 |
| March–May 2000 | 2,069 | 3,694 |
| March–May 2001 | 2,171 | 3,777 |
| March–May 2002 | 2,153 | 3,791 |
| March–May 2003 | 2,104 | 3,716 |
| March–May 2004 | 2,226 | 3,891 |
| March–May 2005 | 2,229 | 3,887 |

*Source:*
Labour Force Survey

## Pension Credit

**Jessica Morden:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people in each ward of Newport, East claim pension credit. [13313]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** I have been asked to reply.

The information is given in the following table.

*Pension credit recipients, Newport, East, March 2005*

| Ward | Pension credit recipients (households) |
|---|---|
| Caldicot Castle | 115 |
| Dewstow | 55 |
| Green Lane | 60 |
| Mill | 95 |
| Rogiet | 45 |
| Severn | 140 |
| The Elms | 20 |
| West End | 75 |
| Always | 350 |
| Beechwood | 525 |
| Langstone | 80 |
| Liswerry | 475 |

*Pension credit recipients, Newport, East, March 2005*

| *Ward* | *Pension credit recipients (households)* |
|---|---|
| Llanwern | 140 |
| Ringland | 710 |
| St. Julians | 330 |
| Victoria | 335 |

*Notes:*
1. All wards are based on Census wards, current as at April 2003.
2. All benefit counts at ward level are rounded to a multiple of five, to protect the confidentiality of individual claimants.

*Source:*
Information Directorate, Department for Work and Pensions, 100 per cent. sample

### Red Diesel

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make a statement on progress on achieving a further derogation from EU law for marine operators who use red diesel. [14083]

**Mr. Weir:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with representatives of the fishing industry and other marine interests on the impact of EU Council Directive 2003/96/EC on their industries. [14893]

**John Healey:** I refer the hon. Members to what I said to the House on 26 May 2005, *Official Report*, column 865.

**Mr. Arbuthnot:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he plans to renew the derogation from EU Directive 2003/96/EC which allows red diesel to be taxed at a lower rate for private recreational marine craft; and if he will make a statement. [14794]

**John Healey:** I refer the right hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Orkney and Shetland (Mr. Carmichael) on 14 October 2004, *Official Report*, column 344W.

### Tax Credits

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many requests for reconsideration of recovery of overpaid tax credits were received in total by *(a)* December 2004, *(b)* March 2005, *(c)* April 2005, *(d)* May 2005 and *(e)* June 2005; how many of these have been resolved; and if he will make a statement. [9839]

**Dawn Primarolo:** For requests received and resolved by December 2004 I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave on 10 January 2005, *Official Report*, column 129W to the hon. Member for Aberdeen, South (Miss Begg).

| | *Cumulative total of requests received* | *Cumulative total of requests resolved* |
|---|---|---|
| March 2005 | 217,000 | 92,000 |
| April 2005 | 249,000 | 124,000 |
| May 2005 | 271,000 | 151,000 |
| June 2005 | 294,000 | 178,000 |

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* tax credit cases and *(b)* amendments to tax credit cases were calculated clerically in (i) 2003–04 and (ii) 2004–05. [9868]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The information is not available.

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many tax credit claimants have had direct payments of tax credits interrupted by the problem affecting the system for making direct payments of tax credits into bank accounts; what action has been taken to address the problem; and when he expects the problem to be resolved. [11788]

**Dawn Primarolo:** There is no problem affecting the system for making direct payments into bank accounts.

There were some delays in payment to new claimants and those reporting changes of circumstances in early April following a routine upgrade to the tax credits computer system. Claimants were able to request interim giro payments in cases of hardship.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials from the Department of Health to discuss the impact of the tax credit system on social workers. [11846]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Ministers and officials from a number of Departments regularly discuss issues related to the tax credit system.

**Mr. George Osborne:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what the largest number of adults residing in a single household in receipt of tax credits was in 2004–05; [13466]

(2) what the largest annual income for a household in receipt of tax credits was in 2004–05; [13469]

(3) what the smallest single tax credit payment was in 2004–05. [13471]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The information requested is not available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

**Mr. George Osborne:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many households containing higher rate income taxpayers were in receipt of tax credits in 2004–05. [13473]

**Dawn Primarolo:** We estimate that approximately 300,000 families containing a higher rate income taxpayer were in receipt of tax credits in 2004–05. All of these families received child tax credit only.

**Mr. George Osborne:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what projections he made prior to the launch of the child tax credit and the working tax credit of the number of awards in 2003–04 that would involve *(a)* underpayments and *(b)* overpayments; and what projections he made of the value of these underpayments and overpayments. [13687]

**Dawn Primarolo:** For a projection of the number of awards that may need to be reassessed due to rises in income prior to the introduction of tax credits I refer the hon. Member to page 29 of "The Child and Working Tax Credits. The Modernisation of Britain's Tax and Benefit System. Number Ten". A link of this can be found on HMT website at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/media/8D5/BD/new_tax_credits.pdf

**Mr. George Osborne:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what revisions he has made to the projection in his Department's spring Departmental Report that 97.1 per cent. of new claims, renewals and changes of circumstance within the tax credits system would be decided accurately in 2004–05. [13714]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The final figure is not yet available. The Department will publish final results for 2004–05 in its Annual Report, which will be available on its website at www.hmrc.gov.uk

**Mr. Frank Field:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many tax credit awards were reduced in response to an alleged overpayment and subsequently discovered not to have been overpaid in *(a)* 2003–04 and *(b)* 2004–05. [13920]

**Dawn Primarolo:** This information is not available.

**Mr. Frank Field:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the *(a)* number and *(b)* value of additional hardship tax credit payments made to tax credit claimants has been since their inception. [13921]

**Dawn Primarolo:** In 2003–04, the Revenue made additional tax credits payments to around 32,500 claimants. In 2004–05, HMRC made additional tax credits payments to around 10,000 claimants.

The total value of the payments was around £26 million.

**Mr. Frank Field:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* complaints, *(b)* disputed overpayments and *(c)* appeals against Inland Revenue decisions are registered with the tax credits office. [13924]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Currently there are around *(a)* 5,900 complaints *(b)* 108,000 disputed overpayments and *(c)* 5,700 appeals pending at the tax credits office.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he was advised on the legal opinion of Richard Drabble QC on the practice of automatic recovery of overpaid tax credits; when he asked his Department's lawyers for advice; and what action he has taken in response. [8109]

**Mr. Frank Field:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when HM Revenue and Customs expects to receive the legal advice it has requested on its code of practice on the recovery of overpayment of tax credits. [9948]

**Dawn Primarolo** *[holding answer 5 July 2005]:* It is in the public interest that decisions taken by Government Departments are taken in a fully informed legal context. Government Departments, such as HMRC, therefore regularly need to be able to obtain full and comprehensive legal advice necessary for the effective conduct of public affairs without which the quality of decision-making will be greatly impaired. As with the advice in question, such advice is not routinely brought to the attention of Ministers.

### Tax Returns (MPs)

**Mr. Robathan:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for what reasons hon. Members are not able to file their tax returns via the internet. [14027]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The vast majority of Self Assessment taxpayers can take advantage of HMRC's online services to file their tax return via the internet. However, a small proportion of SA taxpayers (including MPs) need to complete special dedicated pages. These forms are not available online since it would be disproportionately costly to develop the links to departmental computer systems.

## EDUCATION AND SKILLS

### Adult Education Colleges

**Helen Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what criteria were used for distributing funds to adult education colleges in 2004–05; [10707]

(2) whether she plans to change the *(a)* criteria and *(b)* method for allocating funding for adult education colleges in the next academic year; [10708]

(3) for what reasons funding for adult education colleges has been allocated for only one year; [10709]

(4) what factors affected the timing of the announcement of decisions on allocations of funding for adult education colleges; [10862]

(5) when she expects decisions on allocations of funding for adult education colleges for 2006–07 to be made. [10863]

**Bill Rammell:** The Department allocates funds for post-16 education and training to the Learning and Skills Council (LSC), the body that plans provision and allocates resources to colleges and other providers. Our Grant Letter of 15 November 2004 to the LSC and the White Paper "Skills: Getting on in Business, getting on at work" published in March set out our priorities and the LSC allocate resources to providers to meet our priorities of a place in school, college or on an apprenticeship for all young people, and a focus on adults without a solid foundation of employability skills. Funding is allocated to colleges and other providers on the basis of proven performance in meeting these priorities. Later this year we will publish our annual grant letter outlining our priorities for 2006–07. The notification by the LSC to further education providers of their 2005/06 allocations was in line with the planning timetable set out earlier in the year. We expect the timetable for the planning and budgeting process for 2006/07 to be broadly similar to this year although the LSC expects to begin initial discussions with education providers in September 2005. and other providers. Our Grant Letter of 15 November 2004 to the LSC and the White Paper "Skills: Getting on in Business, getting on at work" published in March set out our priorities and the LSC allocate resources to providers to meet our priorities of a place in school, college or on an apprenticeship for all young people, and a focus on adults without a solid foundation of employability skills. Funding is allocated to colleges and other providers on the basis of proven performance in meeting these priorities. Later this year we will publish our annual grant letter outlining our priorities for 2006–07. The notification by the LSC to further

education providers of their 2005/06 allocations was in line with the planning timetable set out earlier in the year. We expect the timetable for the planning and budgeting process for 2006/07 to be broadly similar to this year although the LSC expects to begin initial discussions with education providers in September 2005.

### Apprenticeships

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if she will list the *(a)* companies in receipt of funds from the Learning and Skills Council for participating in the Apprenticeship scheme and *(b)* amounts received in each year for which figures are available. [14843]

**Phil Hope:** The Learning and Skills Councils contracts with learning providers, some of whom are employers, to deliver work based learning programmes including Apprenticeships. The full list of all providers for the 2004/05 academic year and the amount of their funding has been published on the LSC website at:

www.lsc.gov.uk/National/Documents/SubjectListing/FundingLearning/FurtherEducation/WBL_allocations.htm.

Details for previous years are not available.

### Bullying

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many incidents of bullying of children have been reported in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* the Metropolitan Police area of London (i) at primary schools and (ii) in post-primary education in the last three years, broken down by (A) local authority and (B) category of bullying; and how many incidents took place on public transport to or from school in each case. [14131]

**Jacqui Smith:** As data on bullying is not collected centrally we do not have statistics relating to the incidence of bullying at primary or post-primary level in Essex and London. Bullying cases appear to be reported more often now than previously but we have no hard evidence that bullying is increasing or that it is affecting more children. Indeed, as children and young people increasingly feel safe at school to report bullying, and confident that it will be tackled effectively and sensitively, it is likely reporting will rise. However, any level of bullying is too high and we are determined to help schools tackle the problem. Our guidance pack "Bullying: Don't Suffer in Silence", the anti-bullying Charter and the anti-bullying website www.dfes.gov.uk/bullying offer detailed advice on preventing and addressing bullying. We also offer specific advice to schools on tackling homophobic bullying and are developing advice on racist bullying.

We have raised awareness of the importance of children who are being bullied telling an adult about what is happening, through our public information film "Tell Someone" and our leaflets and postcards for children and their parents. Our recent "Beat Bullying" blue wristband campaign was launched in partnership with Radio One, during the first national anti-bullying week in November 2004. By the end of December, one million children and young people had answered our call to "Make a Stand, Wear a Band" and make a visible commitment that they are not prepared to tolerate bullying and will stand by their friends.

### Children's Academic Achievement

**Mr. Ian Austin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what research she has evaluated on whether there is a relationship between the number of hours spent watching television and children's academic achievement. [12621]

**Beverley Hughes:** The Department has not commissioned any research on the relationship between the number of hours spent watching television and children's academic achievement However, current international research evidence points to the following:

Watching good quality educational programming in the early years can benefit children's language development, in the right conditions.

Conversely, extensive viewing of age-inappropriate or entertainment programming can hinder language development.

In addition, television viewing before age three has been shown to have a modest adverse effect on cognitive outcomes at age six and seven.

Increased television viewing by children has a long-lasting association with a higher chance of having no formal qualifications by the age of 26.

Other learning activities such as reading may be displaced by television viewing.

Having a television in the bedroom is negatively associated with test scores for children aged 8.

The American academy of paediatrics recommends that children watch a maximum of two hours of quality programming per day. The National Literacy Trust's "Talk To Your Baby" campaign recommends no more than half-an-hour for under twos, and one hour for three to five-year-olds.

### Classroom Behaviour

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what assistance her Department *(a)* is giving and *(b)* plans to give during the next 12 months to schools in Southend to promote good behaviour in the classroom. [14305]

**Jacqui Smith:** Our Secondary Strategy will continue to give all secondary schools in Southend access to high-quality behaviour management training materials and support from a DFES-funded behaviour management consultant. Our Primary Strategy will continue to give all primary schools in Southend access to high-quality training and curriculum materials to improve children's social, emotional and behavioural skills. In addition:

our Excellence in Cities programme will continue to provide Southend with extra funding (£1.6 million for the 2005–06 school year), about half of which can be used to fund Learning Mentors and Learning Support Units in schools in the Southend Excellence Cluster; and

our Behaviour Improvement Programme is now providing Southend with further additional funding (£780,000 for the 2005–06 school year) to support selected schools facing the greatest behaviour challenges.

### Deprived Children

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what estimate she has made of

the percentage of children classed as deprived using the index of multiple deprivation who do not attend school. [13640]

**Jacqui Smith:** None. Information is not centrally available on pupil attendance classified by the Index of Multiple Deprivation.

### Drinking Water

**Joan Walley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what assessment her Department has made of the health benefits to pupils and staff of providing fresh drinking water throughout the school day; [13679]

(2) what steps her Department takes *(a)* to inform local education authorities, *(b)* governors and *(c)* schools of their responsibility for the provision of fresh drinking water to children and staff throughout the school day; [13680]

(3) what assessment she has made of the increased requirement for access to fresh drinking water for pupils arising from the extension of the school day from eight to six o'clock. [13683]

**Jacqui Smith:** We are aware of the importance of school children drinking water during their working day and the benefits that it brings. For the last three years both the Department of Health and Department for Education and Skills have been working on a food in schools programme that aims to help schools implement a whole school approach to food education and healthy eating. The interactive food in schools toolkit which can be viewed at www.foodinschools.org, provides a wide range of guidance, resources and interactive tools to inspire and support schools in taking a whole school approach to healthy eating and drinking, including water provision.

The "water provision" guidance supports schools in reviewing and improving current provision and in promoting water consumption. The guidance has been informed by the food in schools water provision project, which was piloted in 40 schools in the North East and East Midland region.

Cross Government working between the DfES, Department of Environment, Farming and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), Department of Health (DoH) and the Food Standards Agency (FSA), on ways to increase awareness of the importance of food and drink within the school environment resulted in the publication on 6 September 2004 of the "Healthy Living Blueprint for Schools".

The blueprint, issued to all schools, brings together all Government advice and examples of best practice about healthy eating and drinking in schools. It provides schools with advice on what they can do to improve children's approach to food and drink and exercise, and shows how developing whole school approaches can help bring about significant improvements to the health of children.

"Healthy School Lunches Guidance", published by the DfES, contains the Secretary of State's expectation that drinking water should be available to all pupils every day, free of charge. This view is mirrored in the "Healthy Living Blueprint for Schools", which states that,

> "all pupils should have access to drinking water at all times at a number of points around the school, preferably not from taps in the toilets. Pupils should be permitted to carry water with them and consumption encouraged both in class and during break and lunch time".

However, it is the responsibility of head teachers and school's governing bodies to decide when water should be made available. We consider that they are best placed to make these decisions in their role of having responsibility of the day-to-day running of the school and with their knowledge of the individual circumstances of their pupils.

**Joan Walley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what steps her Department plans to take to ensure that local education authorities and individual schools raise the standard of their drinking water facilities. [13681]

**Jacqui Smith:** We have already issued design guidance for new school buildings in the May 2003 revision of Building Bulletin 87 "Guidelines for Environmental Design in Schools", which can be downloaded from www.teachernet.gov.uk/energy. We are also producing a joint publication on Sustainable Water Management in Schools with the Environment Agency and DEFRA to be published in October 2005. Finally we will be revising the School Premises Regulations to give more specific guidance on drinking water.

**Joan Walley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what additional funding is available to schools unable to refurbish or upgrade drinking water facilities due to lack of resources. [13682]

**Jacqui Smith:** We allocate capital funding directly to local authorities and schools and do not hold back reserves to respond to requests for individual projects. We expect local authorities to prioritise expenditure in their locally prepared asset management plans, which should be drawn up in consultation with their schools and local partners. In addition, schools are allocated their own Devolved Formula Capital which can be spent on upgrading water facilities, if that is their priority.

Stoke-on-Trent local authority and its schools have so far been allocated £33.2 million capital funding in the three years 2003–04 to 2005–06. Within this figure, Devolved Formula Capital of £11.1 million has been allocated directly to schools.

### Education Funding

**Mr. Michael Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the total recurrent funding per pupil was for each local education authority for years 1998–99 to 2005–06 in 2005–06 real terms. [11829]

**Jacqui Smith:** Total funding includes funding via education formula spending (EPS)/standard spending assessment and revenue grants allocated at an LEA level. It excludes the pensions transfer to EFS and the Learning and Skills Council, and is in real terms.

These figures use the latest GDP deflators provided by the Office for National Statistics as at 30 June 2005, which are based on 2004–05 prices.

*Real terms total revenue funding per pupil aged 3–19, (£), by LEA*[1]

| *LEA name* | *1998–99* | *1999–2000* | *2000–01* | *2001–02* | *2002–03* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Barking and Dagenham | 3,370 | 3,480 | 3,740 | 3,960 | 4,120 |
| Barnet | 3,260 | 3,380 | 3,560 | 3,810 | 3,960 |
| Barnsley | 2,870 | 3,010 | 3,240 | 3,420 | 3,520 |
| Bath and North East Somerset | 2,750 | 2,890 | 3,100 | 3,200 | 3,300 |
| Bedfordshire | 2,900 | 3,020 | 3,290 | 3,460 | 3,570 |
| Bexley | 3,080 | 3,160 | 3,350 | 3,520 | 3,650 |
| Birmingham | 3,150 | 3,330 | 3,650 | 3,860 | 3,960 |
| Blackburn with Darwen | 3,060 | 3,290 | 3,550 | 3,730 | 3,820 |
| Blackpool | 2,930 | 3,040 | 3,290 | 3,430 | 3,540 |
| Bolton | 2,830 | 2,990 | 3,240 | 3,360 | 3,480 |
| Bournemouth | 2,970 | 3,060 | 3,280 | 3,370 | 3,430 |
| Bracknell Forest | 3,010 | 3,090 | 3,290 | 3,450 | 3,560 |
| Bradford | 3,010 | 3,210 | 3,530 | 3,750 | 3,840 |
| Brent | 3,780 | 3,920 | 4,130 | 4,390 | 4,570 |
| Brighton and Hove | 3,150 | 3,270 | 3,540 | 3,690 | 3,780 |
| Bristol, City of | 2,910 | 3,050 | 3,330 | 3,490 | 3,620 |
| Bromley | 3,090 | 3,200 | 3,400 | 3,570 | 3,690 |
| Buckinghamshire | 2,960 | 3,080 | 3,300 | 3,460 | 3,570 |
| Bury | 2,730 | 2,870 | 3,090 | 3,240 | 3,330 |
| Calderdale | 2,850 | 3,020 | 3,250 | 3,380 | 3,500 |
| Cambridgeshire | 2,780 | 2,930 | 3,130 | 3,240 | 3,320 |
| Camden | 4,380 | 4,610 | 4,970 | 5,210 | 5,400 |
| Cheshire | 2,740 | 2,860 | 3,070 | 3,200 | 3,280 |
| Cornwall | 2,920 | 3,050 | 3,270 | 3,410 | 3,510 |
| Coventry | 3,020 | 3,160 | 3,410 | 3,540 | 3,650 |
| Croydon | 3,310 | 3,450 | 3,660 | 3,850 | 3,970 |
| Cumbria | 2,810 | 2,950 | 3,200 | 3,360 | 3,460 |
| Darlington | 2,800 | 2,960 | 3,220 | 3,360 | 3,420 |
| Derby | 2,940 | 3,110 | 3,340 | 3,460 | 3,580 |
| Derbyshire | 2,730 | 2,860 | 3,080 | 3,200 | 3,300 |
| Devon | 2,920 | 3,000 | 3,210 | 3,330 | 3,410 |
| Doncaster | 2,920 | 3,060 | 3,290 | 3,440 | 3,550 |
| Dorset | 2,820 | 2,930 | 3,150 | 3,270 | 3,370 |
| Dudley | 2,690 | 2,820 | 3,040 | 3,170 | 3,260 |
| Durham | 2,860 | 3,000 | 3,270 | 3,470 | 3,530 |
| Ealing | 3,500 | 3,650 | 3,920 | 4,170 | 4,280 |
| East Riding of Yorkshire | 2,760 | 2,890 | 3,140 | 3,270 | 3,340 |
| East Sussex | 3,010 | 3,130 | 3,390 | 3,540 | 3,630 |
| Enfield | 3,370 | 3,510 | 3,710 | 3,960 | 4,140 |
| Essex | 3,000 | 3,100 | 3,330 | 3,490 | 3,570 |
| Gateshead | 2,910 | 3,050 | 3,340 | 3,550 | 3,660 |
| Gloucestershire | 2,800 | 2,940 | 3,160 | 3,280 | 3,370 |
| Greenwich | 3,940 | 4,180 | 4,580 | 4,800 | 5,000 |
| Hackney | 4,560 | 4,860 | 5,200 | 5,410 | 5,600 |
| Halton | 2,980 | 3,120 | 3,420 | 3,660 | 3,770 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 4,360 | 4,570 | 4,930 | 5,150 | 5,440 |
| Hampshire | 2,830 | 2,920 | 3,140 | 3,310 | 3,390 |
| Haringey | 3,870 | 4,110 | 4,410 | 4,670 | 4,800 |
| Harrow | 3,190 | 3,310 | 3,530 | 3,740 | 3,840 |
| Hartlepool | 2,900 | 3,030 | 3,300 | 3,490 | 3,590 |
| Havering | 3,060 | 3,140 | 3,330 | 3,530 | 3,630 |
| Herefordshire | 2,910 | 3,040 | 3,260 | 3,380 | 3,470 |
| Hertfordshire | 3,000 | 3,090 | 3,320 | 3,470 | 3,560 |
| Hillingdon | 3,230 | 3,370 | 3,560 | 3,690 | 3,810 |
| Hounslow | 3,420 | 3,580 | 3,810 | 4,030 | 4,220 |
| Isle of Wight | 3,120 | 3,230 | 3,500 | 3,690 | 3,780 |
| Islington | 4,290 | 4,530 | 5,000 | 5,300 | 5,440 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 4,360 | 4,670 | 5,030 | 5,280 | 5,610 |
| Kent | 3,000 | 3,110 | 3,340 | 3,500 | 3,610 |
| Kingston upon Hull, City of | 3,010 | 3,160 | 3,470 | 3,650 | 3,750 |
| Kingston upon Thames | 3,050 | 3,170 | 3,390 | 3,600 | 3,710 |
| Kirklees | 2,880 | 3,050 | 3,280 | 3,440 | 3,530 |
| Knowsley | 3,290 | 3,460 | 3,830 | 4,080 | 4,190 |
| Lambeth | 4,650 | 4,870 | 5,210 | 5,390 | 5,590 |
| Lancashire | 2,850 | 2,990 | 3,230 | 3,380 | 3,460 |
| Leeds | 2,850 | 2,990 | 3,280 | 3,470 | 3,590 |
| Leicester | 3,130 | 3,310 | 3,560 | 3,720 | 3,850 |
| Leicestershire | 2,730 | 2,850 | 3,050 | 3,170 | 3,250 |
| Lewisham | 4,190 | 4,390 | 4,690 | 4,930 | 5,110 |
| Lincolnshire | 2,860 | 2,990 | 3,210 | 3,360 | 3,460 |
| Liverpool | 3,260 | 3,430 | 3,830 | 4,040 | 4,160 |
| Luton | 3,180 | 3,340 | 3,570 | 3,750 | 3,870 |
| Manchester | 3,360 | 3,590 | 4,010 | 4,220 | 4,320 |

*Real terms total revenue funding per pupil aged 3–19, (£), by LEA*[1]

| *LEA name* | *1998–99* | *1999–2000* | *2000–01* | *2001–02* | *2002–03* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Medway | 2,960 | 3,070 | 3,290 | 3,450 | 3,570 |
| Merton | 3,230 | 3,370 | 3,620 | 3,870 | 3,890 |
| Middlesbrough | 3,080 | 3,250 | 3,540 | 3,770 | 3,890 |
| Milton Keynes | 3,060 | 3,180 | 3,390 | 3,560 | 3,690 |
| Newcastle upon Tyne | 3,130 | 3,260 | 3,570 | 3,780 | 3,890 |
| Newham | 3,920 | 4,070 | 4,330 | 4,610 | 4,730 |
| Norfolk | 2,900 | 3,020 | 3,260 | 3,410 | 3,490 |
| North East Lincolnshire | 2,900 | 3,050 | 3,320 | 3,490 | 3,580 |
| North Lincolnshire | 2,890 | 3,030 | 3,280 | 3,390 | 3,450 |
| North Somerset | 2,800 | 2,940 | 3,150 | 3,240 | 3,320 |
| North Tyneside | 2,800 | 2,920 | 3,210 | 3,380 | 3,520 |
| North Yorkshire | 2,810 | 2,950 | 3,180 | 3,310 | 3,410 |
| Northamptonshire | 2,790 | 2,920 | 3,130 | 3,260 | 3,350 |
| Northumberland | 2,830 | 2,950 | 3,200 | 3,390 | 3,500 |
| Nottingham | 3,200 | 3,380 | 3,670 | 3,870 | 4,020 |
| Nottinghamshire | 2,780 | 2,900 | 3,140 | 3,250 | 3,340 |
| Oldham | 2,910 | 3,080 | 3,320 | 3,480 | 3,650 |
| Oxfordshire | 2,960 | 3,070 | 3,310 | 3,460 | 3,560 |
| Peterborough | 3,010 | 3,180 | 3,390 | 3,520 | 3,660 |
| Plymouth | 2,970 | 3,060 | 3,280 | 3,390 | 3,500 |
| Poole | 2,790 | 2,880 | 3,050 | 3,180 | 3,300 |
| Portsmouth | 3,070 | 3,180 | 3,390 | 3,590 | 3,680 |
| Reading | 3,090 | 3,210 | 3,490 | 3,650 | 3,820 |
| Redbridge | 3,320 | 3,410 | 3,600 | 3,770 | 3,900 |
| Redcar and Cleveland | 2,890 | 3,020 | 3,310 | 3,540 | 3,620 |
| Richmond upon Thames | 3,010 | 3,120 | 3,340 | 3,520 | 3,580 |
| Rochdale | 2,940 | 3,100 | 3,380 | 3,550 | 3,710 |
| Rotherham | 2,860 | 3,010 | 3,310 | 3,500 | 3,580 |
| Rutland | 2,720 | 2,900 | 3,090 | 3,260 | 3,290 |
| Salford | 2,960 | 3,130 | 3,490 | 3,730 | 3,780 |
| Sandwell | 2,980 | 3,130 | 3,360 | 3,550 | 3,680 |
| Sefton | 2,860 | 2,980 | 3,250 | 3,420 | 3,550 |
| Sheffield | 2,930 | 3,100 | 3,420 | 3,590 | 3,660 |
| Shropshire | 2,820 | 2,940 | 3,160 | 3,310 | 3,390 |
| Slough | 3,560 | 3,700 | 3,930 | 4,140 | 4,300 |
| Solihull | 2,700 | 2,800 | 3,000 | 3,130 | 3,210 |
| Somerset | 2,810 | 2,940 | 3,170 | 3,300 | 3,370 |
| South Gloucestershire | 2,680 | 2,810 | 2,990 | 3,090 | 3,200 |
| South Tyneside | 2,950 | 3,110 | 3,410 | 3,640 | 3,720 |
| Southampton | 3,140 | 3,240 | 3,470 | 3,660 | 3,750 |
| Southend-on-Sea | 3,080 | 3,190 | 3,420 | 3,600 | 3,700 |
| Southwark | 4,240 | 4,460 | 4,780 | 5,020 | 5,190 |
| St. Helens | 2,850 | 2,960 | 3,230 | 3,460 | 3,570 |
| Staffordshire | 2,690 | 2,810 | 3,020 | 3,150 | 3,210 |
| Stockport | 2,680 | 2,810 | 3,040 | 3,180 | 3,230 |
| Stockton-on-Tees | 2,830 | 2,990 | 3,300 | 3,520 | 3,620 |
| Stoke-on-Trent | 2,840 | 2,970 | 3,280 | 3,500 | 3,610 |
| Suffolk | 2,820 | 2,930 | 3,150 | 3,280 | 3,380 |
| Sunderland | 2,900 | 3,020 | 3,310 | 3,510 | 3,610 |
| Surrey | 2,970 | 3,070 | 3,270 | 3,430 | 3,510 |
| Sutton | 3,170 | 3,270 | 3,450 | 3,630 | 3,760 |
| Swindon | 2,790 | 2,890 | 3,100 | 3,210 | 3,270 |
| Tameside | 2,780 | 2,920 | 3,160 | 3,350 | 3,450 |
| Telford and Wrekin | 2,910 | 3,030 | 3,290 | 3,450 | 3,490 |
| Thurrock | 3,150 | 3,260 | 3,480 | 3,660 | 3,770 |
| Torbay | 2,970 | 3,060 | 3,280 | 3,380 | 3,460 |
| Tower Hamlets | 4,520 | 4,890 | 5,240 | 5,540 | 5,730 |
| Trafford | 2,770 | 2,930 | 3,150 | 3,310 | 3,360 |
| Wakefield | 2,750 | 2,890 | 3,150 | 3,290 | 3,390 |
| Walsall | 2,850 | 3,010 | 3,250 | 3,390 | 3,500 |
| Waltham Forest | 3,630 | 3,790 | 4,060 | 4,320 | 4,450 |
| Wandsworth | 3,960 | 4,150 | 4,430 | 4,630 | 4,710 |
| Warrington | 2,710 | 2,810 | 3,010 | 3,150 | 3,230 |
| Warwickshire | 2,740 | 2,880 | 3,090 | 3,210 | 3,320 |
| West Berkshire | 2,880 | 2,980 | 3,230 | 3,400 | 3,500 |
| West Sussex | 2,930 | 3,020 | 3,220 | 3,380 | 3,470 |
| Westminster | 4,240 | 4,510 | 4,820 | 5,000 | 5,210 |
| Wigan | 2,760 | 2,890 | 3,120 | 3,260 | 3,330 |
| Wiltshire | 2,820 | 2,940 | 3,150 | 3,260 | 3,340 |
| Windsor and Maidenhead | 3,040 | 3,130 | 3,380 | 3,560 | 3,670 |
| Wirral | 2,980 | 3,090 | 3,370 | 3,570 | 3,700 |
| Wokingham | 2,760 | 2,840 | 3,060 | 3,220 | 3,340 |
| Wolverhampton | 3,000 | 3,180 | 3,440 | 3,610 | 3,800 |

*Real terms total revenue funding per pupil aged 3–19, (£), by LEA*[1]

| *LEA name* | *1998–99* | *1999–2000* | *2000–01* | *2001–02* | *2002–03* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Worcestershire | 2,770 | 2,850 | 3,070 | 3,210 | 3,290 |
| York | 2,760 | 2,890 | 3,130 | 3,240 | 3,310 |

| *LEA name* | *2003–04* | *2004–05* | *2005–06* | *Percentage increase 1998–99 to 2005–06* | *Rank by percentage increase* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Barking and Dagenham | 4,300 | 4,490 | 4,610 | 36.8 | 83 |
| Barnet | 4,130 | 4,300 | 4,550 | 39.6 | 53 |
| Barnsley | 3,730 | 3,840 | 4,010 | 39.7 | 51 |
| Bath and North East Somerset | 3,410 | 3,570 | 3,750 | 36.4 | 91 |
| Bedfordshire | 3,630 | 3,790 | 3,950 | 36.2 | 92 |
| Bexley | 3,780 | 3,940 | 4,060 | 31.8 | 137 |
| Birmingham | 4,140 | 4,290 | 4,530 | 43.8 | 9 |
| Blackburn with Darwen | 4,060 | 4,210 | 4,400 | 43.8 | 10 |
| Blackpool | 3,730 | 3,880 | 4,040 | 37.9 | 70 |
| Bolton | 3,600 | 3,770 | 4,030 | 42.4 | 26 |
| Bournemouth | 3,490 | 3,620 | 3,760 | 26.6 | 148 |
| Bracknell Forest | 3,690 | 3,840 | 4,030 | 33.9 | 113 |
| Bradford | 3,970 | 4,120 | 4,310 | 43.2 | 14 |
| Brent | 4,780 | 5,000 | 5,190 | 37.3 | 75 |
| Brighton and Hove | 3,880 | 4,020 | 4,130 | 31.1 | 142 |
| Bristol, City of | 3,770 | 3,980 | 4,180 | 43.6 | 11 |
| Bromley | 3,820 | 3,990 | 4,130 | 33.7 | 116 |
| Buckinghamshire | 3,680 | 3,850 | 4,000 | 35.1 | 101 |
| Bury | 3,480 | 3,670 | 3,840 | 40.7 | 47 |
| Calderdale | 3,670 | 3,840 | 4,030 | 41.4 | 37 |
| Cambridgeshire | 3,490 | 3,660 | 3,810 | 37.1 | 76 |
| Camden | 5,610 | 5,890 | 6,000 | 37.0 | 79 |
| Cheshire | 3,420 | 3,570 | 3,740 | 36.5 | 89 |
| Cornwall | 3,570 | 3,720 | 3,870 | 32.5 | 129 |
| Coventry | 3,800 | 3,980 | 4,180 | 38.4 | 63 |
| Croydon | 4,060 | 4,270 | 4,400 | 32.9 | 126 |
| Cumbria | 3,630 | 3,780 | 3,950 | 40.6 | 48 |
| Darlington | 3,570 | 3,780 | 3,950 | 41.1 | 42 |
| Derby | 3,720 | 3,880 | 4,020 | 36.7 | 84 |
| Derbyshire | 3,430 | 3,580 | 3,750 | 37.4 | 74 |
| Devon | 3,530 | 3,670 | 3,820 | 30.8 | 144 |
| Doncaster | 3,810 | 3,950 | 4,130 | 41.4 | 35 |
| Dorset | 3,470 | 3,620 | 3,750 | 33.0 | 125 |
| Dudley | 3,390 | 3,560 | 3,810 | 41.6 | 32 |
| Durham | 3,670 | 3,820 | 4,050 | 41.6 | 33 |
| Ealing | 4,510 | 4,740 | 5,000 | 42.9 | 19 |
| East Riding of Yorkshire | 3,450 | 3,600 | 3,750 | 35.9 | 95 |
| East Sussex | 3,700 | 3,880 | 4,020 | 33.6 | 117 |
| Enfield | 4,250 | 4,450 | 4,570 | 35.6 | 98 |
| Essex | 3,680 | 3,850 | 3,970 | 32.3 | 131 |
| Gateshead | 3,860 | 3,990 | 4,150 | 42.6 | 23 |
| Gloucestershire | 3,480 | 3,610 | 3,770 | 34.6 | 106 |
| Greenwich | 5,140 | 5,340 | 5,550 | 40.9 | 45 |
| Hackney | 5,850 | 6,060 | 6,310 | 38.4 | 64 |
| Halton | 3,990 | 4,170 | 4,360 | 46.3 | 3 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 5,570 | 5,820 | 5,910 | 35.6 | 99 |
| Hampshire | 3,470 | 3,620 | 3,730 | 31.8 | 138 |
| Haringey | 5,000 | 5,230 | 5,340 | 38.0 | 67 |
| Harrow | 4,050 | 4,230 | 4,440 | 39.2 | 57 |
| Hartlepool | 3,840 | 4,010 | 4,220 | 45.5 | 5 |
| Havering | 3,740 | 3,910 | 4,050 | 32.4 | 130 |
| Herefordshire | 3,640 | 3,790 | 3,960 | 36.1 | 93 |
| Hertfordshire | 3,640 | 3,810 | 3,910 | 30.3 | 145 |
| Hillingdon | 3,990 | 4,200 | 4,440 | 37.5 | 72 |
| Hounslow | 4,460 | 4,630 | 4,840 | 41.5 | 34 |
| Isle of Wight | 3,810 | 3,970 | 4,110 | 31.7 | 139 |
| Islington | 5,590 | 5,870 | 6,110 | 42.4 | 24 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 5,730 | 6,010 | 6,100 | 39.9 | 50 |
| Kent | 3,710 | 3,900 | 3,990 | 33.0 | 124 |
| Kingston upon Hull, City of | 3,920 | 4,070 | 4,250 | 41.2 | 41 |
| Kingston upon Thames | 3,850 | 4,050 | 4,250 | 39.3 | 55 |
| Kirklees | 3,700 | 3,880 | 4,060 | 41.0 | 43 |
| Knowsley | 4,280 | 4,420 | 4,540 | 38.0 | 66 |
| Lambeth | 5,650 | 5,930 | 6,120 | 31.6 | 140 |
| Lancashire | 3,550 | 3,720 | 3,900 | 36.8 | 82 |

| LEA name | 2003–04 | 2004–05 | 2005–06 | Percentage increase 1998–99 to 2005–06 | Rank by percentage increase |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Leeds | 3,730 | 3,870 | 4,010 | 40.7 | 46 |
| Leicester | 4,040 | 4,190 | 4,370 | 39.6 | 52 |
| Leicestershire | 3,330 | 3,470 | 3,590 | 31.5 | 141 |
| Lewisham | 5,300 | 5,510 | 5,740 | 37.0 | 78 |
| Lincolnshire | 3,610 | 3,760 | 3,910 | 36.7 | 85 |
| Liverpool | 4,250 | 4,420 | 4,540 | 39.3 | 56 |
| Luton | 4,040 | 4,200 | 4,390 | 38.1 | 65 |
| Manchester | 4,450 | 4,590 | 4,750 | 41.4 | 38 |
| Medway | 3,630 | 3,790 | 3,910 | 32.1 | 134 |
| Merton | 4,080 | 4,290 | 4,490 | 39.0 | 59 |
| Middlesbrough | 4,080 | 4,330 | 4,580 | 48.7 | 1 |
| Milton Keynes | 3,800 | 3,990 | 4,160 | 35.9 | 94 |
| Newcastle upon Tyne | 4,030 | 4,180 | 4,340 | 38.7 | 61 |
| Newham | 4,850 | 5,040 | 5,230 | 33.4 | 119 |
| Norfolk | 3,590 | 3,760 | 3,900 | 34.5 | 108 |
| North East Lincolnshire | 3,670 | 3,830 | 4,030 | 39.0 | 60 |
| North Lincolnshire | 3,610 | 3,750 | 3,950 | 36.7 | 86 |
| North Somerset | 3,470 | 3,600 | 3,780 | 35.0 | 103 |
| North Tyneside | 3,690 | 3,820 | 3,960 | 41.4 | 36 |
| North Yorkshire | 3,550 | 3,690 | 3,840 | 36.7 | 87 |
| Northamptonshire | 3,520 | 3,660 | 3,820 | 36.9 | 81 |
| Northumberland | 3,640 | 3,800 | 4,000 | 41.3 | 39 |
| Nottingham | 4,190 | 4,370 | 4,620 | 44.4 | 8 |
| Nottinghamshire | 3,440 | 3,580 | 3,740 | 34.5 | 107 |
| Oldham | 3,830 | 4,010 | 4,220 | 45.0 | 6 |
| Oxfordshire | 3,650 | 3,810 | 3,940 | 33.1 | 123 |
| Peterborough | 3,850 | 4,070 | 4,220 | 40.2 | 49 |
| Plymouth | 3,600 | 3,750 | 3,930 | 32.3 | 132 |
| Poole | 3,400 | 3,530 | 3,680 | 31.9 | 136 |
| Portsmouth | 3,760 | 3,960 | 4,070 | 32.6 | 128 |
| Reading | 3,970 | 4,200 | 4,410 | 42.7 | 21 |
| Redbridge | 3,960 | 4,150 | 4,300 | 29.5 | 147 |
| Redcar and Cleveland | 3,810 | 3,970 | 4,130 | 42.9 | 18 |
| Richmond upon Thames | 3,680 | 3,870 | 4,030 | 33.9 | 113 |
| Rochdale | 3,880 | 4,080 | 4,300 | 46.3 | 4 |
| Rotherham | 3,770 | 3,880 | 4,030 | 40.9 | 44 |
| Rutland | 3,490 | 3,620 | 3,860 | 41.9 | 30 |
| Salford | 3,930 | 4,090 | 4,280 | 44.6 | 7 |
| Sandwell | 3,870 | 4,040 | 4,260 | 43.0 | 17 |
| Sefton | 3,720 | 3,860 | 4,040 | 41.3 | 40 |
| Sheffield | 3,790 | 3,920 | 4,060 | 38.6 | 62 |
| Shropshire | 3,550 | 3,700 | 3,850 | 36.5 | 88 |
| Slough | 4,420 | 4,620 | 4,750 | 33.4 | 118 |
| Solihull | 3,410 | 3,550 | 3,700 | 37.0 | 77 |
| Somerset | 3,490 | 3,640 | 3,770 | 34.2 | 111 |
| South Gloucestershire | 3,340 | 3,480 | 3,640 | 35.8 | 97 |
| South Tyneside | 3,930 | 4,070 | 4,230 | 43.4 | 12 |
| Southampton | 3,860 | 4,020 | 4,200 | 33.8 | 115 |
| Southend-on-Sea | 3,780 | 3,960 | 4,090 | 32.8 | 127 |
| Southwark | 5,350 | 5,600 | 5,900 | 39.2 | 58 |
| St. Helens | 3,780 | 3,930 | 4,070 | 42.8 | 20 |
| Staffordshire | 3,370 | 3,510 | 3,670 | 36.4 | 90 |
| Stockport | 3,370 | 3,510 | 3,670 | 36.9 | 80 |
| Stockton-on-Tees | 3,810 | 3,930 | 4,050 | 43.1 | 16 |
| Stoke-on-Trent | 3,840 | 4,010 | 4,200 | 47.9 | 2 |
| Suffolk | 3,460 | 3,620 | 3,760 | 33.3 | 120 |
| Sunderland | 3,810 | 3,950 | 4,130 | 42.4 | 25 |
| Surrey | 3,600 | 3,750 | 3,930 | 32.3 | 132 |
| Sutton | 3,900 | 4,100 | 4,220 | 33.1 | 122 |
| Swindon | 3,450 | 3,590 | 3,770 | 35.1 | 102 |
| Tameside | 3,590 | 3,790 | 3,940 | 41.7 | 31 |
| Telford and Wrekin | 3,620 | 3,760 | 3,920 | 34.7 | 105 |
| Thurrock | 3,890 | 4,090 | 4,160 | 32.1 | 135 |
| Torbay | 3,560 | 3,690 | 3,850 | 29.6 | 146 |
| Tower Hamlets | 5,940 | 6,160 | 6,450 | 42.7 | 22 |
| Trafford | 3,510 | 3,630 | 3,810 | 37.5 | 71 |
| Wakefield | 3,520 | 3,660 | 3,910 | 42.2 | 29 |
| Walsall | 3,640 | 3,820 | 4,080 | 43.2 | 15 |
| Waltham Forest | 4,560 | 4,800 | 4,890 | 34.7 | 104 |
| Wandsworth | 5,020 | 5,210 | 5,440 | 37.4 | 73 |
| Warrington | 3,340 | 3,460 | 3,640 | 34.3 | 110 |
| Warwickshire | 3,500 | 3,650 | 3,780 | 38.0 | 68 |
| West Berkshire | 3,690 | 3,870 | 4,100 | 42.4 | 28 |

| LEA name | 2003–04 | 2004–05 | 2005–06 | Percentage increase 1998–99 to 2005–06 | Rank by percentage increase |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| West Sussex | 3,570 | 3,720 | 3,840 | 31.1 | 143 |
| Westminster | 5,450 | 5,660 | 5,760 | 35.8 | 96 |
| Wigan | 3,510 | 3,670 | 3,850 | 39.5 | 54 |
| Wiltshire | 3,510 | 3,650 | 3,790 | 34.4 | 109 |
| Windsor and Maidenhead | 3,780 | 3,940 | 4,120 | 35.5 | 100 |
| Wirral | 3,830 | 3,970 | 4,110 | 37.9 | 69 |
| Wokingham | 3,530 | 3,700 | 3,930 | 42.4 | 27 |
| Wolverhampton | 3,940 | 4,100 | 4,300 | 43.3 | 13 |
| Worcestershire | 3,390 | 3,530 | 3,690 | 33.2 | 121 |
| York | 3,400 | 3,530 | 3,700 | 34.1 | 112 |

[1] Pensions not included 2003–04 to 2005–06.

*Notes:*

1. Price Base: Real terms.
2. Figures reflect relevant sub-blocks of the education formula spending settlement and exclude the pensions transfer to EFS.
3. Total funding also includes all revenue grants in DfES departmental expenditure limits relevant to pupils aged 3–19, and exclude EMAs and grants not allocated at LEA level. For those LEAs in receipt of advance of grant under the transitional support arrangements for 2004–05, advance grant funding is included in the year of payment (2004–05). There will be a consequential reduction in DfES grant for these LEAs in future years (either 2006–07 and 2007–08 or 2006–07 to 2008–09, depending on the terms on which the advance was given to the LEA).
4. The pupil numbers used to convert m figures to per pupil are those underlying the SSA/EFS settlement calculations plus PLASC 3-year-old maintained pupils and estimated 3 to 4-year-olds funded through state support in maintained and other educational institutions where these are not included in the SSA pupil numbers.
5. Rounding: Per pupil figures are rounded to the nearest £10. Total allocation figures are rounded to the nearest £10 million.
6. Status: 2003–04 to 2005–06 figures are provisional as some grants have not yet been finalised/audited.

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much funding has been *(a)* spent on and *(b)* committed to education schemes within each growth area. [13790]

**Jacqui Smith:** Education is funded on a local authority basis, not by Growth Area. The table shows the amounts allocated for education since 2002–03 for each local education authority which includes a locality within the four Growth Areas. Growth Areas may include only part of a local education authority, therefore the figures shown in the table may not match the actual amounts spent in those areas.

*Education funding for Growth Areas*

| | 2002–03 Recurrent | | | 2003–04 Recurrent | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | SSA-EFS | Grants | Total | SSA-EFS | Grants | Total |
| *London-Stansted-Cambridge-Peterborough* | | | | | | |
| Cambridgeshire | 212.8 | 38.9 | 251.7 | 246.3 | 36.9 | 283.2 |
| Enfield | 157.4 | 34.5 | 191.9 | 171.5 | 37.8 | 209.3 |
| Essex[1] | 594.9 | 111.1 | 706.0 | 666.8 | 108.2 | 775.0 |
| Hackney | 118.6 | 22.3 | 140.9 | 132.1 | 23.1 | 155.2 |
| Haringey | 128.5 | 27.2 | 155.7 | 133.3 | 31.6 | 165.0 |
| Hertfordshire[2] | 492.8 | 103.4 | 596.2 | 537.6 | 111.0 | 648.5 |
| Peterborough | 84.3 | 21.0 | 105.3 | 95.8 | 21.1 | 116.9 |
| Redbridge | 128.5 | 31.5 | 160.1 | 140.9 | 33.5 | 174.4 |
| Waltham Forest | 127.9 | 24.7 | 152.5 | 137.7 | 27.1 | 164.8 |
| *Milton Keynes South Midlands area* | | | | | | |
| Bedfordshire | 176.0 | 44.1 | 220.0 | 195.5 | 43.2 | 238.7 |
| Buckinghamshire[3] | 208.6 | 54.0 | 262.6 | 234.1 | 53.7 | 287.9 |
| Luton | 101.9 | 16.9 | 118.8 | 113.7 | 17.7 | 131.4 |
| Milton Keynes | 101.1 | 23.2 | 124.4 | 114.9 | 23.8 | 138.7 |
| Northamptonshire | 280.5 | 60.2 | 340.7 | 320.8 | 62.2 | 383.0 |
| *Ashford*[4] | | | | | | |
| Kent | 616.2 | 138.3 | 754.5 | 688.0 | 139.1 | 827.1 |
| *Thames Gateway* | | | | | | |
| Barking and Dagenham | 96.9 | 19.5 | 116.4 | 106.4 | 24.5 | 130.9 |
| Bexley | 119.7 | 22.0 | 141.7 | 126.5 | 25.4 | 151.9 |
| Essex[5] | 594.9 | 111.1 | 706.0 | 666.8 | 108.2 | 775.0 |
| Greenwich | 136.9 | 33.1 | 170.1 | 151.2 | 34.9 | 186.1 |
| Havering | 113.1 | 17.7 | 130.8 | 122.7 | 19.4 | 142.1 |
| Kent[6] | 616.2 | 138.3 | 754.5 | 688.0 | 139.1 | 827.1 |
| Lewisham | 141.9 | 28.3 | 170.2 | 157.1 | 29.2 | 186.3 |

*Education funding for Growth Areas*

| | 2002–03 Recurrent | | | 2003–04 Recurrent | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | SSA-EFS | Grants | Total | SSA-EFS | Grants | Total |
| Medway | 129.9 | 29.3 | 159.2 | 141.4 | 29.4 | 170.8 |
| Newham | 187.4 | 31.1 | 218.5 | 208.5 | 31.9 | 240.4 |
| Southend-on-Sea | 78.7 | 17.5 | 96.2 | 86.5 | 18.2 | 104.7 |
| Thurrock | 71.4 | 9.7 | 81.1 | 78.7 | 10.4 | 89.0 |
| Tower Hamlets | 161.8 | 34.6 | 196.4 | 176.7 | 36.7 | 213.4 |

| | 2004–05 Recurrent | | | 2005–06 Recurrent | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | SSA-EFS | Grants | Total | SSA-EFS | Grants | Total |
| *London-Stansted-Cambridge-Peterborough* | | | | | | |
| Cambridgeshire | 263[1] | 41.3 | 304.4 | 280.8 | 43.0 | 323.9 |
| Enfield | 183.3 | 42.6 | 225.9 | 193.6 | 44.8 | 238.4 |
| Essex[1] | 702.0 | 124.9 | 826.9 | 737.7 | 132.8 | 870.5 |
| Hackney | 141.0 | 23.9 | 164.9 | 154.1 | 23.7 | 177.8 |
| Haringey | 144.6 | 34.6 | 179.2 | 150.3 | 35.4 | 185.7 |
| Hertfordshire[2] | 564.6 | 128.3 | 692.9 | 589.3 | 135.4 | 724.7 |
| Peterborough | 101.1 | 23.4 | 124.4 | 108.0 | 24.8 | 132.8 |
| Redbridge | 149.9 | 38.0 | 187.9 | 159.8 | 39.5 | 199.3 |
| Waltham Forest | 146.3 | 28.9 | 175.2 | 154.0 | 29.0 | 183.0 |
| *Milton Keynes South Midlands area* | | | | | | |
| Bedfordshire | 205.5 | 48.1 | 253.6 | 218.2 | 51.8 | 270.1 |
| Buckinghamshire[3] | 248.1 | 61.0 | 309.1 | 264.4 | 64.4 | 328.9 |
| Luton | 121.1 | 18.6 | 139.7 | 127.7 | 19.5 | 147.3 |
| Milton Keynes | 125.0 | 27.3 | 152.4 | 134.2 | 29.6 | 163.8 |
| Northamptonshire | 337.4 | 67.4 | 404.8 | 353.7 | 73.1 | 426.7 |
| *Ashford*[4] | | | | | | |
| Kent | 725.3 | 167.3 | 892.6 | 759.8 | 174.8 | 934.6 |
| *Thames Gateway* | | | | | | |
| Barking and Dagenham | 115.0 | 26.4 | 141.4 | 122.0 | 27.2 | 149.2 |
| Bexley | 134.4 | 27.7 | 162.1 | 142.1 | 30.2 | 172.3 |
| Essex[5] | 702.0 | 124.9 | 826.9 | 737.7 | 132.8 | 870.5 |
| Greenwich | 160.7 | 37.8 | 198.5 | 170.0 | 38.8 | 208.8 |
| Havering | 130.4 | 21.6 | 152.1 | 136.1 | 23.5 | 159.6 |
| Kent[6] | 725.3 | 167.3 | 892.6 | 759.8 | 174.8 | 934.6 |
| Lewisham | 165.2 | 31.7 | 196.9 | 172.6 | 32.1 | 204.8 |
| Medway | 148.6 | 32.6 | 181.3 | 154.0 | 34.9 | 188.9 |
| Newham | 219.2 | 34.8 | 254.0 | 232.0 | 36.1 | 268.1 |
| Southend-on-Sea | 92.3 | 21.0 | 113.3 | 97.1 | 23.2 | 120.3 |
| Thurrock | 84.1 | 12.9 | 97.0 | 89.6 | 12.5 | 102.0 |
| Tower Hamlets | 188.9 | 38.6 | 227.5 | 205.0 | 39.7 | 244.7 |

| | Capital | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2002–03 | 2003–04 | 2004–05 | 2005–06 |
| *London-Stansted-Cambridge-Peterborough* | | | | |
| Cambridgeshire | 27.974 | 38.682 | 33.212 | 31.292 |
| Enfield | 21.976 | 69.375 | 19.537 | 13.085 |
| Essex[1] | 84.492 | 63.462 | 63.202 | 55.62 |
| Hackney | 9.194 | 11.47 | 13.356 | 7.739 |
| Haringey | 18.657 | 23.672 | 20.708 | 20.334 |
| Hertfordshire[2] | 47.413 | 43.353 | 60.759 | 63.787 |
| Peterborough | 7.7 | 13.297 | 68.781 | 16.579 |
| Redbridge | 10.376 | 13.084 | 16.768 | 20.789 |
| Waltham Forest | 66.949 | 10.364 | 10.26 | 10.752 |
| *Milton Keynes South Midlands area* | | | | |
| Bedfordshire | 18.638 | 18.359 | 20.621 | 16.25 |
| Buckinghamshire[3] | 20.627 | 27.46 | 26.443 | 21.055 |
| Luton | 7.496 | 11.734 | 10.056 | 6.448 |
| Milton Keynes | 20.267 | 29.083 | 39.116 | 30.831 |
| Northamptonshire | 56.011 | 130.466 | 36.015 | 25.035 |
| *Ashford*[4] | | | | |
| Kent | 72,951 | 92,848 | 181,101 | 90,483 |

| | Capital | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *2002–03* | *2003–04* | *2004–05* | *2005–06* |
| *Thames Gateway* | | | | |
| Barking and Dagenham | 40.96 | 5.852 | 7.395 | 10.129 |
| Bexley | 47.689 | 23.749 | 16.812 | 12.54 |
| Essex[5] | 84.492 | 63.462 | 63.202 | 55.62 |
| Greenwich | 11.069 | 9.051 | 16.361 | 13.074 |
| Havering | 9.984 | 11.506 | 11.327 | 8.299 |
| Kent[6] | 72.951 | 92.848 | 181.101 | 90.483 |
| Lewisham | 76.426 | 16.601 | 15.07 | 16.571 |
| Medway | 15.777 | 17.452 | 21.793 | 18.983 |
| Newham | 15.665 | 50.66 | 16.028 | 17.193 |
| Southend-on-Sea | 7.314 | 9.907 | 13.793 | 7.799 |
| Thurrock | 6.176 | 11.007 | 13.289 | 8.904 |
| Tower Hamlets | 12.911 | 8.912 | 8.586 | 7.942 |

[1] Only Epping Forest, Uttlesford, Braintree, and Harlow are part of the Growth Area.
[2] Only Broxbourne, East Hertfordshire, North Hertfordshire, and Stevenage are part of the Growth Area.
[3] Only Aylesbury Vale is part of the Growth Area.
[4] The Growth Area only covers Ashford.
[5] Only Basildon, Castle Point and Rochford are part of the Growth Area.
[6] Only Dartford, Gravesham and Swale are part of the Growth Area.

*Notes:*
*Recurrent:*
Cash Terms. Figures from 2003–04 include the pensions transfer to EFS and LSC, the 2002–03 figures have not been adjusted.
Figures reflect relevant sub-blocks of education Standard Spending Assessment (SSA)/Education Formula Spending (EFS) settlements.
Cash figures from 2003–04 include the pensions transfer to EFS and LSC, the figures prior to 2002–03 have not been adjusted.
Total funding also includes all revenue grants in DfES Departmental Expenditure Limits relevant to pupils aged 3–19 and exclude EMAs and grants not allocated at LEA level. For those LEAs in receipt of advance of grant under the transitional support arrangements for 2004–05, advance grant funding is included in the year of payment (2004–05). There will be a consequential reduction in DfES grant for these LEAs in future years (either 2006–07 and 2007–08 or 2006–7 to 2008–9, depending on the terms on which the advance was given to the LEA).
Where responsibility for funding a school has transferred from an LEA, related funding no longer appears in the series.
Rounding: Figures are rounded to the nearest £0.1 million.
Status: 2003–04 to 2005–06 figures are provisional as some grants have not yet been finalised/audited.
*Capital*
The figures represent all capital funding streams, including grant, Private Finance Initiative and supported borrowing in respect of capital.

### Education (Milton Keynes)

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many children of school age in Milton Keynes are not attending either a state or independent school. [13995]

**Jacqui Smith:** The information requested is shown in the table.

*Pupils educated otherwise than at school under arrangements made by the local education authority[1] as at January 2005*

| | *England* | *Milton Keynes local education authority* |
|---|---|---|
| Pupils in hospital[2] | 243 | 0 |
| Other pupils not in school[3] | 16,741 | 197 |
| Total pupils not in school | 16,984 | 197 |

[1] Pupils of compulsory school age (5–15) as at 31 August 2004.
[2] Includes non-statemented pupils in hospital excluding pupils in maintained general hospital or special hospital schools.
[3] Includes other pupils not in school e.g. pupils taught at home, Traveller children, asylum seekers at FE colleges or with voluntary sector providers.

*Source:*
8B Survey

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many *(a)* full-time teachers, *(b)* full-time equivalent teachers and *(c)* full-time equivalent teaching assistants there were in Milton Keynes in (i) 1985 and (ii) the last year for which figures are available. [12918]

**Jacqui Smith:** In January 2004, the latest year available, there were 1,870 full-time and 2,040 full-time equivalent number of full and part-time regular teachers and 530 full-time equivalent number of teaching assistants in service in Milton Keynes local education authority. This information is not available for 1985. Milton Keynes local education authority was created in April 1997. In January 1998 the earliest information available there were 1,620 full-time, 1,730 full-time equivalent and 260 full-time equivalent number of teaching assistants in service in the authority.

### Emergency Contraception

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what measures are in place to ensure that girls aged under 16 years are properly supervised when taking emergency contraception [12781]

(2) if she will list the schools in Southend that allow emergency contraception to be distributed to children at that school without parental knowledge or consent; [12782]

(3) how many times school nurses in Southend have issued emergency contraception in each of the last five years for which figures are available; [12783]

(4) how many girls in Southend have been given emergency contraception by school nurses in each of the last five years for which figures are available, broken down by the age of the girl; [12784]

(5) what guidance she has given to schools regarding the potential liability of *(a)* school governors, *(b)* teachers, *(c)* head teachers and *(d)* other school staff in the event of possible adverse consequences following emergency contraception being provided to girls under the age of 16 years by school staff or on school premises without the consent of parents; [12785]

(6) what guidance she has given schools regarding the possible adverse consequences of emergency contraception being provided to girls under the age of 16 years by school staff or on school premises. [12786]

**Beverley Hughes:** Provision of emergency contraception is always by a health professional under medical supervision. This includes community and school nurses and community pharmacists, working to Patient Group Directions (a written instruction for the supply or administration of medicines to groups of patients without an individualised doctor's prescription). Emergency contraception cannot be provided by non-health professionals.

Health professionals can provide contraception to young people aged under 16 provided they are satisfied that the young person is competent to understand fully the implications of any treatment and to make a choice of the treatment involved. Health professionals work within an established legal framework which involves assessing the young person's competence to understand the choices they are making and encouraging them to talk to their parents.

The decision on whether to provide school-based health advice services and the scope of the service is for each individual governing body, in consultation with parents, teachers and the wider school community. There is no requirement on schools to provide data for central collection.

### Employer Training

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what proportion of the employer training pilots were delivered successfully by the *(a)* private and *(b)* public sectors; [13896]

(2) whether contracts for the national employer training programme will be open to providers from the *(a)* private and *(b)* public sectors; and whether part of the budget will be ring-fenced for public sector providers; [13897]

(3) if she will make a statement on the relative emphasis of the employer training pilots between *(a)* increasing the number of employees with NVQ qualifications and *(b)* ensuring that employees meet a skills demand. [13970]

**Phil Hope:** Figures provided by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) show that as of July 2005, 31 per cent. of learners participating in employer training pilots have their learning delivered by colleges of further education and 69 per cent. delivered by independent providers.

As we announced in our White Paper, "Skills: Getting on in business, getting on at work", the national employer training programme (NETP) will offer employers informed choice between quality-assured training providers. This is an essential part of putting the employer in a position where, in effect, they are able to make the purchasing decision about what training they get. Brokers, acting on behalf of the employer, will be able to source training from any LSC-approved provider, whether colleges or other providers.

We are continuing to work closely with the LSC on the details of NETP funding and how it will be allocated to providers in the context of agenda for change. We cannot give precise details about allocations to providers until this work is complete.

The emphasis of employer training pilots (ETPs) has been to encourage employers to invest in skills and qualifications, particularly for low skilled trainees. They are testing out a package of public financial support measures to improve access to training and enable employees to attain Skills for Life and/or their first full NVQ level 2 qualification.

At the end of June 2005, the pilots had signed up 23,101 employers and 184,198 employees, and 68,902 learners had successfully completed their learning.

As with the pilots, the core of the national employer training programme will be free, high quality training for employees who lack basic skills in literacy, language and numeracy or a first full Level 2 qualification. Beyond that core of free training up to Level 2, employers will be able to access more comprehensive training packages to meet their wider needs, including at Level 3 and higher, and non-qualification based training. As part of the partnership between Government and the employer in raising investment in skills, we will look to employers to pay a fair contribution towards the cost of this wider training.

### Language Learning

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many primary schools in Southend offered language learning opportunities in each of the last five years; and in which languages. [14304]

**Jacqui Smith:** This information is not part of the Department's statutory annual data collection. However, research carried out for the DFES in 2002–03 showed that 44 per cent. of schools teaching pupils aged seven to 11 offered some form of language learning, 35 per cent. of which took place in curriculum time. This is up from 21 per cent. of schools offering some form of language learning in 2000, and we expect that number will have increased again significantly last year. Our research showed that French is the language most commonly taught, followed by Spanish, German and Italian. 28 LEAs reported other languages being taught.

We know from our key stage 2 language Pathfinders that a wide range of languages are now being taught at primary schools, including community and other world languages.

## Management Consultants

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what her Department's total spending on management consultants has been in each of the last three years. [13154]

**Bill Rammell:** The Department for Education and Skills spent the following sums from administration costs for the periods in question—£4.0 million in 2002–03; £4.7 million in 2003–04 and £3.9 million in 2004–05. The total cost of consultants charged to programmes from November to March 2004–05 was £4.4 million. The cost charged to programmes before November 2004 was not recorded centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. These figures relate to all forms of consultancy. Figures for management consultants could be extracted only at disproportionate cost.

## Mathematics

**Mr. Gibb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the answer of 11 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 841W, on mathematics, how many pupils sat GCSE AS level examinations in mathematics in each year since 1995. [13288]

**Jacqui Smith:** The following table gives the number of GCE Advanced Subsidiary and Advanced Supplementary mathematics candidates aged 16–18 in all schools and colleges 1994/95 to 2003/04.

| | *Advanced subsidiary* | *Advanced supplementary* |
|---|---|---|
| 2003/04 | 52,649 | — |
| 2002/03 | 58,045 | — |
| 2001/02 | 58,155 | — |
| 2000/01 | 52,091 | 8,704 |
| 1999/2000 | — | 11,839 |
| 1998/99 | — | 11,826 |
| 1997/98 | — | 11,849 |
| 1996/97 | — | 11,302 |
| 1995/96 | — | 11,585 |
| 1994/95 | — | 8,003 |

The Advanced Supplementary examination was discontinued as part of the Qualifying for Success reforms.

**Mr. Gibb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the answer of 4 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 175W, on approved qualifications, how many pupils were entered for each Level 3 qualification classified within the subject sector category Mathematics and Statistics in 2003–04. [13289]

**Jacqui Smith:** The number of pupils entered for Mathematics and Statistics GCE A and AS Levels in 2003/04 were as follows.

| | *Edexcel* | *OCR* | *AQA* | *WJEC* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *GCE A Level entries for 16 to 18-year-old students* | | | | |
| Mathematics | 19,672 | 18,200 | 7,383 | 69 |
| Mathematics (Pure) | 58 | 7 | 64 | 0 |
| Mathematics (Statistics) | 44 | 0 | 483 | 0 |
| Mathematics (Further) | 2,300 | 2,113 | 694 | 4 |
| Additional Mathematics | 0 | 37 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 22,074 | 20,357 | 8,624 | 73 |
| *GCE AS Level entries for 16 to 18-year-old students* | | | | |
| Mathematics | 4,961 | 3,944 | 9,041 | 23 |
| Mathematics (Mechanics) | 238 | 52 | 0 | 0 |
| Mathematics (Pure) | 373 | 54 | 80 | 0 |
| Mathematics (Discrete) | 22 | 7 | 0 | 0 |
| Mathematics (Applied) | 15,569 | 14,378 | 278 | 61 |
| Mathematics (Statistics) | 639 | 396 | 864 | 0 |
| Mathematics (Further) | 905 | 1,017 | 632 | 1 |
| Additional Mathematics | 0 | 57 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 22,707 | 19,905 | 10,895 | 85 |

**Mr. Clappison:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many mathematics graduates entered the teaching profession in each year since 1975; and how many left in the same period. [8720]

**Jacqui Smith:** The following table gives the number of teachers gaining qualified teacher status in secondary post graduate mathematics, identifying those who have mathematics named as the subject of their first degree, and the numbers who reported that they had entered teaching service straight away. This information is not available prior to 1998/99.

No information is available for the number of mathematics graduate teachers leaving service.

*Teachers successfully completing postgraduate initial teacher training (ITT) in mathematics*

| | *Secondary[1] post-graduate[2] maths ITT completers* | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *All completers[3]* | | *With maths degree[4]* | |
| | *Total* | *Entered service[5]* | *Total* | *Entered service[5]* |
| 1998/99 | 780 | 680 | 400 | 360 |
| 1999/2000 | 920 | 760 | 480 | 410 |
| 2000/01 | 860 | 750 | 450 | 390 |
| 2001/02 | 970 | 840 | 450 | 400 |
| 2002/03 | 1,140 | 920 | 520 | 420 |
| 2003/04[6] | 1,420 | 1,200 | 670 | 590 |

[1] Secondary ITT completers include those qualifying at key stage 2/3.

[2] Figures exclude teachers attaining qualified teacher status through undergraduate and employment based routes, (EBR) but include School Centred Initial Teacher Training (SCITTs). Limited information is available for those attaining ITT through EBR from 2001/02 and show that of those qualifying in secondary maths 130 had a maths degree in 2001/02, 250 in 2002/03 and 320 in 2003/04. The employment status of these teachers is unknown.

[3] A large proportion of mathematics ITT completers without a first degree in the subject have a degree in a related subject or a degree where mathematics was a significant element of their course.

[4] Some mathematics graduates may complete their ITT in other subjects. These have not been included.

[5] Those teachers who reported that they were in teaching service within 6 months of completion of ITT.

[6] Full 2003/04 ITT performance profiles information is due to be published on 22 July 2005 by the TTA.

*Note:*
Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.

*Source:*
Teacher Training Agency, (TTA) Performance Profiles.

### Protected Teacher Preparation Time

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what representation her Department has received about the adequacy of the resources allocated to implement the requirements for protected teacher preparation time; [13532]

(2) what assessment has been made of the adequacy of the resources allocated to implement the requirements for protected teacher preparation time. [13533]

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what representations she has received about the effect of school work force reform on funding arrangements for schools in Kent; and if she will make a statement. [12925]

**Jacqui Smith:** Last year we worked with a balanced sample of six LEAs and about a dozen schools in each to assess the costs of implementing PPA time. It was as a result of that work that the minimum funding guarantee was set at 5 per cent. for primary and nursery schools and 4 per cent. for secondary and special schools. The funding settlement was welcomed by members of the Workforce Agreement Monitoring Group, including all representatives of head teachers.

We receive representations from time to time on various issues related to work force reform. Work force reform is about ensuring that teachers are able to spend more time on their core professional responsibilities—that means that it represents good news for pupils and parents. The view of all the signatories to the national agreement on work force reform is that there is enough money in the system for all schools to implement this reform in full.

The signatories to the national agreement are: Association of Teachers and Lecturers (ATL), Department for Education and Skills (DfES), GMB, National Association of Schoolmasters Union of Women Teachers (NASUWT), National Employers Organisation for School Teachers (NEOST), Professional Association of Teachers (PAT), Secondary Heads Association (SHA), the Transport and General Workers Union (TGWU), UNISON and the Welsh Assembly Government.

### Pupil Exclusions

**Alison Seabeck:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many permanent and fixed exclusions were made from pupil referral units in each local education authority for *(a)* 2001–02, *(b)* 2002–03 and *(c)* 2003–04. [13363]

**Jacqui Smith:** Information on exclusions made from pupil referral units was collected for the first time in summer 2003 and so is not available for 2001–02 and 2002–03.

Information on the number of permanent and fixed period exclusions from pupil referral units in 2003–04 is shown in the following table.

*Pupil referral units: Number of fixed period and permanent exclusions 2003–04 by local education authority area, by Government Office region in England.*

| | | Number of permanent exclusions[1] | Number of fixed period exclusions | Number of pupils with one or episodes of fixed period exclusion | Number of pupil referral units in authority |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *England* | 35 | 5,780 | 2,880 | 426 |
| | *North East* | 5 | 500 | 250 | 20 |
| 841 | Darlington | 0 | 15 | 9 | 1 |
| 840 | Durham | 0 | 5 | 5 | 1 |
| 390 | Gateshead | * | 76 | 43 | 1 |
| 805 | Hartlepool | 0 | 35 | 23 | 1 |
| 806 | Middlesbrough | * | 97 | 35 | 4 |
| 391 | Newcastle upon Tyne | 0 | * | * | 1 |
| 392 | North Tyneside | 0 | 38 | 19 | 4 |
| 929 | Northumberland | * | 5 | 3 | 1 |
| 807 | Redcar and Cleveland | 0 | 5 | 4 | 1 |
| 393 | South Tyneside | 0 | 146 | 68 | 2 |
| 808 | Stockton-on-Tees | * | 66 | 33 | 2 |
| 394 | Sunderland | 0 | 6 | 5 | 1 |
| | *North West* | * | 930 | 470 | 67 |
| 889 | Blackburn with Darwen | 0 | * | * | 2 |
| 890 | Blackpool | 0 | * | * | 1 |
| 350 | Bolton | 0 | 25 | 20 | 11 |
| 351 | Bury | 0 | 32 | 21 | 2 |
| 875 | Cheshire | [2]— | [2]— | [2]— | 0 |
| 909 | Cumbria | 0 | 50 | 29 | 3 |
| 876 | Halton | * | 96 | 22 | 2 |
| 340 | Knowsley | 0 | 27 | 8 | 2 |
| 888 | Lancashire | 0 | 426 | 205 | 16 |
| 341 | Liverpool | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 352 | Manchester | 0 | 6 | * | 4 |
| 353 | Oldham | [2]— | [2]— | [2]— | 0 |
| 354 | Rochdale | 0 | 89 | 50 | 1 |
| 355 | Salford | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 |

*Pupil referral units: Number of fixed period and permanent exclusions 2003–04 by local education authority area, by Government Office region in England.*

| | | Number of permanent exclusions[1] | Number of fixed period exclusions | Number of pupils with one or episodes of fixed period exclusion | Number of pupil referral units in authority |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 343 | Sefton | 0 | 32 | 18 | 3 |
| 342 | St. Helens | 0 | 4 | 4 | 2 |
| 356 | Stockport | 0 | 27 | 19 | 3 |
| 357 | Tameside | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| 358 | Trafford | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| 877 | Warrington | 0 | 4 | 4 | 1 |
| 359 | Wigan | 0 | 62 | 27 | 3 |
| 344 | Wirral | 0 | 27 | 23 | 1 |
| | *Yorkshire and The Humber* | 5 | 810 | 370 | 43 |
| 370 | Barnsley | 0 | 25 | 20 | 2 |
| 380 | Bradford | 0 | 132 | 69 | 4 |
| 381 | Calderdale | 0 | 38 | 21 | 1 |
| 371 | Doncaster | • | 57 | 42 | 6 |
| 811 | East Riding of Yorkshire | 0 | • | • | 2 |
| 810 | Kingston Upon Hull, City of | • | 176 | 48 | 5 |
| 382 | Kirklees | 0 | 45 | 28 | 2 |
| 383 | Leeds | 0 | 81 | 43 | 4 |
| 812 | North East Lincolnshire | 0 | 9 | 9 | 3 |
| 813 | North Lincolnshire | 0 | 41 | 12 | 2 |
| 815 | North Yorkshire | 0 | • | • | 2 |
| 372 | Rotherham | 0 | 8 | 8 | 3 |
| 373 | Sheffield | 0 | 129 | 43 | 3 |
| 384 | Wakefield | • | 64 | 25 | 2 |
| 816 | York | 0 | • | • | 2 |
| | *East Midlands* | • | 430 | 180 | 29 |
| 831 | Derby | 0 | 203 | 87 | 1 |
| 830 | Derbyshire | • | 163 | 51 | 6 |
| 856 | Leicester | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| 855 | Leicestershire | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| 925 | Lincolnshire | 0 | • | • | 5 |
| 928 | Northamptonshire | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| 892 | Nottingham | • | 42 | 27 | 3 |
| 891 | Nottinghamshire | 0 | 20 | 16 | 4 |
| 857 | Rutland | [2] | [2] | [2] | 0 |
| | *West Midlands* | 0 | 430 | 270 | 51 |
| 330 | Birmingham | 0 | 29 | 22 | 3 |
| 331 | Coventry | 0 | 8 | 8 | 4 |
| 332 | Dudley | 0 | 59 | 25 | 3 |
| 884 | Herefordshire | 0 | 9 | 8 | 3 |
| 333 | Sandwell | 0 | 96 | 55 | 5 |
| 893 | Shropshire | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 334 | Solihull | 0 | 15 | 13 | 3 |
| 860 | Staffordshire | 0 | • | • | 5 |
| 861 | Stoke-on-Trent | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| 894 | Telford and Wrekin | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| 335 | Walsall | 0 | 8 | 6 | 3 |
| 937 | Warwickshire | 0 | 62 | 38 | 1 |
| 336 | Wolverhampton | 0 | 39 | 25 | 4 |
| 885 | Worcestershire | 0 | 104 | 68 | 9 |
| | *East of England* | • | 270 | 150 | 37 |
| 820 | Bedfordshire | 0 | 14 | 13 | 1 |
| 873 | Cambridgeshire | 0 | 80 | 49 | 5 |
| 881 | Essex | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| 919 | Hertfordshire | 0 | • | • | 8 |
| 821 | Luton | 0 | 9 | 8 | 2 |
| 926 | Norfolk | 0 | 43 | 24 | 4 |
| 874 | Peterborough | 0 | 6 | 5 | 1 |
| 882 | Southend-on-Sea | 0 | 39 | 18 | 1 |
| 935 | Suffolk | • | 68 | 31 | 8 |
| 883 | Thurrock | 0 | 5 | 4 | 1 |

*Pupil referral units: Number of fixed period and permanent exclusions 2003–04 by local education authority area, by Government Office region in England.*

| | | Number of permanent exclusions[1] | Number of fixed period exclusions | Number of pupils with one or episodes of fixed period exclusion | Number of pupil referral units in authority |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *London* | 10 | 1,100 | 530 | 69 |
| | *Inner London* | 5 | 860 | 380 | 27 |
| 202 | Camden | 0 | 44 | 32 | 2 |
| 201 | City of London | [2]— | [2]— | [2]— | 0 |
| 204 | Hackney | 0 | 64 | 28 | 2 |
| 205 | Hammersmith and Fulham | 0 | 43 | 38 | 2 |
| 309 | Haringey | 0 | 163 | 67 | 1 |
| 206 | Islington | 0 | 285 | 72 | 5 |
| 207 | Kensington and Chelsea | 0 | 9 | 7 | 1 |
| 208 | Lambeth | • | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| 209 | Lewisham | 0 | 119 | 76 | 3 |
| 316 | Newham | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 210 | Southwark | • | 125 | 53 | 3 |
| 211 | Tower Hamlets | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 212 | Wandsworth | 0 | • | • | 2 |
| 213 | Westminster | 0 | 7 | 5 | 1 |
| | *Outer London* | 5 | 240 | 150 | 42 |
| 301 | Barking and Dagenham | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 302 | Barnet | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| 303 | Bexley | 0 | 8 | 6 | 2 |
| 304 | Brent | 0 | 35 | 24 | 6 |
| 305 | Bromley | 0 | 26 | 17 | 2 |
| 306 | Croydon | • | 39 | 31 | 5 |
| 307 | Ealing | 0 | 29 | 23 | 2 |
| 308 | Enfield | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| 203 | Greenwich | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| 310 | Harrow | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 311 | Havering | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| 312 | Hillingdon | 0 | • | • | 1 |
| 313 | Hounslow | 0 | 14 | 10 | 4 |
| 314 | Kingston upon Thames | 0 | • | • | 2 |
| 315 | Merton | 0 | • | • | 1 |
| 317 | Redbridge | • | • | • | 2 |
| 318 | Richmond upon Thames | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 319 | Sutton | 0 | 21 | 17 | 1 |
| 320 | Waltham Forest | • | 57 | 15 | 1 |
| | *South East* | 10 | 1,060 | 470 | 70 |
| 867 | Bracknell Forest | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| 846 | Brighton and Hove | [2]— | [2]— | [2]— | 0 |
| 825 | Buckinghamshire | 0 | 9 | 5 | 5 |
| 845 | East Sussex | 0 | 41 | 20 | 2 |
| 850 | Hampshire | 0 | 367 | 168 | 7 |
| 921 | Isle of Wight | 0 | 12 | 10 | 2 |
| 886 | Kent | 5 | 19 | 15 | 10 |
| 887 | Medway | • | 33 | 11 | 4 |
| 826 | Milton Keynes | 0 | 12 | 9 | 4 |
| 931 | Oxfordshire | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 851 | Portsmouth | 0 | 113 | 39 | 4 |
| 870 | Reading | 0 | 34 | 24 | 3 |
| 871 | Slough | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| 852 | Southampton | 0 | 50 | 28 | 2 |
| 936 | Surrey | 0 | 225 | 74 | 11 |
| 869 | West Berkshire | • | 36 | 18 | 5 |
| 938 | West Sussex | 0 | 74 | 35 | 2 |
| 868 | Windsor and Maidenhead | 0 | 31 | 11 | 2 |
| 872 | Wokingham | • | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| | *South West* | • | 260 | 170 | 40 |
| 800 | Bath and North East Somerset | 0 | 32 | 20 | 1 |
| 837 | Bournemouth | • | 15 | 11 | 1 |
| 801 | Bristol, City of | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 |

*Pupil referral units: Number of fixed period and permanent exclusions 2003–04 by local education authority area, by Government Office region in England*

| | | Number of permanent exclusions[1] | Number of fixed period exclusions | Number of pupils with one or episodes of fixed period exclusion | Number of pupil referral units in authority |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 908 | Cornwall | [2] | [2] | [2] | 0 |
| 878 | Devon | 0 | 42 | 23 | 6 |
| 835 | Dorset | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| 916 | Gloucestershire | * | 12 | 8 | 4 |
| 420 | Isles of Scilly | [2] | [2] | [2] | 0 |
| 802 | North Somerset | 0 | * | * | 3 |
| 879 | Plymouth | 0 | 22 | 21 | 3 |
| 836 | Poole | 0 | 8 | 5 | 1 |
| 933 | Somerset | 0 | 52 | 25 | 7 |
| 803 | South Gloucestershire | 0 | 6 | 6 | 1 |
| 866 | Swindon | 0 | 20 | 14 | 1 |
| 880 | Torbay | [2] | [2] | [2] | 1 |
| 865 | Wiltshire | 0 | 11 | 11 | 1 |

* = 3 or less or a rate based on 3 or less
[1] National totals, regional totals and totals across school types have been rounded to the nearest 10 for fixed period exclusions and to the nearest 5 for permanent exclusions.
[2] No pupil referral units in LEA.

## School Building Maintenance

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what estimate has been made of the requirement for school building maintenance for *(a)* primary, *(b)* secondary and *(c)* other schools in North East Milton Keynes constituency in the last five years, expressed at current prices. [12919]

**Jacqui Smith:** Data on school buildings maintenance need has been supplied to the Department twice; firstly in 2000–01 and secondly in 2003. For primary, secondary and other schools in North East Milton Keynes, the 2000–01 data showed £4,014,000, £5,114,000 and £2,465,000 respectively. The 2003 data showed £2,920,000, £3,938,000 and £1,422,000 respectively. Costs have been updated to current costs. In addition to backlog repair work, the figures cover work needed over a five-year period from the dates of the assessments, including cyclical and scheduled maintenance.

Central Government capital support for investment in schools has increased from under £700 million in 1996–97 to £5.5 billion this year and will rise further to £6.3 billion by 2007–08. Progress is being made year-by-year in improving the quality of the school building stock.

## Secondary School Places

**Mr. Chaytor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many places were available in *(a)* wholly selective and *(b)* partially selective secondary schools in England in each year since 1997; and how many applications for these places there were in each year. [11551]

**Jacqui Smith** *[holding answer 18 July 2005]:* The available information on school places is shown in table 1. The capacity figures are taken from the surplus places survey. The survey does not identify selective and non-selective schools. There is no data available for 2002 as the survey was not carried out in this year. 2005 data is currently being collected from local education authorities.

Information showing the number of pupils in wholly selective (grammar) schools and other maintained secondary schools is provided table 2. The Department does not hold information on schools that are partially selective.

*Table 1: Maintained secondary schools: Capacity figures—England*

| | Capacity |
|---|---|
| 1997[1] | 3,271,363 |
| 1998[1] | 3,025,527 |
| 1999[1] | 3,341,929 |
| 2000[1] | 3,354,301 |
| 2001[1] | 3,356,438 |
| 2002 | n/a |
| 2003[2] | 3,455,993 |
| 2004[2] | 3,468,561 |
| 2005 | n/a |

n/a = not available.
[1] 1997 to 2001 capacity figures calculated using more open enrolment formula.
[2] 2002 to 2004 capacity figures calculated using net capacity measure.
*Source:*
Surplus Places Survey

*Table 2: Maintained secondary schools: number (headcount) of pupils in grammar schools and other secondary schools—England*

| | Maintained secondary schools | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Position as at January each year* | *Grammar schools*[1] | *Other secondary schools*[2] | *Total* |
| 1997 | 128,710 | 2,912,870 | 3,041,580 |
| 1998 | 130,320 | 2,942,510 | 3,072,820 |
| 1999 | 140,880 | 2,981,020 | 3,121,900 |
| 2000 | 145,280 | 3,036,540 | 3,181,810 |
| 2001 | 146,540 | 3,085,290 | 3,231,830 |
| 2002 | 148,560 | 3,115,530 | 3,264,090 |
| 2003 | 150,750 | 3,157,280 | 3,308,030 |
| 2004 | 152,610 | 3,172,340 | 3,324,950 |
| 2005[3] | 154,070 | 3,158,100 | 3,312,160 |

[1] Grammar schools were designated by Order in 1999, prior to that schools designated themselves in returns to the Department.
[2] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[3] Provisional.

*Note:*
Totals may not appear to equal the sum of the component parts because numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.
*Source:*
Annual Schools' Census

Information on the number of applications for places in schools is not collected centrally.

### Television

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what assessment she has made of the impact of excessive television watching on children's learning progress; and what representations she has received on this subject. [11557]

**Beverley Hughes:** The Department has not assessed the impact of excessive television watching on children's learning progress. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State, has not had any meetings on this issue. However, current international research evidence points to the following:

Watching good quality educational programming in the early years can benefit children's language development, in the right conditions.

Conversely, extensive viewing of age-inappropriate or entertainment programming can hinder language development.

In addition, television viewing before age 3 has been shown to have a modest adverse effect on cognitive outcomes at age 6 and 7.

Increased television viewing by children has a long-lasting association with a higher chance of having no formal qualifications by the age of 26.

Other learning activities such as reading may be displaced by television viewing.

Having a television in the bedroom is negatively associated with test scores for children aged 8.

The American Academy of Paediatrics recommends that children watch a maximum of 2 hours of quality programming per day. The National Literacy Trust's Talk To Your Baby campaign recommends no more than half-an-hour for under 2s, and one hour for 3–5 year olds.

## INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### Sudan

**Andrew George:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether the G8 countries have reached agreement on the prosecution of war criminals from Darfur by the International Criminal Court [13076]

**Ian Pearson:** I have been asked to reply.

United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1593 of 31 March—sponsored by the UK—referred the situation in Darfur to the International Criminal Court (ICC). The ICC Prosecutor announced his intention to launch a formal investigation into Darfur on 6 June. At the G8 Summit on 6–8 July, G8 leaders called on the Government of Sudan to comply with UNSCR 1593 which places a legal obligation on Sudan to co-operate with the ICC. They also called for the Government of Sudan to apprehend and bring to justice those responsible for violations of human rights; and to disarm the Janjaweed and other militias.

## CABINET OFFICE

### GM Crops

**Mr. Meacher:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what contingency plans the Government have in place to deal with contamination, either by accident or by terrorist action, of imported food and animal feed with potentially harmful biopharmaceutical GM crops. [11821]

**Caroline Flint:** I have been asked to reply.

Imported food and animal feed are subject to checks carried out on the basis of risk assessment by local port health authorities at the point of entry into the United Kingdom. Routine checks are carried out to screen for the presence of genetically modified materials in feed.

Statutory powers exist under general food law and under the Food and Environment Protection Act (1985) to remove contaminated products from the market or to restrict the movement of products from a designated area.

## LEADER OF THE HOUSE

### Correspondence

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Leader of the House how many letters to his Office from hon. Members in session *(a)* 2004–05 and *(b)* 2005–06 remain unanswered, broken down by those which are (i) one month old, (ii) two months old, (iii) three months old, (iv) four months old and (v) over six months old. [13844]

**Mr. Hoon:** No letters to my Office from hon. Members for the session 2004–05 remain unanswered, and 94 per cent. of letters requiring a reply were answered within our target of 15 working days.

For the current session 10 letters remain unanswered which are under one month old. We expect to answer these within our 15 working day target.

### Parliamentary Questions

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Leader of the House if he will make representations to the Procedure Committee to examine changing the rules of the House to allow written parliamentary questions to be tabled and answered in recesses within the same guidelines which apply when the House is sitting. [14103]

**Mr. Hoon:** I have no current plans to propose changes to long-established practice in this respect.

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Leader of the House what systems his Office has put in place to monitor the length of time taken by each Government Department to answer individual parliamentary questions. [14439]

**Mr. Hoon:** My Office takes an active role in encouraging good practice among Departments in answering parliamentary questions, and co-operates closely with the Cabinet Office in ensuring that appropriate and up-to-date guidance is available.

Ministers are responsible for ensuring that they respond to parliamentary questions in a timely manner. Ordinary written questions should be answered within five days and named day questions on the day named.

## CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

### Advertising Costs

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much the *(a)* Department and *(b)* non-departmental bodies for which the Department is responsible has spent on advertising, broken down by media type in the last three years. [9497]

**Mr. Caborn:** A breakdown of the Department's spend on advertising over the past three years broken down by media type is as follows:

| | *Campaign* | *Media type* | *£* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2003–04 | BBC Charter review | Press | 4,855 |
| | BBC Charter review | Radio | 16,132 |
| 2004–05 | BBC Charter review | Press | 37,085 |
| 2005–06 | Licensing 1st phase | Press | 29,422 |
| | Licensing 2nd phase | Press | [1]100,000 |

[1] Estimated.

The amount spent on advertising by our non-departmental bodies over this period can be answered only at disproportionate cost.

### Audio Recordings

**Mr. McGovern:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what plans she has to increase the duration of copyright on audio recordings to 100 years; and if she will make a statement. [13509]

**Alan Johnson** *[holding answer 19 July 2005]:* I have been asked to reply.

I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Maldon and East Chelmsford (Mr. Whittingdale) on 27 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 1228W.

### Awards for All Grants

**Jim Sheridan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which community organisations in Paisley and Renfrewshire North have received awards for all grants since 1999. [14149]

**Mr. Caborn:** Data regarding the new constituency boundaries in Scotland are not yet available to the Department. As soon as it becomes available I shall write to my hon. Friend the Member for Paisley and Renfrewshire North with the information requested and place copies in the Libraries of both Houses.

### BBC

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent representations she has received about effects on the coverage of parliamentary affairs of changes in job numbers at the BBC. [12411]

**James Purnell:** I have not received any representations about the effects of the BBC's value for money plans on its coverage of parliamentary affairs. However, I understand that the BBC does not expect its plans to adversely affect its parliamentary coverage.

### Best Practice Guidance for Tourism

**Mr. Betts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what representations she has received from industry on the draft best practice guidance for tourism. [14415]

**James Purnell:** My Department has actively sought representations from the tourism, attractions, and hospitality sectors, on the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister's, planning for tourism, good practice guidance. These representations have been made through the tourism review and implementation group which I chair.

Following our engagement, the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister has recently indicated that it will re-work the guidance over the summer taking into account industry views.

### Bike Trails

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps her Department is taking to encourage tourists to visit mountain bike trail sites. [14746]

**James Purnell:** My Department supports the English and British tourism sector through VisitBritain. VisitBritain regularly highlights Britain's off-road cycling facilities to all tourists through its promotional materials and campaigns. Mountain biking features strongly in VisitBritain's new "Outdoor England" campaign, which encourages domestic tourists to take advantage of Britain's countryside offer. Further information can be found on the website www.enjoyengland/outdoor.

### Canoeing

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps she is taking to promote the sport of canoeing in England and Wales. [14868]

**Mr. Caborn:** The Government, though Sport England, is playing a key role in promoting canoeing by its continued investment in the sport. Also, Sport England, Defra and its agencies, are continuing to work with the British Canoe Union, the sport's National Governing Body, to promote canoeing and have put in place a number of measures to increase both the profile of the sport and improve the opportunities for people to participate.

These include Defra commissioning four demonstration projects to develop and pilot best practice for access agreements for canoeists on key stretches of water in England and Ministers from both DCMS and Defra writing to members of local access

forums throughout England inviting their views on improving recreational access for sport and recreational activities such as canoeing.

### Casinos

**Mr. Nicholas Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment she has made of the merits of including the north east of England in the regional casino pilot study. [13982]

**Mr. Caborn:** My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State is currently establishing an independent casino advisory panel to assist her in the exercise of her order making powers under section 175(4) of the Gambling Act 2005 to determine the geographical distribution of the new casino premises licences. The casino advisory panel will consider submissions from local authorities wishing to issue premises licences for regional, large or small casinos. Any local authority in the north east that wants to, will have the opportunity to put its case to the panel in due course.

**Mr. Nicholas Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when she expects to decide on the location of the regional casino pilot; and what the relationship is between the regional spatial strategies of the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and decisions on regional casino pilots. [13983]

**Mr. Caborn:** The regional planning bodies, as part of their revision of regional spatial strategies, will need to identify a list of possible broad locations for regional casinos in their region. The primary requirement for the advisory panel is to ensure that the locations chosen are suitable for testing the social impact of the new style casinos. Subject to that, the Secretary of State will expect the casino advisory panel to ensure that its recommendations are compatible with the broad locations identified in the regional spatial strategies.

The panel is expected to complete its work towards the end of 2006. The current intention is that the Secretary of State will bring an order before Parliament determining the geographical distribution of casino premises licences during the first half of 2007. The order will be subject to the affirmative resolution procedure.

**Mr. Nicholas Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what research her Department has conducted on the regeneration impact of regional casinos; and what assessment she has made of in which region the impact would be greatest. [13991]

**Mr. Caborn:** One of the criteria that the casino advisory panel will consider in finalising its recommendations to the Secretary of State is the need to include areas in need of regeneration (as measured by employment and other social deprivation data) and which are likely to benefit in these terms from a new casino.

**Mr. Nicholas Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what issues she will consider when making her assessment of the regional casino pilot. [14159]

**Mr. Caborn:** We will principally want to consider, with the advice of the Gambling Commission, whether the introduction of the new regional, large and small casinos has led to an increase in problem gambling or is increasing that risk. We will also want to assess what the regeneration and other economic outcomes have been.

**Mr. Nicholas Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment she has made of the range of different types of location of casinos that need to be considered in undertaking a trial of the potential advantages and disadvantages of regional casinos. [14161]

**Mr. Caborn:** We will ask the independent casino advisory panel, when recommending areas for new casinos, to identify those which will provide a good range of types of areas, and a good geographical spread. The types of location might, for example, include urban centres and seaside resorts which need regeneration.

**Mr. Nicholas Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions she has held with the Gambling Commission concerning the Commission's duty to advise the Government on the effect on problem gambling of the introduction of new types of casinos; and what advice she has received regarding the suitability of the single regional casino pilot for an assessment of the effect of such casinos on problem gambling. [14162]

**Mr. Caborn:** Officials are in regular contact with the Gaming Board of Great Britain, who are developing plans for the establishment and operation of the Gambling Commission. These plans will reflect the Commission's duty to advise the Secretary of State about the effects of gambling generally, and my right hon. Friend's specific request for advice on whether the introduction of new types of casinos has led to an increase in problem gambling or is increasing that risk.

**Mr. Nicholas Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the evidential basis is for her policy of testing the regional casino idea with a single pilot study. [14419]

**Mr. Caborn:** The Government have made it clear that they wish to take a cautious approach to the development of new casinos, in order to assess whether their introduction leads to an increase in problem gambling. The decision to reduce the number of regional casinos permitted by the Gambling Act 2005 from eight to one was consistent with this cautious approach. But we have not ruled out the possibility of asking Parliament to agree to a larger number if further evidence is needed for the purposes of a more reliable final assessment.

### Correspondence

**Mr. MacNeil:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what her Department's policy is for dealing with and responding to correspondence received in *(a)* Welsh, *(b)* Scots Gaelic and *(c)* Irish Gaelic. [14734]

**Tessa Jowell:** My Department's policy when correspondence is received in Welsh, Scots Gaelic and Irish Gaelic is to first ask for a translation of the letter, and then respond both in original format and English (if requested).

### Departmental Expenditure

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much the Department spent on advertising in each of the last five years.[10257]

**Mr. Caborn:** The Department had a zero spend on advertising in 2001–02, and 2002–03. The expenditure on advertising for the past three years is as follows:

| | *Spend (£)* |
|---|---|
| 2003–04 | 20,987 |
| 2004–05 | 37,085 |
| 2005–06 | [1]129,422 |

[1] estimated

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much the Department spent on organising or sponsoring conferences in each of the last five years. [10261]

**Mr. Caborn:** Only press conferences and exhibitions are organised centrally and they are held internally with no attached costs. Conferences, seminars and workshops are organised and paid for (sometimes jointly and sometimes exclusively) by policy divisions across the Department. They are held both in-house and on non-Departmental premises. The information relating to the cost of each could be answered only at disproportionate cost.

### Digital Broadcasting

**Mr. Streeter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what consultations she has had with landlords in Devon and Cornwall regarding the provision of digital transmission for tenants living in multiple dwelling units. [14569]

**James Purnell:** We are working with a large number of housing organisations regarding the provision of digital television services for residents served by communal television systems, including the Chartered Institute of Housing, the National Housing Federation, the National Landlords Association and with tenants groups such as TPAS and TAROE.

**Mr. Streeter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps will be taken to ensure that the elderly and housebound in Devon and Cornwall have the opportunity to acquire a digital tuner by 2008. [14571]

**James Purnell:** The Government are committed to ensuring that the interests of the most vulnerable consumers in the UK are protected during digital switchover and has proposed that the BBC help establish and fund appropriate support. We will announce details of the scope of this assistance in due course.

### Identity Cards

**Mr. Garnier:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent assessment she has made of the implications of the introduction of identity cards for her Department. [9882]

**Tessa Jowell:** We are working with the Home Office to identify areas where the Identity Cards Scheme could provide business benefits. On 28 June 2005, my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary placed in the Library a paper containing the latest estimates of benefits of the Identity Cards Scheme which shows that the benefits outweigh the costs once the scheme is fully operational.

The hospitality industry has long considered that the prevention of sales of alcohol to and purchase by children under 18 would be greatly enhanced if a universal identity card showing evidence of age was introduced. At present, the large number of different proof of age cards with varying security features makes it difficult for retailers to identify those underage. The industry has recently confirmed that it fully supports the introduction of identity cards for these reasons.

### Licensed Premises

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will estimate the number of *(a)* licensed premises and *(b)* licensed premises serving food in each local authority area. [13562]

**James Purnell:** There are no available figures for the numbers of licensed premises which serve food by local authority area. No distinction is made under the present licensing framework between public houses, for example, which serve food, and those which do not. This is also the case for the new regime introduced by the Licensing Act 2003.

There were 75,972 public houses across England in June 2004. The Department of Health estimated that between 10 per cent. and 30 per cent. of them do not serve food, in the November 2004 White Paper "Choosing Health". My Department believes that this estimate remains a reasonable one, but that in many areas of England the proportion will be at the lower end of the range.

### Licensing Qualifications

**Mr. Betts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what criteria were used in determining the matters to be included in the *(a)* GOAL and *(b)* GQAL licensing qualifications approved by her Department; and if she will make a statement. [13516]

**James Purnell** *[holding answer 20 July 2005]:* All licensing qualifications accredited by the Secretary of State meet the same requirements. All qualifications must cover the framework of subject areas outlined in the syllabus published by DCMS on 31 July 2003. To ensure common and fair standards for all qualifications and award bodies they are also required to be accredited by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) or the Qualifications Curriculum and Assessment Authority for Wales (ACCAC).

### Olympic Games

**Peter Law:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will establish principles of sustainability for the Olympic games 2012; and if she will take steps to ensure maximum use is made of *(a)* recycled materials, *(b)* waste minimisation, *(c)* solar

energy, *(d)* sustainable building and *(e)* transport design in the Olympic village and sports venues for 2012. [13325]

**Tessa Jowell:** Sustainability principles are a vital part of the plans for the Olympic and Paralympics games in 2012. As set out in theme 5 of the candidature file, the London games will maximise the use of recycled material, minimise waste, promote renewable energy and design sustainability considerations in venue and infrastructure plans, including transport.

The London Olympics Bill which is currently before Parliament requires the proposed Olympic Delivery Authority to contribute to achieving sustainable development when carrying out its functions. Similarly, the London Organising Committee for the Olympic games (LOCOG) remit will fully embrace the issue of sustainability.

**Ian Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will make it a requirement that all buildings constructed for the Olympic games in 2012 should be self-sufficient in energy use. [13362]

**Tessa Jowell:** Energy conservation and the use of renewable energy will be promoted across all Olympic venues. Buildings and facilities will be designed and constructed to minimise energy demand and the Olympic village will be built with the capability of being energy self-sufficient.

**Anne Main:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will highlight the city of St. Albans in promotional literature for visitors to the 2012 Olympic games. [13405]

**Tessa Jowell:** There is an active East of England Olympic Working Group, led by East of England Development Agency (EEDA) and Sport England East, which will continue its work in partnership with the London Organising Committee.

This group has already contributed to the London 2012 nations and regions website, which specifically mention St. Albans.

While it is a little too early to say what form tourism promotion will take in 2012, I am committed to the continued engagement of Government and the Organising committee for the games with the nations and regions to ensure that the social and economic benefits of the games are maximised and shared right across the UK.

**Mr. Greg Knight:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what benefits she expects to accrue to East Yorkshire as a result of the Olympic games being held in London. [12874]

**Tessa Jowell** *[holding answer 20 July 2005]*: The games will also deliver significant economic benefits. The games will attract investment, offer UK companies the opportunity to compete for billions of pounds worth of contracts, offer each nation and region the opportunity to bid for preparation camps and provide a welcome boost to the UK tourism industry.

As we set out to the International Olympic Committee, we expect the 2012 Olympic games and Paralympics games to be an inspiration to our children and young people, to promote sporting activity and culture throughout the UK.

Yorkshire Forward, the Yorkshire and Humber Regional Development Agency leads the East of England Olympic Working Group, which will continue to work with the London Organising Committee to identify games benefits, develop and deliver a strategy to achieve them. In February this year, this group launched a publication entitled "Yorkshire, proud to be part of the winning team" that estimated the economic benefits of the games to Yorkshire to be in the region of £600 million.

**Mr. Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether the ban on pistol shooting will be lifted to allow the UK Olympic pistol shooting teams to practice in the UK; and if she will make a statement. [14383]

**Mr. Caborn:** The Home Office does not propose to repeal the ban on the private possession of handguns. Special arrangements will be put in place to allow pistol shooting events at the 2012 Olympics as happened at the 2002 Commonwealth games. These arrangements will include a warm up event if this is deemed necessary.

### Management Consultants

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what her Department's total spending on management consultants has been in each of the last three years. [13059]

**Mr. Caborn:** The cost to the Department of using management consultants In each of the last three years is shown in the following table.

| *Financial year* | *£* |
|---|---|
| 2002–03 | 107,299.50 |
| 2003–04 | 10,170.94 |
| 2004–05 | 21,067.25 |
| 2005–06 (spend to date) | 4,500.00 |

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate she has made of the total expenditure saved in each of the last three years as a result of implementing recommendations by management consultancies within her Department. [13630]

**Mr. Caborn:** The Department uses management consultants for a wide variety of tasks, in particular where specialist skills and expertise is required to contribute to policy making and improving the Department's effectiveness. Contracts are awarded in open competition according to EU procurement regulations, based on best value for money.

To assess any savings directly attributable to consultancies with any degree of accuracy would incur disproportionate costs.

### Media Literacy

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether her Department has a media literacy development strategy; and if she will make a statement. [14441]

**James Purnell:** This Government places great importance on ensuring that we enhance and develop practical media literacy skills in all citizens across the UK. Media literacy plays a key role in helping people to make informed choices about what they and their children see and hear, as well as to think critically about the media environment they live in.

Furthermore, the development of a media literate society will provide an important driver for economic growth. The continued strength of our economy is dependent on the development of a skilled workforce. In an information-rich society, with goods and services increasingly offered online, the skill to exploit the benefits of new communication technologies have become ever more important.

For these reasons, under the Communications Act 2003, we have placed a statutory duty on Ofcom to promote better media literacy. This includes developing a better public understanding and awareness of the available technological systems to regulate access to electronic media based material and control what is received.

The importance of media literacy has also been identified in Europe as one of the major tools in the development of citizens' responsibilities. A number of initiatives have been launched at European level and endorsed by the European Commission with the aim of ensuring more Europeans, especially young people, have the opportunity to gain a better understanding of the multi-media environment.

Our goal is to have a society of active and informed consumers of media—empowering individuals so we can all benefit from and contribute to the digital future.

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how her Department defines media literacy. [14442]

**James Purnell:** Media literacy is about empowering individuals so we can all benefit from and contribute to the digital future. We have recognized that in a rapidly changing media environment it is important that citizens are media literate and know what tools are available to them and how to use them.

Therefore, we define media literacy to mean:

Giving people the skills to manage the technologies available; and

Equipping people with the tools needed to understand the media environment we live in.

The prize is a society of engaged citizens and wise consumers who can make informed choices about what they see and hear.

### Ministerial Engagements

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what plans she has to visit Highland games events in 2005; and if she will make a statement. [14440]

**Tessa Jowell:** I currently have no plans to visit any Highland games events this year. I am, however, well aware of the long standing tradition of these games and I am sure that they will, once again, be a great success.

### National Lottery

**Mr. Swire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) how many members of the public her Department consulted on the proposed changes to the national lottery; [13054]

(2) what the total number of responses were from members of the public to her Department's consultation on the national lottery. [13055]

**Mr. Caborn:** My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State, announced proposals for reforming national lottery licensing and distribution procedures in 2002. Since then, DCMS has undertaken wide-ranging consultation. This has included four formal consultation documents which were circulated to stakeholders in the public, private and voluntary sectors, published on the Department's website at www.culture.gov.uk and placed in the Libraries of both Houses. It is not possible to calculate how many members of the public in total viewed our proposals. The number of responses to each consultation exercise is indicated in the following table:

| *Consultation* | *Date* | *Number of responses* |
|---|---|---|
| National Lottery Licensing and Regulation | June 2002 | 10 |
| Review of Lottery Funding | July 2002 | 425 |
| National Lottery Funding Decisions Document | July 2003 | 240 |
| National Lottery Licensing Consultation | May 2004 | 18 |

**Mr. Swire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions she has had with the Big Lottery Fund regarding the future of other lottery distributors. [13056]

**Mr. Caborn:** My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State and I have regular discussions with the chair and chief executive of the Big Lottery Fund. We cover a range of issues, but have not discussed the future of other lottery distributors.

**Mr. Swire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions she has had with the Big Lottery Fund regarding the future classification of lottery good causes after 2009. [13057]

**Mr. Caborn:** I have indicated that, subject to the successful passage of the Bill currently before Parliament, the new Big Lottery Fund cause will continue after 2009 broadly as now. Stability makes sense given the amount of consultation and change over the past two years.

**Mr. Swire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when she plans to launch the consultation on lottery distributor licences after 2009. [14100]

**Mr. Caborn:** The lottery distributors do not operate under licence, but in accordance with duties and responsibilities outlined in the National Lottery Act

1993 (as amended); and policy and financial directions issued by the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport.

The DCMS five-year plan, published and outlined in a written statement to both Houses on 17 March 2005, explained our intention to look at what future programmes for the arts, sport and heritage might look like and what share of lottery money should go to each of these good causes. It also explained that this process would commence following the announcement of which city had been nominated to host the 2012 Olympic games.

I can confirm that we plan to consult widely from this autumn, using a broad range of methods. This consultation will lead into policy decisions by Ministers in spring 2006 and an announcement in June 2006 about the arrangements for the future.

**Mr. Walker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many full-time equivalent employees worked for the National Lottery Commission in each year since it was established. [14407]

**Mr. Caborn:** The number of full time equivalent employee posts in each year since the National Lottery Commission was established was:

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 1999–2000 | 37 |
| 2000–01 | 33 |
| 2001–02 | 30 |
| 2002–03 | 28 |
| 2003–04 | 41 |
| 2004–05 | 42 |

**Mr. Walker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the annual budget has been for the National Lottery Commission for each year since it was established. [14408]

**Mr. Caborn:** The running costs of the National Lottery Commission since it was established were:

| | *£000* |
|---|---|
| 1999–2000 | 3,247 |
| 2000–01 | 5,016 |
| 2001–02 | 2,950 |
| 2002–03 | 3,287 |
| 2003–04 | 4,337 |
| 2004–05 | 4,363 |

**Mr. Walker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether companies based outside the EU will be allowed to tender for the third licence to operate the national lottery; what safeguards will be put in place if the national lottery is awarded to a non-EU company; and if she will make a statement. [14409]

**Mr. Caborn:** There is nothing to prevent a company based outside the EU bidding for the next licence. Indeed, overseas companies have participated in previous competitions. The National Lottery Commission will undertake detailed checks on all bidders to ensure that, irrespective of their country of origin, they are fit and proper, and that it is satisfied that the lottery will be run with all due propriety.

**Mr. Walker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what meetings she has held with the National Lottery Commission to discuss the responses to the consultation document "A Lottery for the future". [14410]

**Mr. Caborn:** The National Lottery Commission has sole responsibility for running the competition for the next lottery licence. I recently met the Commission to discuss a number of subjects in the course of which the Commission briefed me about the responses to its discussion document.

**Mr. Walker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many responses the National Lottery Commission received to its consultation document "A Lottery for the future"; and when those responses will be published. [14411]

**Mr. Caborn:** The National Lottery Commission has already received 20 responses to its discussion document "A Lottery for the future", in addition to undertaking a significant amount of wider discussion. The National Lottery Commission will publish a summary of the responses in due course.

**Mr. Walker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many times the National Lottery Commission (NLC) has *(a)* investigated section 6 breaches by Camelot and *(b)* fined Camelot for section 6 breaches of its licence (i) since the NLC began (ii) under Oflot. [14412]

**Mr. Caborn:** The information requested is as follows.

*Licence breaches recorded under OFLOT*

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 1994–95 | 0 |
| 1995–96 | 2 |
| 1996–97 | 2 |
| 1997–98 | 3 |
| 1998–99 | 2 |

*Licence breaches recorded under the NLC*

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 1999–2000 | 1 |
| 2001–02 | 4 |
| 2002–03 | 1 |
| 2003–04 | 4 |
| 2004–05 | 0 |

The NLC has fined Camelot once for a section 6 licence breach during 2001–02.

**Mr. Walker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what representations the National Lottery Commission has received from organisations representing lottery ticket sellers about a possible change of operator following the award of the third licence for the National Lottery. [14413]

**Mr. Caborn:** The National Lottery Commission has been in discussion with a wide-range of interested parties about the process for the award of the next

Lottery licence. These discussions have included the views of retailers. The National Lottery Commission will publish a summary of the responses it has received to date in due course. It would be pleased to receive views from retailer organisations as part of its continuing discussion process.

### Ofcom

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will make a statement on the relationship between her Department and Ofcom.[13431]

**James Purnell:** The Office of Communications (Ofcom) is a public corporation, operating independently from Government, principally under the terms of the Communications Act 2003 and the Office of Communications Act 2002. Ministers and Department officials meet regularly with Ofcom to consider issues to do with the exercise of its statutory functions. Ofcom is required to report annually to the Secretary of State; its annual report 2004–05 was published on 19 July 2005, copies of which have been laid in the House.

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what process is used to audit the financial performance of Ofcom. [14200]

**James Purnell:** Under the terms of the Office of Communications Act 2002, Ofcom is required to prepare in respect of each financial year a statement of accounts in such form as the Secretary of State may direct, copies of which are sent to the Secretary of State and also to the Comptroller and Auditor General who is required to examine, certify and report on that statement. The Ofcom Annual Report 2004–05, with the certificate and report of the Comptroller and Auditor General, was laid before each House of Parliament on 19 July 2005. Additionally, a review of the effectiveness of the system of internal control is performed by Ofcom's internal audit function.

### Press Officers

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many press officers the Department employed in each year since 1997; and what the cost was in each year. [8134]

**Mr. Caborn:** The number of press officers the Department employed in each year since 1997 are as follows. The cost for each year is available only from 2003 as the information requested for earlier years could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

| | *Number* | *£* |
|---|---|---|
| 1997 | 7 | — |
| 1998 | 7 | — |
| 1999 | 9 | — |
| 2000 | 8 | — |
| 2001 | 9 | — |
| 2002 | 8 | — |
| 2003 | 9 | 459,952 |
| 2004 | 10 | 552,677 |
| 2005 | 9 | 466,206 |

### Rivers

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent discussions she has had with *(a)* the British Canoe Union and *(b)* others on improving the accessibility of rivers in England and Wales to the public. [14851]

**Mr. Caborn:** My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has not had any recent discussions with either the British Canoe Union or other similar organisations regarding the accessibility of rivers in England.

However, as part of my responsibilities as Minister for Sport, I met with representatives of the British Canoe Union in December 2004. This was as part of a meeting I had with the Minister for Rural Affairs at the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs in which issues including increasing access to water-based sports and recreation, such as canoeing, were discussed.

The National Assembly for Wales and the Welsh Assembly rather than DCMS or Defra, have responsibility for the accessibility of rivers in Wales.

### South Bank Centre

**Kate Hoey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will request the resignation of Lord Hollick as chair of the South Bank Centre. [13397]

**Tessa Jowell:** I have no intention of seeking Lord Hollick's resignation.

**Kate Hoey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions she has had with the Prime Minister concerning the future of the London Eye; and what assessment she has made of the effect of the success of the 2012 Olympic bid on the situation with the South Bank Centre. [13398]

**Tessa Jowell:** I have had no discussions with the Prime Minister concerning the future of the London Eye. The welcome success of the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic bid has no bearing on the current negotiations between the South Bank Centre and the London Eye.

**Kate Hoey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when she expects the lease dispute between the South Bank Centre and the London Eye to be resolved. [13399]

**Tessa Jowell:** Negotiations to secure a new agreement are on-going.

**Kate Hoey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will make a statement on progress with the negotiations between the South Bank Centre and the London Eye. [13400]

**Tessa Jowell:** Negotiations between the South Bank Centre and the London Eye are ongoing.

**Kate Hoey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on what dates she has had discussions with Lord Hollick, chair of the South Bank Centre, about the London Eye; what the substance of those conversations was; and whether she plans further *(a)* meetings and *(b)* discussions with Lord Hollick on that subject. [13401]

**Tessa Jowell:** I have had one phone call with Lord Hollick, on 21 May, to discuss the London Eye. I am being kept informed of the progress of negotiations.

### Television Licences

**Jim Sheridan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much has been spent on advertising on television warning against the failure to hold a current television licence in the last five years. [14148]

**James Purnell:** The BBC has responsibility for the administration of the television licensing system and TV Licensing carries out the day to day administration under contract to the corporation. I have therefore asked the BBC's head of revenue management to consider the question raised by the hon. Member and to write to him direct, placing a copy of the reply in the Libraries of both Houses.

**Jim Sheridan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many people in Paisley and Renfrewshire North were found by TV Licensing not to have a current television licence in 2004. [14151]

**James Purnell:** The BBC has responsibility for the administration of the television licensing system and TV Licensing carries out the day-to-day administration under contract to the Corporation. I have therefore asked the BBC's Head of Revenue Management to consider the question raised by the hon. Member and to write to him direct, placing a copy of the reply in the Libraries of both Houses.

**Mr. David Hamilton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many people are employed by TV Licensing in Scotland. [14194]

**James Purnell:** The BBC has responsibility for the administration of the television licensing system and TV Licensing carries out the day to day administration under contract to the corporation. I have therefore asked the BBC's head of revenue management to consider the question raised by my hon. Friend and to write to him direct, placing a copy of the reply in the Libraries of both Houses.

**Mr. David Hamilton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much has been spent on advertising on commercial radio to publicise the need to hold a current television licence in each of the last three years. [14195]

**James Purnell:** The Department for Culture, Media and Sport has not spent any money on radio advertisements to publicise the television licensing requirements. The BBC has responsibility for the administration of the television licensing system; this includes responsibility for publicity to encourage compliance with the legislation. I have therefore asked the BBC's head of revenue management to consider the question raised by my hon. Friend and to write to him direct, placing a copy of the reply in the Libraries of both Houses.

**Mr. David Hamilton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many people in Midlothian were found by TV Licensing not to have a current television licence in 2004. [14796]

**James Purnell:** The BBC has responsibility for the administration of the television licensing system and TV Licensing carries out the day to day administration under contract to the corporation. I have therefore asked the BBC's head of revenue management to consider the question raised by my hon. Friend and to write to him direct, placing a copy of the reply in the Libraries of both Houses.

### Wine Tasting Clubs

**Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what representations she has received on the applications of the Licensing Act 2003 to wine tasting clubs; and if she will make a statement. [12957]

**James Purnell:** Some correspondence has been received from the organisers of wine tasting sessions. Their main concern is whether or not wine tasting requires a licence under the Licensing Act 2003. Generally this would not be the case. Normally a wine tasting club would buy wine collectively for each wine tasting session and at the session the wine would be provided free of charge. As such, in most cases, this would be similar to a private party where one or more people club together to purchase the refreshments to be consumed. This would not be licensable. However, if a club admits non-members for a charge which entitles them to consume a certain amount of alcohol, the event would be licensable. Furthermore, if the club sells or supplies alcohol to its members for a charge, it may be necessary for the club to take advice as to whether a club premises certificate is required.

## DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

### Business/Domestic Rates

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how much revenue has been raised in each business improvement district (BID) from the additional levy on business rates in each year since the operation of each BID; and what the estimated figures are for 2005–06 for each BID. [13108]

**Mr. Woolas:** Billing authorities reported the following estimates of BID levy income in 2005–06 for BIDs within their area:

| *Billing authority* | *£000* |
|---|---|
| Birmingham | 248 |
| Camden | 677 |
| Coventry | 302 |
| Kingston-upon-Thames | 762 |
| Plymouth | 250 |
| Southwark | 650 |
| Westminster | 3,470 |
| Total | 6,359 |

Source:
BID revenue accounts transactions 2005-06 returns to ODPM

No other billing authority reported any estimates BID levy income for 2005–06, and figures are not collected centrally for each separate BID, where there is more than one within a single billing authority area.

The powers under the Local Government Act 2003 that set up BIDs came into effect when the BIDs regulations came into operation on 17 September 2004. No figures have been collected centrally for BID levy income between that date and the end of 2004–05.

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what average domestic rate poundage was levied in England in each year from 1979 until the abolition of domestic rates. [13225]

**Mr. Woolas:** Details of the average domestic rate poundage levied in England in each year from 1979 until the abolition of domestic rates are published in table 18 in Local Government Financial Statistics England No. 1 and this is available in the Library of the House.

### Council Tax

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what were the *(a)* average (i) B and (ii) D council tax in England and *(b)* average council tax per dwelling in England were, (A) before capping and (B) after the introduction of in-year capping, in (1) 2004–05 and (2) 2005–06. [13110]

**Mr. Woolas:** The information requested for England is shown in the table.

£

| | *Average band B council tax* | *Average band D council tax* | *Average council tax per dwelling* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2004–05 | 907 | 1,167 | 967 |
| 2005–06 | 944 | 1,214 | 1,009 |

In-year capping makes no difference to the figures at a national level for 2004–05 when rounded to the nearest pound. Assuming that capped authorities reduce their budgets in 2005–06 to the maximum permitted budget requirement, the same would be true for this year.

Capping remains an effective means of bringing down council tax increases as authorities would otherwise go on to set higher increases. In 2003–04, the last year in which capping powers were not exercised, the average council tax increase in England was 12.9 per cent. This reduced to 5.9 per cent. in 2004–05 and fell again to 4.1 per cent. in 2005–06—in both these years, the Government made clear that they were prepared to use their powers to cap excessive council tax increases.

### Councillors (Code of Conduct)

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister when the Standards Board for England will publish a revised code of conduct for councillors. [13120]

**Mr. Woolas:** The Standards Board for England is currently reviewing the code of conduct for local authority members. The board expects to conclude this review in the autumn. We will consider carefully any recommendations for amendments to the code of conduct which the board may wish to propose arising from this review.

### Electronic Government Targets

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many Implementing Electronic Government targets local authorities must meet in *(a)* 2004–05 and *(b)* 2005–06. [4357]

**Mr. Woolas:** Councils do not need to meet any IEG targets in 2004–05. By December 2005 councils are expected to be 100 per cent. e-enabled as per the Office's PSA4 target SR2002. Achievement will be measured through BVPI157 and against the local e-Government Priority Service Outcomes (published April 2004)

According to last December's IEG returns, authorities expect to deliver £1.2 billion in efficiency savings by 200–08 as a direct result of e-Government investment.

The average council is now 79 per cent. e-enabled and is expected to meet the December 2005 target.

### English Partnerships (Milton Keynes)

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how much land English Partnerships owns in the constituency of North East Milton Keynes. [13237]

**Yvette Cooper:** Currently English Partnerships owns 937 acres (379 hectares) in the Milton Keynes North East constituency. The majority of the land holding are located in grid squares of central Milton Keynes, Campbell Park, Oakgrove, Monkston Park, Broughton.

### Fire Service

**Damian Green:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what guidance he has issued to the Fire Service on the safety implications of the use of decorative hops in public houses, in relation to fire inspections required under the Licensing Act 2003. [13320]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** None. However, extant guidance is provided in the "Guide to Fire Precautions in existing places of entertainment and like premises" (ISBN 0-11-340907-9) and in the "Guide to fire precautions in existing places of work that require a fire certificate (Factories, Offices, Shops and Railway Premises)" (ISBN 0-11-341079).

That guidance will be replaced in due course by guidance to support the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005, which will also cover the usage of artificial (or dried) foliage, tree, shrubs and flowers.

**Mr. Clifton-Brown:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether Quedegely will be one of the candidates for the new Regional Fire Centre. [14611]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** No. The site was proposed but did not make the shortlist.

**Mr. Clifton-Brown:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what studies have been undertaken on the

number of appliances required by each fire brigade; and who will make decisions on numbers of appliances under the proposed regionalisation of fire control centres. [14618]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** It is a matter for individual Fire and Rescue Authorities to decide the number of appliances they require, in accordance with their Integrated Risk Management Plans (IRMPs). This will continue to be the case, regardless of reforms to the control centre service.

**Mr. Clifton-Brown:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many *(a)* jobs will be lost and *(b)* new jobs will be created following the regionalisation of the fire service. [14623]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** There are no plans for the regionalisation of the fire service.

**Mr. Clifton-Brown:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister who will determine the numbers of reserve and professional firefighters under the proposed regionalisation of fire control centres. [14653]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The numbers of whole-time firefighters and those on the retained duty system are and will remain the responsibility of individual fire and rescue authorities.

**Peter Viggers:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what the incident response times were at the existing fire control centres in the latest year for which figures are available; what the evidential basis is for the statement that incident response times will be improved after a move to regional fire control centres; and if he will make a statement. [13934]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** Incident response times for existing control rooms for the most recent year are listed in the following table:

*Fires by response time bands from time of mobilisation to time of arrival, England, 2004[1] (time measured in minutes from time of mobilisation to time of arrival)*

| | | *Attendance time* | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Total* | *Up to 5 minutes* | *6–10 minutes* | *11–15 minutes* | *Over 15 minutes* |
| *England* | 145,395 | 79,815 | 53,221 | 9,451 | 2,868 |
| *England—Non-Met counties* | 83,166 | 36,814 | 35,625 | 8,264 | 2,463 |
| Avon | 3,299 | 1,607 | 1,451 | 205 | 36 |
| Bedfordshire | 1,630 | 629 | 815 | 142 | 44 |
| Berkshire | 1,812 | 957 | 651 | 166 | 38 |
| Buckinghamshire | 1,866 | 527 | 1,077 | 196 | 65 |
| Cambridgeshire | 2,100 | 553 | 1,115 | 325 | 107 |
| Cheshire | 2,953 | 1,257 | 1,356 | 266 | 74 |
| Cleveland | 2,531 | 1,842 | 625 | 53 | 11 |
| Cornwall | 1,095 | 228 | 475 | 262 | 131 |
| Cumbria | 1,431 | 480 | 685 | 168 | 98 |
| Derbyshire | 2,198 | 842 | 1,064 | 229 | 63 |
| Devon | 2,747 | 1,248 | 1,107 | 268 | 124 |
| Dorset | 1,430 | 1,020 | 355 | 42 | 13 |
| Durham | 1,948 | 685 | 1,026 | 198 | 39 |
| East Sussex | 2,307 | 1,213 | 864 | 193 | 37 |
| Essex | 3,335 | 1,209 | 1,620 | 437 | 68 |
| Gloucestershire | 1,653 | 442 | 856 | 278 | 76 |
| Hampshire | 3,177 | 1,496 | 1,421 | 190 | 70 |
| Hereford and Worcester | 1,530 | 359 | 892 | 224 | 54 |
| Hertfordshire | 2,094 | 1,298 | 671 | 100 | 25 |
| Humberside | 3,668 | 2,136 | 1,242 | 215 | 75 |
| Isle of Wight | 237 | 113 | 100 | 12 | 13 |
| Kent | 4,200 | 1,845 | 1,838 | 412 | 105 |
| Lancashire | 4,829 | 2,939 | 1,589 | 232 | 69 |
| Leicestershire | 2,097 | 890 | 893 | 249 | 65 |
| Lincolnshire | 1,715 | 333 | 885 | 353 | 144 |
| Norfolk | 1,770 | 1,071 | 562 | 118 | 19 |
| North Yorkshire | 1,637 | 441 | 745 | 288 | 163 |
| Northamptonshire | 2,112 | 785 | 1,061 | 189 | 78 |
| Northumberland | 991 | 473 | 361 | 110 | 48 |
| Nottinghamshire | 4,165 | 2,183 | 1,806 | 170 | 6 |
| Oxfordshire | 1,432 | 445 | 693 | 246 | 48 |
| Shropshire | 1,144 | 641 | 372 | 87 | 45 |
| Somerset | 1,226 | 611 | 405 | 151 | 59 |
| Staffordshire | 2,627 | 851 | 1,301 | 407 | 69 |
| Suffolk | 1,425 | 423 | 674 | 238 | 91 |
| Surrey | 2,358 | 837 | 1,180 | 283 | 57 |
| Warwickshire | 1,372 | 799 | 397 | 138 | 39 |
| West Sussex | 1,753 | 723 | 774 | 224 | 32 |
| Wiltshire | 1,269 | 384 | 619 | 199 | 66 |
| Isles of Scilly[2] | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| *England—Met counties* | 62,189 | 43,001 | 17,596 | 1,186 | 406 |
| Greater Manchester | 12,026 | 8,632 | 3,121 | 228 | 45 |
| Merseyside | 6,748 | 4,605 | 2,020 | 51 | 72 |

*Fires by response time bands from time of mobilisation to time of arrival, England, 2004[1] (time measured in minutes from time of mobilisation to time of arrival)*

| | | Attendance time | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Total* | *Up to 5 minutes* | *6–10 minutes* | *11–15 minutes* | *Over 15 minutes* |
| South Yorkshire | 5,130 | 2,973 | 1,956 | 156 | 45 |
| Tyne and Wear | 4,892 | 3,559 | 1,271 | 58 | 4 |
| West Midlands | 9,030 | 5,430 | 3,332 | 195 | 73 |
| West Yorkshire | 7,793 | 4,414 | 2,990 | 298 | 91 |
| Greater London | 16,570 | 13,388 | 2,907 | 200 | 76 |

[1] Provisional.
[2] Isles of Scilly control room is in Cornwall.
*Note:*
Figures exclude late call and heat and smoke damage only incidents.
*Source:*
FDR1 returns to ODPM

The figures are only for primary fires—information is not collected centrally on response times to other incident types.

Incident response times as used for the former national standards were calculated from the point of mobilisation from the fire station to the time of arrival at the incident. They did not include the time taken to handle the call.

Under the FiReControl proposals control staff will have the most modern technology which shows on their screens the availability of the most suitable available appliance nearest to the incident, whether it is in the station or not, and will mobilise direct to that appliance. In most fire and rescue services in England, appliances are currently assumed to be at the fire station when mobilised. The new arrangements will take into account the disposition of appliances under an authority's Integrated Risk Management Plan, and optimise the response. The information transmitted direct to the appliance will enable better, faster route planning, and will include water supply information and premises risk data to ensure crews are better-prepared to deal with the incident on arrival.

The location of callers will be identified automatically, even if the caller is ringing from a mobile phone, and detailed information about the location of the caller will be available on screen to the operator. This will improve call-handling by enabling the control operator speedily to validate information given by the caller and focus on handling any distress. These two factors combined are expected to reduce response times from the point of call to the point of attendance at the incident.

### Firelink Project

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will publish the representations he has received on the Firelink Project. [14069]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister does not think that it would be appropriate to disclose individual correspondence including that from private parties. The Government are committed to run a fair and open competition for Firelink in accordance with EU/UK Public Procurement Regulations. The decision as to which company will be awarded the contract will be made in accordance with the award criteria. Any representations from outside this process will be disregarded.

### Gore Basin Planning Appeal

**Mr. Andrew Turner:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister why the planning inspectorate extended for an unspecified period the deadline for submission by the appellant of an environmental impact assessment in respect of planning appeal P2114/c/05/2001426 (Gore Basin, Newport, IW); whether the appeal on ground is deemed to have lapsed owing to the non-submission of an environmental impact assessment; and when a hearing of the appeal is likely to take place. [13758]

**Yvette Cooper** *[holding answer 20 July 2005]:* The appellant has until 12 September to submit an environmental statement. If the statement is not submitted by then the appeal on ground will lapse unless the Planning Inspectorate extends the period further. A date for hearing the appeal has been deferred pending receipt of the environmental statement.

### Housing

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what role his Department plays in releasing former new town landholdings for the development of social housing.[12965]

**Yvette Cooper:** The former Commission for New Town landholdings are now owned by English Partnerships, the national regeneration agency whose remit includes the acquisition and disposal of land for sustainable development. The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister has overall responsibility for housing policy within Government and has implemented a number of initiatives to assist with land supply and deliver new housing in support of the sustainable communities plan. The use to which English Partnerships' landholdings should be put falls within this context.

However, it is the responsibility of local planning authorities to consider applications for development, which they should do in accordance with their local plan or local development framework.

### Local Area Agreements

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister which local authorities have signed local area agreements; and *(a)* which services and *(b)* what expenditure are involved in each case. [13895]

**Mr. Woolas:** 20 pilot local area agreements were signed in March 2005. These local authority areas and the local authorities included within each agreement are

listed in the table. The anticipated expenditure related to each local area agreement as described in each agreement is also set out in the following table. The figures include funding that is being brought together in the local area to achieve the LAA as well as the funding provided directly by central Government.

The pilot agreements are organised around three service blocks: the Safer and Stronger Communities block; the Healthier Communities and Older People block; and the Children and Young People's block. Future local area agreements will have a fourth block, the Economic Development and Enterprise block.

| Area/local authorities included in the LAA | Funding included in the LAA (£ million) |
|---|---|
| *Barnsley* | |
| Barnsley Metropolitan Council | 44 |
| *Bradford* | |
| City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council | 39 |
| *Brighton* | |
| Brighton and Hove City Council | 5 |
| *Coventry* | |
| Coventry City Council | 49 |
| *Derby* | |
| Derby City Council | 23 |
| *Derbyshire* | |
| Derbyshire County Council<br>Amber Valley Borough Council<br>Erewash Borough Council<br>The District of Bolsover<br>Chesterfield Borough Council<br>North East Derbyshire District Council<br>High Peak Borough Council<br>Derbyshire Dales District Council<br>South Derbyshire District Council | 60 |
| *Devon* | |
| Devon County Council<br>East Devon District Council<br>Exeter City Council<br>Mid Devon District Council<br>North Devon District Council<br>South Hams District Council<br>Teignbridge District Council<br>Torridge District Council<br>West Devon Borough Council | 16 |
| *Doncaster* | |
| Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council | 203 |
| *Dorset* | |
| Dorset County Council<br>Christchurch Borough Council<br>East Dorset District Council<br>North Dorset District Council<br>Purbeck District Council West<br>Dorset District Council<br>Weymouth and Portland Borough Council | 16 |
| *Gateshead* | |
| Gateshead Council | 47 |
| *Greenwich* | |
| London Borough of Greenwich | 17 |
| *Hammersmith and Fulham* | |
| London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham | 21 |
| *Kent* | |
| Kent County Council<br>Ashford Borough Council<br>Canterbury City Council<br>Dartford Borough Council<br>Dover District Council<br>Gravesham Borough Council<br>Maidstone Borough Council<br>Sevenoaks District Council<br>Shepway District Council<br>Swale Borough Council<br>Thanet District Council<br>Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council<br>Tunbridge Wells Borough Council | 86 |
| *Knowsley* | |
| Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council | 18 |
| *Sheffield* | |
| Sheffield City Council | 18 |
| *Stockton* | |
| Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council | 24 |
| *Suffolk* | |
| Suffolk County Council<br>Babergh District Council<br>Forest Heath District Council<br>Ipswich Borough Council<br>Mid Suffolk District Council<br>St. Edmundsbury Borough Council<br>Suffolk Coastal District Council<br>Waveney District Council | 80 |
| *Telford and Wrekin* | |
| Borough of Telford and Wrekin | 7 |
| *Wigan* | |
| Wigan Metropolitan Borough Council | 11 |
| *Wolverhampton* | |
| Wolverhampton City Council | 70 |
| Total | 853 |

## Local Government Pensions

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what the cost will be to local authorities of revoking the changes to the Local Government Pension Scheme outlined in the Local Government Pension Scheme (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2004. [13116]

**Mr. Woolas:** My right hon. Friend, the Deputy Prime Minister, within the framework of the Local Government Pension Scheme tri-partite committee, has invited all parties to develop, by the autumn, realistic and costed measures to fully meet actual cost pressures arising from the introduction of the Local Government Pension Scheme (Amendment) Regulations 2005. The 2005 regulations also allow actuaries to conduct interim valuations to produce fresh assessments of each fund's assets and liabilities to help manage that process. The

intention is to secure the scheme's solvency and affordability, without any additional resource calls on employers, on Government or on council tax payers.

### Management Consultancies

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister which five management consultancies received the highest value of contracts awarded by his Department in each of the last three years; and what the total value was of the contracts awarded to each. [12584]

**Yvette Cooper:** The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister was formed in May 2002. This information is not held centrally and can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Parish Councils (Departmental Documentation)

**Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many *(a)* consultation and *(b)* advisory documents were sent to parish councils by his Department in each of the last five years. [13961]

**Mr. Woolas:** The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister sends each year a number of consultation and advisory documents to local authorities including parish councils. Details of these are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Safer Stronger and Communities

**John Hemming:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister (1) what *(a)* the allocation from the Safer Stronger Communities Fund and *(b)* the population is for (i) Wear Valley, (ii) Westminster, (iii) Wigan and (iv) Wirral local authorities; [12340]

(2) what *(a)* the allocation from the Safer Stronger Communities Fund and *(b)* the population is for (i) Tower Hamlets, (ii) Wakefield , (iii) Waltham Forest, (iv) Wandsworth and (v) Wansbeck local authorities; [12341]

(3) what *(a)* the allocation from the Safer Stronger Communities Fund and *(b)* the population is for (i) Southwark, (ii) Stockton-on-Tees, (iii) Stoke-on-Trent, (iv) Sunderland and (v) Tameside local authorities; [12342]

(4) what *(a)* the allocation from the Safer Stronger Communities Fund and *(b)* the population is for (i) Sedgefield, (ii) Sefton, (iii) Sheffield, (iv) South Tyneside and (v) Southampton local authorities; [12343]

(5) what *(a)* the allocation from the Safer Stronger Communities Fund and *(b)* the population is for (i) Rochdale, (ii) Rotherham, (iii) St Helens, (iv) Salford and (v) Sandwell local authorities; [12344]

(6) what *(a)* the allocation from the Safer Stronger Communities Fund and *(b)* the population is for (i) Penwith, (ii) Plymouth, (iii) Portsmouth, (iv) Preston and (v) Redcar and Cleveland local authorities; [12345]

(7) what *(a)* the allocation from the Safer Stronger Communities Fund and *(b)* the population is for (i) Newham, (ii) North Tyneside, (iii) Nottingham, (iv) Oldham and (v) Pendle local authorities; [12346]

(8) what *(a)* the allocation from the Safer Stronger Communities Fund and *(b)* the population is for (i) Luton, (ii) Manchester, (iii) Mansfield, (iv) Middlesbrough and (v) Newcastle upon Tyne local authorities; [12347]

(9) what *(a)* the allocation from the Safer Stronger Communities Fund and *(b)* the population is for (i) Leeds, (ii) Leicester, (iii) Lewisham, (iv) Lincoln and (v) Liverpool local authorities; [12348]

(10) what *(a)* the allocation from the Safer Stronger Communities Fund and *(b)* the population is for (i) Kerrier, (ii) Kingston upon Hull, (iii) Kirklees, (iv) Knowsley and (v) Lambeth local authorities; [12349]

(11) what *(a)* the allocation from the Safer Stronger Communities Fund and *(b)* the population is for (i) Hartlepool, (ii) Hastings, (iii) Hyndburn, (iv) Islington and (v) Kennington and Chelsea local authorities; [12350]

(12) what *(a)* the allocation from the Safer Stronger Communities Fund and *(b)* the population is for (i) Greenwich, (ii) Hackney, (iii) Halton, (iv) Hammersmith and Fulham and (v) Haringey local authorities; [12351]

(13) what *(a)* the allocation from the Safer Stronger Communities Fund and *(b)* the population is for (i) Ealing, (ii) Easington, (iii) Enfield, (iv) Gateshead and (v) Great Yarmouth local authorities; [12352]

(14) what *(a)* the allocation from the Safer Stronger Communities Fund and *(b)* the population is for (i) Coventry, (ii) Croydon, (iii) Derby, (iv) Derwentside and (v) Dudley local authorities; [12353]

(15) what *(a)* the allocation from the Safer Stronger Communities Fund and *(b)* the population is for (i)Brent, (ii) Brighton and Hove, (iii) Bristol, (iv) Burnley and (v) Camden local authorities; [12354]

(16) what *(a)* the allocation from the Safer Stronger Communities Fund and *(b)* the population is for (i) Blackburn with Darwen, (ii) Blackpool, (iii) Bolsover, (iv) Bolton and (v) Bradford local authorities; [12355]

(17) what *(a)* the allocation from the Safer Stronger Communities Fund and *(b)* the population is for (i) Allerdale, (ii) Ashfield, (iii) Barking and Dagenham, (iv) Barnsley and (v) Barrow-in-Furness local authorities. [12356]

**Mr. Woolas:** The Safer and Stronger Communities Fund brings together a number of programmes from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and the Home Office. Aggregate allocations in 2005–06 from both Departments are combined in the following table. Population estimates are from "T 10: Mid-2002 to Mid-2003 population estimates; components of population change for local authorities in England and Wales; Mid-2003 Population Estimates", published by the Office for National Statistics Population Estimates Unit, and reflect the local authority administrative boundaries that were in place on 1 April 2003.

| Region/authority | Safer and stronger communities fund allocation 2005-06 (£) | Population estimate[1] |
|---|---|---|
| *London* | | |
| Barking and Dagenham | 629,517 | 165,900 |
| Brent | 1,067,592 | 267,800 |
| Camden | 3,377,093 | 210,700 |
| City of Westminster | 1,395,889 | 222,000 |
| Croydon | 1,019,461 | 336,700 |
| Ealing | 2,303,502 | 305,000 |
| Enfield | 781,563 | 280,300 |
| Greenwich | 3,154,168 | 223,700 |
| Hackney | 1,694,127 | 208,400 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 682,625 | 174,200 |
| Haringey | 1,312,976 | 224,700 |
| Islington | 1,034,415 | 180,100 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 662,432 | 174,400 |
| Lambeth | 1,386,905 | 268,500 |
| Lewisham | 1,100,655 | 248,300 |
| Newham | 1,909,733 | 250,600 |
| Southwark | 1,702,932 | 253,800 |
| Tower Hamlets | 1,243,324 | 206,600 |
| Waltham Forest | 1,363,430 | 221,600 |
| Wandsworth | 1,024,832 | 274,100 |
| *South East* | | |
| Brighton and Hove | 734,060 | 251,500 |
| Hastings | 1,029,032 | 85,100 |
| Portsmouth | 601,983 | 188,700 |
| Southampton | 638,297 | 221,100 |
| *South West* | | |
| City of Bristol UA | 1,313,523 | 391,500 |
| Kerrier and Penwith | 2,288,753 | 155,500 |
| Plymouth | 738,685 | 241,500 |
| *East* | | |
| Luton | 1,995,490 | 184,000 |
| Great Yarmouth | 461,633 | 92,100 |
| *East Midlands* | | |
| Derby | 809,488 | 233,200 |
| Bolsover | 414,890 | 73,200 |
| Leicester | 2,721,377 | 283,900 |
| Lincoln | 378,829 | 86,000 |
| Nottingham | 1,040,720 | 273,900 |
| Ashfield | 298,914 | 112,600 |
| Mansfield | 1,631,864 | 98,700 |
| *West Midlands* | | |
| Coventry | 2,776,432 | 305,000 |
| Dudley | 2,296,081 | 304,800 |
| Sandwell | 1,430,863 | 285,000 |
| Stoke on Trent | 909,835 | 238,000 |
| *Yorkshire and Humber* | | |
| Barnsley | 1,480,002 | 220,200 |
| Bradford | 1,720,270 | 477,800 |
| Kingston upon Hull | 1,230,286 | 247,900 |
| Kirklees | 1,639,673 | 391,400 |
| Leeds | 2,359,743 | 715,200 |
| Rotherham | 1,353,991 | 251,500 |
| Sheffield | 3,258,430 | 512,500 |
| Wakefield | 925,066 | 318,300 |
| *North East* | | |
| Derwentside | 1,223,564 | 85,600 |
| Easington | 2,691,435 | 92,800 |
| Sedgefield | 398,408 | 87,300 |
| Wear Valley | 416,152 | 61,300 |
| Gateshead | 807,446 | 191,000 |
| Hartlepool | 618,526 | 90,200 |
| Middlesbrough | 897,348 | 139,000 |
| Newcastle upon Tyne | 1,005,313 | 266,600 |
| North Tyneside | 1,742,459 | 190,800 |
| Wansbeck | 385,188 | 61,300 |
| South Tyneside | 768,535 | 151,700 |
| Stockton | 1,377,841 | 186,300 |
| Sunderland | 1,064,355 | 283,100 |
| *North West* | | |
| Blackburn with Darwen | 2,476,794 | 139,800 |
| Blackpool | 797,084 | 142,400 |
| Bolton | 2,114,167 | 263,800 |
| Allerdale | 393,244 | 94,500 |
| Barrow-in-Furness | 406,933 | 70,600 |
| Halton | 640,998 | 118,400 |
| Knowsley | 885,930 | 150,200 |
| Burnley | 445,261 | 88,500 |
| Hyndburn | 405,224 | 81,700 |
| Pendle | 450,972 | 89,300 |
| Preston | 682,461 | 130,500 |
| Liverpool | 2,450,452 | 441,800 |
| Manchester | 3,180,864 | 432,500 |
| Oldham | 928,771 | 218,100 |
| Rochdale | 958,823 | 206,600 |
| Salford | 1,082,729 | 216,500 |
| Sefton | 878,937 | 281,600 |
| St. Helens | 742,367 | 176,700 |
| Tameside | 1,550,219 | 213,400 |
| Wigan | 858,689 | 303,800 |
| Wirral | 1,337,874 | 313,900 |

*Source:*

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Expodata/Spreadsheets/D8560.xls

## Sustainable Communities

**Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what discussions his Department has had with the Treasury on securing developer contributions to fund key infrastructure for the sustainable communities growth strategy in Northamptonshire; and whether further legislation is required to implement the policy. [13329]

**Yvette Cooper** *[holding answer 19 July 2005]:* Officials from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and HM Treasury have not met specifically to discuss how to secure developer contributions for infrastructure in Northamptonshire, although work on infrastructure funding for the growth areas, including Milton Keynes and the South Midlands, is ongoing.

Local authorities may seek developer contributions through planning obligations (also known as "section 106 agreements") under existing legislation. New legislation would be required for local authorities to seek contributions that go beyond the policy set out in the Government's Circular 05/2005 on planning obligations.

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister with which bodies in Milton Keynes he has discussed his Department's plans for sustainable communities. [13138]

**Yvette Cooper:** The plans for the sustainable communities have had a long gestation and have included wide community participation. Regional Planning Guidance 9(2001) recommended an interregional study should be undertaken to consider the further development of the Milton Keynes sub-region. This was followed by the Milton Keynes and South Midlands study (2002) and subsequent growth area assessments, all of which were steered by a full range of stakeholders. "Sustainable communities: building for the future", published by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister in 2003, announced three new growth areas, including Milton Keynes South Midlands (MKSM), and identified key steps for taking them forward.

All interested bodies and members of the community in Milton Keynes and elsewhere had the opportunity to participate in the formulation of the MKSM Sub-Regional Strategy, which sets out the strategic plan for the area up to 2031. The first consultations on the MKSM Sub-Regional Strategy (July to October 2003) produced 1,600 responses. There then followed a public examination by an independent panel who produced their report in August 2004. In response to the panel's recommendations my right hon. Friend the Deputy Prime Minister the First Secretary of State, via his Government Offices, consulted on the proposed changes to the MKSM Sub-Regional Strategy. Over 3,000 copies of this document were distributed with 426 representations received. These were considered before publishing the final MKSM Sub-Regional Strategy in March 2005.

Further details can be found in "Milton Keynes and South Midlands Sub-Regional Strategy—Summary of Public Consultation on the Secretary of State's Proposed Changes" (available via www.gose.gov.uk). See also "Sustainable Communities: An Urban Development Area for Milton Keynes: Consultation Summary and Decision Document" (available via www.odpm.gov.uk) for further information on the consultation process leading up to the establishment of Milton Keynes Partnerships Committee, the local delivery vehicle for Milton Keynes.

### Telecommunications Masts

**Mr. Barrowes:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister (1) whether Government guidance requires consideration of the cumulative impact of a number of masts in close proximity on the *(a)* environment and *(b)* health of local residents; [13651]

(2) whether Government guidance requires consideration of the health implications arising from an intensity of beam of electromagnetic field when a number of masts are located in close proximity. [13652]

**Caroline Flint:** I have been asked to reply.

The research on health effects from radiofrequency electromagnetic fields was comprehensively reviewed by the National Radiological Protection Board's (NRPB) independent advisory group on non-ionising radiation in 2003. The review concluded that

> "Exposure levels from living near to mobile phone base stations are extremely low and the overall evidence indicates that they are unlikely to pose a risk to health"

The NRPB, now part of the Health Protection Agency (HPA), has posted the results of its base station exposure measurements on its website, with an explanation of the effect of other masts in the vicinity. This is available at:

www.hpa.org.uk/radiation/understand/information sheets/mobile telephony/base stations.htm.

In addition, an audit of more than 450 measurements of exposure around base stations undertaken by Ofcom over the last four years demonstrate that none has exceeded the electromagnetic field exposure guidelines of the international commission on non-ionising radiation.

Nevertheless, in view of the public concern and the precautionary approach to the use of these new technologies recommended by the Stewart Report (2000) and the NRPB's "Mobile Phones and Health 2004" report, the mobile telecommunications and health research programme is supporting studies on the possible effects from mobile phone radio waves.

### Work-related Stress

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many cases of work-related stress have been reported in his Department in each of the last three years; how much compensation was paid to employees in each year; how many work days were lost due to work-related stress in each year; at what cost; what procedures have been put in place to reduce work-related stress; at what cost; and if he will make a statement. [7860]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister was created on 29 May 2002. The number of cases of work-related stress as categorised by staff is set out in the following table:

| | *Cases reported and categorised as "work related stress" by staff* | *Days lost* | *Cost (£000)* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 June 2002 to 31 March 2003 | 47 | 1,263 | 85 |
| 1 April 2003 to 31March 2004 | 68 | 1,752 | 116 |
| 1 April 2004 to 31 March 2005 | 71 | 1,951 | 162 |

No compensation has been paid to employees for any stress related case since the Office was established.

Individual staff are responsible for reporting and recording short term absence according to what they perceive the cause to be. Longer term absence results in referral to our Medical Adviser who confirms the cause. Therefore in a number of cases the cause of stress may actually be factors outside the work place, for example, domestic or financial pressures.

The Office is committed to identifying and reducing the causes of work related stress and to supporting staff who may suffer from work related stress. Within the Office staff have access to a Counselling and Support Service and advice and support from the Occupational Health Adviser, line managers and Human Resources. The Office is currently assessing the Heath and Safety Executive Stress Management Standards and their potential use in the Office.

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS

### Al-Qaeda

**Lembit Öpik:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment the Government have made of the stated objectives of al-Qaeda; and if he will make a statement. [12092]

**Ian Pearson:** We conduct frequent assessments of the stated objectives and motivations of al-Qaeda terrorists and their associates. The real objective of these terrorists is clear:

"it is to conduct indiscriminate attacks where and when they can, to try to bring countries and their communities into conflict".

### Ambassadors (Subordinate Staff)

**Andrew Mackinlay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many formal grievances made against Her Majesty's Ambassadors by subordinate staff are outstanding; how long each case has been outstanding; whether investigations in each case have been concluded; and when the complaint is expected to be determined in each case. [14447]

**Mr. Straw:** None.

### Brazil

**Mr. Rob Wilson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assistance he has offered to President Luiz Inacio Lula de Silva to tackle corruption in Brazil. [14009]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** While tackling corruption in Brazil is the responsibility of the Brazilian authorities, we are active in helping Brazil build capacity to combat corruption. Brazil is a priority under the Economic Governance programme of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's Global Opportunities Fund (GOF). One relevant project aims to assist the Brazilian authorities to combat corruption by developing expertise in budget auditing and the identification of fraudulent practices. The project also aims to spread best practice more widely in the region.

### Correspondence

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many letters to his Department from hon. Members in session *(a)* 2004-05 and *(b)* 2005-06 remain unanswered, broken down by those which are (i) one month old, (ii) two months old, (iii) three months old, (iv) four months old and (v) over six months old. [13863]

**Mr. Straw:** Details of letters to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, from both hon. Members and others, are stored together in such a way that this information is not retrievable without incurring a disproportionate cost. The Cabinet Office, on an annual basis, publishes a report to Parliament on the performance of departments in replying to hon. Members'/Peers' correspondence. The Report for 2004 was published on 6 April 2005, *Official Report*, columns 137-140WS, and showed that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office responded to 83 per cent. of letters from hon. Members and Peers within the 20 working day target.

### Drugs and Crime Fund

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much of the UK drugs and crime fund was allocated to activities in *(a)* Colombia, *(b)* Jamaica, *(c)* Iran, *(d)* Pakistan, *(e)* Afghanistan and *(f)* Turkey in each of the last five years; and what assessment he has made of the effect of this expenditure on the trade in drugs. [14039]

**Dr. Howells:** The amount of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's drugs and crime fund that was allocated to activities in the six countries in each of the last five years is set out in the following table:

£

| | *2000–01* | *2001–02* | *2002–03* | *2003–04* | *2004–05* | *Totals* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Afghanistan | 418,000 | 30,901 | 1,576,267 | 5,900,000 | 5,800,000 | 13,725,168 |
| Colombia | 260,841 | 602,993 | 962,135 | 661,409 | 606,837 | 3,094,215 |
| Iran | 620,040 | 444,413 | 642,733 | 53,001 | 229,200 | 1,989,387 |
| Jamaica | 7,902 | 563,650 | 335,707 | 213,420 | 270,457 | 1,391,136 |
| Pakistan | 363,437 | 939,933 | 167,831 | 91,182 | 231,200 | 1,793,583 |
| Turkey | 108,515 | 669,262 | 170,447 | 238,380 | 68,111 | 1,254,715 |
| | | | | | | 23,248,204 |

This expenditure has played an important role in helping to increase the capacity of the six countries concerned to combat the trade in drugs. It has improved the law enforcement capacity of the six countries e.g. to interdict drug shipments and to target, arrest and convict leading drug traffickers. The increase in the seizures of cocaine, heroin and other opiates in recent years suggest that, through training and other measures, this investment may be having some effect: worldwide cocaine and opiate seizures both increased by a third in 2003, the latest date for which figures are available.

### English Wine

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Answer of 11 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 664W, on the Government wine cellar, what proportion of the cellar stock is English wine; and what the policy is in respect of the procurement of English wines. [13191]

**Mr. Straw:** English and Welsh wines currently make up a little over 5 per cent. of the total stock of the Government Wine Cellar.

The Government Hospitality Advisory Committee for the Purchase of Wine offers advice to Government Hospitality on the management of the government cellar. For many years the Committee and Government Hospitality have regularly augmented the cellar with a selection of the best wines produced in the United Kingdom, in order to show-case British wine-making expertise.

### European Constitution

**Mr. Davidson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will list meetings at which Ministers from his Department plan to speak on matters relating to the EU Constitution during the next three months. [1174]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) Ministers have spoken about the EU Constitutional Treaty and about the Treaty in the context of the debate about the future of Europe on a number of occasions since this question was tabled. This includes parliamentary debates in the UK, bilateral meetings with European counterparts and, since 1 July, appearances at parliamentary committees in the European Parliament to represent the presidency. There are no current plans for FCO Ministers to discuss the EU Constitutional Treaty or the Treaty in the context of the debate about the future of Europe between now and the end of August. This response covers the three month period which the question referred to when tabled.

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will list European Union proposals *(a)* on which action has been taken in advance of the ratification of the EU constitution and *(b)* which are dependent in part or whole upon ratification of the constitution. [8982]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** No formal or informal legislative proposals or other initiatives have been proposed by the European Union which rely on the Constitutional treaty as their legal basis.

### Grievance Procedures

**Andrew Mackinlay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much public money has been spent in each of the last five years in settlement of grievance procedures brought against senior staff of his Department by subordinate staff; how much was paid in each case; and whether the payment was in full and final settlement in each case. [14400]

**Mr. Straw:** None.

### Handcuffs (Exports)

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether end-user checks have taken place of the export of oversized handcuffs from the UK to *(a)* the United States of America and *(b)* Hong Kong. [13556]

**Ian Pearson:** Checks of end users and their documentation form part of the consideration of all export licence applications and help establish whether an export is consistent with the Consolidated EU and National Arms Export Licensing Criteria.

### Israel

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will press for Israeli compliance with, and ratification of, the *(a)* Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty and *(b)* Chemical Weapons Convention. [13004]

**Dr. Howells:** The British Government have on a number of occasions called on Israel to accede to the Nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty as a non-nuclear weapon state and also to the Chemical Weapons Convention, and will continue to do so. We take appropriate opportunities to discuss all aspects of non-proliferation with representatives of the Israeli Government.

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of whether Israel possesses a deployable nuclear arsenal; and what recent discussions he has had with the Israeli government on *(a)* acceding to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty as a non-nuclear weapon state and *(b)* concluding a fullscope safeguards agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency. [13657]

**Ian Pearson:** We are aware of the widespread assumption that Israel possesses nuclear weapons, but note that the Israeli Government had refused to confirm it. The British Government have, on a number of occasions, called on Israel to accede to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty as a non-nuclear weapon state, and to conclude a full scope safeguards agreement and Additional Protocol with the International Atomic Energy Agency. We take appropriate opportunities to discuss all aspects of non-proliferation with representatives of the Israeli Government.

### London Bombings

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions his Department has had with the government of Pakistan following the London bombings. [13927]

**Ian Pearson:** The Government have an excellent relationship with the Government of Pakistan and there is close and continuing co-operation between us in regard to the London bombings and the campaign against terrorism.

The Government of Pakistan is a key ally in the efforts we are taking to combat extremism, radicalisation and terrorism, both in the UK and overseas.

### Middle East

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had in the last six weeks with representatives of the *(a)* US administration, *(b)* Russian Government and *(c)* EU in relation to progress on the Middle East road map; and if he will make a statement. [14030]

**Ian Pearson:** In the last six weeks my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has discussed the Middle East peace process (MEPP) with his US, Russian and EU counterparts, including at the G8 foreign Ministers meeting in London on 23 June.

We believe it remains crucial that the quartet (US, UN, EU and Russia) plays a central role on the MEPP. The UK will participate in quartet meetings as EU presidency.

### Non-settlement Visas

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many applications for non-settlement visas were *(a)* received and *(b)* refused in (i) Bangladesh, (ii) Algeria, (iii) Morocco, (iv) Tunisia and (v) Ghana in each of the last five years; and what proportion of those were granted at Tier One. [12473]

**Dr. Howells:** The information on applications for visitors visas for the countries and categories requested, is as follows:

*Number*

| | *Bangladesh* | *Algeria* | *Morocco* | *Tunisia* | *Ghana* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Non-settlement applications (NSA) received* | | | | | |
| 1999-2000 | 14,983 | 3,370 | 7,410 | 7,066 | 27,457 |
| 2000-01 | 17,291 | [1]0 | 7,905 | 7,559 | 33,095 |
| 2001-02 | 22,132 | 5,315 | 6,721 | 6,746 | 45,212 |
| 2002-03 | 25,251 | 12,219 | 7,186 | 4,647 | 64,455 |
| 2003-04 | 34,041 | 15,423 | 6,721 | 4,944 | 81,940 |
| *NSA refused* | | | | | |
| 1999-2000 | 3,363 | [1]0 | 433 | 1,072 | 5,246 |
| 2000-01 | 3,613 | [1]0 | 402 | 1,128 | 7,536 |
| 2001-02 | 6,242 | [1]0 | 251 | 1,036 | 20,532 |
| 2002-03 | 9,396 | 1,859 | 339 | 729 | 33,417 |
| 2003-04 | 10,313 | 4,148 | 615 | 644 | 44,020 |

*Tier One non-settlement applications*

*Percentage*

| | *Bangladesh* | *Algeria* | *Morocco* | *Tunisia* | *Ghana* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1999-2000 | 95 | 100 | 97 | 98 | 95 |
| 2000-01 | 97 | [1]0 | 97 | 99 | 93 |
| 2001-02 | 95 | 100 | 93 | 96 | 99 |
| 2002-03 | 97 | 100 | 99 | 97 | 98 |
| 2003-04 | 91 | 100 | 90 | 98 | 91 |

[1] While UKvisas makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of statistics, they are not liable for technical errors or omissions contained in published figures. In addition, some posts do not forward certain statistics and occasional or permanent closures can also affect figures.

Statistics for the proportion of non-settlement visas granted at Tier One, applications where decisions are made without the need for an interview, are not available. The figures provided represent the percentage of non-settlement visa applications, which include visit visas, that were dealt with at Tier One within 24 hours

### Pakistan

**Mr. Sarwar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when the High Commission in Islamabad will accept first time traveller applications from under 25-year-olds. [13446]

**Dr. Howells:** Our High Commission in Islamabad is continuing not to accept applications from first time visitors under the age of 25 until such time as it is operationally viable to recommence this part of the service. At this stage, it is not possible to say when that may be.

Applications for visitors under the age of 25 who can demonstrate previous travel to the UK, USA, Canada, Australia and New Zealand are being accepted. All straightforward visit applications that meet the criteria are being processed within seven working days.

When a change is made to this policy, the information will be contained on both the UKvisas website: www.ukvisas.gov.uk and on the High Commission website: www.britainonline.org.pk.

### Palestine

**Dan Norris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will list the *(a)* organisations and *(b)* projects operating in (i) Israel and (ii) the Palestinian territories being (A) funded and (B) partially sponsored by his Department. [13419]

**Ian Pearson:** The projects listed are funded by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) through the Global Opportunities Fund (GOF), the Global Conflict Prevention Pool (GCPP—which is jointly funded by FCO, MOD and DFID) and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office Directorate Programme Budget (DPB).

Further information about these funds is available on the FCO website at: www.fco.gov.uk.

(i) *Organisations/projects in Israel:*

1. Ir Amin—"Changing public information and discourse around Jerusalem".

2. Economic Co-operation Foundation (ECF)—"Making disengagement work".

3. Peace Now—monitoring expansion of Israeli settlements (co-funded with Norwegians).

4. UK-Israeli academic co-operation on nanotechnology.

5. Hand in Hand Centre for Jewish Arab education in Israel.

6. "Football for Peace"—(co-sponsor) implemented by British Council.

7. Merchavim—Shared citizenship project for training Arab-Israeli teachers.

(ii) *Organisations/projects in occupied territories:*

1. Palestinian Authority—support to Palestinian civil police—completion of training centre for National Security Forces.

2. Search For Common Ground—Palestinian media activities in support of the roadmap.

3. International Service for Human Rights—training in partnership with National Human Rights Institution, Ramallah.

4. Palestinian Central Elections Commission (CEC) members' election visit to the UK.

5. Training for one Palestinian journalist at School for Oriental and African studies (SOAS).

6. Refurbishment of computers for two Palestinian Authority school libraries.

7. Support Central Elections Commission by helping to pay for English language training for member of CEC staff.

8. Peres peace centre—training for Palestinian school teachers.

9. Habla Refugee Camp sports project.

10. Support for Kobar village school library.

(iii) *Joint organisations/projects:*

1. EXACT—joint Israeli/Palestinian/Jordanian project focusing on water resources.

2. Shared Citizenship education project.

### Security Contracts

**Mr. Henderson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much was spent by his Department and public bodies and agencies for which he is responsible on security contracts with Group 4 Securicor in 2004-05; and if he will list *(a)* the nature and location of services provided and *(b)* the start and end dates of such contracts. [13520]

**Mr. Straw:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office in London has not spent any money on contracts with Group 4 Securicor in the past year. Inquiries with our diplomatic missions overseas have shown that 14 missions have contracts from local budgets worth £844,000 per annum with companies in the Group 4 Securicor group. Services contracted included: security guards; rapid response teams; alarm surveillance of offices and residences; direct line push button response alarms to the local police; and alarm, closed circuit television and fire system maintenance.

None of the public bodies or agencies that I as Secretary of State am responsible for has contracts currently let with Group 4 Securicor.

### Sickness Absence

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many days the Department has lost due to sickness in the past five years for which figures are available. [11466]

**Mr. Straw:** Total recorded days of sickness absence for staff in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) were:

| | Number |
|---|---|
| 2000 | [1]20,900 |
| 2001 | 25,012 |
| 2002 | 27,720 |
| 2003 | 33,219 |
| 2004 | 35,969 |

[1] Estimate, based on available data.

Data collection over this period has been complicated by the introduction of new Pay and Management Information systems. It is therefore possible that the figures given do not reflect consistent recording methods. FCO is currently working to improve both accuracy and detail in this area.

Per capita sickness absence in the FCO has been consistently below the public sector average. In 2003 it was recorded at 5.6 days per person. The date showed a slight rise in 2004 to six days per person. This is likely to be the result of better management control/reporting and the introduction of new IT systems.

The FCO is fully committed to implementing the recommendations in the recently published "Managing Sickness Absence in the Public Sector". A new FCO health care contract which started in April 2005 includes a comprehensive occupational health service aimed at better and more proactive management of long and short-term sickness absence.

### Sir Michael Jay

**Andrew Mackinlay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when Sir Michael Jay was asked to adjust his duties in relation to the G8; whether this constituted a formal redeployment; when he will return to his principal duties as Permanent Under-Secretary; and if he will make a statement. [14445]

**Mr. Straw:** My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister appointed Sir Michael Jay as his G8 Sherpa on 17 January 2005 for the duration of the UK presidency. Sir Michael took on this duty in addition to his duties as Permanent Under-Secretary at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Head of HM Diplomatic Service. There was no formal redeployment.

### Sudan

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Sudanese authorities on the provisions of the new interim conditions that provide immunity against prosecution for the highest levels of the Government. [12996]

**Ian Pearson:** Under the Interim National Constitution (INC), which came into force on 9 July 2005, the president and first vice-president shall be immune from any legal proceedings during their tenure of office, except in cases of high treason, gross violation of the constitution or gross misconduct in relation to state affairs, where they may be charged if three quarters of the National Assembly agree.

In line with the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), which we strongly support, the INC was drawn up by the National Constitutional Review Commission, which included representatives of the parties to the agreement and other political forces in Sudan.

We have made no representations on this issue. However, we regularly press the Government of Sudan on the need to establish an open, transparent and fair judicial system; and we plan to support the comprehensive review of the judiciary provided for by the CPA.

The International Criminal Court is currently conducting investigations into allegations of crimes in Darfur. Though Sudan is not a state party to the ICC statute, it was referred to the court by the UN Security Council Resolution 1593 (2005) which was made pursuant to Chapter VII of the United Nations charter. Sudan is therefore legally obliged to co-operate with the ICC including by surrendering any Sudanese nationals indicted by the ICC, irrespective of the individual's position under Sudanese domestic law.

**Mr. Rob Wilson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with EU and African counterparts on *(a)* increasing the size and *(b)* improving the effectiveness of the international forces in Darfur. [14012]

**Ian Pearson:** We hold regular discussions with the African Union (AU), African nations and the EU about the African Union's Mission in Sudan (AMIS). At the recent Gleneagles summit, G8 and African leaders discussed the issue and adopted a joint declaration on Sudan which commended the work of the AU in Darfur, and called upon the parties to scrupulously respect the ceasefire and negotiate constructively to reach a political settlement.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for International Development (Hilary Benn) and my noble Friend the Minister for Africa (Lord Triesman of Tottenham) also discussed Sudan with AU Chairperson Konare, during their visit to the AU summit in Sirte on

4 July. The Secretary of State for International Development also held detailed discussions with the AU during his visit to Sudan on 12-14 June.

Sudan and AMIS in particular are regularly discussed in the EU. The 18 July General Affairs and External Relations Council agreed the terms for the EU's comprehensive support to AMIS II in the civilian and military fields.

**Mr. Rob Wilson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what meetings he has had with the African Union about monitoring the ongoing ceasefire in Darfur. [13764]

**Ian Pearson:** We hold regular discussions with the African Union (AU) about the monitoring of the ceasefire in Darfur. At the recent Gleneagles summit, G8 and African leaders discussed the issue and adopted a joint declaration on Sudan which commended the work of the AU in Darfur, and called upon the parties scrupulously to respect the ceasefire and negotiate constructively to reach a political settlement.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for International Development (Hilary Benn) and my noble Friend the Foreign and Commonwealth Office Minister for Africa (Lord Triesman of Tottenham) also discussed Sudan with AU Chairperson Konare, during their visit to the AU summit in Sirte on 4 July. The Secretary of State for International Development also held detailed discussions with the AU during his visit to Sudan on 12–14 June.

**Mr. Rob Wilson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what support the Government are giving to the International Criminal Court chief prosecutor to aid his investigations into human rights abuses in Darfur. [13765]

**Ian Pearson:** The UK has concluded a generic witness relocation agreement with the Court and is negotiating agreements on sentence enforcement and information-sharing. The Court will carry out its investigations in Darfur and elsewhere in an entirely independent capacity. Because of the need to respect this independence, and to protect the integrity of the Court's operations, it would not be appropriate to comment on the operational aspects of specific ICC investigations, nor to reveal what support the UK is providing in that regard. The UK remains ready to consider any specific request put forward by the Court.

## United Nations

**Mr. Iain Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is taking to improve the governance of the United Nations. [13444]

**Ian Pearson:** In September 2005 the UN Millennium Review Summit will address recommendations on reform of the UN system put forward by the UN Secretary-General in his report "In Larger Freedom: Towards Development, Security and Human Rights for All".

The Government welcome these proposals and hope to build on them at the summit. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary, in his meetings with the UN Secretary-General, has highlighted the importance that the UK attaches to improved governance at the UN.

The UK has identified four areas of governance where we would like to see specific actions taken:

Accountability—oversight capacity within the UN must be strengthened, and its independence and authority enhanced.

Professionalism and modernisation—there must be transparent, competence based recruitment throughout the UN system and the introduction of modern human rights practices.

Efficiency—activity at the UN should be rationalised, modernised and streamlined to reduce duplication and to focus on priority areas.

Flexibility—in return for the measures mentioned above, the Secretary-General should be provided with the authority and flexibility to manage resources and to redeploy them according to need.

In addition, we want to see a Security Council that reflects today's world and the contributions of the UN's members to its objectives. The UK therefore supports the expansion of both the permanent and non-permanent membership.

## Visas

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 22 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 1083W, on visas, what meetings his Department has held with the *(a)* Department of Health and *(b)* Home Office about the issuing of visas to overseas doctors. [12977]

**Dr. Howells:** UKvisas have not met directly with the Department of Health or the Home Office on this issue. However, they have been in contact with the Home Office about the fourthcoming Immigration Rules changes relating to postgraduate doctors and dentists.

## Zimbabwe

**Mr. Wilk:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what legal advice he has received concerning the UK Government assuming responsibility for the payment to UK citizens of Zimbabwean government pensions. [13388]

**Ian Pearson:** It is not our policy to disclose the content or existence of legal advice.

**Mr. McGovern:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with representatives of the South African Government regarding the situation in Zimbabwe in the past three months. [13461]

**Ian Pearson:** We regularly discuss the crisis in Zimbabwe with South Africa and our other African partners. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary raised it with South African Foreign Minister Zuma on 14 July. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for International Development (Hilary Benn) and my noble Friend the Foreign and Commonwealth Office Minister for Africa (the Lord Triesman of Tottenham) discussed the situation in Zimbabwe with African leaders, including President Mbeki, at the recent African Union

Summit in Sirte in Libya. Zimbabwe was also discussed at the G8 Summit in Gleneagles, attended by President Mbeki.

## DEFENCE

### Armoured Vehicle Training Services

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list the key dates in the Armoured Vehicle Training Services project from prequalification questionnaire to the decision to abandon the project. [13463]

**Mr. Ingram:** The Armoured Vehicle Training Services (AVTS) project has not been abandoned. As the ministerial statements on 15 June announced, we decided to seek an alternative to the current private finance initiative (PFI) solution. This decision was reached after a detailed assessment of the landmark bid concluded that the PFI deal did not offer an acceptable value for money solution. This change in direction will allow us to examine other procurement options. Key dates in the Armoured Vehicle Training Service project are provided in the following table.

*Key dates in armoured vehicle training service project*

| *Date* | *Event* |
|---|---|
| January 2000 | Pre-Qualification Questionnaire issued |
| February 2001 | Invitation to Negotiate (ITN) issued. |
| October 2002 | Final Bids received |
| November 2003 | MOD/Industry agree to Best and Final Offer stage |
| July 2004 | Intended Preferred Bidder announced |
| June 2005 | Announcement to seek alternative to current PFI solution. |

### Arms Sales

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his policy is in respect of arms sales to Israel. [13023]

**Dr. Howells:** I have been asked to reply.

The United Kingdom has one of the strictest and most transparent arms export licensing systems in the world. All export licence applications are rigorously assessed on a case by case basis against the consolidated EU and National Arms Export Licensing Criteria. This assessment takes into account the prevailing circumstances and all other announced Government policies, including factors that are relevant if the goods are to be incorporated for re-export. The criteria demonstrate our commitment to take account of the risk that exports might be used for internal repression, prolonging conflict or external aggression. Where we judge that the proposed export might be used in contravention of the Consolidated EU and National Arms Export Licensing Criteria, those export licence applications are refused.

### Army Applicants

**Mr. Peter Robinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many applications to join the Army were made in each year since 1998; and how many applicants were successful in each year. [14525]

**Mr. Touhig:** The following table shows the number of applications to join the Army and the numbers enlisted from financial year 1998–99 to 2004–05.

| *Financial year* | *Applications* | *Enlisted* |
|---|---|---|
| 1998–99 | 37,250 | 15,150 |
| 1999–2000 | 36,170 | 14,490 |
| 2000–01 | 31,230 | 13,390 |
| 2001–02 | 33,990 | 13,470 |
| 2002–03 | 36,810 | 14,940 |
| 2003–04 | 34,420 | 13,640 |
| 2004–05 | 28,470 | 10,400 |

*Note:*
Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.

### Asbestos

**Andrew Mackinlay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) if he will list those of his Department's buildings containing asbestos, which have been demolished, which incorporated or accommodated radar equipment and which were operational between 1940 and 1969; what quantities of asbestos were removed; and if he will make a statement; [6208]

(2) if he will list those of his Department's buildings from which asbestos has been removed that incorporated or accommodated radar equipment and which were operational between 1940 and 1969; what quantities were removed; and if he will make a statement. [6297]

**Mr. Touhig** *[holding answer 11 July 2005]:* The MOD complies fully with the Control of Asbestos at Work Regulation 2002.

There is no central register of where asbestos has been removed from buildings, belonging to the Department or its agencies, whether demolished or still in existence, which at any time accommodated radar. Such a list could be compiled only with disproportionate cost and effort. In any case, no information is available before 1974, as the law did not require records to be kept prior to that date.

### Bowman

**Ann Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when Bowman will be fully operational throughout the UK armed forces; and what the *(a)* overall final cost and *(b)* cost per unit is expected to be. [12684]

**Mr. Ingram:** The Bowman tactical communications and information system is being developed and introduced across the United Kingdom armed forces incrementally. As I have previously stated on 5 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 258W, this is having a direct and positive effect on the communications capability in theatre.

We have always planned for Bowman, like other complex programmes, to be developed and delivered incrementally over a number of years. We currently expect the complete capability to be delivered next year, and for the conversion programme to continue in 2008.

The latest overall forecast cost for Bowman (as at 31 March 2005) is £2,007 million. Given the diverse nature of individual Bowman configurations, for accounting purposes, the average unit cost is expressed as around £43,000.

### Cadets

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many army cadets units are cap badged *(a)* Queen's Lancashire Regiment, *(b)* King's Own Borderers and *(c)* King's Regiment; and how many went on to join each regiment full-time in each of the last three years. [13011]

**Mr. Touhig:** The information requested is shown in the following table. However, our records do not illustrate which regiments the Cadets went on to join, only from which regiments they originated. Also, as individuals joining the Army do not always declare that they have been cadets, the following numbers may be understated.

| | Queen's Lancashire Regiment (QLR) | King's Own Royal Borderer Regiment (KORBR) | King's Regiment (KINGS) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Number of Army Cadet Force Units (ACF) | 21 | 30 | 10 |
| Number of Combined Cadet Force Units (CCF) | 4 | 2 | 3 |
| Numbers of Cadets who went on to join the Army full-time since 1 January 2000. | 25 | 40 | 20 |

### Correspondence

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many letters to his Department from hon. Members in Session *(a)* 2004–05 and *(b)* 2005–06 remain unanswered, broken down by those which are (i) one month old, (ii) two months old, (iii) three months old, (iv) four months old and (v) over six months old. [13859]

**Mr. Touhig:** As at 20 July 2005, our ministerial correspondence database showed seven letters from hon. Members received in Session 2004–05 had still to be given a response of any kind—other than a standard acknowledgement letter. Of these, two were between four and five months old; one was between five and six months old; and four were over six months old.

For the current Session, there were 19 such letters that were between one and two months old, and four that were between two and three months old.

### Sudan

**Mr. Rob Wilson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many specialist British troops are currently engaged in peacekeeping in Darfur; and how many more he plans to send. [13767]

**Mr. Ingram:** Five British troops are currently deployed in support of the African Union Mission in Sudan (AMIS), with a further three to deploy in the course of the next month.

One UK airlift specialist has been deployed to the Addis Ababa HQ and two logistical experts have been deployed to the Joint Logistics Operations Centre in Darfur.

Two UK officers, currently embedded in NATO, have deployed to assist in developing AMIS's planning and training capabilities. A further three, also embedded in NATO, are due to deploy in the course of the next month, to perform the same function.

In addition, we have offered a team of up to 15 personnel from the Mobile Air Movements Squadron, as required to support the Africa Union's expansion requirements.

### Defence Supply Chain Review

**Tony Baldry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he will announce the outcome of the Defence Supply Chain Review. [10289]

**Mr. Ingram** *[holding answer 7 July 2005]:* I refer the hon. Member to the written statement made by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence today.

### Defence Test and Evaluation Group

**Robert Key:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether reversionary departmental freeholds are held by the Defence Test and Evaluation Group (DTEG); to whom DTEG reports; and if he will make a statement. [13319]

**Mr. Touhig:** The Defence Test and Evaluation Group (DTEG) ultimately reports to the chief executive of the Defence Procurement Agency, and is responsible for managing the Ministry of Defence's (MOD's) Long Term Partnering Agreement (LTPA) with QinetiQ for the delivery of MOD's test and evaluation requirements. The LTPA contract confers on QinetiQ a licence to occupy a number of MOD owned sites for the purpose of delivering the company's obligations under the contract. As the sites are not leased to QinetiQ, the issue of reversionary freeholds does not arise and DTEG does not hold any reversionary departmental freeholds. The sites remain in MOD ownership.

### Departmental Facilities

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will estimate the economic value to local communities of each of his Department's facilities with staff of over 10 personnel. [14911]

**Mr. Touhig:** This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Work Overview

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will arrange a Tuesday morning briefing by Ministers and senior officials introducing the work of the Department to new hon. Members. [11045]

**Mr. Touhig:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer the Leader of the House of Commons, my right hon. Friend the Member for Ashfield (Mr. Hoon) gave on 18 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 1281W.

### Equality and Diversity

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much the Department has spent promoting equality and diversity in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [14669]

**Mr. Touhig:** The Ministry of Defence has a wide range of policies covering all strands of diversity (including work-life balance). These policies are among the most forward thinking in the public sector and achieve a consistently high standard in audits and benchmarking exercises.

The promotion of these policies and the encouragement of equality and diversity more generally, is carried out at departmental, budget and individual unit level by both civilian staff and the armed forces. It can take many forms including staff networks, conferences, outreach projects and the sponsorship of awards. This information is not held centrally and it would be disproportionately costly to give an accurate assessment of the total amount spent by the Department on this work.

### Fleet Procurement

**Dr. Julian Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence at what notice each *(a)* Aircraft Carrier and *(b)* Landing Platform (helicopter and dock) will be available to the fleet during the next 12 months. [13370]

**Mr. Touhig:** The current planned readiness levels of Aircraft Carriers and Landing Platforms over the next 12 months are as follows:

*Aircraft Carriers:*

HMS Illustrious (Fleet Flagship)—Very High Readiness throughout

HMS Invincible—Medium Readiness until late September 2005, then Very Low Readiness

HMS Ark Royal—Low Readiness throughout

*Landing Platforms:*

HMS Ocean—Very High Readiness throughout

HMS Bulwark—Very High Readiness until July 2006, then Medium Readiness

HMS Albion—Medium Readiness until July 2006, then Very High Readiness.

### Freedom of Information

**Pete Wishart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Freedom of Information Act 2000 requests have been answered by the Department; and in how many cases *(a)* information was wholly exempted, *(b)* information was partly exempted and *(c)* the requests were answered in full. [14954]

**Mr. Touhig:** To date Ministry of Defence has received 3,163 requests. Details of the performance of MOD in the first three months of full operation of the Freedom of Information Act were published by the Department of Constitutional Affairs on 23 June 2005. The information includes requests received, and outcomes categorised as wholly exempted, partly exempted and answered in full. A second exercise looking at the second three months will be published by DCA in due course.

### Future Rapid Effects System

**Ann Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the reasons are for the change in the Future Rapid Effects System vehicle requirement since July 2004; and how these vehicles will be deployed. [12683]

**Mr. Ingram:** The Future Rapid Effect System (FRES) is currently in the initial Assessment Phase, one of the purposes of which is to refine the requirement in the light of more detailed analysis of capabilities and technological reality.

Since July 2004 there have been two significant changes to the FRES requirement. The first is our planning assumption for the number of FRES vehicles we expect to procure. To meet the Army's requirement to replace a wide range of vehicles this assumption has been increased to around 3,500 vehicles.

The second change is the removal of the requirement for FRES vehicles to be deployable in C-130 aircraft. This was always recognised as being challenging, and further analysis has shown that to meet it we would have to make unacceptable compromises, particularly on protection. In addition, in the timeframe in which FRES will enter service the balance of our air transport fleet will shift towards the new, more capable A400M.

### Health and Safety

**Mr. Heancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps are taken to protect the hearing of British servicemen and women in the armed forces during active service. [13527]

**Mr. Touhig:** The Ministry of Defence, like all UK employers, is subject to the Health and Safety Executive "Noise at Work Regulations (NAWR) 1989". These require employers to take certain actions where any of their employees is likely to be exposed to noise at or above any of the three action levels set out in the Regulations. MOD procedures meet, and in many instances exceed, both these requirements and those of the Physical Agents (Noise) Directive (PA(N)D), which comes into force in February 2006. The instructions promulgated by the armed forces to their personnel are summarised as follows.

*Navy:*

Under the new regulations set out in the PA(N)D, RN warships will have until 2011 to comply with the prescribed weekly and daily limits. In 2003 the RN introduced a hearing conservation programme to ensure compliance with "NAWR 1989". This programme requires noise assessments to be carried out where personnel may be at risk from noise-induced hearing damage. Where such a risk is identified commanding officers are required to identify persons at risk, provide those potentially affected with information and awareness training, put in suitable control measures to mitigate this risk, which may include the provision of suitable hearing protection, and ensure that potentially affected personnel are provided with audiometry assessments at a frequency determined by the level of risk. Hearing protective equipment that is available to personnel complies with British Standards.

*Army:*

Hearing protection forms part of a serviceman's personal equipment that he will carry with him on operations. Additionally, hearing protection is included in the equipment schedule of the equipment that the serviceman may be operating. Whether or not the hearing protection will be worn by an individual at any one time will depend upon the role and duties of the particular individual and will, additionally, be dependant upon the hostile threat.

*RAF:*

Where RAF personnel work in an area that is deemed a noise hazard, hearing protection is issued on an individual basis. The wearing of such protection is made mandatory in the RAF at the First Action Level of "NAWR 1989", which exceeds NAWR recommendations. In addition, noise assessments are conducted to determine the level and type of hearing protection required, and any member of staff working in such an area is managed via the Hearing Conservation Programme (HCP) which includes annual audiometry testing. This concurs, and in certain areas exceeds, the recommendations made by the "NAWR 1989". Whether this protection is worn during times of hostile activity will depend not only on the hostile threat but also the role and duties of personnel involved.

We are also working with HSE on the need for hearing protection for military band personnel.

### Management Consultancies

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which five management consultancies received the highest value of contracts awarded by his Department in each of the last three years; and what the total value was of the contracts awarded to each. [12589]

**Mr. Ingram:** This information is not held centrally in the form requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. However information on organisations, including Management Consultancy firms, paid £5 million or more by the Ministry of Defence in each financial year is published annually in the UK Defence Statistics. Copies are placed in the Library of the House. Summary details of the Department's spend on External Assistance (EA) covering the years since 1995–96 to 2003–04 have also been placed annually in the Library of the House.

### Maritime Forces

**Dr. Julian Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on what date his Department decided to take the risk referred to in para. 2.8 of the National Audit Office report on assessing and reporting military readiness to reduce resource allocations to maritime forces for the first two years of the 2004–05 to 2007–08 planning period; and which Ministers took that decision. [9693]

**Mr. Ingram** *[holding answer 7 July 2005]:* The decision to reduce the resources allocated to logistic support for the Royal Navy was taken by my right hon. Friend the then Secretary of State for Defence around the end of March 2004 as part of ministerial consideration of the forward defence programme.

### McKinsey and Co.

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many contracts have been awarded to McKinsey and Co. since 1 January 2000; how many and what percentage of contract awards followed a competitive tendering process; and what the cost of each contract is. [10809]

**Mr. Ingram** *[holding answer 11 July 2005]:* The Ministry of Defence has awarded McKinsey and Co. 15 contracts since 1 January 2000.

£

| *Project* | *Contract Cost* |
|---|---|
| Development of the DLO (Defence Logistics Organisation) Change Programme Benefits Tracking Process | 217,000 |
| Support to Equipment Capability | 200,000 |
| Consultancy Support for the Implementation of the SMART Procurement Initiative | 340,000 |
| Support to the MOD Change Programme | 2,223,000 |
| Support to the DLO Procurement Review Group | 2,445,000 |
| Support to E2E (End to End) Review of Air and Land Environments | 4,985,000 |
| Re-Invigorating SMART Acquisition within the DPA | 300,000 |
| Support to the Implementation and Rollout of the DLO Benefits Tracking Tool | 360,000 |
| Bridging Consulting Support to E2E Detailed Planning | 1,000,000 |
| Support to the Procurement Reform Project | 6,996,000 |
| Support to Implementation of E2E Detailed Planning | 10,625,000 |
| Support to Eurofighter Project | 182,500 |
| Consultancy Support for the Strategic Partner to the DLO Transformation Programme | 22,841,280 |
| Consultancy support in applying the principles and techniques of the Lean Process Design to the E2E Support Chain | 220,000 |
| Consultancy Support to the Business Management System Review | 75,000 |

*Note:*
These figures show the cost of each contract: some contracts are not yet completed and further payments are scheduled.

Five of these contracts (33 per cent.) were competitively tendered. In addition, seven contracts (47 per cent.) were placed with McKinsey and Co. on a single source basis, since they related to work that had already been placed with the company following competitive tender.

In addition details of the Department's spend on External Assistance (EA) has been reported to Ministers since 1995–96 and summaries have been placed in the Library of the House.

## Mental Health

**Chris Bryant:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many people left the *(a)* Army, *(b)* Navy and *(c)* Royal Air Force due to mental health problems in each of the last 10 years. [13426]

**Mr. Touhig:** In the 10 year period 1995–2004, 1,355 *Regular Service personnel were* medically discharged from the UK armed forces due to a condition categorised to the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems, 10th Revision, Chapter 5 "Mental and behavioural disorders". A breakdown by Service and year of medical discharge is provided in Table A.

*Table A: UK regular armed forces medically discharged for mental and behavioural disorders, 1995–2004*

| *Service* | *Army* | *Naval Service* | *RAF* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Total | 840 | 289 | 226 |
| 1995 | 79 | 22 | 27 |
| 1996 | 49 | 26 | 19 |
| 1997 | 88 | 16 | 18 |
| 1998 | 98 | 31 | 18 |
| 1999 | 58 | 25 | 18 |
| 2000 | 64 | 42 | 21 |
| 2001 | 103 | 30 | 23 |
| 2002 | 112 | 38 | 11 |
| 2003 | 86 | 35 | 25 |
| 2004 | 103 | 24 | 46 |

*Note:*
Medical discharges between the Services should not be compared due to the different fitness levels required by each Service (and within different cadres) and the employment policy of each Service.

## Meteorological Office

**Malcolm Bruce:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* military and *(b)* civilian weather observation stations and weather centres there are in the UK, broken down by location; which stations have closed since 2001, broken down by date of closure; and which stations have been identified for closure. [9236]

**Mr. Touhig:** There are 27 meteorological stations responsible for forecasting and observing based at military locations. Their locations are:

*Scotland*
- Kinloss
- Leuchars
- Lossiemouth
- South Uist

*Wales*
- Aberporth
- Valley

*England*
- Benson
- Boscombe Down
- Brize Norton
- Coltishall
- Coningsby
- Cranwell
- Dishforth
- High Wycombe
- Larkhill
- Leeming
- Linton on Ouse
- Lyneham
- Middle Wallop
- Northolt
- Odiham
- Shawbury
- St. Mawgan
- Waddington
- Wattisham
- Wittering

*Northern Ireland*
- Belfast—responsibility for both military and civil forecasting

There are eight civil forecasting stations:
- Aberdeen Dyce
- Aberdeen
- Cardiff
- Birmingham
- London
- London Heathrow
- London Media
- Manchester

There are nine civil observation sites:
- Edinburgh
- Eskdalemuir
- Glasgow
- Lerwick
- Camborne
- Crawley
- Lathom
- Tilbury
- Watnall

The following stations have closed since 2001:
- Boulmer (1 March 2002)
- Bristol (9 May 2001)
- Eskmeals (6 April 2001)
- Glasgow (18 September 2003)
- Kirkwall (1 August 2001)
- Leeds (19 September 2001)
- Manchester Airport (1 November 2004)
- Newcastle (30 July 2001)
- SellaNess (1 April 2004)
- Stornoway (1 September 2002)
- Tiree (1 August 2001)

The following station closures are planned:
- London Heathrow (November 2005) civil
- Aberdeen Dyce (February 2006) civil
- Coltishall (April 2006) military

In addition, it is planned to reduce the operation at Eskdalemuir.

### Military Afloat Reach and Sustainability Project

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 22 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 1066, on the Military Afloat Reach and Sustainability project, what the time scale is for the project in terms of *(a)* main gate approval and *(b)* an in service date. [12252]

**Mr. Ingram:** On current planning we would expect main gate approval for the Military Afloat Reach and Sustainability (MARS) programme to be sought in 2008; the in-service date for the MARS vessels will not be endorsed until the main investment decision is taken at that point.

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 22 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 1066, on the Military Afloat Reach and Sustainability Project, if he will list the companies who have responded. [12254]

**Mr. Ingram:** The following companies have responded as wishing to continue in the competition to select the Integrator for the Military Afloat Reach and Sustainability (MARS) programme:

Amec
BAE Systems
General Dynamics UK
Houlder Offshore Co.
KBR
Maersk
Raytheon Systems Ltd.
Thales
VT Group

### Nuclear Deterrent

**Dr. Julian Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to his answer of 5 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 260W, whether the maintenance of nuclear weapons by other countries will be a determining factor in the United Kingdom's forthcoming decision about replacing Trident with a new generation nuclear deterrent. [11109]

**John Reid:** As the Government made clear in the 1998 Strategic Defence Review (Cm 3999) and in the December 2003 Defence White Paper (Cm 6041–1), because of the risks of proliferation of nuclear weapons, and the certainty that a number of countries will retain substantial nuclear arsenals, the UK's minimum deterrent is likely to remain a necessary element of our security.

**Dr. Julian Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the cost of a future generation nuclear deterrent will fall on *(a)* the Exchequer, *(b)* the Defence Budget and *(c)* the budget of the single service supplying the deterrent. [13374]

**John Reid:** No decisions on any replacement for the UK's nuclear deterrent have yet been taken, either in principle or in detail. It is therefore too early to speculate on the possible costs of a replacement programme, should one be required, or on how such a programme might be funded.

**Mr. Moore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what discussions *(a)* he and *(b)* officials in his Department have had with United States officials regarding the replacement of Trident; whom they involved; when they took place; and if he will make a statement; [13964]

(2) what discussions *(a)* he and *(b)* officials in his Department have had with (i) UK defence companies and (ii) overseas defence companies regarding the replacement of Trident; whom they involved; when they took place; and if he will make a statement. [13965]

**Mr. Salmond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions he has had with his US counterparts on the replacement of the Trident nuclear weapons system. [14989]

**Dr. Julian Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent discussions his Department has had with US counterparts about the next generation of the UK nuclear deterrent. [14492]

**John Reid:** No decisions have yet been taken on any replacement for Trident. Information obviously needs to be gathered from a variety of sources to support these future decisions, but it is not our general practice to comment on the detail of any such discussions with other Governments and industry.

**Dr. Julian Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the £1,050,000,000 to be spent over the next three years on upgrading facilities for the Atomic Weapons Establishment will be relevant *(a)* only to the existing Trident warhead stockpile and *(b)* also to a future generation of the UK nuclear deterrent. [14493]

**John Reid:** The additional investment, averaging some £350 million over each of the next three years, is required to enable us to ensure the safety and reliability of Trident throughout its service life. This investment is required irrespective of future decisions on any replacement for the current deterrent system.

### Portsmouth Dockyard

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the future of the PRIME project for developing the dockyard in Portsmouth. [11287]

**Mr. Touhig:** The purpose of project PRIME (the Portsmouth Regeneration and Investment in the Maritime Estate project) was to release part of the Portsmouth naval base estate for development. Work on PRIME has been halted after concerns emerged about the effect that proceeding with the project would have on the base's operational role. A key requirement, stated at the outset of the project, was to safeguard full operational capability of the base. After careful analysis it has been decided that the constraints that a development of this nature, in the heart of the historic dockyard, might place on operational capability outweigh the potential benefits of the scheme. Survey and technical work undertaken by the project will be fully utilised during the exploration of other options for the use of elements of the naval base estate.

The Ministry of Defence's commitment to Portsmouth, as demonstrated by the move there of the fleet headquarters in 2002, will continue. It is to be the base for the next generation of warships and this represents a major investment that will preserve and enhance jobs in the area and safeguard Portsmouth's role as an operational naval base at the heart of the city's economic activity.

### Royal Navy Vessels

**Dr. Julian Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list the major Royal Navy vessels available for *(a)* each standing task and *(b)* ad hoc tasks. [13371]

**Mr. Ingram:** The following major Royal Navy warships are assigned to current military tasks:

UK Maritime Security: HMS Montrose

Mediterranean (Nato's Standing NRF Maritime Group 2): HMS Somerset

Atlantic Patrol Task (South): HMS Portland

Gulf: HMS Argyll

Atlantic Patrol Task (North): HMS Liverpool

Arabian Sea and Indian Ocean: HMS York (double assigned as JRRF unit)

The following major Royal Navy warships are available to the Joint Rapid Reaction Force at High or Very High Readiness for contingent operations:

HMS Illustrious

HMS Ocean

HMS Albion

HMS Cumberland

HMS Campbeltown

HMS Chatham

HMS Nottingham

HMS York

HMS Exeter

HMS Westminster

HMS Sutherland

HMS St. Albans

HMS Monmouth

HMS Lancaster

**Dr. Julian Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his latest assessment is of the ability of the Fleet to protect itself against *(a)* missile and *(b)* aircraft attack. [13373]

**Mr. Ingram:** The Fleet has a very robust defensive system against a variety of missile types. The Sea Dart missile system has recently been upgraded to enable it to combat more challenging threats. The Sea Wolf missile, fitted to RN frigates, is designed specifically to combat sea skimming threats. In addition, a range of decoy systems, provide defence against air and surface launched anti-ship missiles. Further developments in air defence are programmed to be implemented by 2009.

The air defence of the Fleet is comprised of a layered system based on a mix of early warning and protection systems which includes Sea Dart and Sea Wolf missiles, close-in weapon systems and decoys.

### Royal Ordnance

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department uses the Royal Ordnance store in Chorley for holding ordnance. [13663]

**Mr. Ingram:** The Ministry of Defence does not use storage facilities belonging to BAE Systems Land Systems (formerly Royal Ordnance) at Chorley.

**Dr. Pugh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) whether the Government will take the date of transfer of the Royal Ordnance Factory Organisation as being the date of sale of that body to British Aerospace in October 1987; [12155]

(2) whether the Government's responsibilities to former Royal Ordnance Factory employees who are now members of the Royal Ordnance Crown Service Pension Scheme include *(a)* the benefits of a public-to-private transfer and *(b)* protections afforded by the Social Security Act 1995. [12156]

**Mr. Ingram:** The Royal Ordnance Factories (ROFs) were part of the Ministry of Defence until 2 January 1985, when the property, rights and liabilities were vested in Royal Ordnance plc. At that time ROF employees were given the option of transferring their pension benefits to the Royal Ordnance (Crown Service) Pension Scheme (a scheme comparable with the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme PCSPS) or to preserve their benefits in the PCSPS. The questions of whether the date of transfer is considered to be 1985 or 1987 or whether those transferred are covered by the 1985 Social Security Act are points of law on which independent legal advice should be sought if required.

### Second World War (60th Anniversary)

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what financial support he has provided to the Royal Commonwealth Ex-Services League in relation to the commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the end of the second world war. [12933]

**Mr. Touhig:** The Ministry of Defence has not provided financial support to the Royal Commonwealth Ex-Services League in relation to events commemorating the 60th anniversary of the end of the second world war.

The MOD provided financial support to those organisations who applied for administrative costs in support of the Veterans Awareness Week which culminated in the events on 10 July 2005 to mark the 60th anniversary of the end of the second world war. We have no record of such an application from the Royal Commonwealth Ex-Services League.

### Ships (Fitted Equipment)

**Dr. Julian Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which of the 65 RN and RFA ships which donated ships' fitted equipment between 1 January 2004 and 31 March 2005 remain unavailable for deployment at sea; and for what reason in each case. [14079]

**Mr. Ingram:** RN and RFA ships that have donated ship's fitted equipment and remain unavailable for deployment at sea are as follows.

| Name of ship | Reason for unavailability for deployment |
|---|---|
| HMS Ark Royal | Upkeep |
| HMS Bridport | Disposal |
| HMS Cardiff | Disposal |
| HMS Cornwall | Upkeep |
| HMS Edinburgh | Upkeep |
| HMS Glasgow | Disposal |
| HMS Inverness | Disposal |
| HMS Marlborough | Disposal |
| HMS Newcastle | Disposal |
| HMS Norfolk | Disposal |
| HMS Northumberland | Upkeep |
| HMS Richmond | Upkeep |
| HMS Sandown | Disposal |
| RFA Sir Percival | Disposal |
| HMS Splendid | Disposal |
| HMS Talent | Upkeep |
| HMS Tireless | Re-validation maintenance period |
| HMS Triumph | Upkeep |
| HMS Victorious | Upkeep |

The primary sources of donors for STOROB, the name given to the process of transferring ship's fitted equipment from one vessel to another, are ships in upkeep and those awaiting disposal. None of the ships listed in the table are unavailable for deployment as a result of the STOROB process, but for the other reasons stated.

### Special Advisers

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list *(a)* the special advisers in his Department, *(b)* their specific areas of expertise and *(c)* the total cost of employing them in the latest year for which figures are available. [8827]

**Mr. Touhig:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 4 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 35W.

### Submarines (SSBNs)

**Dr. Julian Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many warheads are carried by each SSBN on patrol; and if he will make a statement. [13372]

**Mr. Ingram:** As stated in the Strategic Defence Review, Para. 67, we have only one submarine on patrol at a time, carrying a load of 48 nuclear warheads.

**Dr. Julian Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence in which year each *(a)* SSBN and *(b)* SSN is due to be decommissioned; and in which year each replacement submarine is due to enter service. [13049]

**Mr. Ingram** *[holding answer 20 July 2005]:* No decisions have been taken on the out of service dates (OSDs) for the Royal Navy's Vanguard class SSBNs, nor about any potential replacement. The current planned OSDs for the Swiftsure and Trafalgar class SSNs are detailed as follows:

Swiftsure class SSNs:

| OSD | SSN |
|---|---|
| 2006 | HMS Sovereign |
| 2008 | HMS Superb |
| 2010 | HMS Sceptre |
| 2006 | HMS Spartan |

Trafalgar class SSNs:

| OSD | SSNs |
|---|---|
| 2008 | HMS Trafalgar |
| 2011 | HMS Turbulent |
| 2013 | HMS Tireless |
| 2015 | HMS Torbay |
| 2017 | HMS Trenchant |
| 2019 | HMS Talent |
| 2022 | HMS Triumph |

The new Astute class SSNs will progressively supersede the current capability. The first of class is planned to enter service in 2009.

**Dr. Julian Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence by what means UK submarine-building capacity will be maintained after the completion of the order for three Astute-class boats. [13050]

**Mr. Ingram** *[holding answer 20 July 2005]:* We have already ordered two packages of long-lead items for the fourth Astute boat, and we expect to place contracts for a third package of long-lead items later this year.

We are working jointly with industry to develop a Maritime Industrial Strategy, as part of a wider Defence Industrial Strategy, which includes work to develop a longer-term solution to maintain the United Kingdom's submarine industrial base.

### Surface Fleet

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 28 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 1400W, on surface fleet, if he will identify each of the 25 destroyers and frigates mentioned on page 18; and if he will make a statement. [11223]

**Mr. Ingram:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 19 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 1540W, about Royal Navy destroyers and frigates.

### Territorial Army

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the strength is of the Territorial Army in *(a)* Lancashire and *(b)* Chorley; and how many of these volunteers have served overseas. [13008]

**Mr. Touhig:** The strength of the Territorial Army in Lancashire is some 540 personnel, of which some 75 are based in Chorley. Since January 2003 some 185 personnel from Lancashire, including some 40 from Chorley, have served overseas.

**Mr. David Hamilton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many members of the Territorial Army in Scotland are stationed in Iraq. [14791]

**Mr. Touhig:** There are currently some 210 Territorial Army personnel from Scotland mobilised in support of operations in Iraq.

### Warship Sales

**Dr. Julian Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list the Royal Navy and Royal Fleet Auxiliary vessels sold to other countries since 1997; and

what sums *(a)* were spent on preparing each of them for transfer and *(b)* were received from the purchasing countries as a result of each sale. [13052]

**Mr. Ingram** *[holding answer 20 July 2005]:* The information is not held centrally and is not readily available. Officials are retrieving information from files and once this has been completed I will write to the hon. Member and a copy of my letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

### Withdrawn Military Equipment

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many aircraft *(a)* were withdrawn from service in 2004–05 and *(b)* are planned to be withdrawn from service in 2005–06, broken down by type. [12512]

**Mr. Ingram:** The numbers of aircraft withdrawn from service, or are planned to be withdrawn from service are listed in the following table. The figures include aircraft lost as a result of accidents or during operations and commercially owned military registered (COMR) aircraft.

| *Aircraft type* | *Withdrawn in 2004–05* | *Planned withdrawal in 2005–06* |
|---|---|---|
| Sea Harrier | 8 | 18 |
| Harrier T8 | — | 1 |
| Harrier T10 | 1 | — |
| Jaguar GR1A | 3 | — |
| Jaguar GR3 | — | 1 |
| Jaguar GR3A | — | 32 |
| Jaguar T2A | 3 | 1 |
| Jaguar T4 | — | 7 |
| Canberra PR9 | — | 5 |
| Canberra T Mk4 | 2 | 1 |
| Tornado F3 | 8 | 15 |
| Nimrod MR2 | — | [1]5 |
| Hercules C-130K | 1 | — |
| VC10K4 | — | 2 |
| VC10 CMklK | — | 1 |
| Jetstream Mkl | 11 | — |
| Tucano | 1 | — |
| Sea King HAS Mk6 | 1 | 5 |
| Puma HC Mkl | 1 | — |
| Gazelle AH Mkl | 5 | 3 |
| Lynx HAS Mk3 | 1 | 4 |
| Lynx HMA Mk8 | — | 3 |
| Lynx AH Mk7 | 1 | 3 |
| Lynx AH Mk9 | — | 1 |
| Single Squirrel (COMR) | 1 | — |
| Twin Squirrel (COMR) | — | 3 |

[1] Four aircraft will be converted to Nimrod MRA4. The future of the fifth aircraft has yet to be decided.

## TRANSPORT

### A2

**Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what surveys have been undertaken by his Department in the past year of traffic flows on the A2 through Bexley borough. [12849]

**Dr. Ladyman:** DfT has three locations on the A2, in the London borough of Bexley, at which traffic flow counts are conducted. The table provides details on these three locations with the traffic survey 12-hour raw data results for both 2004 and 2005.

| | *Traffic flow 'Count point'* | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | *26,102* | *36,497* | *6,097* |
| Date counted in 2004 | 15 October | 23 June | [1]not counted |
| 12-hour motorised traffic from 2004 survey[2] | 72,892 | 83,504 | n/a |
| Date counted in 2005 | 26 April | 19 April | 9 May |
| 12-hour motorised traffic from 2005 survey[2] | 71,741 | 80,531 | 84,611 |
| Start of road link | Greenwich boundary | Junction with A221 | Junction with A223 |
| End of road link | Junction with A221 | Junction with A223 | Kent boundary |

[1] Not all major road 'Count Point' sites for surveying traffic are included in the sample for the survey every year.
[2] At each Count point, weekday counts are made of 11 vehicle types for the 12 hours from 7am to 7pm. They are scheduled to minimise the effects of possible seasonal factors etc., by counting during "neutral weeks", in March, April, May, June, September and October.

The 12-hour Road Traffic Survey figures are used to make estimates of the Annual Average Daily Flow (AADF) of traffic on the link. Estimates of AADFs in 2004 were published on 7 July 2005. The estimates for these particular traffic Count Points are given in the following table.

| | *Traffic flow 'Count point'* | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | *26,102* | *36,497* | *6,097* |
| Pedal cycles AADF | 10 | 12 | 13 |
| Motorcycles | 2,269 | 1,793 | 3,104 |
| Cars and taxis | 71,838 | 84,577 | 81,555 |
| Buses and coaches | 452 | 794 | 492 |
| Light goods vehicles | 12,070 | 14,030 | 14,927 |
| Heavy goods vehicles | 4,867 | 4,811 | 6,241 |
| All motorised vehicles | 91,496 | 106,005 | 106,319 |

**Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what representations he has received concerning the A2 in South London during the past 12 months. [12848]

**Dr. Ladyman:** None. The A2 in South London forms part of the Transport for London Road Network (TLRN) and is the responsibility of the Mayor and Transport for London (TfL).

### A419/417 (Resurfacing)

**Mr. Clifton-Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when the concrete section of the A419/417 Swindon to Gloucester Road will be resurfaced. [12852]

**Dr. Ladyman:** The concrete section of the A419/417 is in good condition, and is not programmed for resurfacing over the spending review period from 2005–06 to 2007–08. When developing the forward maintenance programme, the Highways Agency prioritises the available resources to maintain the network in a safe and serviceable condition, while minimising whole life costs. Concrete sections of trunk roads and motorways will be resurfaced with quieter surfacing when the need for major maintenance works arises on the route concerned.

### Air Traffic

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how many scheduled commercial flights to and from *(a)* Gatwick airport, *(b)* Luton airport, *(c)* Southend airport, *(d)* City of London airport, *(e)* Heathrow airport and *(f)* Stansted airport passed over or within one mile of the boundaries of Hornchurch constituency at an altitude of 8,000 feet or less in each year from 1997 to 2005; [13771]

(2) how many flights passed over Hornchurch constituency or within one mile of its boundaries, at an altitude of 8,000 feet or less, in the month of June between the hours of 11.00pm and 6.00am; and if he will make a statement; [13782]

(3) which scheduled commercial flightpaths pass over Hornchurch constituency at an altitude of less than 8,000 feet. [13783]

**Ms Buck:** These are operational matters for NATS and information is not readily available in the form requested. I suggest the hon. Gentleman writes to the chief executive of NATS to see what assistance he can be given with his enquiries.

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many scheduled commercial flights to and from *(a)* Gatwick airport, *(b)* Luton airport, *(c)* Southend airport, *(d)* City of London airport, *(e)* Heathrow airport and *(f)* Stansted airport there were in each year from 1997 to 2005. [13773]

**Ms Buck:** The following table shows scheduled commercial flights to and from Gatwick, Heathrow, London City, Luton, Southend and Stansted airports in each year from 1997 to 2004. Annual data for 2005 are not yet available.

*Scheduled commercial flights to and from selected UK airports: 1997–2004*

*Thousand*

| | *1997* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Gatwick | 174.3 | 186.4 | 191.5 | 197.2 | 189.5 | 177.7 | 180.2 | 190.3 |
| Heathrow | 427.9 | 439.8 | 448.1 | 458.3 | 456.1 | 458.4 | 455.4 | 467.8 |
| London City | 32.0 | 36.8 | 41.4 | 48.9 | 53:7 | 52.8 | 47.8 | 53.0 |
| Luton | 27.6 | 32.7 | 40.5 | 44.4 | 45.4 | 47.3 | 52.1 | 58.5 |
| Southend[1] | — | — | — | — | 0.1 | — | — | — |
| Stansted | 66.3 | 84.4 | 116.7 | 128.0 | 135.6 | 138.0 | 156.3 | 163.9 |

[1] There were 149 scheduled commercial flights to or from Southend airport in 2001. The number of flights in other years range between four and 36.

### Car Clubs

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has to evaluate the effects his Department's report "Smarter Choices: Changing the Way we Travel" and "Making Smarter Choice Work" and "Making Car Sharing and Car Clubs Work" have had on the development of car clubs and car sharing. [7190]

**Ms Buck:** We evaluate as a matter of course the effectiveness of our programmes to promote smarter choices, such as the travelling to school initiative and the sustainable travel towns project. However, it would not be practical or cost-effective to carry out individual evaluations of research reports and good practice guides. We will instead be monitoring the take up of sustainable travel measures as part of our work with local authorities on the development and implementation of local transport plans.

### Car Stereos

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will take steps to set a maximum volume level for car stereos. [12533]

**Dr. Ladyman:** The Government consider the existing enforcement provisions to be the most suitable means for controlling the volume level for car stereos.

### Consultants

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the total expenditure saved in each of the last three years as a result of implementing recommendations by management consultancies within his Department. [13626]

**Ms Buck:** The information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

**Mrs. Dunwoody:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the costs of consultant fees incurred in connection with the transfer of the Strategic Rail Authority to DfT Rail. [13247]

**Derek Twigg:** Consultants have been used by the Department to help establish the new Rail Group by providing support on programme management, and organisation and process design. The cost is estimated to be £1.25 million excluding VAT.

### Container Terminals

**Mrs. Dunwoody:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what volume of traffic from new deep sea container terminals is required to be moved by rail; and how many planning applications for new container terminals are being considered with a view to achieving that volume. [13916]

**Dr. Ladyman:** The extent to which container traffic can be moved by rail for a given port development has to be considered on a case by case basis according to the nature and level of traffic through the port. All of the current planning applications with my Department are being considered on the basis of the rail market share submitted in those applications.

### Crossrail

**Mrs. Hodgson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent research his Department has undertaken into the benefits of Crossrail. [13365]

**Derek Twigg** *[holding answer 20 July 2005]:* On 5 July 2005, the Secretary of State placed in the Library a paper called "Transport, Wider Economic Benefits, and Impacts on GDP". This paper looks at transport schemes more generally but includes an assessment of the benefits of Crossrail, drawing on the economic appraisal for Crossrail carried out by Cross London Rail Links—the Crossrail development company—and including wider benefits not previously quantified in the Department's appraisal methodology.

In addition, my Department conducted a modelling exercise in 2003 to examine the potential impact of population and employment growth, land use changes and airport development on the transport networks in South East England in 2016. The results of this exercise, including an assessment of the impact of Crossrail, were placed in the Library on 19 July 2005.

### East London Line

**Mrs. Lait:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what recent discussions he has had with Transport for London about the disruption to passenger services as work progresses on the East London line extensions; [11641]

(2) what recent discussions he has had with Transport for London concerning the timetable for construction of the East London line extensions and progress on Phase 2 of the extensions; [11643]

(3) what recent discussions he has had with Transport for London on the closure of the central section of the East London line, north of New Cross Gate to Shoreditch, during work on the East London line extensions. [11644]

**Derek Twigg:** Regular meetings are held between the Secretary of State and Transport for London on rail issues but no specific discussions have taken place on the points raised in the questions.

### M1

**Mr. Greg Knight:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for what reasons two cameras have been erected on a gantry overhanging the southbound carriageway of the M1 motorway just south of junction 21; whether such cameras are *(a)* permanent and *(b)* temporary; and if he will make a statement. [13604]

**Dr. Ladyman:** Speed Enforcement Cameras have been erected on the M1, both Northbound and Southbound, between Junctions 20 and 21. These temporary cameras are mounted on distinctive columns that are in the verge and extend over the carriageway, at various locations throughout the length the major maintenance works currently under way on the M1.

For safety reasons they are designed to ensure that the temporary speed limit of 40 mph is adhered to throughout the length of the works.

**Mr. Greg Knight:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for what reason a speed limit of 40 mph has been imposed on the M1 motorway north of Junction 20 where roadworks are being carried out. [13666]

**Dr. Ladyman:** 40mph speed limit has been imposed for the duration of the works in order to ensure the safety of the travelling public and the workforce, undertaking major maintenance works on the M1 between junction 20 and 21.

### M6 (Junction 34)

**Geraldine Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his plans are for remodelling and improving safety on junction 34 of the M6 motorway; and what the timescale is for implementation. [14026]

**Dr. Ladyman:** The Highways Agency, which is responsible for the M6 Motorway, has no current plans to remodel junction 34. Scheduled routine maintenance works will be undertaken, and safety will continue to be monitored.

### Miss Shriti Vadera

**Mr. Duncan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will list *(a)* discussions and *(b)* meetings (i) officials and (ii) Ministers in his Department had with Miss Shriti Vadera during 2001, broken down by (A) date and (B) subject. [13490]

**Derek Twigg** *[holding answer 19 July 2005]:* The information requested could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

### Motoring Offences

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will list the new motoring offences created by legislation sponsored by his Department since 1997. [10387]

**Dr. Ladyman:** The expression "motoring offences" has been interpreted fairly widely and taken to include matters relating to vehicle approvals, construction and use of vehicles, traffic regulation, vehicle licensing and registration, number plates and suppliers thereof, carriage of dangerous goods and radioactive material, private hire vehicles, the wearing of seat belts and the testing for drink and drugs.

In many cases there is a provision in primary legislation which provides that it is an offence to contravene or fail to comply with statutory instruments made thereunder. Such instruments are listed but only those which were made on or after 29 May 2002 as that was the date on which this Department came into being.

Similarly, only primary legislative provisions created on or after that date are listed save where regulations listed have an effect upon what may constitute an offence under those provisions.

The relevant legislative provisions have been placed in the Libraries of the House.

### Olympic Games

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the implications are of the successful bid to hold the 2012 Olympic Games in London for the *(a)* workload and *(b)* staffing levels of his Department. [11675]

**Ms Buck:** The delivery of a successful Olympic Games in 2012 will be treated like any other Government priority, and resources will be found within existing departmental staffing levels.

### Operation Ariel

**Mr. Duncan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will list each person in his Department involved in Operation Ariel during 2001; if he will list meetings in relation to the project which representatives of his Department attended; and if he will place the minutes in the Library. [13491]

**Derek Twigg** *[holding answer 19 July 2005]:* The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Policy Costings

**Dr. Cable:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what costings of *(a)* Liberal Democrat and *(b)* Conservative party policies his Department has (i) undertaken, (ii) co-ordinated in the previous 12 months and (iii) advised upon in the previous 12 months. [7004]

**Ms Buck:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Financial Secretary on 18 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 1334W.

### Port Traffic Forecasts

**Mrs. Dunwoody:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the terms of reference are for work to be carried out by consultants on port traffic forecasts and trans-shipment economic implications. [13241]

**Dr. Ladyman:** A copy of the terms of reference has been placed in the Libraries of the House.

### QinetiQ

**Mr. Gerald Howarth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the contribution which QinetiQ's scanner technology could make to security on public transport. [12437]

**Ms Buck:** The Department has a continuous programme of assessing how new technology could improve transport security. The Department has supported development of scanner technology over a number of years, both financially and through the provision of operational information.

### Rail Freight

**Paul Flynn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has to encourage the transfer of movements of heavy freight loads from road to rail. [11321]

**Alan Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps his Department is taking to make the carriage of freight by rail more attractive. [12816]

**Derek Twigg:** I refer my hon. Friends to the statement the Secretary of State made on 19 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 71–73WS, setting out the Government's policy towards rail freight.

**Alan Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will bring forward proposals for legislation to limit track access charges levied by Network Rail in respect of rail freight. [12818]

**Derek Twigg:** Existing legislation already provides for the Office of Rail Regulation to determine and approve the freight access charges levied by Network Rail. In doing so, ORR is required to ensure that the charges are in line with the charging principles in EU Directive 2001/14.

Rail freight's ability to compete against road and other modes is dependent upon stable and affordable charging for access to the network. The Government supports this and believes it is best achieved through the principle of freight operators paying charges which reflect only the costs that they impose upon the network (in line with the charging principles set out in EU Directive 2001/14). We will therefore work with the rail industry and ORR so that this remains the case.

### Rail Projects

**Mr. Duncan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many capital projects in the rail industry worth over £500 million have commenced in London since 1997. [12744]

**Mr. Darling:** The following heavy rail infrastructure projects costing over £500 million have commenced in London since 1997:

East London line extension

Channel Tunnel Rail Link

Southern Power Upgrade/Mark 1 replacement.

### Rail Safety (Obstacle Detection)

**Kelvin Hopkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) if he will set out the timetable for the Rail Safety and Standards Board's investigation into obstacle detection technologies; and when it will produce its report; [13375]

(2) if he will list the systems being trialled by the Rail Safety and Standards Board in its investigation into obstacle detection technology for use at unmanned level crossings. [13376]

**Derek Twigg:** The Rail Safety and Standards Board (RSSB) is currently developing a research project on behalf of the rail industry to apply some rigour to the potential application of obstacle detection systems. It is currently planned that the project will produce its report towards the end of summer 2006.

The RSSB advise that a thorough investigation of the technology available will form part of the research, but at this stage they do not intend to trial any particular system.

## Rail Services

**Mr. Burns:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many rail passenger journeys were made between Chelmsford and London-Liverpool Street Station in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* the latest year for which figures are available. [10303]

**Derek Twigg** *[holding answer 12 July 2005]*: The information requested is not currently available. I will write to the hon. Member in due course as soon as information is available.

**Mrs. James:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the proportion of commuters using London Paddington to Swansea train services since rail privatisation who travel during peak hours. [7753]

**Derek Twigg:** This information is not held centrally.

## Railtrack

**Mr. Duncan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will list payments made by his Department to Railtrack in each month between January 2000 and the date of its administration order. [13487]

**Mr. Darling** *[holding answer 19 July 2005]*: Payments made to Railtrack by the Strategic Rail Authority (SRA) and its predecessor the Shadow SRA in this period were as follows:

| *Month* | *Amount (£)* |
|---|---|
| *Shadow Strategic Rail Authority* | |
| February 2000 | 2 |
| April 2000 | 29 |
| June 2000 | 1 |
| October 2000 | 1 |
| January 2001 | 164 |
| *Strategic Rail Authority* | |
| March 2001 | 59 |
| April 2001 | 77 |
| May 2001 | 22,532 |
| June 2001 | 27 |
| July 2001 | 24 |
| September 2001 | 1,000 |
| October 2001 | 336,590 |

The vast majority of Railtrack's income came from access charges levied on train operating companies rather than through direct payments from Government. However, a number of payments were made to the company between January 2000 and September 2001 by the SRA and the Shadow SRA. A number of these, including the payment of £23 million in May 2001, relate to feasibility studies for infrastructure schemes. On 1 October 2001, the SRA paid to Railtrack a Network Grant of £337 million. The Railway Administration Order in relation to Railtrack was made on 7 October 2001.

**Mr. Duncan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment was made by his Department of the West LB bid for Railtrack in April 2002; and if he will make a statement. [13488]

**Mr. Darling** *[holding answer 19 July 2005]*: Officials at the Department for Transport's predecessor had discussions with West LB about its interest in bidding for Railtrack in late 2001 and early 2002. However, West LB did not submit a formal bid for Railtrack.

**Mr. Duncan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will list *(a)* meetings and *(b)* discussions (i) Ministers and (ii) officials in his Department had with Treasury Ministers and officials during (A) 2001 and (B) 2002 concerning railway ownership, broken down by (1) date, (2) attendees and (3) subject; and if he will place the minutes of meetings in the Library. [13489]

**Derek Twigg** *[holding answer 19 July 2005]*: The information requested could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

## Railways

**Dr. Kumar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has *(a)* to reduce overcrowding and *(b)* to improve punctuality on the East Coast Main Line. [5861]

**Derek Twigg:** The new East Coast Inter City franchise commenced on 1 May 2005. Among the obligations within the new franchise are additional services to Leeds and the development of a study into the electrification of the rail network between Neville Hill and Hambleton South Junction.

Network Rail (NR), who have the responsibility for route utilisation on the East Coast Main Line, are developing and publishing a full route utilisation (RUS). The RUS will address capacity issues on the ECML. It is planned that NR will consult further on the requirements for the line and are likely to be in a position to publish the results of their work in 12 months.

**Mrs. Riordan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps his Department is taking to increase capacity on the East Coast Main Line. [9304]

**Derek Twigg:** The new East Coast Inter City franchise commenced on 1 May 2005. Among the obligations within the new franchise are additional services to Leeds and the development of a study into the electrification of the rail network between Neville Hill and Hambleton South Junction.

Network Rail (NR), who have the responsibility for route utilisation on the East Coast Main Line, are developing and publishing a full Route Utilisation (RUS). The RUS will address capacity issues on the ECML. It is planned that NR will consult further on the requirements for the line and are likely to be in a position to publish the results of their work in 12 months.

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress has been made on the planned upgrading of the East Coast Main Line, with particular reference to improved station facilities at Peterborough. [9598]

**Derek Twigg:** The new East Coast Inter City franchise commenced on 1 May 2005. Among the obligations within the new franchise are additional services to Leeds

and the development of a study into the electrification of the rail network between Neville Hill and Hambleton South Junction.

Network Rail, who have the responsibility for route utilisation on the East Coast Main Line, are developing and publishing a full route utilisation (RUS). The RUS will address capacity issues on the ECML including at Peterborough station. It is planned that NR will consult further on the requirements for the line and are likely to be in a position to publish the results of their work in 12 months.

**Mr. Rogerson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much Government subsidy per passenger mile each UK rail franchise received in the period April 2004 to April 2005. [12708]

**Derek Twigg** *[holding answer 19 July 2005]:* The subsidies paid to each train operating company (TOC), along with the corresponding passenger kilometres travelled for the period 1 April 2004 to 31 March 2005 are set out in table 6.2b of National Rail Trends which was published by the Strategic Rail Authority on 24 June 2005. That table is reproduced as follows:

*Table 6.2b Subsidy per passenger kilometre by train operating company 2004–05*

| | *Passenger kilometres (million)* | *Subsidy (£ million)* | *Subsidy per passenger kilometre (pence)* | *2003–04 Subsidy per passenger kilometre (pence)* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Arriva Trains Northern[1] | 696.5 | 112.0 | 16.1 | 16.9 |
| Arriva Trains Wales | 853.1 | 93.9 | 11.0 | 18.0 |
| C2c | 853.2 | 5.1 | 0.6 | 2.4 |
| Central Trains[1] | 1,428.2 | 155.6 | 10.9 | 10.8 |
| Chiltern Railways | 715.4 | 14.0 | 2.0 | 3.8 |
| First Great Western | 2,718.2 | (34.6) | (1.3) | 1.2 |
| First Great Western Link | 1,602.2 | (9.9) | (0.9) | (0.5) |
| First North Western[1] | 467.7 | 99.5 | 21.3 | 23.9 |
| First Scotrail[1] | 992.6 | 57.2 | 5.8 | — |
| Gatwick Express | 227.2 | (18.3) | (8.1) | (6.6) |
| GNER | 4,063.8 | (67.0) | (1.6) | (0.6) |
| Island Line | 6.6 | 3.2 | 48.2 | 46.8 |
| Midland Mainline | 1,322.2 | (9.0) | (0.7) | (0.3) |
| Northern Rail[1] | 475.3 | 81.0 | 17.0 | — |
| ONE | 3,680.4 | (45.0) | (1.2) | — |
| Scotrail[1] | 1,231.1 | 106.4 | 8.6 | 12.9 |
| Silverlink | 1,054.3 | 30.1 | 2.9 | 4.9 |
| South Eastern Trains | 3,406.9 | 70.4 | 2.1 | 3.8 |
| South West Trains | 4,605.8 | 38.6 | 0.8 | 2.7 |
| Southern | 2,913.6 | 71.1 | 2.4 | 3.3 |
| Thameslink | 1,413.8 | (49.7) | (3.5) | (3.0) |
| TPE | 776.0 | 43.5 | 5.6 | 25.2 |
| Virgin CrossCountry | 2,541.7 | 111.0 | 4.4 | 9.2 |
| Virgin West Coast | 2,720.6 | 89.8 | 3.3 | 12.1 |
| WAGN | 1,388.9 | 0.5 | 0.0 | 0.5 |
| Wessex Trains | 462.4 | 56.0 | 12.1 | 17.9 |
| All operators | 42,077.8 | 1,005.4 | — | — |
| Average subsidy per passenger kilometre (pence) | — | — | 2.4 | 5.0 |

[1] Operators are part funded by PTEs. Where a PTE retains revenue risk, it pays the gross operating costs less the actual revenue. The subsidy figures in the table are based on the assumed revenue levels, either set out in the Franchise Agreement or based on actuals provided by the PTEs. This, however, may overstate the actual subsidy paid where it has been based on the Franchise Agreement. Actual subsidy per kilometre figures may therefore be less than stated for these operators.

*Notes:*

1. Subsidy figures are stated on a cash basis and exclude any payments under the incentive regimes but include adjustments made to reflect the consequences of the Regulator's charges review. Figures in brackets show where the SRA is in receipt of payments.

2. 2004–05 represents the period 1 April 2004 to 31 March 2005, with the exception of Arriva Trains Northern, which is from 1 April 2004 to 11 December 2004; First North Western which is from 1 April 2004 to 11 December 2004; Northern, which is from 12 December 2004 to 31 March 2005; ScotRail which is from 1 April 2004 to 16 October 2004; and First Scot Rail, which is from 17 October 2004 to 31 March 2005.

3. In 2003–04 franchise was operated by Thames Trains.

4. 2003–04 represents the period 1 April 2003 to 31 March 2004, with the exception of Arriva Trains Wales, which is from 8 December 2003 to 31 March 2004; South Eastern Trains, which is from 9 November 2003 to 31 March 2004; and TransPennine Express, which is from 2 February 2004 to 31 March 2004.

5. Merseyrail is not included in this table as it is no longer franchised by the SRA.

As the notes to this table explain, adjustments to the subsidy profile have been made to reflect the consequences of the ORR's December 2003 Access Charges Review. One of the effects of this review was to allow for some funds which would otherwise have been paid to TOCs from the SRA and then passed through to Network Rail (NR), to be paid by the SRA to NR directly. This had the effect of reducing the subsidy payments made to the TOCs (or increasing the premium payable by them).

The amount paid direct to Network Rail in the financial year 2004–05 was around £1.8 billion. Taking this direct funding into account the true subsidy per passenger kilometre for 2004–05 across the network is around 6.6 pence.

### Railways Act (Closures Manager)

**Lembit Öpik:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what the purpose is of the appointment of a closures manager under the Railways Act 2005; and if he will make a statement; [13019]

(2) what the job description of the closures manager under the Railways Act 2005 is; and if he will make a statement. [13020]

**Derek Twigg:** There is not a Closures Manager post in the Department for Transport.

### Taxis

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much the Department has spent on taxis in each of the last five years. [6494]

**Ms Buck:** The Department for Transport came into existence on 29 May 2002, following machinery of Government changes. In financial year 2002–03 the Department spent £74,097.48 on taxis, in 2003–04 £87,140.21, and in 2004–05 £97,853.28. These figures do not include the Department's agencies as they do not record taxi fares separately from other travel costs and the information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

### Transport Schemes

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much funding has been *(a)* spent on and *(b)* committed to transport schemes within each growth area. [13788]

**Ms Buck:** Since 2000 and through to 2010, the current investments and future commitments to transport in the growth areas are as follows:

| *Growth areas* | *Amount* |
|---|---|
| Thames Gateway | £1.4 billion |
| Ashford | £46 million |
| Milton Keynes—South Midlands | £1.3 billion |
| London/Stansted/Cambridge/Peterborough | £800 million |

These figures cover schemes of over £5 million. However, the investment figures do not include CTRL Domestics services which benefit both Thames Gateway and Ashford growth areas.

### Tunnel Collapse (Gerrards Cross)

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) when he expects normal services to be resumed between High Wycombe and Marylebone Station; [10349]

(2) when he expects a full report to be made to him on the recent collapse of the tunnel under construction at Gerrards Cross Station; if he will publish the report; and if he will make a statement; [10350]

(3) whether passengers delayed as a consequence of the recent collapse of the tunnel under construction at Gerrards Cross Station will be entitled to compensation; and if he will make a statement; [10351]

(4) what estimate he has made of the likely cost of clearing the railway tracks at Gerrards Cross following the recent collapse of the tunnel under construction at that station; and if he will make a statement; [10352]

(5) by what date he expects the tunnel under construction at Gerrards Cross Station which recently collapsed to be reconstructed; and if he will make a statement. [10353]

**Derek Twigg** *[holding answer 7 July 2005]:* The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) is carrying out an investigation into the collapse of the building works over the railway at Gerrards Cross. The HSE will record progress with its investigation on its website, and make public any recommendations made as the investigation proceeds.

The clear-up operation for the collapsed structure over the railway is being undertaken by Jackson Civil Engineering, the contractor for the store building project, and is being overseen by Network Rail. The final cost of the clear-up operation is not yet known. Approximately 5,000 tonnes of spoil blocked the line and work is under way to remove this. Arrangements are in place for the spoil to be hauled via road to an appropriate facility.

Network Rail is working with Jackson Civil Engineering to reopen the railway line as quickly as possible. It is currently not possible to make a firm estimate but it is expected that it will be a number of weeks before the line reopens. All current work on site is to clear the debris, establish the safety of the remaining tunnel sections and reopen the line as soon as possible. As far as we are aware no decisions have yet been taken on the future of the site.

Compensation arrangements will depend on the cause of the incident. Compensation arrangements for passengers are a matter for Chiltern Railways.

**Mrs. Gillan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what plans he has to investigate the tunnel collapse at Gerrards Cross; and if he will make a statement; [10179]

(2) what compensation he expects to be paid to Chiltern Railways for the interruption in service caused by the tunnel collapse at Gerrards Cross. [10186]

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what assessment has been made of the timescale for reopening the railway line at Gerrards Cross; and if he will make a statement; [10406]

(2) what estimate he has made of the tonnage of material which will need to be removed to re-open the railway line blocked at Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire; and where it is intended that that material will be taken after removal; [10407]

(3) what inquiries are being carried out by the Health and Safety Executive into the collapse of the railway tunnel at Gerrards Cross; and if he will make a statement. [10405]

**Derek Twigg:** The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) is carrying out an investigation into the collapse of the building works over the railway at Gerrards Cross. The HSE will record progress with its investigation on its website, and make public any recommendations made as the investigation proceeds.

The clear-up operation for the collapsed structure over the railway is being undertaken by Jackson Civil Engineering, the contractor for the store building project, and is being overseen by Network Rail. The final cost of the clear-up operation is not yet known. Approximately 5,000 tonnes of spoil blocked the line and work is under way to remove this. Arrangements are in place for the spoil to be hauled via road to an appropriate facility.

Network Rail is working with Jackson Civil Engineering to reopen the railway line as quickly as possible. It is currently not possible to make a firm estimate but it is expected that it will be a number of weeks before the line reopens. All current work on the site is to clear the debris, establish the safety of the remaining tunnel sections and reopen the line as soon as possible. As far as we are aware no decisions have yet been taken on the future of the site.

Compensation arrangements will depend on the cause of the incident. Compensation arrangements for passengers are a matter for Chiltern Railways.

### Wheel Detachment Incidents

**Mr. Kidney:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how many road fatalities arising from the loss of road wheels from commercial vehicles occurred in each of the last three years; and how many wheel detachment incidents there were in that period; [12943]

(2) if he will commission research to establish *(a)* the level of risk to road users of wheel detachment from commercial vehicles, *(b)* the efficacy of existing products that aim to prevent such wheel detachment and *(c)* possible solutions to wheel detachment; [12944]

(3) what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on (i) the risks to road users of wheel detachment from commercial vehicles and (ii) precautions to prevent such incidents. [12945]

**Dr. Ladyman:** Figures are not currently recorded in the form requested, but the table shows the statistics that are available. It should be noted that there may sometimes be delays in listing figures while the findings of coroners' courts are awaited.

*Heavy commercial vehicles—wheel detachment—April 2001 to March 2004*

| | Wheel detachment cases | Fatalities |
|---|---|---|
| HGV rigids and tractor units | 88 | 0 |
| HGV semi-trailers | 7 | 1 |
| HGV drawbar trailers | 6 | 0 |
| Large passenger vehicles | 32 | 0 |

*Source:*
VOSA Collision database

The former Department for the Environment, Transport and Regions carried out research into heavy vehicle wheel loss in 1997 in conjunction with the Association of Chief Police Officers. This research led to advice being provided to owners and operators of such vehicles on the benefits of good maintenance and regular effective checking of wheel nuts. A copy of the research report was placed in the House Libraries at the time.

Products are available in the marketplace that can either indicate loose wheel nuts or possibly prevent the wheel nut from falling from the vehicle. The Department is seeking a better understanding of the potential of these devices for road safety and is in the final phase of placing a new contract to research these matters.

## HEALTH

### Abortion

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent discussions she has had with the leaders of the medical profession about interpretation by them of section 4 of the Abortion Act 1967; and if she will make a statement; [9964]

(2) what guidelines her Department *(a)* has issued and *(b)* plans to issue to NHS primary care trusts setting out the rights of (i) general practitioners and (ii) nurses under section 4 of the Abortion Act 1967; and if she will make a statement; [10529]

(3) what guidance her Department has issued to doctors about their right of conscientious objection to taking part in abortion; [10597]

(4) whether it is her policy to require *(a)* general practitioners and *(b)* nurses to sign a declaration that they have no conscientious objection to performing or assisting at an abortion; and if she will make a statement; [10882]

(5) what guidance her Department issues to doctors with a conscientious objection to abortion regarding transfer of patients to other doctors; [10884]

(6) when it became a requirement for a physician who intends to rely on section 4 of the Abortion Act 1967 to refer a patient to another physician who does not have a conscientious objection; and if she will make a statement; [10893]

(7) if she will introduce legislation to amend section 4 of the Abortion Act 1967 to remove the duty on a physician with a conscientious objection to treatment

under the Act from referring a patient to another physician who does not have such a conscientious objection; and if she will make a statement; [10894]

(8) if she will introduce legislation to remove the Proviso in Section 4 of the Abortion Act 1967; and if she will make a statement. [12721]

**Caroline Flint:** Section 4 of the Abortion Act 1967, as amended, states that except where treatment is necessary to save the life of or prevent grave permanent injury to the pregnant woman:

"no person shall be under any duty, whether by contract or by any statutory or other legal requirement, to participate in any treatment authorised by this Act to which he has a conscientious objection".

The House of Lords ruled in 1988 that this exemption does not extend to giving advice, performing the preparatory steps to arrange an abortion where the request meets legal requirements and undertaking administration connected with abortion procedures. Doctors with a conscientious objection to abortion should make their views known to the patient and enable the patient to see another doctor without delay if that is the patient's wish. No recent discussion have taken place between the Secretary of State for Health and leaders of the medical profession on the interpretation of this ruling.

The General Medical Council's (GMC) booklet, "Good Medical Practice", states that general practitioners' views about a patient's lifestyle or beliefs must not prejudice the treatment they provide or arrange. If they feel their beliefs might affect the treatment, this must be explained to the patient, who should be told of their right to see another doctor. Breach of this guidance may expose a doctor to a charge of serious professional misconduct and disciplinary action by the GMC.

The Department has issued guidance on best practice where there are ethical objections to abortion, through the "Recommended Standards for Sexual Health Services", produced for the Department by the Medical Foundation for AIDS and Sexual Health.

The National Health Service (General Medical Services Contracts) Regulations 2004 include details of additional services, including contraceptive services, which states that:

"where the contractor has a conscientious objection to the termination of pregnancy, prompt referral to another provider of primary medical services who does not have such conscientious objections".

It is accepted Parliamentary practice that proposals for changes in the law on abortion have come from back-bench members and that decisions are made on the basis of free votes. The Government has no plans to change the law on abortion.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the medical circumstances in which emergency abortions are performed to save the life of the pregnant woman in those cases which have arisen since 2000; and how many times each circumstance has been the main factor. [10421]

**Caroline Flint:** We are unable to provide the information requested due to concerns about issues of privacy and confidentiality.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether she is taking steps to reduce the number of abortions in England. [10576]

**Caroline Flint:** The Government is taking action through the national strategy for sexual health and HIV, the teenage pregnancy strategy and the Public Health White Paper to reduce the number of abortions. We are working to improve access to contraceptive services and the range of methods of contraception that are available. The Public Health White Paper announced a national audit of contraceptive services, backed by new investment of £40 million to address gaps in services. An expert contraceptive services group has been established to advise the Department on taking this work forward. We are also working with the Department for Education and Skills to improve sex and relationships education.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when the Government last commissioned research on the safety of the abortion pill mifepristone. [10586]

**Caroline Flint:** As with all marketed medicines, the safety of Mifegyne, mifepristone, an antiprogestogenic steroid that is used for the medical termination of intra-uterine pregnancy, is continuously monitored by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA).

Mifepristone was first authorised in the United Kingdom as a prescription only medicine for use under specialist care in July 1991. This followed advice from the Committee on Safety of Medicines. No formal research has subsequently been carried out. The MHRA will continue to monitor the safety of mifepristone.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if she will seek to establish when and how each of the current methods of abortion used in British hospitals and clinics was developed; and if she will make a statement; [10589]

(2) what assessment she has made of whether the partial-birth abortion procedure is practised in the UK. [10861]

**Caroline Flint:** The Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists' (RCOG) evidence-based clinical guideline, "The Care of Women Requesting Induced Abortion", published in 2004, sets out the recommended methods of abortion which practitioners are expected to follow. Any new methods of abortion will be developed and researched in the same way as any other new medical procedure and will be subject to the same safety monitoring and licensing controls.

Methods of termination are monitored through the forms sent to the Chief Medical Officer by practitioners for every termination of pregnancy they perform. We are not aware of the procedure referred to as partial-birth abortion being used in Great Britain.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average cost of performing an abortion was in *(a)* national health service hospitals and *(b)* private hospitals, in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [10596]

**Caroline Flint:** The available information is shown in the table.

*National average unit cost of performing an abortion in NHS hospitals and private hospitals*

| | *NHS trusts*[1] | *Non-NHS providers*[2] |
|---|---|---|
| 2001–02 | 441 | n/a |
| 2002–03 | 486 | 286 |
| 2003–04 | 503 | 332 |

n/a = not available.

[1] Data based on admitted activity, excluding excess bed days, in NHS Trusts in England.

[2] Data based on admitted activity, excluding excess bed days, submitted by NHS trusts and PCTs in England for activity contracted out to or directly commissioned from non-NHS providers. Data received from NHS trusts and PCTs for abortions performed in the independent sector under NHS contract is incomplete and therefore can only provide an indication of the likely cost of abortion performed in the independent sector. The Department of Health does not collect data on the costs of privately funded abortions.

*Source:*

National Schedule of Reference Costs

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what her Department's policy on the availability of abortions to girls under the age of 16 without parental knowledge or consent is. [10610]

**Caroline Flint:** In 1985, the House of Lords ruled that young people aged under 16 are legally able to consent to medical advice and treatment, including abortion, if a doctor or other healthcare worker judges them competent to do so. For under 16s seeking an abortion, guidance from the Department emphasises that health professionals should discuss the benefits of the young women involving her parents. Where she cannot be persuaded to do so, every effort should be made to find another adult to provide support, for example another family member or specialist youth worker.

## Agenda for Change

**Harry Cohen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether she has fully funded the NHS for the costs its has incurred from implementing "Agenda for Change"; and if she will make a statement. [9353]

**Mr. Byrne:** In England, the Government have made available around £1 billion of extra investment by 2005–06 to meet the costs of implementing "Agenda for Change". This is in addition to money needed to meet the costs of the general pay uplift of around 10 per cent. over three years to 2005–06, agreed as part of the "Agenda for Change" package. This is a huge investment and, while we do not underestimate the challenge of implementing "Agenda for Change", we believe that this investment is sufficient to fully fund its implementation this year.

## Alzheimer's Disease

**Mr. Burns:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions she has had with memory clinics about the impact of withdrawing drug treatments for people with Alzheimer's disease from NHS prescription. [11326]

**Mr. Byrne:** None.

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence has not issued final guidance on drugs for the treatment of Alzheimer's disease. Until it does so, the guidance it issued in 2001 remains in force.

**Mr. Burns:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many memory clinics there are in England; and what assessment she has made of the likely impact on these services if the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence final guidance recommends that drug treatments for Alzheimer's disease should not be available on the NHS. [11328]

**Mr. Byrne:** The Department will not collect this information centrally until the annual mapping of older people's mental health services takes place for the first time later in 2005.

Responsibility for mental health services rests with local service planners, commissioners and providers, who are best placed to determine the right mix of services based on local priorities and the needs of their local population.

At the moment, the 2001 National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) appraisal of drugs for Alzheimer's disease is extant. In the light of NICE's announcement on 19 July to embark on a further round of very focused and detailed discussions with key stakeholders, it would be inappropriate to anticipate at this stage what the conclusion of this work will be.

## Ambulance Service

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what guidelines have been issued on moving patients with head injuries from Chorley Accident and Emergency to Preston Accident and Emergency by taxi rather than ambulance; [12241]

(2) if she will ensure that patients are not transported between Chorley and Preston accident and emergency departments in taxis without appropriate escort; [12431]

(3) under what circumstances taxis may be used to move patients between accident and emergency departments in Lancashire. [13145]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answer 18 July 2005]:* It is for the local national health service to ensure appropriate transport and governance arrangements are in place to support the transfer of patients between accident and emergency departments.

The NHS Modernisation Agency issued "Driving Change: Good practice guidelines for Primary Care Trusts on commissioning arrangements for emergency ambulance services and non-emergency patient transport services" in September 2004.

In 1991, the Department issued guidance on "Ambulance and other patient transport services: Operation, use and performance standards", which includes reference to performance standards and quality of service issues.

Copies of both documents are available in the Library.

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement on the powers available to her in relation to the operation of ambulance trusts. [13147]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answer 18 July 2005]:* The Secretary of State has the following powers in relation to national health service trusts, including ambulance trusts.

Under the National Health Service and Community Care Act 1990 (the 1990 Act), the Secretary of State has the power to make regulations about the membership and procedure of NHS trusts. The Secretary of State exercised this power in making the NHS Trusts (Membership and Procedure) Regulations 1990. Under the 1990 Act, the Secretary of State appoints the chairman and the non-executive directors of the trust, although both these functions have been delegated to the NHS Appointments Commission. The Secretary of State also has powers, subject to provisions set out in the 1990 Regulations, to terminate the tenure of office of the chairman and non-executive directors of a trust in certain circumstances.

The Secretary of State can direct an NHS trust in relation to the exercise of their functions under section 17 of the NHS Act 1977 ('the 1977 Act').

The Secretary of State can dissolve an NHS trust by means of an order if she considers it appropriate in the interests of the health service (under the 1990 Act), subject to the provisions of the NHS trusts (Consultation on Establishment and Dissolution) Regulations 1996.

The Secretary of State can make an intervention order under section 84A of the 1977 Act if she is of the opinion that the trust is not performing one or more of its functions adequately or at all, or that there are significant failings in the way the body is being run and she is satisfied that it is appropriate for her to intervene. An intervention order may provide for the removal or suspension from office of trust members and their replacement with other specified individuals, or for certain functions to be carried out by a specified individual, or for a function of the trust to be performed in a way that will achieve objectives specified in the directions.

The Secretary of State can make a default order under section 85 of the 1977 Act where she is of the opinion that a NHS trust has failed to carry out functions conferred on them under the 1977 Act or the 1990 Act or have failed to comply with regulations or directions relating to those functions. The effect of the default order is to terminate the tenure of office of the members of the trust and provide for the appointment of new members and may make such supplementary provision as the Secretary of State deems necessary.

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what action she is able to take in relation to failing ambulance services. [12548]

**Mr. Byrne:** It is for strategic health authorities to decide what support and intervention is necessary in poorly performing national health service organisations.

### Avian Influenza

**Dr. Kumar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much money her Department has allocated for the prevention of an epidemic of avian influenza. [12361]

**Caroline Flint:** Preparing for a pandemic, whether it arises from the avian influenza currently circulating in South East Asia or from another strain, is part of the ongoing work of the Department and plans continue to be updated as appropriate. However, although we can prepare for an influenza pandemic, it is highly unlikely that we will be able to prevent it occurring.

As part of the United Kingdom's preparedness for a flu pandemic, the Department has committed some £200 million and will continue to evaluate what other measures could be taken to further improve our preparedness, such as purchasing specific vaccine against pandemic influenza.

### Breast Cancer

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what measures she has put in place to improve the rate of accuracy of general practitioner breast cancer referrals. [12450]

**Ms Rosie Winterton** *[holding answer 18 July 2005]:* We issued general practitioner (GP) cancer referral guidelines in March 2000 to assist GPs in determining those patients who need to be referred urgently to see a specialist within two weeks, those patients that can be referred for a routine appointment and those who can be safely watched at a primary care level.

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence recently reviewed these GP cancer referral guidelines and revised guidelines were published on 22 June 2005.

The referral guidelines should be used locally to agree criteria and referral pathways. All trusts have been encouraged to undertake local audits to assess the appropriateness of urgent and routine referrals against the guidelines to be fed back to referring GPs.

### Care Homes

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps her Department is taking to act on the recommendations of the recent Office of Fair Trading report into the care home sector. [13540]

**Mr. Byrne:** The Office of Fair Trading published a report on care homes for older people on 18 May 2005. The report made a number of recommendations to the Government, which the Government are currently considering.

### Children's Hospices

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much her Department has spent on *(a)* children's hospices and *(b)* children's palliative care in each of the last five years (i) in real terms and (ii) as a percentage of the overall NHS budget; [11265]

(2) if she will increase the core funding to children's hospice services from her Department. [11721]

**Mr. Byrne:** The Department does not collect information on the funding of children's hospices and palliative care services for children.

Primary care trusts (PCTs) have received substantial increases in their baseline funding and there is no ceiling to the amount of funding which they can provide for children's palliative care. Children's hospice services are funded from a number of sources, including services commissioned by PCTs based on their assessment of children's needs and their priorities. They are best placed to make decisions on the local needs for palliative care and are able to take into account the needs of individual families and preferences.

In our ongoing dialogue with representatives of children's hospices, the Department continues to encourage them to engage actively with local national health service bodies over the contribution that hospices can make to the overall pattern of palliative care they commission for children and young people in their localities.

In our manifesto, we said we would increase the choice for patients with cancer and double the investment going into palliative care services, giving more people the choice to be treated at home.

### Children's Oral Hygiene

**Mr. Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans she has to improve children's oral hygiene; and if she will make a statement. [11292]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** At a population level, the fluoridation of water supplies offers the most potential for reducing dental disease in children. By reforming the relevant legislation we have given strategic health authorities a realistic option of fluoridating their water, provided they can show they have the support of the local population. In addition, advice on oral health promotion is given in schools and we have piloted the "Brushing for Life" Scheme in areas with the highest levels of tooth decay including all Sure Start areas which do not receive fluoridated water. The scheme provides for health visitors to give packs containing a toothbrush, a tube of fluoridated toothpaste and a leaflet on oral hygiene to the parents and carers of young children when they attend child health clinics for development checks at eight months, 18 months and three years and above.

### Clostridium Difficile

**Ian Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when the terms of reference for the Healthcare Commission investigation into *Clostridium difficile* at Stoke Mandeville hospital, Buckinghamshire hospitals NHS trust, will be made available. [14013]

**Jane Kennedy:** The Healthcare Commission has today published the Terms of Reference.

### Connecting for Health Smartcards

**Mr. Bacon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health which primary care trusts have issued Connecting for Health smartcards with the same PIN number for every user. [13341]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answer 20 July 2005]:* A number of smartcards issued during May 2005 by staff acting on behalf of NHS Connecting for Health, in connection with the national programme for information technology, to general practitioners within the Castle Point and Rochford, and the Southend primary care trust (PCT) areas. Though serious in itself, this breach of procedures has not posed a significant risk to the confidentiality of patient information.

An internal audit inquiry into the circumstances and details of this lapse in security arrangements has been commissioned by the Essex strategic health authority.

Local procedures have been further tightened to require ensuring smartcard end users change the passcode immediately on receipt of their card, and confirm in writing that this has been done. These will be regularly audited to ensure compliance. NHS Connecting for Health have also initiated a national "confidence check' of smartcard registration procedures across all strategic health authorities, re-emphasising the very great importance which is attached to strict adherence to these.

### Continuing Care

**Mr. Gibb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement on her intention to produce a national approach to continuing care as set out in her Department's press notice of 9 December 2004. [13392]

**Mr. Byrne:** The Department is currently working closely with selected stakeholders to produce a national framework for the assessment of continuing care, due for publication in early 2006. This should result in national eligibility criteria and suitable assessment methodologies for access to national health service continuing care. I have received a number of representations about the development of a national framework, all of which will be taken into account in its development. In accordance with Cabinet Office guidelines, we will consult on the official guidance and any legislation required later this year. I expect to make a formal response to the Health Committee report on national health service continuing care before the summer recess.

Details of the review's progress were presented to the House in a written ministerial statement by my hon. Friend the Member for South Thanet (Dr. Ladyman) on 16 September 2004, *Official Report*, columns 175–77WS.

### Counterfeit Medicines

**Dr. Murrison:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of *(a)* the extent of counterfeiting of medicines in England and *(b)* the impact of parallel trading on the counterfeiting of medicines. [13326]

**Jane Kennedy:** Two counterfeit products were discovered in the legitimate United Kingdom supply chain in August 2004. This was the first time in 10 years that counterfeit products are known to have reached the legitimate UK supply chain. Over 600 million prescriptions are written annually in the UK. Therefore

these two discoveries of counterfeit medicines in the small numbers that reached the legitimate UK supply chain, prior to recall, needs to be viewed in that context.

There is no evidence to suggest that licensed parallel trade provides any more of an opportunity to introduce counterfeit medicines into the country over non-parallel traded products. In both of the recent UK counterfeit medicine cases of August 2004, parallel trade does not appear to be involved.

### Data Collection

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 12 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 985W, who is carrying out work on data collection. [13159]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answer 18 July 2005]:* The Department is supplied annually with data from providers of national health service services.

### Dentistry

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of people were registered with an NHS dentist in each primary care trust in London at the end of *(a)* March 1997, *(b)* March 2001 and *(c)* March 2005; what percentage of each population this represented in each year; how much was allocated to improve access to NHS dentistry in (i) 2004–05, (ii) 2005–06, (iii) 2006–07 and (iv) 2007–08 in (A) total and (B) per 1000 head of population; how many additional NHS dental patient registrations she expects these resources to provide in (1) 2004–05, (2) 2005–06, (3) 2006–07 and (4) 2007–08; how many additional whole-time equivalent dentists are expected to become registered in *(w)* 2004–05, (x) 2005–06, *(y)* 2006–07 and *(z)* 2007–08; and how many NHS dentists there were at 31 December (aa) 1997, (bb) 2001 and (cc) 2004. [8013]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The main tables show the percentages of people registered with a national health service dentist in each primary care trust (PCT) in London as at 31 March for the years 2001 and 2005. Data are not available for 1997, as PCTs did not exist then.

In 2004–05, the Department allocated a total of £50 million to strategic health authorities (SHAs) to improve access, choice and quality in NHS dentistry. The allocations to the five London SHAs are as follows:

| *SHA* | *Allocation (£)* |
|---|---|
| North Central London | 1,374,000 |
| North East London | 1,853,000 |
| North West London | 1,919,000 |
| South East London | 1,664,000 |
| South West London | 1,233,000 |

London SHAs also received resources as a result of the successful personal dental service (PDS) applications in 2004–05 and 2005–06. Allocations for 2006–07 and 2007–08 have not been made.

The criteria for distribution from the centre to the SHAs was based on weighted capitation, reflecting population and deprivation. From then, on it is up to individual SHAs to decide how to distribute these funds at a local level.

General dental service (GDS) patient registration is not the currency used to measure additional expenditure on NHS services.

In 2004–05, it was expected that SHAs would use their share of the £50 million resources to expand local services, by the end of October 2005, by the whole-time equivalent of:

| *SHA* | *Whole-time equivalent* |
|---|---|
| North Central London | 10 |
| North East London | 13 |
| North West London | 13 |
| South East London | 12 |
| South West London | 13 |

No whole-time equivalent target has been set for 2005–06, 2006–07, 2007–08 and no targets or resources have been set for these years.

The main table also shows the number of dentists by London SHA as at 31 December in the years 1997, 2001 and 2004.

*Percentage of people registered with a NHS dentist in each PCT in London as at 31 March each year*

| | *1997* | | | *2001* | | | *2005*[1] | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Child* | *Adult* | *All* | *Child* | *Adult* | *All* | *Child* | *Adult* | *All* |
| *North West London SHA* | 48 | 54 | 52 | 53 | 41 | 44 | 53 | 41 | 43 |
| Brent Teaching | n/a | n/a | n/a | 57 | 46 | 49 | 56 | 46 | 48 |
| Ealing | n/a | n/a | n/a | 58 | 43 | 46 | 60 | 45 | 49 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | n/a | n/a | n/a | 46 | 34 | 36 | 49 | 41 | 42 |
| Harrow | n/a | n/a | n/a | 56 | 38 | 42 | 54 | 39 | 42 |
| Hillingdon | n/a | n/a | n/a | 57 | 45 | 48 | 53 | 40 | 43 |
| Hounslow | n/a | n/a | n/a | 57 | 47 | 50 | 63 | 52 | 55 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | n/a | n/a | n/a | 27 | 21 | 22 | 24 | 18 | 19 |
| Westminster | n/a | n/a | n/a | 51 | 46 | 47 | 42 | 39 | 40 |
| *North Central London SHA* | 46 | 51 | 50 | 51 | 40 | 42 | 52 | 39 | 41 |
| Barnet | n/a | n/a | n/a | 49 | 29 | 33 | 48 | 29 | 33 |
| Camden | n/a | n/a | n/a | 45 | 47 | 47 | 42 | 40 | 40 |
| Enfield | n/a | n/a | n/a | 57 | 36 | 41 | 59 | 39 | 44 |
| Haringey Teaching | n/a | n/a | n/a | 60 | 48 | 50 | 62 | 49 | 52 |
| Islington | n/a | n/a | n/a | 41 | 47 | 46 | 40 | 40 | 40 |

*Percentage of people registered with a NHS dentist in each PCT in London as at 31 March each year*

| | 1997 | | | 2001 | | | 2005[1] | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Child* | *Adult* | *All* | *Child* | *Adult* | *All* | *Child* | *Adult* | *All* |
| *North East London SHA* | 40 | 49 | 47 | 45 | 37 | 39 | 45 | 36 | 39 |
| Barking and Dagenham | n/a | n/a | n/a | 41 | 35 | 36 | 42 | 35 | 36 |
| City and Hackney Teaching | n/a | n/a | n/a | 28 | 31 | 30 | 26 | 29 | 28 |
| Havering | n/a | n/a | n/a | 60 | 43 | 47 | 62 | 42 | 46 |
| Newham | n/a | n/a | n/a | 40 | 35 | 36 | 40 | 34 | 36 |
| Redbridge | n/a | n/a | n/a | 61 | 45 | 49 | 65 | 48 | 52 |
| Tower Hamlets | n/a | n/a | n/a | 31 | 28 | 28 | 28 | 25 | 26 |
| Waltham Forest | n/a | n/a | n/a | 54 | 39 | 42 | 52 | 38 | 42 |
| *South East London SHA* | 48 | 48 | 48 | 63 | 44 | 49 | 64 | 45 | 49 |
| Bexley | n/a | n/a | n/a | | | | | | |
| Bromley | n/a | n/a | n/a | 56 | 26 | 33 | 60 | 30 | 37 |
| Greenwich Teaching | n/a | n/a | n/a | 61 | 38 | 44 | 62 | 41 | 46 |
| Lambeth | n/a | n/a | n/a | 50 | 45 | 46 | 44 | 37 | 38 |
| Lewisham | n/a | n/a | n/a | 52 | 42 | 44 | 58 | 46 | 49 |
| Southwark | n/a | n/a | n/a | 44 | 39 | 40 | 46 | 40 | 42 |
| *South West London SHA* | 54 | 48 | 49 | 56 | 15 | 28 | 55 | 34 | 39 |
| Croydon | n/a | n/a | n/a | 56 | 41 | 45 | 55 | 39 | 42 |
| Kingston | n/a | n/a | n/a | 64 | 32 | 39 | 62 | 30 | 37 |
| Richmond and Twickenham | n/a | n/a | n/a | 60 | 28 | 35 | 54 | 21 | 27 |
| Sutton and Merton | n/a | n/a | n/a | 51 | 37 | 40 | 56 | 40 | 43 |
| Wandsworth | n/a | n/a | n/a | 55 | 39 | 42 | 51 | 33 | 36 |

n/a = Population data not available.
[1] 2003 estimated population figures.

*Notes:*
1. The number of registrations are based on a snapshot of the Dental Practice Board's registration database taken at the end of March each year and subsequent retrospective notifications of changes to registrations have not been included.
2. An active registration is a patient registered with a dentist at the end of March each year.
3. Some double counting may occur in the totals when a patient has been newly registered with a dentist in one PCT, but not yet de-registered from a dentist in another PCT. These considerations contribute to some of the month-to-month fluctuations at PCT level.
4. Most PDS schemes that have registrations have a re-registration period in excess of 15 months, so the figures for PDS schemes are generally higher than they would have been for the same attendance pattern under GDS.
5. Some PDS schemes do not have any registrations, e.g. dental access centres and will not therefore be included in these figures.
6. A dentist with a GDS or PDS contract may provide as little or as much NHS treatment as he or she chooses or has agreed with the PCT.
7. The Dental Practice Board has no information concerning the amount of time dedicated to NHS work by individual dentists.
8. The patients' registrations have been allocated to areas according to the postcode of the dentist's surgery.
9. The areas have been defined using practice postcodes within the current boundaries.
10. There are a small number of unallocated registrations.

*Number of NHS dentists with GDS and PDS in London as at 31 December*

| | | *1997* | *2001* | *2004* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *North West London SHA* | 1,025 | 1,076 | 1,086 |
| 5K5 | Brent Teaching | 161 | 166 | 176 |
| 5HX | Ealing | 214 | 198 | 191 |
| 5H1 | Hammersmith and Fulham | 133 | 162 | 153 |
| 5K6 | Harrow | 106 | 122 | 130 |
| 5AT | Hillingdon | 106 | 114 | 129 |
| 5HY | Hounslow | 143 | 155 | 143 |
| 5LA | Kensington and Chelsea | 86 | 86 | 92 |
| 5LC | Westminster | 212 | 212 | 198 |
| | *North Central London SHA* | 637 | 722 | 734 |
| 5A9 | Barnet | 182 | 204 | 200 |
| 5K7 | Camden | 153 | 167 | 169 |
| 5C1 | Enfield | 114 | 136 | 164 |
| 5C9 | Haringey Teaching | 129 | 129 | 137 |
| 5K8 | Islington | 89 | 141 | 121 |
| | *North East London SHA* | 529 | 601 | 664 |
| 5C3 | City and Hackney Teaching | 100 | 87 | 89 |
| 5C4 | Tower Hamlets | 65 | 71 | 97 |
| 5A4 | Havering | 84 | 106 | 116 |
| 5C5 | Newham | 83 | 91 | 101 |
| 5NA | Redbridge | 109 | 146 | 147 |
| 5C4 | Tower Hamlets | 65 | 71 | 97 |
| 5NC | Waltham Forest | 81 | 90 | 106 |
| | *South East London SHA* | 626 | 666 | 713 |
| TAK | Bexley | 88 | 89 | 99 |
| 5A7 | Bromley | 139 | 156 | 169 |
| 5A8 | Greenwich Teaching | 95 | 103 | 116 |

*Number of NHS dentists with GDS and PDS in London as at 31 December*

| | | *1997* | *2001* | *2004* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5LD | Lambeth | 132 | 140 | 153 |
| 5LF | Lewisham | 112 | 131 | 120 |
| 5LE | Southwark | 109 | 101 | 108 |
| | *South West London SHA* | 636 | 699 | 714 |
| 5K9 | Croydon | 176 | 178 | 201 |
| 5A5 | Kingston | 69 | 73 | 80 |
| 5M6 | Richmond and Twickenham | 96 | 107 | 116 |
| 5M7 | Sutton and Merton | 166 | 193 | 204 |
| 5LG | Wandsworth | 162 | 177 | 158 |

*Notes:*
1. The figures are based on the numbers of dentists with open GDS or PDS contracts.
2. The dentists include principals, assistants and trainees.
3. Prison contracts have not been included in this analysis.
4. The figures provide a snapshot of the number of individual dentists with an open contract at 31 December.
5. A dentist with a GDS or PDS contract may provide as little or as much NHS treatment as he or she chooses or has agreed with the PCT.
6. The Dental Practice Board has no information concerning the amount of time dedicated to NHS work by individual dentists.
7. The figures provide an accurate figure taking into account any notifications received up to 31 January 2005.
8. The figures given by PCT and SHA include all dentists practising in that area.
9. Some dentists may have an open GDS or PDS contract in more than one PCT or SHA and therefore they will appear in the figures for each PCT in which they practise.

**Steve Webb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the local distance standards for access to NHS dentistry are for each primary care trust; and what *(a)* maximum and *(b)* average distance patients in England are expected to travel to receive NHS dental care under locally agreed standards. [8086]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The information requested has been placed in the Library.

**Steve Webb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many calls to NHS Direct about access to an NHS dentist there were in *(a)* England and *(b)* each strategic health authority in each month since November 2001, broken down by (i) emergency, (ii) urgent, (iii) routine and (iv) other calls. [8089]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Calls to NHS Direct about access to a national health service dentist in each month since November 2001 by emergency, urgent, routine and other are shown in the table. The information relates to England only. Similar information for each strategic health authority area is not routinely collected.

*Number*

| | *Total* | *Emergency* | *Urgent* | *Routine* | *Not known* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| November 2001 | 10,922 | 1,143 | 2,542 | 6,546 | 691 |
| December 2001 | 10,023 | 1,456 | 3,274 | 4,482 | 811 |
| January 2002 | 13,064 | 1,605 | 3,078 | 7,124 | 1,257 |
| February 2002 | 10,316 | 1,073 | 2,902 | 5,535 | 806 |
| March 2002 | 13,336 | 1,061 | 3,849 | 6,742 | 1,684 |
| April 2002 | 15,472 | 1,666 | 4,241 | 8,322 | 1,243 |
| May 2002 | 15,693 | 1,506 | 4,287 | 8,361 | 1,539 |
| June 2002 | 14,726 | 1,551 | 4,598 | 7,145 | 1,432 |
| July 2002 | 16,032 | 1,539 | 4,164 | 8,827 | 1,502 |
| August 2002 | 15,797 | 1,584 | 4,646 | 8,303 | 1,264 |
| September 2002 | 14,862 | 1,387 | 3,886 | 8,229 | 1,360 |
| October 2002 | 15,912 | 1,409 | 3,457 | 9,671 | 1,375 |
| November 2002 | 15,770 | 1,456 | 3,381 | 9,505 | 1,428 |
| December 2002 | 14,629 | 1,729 | 4,308 | 7,149 | 1,443 |
| January 2003 | 17,860 | 1,614 | 3,648 | 10,952 | 1,646 |
| February 2003 | 13,576 | 1,220 | 3,075 | 7,968 | 1,313 |
| March 2003 | 15,325 | 1,416 | 3,407 | 9,093 | 1,409 |
| April 2003 | 15,863 | 1,399 | 3,510 | 9,446 | 1,508 |
| May 2003 | 16,257 | 1,471 | 3,977 | 9,307 | 1,502 |
| June 2003 | 17,404 | 1,563 | 3,823 | 10,485 | 1,533 |
| July 2003 | 19,012 | 1,581 | 4,192 | 10,723 | 2,516 |
| August 2003 | 18,016 | 1,806 | 4,201 | 10,471 | 1,538 |
| September 2003 | 19,472 | 1,708 | 4,117 | 11,350 | 2,297 |
| October 2003 | 19,829 | 1,529 | 3,733 | 10,905 | 3,662 |
| January 2004 | 19,702 | 1,462 | 3,613 | 12,726 | 1,901 |
| February 2004 | 18,258 | 1,575 | 3,653 | 11,312 | 1,718 |
| March 2004 | 19,330 | 1,392 | 3,503 | 12,506 | 1,929 |
| April 2004 | 16,383 | 1,395 | 2,680 | 10,559 | 1,749 |
| May 2004 | 16,202 | 1,762 | 3,949 | 8,701 | 1,790 |
| October 2004 | 23,850 | 2,649 | 4,431 | 14,426 | 2,344 |
| November 2004 | 23,117 | 2,158 | 4,059 | 14,035 | 2,865 |
| December 2004 | 19,550 | 2,603 | 4,602 | 10,206 | 2,139 |
| January 2005 | 20,440 | 2,020 | 3,215 | 12,734 | 2,471 |
| February 2005 | 17,224 | 1,619 | 2,342 | 11,584 | 1,679 |
| March 2005 | 17,547 | 1,725 | 2,739 | 11,318 | 1,765 |
| April 2005 | 19,753 | 1,845 | 2,890 | 12,844 | 2,174 |

*Notes:*
1. Routine includes calls requesting routine information only about where to find a dentist and calls requesting routine dental health advice and information about where to find a dentist.
2. Data for November and December 2003 and June to September 2004 is not available.

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many dentists in Greater London have live personal dentist service contracts; how many dentists in Greater London have applied for personal dentist service contracts; and if she will make a statement. [8692]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** As of 31 May 2005, there are 119 personal dental service (PDS) contracts operating in Greater London. As of 30 June 2005, there are 221 applications for PDS contracts which had been made to the Department.

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many graduates in dentistry qualified in *(a)* 2003–04 and *(b)* 2004–05. [9286]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** In England 578 dental students graduated in 2003–04. The provisional figure for 2004–05 is 588.

**Steve Webb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many dentists there are in *(a)* England and *(b)* each strategic health authority (i) in total and (ii) who are recorded on NHS.UK as accepting new NHS patients. [9374]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Information on the number of dentists in the United Kingdom, by strategic health authority (SHA) is shown in the table.

Information about dentists taking on new national health service patients is not centrally collected. However, some information about dental practices within primary care trusts (PCTs) currently taking on new NHS patients can be found on the NHS website at http://www.nhs.uk/England/AuthoritiesTrusts/Pct/list.aspx

Not all dentists who are accepting new patients indicate this on NHS.UK. However PCTs and NHS Direct are able to provide this information to local people.

*General dental service (GDS) and personal dental service (PDS), number of dentists in England by SHA area as at 31 March 2005*

| | | Number |
|---|---|---|
| England | | 20,088 |
| Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire SHA | Q20 | 993 |
| Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire SHA | Q02 | 841 |
| Birmingham and The Black Country SHA | Q27 | 880 |
| Cheshire and Merseyside SHA | Q15 | 1,020 |
| County Durham and Tees Valley SHA | Q10 | 411 |
| Cumbria and Lancashire SHA | Q13 | 746 |
| Dorset and Somerset SHA | Q22 | 521 |
| Essex SHA | Q03 | 628 |
| Greater Manchester SHA | Q14 | 1,032 |
| Hampshire and Isle of Wight SHA | Q17 | 771 |
| Kent and Medway SHA | Q18 | 644 |
| Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland SHA | Q25 | 535 |
| Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire SHA | Q01 | 883 |
| North and East Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire SHA | Q11 | 629 |
| North Central London SHA | Q05 | 743 |
| North East London SHA | Q06 | 679 |
| North West London SHA | Q04 | 1,101 |
| Northumberland, Tyne and Wear SHA | Q09 | 567 |
| Shropshire and Staffordshire SHA | Q26 | 571 |
| South East London SHA | Q07 | 708 |
| South West London SHA | Q08 | 717 |
| South West Peninsula SHA | Q21 | 738 |
| South Yorkshire SHA | Q23 | 500 |
| Surrey and Sussex SHA | Q19 | 1,388 |
| Thames Valley SHA | Q16 | 1,107 |
| Trent SHA | Q24 | 948 |
| West Midlands South SHA | Q28 | 683 |
| West Yorkshire SHA | Q12 | 800 |

*Notes:*

1. The figures given by SHA include all dentists practicing in that area. Some dentists may have an open GDS or PDS contract in more than one SHA and therefore have been counted more than once. Therefore the England figure is not a sum of SHA totals.

2. Prison contracts have been excluded.

3. The areas have been defined using practice postcodes within the specified areas.

*Source:*

Dental Practice Board.

**Steve Webb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health which primary care trusts do not comply with *(a)* clinical and *(b)* distance standards for providing full access to NHS dentistry. [9375]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Primary care trusts (PCTs) are responsible for setting local distance standards for access to dentistry, and for monitoring these standards. Information on each PCTs performance against its own local standards is not collected centrally.

There are currently no clinical standards for national health service dentistry that PCTs are monitored against.

**Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidelines have been provided to NHS dentists regarding the cost of dentures. [10076]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The statement of dental remuneration issued under the NHS General Dental Services regulations 1992 provides for the following payments shown in the table.

£

| *Type of denture* | *Synthetic resin* | *Chrome cobalt or stainless steel* |
|---|---|---|
| Dentists fee | 158.10 | 279.60 |
| Patient charge[1] | 126.48 | 222.88 |
| Total received by dentist | 284.58 | 502.48 |

[1] Where the patient is exempt from dental charges the dentists receives the full amount from national health service funds.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of children *(a)* under the age of five years and *(b)* under the age of 10 years have experienced (i) tooth decay and (ii) one or more fillings in each year since 1985–86; and if she will make a statement. [12087]

**Ms Rosie Winterton** *[holding answer 18 July 2005]:* The available information, which is shown in the following tables, compares the results of the decennial child dental health surveys carried out in 1983, 1993 and 2003 and shows a very encouraging improvement in the oral health of children.

*Table 1: Proportion of children with obvious decay experience in primary teeth by age (United Kingdom, 1983, 1993, 2003)*

*Percentage of children*

| | *Aged* | |
|---|---|---|
| *Tooth condition* | *Five* | *Eight* |
| *Decay into dentine* | | |
| 1983 | 41 | 49 |
| 1993 | 40 | 50 |
| 2003a[1] | 40 | 51 |
| 2003b[2] | 40 | 50 |
| *Filled (otherwise sound)* | | |
| 1983 | 23 | 47 |
| 1993 | 15 | 33 |
| 2003a[1] | 11 | 24 |
| 2003b[2] | 12 | 26 |
| *Obvious decay experience* | | |
| 1983 | 50 | 70 |
| 1993 | 45 | 61 |
| 2003a[1] | 43 | 57 |
| 2003b[2] | 43 | 57 |
| *Filled teeth as a percentage of obvious decay experience* | | |
| 1983 | 28 | 50 |
| 1993 | 17 | 35 |
| 2003a[1] | 13 | 24 |
| 2003b[2] | 15 | 28 |

[1] Criteria used for 2003 survey: $d_{3cv}$ mft (decayed, missing, or filled teeth) includes visual caries.

[2] Criteria used for 1993 survey:$d_{3c}$ mft does not include visual caries.

*Table 2: Proportion of children with obvious decay experience in permanent teeth by age (United Kingdom, 1983, 1993, 2003)*

*Percentage of children*

| *Tooth condition* | *Aged Eight* | *12* | *15* |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Decay into dentine* | | | |
| 1983 | 19 | 32 | 42 |
| 1993 | 12 | 24 | 30 |
| 2003a[1] | 14 | 29 | 32 |
| 2003b[2] | 7 | 12 | 13 |
| *Filled (otherwise sound)* | | | |
| 1983 | 25 | 69 | 85 |
| 1993 | 8 | 39 | 52 |
| 2003a[1] | 7 | 25 | 41 |
| 2003b[2] | 7 | 26 | 42 |
| *Missing due to decay* | | | |
| 1983 | 2 | 14 | 24 |
| 1993 | 1 | 7 | 7 |
| 2003 | 1 | 3 | 6 |
| *Obvious decay experience* | | | |
| 1983 | 38 | 81 | 93 |
| 1993 | 19 | 52 | 63 |
| 2003a[1] | 19 | 43 | 57 |
| 2003b[2] | 14 | 34 | 49 |
| *Filled teeth as a percentage of obvious decay experience* | | | |
| 1983 | 58 | 70 | 74 |
| 1993 | 37 | 58 | 68 |
| 2003a[1] | 30 | 46 | 57 |
| 2003b[2] | 52 | 69 | 77 |

[1] Criteria used for 2003 survey: $D_{3cv}$ MFT (decayed, missing or filled teeth) includes visual caries.

[2] Criteria used for 1993 survey: $D_{3c}$ MFT excludes visual caries.

**Anne Main:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many complaints her Department has received regarding access to dental care since 1997. [10847]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The Department's correspondence system does not separate complaints from other forms of correspondence. Since the present record system began in December 2001, we have received 4,309 pieces of correspondence on access to dentistry. This number represents 1.75 per cent, of all correspondence received by the Department in that period.

### Disability in Unborn Babies

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance her Department issues to women expecting a baby on the definition of disability. [10919]

**Mr. Byrne:** The Department does not issue such guidance to pregnant women. The Department does however produce the 'Pregnancy Book', which is given to all first time mothers. The book contains a very broad range of information, including what to do if you are worried about having a baby with an abnormality. The book encourages women to discuss any concerns that they may have during their pregnancy with an appropriate health professional, given that advice, support and counselling may be required by the woman.

The Government subscribes to the social model of disability; that disability is defined as the disadvantage experienced by an individual as a result of barriers that impact on people with impairments and ill health.

### Doctors

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* junior house officers and *(b)* senior house officers employed in the most recent year for which figures are available did not receive their degree in medicine from a UK higher education institution. [12633]

**Mr. Byrne:** The number of medically qualified pre-registration house officers and senior house officers and equivalents, employed in the national health service in England at 30 September 2004, whose primary medical qualification was from a higher education institution outside the United Kingdom, was 630 and 9,362 respectively.

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the likely impact of Article III-379 of the Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe on the implementation of a 48-hour week for doctors; and if she will make a statement. [9052]

**Mr. Byrne:** Article III-379 relates to the general powers of the Court of Justice of the European Union. It is not specific to the Working Time Directive. This Article replicates Article 242 of the Treaty of Rome and does not give rise to any new considerations.

### Emergency Contraception

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many morning-after pills have been distributed by Oxford Primary Care Trust in each of the last 48 months. [12776]

**Caroline Flint:** The information requested is shown in the table.

*British National Formulary name—Levonorgestrel*

| *Period name* | *Total items* | *Total act cost (£)* |
|---|---|---|
| June 2001 | 132 | 676.61 |
| July 2001 | 70 | 353.85 |
| August 2001 | 75 | 377.95 |
| September 2001 | 92 | 469.83 |
| October 2001 | 213 | 1,072.47 |
| November 2001 | 201 | 979.15 |
| December 2001 | 94 | 450.64 |
| January 2002 | 147 | 705.03 |
| February 2002 | 166 | 795.20 |
| March 2002 | 155 | 785.05 |
| April 2002 | 98 | 479.84 |
| May 2002 | 176 | 884.09 |
| June 2002 | 123 | 579.85 |
| July 2002 | 108 | 558.01 |
| August 2002 | 67 | 367.53 |
| September 2002 | 84 | 439.80 |
| October 2002 | 120 | 619.12 |
| November 2002 | 194 | 1,156.24 |
| December 2002 | 109 | 602.07 |
| January 2003 | 112 | 700.08 |
| February 2003 | 167 | 955.06 |
| March 2003 | 107 | 1,144.72 |
| April 2003 | 115 | 697.73 |
| May 2003 | 178 | 1,032.09 |
| June 2003 | 163 | 873.86 |
| July 2003 | 102 | 630.91 |
| August 2003 | 74 | 414.22 |
| September 2003 | 150 | 828.03 |
| October 2003 | 152 | 924.92 |
| November 2003 | 157 | 924.54 |
| December 2003 | 117 | 632.91 |

*British National Formulary name—Levonorgestrel*

| *Period name* | *Total items* | *Total act cost (£)* |
|---|---|---|
| January 2004 | 138 | 723.20 |
| February 2004 | 146 | 783.14 |
| March 2004 | 144 | 743.98 |
| April 2004 | 150 | 813.48 |
| May 2004 | 149 | 900.66 |
| June 2004 | 170 | 907.13 |
| July 2004 | 91 | 476.12 |
| August 2004 | 99 | 522.68 |
| September 2004 | 81 | 457.55 |
| October 2004 | 180 | 1,000.29 |
| November 2004 | 184 | 1,076.72 |
| December 2004 | 150 | 848.09 |
| January 2005 | 96 | 575.30 |
| February 2005 | 128 | 658.32 |
| March 2005 | 135 | 673.38 |
| April 2005 | 158 | 823.84 |
| May 2005 | 155 | 815.72 |

*Notes:*
*ePACT Data*
1. This information was obtained from the Prescribing Analysis and Cost (PACT) system, which covers prescriptions prescribed by GP practices in England and dispensed in the community in the UK. Prescriptions written within a GP practice but dispensed outside the primary care trust will be included in the PCT in which the GP practice is based.
2. Prescriptions written in England but dispensed outside England are included. Prescriptions written in hospitals/clinics that are dispensed in the community, prescriptions dispensed in hospitals and private prescriptions are not included in PACT data. It is important to note this as some BNF sections have a high proportion of prescriptions written in hospitals that are dispensed in the community. For example, BNF chapter 4, "Central Nervous System" has a fair proportion of items written in mental health clinics that are dispensed in the community—these prescriptions are not included in the PACT data.
*Source:*
Based on the Selections:
PCT Oxford City
for National at Summary Level Selected Organisations
Levonorgestrel
for BNF at Summary Level Selected Drugs.
Date produced 13 July 2005

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much Oxford Primary Care Trust has spent training pharmacists in the use of the morning-after pill in each of the last five years for which figures are available; and how much they plan to spend in each of the next three years. [12777]

**Caroline Flint:** The Department does not collect these figures.

Oxford Primary Care Trust (PCT) organised a sponsored training event in 2004. Each pharmacy receives a set-up fee of £100 which includes attending a training event. The PCT has paid £400 to date as four pharmacies have taken part.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance her Department *(a)* has issued and *(b)* plans to issue to (i) general practitioners and (ii) pharmacists regarding the availability of emergency contraception over the counter without prescription from dispensing chemists. [12787]

**Caroline Flint:** The Department has not, and does not plan to issue guidance to general practitioners regarding the availability of emergency contraception over the counter without prescription from dispensing chemists. Guidance for pharmacists on emergency hormonal contraception is available in the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain's practice guidance, which is regularly reviewed and updated.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what measures are in place to ensure that a woman's medical history is known before she is prescribed the morning-after pill; [10572]

(2) what follow-up care is available to women prescribed the morning-after pill; and if she will make a statement; [10573]

(3) whether she defines the morning-after pill as an abortifacient; and if she will make a statement; [10574]

(4) what assessment she has made of the impact of the morning-after pill on the abortion rate; [10575]

(5) if she will consider the hearings and report from the United States Senate Judiciary Committee on the Human Life Bill of the 97th Congress; [10508]

(6) for what reasons her Department promotes the morning-after pill as a way to reduce the rate of teenage pregnancies. [10859]

**Caroline Flint:** The Faculty of Family Planning and Reproductive Health Care published guidance on emergency contraception. Updated in June 2003, this includes information and recommendations on the aftercare and follow up required for women receiving emergency contraception, including Levonorgestrel, and the clinical examination and investigation needed before emergency contraception is provided. In addition, guidance about the possible side effects associated with taking emergency contraception is provided in the patient information leaflet included in the medicine pack. The possible side effects of the emergency contraceptive, Levenorgestrel, are also included in the information that is provided to health professionals (the summary of product characteristics), who are encouraged to discuss these side effects with the individual before treatment is provided. Pharmacists are supplied with a protocol that contains a checklist of advice that should be given to each individual when she is given Levenorgestrel, which includes the side effects which may occur.

I understand that the United States Senate Judiciary Committee on the Human Life Bill of the 97th Congress concerned the provision that human life shall be deemed to exist from conception. This issue was considered as part of the same High Court hearing which found that emergency hormonal contraception is not a method of abortion. This issue was considered in 2002 in the High Court, where it was found that the supply and use of emergency contraception is lawful and that the prevention of implantation, which is brought about by emergency contraception products, does not amount to procuring a miscarriage under the 1861 Offences Against the Person Act.

We are not aware of any research that has been undertaken which assesses the impact of the wider availability of emergency contraception, also known as the morning after pill, on the abortion rate. Variations in the abortion rate are subject to a number of different factors, including the conception rate.

Improving access to a wide variety of contraceptive methods is an important part of the Government's strategy to reduce the numbers of unintended pregnancies, including teenage pregnancies. However, the Government does not promote any one method of contraception in preference to others. The type of method used should be chosen by the women, in consultation with a health care professional. Emergency contraception is not designed to be used as a regular method of contraception.

### Ethical Recruitment

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many recruitment agencies have been removed from the list of recruitment agencies complying with the code of practice on international recruitment since 2001; [12608]

(2) if she will estimate the number and proportion of recruitment agencies in England that are on the list of agencies which adhere to the code of practice on international recruitment. [12635]

**Mr. Byrne:** The number of agencies listed as compliant with the code of practice is 233. Data that identify the number of agencies supplying the national health service are not collected centrally.

Between early 2001 and July 2005, seven agencies were removed from the list of agencies compliant with the code.

All NHS employers are strongly commended to adhere to the code of practice in all matters concerning the international recruitment of healthcare professionals across all disciplines.

### EU Clinical Trials Directive

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what policy considerations underlay the full implementation of the EU Clinical Trials Directive. [13796]

**Jane Kennedy** *[holding answer 20 July 2005]:* The Government's policy to protect public health includes the protection of the rights, safety and wellbeing of people who participate in clinical trials that test the safety and efficacy of essential new medicines for those with disease. The Clinical Trials Directive (2001/20/EC) underpins this policy throughout the European Union by introducing a statutory basis for international standards of good clinical practice for commencing, conducting and verifying the results of clinical trials, for good manufacturing practice that provides assurance of the quality of medicines being tested, inspection against these standards and enforcement for non-compliance. Many of the requirements of the Directive were already accepted standards for governance of research in the United Kingdom before it was implemented by the Medicines for Human Use (Clinical Trials) Regulations 2004.

### Foetal Viability

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she has made of the earliest gestational age at which an unborn child may be capable of being born alive. [10605]

**Caroline Flint:** The Births and Deaths Registration Act 1953, as amended, provides for the registration of babies born dead after 24 weeks gestation and this is described as the legal age of viability. Guidance from the British Association of Perinatal Medicine introduces the concept of a "threshold of viability" as being from 22 to 26 weeks gestation. Although the possibility of survival of extremely pre-term babies has improved, data suggests that, even with modern intensive care, chances of survival at 22 weeks gestation are only approximately 1 per cent., whereas this increases to 26 per cent. at 24 weeks. A recent briefing paper from the British Medical Association, "Abortion time limits", highlighted that gestational age is not the only factor that affects the possibility of a foetus being considered viable.

### Food Supplements Directive

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reasons the Food Supplements Directive was not discussed at the Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council meeting on 2 and 3 June. [9646]

**Caroline Flint:** The Food Supplements Directive was not on the agenda for the Health Council on 2 and 3 June. I have spoken to the Commissioner for Health and Consumer Affairs for the European Commission regarding the directive. We are, of course, in close communication with the Commission and are encouraged with the constructive responses we have been getting.

We have made clear that we want consumers to continue to have a wide choice of supplements. At the same time, consumers need the information to make their choice an informed one.

### Foreign Animal Species

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of illness due to exposure to foreign animal species have been reported in each of the last five years; and what species were involved in each case. [8980]

**Caroline Flint:** The Department does not have ready access to the information requested. The Health Protection Agency holds surveillance information for several zoonotic diseases, including food poisoning, but will not usually be able to relate this directly to exposure to foreign animal species. For diseases where this can be done, such as rabies and anthrax exposure, the figures for the United Kingdom are shown in the following table.

| | *Rabies* | *Anthrax* |
|---|---|---|
| 2000 | 0 | 0 |
| 2001 | 2 | 2 |
| 2002 | 1 | 0 |
| 2003 | 0 | 0 |
| 2004 | 0 | 0 |

For both the rabies cases in 2001, these were acquired abroad and were due to direct exposure to infected dogs. Both patients died. The rabies case in 2002 was also fatal. It was due to direct exposure within the UK to a species of bat which also occurs abroad. Both the cases

of anthrax recovered following treatment and were due to exposure within the UK to infected animal skins, though the species of animal is not known.

### General Practitioners

**Anne Milton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 8 June 2005, *Official Report*, columns 586–87W to the hon. Member for Northavon (Steve Webb) on general practitioner appointments, what plans she has to redraft the general practitioners' contract to address problems encountered by patients who are unable to book appointments in advance. [8784]

**Mr. Byrne:** A review of the current general practice contractual framework is being undertaken by the NHS Employers Organisation.

**Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 12 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 974W, on general practitioner practices, and what the average list size is of general medical practitioners in England. [13512]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answer 19 July 2005]:* Since the introduction of the new general medical service contract in April 2004, patients have registered with the practice rather than the practitioner. The average number of patients per practitioner, excluding retainers and registrars, is described as the number of patients for whom the partnership is responsible divided by the number of practitioners, excluding general practitioner registrars and retainers, who belong to or work in that partnership. This figure for England as at 30 September 2004 was 1,666.

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* general practitioner surgeries and *(b)* single-handed general practitioner surgeries there were in each of the last five years for which figures are available, broken down by (i) region and (ii) health authority. [10161]

**Mr. Byrne:** The information requested is available by strategic health authority (SHA), but not by primary care trust (PCT) area. This information is shown in the tables.

*GP practices[1] by specified partnership size, by strategic health authority, 1999–2004*

*Number count*

| | | 1999 | | 2000 | | 2001 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | *Practices* | *Single handed GP practices* | *Practices* | *Single handed GP practices* | *Practices* | *Single handed GP practices* |
| | *England* | 9,034 | 2,721 | 8,965 | 2,662 | 8,910 | 2,626 |
| | *North East* | 415 | 100 | 407 | 92 | 408 | 86 |
| Q9 | Northumberland Tyne and Wear, | 243 | 58 | 240 | 54 | 240 | 51 |
| Q10 | County Durham and Tees Valley | 172 | 42 | 167 | 38 | 168 | 35 |
| | *North West* | 1,423 | 478 | 1,424 | 484 | 1,398 | 470 |
| Q13 | Cumbria and Lancashire | 387 | 129 | 382 | 128 | 378 | 125 |
| Q14 | Greater Manchester | 587 | 220 | 590 | 224 | 572 | 211 |
| Q15 | Cheshire and Merseyside | 449 | 129 | 452 | 132 | 448 | 134 |
| | *Yorkshire and the Humber* | 889 | 255 | 877 | 249 | 878 | 243 |
| Q11 | North and East Yorkshire and Northern Lincoln | 268 | 69 | 263 | 69 | 265 | 70 |
| Q12 | West Yorkshire | 388 | 120 | 382 | 115 | 384 | 114 |
| Q23 | South Yorkshire | 233 | 66 | 232 | 65 | 229 | 59 |
| | *East Midlands* | 663 | 162 | 653 | 150 | 653 | 145 |
| Q24 | Trent | 431 | 101 | 428 | 94 | 427 | 92 |
| Q25 | Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland | 232 | 61 | 225 | 56 | 226 | 53 |
| | *West Midlands* | 1,061 | 385 | 1,052 | 373 | 1,050 | 386 |
| Q26 | Shropshire and Staffordshire | 274 | 97 | 272 | 99 | 272 | 105 |
| Q27 | Birmingham and The Black Country | 543 | 240 | 537 | 228 | 536 | 236 |
| Q28 | West Midlands South | 244 | 48 | 243 | 46 | 242 | 45 |
| | *East of England* | 823 | 185 | 830 | 197 | 819 | 194 |
| Q01 | Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire | 306 | 37 | 308 | 39 | 309 | 44 |
| Q02 | Bedford and Hertfordshire | 232 | 48 | 233 | 52 | 231 | 54 |
| Q03 | Essex | 285 | 100 | 289 | 106 | 279 | 96 |
| | *London* | 1,729 | 753 | 1,711 | 737 | 1,713 | 739 |
| Q04 | North West London | 471 | 216 | 466 | 217 | 469 | 210 |
| Q05 | North Central London | 306 | 142 | 308 | 144 | 309 | 140 |
| Q06 | North East London | 384 | 186 | 382 | 182 | 384 | 196 |
| Q07 | South East London | 311 | 125 | 305 | 115 | 307 | 117 |
| Q08 | South West London | 257 | 84 | 250 | 79 | 244 | 76 |
| | *South East* | 1,257 | 298 | 1,238 | 274 | 1,224 | 266 |
| Q16 | Thames Valley | 306 | 52 | 302 | 49 | 297 | 40 |
| Q17 | Hampshire and isle of Wight | 243 | 30 | 241 | 27 | 239 | 26 |
| Q18 | Kent and Medway | 317 | 129 | 309 | 116 | 308 | 118 |
| Q19 | Surrey and Sussex | 391 | 87 | 386 | 82 | 380 | 82 |
| | *South West* | 774 | 105 | 773 | 106 | 767 | 97 |
| Q20 | Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire | 330 | 46 | 329 | 48 | 328 | 46 |
| Q21 | South West Peninsula | 257 | 32 | 257 | 31 | 254 | 29 |
| Q22 | Somerset and Dorset | 187 | 27 | 187 | 27 | 185 | 22 |

*Number count*

| | | 2002 | | 2003 | | 2004 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | *Practices* | *Single handed GP practices* | *Practices* | *Single handed GP practices* | *Practices* | *Single handed GP practices* |
| | *England* | 8,833 | 2,566 | 8,833 | 2,578 | 8,542 | 2,285 |
| | *North East* | 407 | 83 | 409 | 91 | 406 | 91 |
| Q9 | Northumberland, Tyne and Wear | 238 | 46 | 241 | 54 | 237 | 56 |
| Q10 | County Durham and Tees Valley | 169 | 37 | 168 | 37 | 169 | 35 |
| | North West | 1,377 | 460 | 1,361 | 442 | 1,327 | 424 |
| Q13 | Cumbria and Lancashire | 370 | 119 | 362 | 116 | 356 | 113 |
| Q14 | Greater Manchester | 562 | 209 | 557 | 199 | 545 | 196 |
| Q15 | Cheshire and Merseyside | 445 | 132 | 442 | 127 | 426 | 115 |
| | *Yorkshire and the Humber* | 875 | 243 | 865 | 227 | 836 | 196 |
| Q11 | North and East Yorkshire and Northern Lincoln | 266 | 74 | 262 | 66 | 253 | 56 |
| Q12 | West Yorkshire | 383 | 107 | 381 | 103 | 364 | 85 |
| Q23 | South Yorkshire | 226 | 62 | 222 | 58 | 219 | 55 |
| | *East Midlands* | 648 | 143 | 643 | 138 | 635 | 124 |
| Q24 | Trent | 425 | 95 | 419 | 84 | 412 | 69 |
| Q25 | Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland | 223 | 48 | 226 | 54 | 223 | 55 |
| | *West Midlands* | 1,036 | 385 | 1,028 | 384 | 996 | 352 |
| Q26 | Shropshire and Staffordshire | 267 | 100 | 270 | 104 | 255 | 84 |
| Q27 | Birmingham and The Black Country | 530 | 238 | 521 | 233 | 507 | 225 |
| Q28 | West Midlands South | 239 | 47 | 237 | 47 | 234 | 43 |
| | *East of England* | 806 | 182 | 810 | 194 | 804 | 189 |
| Q01 | Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire | 301 | 37 | 303 | 38 | 300 | 31 |
| Q02 | Bedford and Hertfordshire | 230 | 52 | 232 | 54 | 231 | 52 |
| Q03 | Essex | 275 | 93 | 275 | 102 | 273 | 106 |
| | *London* | 1,696 | 722 | 1,752 | 768 | 1,607 | 606 |
| Q04 | North West London | 457 | 200 | 472 | 214 | 441 | 179 |
| Q05 | North Central London | 313 | 145 | 320 | 159 | 291 | 127 |
| Q06 | North East London | 381 | 194 | 376 | 183 | 349 | 149 |
| Q07 | South East London | 300 | 112 | 332 | 143 | 294 | 100 |
| Q08 | South West London | 245 | 71 | 252 | 69 | 232 | 51 |
| | *South East* | 1,224 | 256 | 1,209 | 254 | 1,180 | 225 |
| Q16 | Thames Valley | 302 | 46 | 299 | 44 | 291 | 33 |
| Q17 | Hampshire and Isle of Wight | 241 | 25 | 235 | 28 | 232 | 21 |
| Q18 | Kent and Medway | 302 | 113 | 296 | 106 | 290 | 107 |
| Q19 | Surrey and Sussex | 379 | 72 | 379 | 76 | 367 | 64 |
| | *South West* | 764 | 92 | 754 | 80 | 751 | 78 |
| Q20 | Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire | 326 | 41 | 326 | 36 | 323 | 37 |
| Q21 | South West Peninsula | 253 | 29 | 252 | 29 | 252 | 28 |
| Q22 | Somerset and Dorset | 185 | 22 | 176 | 15 | 176 | 13 |

[1] Figures can not be calculated prior to 2004 for single handed practitioners (excluding GP registrars and GP retainers). Therefore figures shown refer to single handed contracted GPs. A single handed contracted GP is one who has no partners, although they may have a GMS/PMS other, GP registrar or GP retainer.

*Note:*
Data as at 1 October 1999–2000 and 30 September 2001–04.

*Source:*
NHS Health and Social Care Information Centre. General and Personal Medical Services Statistics.

### Genito-urinary Infections

**Dr. Evan Harris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she has made of the number of cases of *(a)* gonorrhoea, *(b)* Chlamydia and *(c)* syphilis which were diagnosed in primary care or elsewhere in 2004–05 but were not reported by genito-urinary medicine clinics or not included in their statistics; and if she will make a statement. [12924]

**Caroline Flint:** Data on the diagnoses of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) in not collected centrally. The Department, however, is currently funding a project to develop a common data set for sexual health with the aim of it being approved as a national health service information standard by August 2006. The project is being overseen by a project board including representatives of the British Association for Sexual Health and HIV, the Faculty of Family Planning and Reproductive Health Care and other clinicians, including general practitioners. The common data set will be collected through the systems being put in place by the National Programme for IT and the data, including information from primary care, will be made available for surveillance, performance monitoring and other national purposes through the secondary uses service.

### Graduate Fast-track Medical Places

**Steve Webb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many graduate fast track medical places there were in the latest year for which figures are available;

how many applicants there were for each place; and what plans she has to increase the number of places available. [8094]

**Mr. Byrne:** The planned number of graduate entry four-year course places in England in academic year 2004–05 was 593. Information from the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service shows that the number of applicants for such places totalled 4,211 and the number of accepted applicants was 665. Information from the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE), which records the number of students on the first year of these courses, including students who have deferred entry from a previous year and students repeating the year due to examination failure of ill health, shows that intake to these courses in 2004–05 was 691.

The Department and HEFCE will shortly be considering the potential for further expansion of medical student numbers.

### Health Authorities/Trusts

**Frank Dobson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 11 July 2005, reference 10011, when her Department ceased to collect information informally on the current financial position of health authorities and trusts which might be in deficit. [12148]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answer 14 July 2005]:* The Department does collect monitoring information on the financial position of the national health service but does not publish information on individual NHS bodies until audited information is available because information changes during the financial year.

The latest year for which audited data on the financial position of NHS organisations is available is 2003–04.

**Mr. Greg Knight:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much health authorities have spent on the *(a)* purchase, *(b)* leasing and *(c)* refurbishment of new offices in the past two years for which figures are available, broken down by authority. [10674]

**Mr. Byrne:** The information requested is not collected centrally.

### Health Service Job Losses

**Greg Mulholland:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment her Department has made of the planned job losses in Leeds hospitals; and if she will take steps to ensure the standard of health care provision will not change as a consequence of these proposals; [13800]

(2) if she will meet representatives of the hospital staff unions to discuss proposed health service job losses in Leeds. [13798]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answer 20 July 2005]:* National health service trusts have a statutory responsibility to ensure financial balance. Leeds teaching hospitals NHS trust is working with its primary care trust partners and the west Yorkshire strategic health authority (SHA) to ensure that it achieves financial balance. The trust has put in place a service improvement plan that will redesign services to offer better treatment for patients with a greater emphasis on an increased use of community-based services. The strategic health authority is confident that the trust will deliver financial balance while maintaining levels of service to patients.

I have no plans to meet with representatives of the hospital staff unions.

### Healthcare Commission Inspection Reports

**Mr. Boswell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what response her Department plans to make to the findings of the local inspection reports published by the Healthcare Commission as part of its review of the National Service Framework for Older People. [12569]

**Mr. Byrne:** The Department will wait until the national conclusions of the Healthcare Commission's work are available before deciding what its response might be.

The Healthcare Commission has recently been sharing the individual local inspections with the Department, but the only comments sought on these have been on factual accuracy.

### Herbal Medicinal Products

**Dr. Iddon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment she has made of the consistency between the proposed implementation of the traditional herbal medicinal products directive and World Health Organisation policies for the promotion of traditional and complementary medicine as a way of improving public health; [13030]

(2) what the basis was for the statement in the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency's consultation document MLX 325 on the traditional herbal medicinal products directive that small and medium-sized enterprises typically manufacture simpler products requiring less sophisticated quality control; [13027]

(3) what assessment she has made of the total number of herbal products that may require registering under the provisions of the traditional herbal medicinal products directive; how many of those products she estimates will be based on *(a)* a single active herbal ingredient, *(b)* a mixture of two herbal ingredients and *(c)* a more complex mixture of several herbal ingredients; what estimate she has made of the likely registration fees for each of those categories of products in England; and if she will make a statement. [13028]

**David Tredinnick:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment she has made of the effect of legislation and regulation on small and medium-sized manufacturers of herbal medicines; what assessment she has made of whether any manufacturers will cease to trade as a result of regulatory burdens; whether she has discussed sector regulation with *(a)* the Health Food Manufacturers Association and *(b)* the Herbal Forum; and if she will make a statement; [13104]

(2) what assessment she has made of the effect on *(a)* new product innovation and development and *(b)* business profitability and employment potential of the (i) registration fees, (ii) testing costs and (iii) quality procedures proposed by the Medicines and Healthcare

Products Regulatory Agency in connection with implementation of the Traditional Herbal Medicinal Products Directive. [13128]

**Jane Kennedy:** We believe that the implementation of the directive on traditional herbal medicinal products is fully consistent with the World Health Organisation's (WHO) policies on traditional and complementary medicine. The WHO has noted that unregulated or inappropriate use of such medicines can have dangerous effects and has said that it is important for governments to establish regulatory mechanisms to control the safety and quality of products. The directive is designed to give the consumer assurance as to standards of safety, quality and patient information in relation to traditional herbal medicines.

### Hospital Episode Statistics

**Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of maternity services comply with the requirement to submit maternity tail data as part of the Hospital Episode Statistics; and what measures she is taking to ensure that all NHS trusts return the Hospital Episode Statistics maternity tail data. [10432]

**Mr. Byrne:** Information is not available in the form requested. In 2003–04, about 72 per cent. of delivery records in the hospital episode statistics (HES) included usable maternity tail data.

Completion of the maternity tail is included in regular assessments of HES data quality.

### Hospital Infections

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) which infections will be covered by the national code of practice for the prevention of hospital acquired infections; [10951]

(2) when she expects a national code of practice for the prevention of hospital acquired infections to be implemented; [10952]

(3) which organisations have been consulted on the development of a national code of practice for the prevention of hospital acquired infections; [10953]

(4) when she expects to publish a national code of practice for the prevention of hospital acquired infections. [10954]

**Jane Kennedy:** The draft code of practice, published on Friday 15 July, 2005, for consultation, brings together guidance on systems that will reduce the risk of all health care associated infections. An early draft of the code was shaped with representatives from a number of organisations, including the Healthcare Commission, the Infection Control Nurses Association and the Association of Medical Microbiologists.

Legislation, which will include powers to publish the new code of practice as part of a range of measures, will be introduced later this year. If passed by Parliament, these measures should come into effect during 2006.

### Infertility

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she has made of the number of women in England aged *(a)* 16 to 24, *(b)* 25 to 30, *(c)* 30 to 35, *(d)* 36 to 40 and *(e)* over 40 years who were infertile in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [12726]

**Caroline Flint:** Information on numbers of infertile women is not collected centrally by the Department or the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA). The HFEA estimates that one in seven couples in the United Kingdom experience difficulty in conceiving, although most will conceive naturally, given time.

### Information Technology (Expenditure)

**Steve Webb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what her most recent estimate is of how much was spent by *(a)* the NHS, *(b)* each strategic health authority and *(c)* each NHS trust in England on information technology; [4553]

(2) what her policy is on the percentage of their total budget that NHS trusts should spend on information technology per annum; and what percentage of their total budget was spent by each NHS trust on information technology in the last year for which figures are available. [5944]

**Mr. Byrne:** Information management and technology (IM and T) expenditure reported by the national health service in the 2003–04 financial year amounted to £1,100 million, broken down as follows:

| | *Amount (£ million)* |
|---|---|
| Strategic health authorities (SHAs) | 8 |
| Primary care trusts (PCTs) | 350 |
| NHS trusts | 741 |

*Note:*
Figures are rounded to nearest whole million.

These figures comprise revenue expenditure reported through a national survey of IM and T investment (£865 million), and capital expenditure, including IT additions and software licences, identified in NHS Accounts (£234 million). They do not include expenditure by special health authorities or central expenditure through the Department.

The total revenue expenditure is incomplete and represents the sum of returns provided by 568 out of 600 NHS organisations in response to the national survey.

A breakdown of this expenditure by each SHA, PCT and NHS trust has been placed in the Library.

There is no specific numerical target for NHS trust expenditure on IT. However, we have always made it clear that we expect NHS trusts to follow the recommendations in the 2002 Wanless report to increase this to around 4 per cent. of total NHS spend by 2008.

### Mental Health

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will place in the Library copies of the responses to

the consultation document on the independent mental capacity advocacy service; and if she will make a statement. [13637]

**Mr. Byrne:** The Department launched the consultation on the arrangements for the future provision of the independent mental capacity advocacy (IMCA) service on 5 July 2005. In addition to the consultation documents, the Government are planning to hold a series of workshops to allow people to put forward their views in a less formal context. The consultation ends on 30 September 2005. The Government will publish the results of the consultation and will place this in the Library.

**David Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she expects the Race Equality Impact Assessment of the draft Mental Health Bill to be completed. [13519]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** We will publish a Race Equality Impact Assessment alongside the Bill when it is published, prior to its introduction. The impact assessment will be important in helping us to ensure that the new legislation is implemented fairly for black and minority ethnic communities, and in maximising the effectiveness of the safeguards in the Bill/asuch as advocacyn/afor people from all backgrounds. To this end, we have established an advisory group for this work, under the chair of Rabinder Singh QC.

**David Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she has made of the cost of the consultation on the Mental Health Bill carried out in *(a)* 1998 and *(b)* January 2004. [13597]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** In 1998, the Government announced their intention to introduce new mental health legislation. A Green Paper was introduced in 1998 and a draft bill in 2002. Quantifying the costs of either of these consultation exercises would involve disproportionate costs.

In 2004, a second draft of the Mental Health Bill was published for pre-legislative scrutiny by a joint committee of the House of Commons and House of Lords, a process which allowed further input from stakeholders and experts. This is a parliamentary process and the Department is unable to comment on the costs incurred.

**David Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will list bodies referred to as those with responsibility for protecting the public in paragraph 13 of the introduction to the Government response to the report of the Joint Committee on the draft Mental Health Bill 2004. [13599]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The organisations referred to in paragraph 13 of the introduction to the "Government response to the report of the Joint Committee on the draft Mental Health Bill 2004", which have a responsibility for protecting the public are the police, the courts, the probation service and the Prison Service.

### Mid Essex Hospital Trust PFI

**Mr. Burns:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she expects the Mid Essex hospital trust private finance initiative scheme to be approved; and if she will make a statement. [12163]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answer 14 July 2005]:* The Mid Essex hospital national health service trust's private finance initiative scheme is currently expected to be approved towards the end of the year.

### Ministerial Meetings

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will list the occasions, including the date and place, when *(a)* officials and *(b)* Ministers from her Department have attended (i) conferences and (ii) meetings where (A) abortion and (B) euthanasia has been discussed in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [12720]

**Caroline Flint:** This information is not centrally available. Ministers and departmental officials meet with a wide range of stakeholders about a wide range of issues, including euthanasia and abortion, both formally and informally.

### New Forest Primary Care Trust

**Dr. Julian Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will investigate *(a)* the propriety of the decision by New Forest Primary Care Trust (PCT) to reduce the number of options offered for public consultation about the future of in-patient beds in community hospitals from five to two and *(b)* the basis for proposals by New Forest PCT to close in-patient beds in community hospitals for (i) medical and (ii) financial reasons. [14020]

**Caroline Flint:** It is for primary care trusts, in consultation with stakeholders locally, such as overview and scrutiny committees, to take decisions on how local health services can be improved and to ensure that they are a clinical and cost effective use of resources. No final decisions will be taken on the future of community hospitals locally without full, public consultation.

I understand that New Forest Primary Care Trust has written to the hon. Member on this matter.

### NHS Charitable Assets Disposal

**Peter Luff:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance her Department offers to NHS trusts on the disposal of assets provided by charitable and voluntary organisations and individuals in community hospital wards that are closed. [11284]

**Mr. Byrne:** Donated assets are the property of the national health service trust concerned. Trusts are free to deal with them as they wish, subject only to any legal covenants or restrictions placed upon them at the time of donation.

Guidance on the disposal of all surplus national health service property assets is contained in the Department's Estatecode, a copy of which is available in the Library. Guidance on the accounting treatment for the disposal of assets is contained in the NHS capital accounting manual, which is publicly available on the Department's website at: www.info.doh.gov.uk/doh/finman.nsf/ManualDownload.

## NHS Hospital Cleaning

**Kelvin Hopkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she has made of the total expenditure by NHS hospitals on cleaning in each year since 1997 in each NHS trust. [11827]

**Jane Kennedy:** The information requested has been placed in the Library.

The collection of the total expenditure by national health service organisations started in 2000. The figures provided include pay and non-pay costs, for example, the cost of in-house and contract staff, materials, equipment provision and uniform costs. The data has been provided directly by the NHS organisations, which are responsible for its completeness and accuracy.

| | *Total expenditure on cleaning services (£ million)* |
|---|---|
| 2000–01 | 403 |
| 2001–02 | 418 |
| 2002–03 | 460 |
| 2003–04 | 493 |

## NHS Staff

**Steve Webb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made on meeting the target to reduce the number of incidences of *(a)* violence against and *(b)* sickness absence of staff in the NHS by 30 per cent. by the end of 2003–04. [8095]

**Jane Kennedy:** In April 2003 the national health service security management service (NHS SMS) was created and assumed policy and operational responsibility for the management of security in the NHS, including work to tackle violence against NHS staff. In November 2003, the NHS SMS introduced a comprehensive range of measures to tackle incidences of violence against NHS staff, both proactively and reactively. The NHS SMS has begun a programme of work to identify the true nature, scale and extent of the problem. Once this work is completed, meaningful and achievable targets for delivering a secure environment for NHS staff will be set.

The Department's fifteenth annual report was published on 21 June 2005. This report includes details of progress in reducing the levels of absence due to sickness. The report is available in the Library and on the Department's website at www.dh.gov.uk/PublicationsAndStatistics/Publications/AnnualReports.

Figures for sickness absence are generally published for whole sectors. Figures for the NHS compare favourably with other public sector employers. Overall, the sickness absence figures for the NHS have changed little over the past five years. The Department's survey of sickness rates over the last four years show a steady state, with 4.7 per cent, in 2000 and 4.6 per cent, in 2004.

The "Improving Working Lives" initiative is now well embedded in the NHS. This promotes more flexible working, helps staff manage a healthy balance between work and commitments outside work, and requires NHS employers to tackle issues such as safety, health and well being.

## NHS Treatment Centres

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information her Department *(a)* collects and *(b)* publishes concerning the operation of (i) directly managed NHS treatment centres and (ii) independent treatment centres. [1562]

**Mr. Byrne:** The Department regularly collects activity figures based on the number of first finished consultant episodes (FFCEs) carried out at national health service treatment centres. This information is published as part of the overall figures for the NHS.

In independent sector treatment centres, the Department additionally collects key performance indicators and contract management information on a regular basis.

## NICE (Drugs Appraisal)

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what examples there are of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence fast-tracking an appraisal of drugs or treatment. [13795]

**Jane Kennedy** *[holding answer 20 July 2005]:* I refer the hon. Member to the reply that I gave to the hon. Member for Hammersmith and Fulham (Mr. Hands) on 6 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 433W.

## Obesity

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when the obesity care pathway, weight loss guide and obesity toolkit is expected to be published. [12537]

**Caroline Flint:** We expect to publish the weight loss guide in the autumn. The obesity care pathway and obesity toolkit will be published at the end of the year.

## Ovarian Tissue Transplants

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many ovarian tissue transplants there were in each of the last five years; and how many were *(a)* successful and *(b)* unsuccessful. [12717]

**Caroline Flint:** No transplants of ovarian tissue have been performed in the United Kingdom.

In February 2004, the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) published a clinical guideline for the national health service on the assessment and treatment for people with fertility problems. Part 1.15 of the guideline, covering applications of cryopreservation in cancer treatment, says:

> "Women preparing for medical treatment that is likely to make them infertile should be offered oocyte or embryo cryostorage as appropriate if they are well enough to undergo ovarian stimulation and egg collection, provided that this will not worsen their condition and provided that sufficient time is available. They should be informed that oocyte cryostorage has very limited success and that the cryopreservation of ovarian tissue is still in an early stage of development."

A recent report from the United States of America mentioned a patient who apparently has had a successful ovarian transplantation involving her sister as a donor. We note that the British Fertility Society regards this procedure as an interesting development that must be

viewed as experiment, probably applicable only to an exceptionally small number of patients, and which raises ethical issues about the impact on the donor.

### Overseas Nurses

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reasons the Nursing and Midwifery Council will require nurses from outside the European Economic Area whose first language is English to pass the International English Language Test; what assessment she has made of the potential impact of the Overseas Training Programme on the recruitment of nurses from overseas; and if she will make a statement on the impact of the Overseas Nurses Programme on the resources of the NHS. [3448]

**Mr. Byrne:** Article 13*(1) (c)* (iii) of the Nursing and Midwifery Order 2001 gives the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) powers to ensure that individuals satisfy the prescribed requirements as to knowledge of English. Requiring all applicants from outside the European Economic Area to undertake the International English Language Test avoids discrimination on the basis of potentially misleading assumptions about country of origin and culture. It also provides a better safeguard than relying on the application form alone.

The NMC's overseas nurses programme should ensure common standards are applied to all registrants.

### Palliative Care

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what measures have been taken to improve palliative care in cases of terminal illness. [9605]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The Government recognise the importance of providing effective and efficient palliative and specialist palliative care services. We are supporting the development of services through a number of initiatives, including:

A £12 million three year end-of-life care programme, which is a first step in providing access to high quality care for all patients, irrespective of diagnosis.

Investing an extra £50 million per annum for specialist palliative care for adults with cancer.

Supportive and palliative care guidance from the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence.

A £6 million palliative care district nurse training programme.

### Patient Forums

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what contribution she expects patient and public involvement forums to make to developing health policy; and if she will make a statement; [12906]

(2) what role she expects patient forums to play in developing a patient-led NHS. [12907]

**Ms Rosie Winterton** *[holding answer 18 July 2005]:* Patient forums will contribute to developing health policy and developing a patient-led national health service by carrying out their functions to:

monitor and review local services arranged and or provided from the perspective of the patient, including both the range and operation of services

seek the views of patients receiving services provided or arranged

inspect premises where NHS services are delivered

make reports and recommendations based on the views and experiences of patients and carers to the management, where trusts are required to respond to these reports

refer matters of concern to overview scrutiny committees and the Commission for Patient and Public Involvement in Health, strategic health authorities, the Healthcare Commission and the National Patient Safety Agency, and to any other person or body the forums deem appropriate, including the media.

These functions provide forums with a role to influence health policy locally, by finding out what their community thinks about health provision, taking action and encouraging others to get involved.

The functions will contribute to building a NHS that is increasingly prepared to respond to the needs of the communities it serves, as well as supporting the creation of a patient-led NHS.

### Patient Transfers (Escorts)

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the risks of transferring unaccompanied patients between accident and emergency units by taxi in the absence of available ambulances. [12432]

**Mr. Byrne:** It is for the local national health service to ensure appropriate transport and governance arrangements are in place to support the transfer of patients between accident and emergency departments.

The NHS Modernisation Agency issued "Driving Change: Good practice guidelines for Primary Care Trusts on commissioning arrangements for emergency ambulance services and non-emergency patient transport services" in September 2004.

In 1991, the Department issued guidance on "Ambulance and other patient transport services: Operation, use and performance standards", which includes reference to performance standards and quality of service issues.

Copies of both documents are available in the Library.

### Primary Care

**Steve Webb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information is provided by primary care trusts to her Department for the *(a)* Primary Care Access Survey and *(b)* Service and Financial Framework, as referred to on page 18 of the Department of Health Departmental Report 2005; and if she will make a statement. [9379]

**Mr. Byrne:** The Service and Financial Framework return process referred to in the departmental report has been replaced by local delivery plans from 2003–04. Otherwise, I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave him on 5 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 348W.

### Private Health Care

**Frank Dobson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) pursuant to the answer of 4 July 2005, *Official Report*, columns 226–27W, on private diagnostic and treatment centres, if she will list the organisations for whom the subjects of the nine waivers wished to work; and what their profession was in each case; [11053]

(2) whether any private sector provider has secured a general waiver or waivers of the rules restricting the employment of former NHS health professionals. [11054]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answer 11 July 2005]:* No general waiver of the additionality restriction has been granted to any independent sector treatment centre (ISTC) operator.

Information concerning the nine waivers from the six months restriction are shown in the table:

| *Organisation for which the subject wished to work (so far as we are aware from the application details supplied)* | *Subject's profession (or profession wishing to pursue in organisation for which waiver granted)* |
|---|---|
| National Health Service (working first in a non-clinical role with Netcare) | Consultant |
| ORI-International | Healthcare Manager |
| UK Specialist Hospitals/ORI International | Nurse |
| Netcare Healthcare (UK) Ltd. | Consultant |
| Not confirmed at the time of application | Consultant |
| Alliance Medical | Consultant |
| NHS (locum work prior to an offer of employment in an ISTC) | Consultant |
| Netcare (UK) Ltd. | Consultants |
| Netcare (UK) Ltd. | Consultant |

### Private Sector General Medical Practitioners

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether her Department keeps a list of private sector general medical practitioners practising in the UK. [7450]

**Mr. Byrne:** No. The General Medical Council holds lists of medical practitioners eligible to work in the United Kingdom, whether in the national health service or in private practice. Primary care trusts are required to hold lists of those general practitioners working in the NHS performing primary medical services.

### Public Interest Disclosure Act

**Rosie Cooper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what facilities are in place to ensure that her Department adheres to its obligations under the Public Interest Disclosure Act 1998. [10289]

**Mr. Byrne:** Guidance on whistle-blowing in the national health service was issued in September 1999 following the coming into force of the Public Interest Disclosure Act 1998.

This guidance required every NHS trust and health authority (HA) to have in place policies and procedures which comply with the Act. A policy pack, "So Long Silencer" was subsequently produced, in partnership with "Public Concern at Work", and issued to all trusts and HAs in July 2003.

This pack included materials to help employers develop effective whistle-blowing policies and procedures and to promote a climate of openness and dialogue in the NHS. A complementary pack, tailored for the use of general practitioners, will be issued shortly by NHS employers and Public Concern at Work.

### Recruitment Agencies

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether she has issued a direction banning the NHS from using recruitment agencies which have not signed up to the code of practice on international recruitment. [13589]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answer 19 July 2005]:* No direction has been issued to the national health service to comply with the code of practice for international recruitment of healthcare professionals, but the NHS is commended to use only recruitment agencies that comply with the code of practice for domestic and international recruitment.

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what measures can be taken to sanction *(a)* NHS organisations and *(b)* independent sector providers who use recruitment agencies which are not included on the list of agencies compliant with the code of practice on international recruitment. [13797]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answer 20 July 2005]:* National health service organisations are strongly commended to adhere to the code of practice. NHS Employers monitor the code of practice and any exceptions are brought to the attention of the relevant chief executive for appropriate action.

In respect of independent sector providers where national contracts are signed, compliance with the code of practice is a contractual obligation.

### Scanning Services

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 7 July 2005, *Official Report*, columns 583–84W on scanning services, what the evidential basis was for the calculation of the average waiting time for diagnostic scans in Barnsley referred to in the *Guardian* newspaper on 2 July. [12502]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answer 18 July 2005]:* The figures quoted in the article were based on reliable information provided by Alliance Medical Ltd. relating to the reduction in waiting time for a non-urgent magnetic resonance imaging scan before and after the mobile scanning unit's visit to the area.

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what mechanisms her Department will use to determine whether Alliance Medical has increased clinical capacity in the number of MRI scans carried out. [12506]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answer 18 July 2005]:* The Department tendered and awarded the fast-track mobile magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) contract to augment existing national health service capacity by providing additional diagnostic services and staff.

The service provided by Alliance Medical Ltd. (AML) represents a 15 per cent. increase in the MRI capacity available to the NHS and equates to approximately 131,000 extra scans per year. To ensure delivery of this, data is collected regularly on the number of NHS referrals made and scans performed by AML. Performance is monitored weekly, quarterly and annually in accordance with the contract.

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the impact has been on the working practices of staff at the University Hospital North Durham of the mobile scanning unit provided by Alliance Medical. [12150]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answer 14 July 2005]:* The information requested is not centrally available.

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 4 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 201W, on Alliance Medical, on what basis her Department concluded that Alliance Medical would improve patient care. [13158]

**Mr. Byrne:** Faster, more accurate diagnosis for patients should improve clinical outcomes and give patients more certainty and control over their conditions. Some non-invasive investigations such as magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) may even reduce the need for surgery. That is why we are committed to increasing capacity both in the national health service and through use of the independent sector in order to deliver the maximum 18-week target from general practitioner referral to start of treatment.

The Department tendered and awarded the fast-track mobile magnetic resonance imaging contract on the basis that the successful company could deliver the additional diagnostic capacity required to a standard at least that of the NHS.

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many staff are employed to provide diagnostic scanning services at the University Hospital North Durham. [13494]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answer 19 July 2005]:* The information requested is gathered centrally on a national health service basis. The table shows the staff employed to provide diagnostic scanning services at the County Durham and Darlington Acute Hospitals NHS Trust.

*NHS hospital and community health services: diagnostic radiography staff within County Durham and Darlington Acute Hospitals NHS Trust as at 30 September 2004*

| | *Headcount* |
|---|---|
| Total diagnostic radiography staff | 116 |
| Qualified staff | 91 |
| Manager | 1 |
| Therapist | 90 |
| Unqualified staff | 25 |
| Helper/assistant | 25 |

*Source:*
Health and Social Care Information Centre non-medical workforce census 2004.

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health by how much the scanning services provided by Alliance Medical have reduced the average waiting time for scans in the County Durham and Tees Valley strategic health authority area. [9759]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answer 5 July 2005]:* The information requested is not available centrally.

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) when the annual review of Alliance Medical's contract to provide diagnostic scanning services to the NHS will take place; [11540]

(2) if she will publish the annual review of Alliance Medical's contract to provide diagnostic scanning services to the NHS; [11541]

(3) pursuant to the answer of 6 July 2005, to Question ref 10858, what her assessment of Alliance Medical's performance in providing diagnostic scanning services to the NHS has been so far. [11545]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answer 11 July 2005]:* The annual review of the Alliance Medical Limited (AML) contract will commence in July and a decision on what can be published consistent with commercial confidentiality will be taken later.

The service offered by AML is helping to tackle long waits for magnetic resonance imaging and is contributing to reducing the total time that patients wait from general practitioner referral to start of treatment to a maximum of 18 weeks by 2008, as promised in the Party's election manifesto.

We believe that patient experience under this contract is at least equal to that within the national health service and AML's patient surveys consistently show around a 96 per cent. satisfaction rate.

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many residents of Craighead have had scans carried out by Alliance Medical; [10855]

(2) how many residents of Pelton have had scans carried out by Alliance Medical. [11539]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answer 11 July 2005]:* The information requested is not centrally available.

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what systems are in place to ensure Alliance Medical provide the number of scans which their contract stipulates; [10858]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 5 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 346W, on diagnostic scans, how her Department will verify whether Alliance Medical Ltd. has carried out the number of diagnostic scans which their contract stipulates; [11832]

(3) what sanctions Alliance Medical will face if it fails to carry out the 630,000 diagnostic scans stipulated in their contract to provide diagnostic scanning services in the NHS. [11887]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answers 11 and 12 July 2005]:* Data is collected monthly on the number of national health service referrals made and scans performed by Alliance Medical Ltd. (AMI). Performance is monitored weekly, quarterly and annually in accordance with the contract.

Should AMI fail to meet its contractual obligations it is possible to withhold payment. Should AMI repeatedly fail, there is an option also to terminate all or part of the contract.

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reasons the value of Alliance Medical's contract to provide scanning services in the NHS is considered commercially sensitive. [10976]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answer 11 July 2005]:* Alliance Medical Limited provided a competitive price in negotiations. This was based on the Department not revealing their price either to competitors or to other organisations with whom they have contracts.

### Simvastatin

**John Austin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what proportion of respondents to the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency consultation exercise regarding the recent proposal to reclassify Simvastatin were in favour of the proposal; [12152]

(2) if she will assess the quality of the presentation of the outcome of the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency's consultation on the reclassification of Simvastatin to *(a)* the Expert Advisory Committee on Safety of Medicines and *(b)* Ministers; [12151]

(3) if she will amend the letter sent by her Department to the Health Select Committee in response to questions raised at its meeting on 3 February 2005 regarding the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency's consultation document (ARM 18) with particular reference to the proportion of respondents supporting the re-classification of Simvastatin. [13340]

**Jane Kennedy** *[holding answer 19 July 2005]:* The consultation by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) on the proposed reclassification of Simvastatin 10 milligrams as an over-the-counter medicine elicited 100 responses. About one third were supportive of the proposal, one third opposed and one third were not opposed but raised issues. This was the position put to the Committee on Safety of Medicines (CSM), which also had access to the full responses when giving its advice. The consultation raised no issues not already considered by the CSM when its advice to consult was formulated.

An error in the summary placed on the MHRA's website following the announcement of the decision to allow Simvastatin 10 milligrams to be sold in pharmacies had no bearing on the robustness of the deliberations of the CSM. The outcome of consultation was properly presented to the CSM and to Health Ministers. In light of this, no further assessment would be appropriate.

The error did not come to light until after the evidence sessions of the Health Select Committee's inquiry into the influence of the pharmaceutical industry were complete. The MHRA has written to the Clerk of the Health Select Committee to draw attention to the reference made in an annexe to a letter to the Committee, following the evidence session on 3 February 2005. The annexe referred to the report of the outcome of the consultation displayed on the MHRA website. A copy of the letter has been placed in the Library.

To ensure complete transparency, the MHRA now publishes the responses to all consultations on wider availability of medicines—most recently for chloramphenicol eye drops—electronically or summarised on the MHRA's website.

### Supervised Practice Placements

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many supervised practice placements for nurses have been offered within the NHS in each year since 1997; and what plans she has to increase the number of supervised practice placements within the NHS. [12609]

**Mr. Byrne:** Figures of the numbers of supervised practice placements offered within the national health service are not collected centrally. Local resource planning is the responsibility of NHS trusts and strategic health authorities.

### Waiting Lists/Times

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting time for accident and emergency cases in hospitals was in each year since 1990. [5392]

**Mr. Byrne:** Information is not collected on the average waiting time in accident and emergency (A and E) departments. Information on the total time patients spend in A and E departments from arrival to admission, transfer or discharge is collected each quarter from national health service trusts and is available on the Department's website at:

www.performance.doh.gov.uk/hospitalactivity/data_requests/index.htm

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### African Child Immigrants

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many children from Angola entering the UK have been returned to Angola in each of the last five years. [12803]

**Mr. McNulty:** The exact information requested is not available.

Information on the destination of people removed from the UK has only been available since January 2004. From 1 January 2004 until 31 December 2004, a total of 20 Angolan asylum seekers under the age of 18 were removed to Angola. All of these people were dependants of asylum applicants. This figure has been rounded to the nearest five.

Information on non-asylum removals for 2004 will be published in August 2005, and will be available from the Home Office website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been prosecuted in England and Wales for *(a)* murder of, *(b)* manslaughter of and *(c)* cruelty to children in the UK who have come from Africa in each of the last five years. [12805]

**Hazel Blears:** It is not possible to identify those defendants on the Home Office Court Proceedings database prosecuted for murder, manslaughter or cruelty to children from a particular country or region and details of victims are not centrally collected.

### Amyl Nitrates

**Dr. Kumar:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans the Department has to prohibit the sale of amyl nitrates in nightclubs. [12954]

**Paul Goggins:** The amyl nitrites (poppers) are regulated as a Prescription Only Medicine under the Medicines Act 1968. Their sale in nightclubs is therefore prohibited. Poppers are not controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971. The Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs has considered whether they should be controlled and concluded that they did not give rise to a social problem justifying their control. There are health risks attached to using poppers, particularly for those with chest or heart problems, anaemia or glaucoma. They should never be used.

The Department of Health has published two guidance leaflets specifically aimed at young people giving advice about the use and side effects of a number of drugs, including poppers. Further information on amyl nitrate can also be found on the FRANK website.

### Assaults (Race/Religion)

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what research he has evaluated on trends in the number of people attacked for *(a)* religious and *(b)* racial reasons; and if he will make a statement. [8062]

**Paul Goggins:** The British Crime Survey (BCS) includes information in relation to racially motivated victimisation incidents, and will from this year additionally cover religious motivation. Latest findings, based on the 2003–04 BCS, are in chapter 3 of Statistics on race and the criminal justice system 2004; previous data are contained in Home Office Findings 237, July 2004 (for 2002–03) and Home Office Research Study 223, October 2001 (trends up to 2000).

### Asylum Seekers

**Mark Durkan:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what criteria are used to decide whether an asylum seeker or immigration detainee in Northern Ireland is *(a)* granted temporary admission to reside in Northern Ireland, *(b)* detained in Maghaberry Prison, Crumlin Road Detention Unit or Hydebank Younger Offender's Centre and *(c)* transferred to immigration removal centres in Great Britain. [13951]

**Mr. McNulty:** Immigration detention is usually appropriate in order to effect removal, to establish the basis of a person's claim or identity, where there are grounds for believing that the person will not abide by any conditions attached to the grant of temporary admission or release or as part of the fast track asylum procedures. The decision on whether detention is necessary is made on a case by case basis and in all cases there is a presumption in favour of temporary admission or release.

If detention is appropriate for an individual in Northern Ireland this will initially take place at either the Working Out Unit in Belfast or at Hydebank Young Offenders Centre. However, there is a presumption in favour of transfer to an Immigration Service removal centre in Britain unless the individual concerned chooses to remain in Northern Ireland.

**Mark Durkan:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what criteria are used to decide whether a Northern Ireland based *(a)* asylum seeker and *(b)* other immigration detainee should be detained in (i) Dungavel Immigration Removal Centre and (ii) other immigration removal centres in Great Britain. [13952]

**Mr. McNulty:** The detention location for any detainee is decided on a case by case basis after an individual risk assessment which takes into account the particular security and welfare requirements of the detainee in question.

### Bridleways

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many arrests have been made for the illegal use of off-road vehicles on bridleways in the last five years. [14003]

**Paul Goggins:** It is not an arrestable offence to use off-road vehicles on bridleways.

### Bus Drivers (Offences)

**Mr. Clegg:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many bus drivers in Sheffield, Hallam were charged with *(a)* drink driving, *(b)* speeding and *(c)* operating a mobile phone in each of the last five years. [13781]

**Paul Goggins:** Information on the number of persons charged by the police by type of offence is not collected centrally.

### Child Abuse

**Mrs. Curtis-Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress has been made by the Criminal Cases Review Commission and the Historical Abuse Appeal Panel on abuse cases; and if he will make a statement. [13643]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** A protocol between the Historical Abuse Panel (HAAP) and the Commission has recently been agreed and signed. The Commission has already dealt with 10 care home abuse cases from HAAP. Six have been closed and four remain under review. No HAAP care home abuse cases have been referred to the Court of Appeal.

### Child Curfew Orders

**Anne Milton:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many child curfew orders have been issued in *(a)* Guildford, *(b)* Waverley and *(c)* Surrey in each year since their creation. [12843]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** The information for all Petty Sessional Areas within Surrey is shown in the table. Individual area level information for Guildford and Waverley is not available.

*Number of curfew orders given to 10 to 17-year-olds in Surrey, 1996–2003*

| | | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2848 | South-west Surrey PSA | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 4 | 3 |
| 2849 | North Surrey PSA | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 3 |
| 2856 | South-east Surrey PSA | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 7 |
| 2857 | North West Surrey PSA | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 3 |
| 474 | Guildford Crown court | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 3 |
| Surrey police force area | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 8 | 19 |
| England and Wales | | 13 | 37 | 155 | 320 | 440 | 1,294 | 2,353 | 2,940 |

*Note:*
PSA stands for Petty Sessional Area
*Source:*
RDS NOMS 18/7/2005

### Community Development Foundation

**Mrs. Gillan:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much in expenses has been claimed by each member of the Community Development Foundation trustees since each was appointed. [12039]

**Paul Goggins** *[holding answer 14 July 2005]:* The out of pocket travel and subsistence expenses claimed by the current Trustees of the Community Development Foundation, since each was appointed, are as follows:

| | Date appointed | Expenses (£) |
|---|---|---|
| Tom Levitt MP (Chair) | 11 June 2004 | 68.00 |
| Andrew Selous MP | 1 November 2003 | 0 |
| Paul Burstow MP | 1 January 2004 | 0 |
| Andrew Robinson MBE | 1 June 2002 | 0 |
| Suhail Aziz | 1 January 1999 | 1,097.14 |
| Michael Hamilton | 1 June 2002 | 0 |
| Colin Williams OBE | 1 March 1997 | 3,376.92 |
| Hilary Wilmer | 1 June 2002 | 1,180.56 |
| Abdul Ismail | 1 June 2002 | 1,394.85 |
| Peter Latchford | 12 May 2000 | 4,522.65 |
| Prof. Ruth Lister CBE | 18 May 2000 | 1,254.29 |
| Jogwant Johal | 12 May 2000 | 600.00 |
| Avila Kilmurray | 31 October 1996 | 239.40 |
| Mavis Best MBE | 26 June 2000 | 274.30 |

### Community Sentences

**Mr. Malins:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of *(a)* community rehabilitation orders, *(b)* community punishment orders and *(c)* drug treatment and testing orders were breached in the last period for which figures are available. [2705]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** In 2003, the last year for which figures are available, the percentage of orders breached were:

*(a)* community rehabilitation orders: 29 per cent.

*(b)* community punishment orders: 34 per cent.

*(c)* drug treatment and testing orders: 48 per cent.

As offenders breaching an order in one year may have been sentenced in an earlier year, the figures given are percentages of the average number of orders imposed in 2002 and 2003.

**Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of female offenders have not completed community sentences in each year since 1997. [7750]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** Information on the completion rates for the main types of community sentence, by gender and for each year since 1993, can be found in Table 5.1 of the Home Office Statistical Bulletin: Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2003, a copy of which can be found in the House of Commons Library.

### Computer Equipment

**David Davis:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much the Department spent on *(a)* mobile phones, *(b)* laptop computers and *(c)* palmtop computers, in each year since 1997. [6913]

**Mr. Charles Clarke:** The total cost of mobile phones for the Home Department since 1997 are given in the table.

The information on laptops and palmtops is not held centrally and therefore could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

| | Mobile rental costs | Mobile call charges | Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1997 | 273,901.01 | 262,911.57 | 536,301.58 |
| 1998 | 261,085.56 | 92,400.15 | 353,485.71 |
| 1999 | 376,336.09 | 140,246.56 | 516,582.65 |
| 2000 | 456,282.31 | 295,034.42 | 751,316.73 |
| 2001 | 552,292.14 | 367,598.15 | 919,890.29 |
| 2002 | 568,494.14 | 815,456.48 | 1,383,980.62 |
| 2003 | 624,916.16 | 920,699.74 | 1,552,508.77 |
| 2004 | 1,510,840.26 | 1,002,725.21 | 2,513,565.47 |

### Control Orders

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what arrangements are in place to inform local social services when a control order is imposed on an individual. [4997]

**Mr. Charles Clarke:** A multi-agency approach is adopted and the relevant agencies, including social services, will be informed where appropriate.

### Credit Card Fraud

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment has been made of the impact on fraud levels of the Chip and PIN programme since its introduction. [11664]

**Hazel Blears:** Chip and PIN is a major finance and retail industry anti fraud initiative. The introduction of Chip and PIN has been managed by the Chip and PIN Programme Management Organisation, and actively supported by Government.

The impact of chip and PIN on card fraud was expected to be seen early in 2005 and hence will first be reflected in the APACS mid-year card fraud figures to June 2005, which will be available later this year.

### Dangerous and Severe Personality Disorder Project

**Mrs. Gillan:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many places he has delivered in the Dangerous and Severe Personality Disorder project. [12027]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** The Dangerous Severe Personality Disorder (DSPD) Programme is a set of pilot initiatives aimed at developing assessment and treatment services for high risk violent or sexual offenders whose offending is linked to severe personality disorder.

A total of 244 high secure DSPD places are currently available, based at HMP Whitemoor, HMP Frankland and at Broadmoor and Rampton hospitals. A further 60 places will become available on October 2005 with the opening of a new unit at Broadmoor hospital. In addition there are 71 places currently available in medium secure NHS hospital settings and as hostel places, for those that have made progress or have been assessed as being able to be managed in the community. This number is planned to grow to 75 in the autumn of 2005 and to 95 in the course of 2006. A further 12 places are planned to open in the autumn of 2005 at HMP Low Newton for women offenders.

### David Rayan Ellis

**Mr. Steen:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the application for a spouse visa for David Rayan Ellis, Immigration and Nationality Directorate ref: LR1883010136/1 submitted in February, will be granted; and if he will set out the reasons for the time taken to process the application. [13367]

**Mr. McNulty:** Mr. Ellis is currently seeking leave to enter the United Kingdom on the basis of his marriage to a British Citizen. A number of issues remain outstanding in respect of Mr. Ellis' case and it will not be possible to resolve his application until these have been addressed. The Immigration and Nationality Directorate will reach a decision as soon as possible and advise Mr. Ellis of their decision direct.

### Disability

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how the *(a)* Disability Discrimination Act 1975 and *(b)* Disability Equality Duty will be applied to (i) prisons and (ii) probations services in England and Wales. [13600]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** The Prison Service already seeks to apply the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (DDA) to prisons by the issuing of a Prison Service Order and an auditable Prison Service Standard. A quarterly bulletin on best practice—Inside Disability—is made available to all Governors and staff.

The National Probation Directorate seeks to apply the DDA through its national compliance strategy requiring the 42 probation areas to produce individual area compliance strategies.

The National Probation Directorate and the Prison Service are working with the Home Office Race and Diversity Action Team to produce a Disability Equality Scheme. The model likely to be used will be similar to the Race Equality Scheme currently in use.

Guidance is to be issued to the Prison Service and to the 42 Probation Areas of England and Wales in accordance with the timescale set out in the Disability Discrimination Act 2005 to assist the Areas in implementing a Disability Equality Scheme.

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many individuals in prison in England and Wales have a disability; [13601]

(2) what facilities are available in prisons in England and Wales to assist prisoners with disabilities; [13602]

(3) how many individuals *(a)* in prison and *(b)* supervised by the probation service have (i) a hearing difficulty, (ii) a sight impairment and (iii) a mobility difficulty; and what services are available to assist them. [13603]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** The Prison Service for England and Wales does not, at present, collect data centrally on the number of prisoners with disabilities held in the system.

Statistics are not collected centrally for offenders by the 42 probation areas of England and Wales and could be made available only at disproportionate cost.

Key facilities in prison such as physical access are addressed by access audits to ensure prisoners with disabilities are not treated less favourably than other prisoners. To assist prisoners and the prison in meeting individuals needs all prisons have a disability liaison officer.

### Driving (Mobile Phone Use)

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many drivers in London have received penalties for use of a hand-held mobile phone while driving; and how many drivers have been disqualified; [11042]

(2) in how many cases in London a driver has been disqualified as a result of using a mobile phone while driving. [11043]

**Paul Goggins:** Available information on the number of penalties ordered to be paid for the offence of driving while using a hand-held mobile telephone is given in a table which will be placed in the Library. 2004 data will be available in early 2006. Data on disqualifications are not available.

The offence was introduced on 1 December 2003 and the use of a hands-free mobile phone is not part of the new offence.

A provision in the Road Safety Bill seeks to make using a hand-held mobile phone while driving an endorsable offence.

### Drug Rehabilitation

**Colin Challen:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the impact on levels of crime in Leeds of the increase in drug rehabilitation services within the area since 2001. [8435]

**Paul Goggins:** The Leeds Drug Partnership has expanded drug services with funds received from the National Drug Strategy since 1998. In 2003–04 there were 2,453 individuals in treatment; by the end of 2004–05 there were 3,517—an increase of 43 per cent.

In 2005 Leeds will receive the following funds from central government: £4.9 million to provide adult drug treatment; £998,000 to provide a range of drug services for young people; and *£1.9 million to provide services to* drug using offenders as part of the Home Office Drug Intervention Programme.

Home Office studies have confirmed the association between illegal drug use and crime and particularly with the acquisitive crimes such as robbery, burglary and vehicle crime. Research also confirms that effective drug treatment reduces crime by drug misusing offenders. The monitoring of recorded acquisitive crime trends has become an effective measure of the effect of increasing the availability of drug treatment.

Recorded acquisitive crime in England and Wales fell by 11 per cent. between December 2003 and December 2004. During 2003–04 Home Office recorded crime figures for Leeds showed robbery down by 26 per cent., burglary by 16 per cent., theft of a motor vehicle by 21 per cent. and theft from a motor vehicle by 12 per cent.

### Drugs Act

**Paul Flynn:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the compatibility of section 21 of the Drugs Act 2005 with European Union treaties in relation to free trade and the single market. [14029]

**Paul Goggins:** Home Office lawyers have advised that in their view the restriction in section 21 would be permitted under article 30 of the EC treaty on the grounds of public policy and/or for the protection of health and life of humans. When drafting section 21 and providing briefing for Ministers, officials referred to the following reports:

1. Risk assessment report relating to paddos (psilocin and psilocybin): Coordination Centre for the Assessment and Monitoring of new drugs—February 2000

2. Psilocine/Psilocybine mushrooms—legal status across the EU: European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA)—2004

3. Acute psychological and physiological effects of psilocybin in healthy humans: a double-blind, placebo-controlled dose-effect study: Hasler et al—2004

### Emergency Workers

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will assess the merits of introducing legislation similar to the Emergency Workers (Scotland) Act 2005 in England and Wales. [5366]

**Paul Goggins** *[holding answer 20 June 2005]:* The Government are committed to ensuring tougher sentences for those involved in attacks on public sector workers. Such attacks can attract maximum sentences of between six months and life. The fact that a victim was serving the public is one factor already taken into account by the courts in sentencing and the Sentencing Guidelines Council have issued guidelines identifying this as a serious aggravating factor. The Sentencing Advisory Panel is due to issue a consultation in the summer on sentencing of violent crime, which we expect will also refer explicitly to an aggravating factor of a victim serving the public.

We keep all legislation under review, and will be particularly interested in the Scottish experience. The Scottish Act is part of a wider programme in Scotland to protect emergency workers.

The programme in England and Wales includes work by the Health and Safety Commission to help employers tackle work related violence. Across Government we are encouraging victims to report incidents more consistently; and video camera are being fitted in ambulances and fire appliances to increase detection rates.

### Extradition

**Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many US citizens have been extradited to the UK under the Extradition Act 2003. [13962]

**Andy Burnham:** Confirmed figures are available for the period between the implementation of the Extradition Act 2003 ("the Act"), on 1 January 2004, and 30 June 2005.

Extradition requests made by the UK to territories other than those designated as category 1 under the Act do not fall within the statutory framework of the Act. Instead, they are made under the Crown prerogative. One US citizen was extradited to the UK between 1 January 2004 and 30 June 2005.

**Mr. Sarwar:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many extradition requests have been made under the terms of the Extradition Act 2003. [13447]

**Andy Burnham:** It is necessary to distinguish between requests made by the UK under Part 3 of the Extradition Act 2003 ("the Act"); and all other requests. Confirmed figures are available for the period between the implementation of the Act, on 1 January 2004, and 30 June 2005.

Part 3 requests are arrest warrants which have been issued by the UK to any territories designated as Category 1 under the Act. There were 139 Part 3 requests for individuals made by the UK between 1 January 2004 and 30 June 2005.

Extradition requests made by the UK to any other territories do not fall within the statutory framework of the Act. Instead, they are made under the Crown prerogative. There were 58 such requests made for individuals by the UK between 1 January 2004 and 30 June 2005.

**Mr. Sarwar:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many extradition requests have been received under the terms of the Extradition Act 2003. [13448]

**Andy Burnham:** It is necessary to distinguish between requests to the UK made under Part 1, and those made under Part 2, of the Extradition Act 2003 ("the Act"). Confirmed figures are available for the period between the implementation of the Act, on 1 January 2004, and 30 June 2005. Part 1 requests are general circulations from all territories designated as Category 1 under the Act, and there is not necessarily a basis for believing that the requested person is in the UK. On this basis, there were 4,027 Part 1 requests for individuals received by the UK between 1 January 2004 and 30 June 2005. 110 of these resulted in arrests in the UK during that period.

Part 2 requests are requests from all other territories, provided that they have reached a point at which Part 2 proceedings are initiated. By this definition, Part 2 requests include both: *(a)* requests made by the delivery of Full Order extradition papers to the British Government; and *(b)* requests in which a provisional arrest for extradition has been made but Full Order papers have not yet been delivered to the British Government. There were 137 Part 2 requests for individuals received by the UK between 1 January 2004 and 30 June 2005.

### Freemasons

**Mr. Roger Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what measures have been taken to encourage the declaration of membership of a masonic lodge among the police and the judiciary; [12586]

(2) who maintains the register of names of members of the *(a)* police and *(b)* judiciary who have declared membership of a masonic lodge; [12590]

(3) whether information in the register of members of the police and judiciary who are members of a masonic lodge is exempt from the Freedom of Information Act 2000; [12592]

(4) what estimate he has made of the numbers of members of the *(a)* police and *(b)* judiciary who are members of a masonic lodge who have not declared their interest. [12600]

**Hazel Blears:** Voluntary arrangements for the declaration of freemasonry membership have been established for the judiciary and the police service.

For the judiciary, all first time successful candidates for appointment must, as a condition of appointment, declare their freemasonry status prior to appointment and must also declare any later admission to them. No central register of freemasonry membership is held.

For the police, there is no statutory basis for the registers which are held internally by forces. We do not monitor centrally which forces continue to administer such registers. It is not possible to estimate the number of members who failed to declare their interest.

Any requests for information held on registers would have to be considered by the force concerned on a case-by-case basis. Decisions on whether information should be released are the responsibility of the public authority receiving the request, acting in accordance with the principles of the Freedom of Information Act.

### Identity Cards

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the number of existing facial images in police force databases which will be transferred into the Facial Images National Database. [9945]

**Mr. Charles Clarke:** The Police Information Technology Organisation are currently gathering data from all the forces in England and Wales. At present eight forces have provided data and the total number of images held within these forces are 793,000.

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what advice his Department has received from *(a)* the Government Chief Information Officer and *(b)* the e-Government Unit on the identity cards scheme, with particular reference to the (i) costs and (ii) feasibility of the project. [10997]

**Mr. Charles Clarke:** The Identity Cards Programme Team has regular and wide ranging discussions across Government in relation to different aspects of the scheme, including with the Government Chief Information Officer and the e-Government Unit. A senior member of the Unit is a member of the Programme Board and the Chief Information Officer is a member of the Identity Cards Programme Strategy Board. These discussions have informed the contents of the Regulatory Impact Assessment which was published on 25 May and the Identity Cards Scheme Benefits Overview which was published on 28 June.

### Illegal Drugs

**Paul Flynn:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what changes have taken place in the prevalence of the consumption of *(a)* heroin, *(b)* cocaine and *(c)* cannabis in each year since 1998. [10908]

**Paul Goggins:** The British Crime Survey (BCS) measures the extent of drug use in England and Wales in the year before interview. The prevalence of the consumption of cannabis, heroin and cocaine (powder cocaine and crack cocaine) between 1998 and 2003–04 are shown in the table.

In the 16 to 24 age range, the use of cannabis has fallen by 12 per cent. since 1998. The Schools Survey[1] also shows a decline in cannabis use among 11 to 15-year-olds. The use of cannabis remained stable among the full 16 to 59 age group.

The BCS considers separately the extent both of powder cocaine and crack cocaine. Since 2000 the prevalence of powder cocaine by 16 to 24-year-olds has remained stable following a significant increase between 1998 and 2000. There has been no significant change in the prevalence of use of either crack cocaine or heroin between 1998 and 2003–04, for any age group.

[1] The Schools Survey is an annual survey of smoking, drinking and drug use among secondary school children in England aged 11 to 15. It is funded by the Home Office and the Department of Health and managed by the National Centre for Social Research.

*Figures for the proportion of (a) young people (aged 16 to 24 years) and (b) all adults (aged 16 to 59 years) reporting having used different drugs in the year before interview based on British Crime Survey data*

| | 1998 | 2000 | 2001–02 | 2002–03 | 2003–04 | Significance of percentage change 1998 to 2003–04 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *16 to 24-year-olds* | | | | | | |
| Cannabis | 28.2 | 27.0 | 26.9 | 25.8 | 24.8 | [1] |
| Cocaine (powder) | 3.1 | 5.2 | 4.9 | 4.7 | 4.9 | [1] |
| Crack Cocaine | 0.3 | 0.9 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.4 | n/s |
| Heroin | 0.3 | 0.8 | 0.3 | 0.2 | 0.4 | n/s |
| *16 to 59-year-olds* | | | | | | |
| Cannabis | 10.3 | 10.5 | 10.6 | 10.9 | 10.8 | n/s |
| Cocaine (powder) | 1.2 | 2.0 | 2.0 | 2.1 | 2.4 | [1] |
| Crack Cocaine | 0.1 | 0.3 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | n/s |
| Heroin | 0.1 | 0.3 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | n/s |

n/s = no significant difference.
[1] Statistically significant difference at the 5 per cent. level.
*Notes:*
1. As with all survey estimates, particularly those for comparatively rare behaviours such as class A drug use, these estimates are subject to uncertainty. Apparently large year on year changes can occur by chance and cannot necessarily be considered indicative of a real trend over time.
2. From 2001, the reporting year for BCS data switched from calendar to financial years.
3. The figures are weighted using population estimates provided by the Office for National Statistics.
*Sources:*
1998, 2000, 2001–02 and 2002–03 BCS.

### Illegal Immigrants

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps the Government are taking to ensure that illegal immigrants are returned to their country of origin. [12560]

**Mr. McNulty:** Between 1999 and 2003, the total number of people removed from the UK has more than trebled.

The Government have introduced a number of measures to ensure that we return those who have no basis of stay in the United Kingdom, and who fail to leave voluntarily. These include increased staffing; more intelligence led operations; increasing the use of charter flights; expanding the detention estate; enhancing contact management by introducing measures such as electronic tagging and promoting and increasing the number of voluntary returns and seeking greater co-operation from overseas counterparts to speed up documentation and open up more return routes.

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much is being spent to combat illegal immigration at Tilbury Docks. [12563]

**Mr. McNulty:** It is not possible to provide a breakdown of the amount of money that is spent specifically at Tilbury on combating illegal immigration.

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the cost to public funds in a year of illegal immigrants residing in the UK. [12564]

**Mr. McNulty:** No government has ever been able to produce an accurate figure for the number of people who are in the country illegally.

### InnerChange Prison Programme

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the InnerChange prison programme at HMP Dartmoor. [7599]

**Fiona Mactaggart** *[holding answer 27 June 2005]:* The programme has been in place for too short a time to analyse effectively the effect it has had on the attendees of the course and assess its benefits. There are no plans at present to introduce this programme to other prisons. At the conclusion of this pilot programme at Dartmoor, a thorough analysis and evaluation will be undertaken prior to any decisions being made on expansion.

### Juvenile Offenders

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many young people of school age have been found guilty of committing a crime in *(a)* Southend constituency, *(b)* Essex, *(c)* Greater London and *(d)* England and Wales in the last five years for which figures are available; [10514]

(2) what the most common form of crime committed by young people of school age was in *(a)* Southend, West constituency, *(b)* Essex, *(c)* Greater London and *(d)* England and Wales in the last five years for which figures are available. [10515]

**Hazel Blears:** The available information from the Home Office Court Proceedings database is contained in the tables and gives the number of young people of school age found guilty of committing a crime and the most frequent offence for which a conviction was given in South East Essex petty sessional area, Essex, Greater London and England and Wales, 1999–2003. It is not possible to identify those offenders in the Southend and Southend, West constituencies, as the data do not go down to this level of detail.

In addition to court proceedings statistics, the number of young people of school age given Reprimands or Final Warnings in Essex, Greater London and England and Wales are also provided in the table.

Statistics for 2004 will be available in the autumn.

*Number of young people of school age (10 to 16 years) convicted or cautioned, 1999–2003*[1]

| | South East Essex PSA[2] | Essex | Greater London | England and Wales |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Convictions* | | | | |
| 1999 | 288 | 1,320 | 6,463 | 54,266 |
| 2000 | 218 | 1,322 | 6,497 | 55,954 |
| 2001 | 297 | 1,512 | 7,454 | 59,152 |
| 2002 | 263 | 1,312 | 7,562 | 58,171 |
| 2003 | 229 | 1,281 | 6,948 | 57,144 |
| Total | 1,295 | 6,747 | 35,024 | 284,687 |
| *Cautions*[3] | | | | |
| 1999 | — | 1,939 | 11,962 | 85,803 |
| 2000 | — | 1,856 | 10,553 | 81,825 |
| 2001 | — | 2,075 | 9,452 | 82,847 |
| 2002 | — | 1,686 | 7,499 | 71,435 |
| 2003 | — | 1,666 | 7,476 | 75,916 |
| Total | — | 9,222 | 46,942 | 397,826 |

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Covers Southend and some parts of Rayleigh, Benfleet and Canvey. Figures for cautions are not available separately for Southend.
[3] In June 2000 reprimands and final warnings replaced juvenile cautions.

### Management Consultancies

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which five management consultancies received the highest value of contracts awarded by his Department in each of the last three years; and what the total value was of the contracts awarded to each. [12578]

**Mr. Charles Clarke:** The Home Office does not have a unified purchasing and payment system in place to provide central information covering the whole Home Office group including Executive agencies and non-departmental public bodies. The table which shows the information that has been collated from the data that is available from across the office will be placed in the Library. No figures on the top five consultancy suppliers are available for the core Home Office for 2002–03.

The Department awards contracts in open competition according to the EU Procurement Regulations, based on best value for money. The use of external consultants in the Home Office provides the Department with specialist knowledge, skill, capacity and technical expertise that is not otherwise available in house.

### National Probation Directorate (Risk Assessment)

**Mrs. Gillan:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the risk assessment commissioned by the National Probation Directorate in March concluded *(a)* that the risk of a loss of key skills resulting in the inadequate supervision of offenders was high, *(b)* that the risk of the e-mail IT system failing to deliver the benefits of a joined up criminal justice system was very high and *(c)* that the risk of inadequate supervision of cases leading to high profile media attention and unmanageable policy making was high. [4968]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** The risk management process that was followed in March 2005 evaluated the above three risks to have a high likelihood rating and a high impact rating. The National Probation Directorate have however put in place review and control measures to ensure that these risks do not pose any threat to the successful delivery of the 2005–06 Business Plan.

Although the severity status of these risks were rated high, it does not necessarily mean the risk rating will remain the same throughout the business plan period. There are many other factors both internal and external that will influence how the risk rating changes during the business plan year.

### Offender Registration

**Mrs. Gillan:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects the Vicious and Sex Offenders Register to be completed; what the budget for the project was; and what the cost so far has been. [10207]

**Hazel Blears:** All 43 forces in England and Wales have been operational on the Violent Sexual Offenders Register(ViSOR) since March 2005. ViSOR is also operational in all eight Scottish forces and in Northern Ireland.

The cost of delivering ViSOR was £9.7 million in total over a four year period and was within the budget allocated to the programme.

### Passports

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many passports and documents handed in have been lost after being deposited at the Immigration and Nationality Directorate in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [13599]

**Mr. McNulty:** Information on the number of passports and documents lost after being received by the Immigration and Nationality Directorate would be available only at disproportionate cost.

### Pastor Danny Nalliah

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether any member of his Department met Pastor Danny Nalliah during his recent visit to the UK. [14078]

**Mr. Charles Clarke:** So far as can be ascertained, no one from the Home Office met with Danny Nalliah during his last visit to the UK.

### Police

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average age of police *(a)* constables, *(b)* sergeants, *(c)* inspectors, *(d)* chief inspectors, *(d)* superintendents and *(e)* chief superintendents was in the last year for which figures are available. [11068]

**Hazel Blears:** Information is not available in the form requested. Data on age of police officers are collected centrally by age group. The latest available data for the 43 police forces in England and Wales are given in a table which will be placed in the Library.

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what criteria were used to determine the membership of police authorities; what guidance has

been issued on composition; and if he will require police authorities to include members of district councils in their membership. [12476]

**Hazel Blears:** The membership of police authorities is determined by the Police Act 1996. No guidance has been issued with regard to their composition but, there is joint Home Office/Association of Police Authorities guidance about the selection and appointment of independent members and lay justice members on police authorities. The White Paper "Building Communities, Beating Crime—A better police service for the 21st Century" proposed changes to strengthen the calibre, representative nature and democratic legitimacy of police authority membership including a possible approach to two-tier areas, together with proposals for unitary areas. The Government are considering the way ahead in the light of the responses to the White Paper. Legislation would be needed to give effect to any changes to the membership of police authorities.

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers are employed on anti-terrorist activities; and if he will make a statement. [13759]

**Mr. Charles Clarke:** All police officers are engaged in and contribute towards countering the threat from terrorism. It would not be in the interests of national security to disclose the numbers of police officers who are engaged on specialised counter terrorist work such as intelligence gathering or investigations.

**Andrew Selous:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the total establishment is of *(a)* police officers and *(b)* community police officers; and how many Muslims are serving in each category. [12976]

**Hazel Blears** *[holding answer 18 July 2005]:* There were 140,135 police officers in England and Wales on 30 September 2004. Police strength for 31 March 2005 is scheduled to be published on 25 July.

Information on the functions to which police officers are deployed is collected annually and the latest available is for 31 March 2004. There were more than 5,000 police officers deployed to community safety/relations duties in March 2004. Other police officers may also undertake community policing, but are not recorded as undertaking this function because it is not their main duty.

Information on religious affiliation of police officers or police staff, including Community Support Officers, is not centrally collected.

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions he has had with the *(a)* Chief Constable and *(b)* police authority in Milton Keynes regarding structural re-organisation. [12911]

**Hazel Blears:** The Home Secretary has not had any recent discussion with the Chief Constable or police authority of Thames Valley regarding structural reorganisation. However, at the Association of Chief Police Officers on 19 May, the Home Secretary made it clear that he did not believe that the current structure of 43 forces was the most effective and efficient arrangement for organising policing in England and Wales. He also made it clear that he had no blueprint for amalgamations, but that the initiative for such amalgamations should be driven locally. To inform the way forward, my right hon. Friend has commissioned Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary to examine the issue of force structures. As well as looking at the case for structural changes, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary will also be examining the case for greater collaboration and co-operation between forces.

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of police time was spent on front line policing in 2004–05. [13746]

**Hazel Blears:** The police performance monitors published in September 2004 showed that 63.6 per cent. of police time is spent on front line policing. We expect the police service as a whole to improve the average to over 72 per cent. by 2007–08. This will be a gain in time equivalent to more than 12,000 extra officers. Police authorities have set local improvement targets for their forces.

### Pre-sentence Reports

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what procedures are followed during the period between convictions and sentencing when a judge requests a pre-sentence report; how that report is compiled; and who is consulted before the report is completed. [4585]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** The guidelines for completing a PSR are contained in Probation Service National Standards and in other guidance issued by the National Probation Directorate. The PSR will be informed by the CPS court papers and there will normally be at least one face-to-face interview with the offender. In all cases the Probation Service will assess likelihood of reconviction and any risk of harm posed by the offender. In the more serious or complicated cases these and other factors will be investigated through use of the Offender Assessment System ("OASys"). The finished PSR will take account of this and the other information obtained in its preparation and will contain a suitable sentencing proposal.

Those consulted during the completion of a PSR will vary according to the needs of the case but might include Social Services, local authorities or other criminal justice agencies.

### Prisons/Prisoners

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the projected size of the prison case load is for financial years *(a)* 2005–06, *(b)* 2006–07, *(c)* 2007–08 and *(d)* 2008–09. [3873]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** The latest prison population projections are published in the Home Office Statistical Bulletin 01/05 "Prison Population Projections, 2005–2011, England and Wales". Figures for 10 scenarios can be found in this document. The scenarios range from 'High' to 'Low'. Projected total prison population figures (annual averages) for High and Low scenarios for the relevant financial years are presented in the table.

| Financial year | High scenario | Low scenario |
|---|---|---|
| 2005–06 | 74,150 | 74,030 |
| 2006–07 | 78,880 | 74,080 |
| 2007–08 | 82,580 | 76,860 |
| 2008–09 | 84,190 | 76,770 |

**Mr. Malins:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what educational opportunities are available to prisoners sentenced to three months imprisonment or less; [2967]

(2) what plans he has to increase educational opportunities for prisoners; and if he will make a statement. [2714]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** We aim to increase educational opportunities for all offender learners and to offer opportunities which are relevant to future employability. From 1 August, the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) will begin to take responsibility for delivering an integrated learning and skills service for offenders both in custody and the community. The new arrangements commence in three regions (the north-west, north-east and south-west), with the remaining six regions in England following in August 2006. An explicit link with mainstream post-16 education provision and a greater focus on skills will lead to greater employability on release, in order to contribute to reducing re-offending.

Educational opportunities for those offenders in prison for less than three months are the same as for all other prisoners.

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average cost of a place in each prison in *(a)* the Prison Estate and *(b)* privately run establishments in the last 12 months was; and if he will make a statement. [8102]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** The average cost per prisoner place for each prison in both the public and contracted prisons' estates for 2003–04 are set out in the tables.

*Cost per prisoner place[1]—Contracted prisons 2003–04*

| | £ |
|---|---|
| Altcourse | 50,747 |
| Ashfield | 32,041 |
| Doncaster | 24,769 |
| Dovegate | 25,916 |
| Forest Bank | 26,080 |
| Lowdham | 24,499 |
| Pare | 39,645 |
| Rye Hill | 23,671 |
| Wolds[2] | 21,861 |

[1] The costs for private prisons excludes capital charges (Cost of Capital, Cost of Capital Credit and Depreciation)
[2] HMP Bronzefield, a privately run prison, opened in June 2004 and HMP Peterborough opened in March 2005 and are therefore excluded from this data.

*Cost per prisoner place—public sector prisons 2003–04*

| Function name | Establishment | Cost per place (£) |
|---|---|---|
| Category B | Albany | 21,259 |
| Category B | Garth | 23,093 |
| Category B | Gartree | 26,992 |
| Category B | Grendon | 24,163 |
| Category B | High Down | 28,263 |
| Category B | Kingston | 27,871 |
| Category B | Parkhurst | 32,194 |
| Category B | Swaleside | 19,583 |
| Category C | Acklington | 18,116 |
| Category C | Ashwell | 18,644 |
| Category C | Blundeston | 27,849 |
| Category C | Camp Hill | 22,934 |
| Category C | Canterbury | 35,204 |
| Category C | Channings Wood | 21,775 |
| Category C | Coldingley | 24,671 |
| Category C | Dartmoor | 22,182 |
| Category C | Erlestoke | 19,522 |
| Category C | Everthorpe | 21,038 |
| Category C | Featherstone | 22,842 |
| Category C | Guys Marsh | 19,796 |
| Category C | Haverigg | 20,230 |
| Category C | Highpoint | 18,850 |
| Category C | Lancaster | 41,263 |
| Category C | Lindholme | 22,577 |
| Category C | Littlehey | 18,248 |
| Category C | Maidstone | 20,875 |
| Category C | Moorland | 22,200 |
| Category C | Mount | 20,034 |
| Category C | Ranby | 22,190 |
| Category C | Risley | 19,916 |
| Category C | Shepton Mallet | 34,542 |
| Category C | Stafford | 20,664 |
| Category C | Stocken | 18,964 |
| Category C | Usk/Prescoed | 25,783 |
| Category C | Verne | 18,738 |
| Category C | Wayland | 17,659 |
| Category C | Wealstun | 20,876 |
| Category C | Weare | 21,158 |
| Category C | Wellingborough | 20,209 |
| Category C | Whatton | 20,592 |
| Category C | Wymott | 20,901 |
| Dispersal | Frankland | 44,603 |
| Dispersal | Full Sutton | 44,316 |
| Dispersal | Long Lartin | 36,387 |
| Dispersal | Wakefield | 29,128 |
| Dispersal | Whitemoor | 49,885 |
| Female closed | Buckley Hall | 25,014 |
| Female closed | Bullwood Hall | 41,877 |
| Female closed | Cookham Wood | 37,698 |
| Female closed | Downview | 29,185 |
| Female closed | Foston Hall | 28,852 |
| Female closed | Send | 27,613 |
| Female local | Brockhill | 43,767 |
| Female local | Eastwood Park | 31,621 |
| Female local | Edmunds Hill | 26,966 |
| Female local | Holloway | 45,461 |
| Female local | Low Newton | 29,507 |
| Female local | New Hall | 40,449 |
| Female local | Styal | 32,065 |
| Female open | Askham Grange | 24,564 |
| Female open | East Sutton Park | 27,378 |
| Male closed young offender | Aylesbury | 30,000 |
| Male closed young offender | Brinsford | 30,859 |
| Male closed young offender | Castington | 33,703 |
| Male closed young offender | Deerbolt | 24,982 |
| Male closed young offender | Feltham | 43,209 |
| Male closed young offender | Glen Parva | 28,574 |
| Male closed young offender | Hindley | 34,577 |
| Male closed young offender | Lancaster Farms | 31,227 |
| Male closed young offender | Northallerton | 39,046 |
| Male closed young offender | Onley | 24,791 |
| Male closed young offender | Portland | 24,579 |
| Male closed young offender | Reading | 43,345 |
| Male closed young offender | Rochester | 23,124 |
| Male closed young offender | Stoke Heath | 30,410 |
| Male closed young offender | Swinfen Hall | 27,683 |
| Male juvenile | Huntercombe | 38,011 |
| Male juvenile | Warren Hill | 43,382 |
| Male juvenile | Werrington | 43,564 |
| Male juvenile | Wetherby | 32,621 |
| Male local | Bedford | 32,594 |
| Male local | Belmarsh | 44,331 |
| Male local | Birmingham | 28,605 |
| Male local | Blakenhurst | 22,138 |
| Male local | Bristol | 41,048 |
| Male local | Brixton | 33,244 |
| Male local | Bullingdon | 24,756 |
| Male local | Cardiff | 29,900 |

*Cost per prisoner place—public sector prisons 2003–04*

| *Function name* | *Establishment* | *Cost per place (£)* |
|---|---|---|
| Male local | Chelmsford | 31,342 |
| Male local | Dorchester | 46,779 |
| Male local | Durham | 40,353 |
| Male local | Elmley | 21,417 |
| Male local | Exeter | 38,715 |
| Male local | Gloucester | 39,295 |
| Male local | Holme House | 22,994 |
| Male local | Hull | 26,807 |
| Male local | Leeds | 32,001 |
| Male local | Leicester | 45,381 |
| Male local | Lewes | 25,054 |
| Male local | Lincoln | 31,276 |
| Male local | Liverpool | 24,459 |
| Male local | Manchester | 29,607 |
| Male local | Norwich | 30,082 |
| Male local | Nottingham | 32,086 |
| Male local | Pentonville | 29,595 |
| Male local | Preston | 36,184 |
| Male local | Shrewsbury | 42,890 |
| Male local | Swansea | 41,215 |
| Male local | Wandsworth | 27,437 |
| Male local | Winchester | 34,185 |
| Male local | Woodhill | 39,035 |
| Male local | Wormwood Scrubs | 24,739 |
| Male open | Ford | 14,328 |
| Male open | Hewell Grange | 20,844 |
| Male open | Hollesley Bay | 21,093 |
| Male open | Kirkham | 21,105 |
| Male open | Leyhill | 19,997 |
| Male open | North Sea Camp | 15,034 |
| Male open | Standford Hill | 18,182 |
| Male open | Sudbury | 15,896 |
| Male open young offender | Thorn Cross | 25,573 |
| Semi open | Blantyre House | 22,987 |
| Semi open | Dover | 27,012 |
| Semi open | Drake Hall | 23,722 |
| Semi open | Haslar | 26,154 |
| Semi open | Kirklevington | 17,021 |
| Semi open | Latchmere House | 19,366 |
| Semi open | Morton Hall | 22,248 |

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many juvenile offenders are held in *(a)* young offenders institutions and *(b)* elsewhere within the Prison Estate; and if he will make a statement. [8103]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** On 31 May 2005 there were 2,299 juveniles aged 15 to 17 held in prison establishments in England and Wales, as recorded on the Prison Service IT system. Of these, 1,809 were sentenced juveniles held in young offenders institutions (YOI) under YOI rules. There were a further 488 remand juveniles held in prison accommodation under prison rules, and three juveniles aged 15 to 17 held under the Immigration Act. Juvenile prisoners are held separately from other young offenders in juvenile units.

The figures exclude sentenced 18-year-olds held in juvenile units who are either completing the final part of their sentence prior to release, or waiting to be transferred to a YOI unit for young adults aged 18 to 20. They also exclude those held outside the prison estate in secure training centres and local authority secure children's homes.

**Mrs. Gillan:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many out-of-cell hours prisoners in each prison are permitted. [9011]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** The average number of daily hours that prisoners in each establishment spent out of their cells on weekdays and weekends during the financial year 2004–05 is given in the following table.

The number of hours that prisoners are permitted to spend out of their cells will vary across the estate. Some establishments may record in excess of 20 hours a day. This will reflect the prison's open category where the level of security is such that prisoners have the right to associate freely for most or all of the day and have broad freedom of movement within the prison. Other establishments display considerably less time out of cell available due to the need for greater supervision and attention.

| *Establishment name* | *Average of time unlocked on a weekday* | *Average of time unlocked on a weekend day* |
|---|---|---|
| Acklington | 10.4 | 9.2 |
| Albany | 9.5 | 7.7 |
| Altcourse | 13.1 | 12.3 |
| Ashfield | 10.5 | 10.5 |
| Ashwell | 15.5 | 15.5 |
| Askham Grange | 16.0 | 16.0 |
| Aylesbury | 8.5 | 6.8 |
| Bedford | 8.6 | 5.9 |
| Belmarsh | 9.5 | 6.0 |
| Birmingham | 7.3 | 6.2 |
| Blakenhurst | 8.5 | 8.3 |
| Blantyre House | 15.3 | 15.3 |
| Blundeston | 10.2 | 7.3 |
| Brinsford | 8.5 | 6.9 |
| Bristol | 7.9 | 6.0 |
| Brixton | 7.2 | 5.4 |
| Brockhill | 8.6 | 7.0 |
| Bronzefield | 12.0 | 10.1 |
| Buckley Hall | 13.1 | 12.8 |
| Bullingdon | 8.6 | 6.3 |
| Bullwood Hall | 10.6 | 7.7 |
| Camp Hill | 11.0 | 8.5 |
| Canterbury | 7.8 | 7.7 |
| Cardiff | 9.5 | 6.0 |
| Castington | 8.3 | 7.6 |
| Channings Wood | 9.7 | 7.0 |
| Chelmsford | 7.6 | 4.1 |
| Coldingley | 12.0 | 9.2 |
| Cookham Wood | 9.2 | 7.5 |
| Dartmoor | 10.6 | 8.4 |
| Deerbolt | 8.2 | 5.4 |
| Doncaster | 11.5 | 11.5 |
| Dorchester | 7.9 | 8.7 |
| Dovegate | 11.9 | 10.5 |
| Dover | 12.0 | 11.7 |
| Downview | 10.7 | 8.7 |
| Drake Hall | 16.0 | 16.0 |
| Durham | 9.8 | 4.0 |
| East Sutton Park | 17.0 | 17.0 |
| Eastwood Park | 11.3 | 8.4 |
| Edmunds Hill | 2.5 | 9.5 |
| Elmley | 8.5 | 7.8 |
| Erlestoke | 11.1 | 9.7 |
| Everthorpe | 9.1 | 7.8 |
| Exeter | 8.3 | 7.4 |
| Featherstone | 8.6 | 10.1 |
| Feltham | 7.9 | 1.2 |
| Ford | 13.3 | 13.3 |
| Forest Bank | 10.5 | 9.6 |
| Foston Hall | 10.8 | 9.5 |
| Frankland | 9.3 | 7.0 |
| Full Sutton | 9.4 | 7.5 |
| Garth | 10.0 | 7.5 |
| Gartree | 10.0 | 7.3 |
| Glen Parva | 8.9 | 5.7 |
| Gloucester | 6.9 | 5.2 |
| Grendon | 12.8 | 8.8 |
| Guys Marsh | 9.5 | 7.5 |
| Haslar | 11.0 | 10.3 |
| Haverigg | 10.4 | 9.7 |
| Hewell Grange | 24.0 | 24.0 |
| High Down | 6.4 | 5.0 |
| Highpoint | 10.0 | 7.5 |
| Hindley | 9.9 | 9.9 |
| Hollesley Bay | 15.5 | 15.5 |
| Holloway | 9.0 | 7.1 |
| Holme House | 6.1 | 5.2 |

| Establishment name | Average of time unlocked on a weekday | Average of time unlocked on a weekend day |
|---|---|---|
| Hull | 7.9 | 7.3 |
| Huntercombe | 10.1 | 8.7 |
| Kingston | 11.3 | 7.9 |
| Kirkham | 13.5 | 13.0 |
| Kirklevington | 19.0 | 19.0 |
| Lancaster | 10.0 | 7.5 |
| Lancaster Farms | 10.7 | 9.7 |
| Latchmere House | 19.0 | 19.0 |
| Leeds | 8.9 | 8.1 |
| Leicester | 9.7 | 7.1 |
| Lewes | 7.8 | 6.5 |
| Leyhill | 16.0 | 16.0 |
| Lincoln | 8.9 | 6.8 |
| Lindholme | 10.9 | 8.4 |
| Littlehey | 9.5 | 7.9 |
| Liverpool | 8.4 | 8.5 |
| Long Lartin | 9.0 | 7.9 |
| Low Newton | 10.5 | 8.5 |
| Lowdham Grange | 13.0 | 11.9 |
| Maidstone | 10.0 | 7.7 |
| Manchester | 9.4 | 8.5 |
| Moorland | 12.6 | 5.7 |
| Morton Hall | 15.0 | 15.0 |
| Mount | 8.7 | 6.9 |
| New Hall | 11.4 | 11.0 |
| North Sea Camp | 16.7 | 16.7 |
| Northallerton | 8.8 | 6.5 |
| Norwich | 8.8 | 7.3 |
| Nottingham | 7.1 | 3.7 |
| Onley | 8.9 | 7.7 |
| Parc | 10.2 | 10.1 |
| Parkhurst | 9.2 | 6.7 |
| Pentonville | 7.8 | 7.1 |
| Portland | 7.6 | 5.0 |
| Preston | 8.7 | 7.5 |
| Ranby | 10.6 | 9.7 |
| Reading | 8.0 | 6.6 |
| Risley | 10.5 | 10.0 |
| Rochester | 9.0 | 6.0 |
| Rye Hill | 11.4 | 11.7 |
| Send | 12.7 | 12.6 |
| Shepton Mallet | 10.0 | 8.1 |
| Shrewsbury | 9.5 | 13.7 |
| Stafford | 9.5 | 5.4 |
| Standford Hill | 12.0 | 12.0 |
| Stocken | 10.8 | 7.2 |
| Stoke Heath | 10.3 | 10.2 |
| Styal | 11.6 | 11.6 |
| Sudbury | 12.9 | 12.9 |
| Swaleside | 9.9 | 7.2 |
| Swansea | 9.2 | 8.5 |
| Swinfen Hall | 10.4 | 6.8 |
| Thorn Cross | 12.5 | 12.5 |
| Usk-Prescoed | 13.8 | 12.9 |
| Verne | 16.0 | 16.0 |
| Wakefield | 9.0 | 6.6 |
| Wandsworth | 6.4 | 4.2 |
| Warren Hill | 10.5 | 10.0 |
| Wayland | 11.5 | 10.1 |
| Wealstun | 11.3 | 11.1 |
| Weare | 9.5 | 8.4 |
| Wellingborough | 9.7 | 7.7 |
| Werrington | 10.7 | 8.0 |
| Wetherby | 9.8 | 6.5 |
| Whatton | 13.1 | 10.8 |
| Whitemoor | 9.7 | 7.5 |
| Winchester | 9.4 | 7.1 |
| Wolds | 12.6 | 10.6 |
| Woodhill | 8.5 | 6.3 |
| Wormwood Scrubs | 8.0 | 5.1 |
| Wymott | 11.1 | 10.0 |

**Mrs. Gillan:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how long each prison governor as at 1 June had served *(a)* as a prison officer and *(b)* as a governor; who the governor of each prison is; how old each will be on 1 July; on which date each joined the Prison Service; how long each has been a governor; and when each is expected to retire. [9057]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** A list of current governing governors of public sector Prison Service establishments, together with information on the length of time they have served as governing governor at any establishment, and their start date with the Prison Service is contained in the following table. Comprehensive information on time spent in officer grades is not readily available and could be collected only at disproportionate cost. Information provided which is attributed to individuals, in this case on age and retirement is considered personal information. In line with data protection legislation, we can only provide this with individuals' consent. Obtaining this consent could be done only at disproportionate cost.

Information on the career histories and personal details of contracted (privately) managed establishments is not held centrally and could be collected only at disproportionate cost.

The directors of contracted establishments are as follows:

*Current governors—as at 1 July 2005*

| Current establishment | Governing governor as | Total time in months | Original start |
|---|---|---|---|
| Acklington | Mike Kirby | 117 | 26 May 1990 |
| Albany | Mel Jones | 38 | 23 September1985 |
| Ashwell | Chris Di Paolo | 15 | 24 September 1984 |
| Askham Grange | Dawn Elaine | 45 | 22 October 1990 |
| Aylesbury | David Kennedy | 55 | 12 March 1979 |
| Bedford | Guy Baulf | 16 | 15 July 1985 |
| Belmarsh | Geoff Hughes | 71 | 28 September 1981 |
| Birmingham | Mike Shann | 85 | 8 May 1967 |
| Blakenhurst | Ferdie Parker | 24 | 5 October 1987 |
| Blantyre House | Kieron Taylor | 8 | 17 August 1981 |
| Blundeston | Teresa Clarke | 26 | 22 November 1990 |
| Brinsford | Tom Watson | 52 | 29 April 1974 |
| Bristol | Suzy Dymond-White | 2 | 20 July1987 |
| Brixton | John Podmore | 55 | 1 September 1985 |
| Brockhill/Hewell Grange | Alison Gomme | n/a | 16 November 1981 |
| Buckley Hall | Sue Morrison | 38 | 28 September 1981 |
| Bullingdon | Sue Saunders | 37 | 3 April 1989 |
| Bullwood Hall | Mukhtar Poselay | 8 | 21 August 1972 |
| Camp Hill | Bob Bennett | 93 | 6 July 1968 |
| Canterbury | Helen Rinaldi | 38 | 14 January 1985 |
| Cardiff | Paul Tidball | 99 | 27 September 1976 |
| Castington | Matt Spencer | 17 | 16 November 1987 |

*Current governors—as at 1 July 2005*

| *Current establishment* | *Governing governor as* | *Total time in months* | *Original start* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Channings Wood | Jeanninc Hendrick | 2 | 3 October 1988 |
| Chelmsford | Nigel Smith | 3 | 15 August 1988 |
| Coldingley | Paul McDowell | 17 | 29 May 1990 |
| Cookham Wood | Ed Tullett | 18 | 25 April 1979 |
| Dartmoor | Serena Watts | 1 | 4 October 1999 |
| Deerbolt | Alan Tallentire | 30 | 8 May 1984 |
| Dorchester | Steve Holland | 38 | 30 September 1991 |
| Dover | Val Whitecross | 31 | 28 September1981 |
| Downview | Advertised 13 June 2005 | n/a | n/a |
| Drake Hall | John Huntington | 22 | 25 February 1980 |
| Durham | Sandy McEwan | 26 | 30 November 1998 |
| East Sutton Park | Robin Carter | 76 | 1 March 1983 |
| Eastwood Park | Tim Beeston | 73 | 22 October 1984 |
| Edmunds Hill | Norma King | 8 | 15 August 1988 |
| Elmley | Chris Bartlett | 61 | 23 September 1985 |
| Erlestoke | Doug Moon | 2 | 20 May 1974 |
| Everthorpe | Gary Monaghan | 5 | 24 June 1991 |
| Exeter | Mark Flinton | 1 | 2 January 1990 |
| Featherstone | Mike Bolton | 61 | 29 May 1984 |
| Feltham | Andrew Cross | 56 | 12 August 1985 |
| Ford | Fiona Radford | 19 | 23 September 1985 |
| Foston Hall | Paddy Striven | 101 | 29 October 1973 |
| Frankland | Phil Copple | 63 | 1 October 1990 |
| Full Sutton | Bob Mullen | 81 | 27 September 1982 |
| Garth | Bob McColm | 45 | 1 August 1975 |
| Gartree | Julia Morgan | 54 | 25 September 1978 |
| Glen Parva | Brian Edwards | 40 | 3 January 1972 |
| Gloucester | David Chalmers | 50 | 20 May 1974 |
| Grendon | Peter Bennett | 57 | 26 September 1983 |
| Guys Marsh | Barry Greenberry | 53 | 22 October 1984 |
| Haslar | Carole Draper | 16 | 1 September 1984 |
| Haverigg | Sue McCullagh | 27 | 16 November 1981 |
| Hewell Grange/Brockhill | Alison Gomme | 74 | 16 November 1981 |
| Highdown | Peter Dawson | 15 | 1 October 1984 |
| Highpoint | Sue Doolan | 59 | 28 September 1981 |
| Hindley | Jayne Blake | 67 | 28 October 1974 |
| Holloway | Ken Kan | 62 | 29 September 1980 |
| Holme House | Tony Hassall | 43 | 25 June 1990 |
| Hull | Mick Lees | 99 | 12 February 1979 |
| Huntercombe | Steve Tilley | 52 | 2 October 1978 |
| Kingston | Elaine Jones | 41 | 19 March 1979 |
| Kirkham | John Robinson | 62 | 1 November 1982 |
| Kirklevington | Steve Lawrence | 27 | 7 May 1985 |
| Lancaster | Alan Richer | 36 | 28 September 1982 |
| Lancaster Farms | Derek Harrison | 20 | 1 January 1991 |
| Latchmere House | Terry Williams | 24 | 20 July 1992 |
| Leeds | Ruth Kringle | 1 | 14 December 1992 |
| Leicester | Ian Blakeman | 29 | 25 September 1989 |
| Lewes | Steve Turner | 21 | 28 April 1975 |
| Leyhill | Eoin McLennan-Murray | 68 | 25 September 1978 |
| Lincoln | Richard Booty | 71 | 23 September 1985 |
| Lindholme | Lynne Saunders | 14 | 21 September 1992 |
| Littlehey | Martin Ward | 50 | 25 March 1974 |
| Liverpool | David Taylor | n/a | n/a |
| Long Lartin | Cathy James | 76 | 22 October 1984 |
| Low Newton | Nick Leader | 46 | 23 September 1985 |
| Maidstone | Andrea Whitfield | 3 | 22 October 1990 |
| Manchester | Jane Galbally | 83 | 27 September 1976 |
| Moorland | Chris Sheffield | 74 | 29 September 1980 |
| Morton Hall | Jacqui Tilley | 30 | 20 December 1980 |
| New Hall | Damian Evans | 12 | 16 September 1992 |
| North Sea Camp | Sara Snell | 53 | 25 September 1989 |
| Northallerton | N. Warwick | 2 | 28 September 1982 |
| Norwich | Bill Shaw | 43 | 9 July 1979 |
| Nottingham | James Shanley | 32 | 8 August 1983 |
| Onley | Wendy Sinclair-Gieben | 8 | 29 June 1998 |
| Parkhurst | Alison Perry | 14 | 23 September 1985 |
| Pentonville | Steve Metcalf | 57 | 12 October 1970 |
| Portland | Gary Deighton | 54 | 22 September 1986 |
| Preston | Steve Twinn | 28 | 3 September 1968 |
| Ranby | Alan Brown | 35 | 27 March 1972 |
| Reading | Phil Wragg | 35 | 20 July 1987 |
| Risley | Pauline Bryant | 13 | 8 December 1986 |
| Rochester | Paul Norbury | 53 | 28 September 1982 |
| Send | Stephen O'Connell | 9 | 30 March 1987 |
| Shepton Mallet | Brian Ritchie | 29 | 27 September 1971 |
| Shrewsbury | Nick Evans | 102 | 27 September 1976 |
| Stafford | Gerry Hendry | 5 | 21 July 1980 |
| Standford Hill | Louise Taylor | 59 | 28 September 1981 |
| Stocken | John Wilson | 19 | 8 May 1978 |
| | Moira Barlett | 21 | 29 September 1980 |

*Current governors—as at 1 July 2005*

| *Current establishment* | *Governing governor as* | *Total time in months* | *Original start* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Stoke Heath | Peter Small | 17 | 13 August 1990 |
| Styal | Steve Hall | 16 | 25 September 1989 |
| Sudbury | Chris Davidson | 81 | 26 September 1977 |
| Swaleside | Tony Robson | 72 | 28 September 1982 |
| Swansea | Phil Taylor | 28 | 31 July 1978 |
| Swinfen Hall | Peter Knapton | 35 | 5 May 1975 |
| The Mount | Steve Rodford | 22 | 25 July 1988 |
| The Verne | Mike Cook | 72 | 24 September 1979 |
| Thorn Cross | Clive Chatterton | 10 | 8 September 1975 |
| Usk/Prescoed | Phil Morgan | 25 | 8 August 1977 |
| Wakefield | Dave Thompson | 45 | 25 February 1980 |
| Wandsworth | Ian Mulholland | 42 | 14 May 1990 |
| Warren Hill | Stuart Robinson | 60 | 30 September 1968 |
| Wayland | Michael Wood | 29 | 9 September 1974 |
| Wealstun | Amy Rice | 26 | 11 September 1995 |
| Weare | Denise Calvert | 104 | 23 September 1985 |
| Wellingborough | Jim Lewis | 32 | 12 May 1986 |
| Werrington | Frank Flynn | 29 | 6 September 1976 |
| Wetherby | Paul Foweather | 16 | 8 September 1985 |
| Whatton | Viv Hart | 78 | 26 September 1983 |
| Whitemoor | Martin Lomas | 46 | 23 September 1985 |
| Winchester | Cathy Allison | 45 | 29 September 1986 |
| Woodhill | Edd Willetts | 133 | 29 September 1980 |
| Wormwood Scrubs | Luke Serjeant | 56 | 10 October 1983 |
| Wymott | Alan Scott | 73 | 26 September 1983 |

**Mrs. Gillan:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the *(a)* running cost of each establishment in the Prison Service and *(b)* average number of people held at that establishment was in the last three years for which figures are available. [9063]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** The running costs for each prison establishment for the last three years are detailed in table 1. The average population for each prison establishment for the last three years is contained in table 2.

*Table 1: Running costs of each prison establishment in England and Wales*

£

| | *2002–03* | *2003–04* | *2004–05* |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Public prisons* | | | |
| Acklington | 13,054,221 | 15,788,473 | 14,832,070 |
| Albany | 10,214,992 | 10,898,755 | 11,200,111 |
| Ashwell | 8,886,442 | 9,820,622 | 10,209,699 |
| Askham Grange | 3,010,142 | 3,504,485 | 3,628,808 |
| Aylesbury | 11,665,889 | 12,479,820 | 12,999,179 |
| Bedford | 9,496,198 | 10,592,950 | 11,910,478 |
| Belmarsh | 31,517,399 | 35,243,301 | 35,101,849 |
| Birmingham | 18,407,049 | 26,001,933 | 28,115,789 |
| Blakenhurst | 12,205,742 | 14,323,009 | 17,547,075 |
| Blantyre House | 2,610,224 | 2,804,447 | 2,847,341 |
| Blundeston | 10,665,341 | 11,696,407 | 11,220,183 |
| Brinsford | 13,067,320 | 14,719,850 | 15,253,675 |
| Bristol | 17,726,084 | 17,527,369 | 17,654,815 |
| Brixton | 19,738,370 | 20,145,741 | 21,694,228 |
| Brockhill | 6,545,910 | 7,177,766 | 7,066,126 |
| Buckley Hall | 8,002,424 | 8,754,833 | 9,618,038 |
| Bullingdon | 16,450,925 | 18,905,326 | 19,263,748 |
| Bullwood Hall | 6,735,862 | 7,537,890 | 8,107,852 |
| Camp Hill | 10,773,950 | 11,650,349 | 11,589,936 |
| Canterbury | 6,718,209 | 6,905,822 | 7,028,161 |
| Cardiff | 14,263,886 | 15,517,952 | 15,899,772 |
| Castington | 12,033,756 | 13,481,139 | 14,049,927 |
| Channings Wood | 12,381,004 | 13,442,288 | 13,496,966 |
| Chelmsford | 12,872,923 | 13,939,442 | 15,601,356 |
| Coldingley | 8,151,903 | 9,128,149 | 9,140,570 |
| Cookham Wood | 3,973,515 | 4,523,753 | 4,674,198 |
| Dartmoor | 14,952,729 | 15,438,615 | 14,941,524 |
| Deerbolt | 10,672,540 | 12,815,868 | 13,998,620 |
| Dorchester | 6,397,176 | 6,958,361 | 7,045,806 |
| Dover | 7,531,999 | 8,535,931 | 8,611,126 |
| Downview | 8,572,194 | 9,514,317 | 10,569,695 |
| Drake Hall | 6,516,051 | 7,472,585 | 7,927,240 |
| Durham | 23,777,700 | 25,058,947 | 21,897,082 |

*Table 1: Running costs of each prison establishment in England and Wales*

£

| | *2002–03* | *2003–04* | *2004–05* |
|---|---|---|---|
| East Sutton Park | 2,663,045 | 2,573,576 | 2,436,134 |
| Eastwood Park | 8,042,491 | 9,913,081 | 10,274,898 |
| Elmley | 16,103,052 | 16,341,015 | 16,768,876 |
| Erlestoke | 6,908,722 | 8,121,059 | 8,270,228 |
| Everthorpe | 8,302,402 | 9,197,297 | 9,558,717 |
| Exeter | 11,607,391 | 12,234,022 | 11,964,287 |
| Featherstone | 13,097,562 | 13,682,194 | 13,722,618 |
| Feltham | 30,914,848 | 34,739,708 | 38,423,319 |
| Ford | 7,235,485 | 7,751,286 | 8,155,014 |
| Foston Hall | 6,045,225 | 6,578,212 | 7,857,140 |
| Frankland | 26,165,447 | 29,118,142 | 32,131,898 |
| Full Sutton | 24,773,246 | 26,386,702 | 25,664,941 |
| Garth | 13,576,683 | 14,617,993 | 15,522,885 |
| Gartree | 8,907,622 | 10,526,748 | 11,321,333 |
| Glen Parva | 17,838,628 | 18,973,061 | 19,572,205 |
| Gloucester | 7,925,897 | 8,838,004 | 9,427,751 |
| Grendon | 11,834,438 | 14,095,177 | 14,704,902 |
| Guys Marsh | 8,984,586 | 10,274,249 | 9,851,988 |
| Haslar | 3,430,226 | 4,184,601 | 4,269,224 |
| Haverigg | 9,846,313 | 11,207,604 | 11,714,695 |
| Hewell Grange | 3,073,260 | 3,647,648 | 3,917,925 |
| Highdown | 18,620,299 | 18,342,968 | 18,931,089 |
| Edmunds Hill | — | 10,166,109 | 9,962,096 |
| Highpoint | 18,628,779 | 13,421,206 | 14,034,826 |
| Hindley | 17,104,335 | 18,631,029 | 18,645,130 |
| Hollesley Bay | 14,900,730 | 6,936,001 | 6,873,865 |
| Holloway | 24,950,875 | 24,503,393 | 25,575,086 |
| Holme House | 18,220,248 | 19,642,584 | 20,527,752 |
| Hull | 17,551,047 | 21,767,681 | 22,285,797 |
| Huntercombe | 12,126,323 | 13,683,795 | 14,580,860 |
| Kingston | 5,133,177 | 5,263,066 | 5,515,193 |
| Kirkham | 11,292,357 | 11,834,765 | 13,179,918 |
| Kirklevington Grange | 3,088,564 | 3,739,041 | 3,935,712 |
| Lancaster Castle | 6,137,630 | 6,560,739 | 7,139,154 |
| Lancaster Farms | 13,087,839 | 15,402,635 | 16,682,160 |
| Latchmere House | 3,419,175 | 3,795,789 | 3,439,878 |
| Leeds | 24,161,348 | 25,793,017 | 25,289,014 |
| Leicester | 8,402,450 | 9,321,911 | 9,733,096 |
| Lewes | 10,262,873 | 12,151,241 | 12,471,889 |
| Leyhill | 9,761,621 | 10,238,611 | 11,042,872 |
| Lincoln | 13,468,973 | 14,168,126 | 13,671,497 |
| Lindholme | 16,782,005 | 17,181,143 | 19,278,106 |
| Littlehey | 10,532,341 | 11,569,348 | 12,271,304 |
| Liverpool | 26,779,122 | 29,081,193 | 28,102,218 |
| Long Lartin | 20,297,349 | 21,759,327 | 21,227,384 |
| Low Newton | 8,027,668 | 9,530,831 | 9,571,447 |
| Maidstone | 11,094,821 | 11,439,739 | 11,293,615 |
| Manchester | 25,453,776 | 28,452,774 | 29,740,822 |

*Table 1: Running costs of each prison establishment in England and Wales*

£

| | 2002–03 | 2003–04 | 2004–05 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Moorland | 20,902,463 | 22,199,673 | 22,512,870 |
| Morton Hall | 6,514,375 | 8,265,011 | 7,915,508 |
| Mount (The) | 12,808,539 | 14,103,646 | 14,259,835 |
| New Hall | 11,888,471 | 14,575,159 | 15,352,984 |
| North Sea Camp | 4,446,814 | 4,615,385 | 4,937,493 |
| Northallerton | 5,273,815 | 5,974,079 | 6,084,423 |
| Norwich | 15,229,088 | 16,123,860 | 16,645,920 |
| Nottingham | 11,178,582 | 12,353,040 | 12,965,515 |
| Onley | 14,770,000 | 15,865,978 | 14,813,252 |
| Parkhurst | 13,259,482 | 14,777,153 | 14,873,068 |
| Pentonville | 25,047,521 | 26,329,862 | 27,808,745 |
| Portland | 11,106,772 | 12,553,777 | 12,706,963 |
| Preston | 14,005,563 | 15,197,436 | 16,043,797 |
| Ranby | 14,269,727 | 16,128,716 | 18,864,003 |
| Reading | 7,080,270 | 8,495,684 | 8,269,538 |
| Risley | 18,221,821 | 20,722,667 | 20,477,940 |
| Rochester | 8,601,059 | 8,694,79 | 9,434,344 |
| Send | 4,973,567 | 6,074,95 | 5,927,005 |
| Shepton Mallet | 4,990,999 | 5,630,381 | 5,361,730 |
| Shrewsbury | 7,340,719 | 7,848,80 | 8,229,798 |
| Stafford | 12,305,29 | 13,225,25 | 13,908,420 |
| Standford Hill | 8,107,638 | 8,436,240 | 8,886,705 |
| Stocken | 10,199,203 | 11,221,791 | 11,341,130 |
| Stoke Heath | 15,705,333 | 17,394,796 | 18,110,822 |
| Styal | 11,529,555 | 13,371,178 | 14,226,049 |
| Sudbury | 7,700,779 | 8,599,734 | 8,554,575 |
| Swaleside | 13,776,388 | 14,746,329 | 15,222,670 |
| Swansea | 8,219,128 | 8,988,412 | 9,493,789 |
| Swinfen Hall | 7,860,939 | 8,609,410 | 13,310,927 |
| Thorn Cross | 7,370,209 | 8,081,102 | 8,802,198 |
| Usk | 7,171,809 | 7,951,780 | 8,173,464 |
| Verne (The) | 10,002,290 | 10,343,170 | 10,113,137 |
| Wakefield | 20,955,508 | 21,875,455 | 22,999,359 |
| Wandsworth | 27,936,164 | 30,949,361 | 34,342,583 |
| Warren Hill | — | 9,486,156 | 9,843,446 |
| Wayland | 10,818,403 | 11,602,260 | 11,789,296 |
| Wealstun | 11,659,314 | 13,663,460 | 16,543,704 |
| Weare (The) | 7,920,458 | 8,463,374 | 8,177,636 |
| Wellingborough | 9,306,369 | 10,427,925 | 10,914,454 |
| Werrington | 5,820,567 | 6,360,411 | 6,862,585 |
| Wetherby | 10,161,472 | 11,743,631 | 12,554,959 |
| Whatton | 5,783,699 | 7,021,856 | 7,593,862 |
| Whitemoor | 24,138,779 | 24,942,489 | 25,976,815 |
| Winchester | 13,206,337 | 14,938,932 | 15,563,780 |
| Woodhill | 23,631,397 | 26,427,000 | 27,901,035 |
| Wormwood Scrubs | 24,691,189 | 28,870,885 | 28,952,573 |
| Wymott | 15,501,820 | 17,605,373 | 20,838,883 |
| *Contracted prisons* | | | |
| Altcourse | 32,154,593 | 31,158,524 | [1]N/A |
| Ashfield | 9,820,999 | 13,040,682 | N/A |
| Bronzefield[2] | — | — | N/A |
| Doncaster | 19,252,815 | 19,097,051 | N/A |
| Dovegate | 24,511,442 | 22,287,437 | N/A |
| Forest Bank | 20,821,813 | 20,863,919 | N/A |
| Lowdham Grange | 13,159,649 | 12,347,364 | N/A |
| Parc | 31,322,995 | 31,240,577 | N/A |
| Peterborough[3] | — | — | N/A |
| Rye Hill | 14,103,266 | 14,202,366 | N/A |
| The Wolds | 8,504,900 | 6,776,755 | N/A |

[1] Costs for contracted prisons for 2004/05 are not yet available.
[2] Bronzefield opened in June 2004.
[3] Peterborough opened on 31 March 2005

*Table 2: Average population of prison establishments, by establishment England and Wales*

| | 2002–03 | 2003–04 | 2004–05 |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Public prisons* | | | |
| Acklington | 771 | 852 | 863 |
| Albany | 440 | 506 | 514 |
| Ashwell | 494 | 529 | 531 |
| Askham Grange | 129 | 125 | 112 |
| Aylesbury | 348 | 346 | 361 |
| Bedford | 459 | 476 | 491 |
| Belmarsh | 874 | 890 | 907 |



*Table 2: Average population of prison establishments, by establishment England and Wales*

| | 2002–03 | 2003–04 | 2004–05 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Birmingham | 920 | 1,144 | 1,381 |
| Blakenhurst | 864 | 875 | 879 |
| Blantyre House | 119 | 120 | 117 |
| Blundeston | 430 | 457 | 456 |
| Brinsford | 457 | 455 | 444 |
| Bristol | 603 | 586 | 592 |
| Brixton | 781 | 795 | 825 |
| Brockhill | 157 | 146 | 133 |
| Buckley Hall | 252 | 299 | 329 |
| Bullingdon | 923 | 946 | 957 |
| Bullwood Hall | 169 | 154 | 150 |
| Camp Hill | 536 | 565 | 570 |
| Canterbury | 302 | 297 | 295 |
| Cardiff | 664 | 670 | 705 |
| Castington | 326 | 274 | 362 |
| Channings Wood | 613 | 635 | 648 |
| Chelmsford | 564 | 573 | 574 |
| Coldingley | 378 | 386 | 384 |
| CookhamWood | 129 | 133 | 150 |
| Dartmoor | 613 | 607 | 608 |
| Deerbolt | 446 | 447 | 450 |
| Dorchester | 245 | 235 | 227 |
| Dover | 180 | 286 | 261 |
| Downview | 226 | 211 | 217 |
| Drake Hall | 261 | 289 | 284 |
| Durham | 706 | 707 | 679 |
| East Sutton Park | 90 | 95 | 97 |
| Eastwood Park | 296 | 282 | 291 |
| Edmunds Hill | — | 236 | 134 |
| Elmley | 962 | 978 | 959 |
| Erlestoke | 351 | 410 | 418 |
| Everthorpe | 372 | 444 | 458 |
| Exeter | 505 | 522 | 516 |
| Featherstone | 607 | 612 | 606 |
| Feltham | 657 | 654 | 633 |
| Ford | 497 | 507 | 521 |
| Foston Hall | 216 | 221 | 224 |
| Frankland | 649 | 652 | 682 |
| Full Sutton | 601 | 604 | 601 |
| Garth | 649 | 649 | 654 |
| Gartree | 281 | 337 | 410 |
| Glen Parva | 776 | 768 | 730 |
| Gloucester | 313 | 299 | 294 |
| Grendon | 464 | 540 | 520 |
| Guys Marsh | 529 | 557 | 544 |
| Haslar | 131 | 133 | 124 |
| Haverigg | 544 | 553 | 550 |
| Hewell Grange | 182 | 169 | 163 |
| High Down | 724 | 733 | 742 |
| Highpoint | 872 | 739 | 806 |
| Hindley | 507 | 504 | 461 |
| Hollesley Bay | 424 | 306 | 266 |
| Hollesley Bay/Warren Hill | — | — | — |
| Holloway | 481 | 467 | 418 |
| Holme House | 979 | 979 | 955 |
| Hull | 793 | 1,022 | 1,059 |
| Huntercombe | 346 | 321 | 351 |
| Kingston | 187 | 161 | 138 |
| Kirkham | 482 | 526 | 505 |
| Kirklevington | 181 | 217 | |
| Lancaster | 237 | 237 | 221 |
| Lancaster Farms | 478 | 465 | 491 |
| Latchmere House | 188 | 193 | 199 |
| Leeds | 1,244 | 1,246 | 1,230 |
| Leicester | 362 | 380 | 357 |
| Lewes | 510 | 498 | 508 |
| Leyhill | 425 | 499 | 487 |
| Lincoln | 452 | 462 | 450 |
| Lindholme | 724 | 710 | 705 |
| Littlehey | 651 | 665 | 692 |
| Liverpool | 1,444 | 1,438 | 1,392 |
| Long Lartin | 430 | 432 | 428 |

*Table 2: Average population of prison establishments, by establishment England and Wales*

| | 2002–03 | 2003–04 | 2004–05 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Low Newton | 275 | 282 | 289 |
| Maidstone | 500 | 536 | 544 |
| Manchester | 1,253 | 1,251 | 1,226 |
| Moorland Open (Hatfield) | 183 | — | — |
| Moorland | 768 | 994 | 996 |
| Morton Hall | 251 | 332 | 328 |
| New Hall | 348 | 361 | 349 |
| North Sea Camp | 266 | 290 | 276 |
| Northallerton | 201 | 208 | 197 |
| Norwich | 743 | 721 | 749 |
| Nottingham | 530 | [illegible] | 501 |
| Onley | 519 | 478 | 505 |
| Parkhurst | 506 | 494 | 485 |
| Pentonville | 1,203 | 1,198 | 1,201 |
| Portland | 436 | 446 | 449 |
| Preston | 642 | 664 | 623 |
| Ranby | 752 | 799 | 860 |
| Reading | 263 | 261 | 259 |
| Risley | 897 | 1,055 | 1,054 |
| Rochester | 162 | 201 | 349 |
| Send | 215 | 215 | 214 |
| Shepton Mallet | 186 | 185 | 184 |
| Shrewsbury | 333 | 338 | 302 |
| Stafford | 630 | 637 | 667 |
| Standford Hill | 392 | 426 | 437 |
| Stocken | 577 | 616 | 614 |
| Stoke Heath | 629 | 619 | 635 |
| Styal | 432 | 424 | 387 |
| Sudbury | 506 | 539 | 542 |
| Swaleside | 769 | 771 | 774 |
| Swansea | 362 | 345 | 348 |
| Swinfen Hall | 313 | 313 | 408 |
| Mount | 754 | 757 | 727 |
| Verne | 581 | 581 | 577 |
| Weare | 384 | 376 | 366 |
| Thorn Cross | 208 | 208 | 261 |
| Usk-Prescoed | 328 | 392 | 409 |
| Wakefield | 570 | 563 | 553 |
| Wandsworth | 1,457 | 1,456 | 1,459 |
| Warren Hill | — | 173 | 204 |
| Wayland | 659 | 697 | 692 |
| Wealstun | 587 | 596 | 693 |
| Wellingborough | 520 | 519 | 516 |
| Werrington | 130 | 123 | 133 |
| Wetherby | 343 | 303 | 317 |
| Whatton | 290 | 352 | 355 |
| Whitemoor | 419 | 418 | 430 |
| Winchester | 618 | 626 | 636 |
| Woodhill | 754 | 772 | 767 |
| Wormwood Scrubs | 1,214 | 1,214 | 1,236 |
| Wymott | 810 | 841 | 1,023 |
| *Contracted prisons* | | | |
| Altcourse | 981 | 996 | 958 |
| Ashfield | 267 | 277 | 292 |
| Bronzefield[1] | N/A | N/A | 281 |
| Doncaster | 1,122 | 11,109 | 1,098 |
| Dovegate | 754 | 849 | 831 |
| Forest Bank | 1,011 | 1,002 | 1,021 |
| Lowdham Grange | 518 | 521 | 510 |
| Pare | 975 | 980 | 995 |
| Peterborough[2] | N/A | N/A | 1 |
| Rye Hill | 656 | 656 | 639 |
| Wolds | 381 | 344 | 345 |

[1] Bronzefield opened in June 2004

[2] Peterborough opened on 31 March 2005

**Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 13 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 170W, on prisons, whether female prison officers are required to perform rub down searches on male prisoners under their contract of employment. [12402]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** Under their terms and conditions of employment all prison officers must comply with national policy set out in Prison Service Orders (PSOs) and Prison Service Instructions (PSIs). Policy on searching is set out in PSO 1000, which allows for female prison officers rub down search a male prisoner.

**Mr. Bellingham:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many uniformed prison officers were employed at each prison in *(a)* 1992 and *(b)* 2005. [13377]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** Due to a change of computer system during 1995–96 reliable data on stafiing are not available prior to April 1997. At 30 June 2005, 24,180 officer grade staff (prison officers, senior officers and principal officers) were employed at public sector prison establishments (excluding Headquarters). A breakdown by each establishment is contained in the following table. Information on staffing levels within prisons managed by the private sector is not collected centrally in this form and is therefore not available.

| Prison name | Prison officer | Senior officer | Principal officer | Total officers |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Acklington | 182 | 31 | 6 | 219 |
| Albany | 114 | 26 | 6 | 146 |
| Ashwell | 79 | 22 | 6 | 107 |
| Askham Grange | 27 | 5 | 2 | 34 |
| Aylesbury | 138 | 34 | 8 | 180 |
| Bedford | 116 | 21 | 5 | 142 |
| Belmarsh | 407 | 82 | 19 | 508 |
| Birmingham | 402 | 71 | 27 | 500 |
| Blakenhurst | 197 | 37 | 14 | 248 |
| Blantyre House | 24 | 6 | 1 | 31 |
| Blundeston | 119 | 23 | 7 | 149 |
| Brinsford | 176 | 42 | 11 | 229 |
| Bristol | 218 | 36 | 13 | 267 |
| Brixton | 175 | 39 | 15 | 229 |
| Brockhill | 68 | 17 | 5 | 90 |
| BuckleyHall | 96 | 19 | 6 | 121 |
| Bullingdon | 188 | 37 | 15 | 240 |
| Bullwood Hall | 65 | 14 | 3 | 82 |
| Camp Hill | 125 | 28 | 6 | 159 |
| Canterbury | 81 | 19 | 6 | 106 |
| Cardiff | 208 | 37 | 11 | 256 |
| Castington | 175 | 39 | 9 | 223 |
| Channings Wood | 132 | 27 | 10 | 169 |
| Chelmsford | 142 | 34 | 9 | 185 |
| Coldingley | 67 | 21 | 5 | 93 |
| Cookham Wood | 70 | 11 | 2 | 83 |
| Dartmoor | 133 | 27 | 9 | 169 |
| Deerbolt | 143 | 30 | 9 | 182 |
| Dorchester | 76 | 17 | 10 | 103 |
| Dover | 82 | 22 | 4 | 108 |
| Downview | 106 | 22 | 7 | 135 |
| Drake Hall | 72 | 15 | 4 | 91 |
| Durham | 265 | 43 | 17 | 325 |
| East Sutton Park | 21 | 3 | — | 24 |
| Eastwood Park | 99 | 18 | 8 | 125 |
| Edmunds Hill | 91 | 21 | 6 | 118 |
| Elmley | 200 | 43 | 13 | 256 |
| Erlestoke | 91 | 14 | 8 | 113 |
| Everthorpe | 126 | 29 | 6 | 161 |
| Exeter | 140 | 36 | 12 | 188 |
| Featherstone | 112 | 20 | 11 | 143 |
| Feltham | 339 | 69 | 23 | 431 |
| Ford | 45 | 11 | 5 | 61 |
| Foston Hall | 85 | 14 | 5 | 104 |
| Frankland | 493 | 74 | 19 | 586 |

| Prison name | Prison officer | Senior officer | Principal officer | Total officers |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Full Sutton | 399 | 68 | 20 | 487 |
| Garth | 179 | 35 | 11 | 225 |
| Gartree | 129 | 27 | 7 | 163 |
| Glen Parva | 208 | 44 | 13 | 265 |
| Gloucester | 91 | 19 | 6 | 116 |
| Grendon | 127 | 28 | 10 | 165 |
| Guys Marsh | 111 | 18 | 6 | 135 |
| Haslar | 43 | 8 | 2 | 53 |
| Haverigg | 102 | 20 | 10 | 132 |
| Hewell Grange | 22 | 6 | 2 | 30 |
| High Down | 172 | 39 | 10 | 221 |
| Highpoint | 149 | 29 | 6 | 184 |
| Hindley | 174 | 39 | 11 | 224 |
| Hollesley Bay | 40 | 7 | 3 | 50 |
| Holloway | 209 | 40 | 16 | 265 |
| Holme House | 253 | 38 | 13 | 304 |
| Hull | 270 | 54 | 17 | 341 |
| Huntercombe | 112 | 29 | 8 | 149 |
| Kingston | 52 | 13 | 5 | 70 |
| Kirkham | 74 | 16 | 8 | 98 |
| Kirklevington Grange | 38 | 5 | 2 | 45 |
| Lancaster | 64 | 17 | 5 | 86 |
| Lancaster Farms | 191 | 40 | 11 | 242 |
| Latchmere House | 30 | 6 | 1 | 37 |
| Leeds | 340 | 57 | 13 | 410 |
| Leicester | 105 | 20 | 5 | 130 |
| Lewes | 133 | 31 | 6 | 170 |
| Leyhill | 52 | 13 | 7 | 72 |
| Lincoln | 153 | 35 | 9 | 197 |
| Lindholme | 162 | 37 | 10 | 209 |
| Littlehey | 123 | 24 | 7 | 154 |
| Liverpool | 354 | 56 | 17 | 427 |
| Long Lartin | 284 | 51 | 24 | 359 |
| Low Newton | 120 | 20 | 8 | 148 |
| Maidstone | 116 | 26 | 10 | 152 |
| Manchester | 369 | 88 | 28 | 485 |
| Moorland | 266 | 47 | 14 | 327 |
| Morton Hall | 91 | 20 | 4 | 115 |
| New Hall | 151 | 30 | 10 | 191 |
| North Sea Camp | 38 | 8 | 3 | 49 |
| Northallerton | 50 | 8 | 3 | 61 |
| Norwich | 202 | 26 | 8 | 236 |
| Nottingham | 152 | 33 | 8 | 193 |
| Onley | 141 | 34 | 10 | 185 |
| Parkhurst | 152 | 30 | 8 | 190 |
| Pentonville | 327 | 53 | 18 | 398 |
| Portland | 134 | 29 | 8 | 171 |
| Preston | 185 | 37 | 11 | 233 |
| Ranby | 227 | 36 | 14 | 277 |
| Reading | 92 | 20 | 6 | 118 |
| Risley | 230 | 37 | 11 | 278 |
| Rochester | 115 | 22 | 7 | 144 |
| Send | 62 | 16 | 4 | 82 |
| Shepton Mallet | 47 | 11 | 5 | 63 |
| Shrewsbury | 84 | 16 | 8 | 108 |
| Stafford | 125 | 30 | 8 | 163 |
| Standford Hill | 58 | 21 | 4 | 83 |
| Stocken | 115 | 29 | 8 | 152 |
| Stoke Heath | 194 | 42 | 13 | 249 |
| Styal | 149 | 26 | 7 | 186 |
| Sudbury | 52 | 13 | 6 | 71 |
| Swaleside | 203 | 41 | 14 | 258 |
| Swansea | 125 | 23 | 7 | 155 |
| Swinfen Hall | 161 | 31 | 11 | 203 |
| The Mount | 111 | 25 | 8 | 144 |
| The Verne | 84 | 19 | 9 | 112 |
| Thorn Cross | 82 | 21 | 9 | 112 |
| Usk/Prescoed | 73 | 15 | 5 | 93 |
| Wakefield | 308 | 57 | 16 | 381 |
| Wandsworth | 313 | 50 | 21 | 384 |
| Warren Hill | 125 | 21 | 8 | 154 |
| Wayland | 119 | 23 | 7 | 149 |
| Wealstun | 151 | 36 | 9 | 196 |
| Weare | 80 | 18 | 5 | 103 |
| Wellingborough | 128 | 25 | 6 | 159 |
| Werrington | 61 | 15 | 5 | 81 |
| Wetherby | 127 | 30 | 6 | 163 |
| Whatton | 80 | 17 | 9 | 106 |
| Whitemoor | 367 | 74 | 25 | 466 |
| Winchester | 172 | 29 | 8 | 209 |
| Woodhill | 340 | 72 | 18 | 430 |
| Wormwood Scrubs | 263 | 45 | 19 | 327 |
| Wymott | 204 | 36 | 13 | 253 |
| Total | 19,180 | 3,806 | 1,194 | 24,180 |

**Mr. Bellingham:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* prison governors and *(b)* prison officers have been investigated for accessing pornography on the internet in each month since January; and if he will make a statement. [13378]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** The following data is for all investigations relating to the misuse of IT. The figure in brackets relates solely to the use/distribution of pornography on the Prison Service IT system. Some investigations are generic and refer to the inappropriate use of the email system by sending inappropriate material. Investigations are not grade sensitive.

| 2005 | Number |
|---|---|
| January | 1 |
| February | 4 |
| March | 1 |
| April | 3 |
| May | 4 (3) |
| June | 5 (3) |
| 14 July | 3 |

**Mr. Bellingham:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* governors, *(b)* prison officers and *(c)* inmates have been found with drugs at each prison establishment in each month since January; and if he will make a statement. [13379]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** The information is not available in the form requested. To provide the information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

## Probation Staff

**Jeremy Corbyn:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance has been given to the national probation service regarding the level of qualification of staff necessary to produce *(a)* pre-sentence, *(b)* short format and *(c)* fast delivery reports. [5642]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** The National Probation Directorate issued guidance on the provision of reports to court in Probation Circular 18/2005. There are now two types of report:

*Fast Delivery PSR*

Normally to be completed on the day, which is the aim whenever possible, but may be completed in up to five days, usually without a full OASys assessment.

*Standard Delivery Pre-Sentence Report (PSR)*

For completion on adjournment based on a full OASys assessment.

Fast Delivery PSRs are currently completed by probation officers and probation service officers.

Standard Delivery PSRs require a full assessment using OASys and including a full risk of harm assessment. These can only be done by probation officers who have received appropriate training.

In all probation areas a probation officer has to provide approval if there are significant risk of harm issues.

## Race Crime

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps he is taking to deal with race crime, with particular reference to attacks on Jewish cemeteries in East London. [8701]

**Paul Goggins:** The Government are committed to tackling all forms of racism wherever it exists and deplore anti-Semitic attacks such as the recent desecration of Jewish cemeteries in East London. These incidents are the subject of police investigation. The Government and police are aware of the concerns of the Jewish community and we continue to monitor the situation carefully in co-operation with community organisations.

Specific offences with increased maximum penalties for racially aggravated violence, harassment and criminal damage were introduced in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998; and work to prioritise hate crime continues across the criminal justice system.

## Rape (Essex)

**Mr. Burns:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many allegations of rape were made to Essex police in *(a)* 2001, *(b)* 2002, *(c)* 2003 and *(d)* 2004; how many (i) remain unsolved and (ii) were subsequently withdrawn by the accuser, broken down by year of allegation; in how many cases it was established that a rape had taken place, broken down by year of allegation; how many malicious allegations of rape were made in each year; how many convictions for rape there were in each year; and if he will make a statement. [10229]

**Paul Goggins** *[holding answer 11 July 2005]:* The information is not available in the form requested. No statistics are collected centrally on the number of allegations, the number which were malicious or the number which are subsequently withdrawn by the accuser.

The available information relates to offences of rape recorded by the police in the Essex police force area and those which were detected. The information is on a financial year basis and is given in Table 1. Because of the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002, figures before and after that date are not comparable.

Table 2 gives the number of defendants proceeded against at all courts for rape. It contains details on the number of defendants proceeded against, those where the case was discontinued, discharged or withdrawn together with those found guilty. This information is on a calendar year basis.

Because Table 1 relates to recorded offences and Table 2 relates to persons, the two sets of data are not directly comparable.

*Table 1: Recorded offences of rape in Essex, 2001–02 to 2003–04.*

| | *Number recorded* | *Detected* | *Undetected* |
|---|---|---|---|
| *2001–02* | | | |
| Rape of a male | 12 | 5 | 7 |
| Rape of a female | 190 | 62 | 128 |
| *2002–03* | | | |
| Rape of a male | 13 | 8 | 5 |
| Rape of a female | 281 | 85 | 196 |
| *2003–04* | | | |
| Rape of a male | 19 | 3 | 16 |
| Rape of a female | 316 | 93 | 223 |

[1] The National Crime Recording Standard was introduced in April 2002 and figures before and after that date are not comparable.

*Table 2: Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for rape in Essex police force area, 2001–03*[1]

| | *Magistrates court* | | | | | *Crown court*[3] | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Proceeded against* | *Discontinued* | *Discharged* | *Withdrawn* | *Guilty*[2] | *Committed for trial* | *Not tried* | *Acquitted* | *Guilty* |
| *2001* | | | | | | | | | |
| Rape of a male | 3 | 1 | — | — | — | 2 | — | — | — |
| Rape of a female | 44 | 5 | 4 | 1 | — | 34 | — | 12 | 9 |
| *2002* | | | | | | | | | |
| Rape of a male | 2 | — | — | — | — | 2 | — | — | — |
| Rape of a female | 58 | — | 3 | — | 1 | 54 | — | 1 | 7 |
| *2003* | | | | | | | | | |
| Rape of a male | 1 | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | 1 | — |
| Rape of a female | 51 | 1 | 1 | — | — | 49 | 2 | 18 | 7 |

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis

[2] Juvenile found guilty at the Youth court

[3] Cases where a trial for a rape offence is reduced to a non-rape offence will not be included here.

### Re-offenders

**Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of *(a)* female and *(b)* male offenders re-offended within 12 months of being released in each year since 1997. [7745]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** Actual re-offending rates are not available, we have shown reconviction rates which are a commonly used proxy.

The figures shown are the combined actual one-year reconviction rates for adults and juveniles discharged from custody. 2001 is the latest year for which data is currently available.

Reconviction rates should be used with caution as a number of different factors can influence them. Reconviction rates can be adjusted to take account of the changing characteristics of offenders and these adjusted rates are published annually on the Home Office's research website (http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/index.htm).

### Satellite Tagging

**Dan Norris:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make a statement on the outcome of trials of satellite tagging of paedophiles and other offenders. [12689]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** A pilot of the satellite tracking of offenders started in three areas in September 2004 and is still continuing. Sex offenders are among the categories of offender being tracked. The pilots are being evaluated by a team of researchers from Birmingham university, who have been asked to submit their report by the end of March 2006

### Security Services

**Harry Cohen:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many complaints have been made to the relevant Tribunal or Commissioner in relation to the actions of the Security Service since the enactment of the Security Services Acts and the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000; and how many complainants had their complaint upheld in each year. [13170]

**Hazel Blears:** The records of the Tribunal ("the Security Service Tribunal") established under the Security Service Act 1989 show that the number of complaints it received and those referred to the Commissioner ("the Security Service Commissioner") were as follows:

*Table 1*

| *Date* | *Number of complaints received by Tribunal* | *Number of complaints referred to the Commissioner in accordance with Paragraph 4(1) of Schedule 1 of the 1989 Act* |
|---|---|---|
| 1989–90 | 55 | 22 |
| 1991 | 29 | 16 |
| 1992 | 25 | 5 |
| 1993 | 36 | 14 |
| 1994 | 42 | 19 |
| 1995 | 21 | 13 |
| 1996 | 34 | 10 |
| 1997 | 45 | 15 |
| 1998 | 28 | 24 |
| 1999–2000 | 22 | 12 |

No complaints were upheld.

The Tribunal ("the Investigatory Powers Tribunal") established under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA) came into being on 2 October 2000. From that date the Investigatory Powers Tribunal assumed responsibility for the jurisdiction previously held by, amongst others, the Security Service Tribunal.

In his annual reports to the Prime Minister, the Interception of Communications Commissioner has explained that complaints to the Investigatory Powers Tribunal cannot be easily "categorised" under the three tribunal system that existed prior to the 2000 Act RIPA (ie. The Interception of Communications Tribunal, the Security Service Tribunal and the Intelligence Services Tribunal). Consequently it is not possible to detail the number of complaints lodged with the Investigatory Powers Tribunal that would have been considered previously by the Security Service Tribunal.

The total number of complaints received by the Investigatory Powers Tribunal is as follows.

*Table 2*

| *Date* | *Number of complaints to the Investigatory Powers Tribunal* |
|---|---|
| 2000[1] | 11 |
| 2001 | 91 |
| 2002 | 130 |
| 2003 | 109 |
| 2004 | [2] |

[1] First three months of operation.

[2] Figures to be published shortly in the Interception of Communications Commissioner's Annual Report for 2004.

Of the 341 complaints reported, on no occasion did the Investigatory Powers Tribunal conclude that there had been a contravention of RIPA or the Human Rights Act 1989. Consequently no complaints were upheld.

The Investigatory Powers Tribunal, like the Security Service Tribunal before it, is a wholly independent body made up of senior members of the legal profession.

### Sexual Offences Act

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the Answer of 7 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 589W, on the Sexual Offences Act, if he will set out the recorded crime data relating to section 15 for the period from 1 May 2004 to 31 March 2005; and if he will make a statement. [13197]

**Paul Goggins:** Further to my answer of 7 July, I confirm that the recorded crime data in relation to section 15 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003 will be available from 21 July 2005; the data is not available prior to that date of publication.

### Work Permits

**Mr. Malins:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many work permits were issued in each of the last three years to individuals to work in the information technology sector; how many persons granted a permit *(a)* failed to return to their country of origin on its expiry and *(b)* were notified by the company concerned to his Department as having failed to return. [2715]

**Mr. McNulty:** The total number of work permits issued in each of the last three years to employers based in the UK in respect of permit applications made to recruit overseas nationals for work related to the 'computer services' was:

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2002–03 | 517,057 |
| 2003–04 | 18,631 |
| 2004–05 | 21,646 |

These figures relate to all jobs in the sector, not just for those in information technology. However, it may be the case that not all the overseas nationals issued with a work permit were successful in gaining entry clearance to take up their employment in the UK.

Information is not available on the number of work permit holders who have failed to return to their country of origin. In addition we are not able to provide information on the notifications received by companies about permit holders who have either not taken up their employment or where their employment has ceased.

The Five Year Strategy for Asylum and Immigration announced on 7 February set out the Government's intention to place obligations on the sponsors of migrants, including an intention to require employers to report if a migrant leaves the employment for which they were admitted.

Moreover, the Government have announced their plans to introduce an e-Borders (electronic borders) programme. e-Borders is a medium to long-term multi-agency initiative to re-shape the United Kingdom's border protection structure. It is co-ordinated by the Home Office Immigration and Nationality Directorate (IND) in partnership with key border control, law enforcement and intelligence agencies: HM Customs and Revenue, the Intelligence Agencies, the Police Service and UK Visas. Other Departments and agencies such as the Department of Work and Pensions and the Passport Service are involved as major beneficiaries of the e-Borders concept.

The concept is based upon identifying and checking passengers and their travel credentials well in advance of their commencing travel to, or from, the UK rather than making these checks at the end of their journey. The full e-Borders system is expected to process passenger information on flights arriving in and departing from the UK at all major ports by 2010. e-borders is initially being trialled as Project Semaphore.

The information that is captured of every passenger passing into or out of the UK will, for the first time, give us specific information on who is in or out of the UK, and for how long and under what status or conditions. This information will be available to other parts of IND, the Home Office and other Government Departments.

### Women's Royal Voluntary Service

**Mr. Swayne:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent change there has been in the financial assistance provided to the Women's Royal Voluntary Service; and if he will make a statement. [336]

**Paul Goggins:** Table 1 shows the Home Office grant in aid payments and planned payments to the Women's Royal Voluntary Service (WRVS) from 1995 to 2008.

An independent review in 1997 identified that WRVS' financial dependence on Government and restrictions on its property holdings were major barriers to its goals of modernisation and independence.

To help achieve these goals it was agreed with WRVS that the grant in aid be reduced over 10 years to £1 million a year by 2007–08, a level that is commensurate with that of other large voluntary sector strategic grant recipients, and that the reversionary interest in the properties held on trust be transferred to WRVS absolutely.

*Table 1: Home Office grant in aid to WRVS, 1995–2008*

| *Financial year* | *£000* |
|---|---|
| 1995–96 | 6,200 |
| 1996–97 | 5,840 |
| 1997–98 | 5,548 |
| 1998–99 | 5,298 |
| 1999–2000 | 5,048 |
| 2000–01 | 4,798 |
| 2001–02 | 4,548 |
| 2003–03 | 4,223 |
| 2003–04 | 3,868 |
| 2004–05 | 3,448 |
| 2005–06 | 2,943 |
| 2006–07[1] | 2,333 |
| 2007–08[1] | 1,000 |

[1] Planned

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make a statement on the reasons for the decision to end grant funding to the Women's Royal Voluntary Service. [7647]

**Paul Goggins:** Table 1 shows the Home Office grant in aid payments and planned payments to the Women's Royal Voluntary Service (WRVS) from 1995 to 2008.

An independent review in 1997 identified that WRVS' financial dependence on Government and restrictions on its property holdings were major barriers to its goals of modernisation and independence.

To help achieve these goals it was agreed with WRVS that the grant in aid be reduced over 10 years to £1 million a year by 2007–08, a level that is commensurate with that of other large voluntary sector strategic grant recipients, and that the reversionary interest in the properties held on trust be transferred to WRVS absolutely.

*Table 1: Home Office grant in aid to WRVS, 1995–08*

| *Financial year* | *£000* |
|---|---|
| 1995–06 | 6,200 |
| 1996–07 | 5,840 |
| 1997–08 | 5,548 |
| 1998–09 | 5,298 |
| 1999–2000 | 5,048 |
| 2000–01 | 4,798 |
| 2001–02 | 4,548 |
| 2002–03 | 4,223 |
| 2003–04 | 3,868 |
| 2004–05 | 3,448 |
| 2005–06 | 2,943 |
| 2006–07 (Planned) | 2,333 |
| 2007–08 (Planned) | 1,000 |

# Written Answers to Questions

*The following answers were received between Friday 22 July and Monday 5 September 2005*

## PRIME MINISTER

### Delegations to Parliamentary Assemblies

**Tony Lloyd:** To ask the Prime Minister, if he will announce the membership of the United Kingdom delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe. [15040]

**The Prime Minister:** I am pleased to announce that the United Kingdom delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe is as follows:

| *Leader* | |
|---|---|
| Tony Lloyd MP | |
| *Full representatives* | *Substitute Members* |
| Hugh Bayley MP | Mike Gapes MP |
| Peter Bottomley MP | Right hon. Greg Knight MP |
| Simon Burns MP | Sandra Osborne MP |
| Right hon. Sir Menzies Campbell CBE QC MP | Lord Ponsonby of Shulbrede |
| Wayne David MP | John Randall MP |
| Right hon. Bruce George MP | Paul Rowen MP |
| Linda Gilroy MP | |
| David Heath CBE MP | |
| Baroness Hilton of Eggardon QPM | |
| Andrew Mackinlay MP | |
| Earl of Northesk | |
| Ann Winterton MP | |

**Tony Lloyd:** To ask the Prime Minister, if he will announce the full composition of the United Kingdom delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the Assembly of Western European Union. [15041]

**The Prime Minister:** I am pleased to announce that the United Kingdom delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and Assembly of Western European Union is as follows:

| *Leader* | |
|---|---|
| Tony Lloyd MP | |
| *Full representatives* | *Substitute Members* |
| Lord Burlison DL | John Austin MP |
| Christopher Chope OBE MP | Nigel Dodds OBE MP |
| Bill Etherington MP | Nigel Evans MP |
| Paul Flynn MP | David Evennett MP |
| Mike Hancock CBE MP | Christopher Fraser MP |
| Baroness Hooper | Dr Ian Gibson MP |
| Baroness Knight of Collingtree DBE | John Greenway MP |
| Christine McCafferty MP | Nick Harvey MP |
| Humfrey Malins CBE MP | Doug Henderson MP |
| Alan Meale MP | Bob Laxton MP |
| Edward O'Hara MP | Right hon. Lord McIntosh of Haringey |
| Lord Russell-Johnston | Dr Denis MacShane MP |
| Geraldine Smith MP | David Marshall MP |
| Lord Tomlinson | Gordon Prentice MP |
| Dr Rudi Vis MP | Right hon. Baroness Taylor of Bolton |
| Robert Walter MP | Angela Watkinson MP |
| David Wilshire MP | Betty Williams MP |
| | Jenny Willott MP |

### G8 summit (Gleneagles)

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Prime Minister, how many vehicles the Government used in relation to the G8 summit in Gleneagles, broken down by make and model. [15078]

**Ian Pearson:** I have been asked to reply.

In relation to the G8 summit, the Government used 246 vehicles. These included 20 cars, 47 people carriers, three articulated lorries, 21, 7.5 tonne trucks, six vans and 149 coaches. The cars used, broken down by make and model, were five Jaguar XJ, nine Volvo S80, one Peugeot 607, one Vauxhall Omega Elite, and four Mercedes E-Class. The people carriers used, broken down by make and model, were 31 Ford Galaxy carriers, two Volvo seven seaters, seven Chrysler Grand Voyagers, two Volkswagen Caravelles, three Mercedes V Class, one Volkswagen Sharan, and one Vauxhall Viano. To provide information on vehicle makes and model of the coaches, trucks and vans used would incur disproportionate cost, but the break down in size of the coaches used was 118, 49-seater coaches, 10, 70-seater coaches, 20, 16-seater coaches, and one 38-seater coach.

We went to great efforts, beyond those previously undertaken in Government, to make the G8 as environmentally sustainable as possible. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) investigated using a wide range of low emissions technologies and as a result as many vehicles as possible used an advanced low emission form of diesel. Every effort was made to limit journeys and ensure that the maximum number of passengers were transported at one time. In addition, the FCO looked into the possibility of using environmentally friendly vehicles such as the Toyota Prius and the hydrogen-fuelled bus owned by London buses. Unfortunately, due to various logistical constraints this did not prove possible. The hydrogen-fuelled bus has a very limited mileage and can only be refuelled in London. Therefore, to transport it to Scotland for use during the Summit would not have proved sustainable or environmentally friendly. The FCO were offered the use of Toyota Prius cars as part of a sponsorship package. Unfortunately this offer did not prove to be financially viable to the FCO, as the FCO would have been required to supply both drivers or insurance, as well as transporting the vehicles to Scotland, at considerable cost.

In other areas too, the FCO implemented a range of measures aimed at minimising the environmental impacts of the Summit. These included using local or Fairtrade. produce, drawing up a "Supplier Code of Conduct" for contractors to ensure they shared our commitment to demonstrating the highest standard of environmental and social accountability, and as much as possible pursuing the 3 Rs policy—Reduce, Recycle, Reuse. The FCO encouraged and facilitated recycling at

the Gleneagles summit and worked closely with the local council to ensure that the contents were disposed of correctly.

These efforts continue. Currently, the G8 Climate Change Unit in Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs is in the process of calculating the level of carbon emissions attributable to the UK's presidency of the G8 that could not be eliminated. They will offset these by investing in small-scale Clean Development Mechanism projects, with strong sustainable development benefits, located in Africa.

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Prime Minister, how many *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials on the UK delegation to the G8 summit travelled to and from Gleneagles by (i) car, (ii) train, (iii) aeroplane, (iv) bus and (v) helicopter. [15079]

**Ian Pearson:** I have been asked to reply.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) went to great efforts, beyond those previously undertaken in Government, to make the G8 as environmentally sustainable as possible. However, given the intensity of the workload experienced by the UK delegation in the run up to and during the summit itself, the FCO needed to balance the issue of sustainability against the organisational requirements of the event. In the majority of cases this meant UK officials travelling to Gleneagles in the shortest time possible.

153 UK officials travelled to and from Scotland by aeroplane. One UK official travelled to and from Scotland by train. Three Ministers, my right hon. Friends the Prime Minister, the Secretary of State for International Development (Hilary Benn), and my noble Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Lord Triesman of Tottenham), also travelled to Scotland by aeroplane. They travelled to and from the Gleneagles Hotel by a combination of helicopters and cars. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary travelled to and from the Gleneagles Hotel by helicopter in order to chair the meeting while the Prime Minister returned to London on 7 July 2005.

The FCO examined other ways to minimise the environmental impacts caused by delegates' travel. 144 UK officials travelled to and from the airports of arrival and departure to the Gleneagles Hotel by high occupancy vehicles including coach or people carrier. Only a small number of these officials accompanied delegations on their helicopter transfers during the summit. Nine UK officials accompanied the Prime Minister and travelled to and from the Gleneagles Hotel by helicopter. In addition, the G8 Climate Change Unit in Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs are currently in the process of calculating the level of carbon emissions attributable to the summit. These will be offset by investing in small-scale Clean Development Mechanism projects, with strong sustainable development benefits, located in Africa.

## INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### Africa (Debt Relief)

**Mr. Fabian Hamilton:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what conditions he has attached to debt relief for heavily indebted poor countries in Africa. [14718]

**Hilary Benn:** Debt relief is provided to enable countries to make faster progress towards the Millennium Development Goals. It is essential therefore that the resources made available by the relief are used for poverty reduction. In providing debt relief under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative, the UK abides by the standards agreed internationally. Under these standards, countries must demonstrate a sustained commitment to poverty reduction and macroeconomic stability as part of an International Monetary Fund programme. Macroeconomic stability is critical to provide a foundation for growth, avoid adverse effects of inflation on the poor and to protect Government expenditure that benefits the poor. The debt stock cancellation recently proposed by the G8 would also use these standards.

### Belize

**John Cummings:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assistance the Government are giving to the Government in Belize *(a)* to tackle corruption and *(b)* to combat the trafficking of drugs; and if he will make a statement. [14468]

**Mr. Thomas:** The UK Government's principal support to the Government of Belize (GoB) has been relief on its aid debts under the Commonwealth Debt Initiative. This relief is provided to GoB on the basis of its progress in controlling corruption and improving governance, economic management and poverty reduction. It also serves as a tool to encourage greater civil society participation in the GoB's policy. The UK Government are also providing a Strategic Fund for the GoB (£200,000 per year) to help improve their ability to undertake governance reforms, develop medium term economic plans and identify ways to reduce poverty. The Small Grants Scheme, and other programme funds for Belize, provides a further £35,000 a year that can be used for projects with civil society.

Although Belize is not specifically a major transit country for drugs destined for the UK, we do continue to help combat drug trafficking on a regional basis within Central America and the Caribbean. As part of CARICOM (the Caribbean Community), Belize benefits from the recently agreed UK/CARICOM co-operation plan that encompasses work on border security, intelligence and information sharing, maritime co-operation and a human resource development strategy. This partnership assists Caribbean states to combat drug trafficking. The UK also funds the training of Belizean officials on regional and UK drug specific training courses.

### Departmental Conferences

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much the Department spent on *(a)* organising and *(b)* sponsoring conferences in each of the last five years. [10276]

**Hilary Benn:** This information is not available and to obtain it would incur a disproportionate cost.

### English Wine

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will ensure that English wine is made available at dinners, receptions and parties he hosts at which hospitality involving wine is appropriate *(a)* during the EU presidency and *(b)* generally; and if he will make a statement. [9162]

**Mr. Thomas:** All procurement within DFID is undertaken in line with the EC's procurement rules and to obtain value for money for the Department. Where possible British products are used, and our in-house catering contractors can offer a range of British items.

Planning for EU presidency events is ongoing and we are considering, where possible and while taking value for money into account, using British products including where appropriate, English wine.

### Microfinance/Financial Sector Development

**Annette Brooke:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what plans he has to increase the number of countries receiving aid aimed at financial sector and microfinance development; and if he will make a statement. [12655]

**Mr. Thomas** *[holding answer 19 July 2005]:* DFID is funding financial sector development programmes, including microfinance, in 25 countries. Four new financial sector programmes are currently being designed in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia. DFID also funds international agencies that actively support microfinance and financial sector development, such as the World Bank, the International Finance Corporation and the Asian Development Bank.

DFID supports the Consultative Group to Assist the Poor (CGAP), which is increasing its regional presence in support of good practice microfinance. In the Middle East and North Africa, the CGAP is expanding its training programmes in microfinance and sharing its expertise to develop good practice in the region.

The European Union (EU) is launching a new initiative to develop its support to microfinance in Africa, Caribbean and Pacific countries (ACP). DFID will contribute 12.7 per cent. of the €15 million European Development Fund. 71 countries, most of them low income countries, should be able to benefit.

DFID is a principal supporter of the multi-donor global Financial Sector Reform and Strengthening (FIRST) Initiative, which provides technical assistance in all areas of financial sector development. FIRST is developing a strategy to increase its coverage of low income countries.

DFID is contributing £3 million to a new International Financial Corporation (IFC) facility. This facility (Private Enterprise Partnership for the Middle East and North Africa) supports financial institutions engaged in micro-enterprises and in small and medium-sized enterprise development. The Partnership has staff on the ground in the region, notably in Afghanistan, Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, Pakistan, the West Bank and Gaza and Yemen. It has approved seven major technical assistance programmes that will benefit 13 countries in the region.

DFID is working with the World Bank and others to improve data on access to financial services in developing countries, including through microfinance, and plans to conduct financial access surveys in a number of African countries. This data will be important for the design of more effective policies and programmes to extend microfinance and develop financial systems.

The United Nations have declared 2005 as the International Year of Microcredit. The impact of microfinance is greatest when poor people have access to a wide range of financial services (savings, credit, insurance and transfer payments) that they use to invest in health, education, nutrition, businesses and other opportunities and protect themselves against shocks faced by the households and the wider community.

Remittances are a critical and growing source of income for many millions of poor people. DFID is developing programmes of remittance activities with a number of developing countries, including Bangladesh, Ghana and Nigeria. We are also supporting the expansion of the www.sendmoneyhome.org website that provides information to diaspora in the UK wishing to send remittances.

**Annette Brooke:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much funding is allocated to international initiatives promoting financial sector development in *(a)* 2004–05, *(b)* 2005–06 and *(c)* 2006–07. [12656]

**Mr. Thomas** *[holding answer 19 July 2005]:* During 2004–05, DFID funded over £30 million directly to microfinance or financial sector development programmes. DFID also funded microfinance and financial sector development through multi-sectoral programmes and indirectly through its support to international agencies. Multi-sectoral programmes may include a component on financial sector development as part of a range of activities to promote private sector development for example, or as part of a wider programme to improve rural livelihoods.

A number of the international agencies that DFID supports are active in promoting microfinance and financial sector development. The World Bank, the International Finance Corporation, and several regional development banks all provide significant funding or technical assistance in these areas. This is indirect DFID support however, for which we do not have the necessary level of disaggregation of figures to provide an estimate of the total going towards microfinance and financial sector development.

We are not able to give exact figures for 2005–06 and 2006–07. DFID's departmental report presents an indicative budget for what it plans to spend over the next three years, but this is not broken down into specific sectors. Spending is also affected by the pace of implementation of existing programmes and initiation of new programmes.

DFID views access to financial services, and stable

**Mark Simmonds:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many UK companies are involved in joint microfinance projects with his Department; and if he will make a statement. [9274]

**Mr. Thomas:** DFID does not have 'joint' microfinance projects with UK companies. DFID does contract companies to provide technical or management services where appropriate, through open competition. A UK company manages the Financial Deepening Challenge Fund that supports the expansion of microfinance in developing countries.

In the last year DFID's headquarters and country offices have used UK consulting firms on microfinance projects on a number of occasions, for example to prepare and teach a training course, to conduct reviews of projects, and to conduct a survey of microfinance data.

There are three UK consulting firms on the panel of UK and international consultants that are selected for technical assistance projects in the area of microfinance by the DFID-supported global Financial Sector Reform and Strengthening (FIRST) Initiative, The FIRST Initiative itself is managed by a UK company.

DFID has also directly supported microfinance initiatives by companies through the Financial Deepening Challenge Fund. One UK-based telecommunications company received a grant through this Challenge Fund.

## G8 Summit

**Tony Baldry:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which of the recommendations of the Commission for Africa were met in the communiqué of the recent G8 summit. [11973]

**Hilary Benn:** G8 Heads signed up to all of the major recommendations set out in the Commission for Africa report that are relevant to their countries. Further information can be obtained in the document entitled 'The Commission for Africa Report vs. the Gleneagles Communiqué on Africa', copies of which I have arranged to be placed in the Libraries of the House.

**Jim Sheridan:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what payments agreed at the G8 summit at Gleneagles will be made available to the Palestinian Authority in 2005. [14146]

**Hilary Benn:** The G8 expressed support at the Gleneagles summit for Mr. James Wolfensohn, Quartet Special Envoy for Disengagement, to stimulate a global financial contribution of up to $3 billion per year over the coming three years. The expectation is that most of this will be delivered in 2006 and beyond. It will come from public and private sources and will assist the Palestinian economic regeneration and governance reform following Israeli disengagement from Gaza and parts of the northern West Bank. International financial support will depend on the Palestinian Authority (PA) providing a credible financial plan for development, with guarantees of fiscal prudence and transparency. The UK is working closely with Mr. Wolfensohn and the PA to help develop their plans and to ensure that our

International Development what conditions were attached to the offer of aid to the poorest nations in Africa following the agreement at the G8 summit. [14716]

**Hilary Benn:** The additional aid agreed for Africa by the G8 will be used to accelerate progress towards the Millennium Development Goals and to help achieve the objectives agreed in the Communique. G8 leaders agreed that aid will be focused on countries where it will make a difference, particularly low-income countries which are committed to growth and poverty reduction, to democratic, accountable and transparent government, and to sound public financial management.

## HIV (South Africa)

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what programmes his Department operates in South Africa to assist those who are HIV positive. [13141]

**Hilary Benn:** DFID operates a number of programmes in support of those who are HIV positive in South Africa. They include:

A £30 million, four-year mult-isectoral framework programme on HIV/AIDS which works with partners in national and provincial governments, civil society and the private sector to strengthen the South African response to HIV/AIDS.

A commitment of £13 million over five years to the South African multimedia NGO called 'Soul City' for its HIV/AIDS prevention work and to support its expansion into a further eight countries in the region.

£20 million over three years to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) for their work with orphans and vulnerable children in east and southern Africa. South Africa is one beneficiary of this grant.

## IMF/World Bank

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking *(a)* to ensure that the (i) International Monetary Fund and (ii) World Bank are more transparent and accountable to parliaments in developing countries and *(b)* to promote oversight of each of those institutions by the parliaments of developing countries. [12463]

**Hilary Benn:** DFID recognises the importance of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank being transparent and accountable to parliaments in developing countries. Clearly, such accountability needs to be at the heart of their relationship.

The main means by which parliaments should engage with the World Bank and the IMF activities is through the Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS) process. This is a

al strategy for development that sets the agenda, donors, including the World Bank, should follow country.

true that, in the past, parliamentary engagement PRS process has often been weak. However, over t two years, DFID country offices have begun to t stronger engagement by parliamentarians in the rocess. We are providing active support for initiatives made around the PRS.

In Board meetings, DFID encourages the World Bank and the IMF to engage with parliaments as much as possible. We also actively push for them to make more of their documents public and will continue to pursue this both at board meetings and in discussions with staff. In fact, in March this year a new World Bank disclosure policy was approved which, among other things, makes board minutes public. The Bank is now working closely with parliamentarians in some of its borrowing member countries to involve them in the design and implementation of its lending programmes. The World Bank Institute has a major Parliamentary Strengthening Programme. A key objective is to strengthen the capacity of parliaments to scrutinise the allocation and use of public funds, and oversee the PRS. Since it began in 1996, it has held workshops in a range of countries including Bangladesh, Cambodia, Ghana, Kenya, Indonesia and Uganda to raise awareness among parliamentarians.

The World Bank Institute has also supported the African Parliamentarians Network Against Corruption (APNAC) and the Global Organization of Parliamentarians against Corruption (GOPAC) to encourage parliamentary scrutiny and action against corruption.

Outside the PRS, the main means of oversight is the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank. This provides opportunities for parliaments to scrutinise the World Bank and engage more deeply in development policy issues. The independent Network has some 450 members from over 90 countries and facilitates direct dialogue between parliamentarians and the World Bank to achieve greater transparency of policies and practices.

## Management Consultancies

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which five management consultancies received the highest value of contracts awarded by his Department in each of the last three years; and what the total value was of the contracts awarded to each. [12573]

**Hilary Benn:** The following table contains details about the value of contracts issued to all consultants. We do not keep a central record for management consultants and this information cannot be provided except by incurring a disproportionate cost.

Contracts are awarded in open competition according to the EU Procurement Regulations, based on best value for money.

| Consultant | Total issued value (€) |
|---|---|
| *2002–03* | |
| Atos KPMG Consulting Limited | 24,535,185 |
| The British Council | 19,903,242 |
| HTS Consultants (formerly Hunting Technical Services Limited) | 16,069,402 |
| Charles Kendall & Partners Limited | 12,979,117 |
| Maxwell Stamp PLC | 12,308,085 |
| Deloitte & Touche South Africa | 13,100,000 |
| British Council (UK) | 12,293,273 |
| *2004–05* | |
| Family Health International | 21,341,899 |
| Charles Kendall & Partners Ltd. | 18,279,290 |
| Chemonics | 15,159,370 |
| HLSP Ltd. | 14,184,512 |
| British Council (UK) | 11,5[illegible],359 |

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate he has made of the total expenditure saved in each of the last three years as a result of implementing recommendations by management consultancies within his Department. [13635]

**Hilary Benn:** DFID do not maintain central records of expenditure saved as a result of implementing recommendations from management consultants. DFID's headquarters and overseas offices use consultants for a wide range of management tasks, mainly to increase the quality of our assistance to development partners. The financial value of these as savings could not be calculated without incurring a disproportionate cost.

## Nepal

**Mark Simmonds:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Nepal Safer Motherhood Project; and if he will make a statement. [9268]

**Mr. Thomas:** The DFID-funded Nepal Safer Motherhood Project operated in nine of the 75 districts of Nepal from March 1997 until September 2004. The project was implemented in partnership with the Department of Health Services, and the Ministry of Health, with a total budget of £5.8 million. The Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) in Nepal is estimated at 539 per 100,000 live births, according to a 1996 survey. Given the methodological difficulties in measuring MMR, levels of skilled attendance at birth and Emergency Obstetric Care are taken as proxies for MMR. The project completion data revealed that within the project supported districts there was an increase in skilled attendance at birth from 3.05 per cent. (1997–98 Nepal fiscal year July to June) to 17.84 per cent. (2003–04). In addition there was an average annual increase of 1.3 per cent. in met need for accessing Emergency Obstetric Care, thus demonstrating that lives had been saved.

An evaluation completed in November 2004 assessed the project as having contributed to a national increased percentage of deliveries by skilled attendants from a 1997–98 baseline of 3.6 per cent. to 18.3 per cent. in 2003–04. Similarly, the project had contributed to a

national increase in Emergency Obstetric Care from a baseline survey of 5 per cent. in 2000 to 14.8 per cent. in 2003–04.

Building on this success, DFID has contributed £20 million to help the Government of Nepal implement its Safer Motherhood Programme. This programme aims to extend quality services to all 75 districts over the period 2004 to 2009. The conflict in Nepal makes it possible to reduce MMR further through the programme.

### Sierra Leone

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) what steps he is taking to ensure that funding from his Department for Sierra Leone is used for the purposes for which it is intended; [13832]

(2) what steps the Government are taking to ensure that funding from the UK to Sierra Leone is used for the purposes for which it is intended. [13833]

**Hilary Benn:** DFID is currently providing £40 million annually to Sierra Leone. Our assistance is provided through a ten year Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Government of Sierra Leone (GoSL), which includes benchmarks for progress on reform. These benchmarks are agreed between the UK and the Government of Sierra Leone on an annual basis and progress is reviewed regularly, They cover areas such as action on corruption, and sound financial management. These reforms aim to increase the effectiveness of our aid by strengthening systems of transparency and accountability. The MOU has been key to achieving progress on a range of issues, including establishment of the Office of Auditor General as an independent agency outside the civil service; successful completion of Sierra Leone's Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper and strengthening the power of the Anti-Corruption Commission.

Progress against the benchmarks is also a factor in determining the level and timing of our budget support, which we provide directly to the Government of Sierra Leone. Before we provide budget support, DFID insists upon a detailed fiduciary risk assessment (FRA) every three years, which includes an evaluation of the risk of corruption. In the interim, an annual statement of progress should be made to demonstrate the ongoing management of fiduciary risk and to meet audit discharge requirements. We have just completed a new FRA assessment for our programme of budget support to the country. At the project level we have rigorous auditing processes, and independent reviews of activities are conducted throughout the project cycle.

### Sudan

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many displaced Sudanese he estimates have returned to the south of Sudan; what assistance with resettlement he has provided; and if he will make a statement. [13929]

**Hilary Benn:** According to the latest United Nations estimates, 500,000 Internally Displaced People (IDPs) and refugees returned to southern Sudan during 2004. The 21-year civil war resulted in an estimated 500,000 people fleeing to neighbouring countries, and an estimated four million IDPs within South Sudan, This year the UN estimates that between 500,000 and 1.2 million people will return, including refugees from outside Sudan and IDPs. There are no accurate Spontaneous Returns 2005–06. This details support to returnees on routes of return and in areas of return, including transport, food, non-food assistance, protection and information.

DFID has provided £45 million to the UN 2005 Workplan for Sudan, over half of which has been allocated by the UN Humanitarian co-ordinator to support humanitarian operations and returns in the south.

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what funding he has made available for the South Sudan Democratic Forum. [13930]

**Hilary Benn:** The South Sudan Democratic Forum (SSDF) is an umbrella organisation of opposition southern groups, including representatives of a number of southern parties outside of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM). DFID is encouraging all groups in the south, including the SSDF, to participate in a process of dialogue and reconciliation, and welcomes the ongoing discussions between the SPLM and opposition groups. The most recent round of these discussions took place on 5 July 2005. DFID has not provided funding to the SSDF.

**Andrew George:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) when the respective G8 countries were first contacted on providing logistical support for the African Union mission in Darfur; [13072]

(2) what support to date has been provided by the G8 countries to the African Union mission in Darfur; [13073]

(3) whether the G8 countries have established a timeline for further deployment of African Union troops in Darfur; [13074]

(4) what *(a)* transport, *(b)* logistics and *(c)* financial management support the G8 countries have pledged to the African Union mission in Darfur. [13075]

**Ian Pearson:** I have been asked to reply.

At the Gleneagles summit, G8 and African leaders issued a statement expressing their shared determination to see an end to the crisis in Darfur.

Donors, including G8 members, have been providing logistical and financial assistance to the African Union (AU) mission in Darfur since its initial deployment in June 2004. At the High Level Donors' Conference in Addis on 26 May, the AU requested further assistance from the international community to support the expansion of its mission from 3,000 to more than 7,700. This will involve the deployment of additional troops, mostly from Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal and South Africa.

is for the AU, in co-ordination with the African
p contributors, to decide the timelines for
loyment. The AU began the expansion on 1 July,
expects it to be completed by the end of September.

8 members are committed to supporting this
ansion and have allocated more than $460 million
he AU mission to date. This includes a contribution
pproximately $150 million from the US to build and
ntain accommodation and offices for the AU staff;
allocated approxi[illegible]nada, which has been
been used to provide ve[illegible]. The UK has
also provided assistance, including for communications
equipment. G8 members have also seconded logisticians
and military planners to assist the AU, and have
provided airlift to get troops and equipment into
Darfur. The European Commission has provided
$93 million of support through the Africa Peace
Facility. This has been used to fund catering, fuel, some
medical costs, and to pay per diems.

**Mr. Rob Wilson:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assistance is being given by the UK *(a)* to re-house internally displaced persons and *(b)* to ensure the provision of clean drinking water for humanitarian settlements in Darfur. [13766]

**Hilary Benn:** The latest UN Humanitarian Needs Profile estimates that as of 1 June a total of over 2.9 million people in Darfur were affected by the crisis in Darfur and in need of humanitarian assistance. Of these, 1.9 million were internally displaced.

Since September 2003, the Department for International Development has provided £90 million in humanitarian funding to Darfur through UN agencies and non-governmental organisations. These funds have, amongst other things, paid for shelter and non-food items, immediate health care, water and sanitation projects. Currently, almost £6 million has been allocated for water and sanitation activities for the population in camps and surrounding areas, and around £1.4 million for shelter and non-food items.

### Tsunami (Sri Lanka)

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what representations he has made to the Sri Lankan Government on waiving the customs duty on all imports deemed to be contributing to the humanitarian aid effort. [7730]

**Mr. Thomas:** I refer the hon. Member to my previous response to her tabled parliamentary question of 6 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 469W.

### Water and Sanitation

**Ann McKechin:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will list the water and sanitation projects funded by his Department during financial years *(a)* 2003–04 and *(b)* 2004–05; what the project aims and activities were; when each project was (i) awarded, (ii) started and (iii) completed; what the total cost of each project was; what his Department's contribution to the total costs was; and what the contributions to the total costs were from project contractors. [13387]

**Hilary Benn:** Details of DFID's water and sanitation projects in *(a)* 2003–04 and *(b)* 2004–05 can be found in the document entitled "DFID Water and Sanitation Projects Funded During the Financial Years 2003–04 and 2004–05". It includes details of the project aims, as indicated by the title, total commitment, and expenditure by year. I have arranged for copies of this document to be placed in the Libraries of the House.

It is important to note that DFID also provides support for water and sanitation as an integral part of broader development projects and through EC and projects, as this would incur non-essential administrative costs. However, our special report "Financing DFID Support for the Water Sector 2002–04", which will be finalised in August, covers all water-related expenditure for the period 2001–02 to 2003–04.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

### National Identity Register

**Mr. Todd:** To ask the hon. Member for Roxburgh and Berwickshire, representing the House of Commons Commission what work his Department has undertaken in establishing possible suppliers of technologies to be used to implement the National Identity Register. [15019]

**Andy Burnham:** I have been asked to reply.

The Identity Cards Programme is currently conducting pre-procurement market sounding in accordance with Office of Government Commerce (OGC) good practice guidance. This process involves assessing the reaction of the market to a proposed requirement and procurement approach. However, no formal procurement can commence until the Identity Cards Bill gains Royal Assent.

Market sounding focuses on suppliers as a whole, rather than the merits of individual suppliers. It includes no element of supplier selection or bid evaluation. There is no commitment of any kind involved on either side or any advantage to be gained by a supplier getting involved.

Should the Identity Cards Bill gain Royal Assent the procurement process, in compliance with EU and UK public procurement regulations, will encourage open competition and seek expressions of interest from the widest possible range of suppliers.

**Mr. Todd:** To ask the hon. Member for Roxburgh and Berwickshire, representing the House of Commons Commission what criteria will govern the tendering process for suppliers of technology to be used to implement the National Identity Register; and what steps his Department will take to ensure value for money [15020]

**Andy Burnham:** I have been asked to reply.

The criteria against which tenders will be evaluated can only be published in the *Official Journal* of the European Union (OJEU) notice that formally commences the procurement, in accordance with EU and UK regulations.

The development of these criteria will be supported by best practice guidance provided by the Office of Government Commerce (OGC), which are designed to ensure that the Government will obtain value for money by having the opportunity to examine, fully understand and improve through negotiation either the price or the quality of the proposals from the market for each element of the ID cards scheme.

**Mr. Todd:** To ask the hon. Member for Roxburgh and Berwickshire, representing the House of Commons [illegible] functionality required for the technologies to be used to implement the National Identity Register; and if he will make a statement. [15021]

**Andy Burnham:** I have been asked to reply.

The Identity Cards Programme is currently in a pre-procurement market sounding phase, examining overall market capacity and capability in accordance with Office of Government Commerce good practice guidance.

This process has prioritised those areas where technology is developing quickly, standards are evolving and there is uncertainty about future trends. The information gathered from these soundings augments technical and commercial knowledge already held by the programme through its use of technology experts and sharing of information with other Government Departments and agencies. Initial assessments have given reassurance that generally there is likely to be sufficient capability and capacity in the market for the technologies required by the scheme.

Work to date has focused on suppliers as a whole, rather than the merits of individual suppliers. It includes no element of supplier selection or bid evaluation. There is no commitment of any kind involved on either side nor any advantage to be gained by a supplier by getting involved in the progress.

**Mr. Todd:** To ask the hon. Member for Roxburgh and Berwickshire, representing the House of Commons Commission if he will make it his Department's policy to ensure that parliamentary approval is required before the contracts to deliver the technologies used to implement the National Identity Register are agreed. [15022]

**Andy Burnham:** I have been asked to reply.

The procurement process for the National Identity Register cannot start until the Identity Cards Bill gains Royal Assent. The procurement process will comply with EU and UK public procurement regulations which will encourage open competition. Procurement will commence with the publication of a contract notice in the *Official Journal* of the EU (OJEU) alerting potential suppliers and asking them to express an interest. We will be assessing the capabilities of individual potential contractors in the initial qualification phase of the procurement process following Office of Government Commerce (OGC) good practice guidelines. There will be opportunities through the secondary legislation required to implement elements of the scheme for Parliament to exercise further scrutiny of the operation of the scheme.

## CABINET OFFICE

### Civil Service Pensions

**Mr. Hutton:** 80 per cent. of the civil service below the senior civil service now has the option to remain in work until age 65, while a further 11 per cent. has the option to remain in work on short service concessions. Departments and agencies which retain a retirement age of 60 are expected to continue to re-examine the issue.

Legislation which will come into force in October 2006 will provide for a national default age of 65 after which an employer will not have to justify retiring someone on grounds of age. This will be subject to review after five years. To ensure compliance, the civil service is currently quality proofing its terms and conditions in this area to raise the retirement age of its employees, including the senior civil service, to 65. Those areas of the civil service which consider that they need to maintain a retirement age below 65 will only be able to do so if they can objectively justify this by reference to particular circumstances. It is anticipated, however, that this will be a negligible figure against the total number of permanent civil servants which, at 1 April 2004, was 523,580 (full-time equivalents).

### Correspondence

**Mr. Barstow:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many letters to his Department from hon. Members in session *(a)* 2004–05 and *(b)* 2005–06 remain unanswered, broken down by those which are (i) one month old, (ii) two months old, (iii) three months old, (iv) four months old and (v) over six months old. [13856]

**Mr. Hutton:** At 21 July, there were no outstanding unanswered letters for the timescales in question.

The performance of individual Departments on the handling of correspondence from hon. Members and Peers is published on an annual basis. For information relating to performance for 2004, I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my right hon. Friend the then Minister for the Cabinet Office (Mr. Miliband) on 6 April 2005, *Official Report*, columns 137–40WS.

### Council Tax

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what estimate the Valuation Office Agency has made of the number of residential properties in each local authority billing area in Wales that have moved up

*(a)* one band, *(b)* two bands, *(c)* three bands and *(d)* four or more bands as a consequence of council tax revaluation in Wales. [11421]

**Dawn Primarolo:** I have been asked to reply.

The Valuation Office Agency hold the statistics of the actual number, for each billing authority area in Wales, for band movements, following the council tax revaluation.

These statistics are shown in the table.

| Billing authority | Bands—Down by 4 or more | 3 | 2 | 1 | Stayed the same | Bands—Up by 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 or more | Total | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Isle of Anglesey | 2 | 10 | 87 | 2,956 | 18,894 | 9,011 | 1,421 | 289 | 83 | 32,753 | |
| Gwynedd | 2 | 13 | 186 | 4,368 | 32,376 | 18,337 | 3,067 | 518 | 127 | 58,994 | |
| Conwy | 4 | 6 | 73 | 3,402 | 33,266 | 14,947 | 1,556 | 241 | 48 | 53,543 | |
| Denbighshire | 1 | 3 | 111 | 3,432 | 26,696 | 9,880 | 1,749 | 281 | 95 | 42,248 | |
| Flintshire | — | — | 18 | 1,406 | 36,716 | 22,044 | 2,660 | 367 | 111 | 63,321 | |
| Cardiff | — | — | 5 | 43 | 2,839 | 47,011 | 67,775 | 17,923 | 921 | 38 | 136,575 |
| Bridgend | — | — | 10 | 132 | 10,226 | 36,039 | 10,782 | 717 | 81 | 16 | 58,083 |
| Rhondda Cynon Taff | — | — | 11 | 879 | 17,596 | 68,367 | 14,392 | 1,245 | 136 | 49 | 102,675 |
| Vale of Glamorgan | — | — | 3 | 61 | 1,677 | 28,631 | 20,536 | 2,857 | 277 | 37 | 54,079 |
| Ceredigion | — | 1 | 2 | 10 | 1,023 | 19,306 | 10,772 | 1,598 | 214 | 50 | 32,976 |
| Carmarthenshire (1) | — | — | — | 24 | 1,273 | 15,898 | 7,466 | 975 | 218 | 54 | 25,908 |
| Carmarthenshire (2) | — | 1 | — | 15 | 1,510 | 11,066 | 4,523 | 838 | 142 | 28 | 18,123 |
| Pembrokeshire | — | — | 1 | 31 | 1,518 | 34,264 | 16,747 | 2,245 | 376 | 106 | 55,288 |
| Powys (2) | — | — | 4 | 42 | 931 | 7,134 | 3,190 | 672 | 150 | 71 | 12,194 |
| Powys (3) | — | — | 1 | 71 | 2,034 | 10,883 | 5,137 | 1,036 | 292 | 114 | 19,568 |
| Caerphilly | — | — | — | 145 | 7,705 | 46,939 | 13,289 | 1,600 | 94 | 31 | 73,803 |
| Merthyr Tydfil | — | — | — | 132 | 3,790 | 18,285 | 3,160 | 121 | 15 | 4 | 25,507 |
| Monmouthshire | — | — | 1 | 2 | 1,816 | 20,769 | 13,231 | 2,031 | 362 | 99 | 38,311 |
| Blaenau Gwent | — | — | 1 | 43 | 5,738 | 23,457 | 2,057 | 63 | 8 | 4 | 31,371 |
| Newport | — | — | 1 | 12 | 2,788 | 37,233 | 18,142 | 1,376 | 199 | 88 | 59,791 |
| Torfaen | — | — | 1 | 17 | 1,897 | 28,307 | 8,434 | 368 | 62 | 17 | 39,103 |
| Carmarthenshire (3) | — | — | 2 | 8 | 2,009 | 20,909 | 11,235 | 475 | 46 | 18 | 34,702 |
| Swansea | — | 1 | 5 | 198 | 11,212 | 67,059 | 22,531 | 2,142 | 212 | 46 | 103,406 |
| Neath Port Talbot | — | 3 | 5 | 151 | 8,092 | 45,510 | 7,733 | 499 | 69 | 23 | 62,085 |
| | | 15 | 86 | 2,582 | 102,780 | 773,305 | 374,959 | 35,566 | 6,608 | 1,637 | 1,317,448 |

## Departmental Purchasing

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will list the companies from which his Department has purchased goods and services of a total value above £1 million in each of the last three years; and how much was spent in respect of each company. [11731]

**Mr. Hutton:** Companies from which the Department has purchased goods and services of a total value above £1 million in each of the past three years, and the amount spent in respect of each company is shown in the tables.

*2002–03*

| Company | Value (£) |
|---|---|
| Atos Origin IT Services UK Ltd/KPMG | 7,957,212 |
| Balfour Beatty Refurbishment | 10,641,130 |
| British Airways Plc | 1,056,635 |
| British Telecommunications Plc | 5,061,734 |
| Cable & Wireless Plc | 8,749,856 |
| Capita | 5,588,354 |
| Claybrook Computing Ltd. | 2,086,104 |
| Computacenter (UK) Ltd | 19,026,499 |
| Dell Computer Corporation Ltd. | 2,837,549 |
| Drivers Jonas | 1,812,368 |
| Ecovert FM | 10,266,903 |
| Electronic Data Systems Ltd. | 3,251,035 |
| GSL UK Limited | 1,593,668 |
| HP Ltd. | 12,493,443 |
| Josephine Sammons Limited | 1,389,205 |
| Lambert SmithHampton | 1,890,440 |
| Loudcloud UK Limited | 2,471,028 |
| Microsoft Ltd. | 9,522,755 |
| Nelson Bakewell Property | 1,500,703 |
| Overbury Plc | 1,845,659 |
| PA Consulting Group | 4,198,308 |
| Parity Resources Ltd. | 1,262,111 |
| Paymaster (1836) Ltd. | 6,059,938 |
| Syntegra | 2,172,243 |

*2002–03*

| Company | Value (£) |
|---|---|
| The Stationery Office Books | 1,559,817 |

*2003–04*

| Company | Value (£) |
|---|---|
| Allenbuild Ltd. | 1,904,057 |
| Atos Origin IT Services UK Ltd/KPMG | 7,200,514 |
| British Airways Plc | 1,203,456 |
| British Telecommunications Plc | 5,474,556 |
| Cable & Wireless Plc | 2,373,942 |
| Capita | 6,085,067 |
| Claybrook Computing Ltd. | 1,725,414 |
| Computacenter (UK) Ltd. | 26,801,024 |
| Ecovert FM | 12,878,366 |
| Electronic Data Systems Ltd. | 6,533,102 |
| French Thornton | 1,543,012 |
| HP Ltd | 11,644,190 |
| Initial Style Conferences Ltd. | 5,104,740 |
| ITNet | 5,918,669 |
| Josephine Sammons Limited | 1,128,492 |
| Lambert SmithHampton | 1,809,630 |
| Microsoft Ltd. | 4,769,891 |
| Miller Construction (UK) Ltd. | 2,894,346 |
| PA Consulting Group | 3,524,339 |
| Parity Resources Ltd. | 2,087,671 |
| SAIC Ltd. | 1,093,454 |
| The Stationery Office Books | 1,237,266 |

*2004–05*

| Company | Value (£) |
|---|---|
| Alfred McAlpine Business Services | 1,127,945 |
| Allenbuild Ltd. | 1,555,699 |
| Atos Origin IT Services UK Ltd/KPMG | 6,457,709 |
| BAE Systems (Operations) Ltd. | 1,025,658 |
| British Telecommunications Plc | 6,274,347 |
| Cable & Wireless Plc | 4,563,044 |

*2004–05*

| *Company* | *Value (£)* |
|---|---|
| Capita | 5,225,430 |
| Charteris | 1,037,942 |
| Claybrook Computing Ltd. | 1,604,495 |
| Computacenter (UK) Ltd. | 16,949,045 |
| Detica Ltd. | 1,448,154 |
| Ecovert FM | 20,421,150 |
| Electronic Data Systems Ltd. | 6,339,853 |
| French Thornton | 2,161,947 |
| HP Ltd | 12,073,414 |
| IBM United Kingdom Ltd. | 1,345,051 |
| Initial Style Conferences Ltd. | 5,122,133 |
| Insight Management & Systems | 1,048,426 |
| Liric Associates Ltd. | 1,009,350 |
| Miller Construction (UK) Ltd. | 3,240,306 |
| Nelson Bakewell Property | 2,056,013 |
| PA Consulting Group | 1,672,114 |
| Parity Resources Ltd. | 4,169,120 |
| Simmons & Simmons | 1,035,536 |
| The Stationery Office Books | 1,196,225 |

These figures cover core Cabinet Office and the National School of Government, but exclude the Government Car and Despatch Agency.

### Drugs Report

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will publish in full the Strategy Unit Drugs Report dated 13 June 2003. [14550]

**Mr. Hutton:** The parts of the report that are eligible for disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act are available on the Strategy Unit website.

### Management Consultants

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster which five management consultancies received the highest value of contracts awarded by the Cabinet Office in each of the last three years; and what the total value was of the contracts awarded to each. [12572]

**Mr. Hutton:** The information requested for the Cabinet Office is not readily available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what his Department's total spending on management consultants has been in each of the last three years. [13150]

**Mr. Hutton:** The information requested for the Cabinet Office is not readily available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will list the management consultants employed by his Department in each of the last three years. [14239]

**Mr. Hutton:** The information requested for the Cabinet Office is not readily available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

## CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

### Accounting System

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs whether a request for a proposal has been issued by the Department for the conversion or replacement of the Courts Fund Office conversion system; and what the time scale is for [15777]

**Ms Harman:** [illegible] a request for a proposal relating to the renewal of its IT systems, but it has entered into discussions to extend the existing contract to the end of 2006. The current contract with Liberata expires at the end of 2005. Any extensions of the contract must first be offered to Liberata—hence the CFO has not issued a request for proposal to a broader audience. Replacement has not been considered at this time.

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what the costs of maintaining the Data General Computer and Funds Accounting System used by the Court Funds Office was in 2004–05. [15778]

**Ms Harman:** The Funds Accounting System used by the Court Funds Office runs on the Data General Computer Platform. The Data General Platform runs four separate applications serving the following organisations:

The Fund Accounting System (FAS) for the Court Funds Office and the Public Guardianship Office

The Trust Accounting and Banking system (TABS) for the Official Solicitors and Public Trustee and the Public Guardianship Office

The Receivership Accounts (REACTS) for the Official Solicitors and Public Trustee

The Cash Reconciliation System (CASREC) for the Public Guardianship Office

The share of total costs for the Data General Platform between the three organisations in 2004–05 is as follows CFO £831,216, OSPT £308,145 and PGO £99,333:

The costs break down as follows:

| | *Operations (£)* |
|---|---|
| *Data general* | |
| CFO | 109,401 |
| OSPT | 218,802 |
| PGO | 36,467 |
| Total | 364,670 |
| *Staff costs* | |
| CFO | 560,708 |
| OSPT | 0 |
| PGO | 0 |
| Total | 560,708 |
| *Third party contracts* | |
| CFO | 161,107 |

| | Operations (£) |
|---|---|
| OSPT | 89,343 |
| PGO | 62,866 |
| Total | 313,316 |
| *Total cost* | |
| CFO | 831,216 |
| OSPT | 308,145 |
| PGO | 99,333 |
| Total | 1,238,694 |

These costs exclude costs incurred by the CFO, OSPT and PGO on business analysis and service level monitoring. They also exclude the opportunity cost and risks that the contract with Liberata (and in turn Unisys) imposes on the CFO, OSPT and PGO to upgrade the applications, the operating system and hardware to eliminate technology risks.

An earlier parliamentary question requesting clarification regarding renewal of the CFO IT systems was lodged by the right hon. Member for Skipton and Ripon (Mr. Curry), and a written response was made on 26 July 2005.

There have been no other PQ's lodged by the hon. Member in this Session related to this area. There is no major IT company in his constituency.

### Asylum and Immigration

**Andrew Stunell:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many cases have *(a)* been received, *(b)* been allocated case numbers, *(c)* remained unallocated and *(d)* been determined by the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal in each quarter of the last five years for which records are available; and if she will make a statement. [14548]

**Bridget Prentice:** Figures from the records of the Immigration Appellate Authority (IAA), which was superseded by the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal (AIT) on 4 April 2005 upon commencement of section 26 of The Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants, etc.) Act 2004, show the volume of receipts and determinations—for all case types at the adjudicator tier—to be as follows:

| | Receipts | Promulgations |
|---|---|---|
| *2000–01* | | |
| Quarter 1 | 7,808 | 5,332 |
| Quarter 2 | 13,377 | 6,577 |
| Quarter 3 | 10,531 | 9,520 |
| Quarter 4 | 14,222 | 12,797 |
| Total | 45,938 | 34,226 |
| *2001–02* | | |
| Quarter 1 | 15,481 | 12,318 |
| Quarter 2 | 15,672 | 14,757 |
| Quarter 3 | 18,041 | 16,941 |
| Quarter 4 | 19,431 | 17,800 |
| Total | 68,625 | 61,816 |
| *2002–03* | | |
| Quarter 1 | 19,348 | 20,251 |
| Quarter 2 | 24,731 | 23,931 |
| Quarter 3 | 22,887 | 22,277 |
| Quarter 4 | 24,979 | 26,482 |
| Total | 91,945 | 92,941 |
| *2003–04* | | |
| Quarter 1 | 24,869 | 25,083 |
| Quarter 2 | 28,605 | 27,581 |
| Quarter 3 | 27,106 | 29,202 |
| Quarter 4 | 26,860 | 28,357 |
| Total | 107,440 | 110,223 |
| *2004–05* | | |
| Quarter 1 | 26,689 | 26,541 |
| Quarter 2 | 29,748 | 26,374 |
| Quarter 3 | 28,055 | 27,948 |
| Quarter 4 | 24,813 | 24,727 |
| Total | 109,305 | 105,590 |

The figures provided therefore also demonstrate the number of all appeals allocated a case number in the last five years up to 31 March 2005.

Following the commencement of the AIT, information on appeal receipts and determinations for the first quarter of 2005–06 is not yet available. From manual assessments, approximately 13,000 visit visa appeals received after 4 April 2005 are awaiting case number allocation.

**Andrew Stunell:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what length of time was required *(a)* to allocate a case number following receipt and *(b)* to reach a determination by the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal in the case of Mr. Abolade Amuleya; and if she will make a statement. [14549]

**Bridget Prentice:** The records of the Immigration Appellate Authority (IAA), which was superseded by the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal (AIT) on 4 April 2005 upon commencement of section 26 of the Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants, etc.) Act 2004, indicate that appeal papers were received from the Immigration and Nationality Directorate (IND) on 11 July 2003. The case was allocated an appeal number on the date of receipt.

The final determination recorded, following the appellant's application of 25 September 2003 for permission to appeal to the Immigration Appeals Tribunal (IAT), was issued on 23 October 2003.

### Burial Grounds Survey

**Mr. Walker:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs (1) for what reasons the Burial Grounds Survey was issued by the Home Office; [15032]

(2) what the average cost to her Department is of processing a response to the Home Office Burial Grounds Survey; and if she will make a statement; [15033]

(3) pursuant to her answer dated 14 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 1298, what aspects of burial law and practice will be covered by the wider review referred to; and if she will make a statement. [15474]

**Ms Harman:** The survey was issued by the Home Office in accordance with the commitment in the Government's response to the Environment Select

Committee report on cemeteries. The average cost of processing the responses will not be known until the exercise has been completed.

The main aspects of burial law and practice under review were highlighted in the Home Office consultation paper "Burial Law and Policy in the 21st Century: The Need for a Sensitive and Sustainable approach", a copy of which is available from the House of Commons Library.

### Child Abduction

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Minister of State Department for Constitutional Affairs what *(a)* representations she has received and *(b)* discussions she has had on difficulties legal and/or departmental representation. [15883]

**Ms Harman:** As the Central Authority for the operation of the 1980 Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction, the Lord Chancellor from time to time receives representations from interested parties and an open dialogue is maintained. The cost of an application for the return of a child is often a matter of concern to parents. In most countries no payment for legal proceedings is required for applications made under the 1980 Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction. The Central Authority for the Convention provides information regarding legal costs in specific countries. There is no charge for the services provided by the Central Authority, including the translation of documents necessary to an application under the Convention. In countries where legal aid is not generally available efforts are made by the receiving Central Authority, in cases of financial need, to provide legal representation for applicants either at a reduced rate or free of charge.

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Minister of State Department for Constitutional Affairs what measures her Department has in place to ensure that the parents of children abducted abroad are given full and appropriate legal advice. [15885]

**Ms Harman:** The Lord Chancellor is the Central Authority in England and Wales for the operation of the 1980 Hague Convention on the Civil aspects of international child abduction. The operations are conducted by the Child Abduction and Contact Unit at the Office of the Official Solicitor and Public Trustee and consists of five full-time case managers who are trained and experienced in the handling and operation of Hague Convention cases. The unit can be contacted by telephone, fax and e-mail and routinely provides advice to parents on all aspects of the Hague Convention and whether it can be applied to a particular case. The unit also maintains a website which provides information to parents regarding the Hague Convention and what they can do to try to prevent an abduction, what to do in the event of an abduction and how to apply to have contact with their children in another Hague country.

The Unit has recently updated its leaflet on international child abduction, having regard to the recent changes in law and practice arising from the revised EU Regulation on Parental Responsibility (Brussels II bis) and has revised the information available on its website. These will provide a further opportunity for advice to left-behind parents.

### Civil Legal Aid Contracts

**Dr. McCrea:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs, what percentage of solicitors firms in Northern Ireland, offered civil legal aid contracts, refused them in each of the last five years, broken down by county [15266]

**Bridget Prentice:** Civil legal aid in Northern Ireland is not provided through a contracting environment.

### Contractors

Department for Constitutional Affairs if she will list contractors based in other EU member states that are providing services to her Department. [15457]

**Ms Harman:** The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Correspondence

**Mr. Barstow:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many letters to her Department from hon. Members in session *(a)* 2004–05 and *(b)* 2005–06 remain unanswered, broken down by those which are (i) one month old, (ii) two months old, (iii) three months old, (iv) four months old and (v) over six months old. [13857]

**Bridget Prentice:** My Department has answered all correspondence received in calendar year 2004. From 1 January to 29 July 2005, the Department received 1,820 letters from hon. Members and Peers, of which 26 are outstanding and up to one month old. There is no correspondence more than one month old.

The Cabinet Office, on an annual basis, publishes a report to Parliament on the performance of Departments in replying to Members/Peers correspondence. The Report for 2004 was published on 6 April 2005, *Official Report*, columns 137–40WS. From 1 January to 29 July 2005, the Department answered 93 per cent. of correspondence within target.

### Courthouse (Colchester)

**Bob Russell:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs pursuant to the answer of 7 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 179W, on courthouse (Colchester), when she plans to publish the business strategy for the Court Service in Essex, and whether it remains her intention to build a new courthouse in Colchester. [15516]

**Ms Harman:** When my Department has finalised its investment plans and developed a national business strategy for Her Majesty's Courts Service, now expected by autumn 2005, an announcement will be made shortly thereafter.

Although the priority of individual schemes in the court building programme will vary, at this stage there is nothing to suggest that the component parts of the Essex PFI scheme will not be included in future investment

plans. As stated in my previous answer, the Essex magistrates court scheme, of which Colchester is part, continues to be within the programme of new court projects.

### Election Communications

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs, what regulations govern the content of election communications distributed by the Royal Mail. [15520]

**Ms Harman:** Section 91 of the Representation of the People Act 1983, currently provides that material used in election addresses should relate to the election only. As a matter of principle, the Government do not believe what candidates may or may not include in their election communications, and believe that the Representation of the People Act 1983, along with the existing laws governing publications and copyright, already cover any possible complaints that may arise about the contents of election addresses.

The Royal Mail publishes guidance for candidates on what the law allows to ensure that election addresses adhere to the electoral, publication and copyright laws.

### Election Voting

**Mr. Djanogly:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs pursuant to the answer of 12 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 868W, on election voting, whether any Commonwealth country has reciprocal measures in place with the United Kingdom to allow British nationals, when resident in that country, to vote in *(a)* local and *(b)* national elections. [14327]

**Ms Harman:** There are no reciprocal arrangements with any other Commonwealth country. As I stated in my answer of 12 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 868W, decisions about voting rights of British citizens resident in other Commonwealth countries are for the individual countries concerned.

### Electoral Administration Bill

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs, what elements of the Electoral Administration Bill the Government intends to implement in time for the 2006 local elections. [15113]

**Ms Harman:** The implementation of the proposals in the Electoral Administration Bill will depend on when the bill is introduced into Parliament and the passage of the bill through each parliamentary stage. However as outlined in the Electoral Administration Policy Paper, the Government does intend to implement as many changes as possible for the May 2006 local elections.

### Equality and Diversity

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how much the Department has spent promoting equality and diversity in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [14671]

**Ms Harman:** My Department is fully committed to the equality and diversity agenda and have policies and processes in place to ensure that there is no unfair discrimination on any grounds.

My Department has a dedicated corporate diversity team. The aim of which is to ensure that my Department reflects the community, which we serve. Some of our recent initiatives include:

New systems to enable compliance with diversity legislation;

Developing policies: race equality scheme, disability equality scheme, guidance and toolkits, diversity impact assessments, translation policy;

Staff potential and leadership projects

Mainstreaming diversity into the services we provide to our clients

Career progression for under-represented groups.

Figures available for the corporate diversity team's budget are as follows:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2003–04 | 802,978 |
| 2004–05 | 1,039,510 |
| 2005–06 | 2,460,000 |
| 2006–07 | — |

Figures are not available before 2003–04

In addition to the above, my Department spends money on promoting equality and diversity in the legal profession and the judiciary and in many other parts of our activities.

### Freedom of Information

**Pete Wishart:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many Freedom of Information Act 2000 requests have been answered by the Department; and in how many cases *(a)* information was wholly exempted, *(b)* information was partly exempted and *(c)* the requests were answered in full. [14964]

**Ms Harman:** The Department for Constitutional Affairs is committed to publishing quarterly updates in relation to departmental performance under FOI, including information on both the volume and outcomes of requests. These reports cover all Departments of State.

The first of these updates, covering the period January to March, was published on 23 June 2005 and can be found on both the DCA website at http://www.foi.gov.uk/statsjan-mar05.htm and in the House Library. The next bulletin is due in the autumn of this year. An annual report is also to be published in early 2006.

### Travellers (Legal Aid)

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what the estimated cost of legal aid to Travellers has been in each year since 1997. [15218]

**Bridget Prentice:** It is not possible to identify individual grants of legal aid to Travellers and Gypsies in most categories of law because the Legal Services

Commission (LSC) does not collect data about the ethnic group or lifestyle of recipients of legal aid. The LSC collects figures for legal aid for Travellers where the category of law or action arises out of their Traveller status.

The Community Law Partnership has held a contract with the LSC to provide publicly funded services since January 2000. It has held a contract with the LSC since April 2002 to provide telephone advice to Gypsies and Travellers on housing matters, including eviction and planning enforcement actions. Its grants for this financial year and previous years have been as follows:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| April 2002-March 2003 | 131,675 |
| April 2003-March 2004 | 131,675 |
| April 2004-March 2005 | 55,000 |
| [illegible] | 55,000 |

The Ormiston Children and Families Trust and the Fenland Citizens Advice Bureau has received a Partnership Initiative Budget grant to pilot the provision of information and advice services on social welfare law specifically to Gypsies and Travellers in Cambridgeshire. LSC funding amounted to £5,050 in 2003–04, £21,700 in 2004–05 and £9,000 so far in 2005–06.

Legal representation at planning applications and appeals is generally outside the scope of legal aid. However, since April 2000, funding can be made available in exceptional cases under section 6(8)*(b)* of the Access to Justice Act 1999, when the relevant criteria are satisfied, for example, where the case concerns the applicant's home. This protects the applicant's fundamental rights and ensures a fair hearing. It is not possible to give a precise figure for total costs but, since April 2000, the LSC has spent the following amounts (excluding legal help costs) on planning applications in relation to Traveller encampments.

| | £ |
|---|---|
| April 2001-March 2002 | [1]14,600 |
| April 2002-March 2003 | [1]7,000 |
| April 2003-March 2004 | 0 |
| April 2004-March 2005 | [1]23,644 |
| April 2005 to date | [1]5,525.35 |

[1] Plus VAT

## Magistrates Courts (Fines)

**Andrew Gwynne:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how much was levied in fines by each magistrates court in the county of Greater Manchester in each of the last five years; how much was written off by each court; and what percentage of fines was collected by each court. [15099]

**Ms Harman:** Information on fines imposed and collected is provided by the 42 HMCS areas in England and Wales and is not available centrally broken down by individual magistrates courts. The following table shows the total amounts imposed, total amounts written off and the payment rate in Greater Manchester for the last five financial years.

Improving performance in the collection of fines is key for ensuring respect for the orders of the court and increasing confidence in the Criminal Justice System (CJS). Real progress has been made through a combination of legislative and non-legislative measures, with the full year payment rate for financial impositions in 2004–05 being 80 per cent. compared to a baseline of 69 per cent. at the end of the first quarter of 2003–04 and a target of 78 per cent.

*Enforcement of penalties—Greater Manchester*

| *Financial year* | *Amount imposed total (£)* | *How amount owed total (£)* | *Total amount written off (£)* | *Payment rate[1] (percentage)* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| April 2000-March 2001[2] | 24,970,562 | 24,215,936 | 8,175,670 | 60 |
| April 2001-March 2002[2] | 23,033,892 | 22,462,326 | 6,122,373 | 61 |
| April 2002-March 2003[2] | 23,091,892 | 23,784,474 | 9,780,791 | 64 |
| April 2003-March 2004 | 20,876,507 | 20,732,753 | 6,415,937 | 64 |
| April 2004-March 2005 | 16,711,545 | 19,494,880 | 366,220 | 70 |

[1] The primary performance indicator is the payment rate. It is defined as the amount paid into court as a percentage of the new net amount owed.

Payment rate = amount paid divided by new net amount owed

Methods of calculating the new net amounts owed have changed over the last five years and are detailed as follows:

September 1999 to March 2003—new net amount owed includes legally cancelled amounts, civil monies and confiscation orders

April 2003 to December 2003—new net amount owed excludes legally cancelled amounts, civil monies and confiscation orders

January 2004 to July 2004—new net amount owed excludes legally cancelled amounts, administratively cancelled amounts, civil monies and confiscation orders

July 2004 onwards—new net amount owed excludes legally cancelled amounts, administratively cancelled amounts, civil monies and confiscation orders, but includes amounts written back

[2] From April 2003 onwards, confiscation and civil amounts have not been included in any of the enforcement calculations. It is not possible to separate those elements out from the figures before that date.

*Note:*

As a result of these revisions, direct year-on-year comparisons cannot be made.

## Marked Registers

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs pursuant to her answer of 18 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 1305W, on marked registers, if she will place in the Library the service level agreement laid out in the contract specification between Pickfords and the Government. [15114]

**Ms Harman:** As I stated in my answer of 18 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 1305W, my Department will supply a copy of the relevant sections of the specification to anyone who makes a request to see them. But commercially confidential information is embedded in the specification and it would not be appropriate to publish the whole of it, or possible to extract sections and repackage them into a comprehensible document.

### Mental Health

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs if she will summarise responses to the consultation document *(a)* Who Decides? Making decisions on behalf of mentally incapacitated adults and *(b)* Making Decisions: Helping people who have difficulty for themselves; and if she will make a statement. [14313]

**Bridget Prentice:** In response to the wide consultation on 'Who Decides?', the Government published the policy statement "Making decisions" in 1999, confirming that Government would legislate to reform the law on decision-making for people who lack capacity. The Mental Capacity Act 2005 received Royal Assent on 7 April.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what recent discussions she has held with the Archbishop of Cardiff regarding the Mental Capacity Act 2005, with particular reference to *(a)* its implementation and *(b)* the draft Code of Practice to be introduced under the Act; and if she will make a statement. [14314]

**Bridget Prentice:** There have been no recent discussions with the Archbishop of Cardiff about the implementation of the Act. We expect to publish the draft Code of Practice for consultation in spring 2006.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what recent discussions she has had with *(a)* hon. Members, *(b)* Members of the House of Lords and *(c)* interested organisations concerning the development of policy on (i) assisted suicide, (ii) euthanasia and *(c)* the Mental Capacity Act 2005; if she will list those organisations; and if she will make a statement. [14315]

**Bridget Prentice:** During the passage of the Mental Capacity Act Government Ministers had extensive discussions with a very wide range of groups and individuals, as well as hon. Members and Members of the House of Lords with an interest in capacity issues. We are continuing the open dialogue with stakeholders as work is taken forward to implement the Act.

The Department of Health has responsibility for policy on assisted suicide and euthanasia.

### Parliamentary Questions

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs when she will answer Question reference 6175 from the hon. Member for Sutton and Cheam. [14594]

**Ms Harman:** I answered the hon. Member for Sutton and Cheam on 21 July 2005, *Official Report* column 1936W.

### Postal Voting

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many complaints she has received from individuals regarding postal voting in *(a)* local, *(b)* general and *(c)* European elections in each year since 1997. [15671]

**Ms Harman:** We do not keep a detailed breakdown of the number of individual complaints received about postal voting. As postal voting on demand was only introduced in 2001 we do not have records dating back to 1997. As far as I am aware, my Department received the following number of letters of complaints about postal voting and all-postal voting; seven in 2002, 13 in 2003, 249 in 2004 and 48 in 2005.

### Private Finance Projects

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs, pursuant to the answer of 15 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 465W, on private finance projects, what total value of assets and liabilities for each of the listed private finance initiatives and public private partnerships is recorded on the Government balance sheet; what proportion of assets and liabilities is listed; what the accounting treatment is for assets and liabilities; and whether it is compatible with *(a)* generally-accepted accounting practices and *(b)* international financial reporting standards. [15959]

**Ms Harman:** Of the PFI projects listed in my answer of 15 June, the ARAMIS project is not deemed to be an asset of this Department and is therefore not on the balance sheet. There is however, a debtor balance of £0.5 million, which is on the balance sheet. The National Probate Records project is also deemed to be off-balance sheet.

The Net Book Value (NBV) of those assets deemed to belong to the Department and shown on the balance sheet as at 31 March 2005 are as follows:

| Project | £ million NBV |
|---|---|
| LOCOG | 2.0 |
| LIBRA | 12.1 |
| East Anglia Courts | 28.4 |
| Exeter Crown and County Court | 20.8 |
| Sheffield Family Hearing Centre | 5.3 |

These figures are subject to formal approval from the National Audit Office.

Where an asset is deemed to belong to the Department then the full value of the asset will be recognised.

There are also prepayments of £11.6 million recognised as assets along with liabilities of £57.6 million.

It is yet to be determined between the Department and the National Audit Office (NAO) as to whether or not the Magistrates courts PFI Schemes will be recognised on the Departments balance sheet, so it is not possible at the present time to give the value of any associated assets or liabilities.

The accounting policies adhered to are those contained in the Resource Accounting Manual (RAM). This is determined by decisions made by the Financial Reporting Advisory Board whose aim is to update the RAM in line with any changes to Financial Reporting

Standards. International Accounting Standards have not been fully integrated so there may be some differences in accounting treatment.

### Remote Electronic Voting

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs, pursuant to her answer of 18 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 1306W, on remote electronic voting, what criteria the Government will use to decide whether or not to hold electronic voting pilots in the 2006 elections. [15115]

**Ms Harman:** The Government have decided not to invite applications from local authorities to conduct electronic voting pilots in the May 2006 local elections. We consider this position appropriate at the current time as we are concentrating on changes to enhance security for existing postal voting provisions and make changes to improve accessibility within the traditional voting system.

However, the hon. Member will be aware that we cannot stop applications for pilots being made as there is a legislative duty to consider any such application originated by a local authority.

### Select Committee Report (Cemeteries)

**Andrew Gwynne:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs, what progress has been made in implementing the recommendations of the Environment, Transport and Regional Government Select Committee Report on Cemeteries which the Government accepted. [15102]

**Ms Harman:** Progress on many of the Select Committee's recommendations has been dependent on the work that has been undertaken to assess the capacity of existing burial grounds and to consult on possible changes to burial law and practice. I expect the results of the former to be available later this year. The results of the latter are being assessed, and I will announce in due course how we intend to proceed in the light of the helpful and wide-ranging views which have been received.

In the meantime, the advisory group which the Government said it would establish has met regularly over the last four years and has made a significant contribution to the work programme. One example is the draft guidance on burial ground management which we expect to publish later this year. Work on guidance regarding memorial safety is in hand.

### Tax Returns

**Mr. Wills:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs, which organisation collates information on the percentage of appeals against penalties imposed for late submission of tax returns upheld by the General Commissioners in *(a)* 2000, *(b)* 2001, *(c)* 2002, *(d)* 2003 and *(e)* 2004 [16237]

**Ms Harman:** No organisation collates information centrally on the percentage of appeals against penalties imposed for late submission of tax returns upheld by the General Commissioners. The Department for Constitutional Affairs (which is the sponsoring Department for the General Commissioners) does collate information on the overall number of appeals across all categories upheld by the General Commissioners but it is not possible to extract from this figures on appeals against penalties imposed for late submission of tax returns.

### Websites

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Minister of State Department for Constitutional Affairs if she will list websites that come under her Department's responsibility; and what the *(a)* cost and *(b)* number of visits was for each in the last year for which figures are available. [15770]

**Bridget Prentice:** The information requested is listed in the following table.

*Websites*

| Organisation | Site address | 2004–05 Costs[1] (£) | Visits |
|---|---|---|---|
| Asylum and Immigration Tribunal | www.ait.gov.uk | [2]15,707 | 458,138 |
| Civil Justice Council | www.civiljusticecouncil.gov.uk | [3]— | 576,670 |
| Commission for Judicial Appointments | www.cja.gov.uk | [3]— | 13,228 |
| Community Legal Service | www.cladirect.org.uk | 443,000 | 901,930 |
| Council on Tribunals | www.council-on-tribunals.gov.uk | [3]— | 54,314 |
| Court Service | www.courtservice.gov.uk | [2]288,000 | 6,044,725 |
| Criminal Courts Review | www.criminal-courts-review.org.uk | [3]— | 57,529 |
| Department for Constitutional Affairs | www.dca.gov.uk | [3]— | 3,186,965 |
| Family Justice Council | www.familyjusticecouncil.org.uk | [3]— | n/a |
| Finance and Tax Tribunals | www.financeandtaxtribunals.gov.uk | [2]15,962 | 189,135 |
| Gender Recognition Panel | www.grp.gov.uk | [2]4,930 | 30,052 |
| General Commissioners of Income Tax | www.tribunalsservice.gov.uk/gcit | [2]13,930 | n/a |
| Hutton Inquiry | www.the-hutton-inquiry.org.uk | [3]— | 180,493 |
| Immigration Services Tribunal | www.immigrationservicestribunal.gov.uk | [2]15,962 | 24,544 |
| Judicial Studies Board | www.jsboard.co.uk | [3]— | 222,566 |
| Land Registry | www.landreg.gov.uk | 11,752 | 2,828,438 |
| Lands Tribunal | www.landstribunal.gov.uk | [2]15,962 | 79,829 |
| Law Commission | www.lawcom.gov.uk | [3]— | 370,729 |
| Legal Services Commission | www. legalservices.gov. uk | 33,000 | 896,081 |
| Legal Services Research Centre | www.lsrc.org.uk | 118 | n/a |
| Legal Services Review | www.legal-services-review.org.uk | [3]— | n/a |
| Magistrates Court Service Inspectorate | www.mcsi.gov.uk | [3]— | 69,481 |
| National Archives | www.nationalarchives.gov.uk | 316,734 | 5,633,731 |
| National Archives other sites: family records, learning curve, a2a, Moving Here, Census | | | |
| Northern Ireland Court Service | Various | [3]— | n/a |
| Office of Legal Services Ombudsman | www.courtsni.gov.uk | 839,835 | 544,800 |
| | www.olso.org | 2,316 | 103,172 |

*Websites*

| *Organisation* | *Site address* | *2004–05 Costs[2] (£)* | *Visits* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Office of the Legal Services Complaints Commissioner | www.olsc.gov.uk | [3]— | 5,840 |
| Official Solicitor and Public Trustee | www.offsol.demon.co.uk | 141 | n/a |
| Pensions Appeal Tribunals | www.pensionsappealtribunals.gov.uk | [3]15,962 | 40,645 |
| Public Guardianship Office | www.guardianship.gov.uk | 297 | n/a |
| Social Security and Child Support Commissioners | www.osscsc.gov.uk | [3]17,622 | 288,426 |
| Transport Tribunal | www.transportthbunal.gov.uk | [3]15,962 | 30,025 |
| Tribunals Review | www.tribunals-review.org.uk | [3]— | 4,112 |

[1] Staff costs are not included (unless otherwise stated), and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.
[2] The sites hosted by Cable and Wireless under contract. The hosting element of this is £555,096 per annum.
[3] Complex arrangements with various partners. National Archives contribution assessable only at disproportionate cost.

## MINISTER FOR WOMEN

### Maternity Leave

**Lynda Waltho:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality if the Government will take steps to simplify the administration of maternity leave for employers. [14324]

**Meg Munn:** The DTI consultation, Work and Families Choice and Flexibility, looked at ways of helping employers plan ahead more effectively, such as increasing the notice periods for changing return dates an employee gives whilst on maternity leave and improving communication between women and employers before and during maternity leave. It also sought stakeholders' help in finding ways of simplifying the system of maternity and adoption leave and pay.

The consultation closed at the end of May and we are currently considering the responses.

## TRADE AND INDUSTRY

### Association of Trade Advisers

**Mr. Arbuthnot:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry whether international trade advisers employed by the regional development authorities are consulting the Association of Trade Advisers on export development opportunities; and if he will make a statement. [10447]

**Ian Pearson:** UK Trade and Investment has no knowledge of an Association of Trade Advisers and we are not aware of any contacts between UK Trade and Investment International Trade Advisers and such an organisation.

### Company Legislation

**Mr. Djanogly:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will estimate the additional administrative cost, per confidentiality order, of making the effects of section 723B of the Companies Act retrospective. [14789]

**Barry Gardiner:** My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry has considered the issue of making the effects of section 723B retrospective and has concluded that it is not feasible to do so. This decision was not reached on the basis of the additional administrative cost of doing so. The main reason was that once information has been entered on the public record at Companies House it is disseminated widely, not only to individual members of the public but also through large commercial business information providers. Therefore, even if it were possible for Companies House to expunge the historical information successfully, it would still be in the public domain and available from a wide range of sources.

### Consultants

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the total expenditure saved in each of the last three years as a result of implementing recommendations by management consultancies in his Department was. [13572]

**Alan Johnson:** This information is not held centrally and can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Expenditure

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the total spending by his Department on *(a)* staff, *(b)* accommodation and *(c)* procurement in the (i) Moray constituency and (ii) Highland region was for the most recent year for which figures are available. [14844]

**Stewart Hosie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the total spending by his Department on *(a)* staff, *(b)* accommodation and *(c)* procurement in (i) Dundee East constituency, (ii) Tayside and (iii) the City of Dundee was for the most recent year for which figures are available. [14875]

**Mr. Salmond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the total spending by his Department on *(a)* staff, *(b)* accommodation and *(c)* procurement in (i) Banff and Buchan and (ii) the North East of Scotland was for the most recent year for which figures are available. [14882]

**Mr. Weir:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how much was spent by his Department on *(a)* staff, *(b)* accommodation and *(c)* procurement in (i) Angus constituency and (ii) Tayside in 2004–05. [14902]

**Pete Wishart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the total spending by his Department on *(a)* staff, *(b)* accommodation and *(c)* procurement in Perth and North Perthshire was for the most recent year for which figures are available. [14916]

**Alan Johnson:** A detailed analysis of the Department's expenditure by specific geographical location cannot be provided other than at disproportionate cost.

However, information on regional distribution of staff at 1 April 2004 is available in the Libraries of the Houses, and also at:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/management_information/statistical_information/statistics/contents_for_civil_service_statistics_2004_report/index.asp

Table D shows the numbers of staff by regional distribution. Figures relating to 1 April 2005 will be published next year.

### Energy Supplies (Annual Report)

**Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry when he expects to lay the Annual Report on Energy Supplies before Parliament; and if he will make a statement. [12966]

**Malcolm Wicks:** The first annual report on the security of gas and electricity supply in Great Britain will be laid before Parliament on Thursday 21 July. Copies are available in the Libraries of the House and on the Department's website at

http://www.dti.gov.uk/energy/publications/policy/index.shtml.

### Fair Trade

**Mr. Fabian Hamilton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry whether conditions will be imposed upon countries in Africa following the agreement at the G8 summit to create fairer trade. [14715]

**Ian Pearson:** The outcome of the G8 summit will not impose conditions on Africa.

The G8 summit agreed a comprehensive plan to support the progress Africa has made in recent years. This includes helping to build Africa's capacity to trade, for which the EU has pledged €1 billion per year. Leaders also committed to provide resources and training to help African producers meet current and new health and safety standards for food exports and other products; to support African efforts to increase South-South trade and regional integration; and to improve the utilisation of G8 preference schemes, reporting back on progress to future presidencies.

The G8 emphasised that a successful conclusion to the WTO Doha Development Agenda (DDA) will be one of the most effective ways to generate economic growth, create potential for development and raise living standards across the world. The World Bank estimates that completing these negotiations could lift 140 million people out of poverty. Leaders committed to continue to work towards ensuring there is appropriate flexibility in the DDA negotiations.

### Female Senior Management

**Mr. Hood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many women he estimates are employed at senior managerial level in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* Scotland and *(c)* the Lanark and Hamilton East constituency; and if he will make a statement. [13971]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** In spring 2005 1.2 million females in the UK were employed as managers or senior officials; this is 10.1 per cent. of female employees in the UK.

In the same period 91,000 females in Scotland were employed as managers or senior officials; this is 8.5 per cent. of all female employees in Scotland.

Reliable figures are not available for the Lanark and Hamilton East constituency due to small sample size.

### Freedom of Information Act

**Pete Wishart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many Freedom of Information Act 2000 requests have been answered by the Department; and in how many cases *(a)* information was wholly exempted, *(b)* information was partly exempted and *(c)* the requests were answered in full. [14957]

**Alan Johnson:** During the period January to March 2005 the Department of Trade and Industry received 341 requests and replied to 287 requests. In 98 cases information was wholly exempted, in 52 cases information was partly exempted and in 54 cases the requests were answered in full. In respect of 83 requests no information was found.

The Department for Constitutional Affairs is committed to publishing quarterly updates in relation to departmental performance under FOI, including information on both the volume and outcomes of requests. The first of these updates was published on 23 June 2005 and can be found both on the DCA website at: http://www.foi.gov.uk/statsjan-mar05.htm and in the Libraries of the House. The next bulletin is due in the autumn of this year, while an annual report is also to be published in early 2006.

### Grocery Trade

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will effect a moratorium on *(a)* takeovers and *(b)* acquisitions in the grocery trade. [14198]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** No. It is for the independent competition authorities (the Office of Fair Trading and the Competition Commission) to consider individual merger cases on their merits against a competition-focused test.

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will *(a)* take steps to strengthen the Supermarkets Supplier Code of Practice and *(b)* introduce an independent regulator for the grocery market. [14199]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The prime responsibility for operating our competition regime rests with the independent competition authorities. In the specific case of supermarkets it is the Office of Fair Trading, which is currently responsible for keeping under review the Code of Practice governing supermarket's relations with their suppliers and for dealing with any other competition issues in the sector.

### Hydro Power

**Mr. Gray:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many water mills are fitted with generating turbines. [12665]

**Malcolm Wicks:** 239 small-scale (i.e. with a capacity below 5MW) hydro generators accounted for 184MW of installed generation capacity at the end of 2004. It is not known how many of these are converted water mills.

### Job Creation (North-east)

**John Cummings:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many jobs accredited to *(a)* ONE North East and *(b)* the Durham Development Company have been brought to (i) the county of Durham and (ii) Easington constituency in the last three years. [14471]

**Alun Michael:** ONE North East, the Regional Development Agency, directly created around 2,300 jobs in County Durham (excluding cross-county-boundary projects) over the last three years, according to the definition set out in the DTI's tasking framework for the RDAs.

As a local authority body, the County Durham Development Company (CDDC), using a wider definition, report that they have influenced the creation or retention of 10,000 jobs in the county over the last three years.

The sub-division of this information for the Easington district is not available.

### Manufacturing

**Mr. Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will make a statement on the future of manufacturing in Northamptonshire with particular reference to the Wellingborough constituency. [14769]

**Alun Michael:** The County of Northamptonshire still has a dominant manufacturing base with footwear, plastics, perfumes and toiletries over-represented against national averages. The Wellingborough East (WEAST) development and Milton Keynes South Midlands sub-regional strategy will improve infrastructure in the Wellingborough district in order to attract business and industry and help indigenous businesses grow. However, like manufacturing businesses throughout the East Midlands and the UK, Northamptonshire businesses are facing severe competition from overseas. As the pace of technological change speeds up and new industrial economies develop, the future of the manufacturing sector within the region must be based on the recognition that innovation is key to regional competitive success. That involves the continuous introduction of new and differentiated products and services.

### Media Relations

**Mr. Salmond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how much the Department has spent on external media relations in each month of the last year. [14675]

**Alan Johnson:** The information requested is not kept in the form requested and could be supplied only at disproportionate cost.

### MG Rover

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment the Department made of the business plans of the *(a)* Phoenix and *(b)* Alchemy bid for Rover at the time of the company's sale by BMW in 2000, in terms of (i) long-term employment, (ii) redundancy packages and (iii) current and future pensions for (A) Rover employees and (B) Rover's suppliers and dealers; and what assessment was made of the likely effect of each bid on the local Longbridge economy. [6666]

**Ian Pearson:** A preliminary comparison of Phoenix and Alchemy proposed business plans was carried out by the department in April 2000. A further assessment of the Phoenix bid was carried out in May 2000 but by then Alchemy had withdrawn. These were broad assessments, based on information available from the parties, of their developing business plans, and did not, for example, look at the detailed pension position.

The Longbridge Taskforce produced an assessment of the impact of Rover's closure on component suppliers and the local economy more widely in April 2000. This was placed in the Libraries of the House.

**Charles Hendry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry pursuant to his answer of 18 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 1344W, on MG Rover, when the decision was taken by his Department, following the requests made by Kevin Howe and John Towers, to offer a bridging loan to aid the completion of a commercial deal; and when that decision was first communicated to MG Rover management. [14385]

**Ian Pearson:** The Department wrote to MG Rover's management on 17 March 2005 setting out in detail the criteria that had to be met in order for a bridging loan to be made.

**Charles Hendry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry whether he has received evidence that suggests MG Rover was trading whilst insolvent during April. [14386]

**Ian Pearson:** My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State appointed inspectors under section 432(2) of the Companies Act 1985 to examine the issues raised by the FRRP in their report to him and events leading up to the appointment of administrators on 8 April 2005.

**Charles Hendry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry whether a Government bridging loan facility remains available to aid the completion of a commercial deal to help secure the future of MG Rover; whether the Government have been approached with a request for such a facility by a potential bidder since the company entered administration; whether the Government have offered any such facility to potential bidders since the company entered administration; and if he will make a statement. [14387]

**Ian Pearson:** The answers to the three questions are as follows:

No.

No, not for a bridging loan, although the Government have been approached by a number of bidders seeking other types of financial support.

No.

### Mine Rescue Services

**Mr. Meale:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry pursuant to the answer of 6 July 2005,

*Official Report*, column 464W, on mine rescue services, if he will list the *(a)* values, *(b)* dates and *(c)* scope of the contracts held by the Coal Authority with Mines Rescue Services Ltd, in each year since 1994. [14085]

**Malcolm Wicks:** Details of all contracts between the Coal Authority and Mines Rescue Services Ltd, are listed in the following table:

| *Scope* | *Start date* | *End date* | *Value (£)* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Call-off contracts for specialist services[1] | 11 April 1995 | 12 April 1999 | 7,250 |
| Supply and installation of communication equipment at Bilston Glen Colliery | 15 November 1999 | 15 December 1999 | 1,729 |
| Underground labour at Park Drift Mine | 19 February 2001 | 30 March 2001 | 14,400 |
| Call-off contracts for specialist services[1*] | 1 April 2001 | 31 March 2003 | 28,920 |
| Fire protection cover for records in transit | 1 August 2001 | 31 October 2001 | 3,520 |
| Call-off contracts for specialist services[1*] | 1 April 2003 | 31 March 2005 | 43,635 |
| Emergency call-out cover | 20 January 2003 | 31 March 2004 | 9,500 |
| Emergency response to surface hazard incidents | 1 April 2004 | 31 March 2007 | 1,296,000 |

[1] The provision of resources from the six regional rescue stations to deal with surface hazards associated with past coal mining;
The provision of resources to facilitate the Mines (safety and Exit) Regulations 1988;
The provision of resources to facilitate the Escape from Mines Regulations 1995.
[2] Contract awarded following OJEU competitive tender exercise.

**Mr. Meale:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry whether the Coal Authority has participated directly or indirectly in *(a)* financial support and *(b)* contracts with Mines Rescue Services Ltd in connection with overseas mining operations. [14086]

**Malcolm Wicks:** I can confirm it has not.

### Minimum Wage Helpline

**Mr. David Hamilton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many workplaces in Midlothian were reported to the minimum wage helpline for failing to comply with the national minimum wage legislation in 2004. [14754]

**John Healey:** I have been asked to reply.

Nine cases were reported to the National Minimum Wage Helpline in the period 1 January 2004 to 31 December 2004 for the EH postcode area.

**Jim Sheridan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many workplaces in Paisley and Renfrewshire North were reported to the Minimum Wage Helpline for failing to comply with national minimum wage legislation in 2004. [14147]

**John Healey:** I have been asked to reply.

Six cases were reported to the National Minimum Wage Helpline in the period 1 January 2004 to 31 December 2004 for the PN postcode area.

### Ministerial Visits

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry whether he plans to visit Coventry in the next six months. [14849]

**Alan Johnson:** I do not currently have any plans to visit Coventry in the next six months.

### Non-Fossil Fuel/Renewables Obligations

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how much *(a)* research and development funding, *(b)* capital grants and *(c)* other state support for energy technologies, excluding the Non-Fossil Fuel Obligation and the Renewables Obligation was provided in each year since 1990, broken down by (i) technology, (ii) Government Department and (iii) support scheme. [14486]

**Malcolm Wicks:** It has not been possible to collate all public expenditure and other Government support since 1990 for energy technologies in the time available at proportionate cost. However it is possible to detail direct DTI and Research Council expenditure on new and renewables, clean fossil fuels and nuclear. These are set out in the following tables.

In addition to this both DEFRA and the Scottish Executive provide funding to the Carbon Trust which conducts research into low carbon energy activities among other activities. DEFRA also funds research into combined heat and power, which is also detailed in the tables.

The Government's support for clean, low carbon road vehicle and fuel technologies, including support for research, development and demonstration projects, was summarised in the 2002 Powering Future Vehicles Strategy, a copy of which is available via the Department for Transport's website at http://www.dft.gov.uk/stellent/groups/dft_roads/documents/page/dft roads_506885.hcsp.

*DTI New and Renewable Energy Programme—External Spend for each technology area by financial year from 1990–91*

| *Programme area* | *1990–91* | *1991–92* | *1992–93* | *1993–94* | *1994–95* | *1995–96* | *1996–97* | *1997–98* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | *Spend (rounded to nearest £000)* | | |
| Bio Wastes | 874,000 | 1,237,000 | 1,158,000 | 916,000 | 1,235,000 | 1,097,000 | 593,000 | 75,000 |
| Biomass | 973,000 | 1,153,000 | 1,961,000 | 2,378,000 | 2,350,000 | 2,313,000 | 1,937,000 | 1,317,000 |
| Embedded Generation | 0 | 54,000 | 108,000 | 463,000 | 908,000 | 835,000 | 647,000 | 586,000 |
| Fuel Cells | 155,000 | 339,000 | 362,000 | 827,000 | 915,000 | 1,172,000 | 914,000 | 900,000 |
| Geothermal-Aquifers | -8,000 | 55,000 | 130,000 | 143,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Geothermal-Hot Dry Rocks | 2,579,000 | 1,567,000 | 1,088,000 | 989,000 | 245,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Hydro | 33,000 | 122,000 | 70,000 | 167,000 | 148,000 | 79,000 | 142,000 | 57,000 |
| Solar | 2,124,000 | 2,354,000 | 2,302,000 | 2,378,000 | 2,067,000 | 1,878,000 | 1,874,000 | 1,660,000 |
| Tidal | 1,860,000 | 1,932,000 | 1,726,000 | 582,000 | 220,000 | 165,000 | 0 | 0 |
| Wave | 388,000 | 467,000 | 325,000 | 196,000 | 106,000 | 42,000 | 50,000 | 0 |
| Wind | 4,530,000 | 6,674,000 | 8,694,000 | 7,310,000 | 2,729,000 | 3,370,000 | 2,365,000 | 1,240,000 |
| Grand Total | 13,500,000 | 15,954,000 | 17,924,000 | 16,349,000 | 10,923,000 | 10,951,000 | 8,522,000 | 5,835,000 |

*Spend (£000)*

| *Programme area* | *1998–99* | *1999–2000* | *2000–01* | *2001–02* | *2002–03* | *2003–04* | *2004–05* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Bio Wastes | 48,000 | 25,000 | 56,000 | 13,000 | 42,000 | 259,000 | | 7,628,000 |
| Biomass | 1076,000 | 1,585,000 | 1,267,000 | 1,333,000 | 1,595,000 | 1,346,000 | 974,222 | 23,558,222 |
| Embedded Generation | 530,000 | 596,000 | 589,000 | 776,000 | 1,424,000 | 725,000 | 1,105,640 | 9,346,640 |
| Fuel Cells | 1,197,000 | 1,168,000 | 1,410,000 | 1,249,000 | 1,200,000 | 1,701,000 | 4,907,430 | 18,416,430 |
| Geothermal-Aquifers | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 320,000 |
| Geothermal-Hot Dry Rocks | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6,468,000 |
| Hydro | 80,000 | 138,000 | 60,000 | 130,000 | 200,000 | 85,000 | 0 | 1,511,000 |
| Solar | 983,000 | 1278,000 | 1,264,000 | 1,522,000 | 4,485,000 | 3,131,000 | 1,970,340 | 31,270,340 |
| Tidal | 0 | 0 | 27,000 | 305,000 | 1,996,000 | 2,914,000 | 1,268,530 | 12,995,530 |
| Wave | 91,000 | 11,000 | 331,000 | 662,000 | 748,000 | 2,104,000 | — | 5,521,000 |
| Wind | 950,000 | 801,000 | 913,000 | 1,248,000 | 1,428,000 | 1,395,000 | 1,459,600 | 45,106,600 |
| Grand total | 4955,000 | 5602,000 | 5,917,000 | 7,238,000 | 13,118,000 | 13,660,000 | 11,685,762 | 162,133,762 |

*Notes:*

1. From 2000–01, figures do not include spend on contracts placed direct by DTI.
2. For 2004–05, highlighted cells show a combined spend for the two areas.
3. It has not been possible to collate expenditure on oil and gas research in the time available.

*DTI Clean Coal Programme*

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 1990–91 | 10,199,000 |
| 1991–92 | 4,108,000 |
| 1992–93 | 3,020,000 |
| 1993–94 | 6,918,000 |
| 1994–95 | 6,876,000 |
| 1995–96 | 6,626,000 |
| 1996–97 | 5,195,000 |
| 1997–98 | 3,100,000 |
| 1998–99 | 2,900,000 |
| 1999–2000 | 2,500,000 |
| 2000–01 | 4,300,000 |
| 2001–02 | 4,400,000 |
| 2002–03 | 3,000,000 |
| 2003–04 | 5,000,000 |
| 2004–05 | [1]6,500,000 |
| Total | 68,142,000 |

[1] Estimated

Figures for direct Government expenditure (but not including spending by the Research Councils) on nuclear fission are given in the following table.

*Nuclear*

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 1991–92 | 73,500,000 |
| 1992–93 | 69,200,000 |
| 1993–94 | 60,900,000 |
| 1994–95 | 12,500,000 |
| 1995–96 | 6,000,000 |
| 1996–97 | 9,300,000 |
| 1997–98 | 1,000,000 |
| 1998–99 | 1,600,000 |
| 1999–2000 | 2,500,000 |
| 2000–01 | 0 |
| 2001–02 | 2,000,000 |
| 2002–03 | 2,100,000 |
| 2003–04 | 2,100,000 |
| 2004–05 | 2,200,000 |
| Total | 244,900,000 |

*DTI Capital Grant Programmes*

| | *2002–03* | *2003–04* | *2004–05* | £ *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Biomass (DTI and Lottery spend) | — | 10,000 | 1,913,000 | 1,923,000 |
| Offshore Wind Capital Grants | — | 0 | 15,000,000 | 15,000,000 |
| Clear Skies Community Renewables | 200,000 | 1,387,000 | 2,413,000 | 3,800,000 |
| Major PV Demo Programme | 960,000 | 2,880,000 | 6,450,000 | 9,330,000 |
| Grand Total | 1,160,000 | 4,277,000 | 25,776,000 | 30,053,000 |

*DEFRA CHP Programme*

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 1990–91 | 300,000 |
| 1991–92 | 300,000 |
| 1992–93 | 300,000 |
| 1993–94 | 400,000 |
| 1994–95 | 500,000 |
| 1995–96 | 500,000 |
| 1996–97 | 700,000 |
| 1997–98 | 1,000,000 |
| 1998–99 | 1,300,000 |
| 1999–2000 | 1,900,000 |
| 2000–01 | 2,500,000 |
| 2001–02 | 2,800,000 |
| 2002–03 | 1,600,000 |
| 2003–04 | 2,500,000 |
| 2004–05 | 2,000,000 |
| Total | 18,600,000 |

*Notes:*

1. Several indirect measures of state support for CHP were introduced in 2001–02.
2. Of those that can be enumerated, climate change levy exemption on fuel inputs to Good Quality CHP and good quality CHP electricity outputs were valued at up to £80 million per annum, while eligibility for Enhanced Capital Allowances is worth in the region of £10 million per annum to the industry.
3. Capital grants for Community Energy programme schemes were introduced in 2002–03 and the spend on schemes including CHP was: £427,000 in 2002–03, £4,315,000 in 2003–04 and £4,896,000 in 2004–05.

*Research Council Spend*

| *Programme area* | *1997–98* | *1998–99* | *1999–2000* | *2000–01* | £ *2001–02* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Biofuel | 0 | 0 | 0 | 21,540 | 51,545 |
| Biomass | 446,665 | 870,970 | 736,434 | 600,811 | 700,790 |
| CHP | 4,382 | 36,297 | 63,210 | 77,166 | 267,313 |
| CO2 sequestration | 0 | 0 | 0 | 22,544 | 41,589 |
| Fuel cells | 887,584 | 1,011,524 | 703,128 | 898,637 | 1,145,076 |
| Hydrogen | 30,348 | 135,531 | 59,169 | 82,976 | 318,500 |
| Solar | 1,439,835 | 1,286,000 | 1,076,000 | 1,134,000 | 1,130,000 |
| Photovoltaic | 2,254,756 | 3,001,835 | 2,759,517 | 2,991,977 | 3,536,428 |
| Wave and tidal | 0 | 157,000 | 175,000 | 300,599 | 605,693 |
| Wind | 199,847 | 225,903 | 177,716 | 260,596 | 330,283 |
| Wind/solar 1 | 0 | 21,000 | 21,000 | 100,000 | 0 |
| Wind/wave 2 | 0 | 28,000 | 28,000 | 28,000 | 28,000 |
| Waste | 66,012 | 9,985 | 39,652 | 39,962 | 95,718 |
| Geothermal | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 40,493 |
| Storage | 325,808 | 649,899 | 669,617 | 837,918 | 888,602 |
| Networks | 1,347,678 | 1,167,695 | 1,081,132 | 919,165 | 1,114,793 |
| Total renewable | 7,002,915 | 8,601,639 | 7,589,576 | 8,356,384 | 10,318,881 |
| Conventional | 331,072 | 103,266 | 107,890 | 549,220 | 1,120,493 |
| Fission power | 42,111 | 81,228 | 61,793 | 127,562 | 324,879 |
| Energy Efficiency and Low Carbon Innovation | 1,732,072 | 1,854,776 | 1,693,629 | 1,400,400 | 1,671,465 |
| Other and General | 0 | 13,000 | 303,000 | 670,000 | 602,000 |
| Fusion | 16,600,000 | 12,600,000 | 14,300,000 | 17,000,000 | 14,400,000 |
| Total | 25,708,169 | 23,253,909 | 24,055,888 | 28,103,566 | 28,437,717 |

| *Programme area* | *2002–03* | *2003–04* | *2004–05* | £ *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Biofuel | 143,990 | 134,929 | 92,325 | 444,329 |
| Biomass | 783,026 | 1,042,526 | 1,186,257 | 6,367,479 |
| CHP | 356,756 | 225,905 | 70,791 | 1,101,820 |
| CO2 sequestration | 77,787 | 30,323 | 42,461 | 214,704 |
| Fuel cells | 1,468,042 | 1,193,165 | 917,608 | 8,224,764 |
| Hydrogen | 516,560 | 1,494,155 | 1,495,130 | 4,132,369 |
| Solar | 1,157,000 | 1,453,023 | 1,753,334 | 10,429,192 |
| Photovoltaic | 2,770,354 | 2,381,044 | 2,761,866 | 22,457,777 |
| Wave and tidal | 616,694 | 830,226 | 1,050,253 | 3,735,465 |
| Wind | 490,447 | 481,572 | 255,672 | 2,422,036 |
| Wind/solar 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 142,000 |
| Wind/wave2 | 28,000 | 28,000 | 28,000 | 196,000 |
| Waste | 124,826 | 169,024 | 154,474 | 699,653 |
| Geothermal | 64,550 | 63,550 | 73,460 | 79,429 |
| Storage | 809,871 | 730,182 | 499,536 | 5,411,433 |
| Networks | 1,388,490 | 1,804,749 | 2,463,125 | 11,286,827 |
| Total renewable | 10,795,392 | 12,072,282 | 12,850,259 | — |
| Conventional | 1,349,380 | 1,252,582 | 1,627,554 | 6,441,457 |

£

| Programme area | 2002–03 | 2003–04 | 2004–05 | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Fission power | 307,195 | 212,239 | 125,453 | 1,282,460 |
| Energy Efficiency and Low Carbon Innovation | 1,979,554 | 1,211,881 | 2,914,276 | 14,458,053 |
| Other and General | 665,000 | 762,000 | 1,944,000 | 4,959,000 |
| Fusion | 14,600,000 | 15,630,000 | 19,530,000 | 124,660,000 |
| Total | 29,696,521 | 31,140,985 | 38,991,541 | — |

*Note:*
Prior to 1997 data on Research Council expenditure were not collated in a way which is comparable to post 1997 expenditure.

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry by what mechanism surpluses are generated from the Non-Fossil Fuel Obligation; what the level of those surpluses has been since their inception; and what the projected level of surpluses is for the next three years. [14487]

**Malcolm Wicks:** When the Renewables Obligation (RO) was introduced in 2002 projects under the Non-Fossil Fuel Obligation (NFFO), the previous support mechanism, were included to ensure that from the outset there was liquidity in the ROC market. ROCs allocated to NFFO projects and the electricity they generate are auctioned by the NFPA and the resulting funds are used to pay the electricity prices guaranteed to the projects and their NFFO contracts. The income received from suppliers for the electricity and ROCs generated by NFFO projects currently exceeds payments made to the NFFO generators. This generates a surplus.

The size of the fund administered by Ofgem, resulting from surplus revenue collected by the Non Fossil Fuel Purchasing Agency (NFPA), in each year since 2001 are as follows:

| Year ending March | Size of the fund (£ million) |
|---|---|
| 2001 | 63.8 |
| 2002 | 28.6 |
| 2003 | 87.1 |
| 2004 | 146.5 |
| 2005 | 169.1 |

The NFPA estimate that the size of the fund for the next three years is expected to be in the region of:

| Year ending March | Estimated size of the fund (£ million) |
|---|---|
| 2006 | 270 |
| 2007 | 380 |
| 2008 | 500 |

These are however very broad estimates and the actual size of the fund may vary considerably from the figures shown.

### Opinion Surveys

**Mr. Weir:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the *(a)* subject matter and *(b)* dates were of opinion survey research undertaken by the Department and its agencies in the last 12 months; if he will place copies of the results of each survey in the Library; which companies were used in conducting the research; and how much each was paid. [14806]

**Alan Johnson:** The Department does not centrally collect the information sought at the required level of detail and to provide it would entail disproportionate cost.

Statistical surveys to businesses and local authorities conducted by the Department and its agencies are monitored centrally to facilitate control of compliance costs to business and departmental expenditure on survey activity. It is not possible, however, to determine with any degree of accuracy which surveys fall into the categories of market and opinion research, or which contain an element of these, or to identify separately the costs of that element. The answer would incur disproportionate cost because of the need to ask all directorates in DTI, plus agencies and associated non-departmental public bodies, to attempt to provide details of each survey and piece of research commissioned.

### Race Relations (Amendment) Act

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many and what percentage of staff in his Department have received training on the general and specific duties of the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000, broken down by *(a)* ethnicity and *(b)* grade. [3545]

**Barry Gardiner:** All members of the SCS received training on the general and specific duties of the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000 that included a video tape prepared by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State reinforcing the importance of diversity awareness in policy making. Additional advice was also given to Directorates whose work was identified as having a high relevance to the race duty. Guidance on the duties is also included in the DTI intranet guide to better policy making.

### Renewable Energy

**Mr. Weir:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many initiatives to promote domestic installation of renewable energy initiatives his Department operates. [14900]

**Malcolm Wicks:** The DTI's "It's only Natural Campaign" is a national campaign to promote renewable technologies across all regions. The objectives of the campaign are to:

raise awareness of renewable energy and its benefits among planners, councillors, investors and wider public audience;

inform and educate key audiences to enable them to make informed decisions.

The DTI also has two grant support mechanisms to encourage the installation of small-scale renewables: Clear Skies, which has a £12.5 million budget, and the

PV Demonstration Programme, which has a budget of £31 million. Both programmes promote renewable technologies as well as providing grants.

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what measures are being taken to encourage the use of renewable energy in Milton Keynes. [13996]

**Malcolm Wicks:** Recent trends in renewable energy development have been highly encouraging. More new capacity has been constructed in the last few years than in the previous decade, and a significant amount is currently in the pipeline. This covers a wide range of technologies including onshore and offshore wind, solar and biomass. This has been a result of the Government's Renewables Obligation Order 2002, which established a market-based mechanism for the support and development of this sector.

The Government are also spending £500 million over the 2002–08 period to support emerging renewable energy technologies, such as wave and tidal.

Within Milton Keynes itself, I understand that the National Energy Foundation produces electricity and heat from both biomass and solar/PV systems.

### Royal Mail

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many permanent employees are employed by the Royal Mail. [13839]

**Barry Gardiner:** According to Royal Mail's Annual Report and Accounts—2004/05, which can be viewed on its website, the company directly employs 196,444.

**Jim Sheridan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many temporary workers were employed by Royal Mail in Scotland in 2004. [14144]

**Barry Gardiner:** This is an operational matter for Royal Mail and the chief executive has been asked to reply direct to the hon. Member.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the Royal Mail's performance figures in respect of delivery of first class letters were in the last year for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [14429]

**Barry Gardiner:** According to Royal Mail's Annual Report and Accounts—2004–05 its Quality of Service performance in respect of delivery of first class letters for 2004–05 was 91.4 per cent.

### Sellafield

**Alan Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry pursuant to the answer of 20 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 720W, on radioactive leak (Thorp), on what date he was informed of the nuclear waste leakage at Sellafield; on what dates the *(a)* Euratom and *(b)* International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards authorities were informed of the discrepancy in the nuclear materials balance at Sellafield; what communications his safeguards department has had with these authorities in respect of the reportage of discrepancies in measured nuclear materials at Sellafield; and what calculation his Department has made of the costs incurred to date by this leakage. [14820]

**Malcolm Wicks:** I refer my hon. Friend to my answer of 20 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 721W.

My predecessor as Energy Minister, the hon. Member for North Warwickshire (Mr. O'Brien) was informed of the leak of radioactive material at the Thermal Oxide Reprocessing Plant (THORP) on 21 April 2005.

The special report (dated 10 May 2005) on this incident, as required under Article 14 of Commission Regulation 302/2005, was forwarded to the Commission's DG Transport and Energy Directorate H by the UK Safeguards Office on 13 May 2005. However, this official notification had been preceded by verbal notification to the Commission of accounting discrepancies in THORP during a routine inspection on 29 March 2005. When it became clear that the discrepancies were due to a leak, the Commission were informed on 21 April 2005. Further details were provided to Commission inspectors on the Sellafield site during the week beginning 25 April 2005. There is no formal requirement to notify the International Atomic Energy Agency, however the UK made a statement at the Board of Governors in Vienna during the week of 13 June 2005. The UK Safeguards Office has been kept informed of all related discussions between the British Nuclear Group Sellafield Limited, including participating in a meeting held at the DG TREN offices in Luxembourg on 16 June 2005.

At this stage in the investigation and analysis of the repair options it is difficult to give an accurate estimate of the costs incurred to date and the likely future costs of any future repairs.

### Third World Imports

**Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will discuss the purchase and stocking of goods from third world countries with supermarkets; and if he will make a statement. [13357]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** Supermarkets will be guided by commercial considerations such as price, availability, quality, and consumer demand. The Supermarket Code of Practice does not cover relationships with producers overseas. Competition issues arising in these countries are a matter for the relevant national authorities and not Ministers or the Office of Fair Trading in the United Kingdom.

### Waste Electronic and Electrical Equipment Directive

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry who was invited to the meeting between his Department and retailers and producers to discuss the Waste Electronic and Electrical Equipment Directive and the issue of the visible fee on 8 July; and who was invited at the request of producers. [12811]

**Malcolm Wicks:** The Government are adopting a voluntary approach to implementation of the provisions of the WEEE Directive on showing the costs of recycling household WEEE to consumers. As part of this, the Department has offered to facilitate a meeting between

producers and retailers to discuss how best to operate this. Officials are finalising the invitation list in discussion with key stakeholders, including producers.

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will make a statement on the UK implementation of the Waste Electronic and Electrical Equipment Directive; and what the expected timetable is for its implementation. [12812]

**Malcolm Wicks:** The Government are currently working to finalise the implementing legislation and accompanying non-statutory Guidance for the EU Directive on Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment and plans to make an announcement shortly on the implementation, including timetabling.

### Wind Farms

**Mr. Bellingham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment he has made of the impact on house prices of *(a)* established wind farms and *(b)* proposed wind farm developments. [13382]

**Malcolm Wicks:** Research in November 2004 by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) on the impact of wind farms on house prices shows that it is too early to say categorically what effects, if any, wind farms have on house prices. This is inline with a separate study on house prices and wind farms conducted for the British Wind Energy Association by chartered surveyors, Knight Frank.

Both surveys found that the perception that wind farms may impact on house prices is fuelled largely by misunderstandings about wind farms and the 'fear factor' arising at the prospect of them being constructed in proximity to homes. While a planning application for a wind farm may have a marginal effect on prices, the RICS survey found evidence that prices begin to recover after any initial dip when wind farms have been up and running for two years. This suggests that they become more accepted, as communities grow used to them.

There is no evidence to date to reveal a sustained negative trend in property values among properties in proximity to the wind farms.

**Mr. Bellingham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will list the sites of *(a)* established wind farms and *(b)* proposed wind farms; and what the generating capacity is of each. [13486]

**Malcolm Wicks:** There are currently more than 100 wind farms with grid connection throughout the UK. The following table is taken from the British Wind Energy Association (BWEA) website and lists them at:

| *Wind Farm* | *Location* | *Capacity (MW)* |
|---|---|---|
| Artfield Fell | Dumfries & Galloway | 19.5 |
| Cefii Croes | Ceredigion | 58.5 |
| Rothes | Elgin, Moray | 50.6 |
| Tappaghan | Enniskien, Co Fermanagh | 19.5 |
| Longhill | March, Cambridgeshire | 2 |
| Spurness | Sanday, Orkney | 7.5 |
| Haverigg 3 (repowering) | Nr. Millon, Cumbria | 3.4 |
| Forest Moor | Bradworthy, Devon | 2.7 |
| Winscales 2 (extension) | Nr. Askam, Cumbria | 6.8 |
| Burray Community Wind | Northfield, Orkney | 0.85 |
| Ness Point | Lowestoft, Suffolk | 2.75 |
| Gigha Community | Isle of Gigha, Highlands | 0.675 |
| Bambers Farm | Lincolnshire | 4.8 |
| Scroby Sands | Norfolk Coast | 60 |
| Causeymire | Mybster, Highlands | 48 |
| 3Hs—Hare Hill | County Durham | 5 |
| Ford Motors | Dagenham, London | 3.6 |
| Crystal Rig | Borders | 50 |
| 3Hs—Holmside Hall | County Durham | 5 |
| Llangwyryfon II | Ceredigion | 9.35 |
| Cruach Mhor | Argyll & Bute | 29.75 |
| Ardrossan | North Ayrshire | 24 |
| 3Hs—High Volts | County Durham | 7.8 |
| North Hoyle—Offshore | North Wales Coast | 60 |
| Swaffham extension | Norfolk | 1.8 |
| Altahullion | Londonderry | 26 |
| Forss | Caithness | 2.32 |
| Burra Dale II | Shetland | 1.7 |
| Moel Moelogen | Conwy | 2.6 |
| Mawla | Conwy | 1.3 |
| Tangy | Argyll & Bute | 12.75 |
| Lendrum's Bridge II | Co Tyrone | 7.26 |
| HaffotyUchall | Clwyd | 1.7 |
| Bowbeat | Borders | 31.2 |
| Blaen Bowi | Carmarthenshire | 3.9 |
| Mablethorpe | Lincolnshire | 1.2 |
| Thorfmn, Burgar Hill | Orkney | 2.75 |
| BuFarm | Orkney | 2.7 |
| Cemmaes II | Powys | 15.3 |
| Out Newton | Yorkshire | 9 |
| Beinn an Tuirc | Argyll & Bute | 30 |
| Myres Hill | Galloway | 1.8 |

| Wind Farm | Location | Capacity (MW) |
|---|---|---|
| Tow Law | County Durham | 2.25 |
| High Hedley Hope | County Durham | 2.25 |
| Deucheran Hill | Kintyre | 15 |
| Bears Down | Cornwall | 9.6 |
| Pare Cynog | Carmarthenshire | 3.6 |
| Burra Dale | Shetland | 1.98 |
| Blyth Offshore | Northumberland | 3.8 |
| Hare Hill | Ayrshire | 13 |
| Sigurd, Burgar Hill | Orkney | 1.3 |
| Lambrigg | Cumbria | 6.5 |
| Dun Law | Borders | 17.16 |
| Somerton | Norfolk | 1.5 |
| Kirkheaton | Northumberland | 1.8 |
| Thorfinn, Burgar Hill | Orkney | 1.5 |
| Lowca | Cumbria | 4.62 |
| Great Orton II | Cumbria | 3.96 |
| Lendrum's Bridge | County Tyrone | 5.94 |
| KS Winscales | Cumbria | 1.98 |
| EcoTech Centre | Norfolk (Swaffham) | 1.5 |
| Askam | Cumbria | 4.62 |
| Beinn Ghlas | Argyll and Bute | 8.4 |
| Royal Seaforth Dock | Merseyside | 3.6 |
| Slievenahanghan | County Antrim | 1 |
| HaffotyUcha | Clwyd | 0.6 |
| Haverigg II | Cumbria | 2.4 |
| Mynydd Gorddu | Ceredigion | 10.2 |
| Llyn Alaw | Anglesey | 20.4 |
| Novar | Highlands | 17 |
| CAT Centre for Alternative Technology | Powys | 0.6 |
| Owenreagh | County Tyrone | 5 |
| Rheidol | Ceredigion | 2.4 |
| Great Eppleton | Sunderland | 3 |
| Harlock Hill | Cumbria | 2.5 |
| Lynch Knoll | Gloucestershire | 0.5 |
| Carno | Powys | 33.6 |
| Windy Standard | Galloway | 21.6 |
| Oldside | Cumbria | 5.36 |
| Siddick | Cumbria | 4.17 |
| Trysglwyn | Anglesey | 5.6 |
| Slieve Rushen | County Fermanagh | 5 |
| Hagshaw Hill | Lanarkshire | 15.6 |
| Bessy Bell | County Tyrone | 5 |
| Elliot's Hill | County Antrim | 5 |
| Rigged Hill | County L'derry | 5 |
| Four Burrows | Cornwall | 4.5 |
| Corkey | County Antrim | 5 |
| Dyffryn Brodyn | Carmarthenshire | 5.5 |
| Caton Moor | Lancashire | 3 |
| St. Breock | Cornwall | 4.95 |
| Bryn Titli | Powys | 9.9 |
| Royd Moor | South Yorkshire | 5.85 |
| Kirkby Moor | Cumbria | 4.8 |
| Taff Ely | Mid-Glamorgan | 9 |
| Ovenden Moor | Yorkshire | 9.2 |
| Goonhilly Downs | Cornwall | 5.6 |
| Cold Northcott | Cornwall | 6.8 |
| Coal Clough | Lancashire | 9.6 |
| P&L | Powys | 30.9 |
| Blyth Harbour | Northumberland | 2.7 |

| Wind Farm | Location | Capacity (MW) |
|---|---|---|
| Rhyd-y-Groes | Anglesey | 7.2 |
| Chelker Reservoir | Yorkshire | 1.2 |
| Blood Hill | Norfolk | 2.25 |
| Garland Cross | Cornwall | 6 |
| Delabole | Cornwall | 4.0 |

The list of those wind farms that are currently under construction is:

| Wind farm | Location | Capacity (MW) |
|---|---|---|
| Ardinglass | Cairndu, Mid Argyll | 15.75 |
| Artfield | Nr. Stranraer, Dunfries and Galloway | 20 |
| Black Law | Forth, South Lanarkshire | 97 |
| Boyndie Airfield | Banff, Aberdeenshire | 14 |
| Glens of Foudland | Nr. Huntly, Aberdeenshire | 26 |
| Hadyard Hill | Girvan, South Ayrshire | 120 |
| Kentish Flats | 8.5 km off Whitstable, Kent | 90 |
| Barrow | 7km off Walney Island in the East Irish Sea | 90 |
| Pauls Hill | 20 km Elgin, Moray | 56 |
| Wardlaw Wood | Dairy, North Ayrshire | 18 |
| Winscales Extension | East Town End Farm, Askam | 6.8 |

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry for what reason the financial responsibility for grid connections differs depending on whether wind farms are onshore or offshore. [15073]

**Malcolm Wicks:** At present there is no regulatory regime in place which allows the connection of offshore wind farms to the transmission system.

However, recognising the need to allow offshore transmission, the Government took powers under the Energy Act 2004 to create a suitable regime.

We have been working on options for this regulatory regime and I have today launched a joint consultation with Ofgem entitled, 'Regulation of Offshore Electricity Transmission', which sets out, and seeks views on, three possible approaches.

## DEFENCE

### Armed Forces Compensation Scheme

**Mr. Heath:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what level of hearing loss equates to a 20 per cent. disablement in considering applications to the Armed Forces Compensation scheme; and what evidence his Department uses for this assessment. [14022]

**Mr. Ingram** *[holding answer 21 July 2005]:* The Armed Forces Compensation Scheme does not involve the percentage assessment of disabling conditions. Compensation is paid according to a tariff with 15 levels of award for injuries of differing severity. With regard to hearing loss, a permanent bilateral loss of between 50 and 75dB, averaged over 1, 2 and 3kHz, attracts a lump sum award at tariff level 13 (£5,250), if there is mild or no tinnitus. A lump sum award at tariff level 11 (£11,000) is paid if there is severe tinnitus. Level 11 awards also attract a continuing guaranteed income payment. Hearing loss of less than 50dB does not attract compensation.

The 50dB threshold for compensation is the same used for the war pension scheme, where the rules of the scheme prescribe that a loss of between 50 and 53dB, averaged over 1, 2 and 3kHz, shall be assessed at 20 per cent. It is also used for the assessment of industrial deafness under the civilian Industrial Injuries Benefit Scheme. The independent Industrial Injuries Advisory Council confirmed the appropriateness of the threshold in industrial injuries in November 2002.

The evidence used to determine the degree of disablement due to service-related hearing loss under the war pension scheme is taken from audiometric tests conducted on or about the date of termination of service. Where no such tests were conducted the assessment is on the basis of the earliest available evidence. Assessment on the basis of later evidence would inevitably include hearing loss arising after service and therefore not due to service: a war pension assessment can include only disablement that is due to service.

**Mr. Heath:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment his Department has made of whether there can be variation in the time taken for the full consequences of noise-induced hearing loss to become apparent. [14023]

**Mr. Ingram** *[holding answer 21 July 2005]:* The Ministry of Defence is committed to evidence-based policy and decision making. Current accepted scientific understanding is that permanent hearing loss due to noise exposure does not improve or worsen after removal from the noise. Hearing loss may subsequently worsen due to age and other causes, but there is no evidence that the worsening is caused or increased by prior noise exposure where that exposure has ceased.

### Army Applicants

**Mr. Peter Robinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many applications to join the Army from Northern Ireland were rejected on national security grounds in *(a)* 2003–04 and *(b)* 2004–05. [14526]

**Mr. Touhig:** During 2003 nine applications to join the Army from Northern Ireland were rejected on grounds of national security. The figure for rejected applications during 2004 was 39 and up until 21 July 2005 the figure was five.

The figures relate to applications from within Northern Ireland wishing to join the regular Army, including the General Service battalion of the Royal Irish Regiment (R IRISH), and the Home Service battalions of the R IRISH.

### Bullying/Harassment

**Mr. Peter Robinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many payments have been made in the last five years to members and former members of HM armed forces in compensation for ill-treatment, bullying or harassment experienced while serving; and what the total cost was in each year. [14515]

**Mr. Touhig:** Compensation relating to common law and Employment Tribunal cases paid to members and former members of HM armed forces for ill-treatment, bullying or harassment experienced while serving and settled during the last five years are as follows:

| *Financial year* | *No of cases* | *Amount paid (£)* |
|---|---|---|
| 2000-01 | 4 | 20,000 |
| 2001-02 | 3 | 62,500 |
| 2002-03 | 10 | 134,389 |
| 2003-04 | 13 | 516,009 |
| 2004-05 | 8 | 142,400 |

### Defence Estate Byelaws

**Paddy Tipping:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the progress and timetable of the review of the defence estate byelaws. [14414]

**Mr. Touhig:** In October 2004, the Ministry of Defence (MOD set up a team to conduct an extensive review of all military byelaws. An initial appraisal conducted across the defence estate identified in excess of 150 sites, where byelaws require review. A five-year rolling review programme, including priorities, has been drawn up. The Military Lands Act 1892 empowers the Secretary of State for Defence to make a new byelaw. The process takes approximately 18 months in each case. It is intended that the first proposed new byelaw stemming from the review will me made available for public consultation in September 2005. Subject to the outcome of the consultation process, the first new byelaw should come into force in spring 2006.

In order to facilitate public access and consultation during the review, a MOD Byelaws Internet website is being constructed and will go on line in mid-August 2005.

### Departmental Facilities

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list all of his Department's facilities in the UK with staff of over 10 personnel, broken down by nation and region of the UK. [14912]

**Mr. Touhig:** Information on civilian and military personnel is regularly published by DASA at Government Office Region level where it is believed the data is of sufficient quality. Individual defence facilities may hold data at a local level, but centralised systems are not able to provide a reliable breakdown to this level of detail.

Individual defence facilities do not routinely publish data, as different organisations and agencies are responsible for the same location or site.

UK Regular Forces Distribution across UK (TSP10) reports the number of military personnel by nation, government office region and local authority. A copy of which can be found in the Library of the House, showing data at 1 July 2004. UK Regular Forces Distribution across UK (TSP10) at 1 April 2005 will be available later this year.

The following table shows gives the number civilians by Government Office Region.

*Table 1: Ministry of Defence civilian personnel[1] by Government Office Region at 1 April 2005*

| | *Number: FTE* |
|---|---|
| United Kingdom | 7416 |
| *By Government Office Region* | |
| England | 62,680 |
| North East | 520 |
| North West | 2,810 |
| Yorkshire and The Humber | 3,790 |
| East Midlands | 2,490 |
| West Midlands | 5,260 |
| Eastern | 7,320 |
| London | 5,660 |
| South East | 14,750 |
| South West | 20,110 |
| Wales | 1,350 |
| Scotland | 6,440 |
| Northern Ireland | 3,450 |
| Unallocated[2] | 2,900 |
| Royal Fleet Auxiliaries | 2,350 |
| Overseas | 2,570 |
| Civilian Level 1 | 82,030 |
| Trading Funds | 10,780 |
| Trading Funds United Kingdom | 10,590 |
| Trading Funds Overseas | 40 |
| Trading Fund Unallocated[2] | 150 |
| Locally Engaged Civilians | 15,660 |
| Civilian Level 0 | 108,470 |

[1] This table uses the revised definition of civilian personnel (see www.dasa.mod.uk).

[2] Includes staff who were temporarily absent.

*Source:*

DASA(Civilian)

### Diana Elias

**Mr. Burrowes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether Diana Elias, of Enfield Southgate, is eligible for a £10,000 award under the ex-gratia scheme for British groups interned by the Japanese during the Second World War. [14008]

**Mr. Ingram** *[holding answer 21 July 2005]:* My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence has appealed the High Court decision of 7 July 2005 that the birthlink criteria used to determine the eligibility of civilian internees under the ex-gratia payment scheme for former Far East Prisoner of War and Civilian Internees resulted in unlawful indirect race discrimination. It was these birthlink criteria that Mrs Elias did not meet. Until the legal proceedings have been concluded and a lawful basis for the civilian element of the scheme established, the initial decision that Mrs Elias was ineligible for a £10,000 award remains the subject of review. I wish to see a proper resolution of the case quickly, and my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence has agreed that the appeal is appropriate for expedition in the Court of Appeal lists given the advanced age of the claimant herself and of other former internees who have a direct interest in the outcome of the case.

### Disablement Pensions

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of applications for war disablement pensions were successful for each major disability in each year since April 1997. [14024]

**Mr. Touhig** *[holding answer 21 July 2005]:* Departmental information systems cannot provide a breakdown of War Disablement Claims by "major disability" as this level of medical data is not available. It is however possible to provide information on the percentage disability awarded of first claims cleared each year since 2000–01, and this is given as follows:

| | *2000–01* | *2001–02* | *2002–03* | *2003–04* | *2004–05* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Awarded 20 per cent. + disability | 2,485 | 2,590 | 2,065 | 1,840 | 1,720 |
| Awarded 1–19 per cent. disability | 3,900 | 4,375 | 3,370 | 3,295 | 3,450 |
| Awarded 0 per cent. disability | 2,910 | 2,705 | 2,315 | 1,935 | 1,950 |
| Rejected | 1,195 | 1,090 | 895 | 850 | 825 |
| Total | 10,490 | 10,760 | 8,645 | 7,920 | 7,945 |
| Percentage awarded | 88.6 | 89.9 | 89.6 | 89.3 | 89.1 |

*Note:*
Figures have been rounded to the nearest 5.

### Future Rapid Effects System

**Mr. Ancram:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what his Department's current estimate is of the whole life cost of the Future Rapid Effects System programme; [13274]

(2) what the reasons are for the increase in the estimated procurement cost of the Future Rapid Effects System. [13275]

**Mr. Ingram:** The revised estimate of the procurement cost of FRES reflects the increase in the number of vehicles we plan to procure to around 3,500. Studies being conducted during the assessment phase are aimed at developing a series of options for meeting the requirement and the outcome of these studies will include information that will enable us to formulate reliable whole life cost estimates.

### Group 4 Securicor

**Mr. Henderson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much was spent by his Department and public bodies and agencies for which he is responsible on security contracts with Group 4 Securicor in 2004–05; and if he will list *(a)* the nature and location of services provided and *(b)* the start and end dates of such contracts. [13524]

**Mr. Ingram** *[holding answer 21 July 2005]:* The Ministry of Defence paid Group 4 Securicor companies a total of £153,190 including VAT in the period 2004–05 for the provision of security and security-related services to various sites in England and Scotland. It would not be possible, without incurring disproportionate cost, to specify the detailed services provided under each contract, nor, for security reasons would I be prepared to give detailed information on security measures taken at individual sites. Locations and contract periods are given in the following table:

| *Location* | *Contract Start* | *Contract End* |
|---|---|---|
| Avon | December 1995 | December 2005 |
| Avon | July 1999 | July 2006 |
| Berkshire | July 2001 | July 2005 |
| Cheshire | April 1999 | March 2005 |
| Devon/Cornwall | August 2001 | August 2006 |
| Dorset | August 2000 | August 2005[1] |
| Gloucestershire | February 2001 | February 2006 |
| Gloucestershire | September 2002 | April 2005 |
| Strathclyde | August 2000 | July 2005 |
| Surrey | August 2000 | July 2004 |
| Sussex | March 2001 | April 2004 |
| Sussex | April 2001 | April 2004 |

[1] Sums paid in financial year 2004–05 related to work undertaken in financial year 2003–04.

### Iraq

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list those occasions since 2002 where aircraft flying directly back to the UK from Basrah International airport carrying Ministers had spare seating capacity. [11754]

**Mr. Ingram:** Flight records are kept for 24 months only, following date of departure. From mid-July 2003 to date, three direct flights carrying Ministers from Basrah have been recorded with spare seating capacity. None of these flights have disadvantaged any military personnel.

| Date | Minister | Seats available | Pax seated | Spare capacity |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7 to 9 October 2003 | Baroness Symons | 106 | 76 | 30 |
| 6 to 8 March 2005 | Adam Ingram | 242 | 188 | 54 |
| 6 to 8 July 2005 | Lord Drayson | 242 | 217 | 25 |

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the accuracy of the count of civilian deaths and casualties in Iraq by *(a)* the Iraq Body Count, *(b)* the Lancet Study and *(c)* the Iraq Living Conditions Survey; and what effect these counts have had on procedures for casualty counts used by UK and allied forces. [14582]

**Dr. Howells:** I have been asked to reply.

There has been no 100 per cent. reliable and accurate assessment of casualties in Iraq over the last two years. Estimates vary according to the methods used. Reliance on media reporting used in the Iraq Body Count (IBC) Report cannot give an entirely accurate portrayal of civilian casualties in Iraq. We believe the Iraqi Government is best-placed to monitor the deaths of its civilians, and the latest statistics from the Iraqi Ministry of Health were given by my noble Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Lord Triesman of Tottenham) in reply to the noble Lord, Lord Garden on 8 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 67W, and we understand that these figures were used in the IBC Report. The casualty figures indicated in the UN Living Conditions Survey appear broadly in line with those in the IBC Report. The UK Government response to *The Lancet* survey is given in my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary's written statement of 17 November 2004, *Official Report*, columns 92–95WS.

These counts have had no effect on casualty counts used by UK forces as UK military reporting is conducted as part of standard military procedure and is not an attempt to carry out a comprehensive survey of civilian casualties. Detailed operational information for our coalition partners is a matter for their own authorities to answer.

**Sir Menzies Campbell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on how many occasions between May 2002 and 19 March 2003, the UK elected not to participate in US air attacks in southern Iraq; for what reasons in each case; and if he will make a statement. [11372]

**Mr. Ingram** *[holding answer 14 July 2005]:* We do not hold records of occasions in which the United Kingdom elected not to participate in United States air attacks in Southern Iraq between May 2002 and 19 March 2003.

**Sir Menzies Campbell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what account his Department took of United Nations Security Council Resolution 949 concerning Iraq and Kuwait in determining the legality of air strikes carried out by Coalition aircraft in Iraq in 2002. [11374]

**Mr. Ingram** *[holding answer 14 July 2005]:* UN Security Council Resolution 688 of April 1991 condemned the repression of the Iraqi population in many parts of Iraq, and demanded an immediate end to that repression. The No-fly zones were established in 1991 and 1992 as necessary and proportionate steps to prevent a humanitarian crisis, and enabled monitoring of Iraqi compliance with SCR 688. UK aircraft patrolling the Iraqi no-fly zones were entitled to use force in self-defence.

UN Security Council Resolution 949 had no bearing on the entitlement to use force in self defence in monitoring the No-fly zones.

## Nuclear Deterrent

**Alan Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what purpose the Versatile Intermediate Pulsed Energy Reactor (VIPER) at the Atomic Weapons Establishment at Aldermaston is used; what its running costs were in 2004–05; what energy it consumed in that year; whether he has requested AWE Management Ltd. to conduct a sustainability audit of VIPER; and whether it has been used for collaborative work with scientists from the United States Energy or Defense Department under the 1958 Mutual Defence Agreement on atomic energy matters. [14934]

**John Reid:** The Versatile Intermediate Pulsed Energy Reactor (VIPER) is used to test materials under intense transient neutron and gamma ray environments. The annual running costs of the VIPER facility are in the order of £1 million. The reactor's energy consumption is not separately identifiable but is estimated as negligible compared with that of the whole of the Aldermaston site. AWE has not been asked to conduct a sustainability audit on VIPER. The reactor has been used in some collaborative work with US personnel under the 1958 US/UK Mutual Defence Agreement.

**Alan Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what purpose scientists from *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Atomic Weapons Establishment Aldermaston are engaged in collaboration with scientists at the US Sandia National Library on the SPHINX x-ray simulator. [14936]

**Mr. Ingram:** Ministry of Defence scientists are not engaged in collaboration with Sandia National Laboratories on the SPHINX x-ray simulator.

The SPHINX simulator has been used by AWE scientists in collaboration with Sandia National laboratories under the auspices of the 1958 Mutual Defence Agreement to conduct thermostructural response and imaging experiments.

**Alan Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what purpose marginal initiation characterisation tests are conducted at Atomic Weapons Establishment Aldermaston; how many have been conducted since July 2004; and what the cost is of each such test. [14937]

**Mr. Ingram:** The United Kingdom Marginal Initiation Characterisation Test (MICT) has been developed as a small-scale explosives test to screen energetic materials and ultimately characterise the effects that ageing, temperature, density and composition have on their sensitivity (i.e. safety) and performance. Since July 2004, 23 tests have been undertaken. The approximate cost for a single test is £250.

### Outsourcing (Gibraltar)

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on his Department's court case regarding outsourcing in Gibraltar; and what steps the Department is taking following judgment in the case. [12992]

**Mr. Ingram:** A judgment has been passed by the Supreme Court of Gibraltar following an interim application to establish the jurisdiction of the litigation brought by the Gibraltar trade unions in response to the infrastructure support provider (ISP) initiative. The hearing established that the Secretary of State for Defence is the correctly named defendant for any litigation involving the MOD in Gibraltar. The case will be heard in Gibraltar. The MOD remains confident that it will be able successfully to defend the substantive case, which is due to be heard in early September 2005.

### PFI/PPP Schemes

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what *(a)* private finance initiative and *(b)* public private partnership schemes he expects to achieve financial closure between 1 July and 31 December. [12173]

**Mr. Ingram:** HM Treasury (HMT) defines public private partnerships (PPP) as privately financed projects and other forms of joint ventures, but excludes prime contracts, partnering and other outsourcing deals. This answer is based on the HMT definition of PPP.

Based on current planning assumptions the following projects are expected to achieve financial closure between 1 July and 31 December:

Allenby-Connaught PFI—The redevelopment, including rebuild and refurbishment, of the major garrisons around Salisbury Plain and Aldershot garrison.

Portsmouth 2 Housing PFI—Proposal for 148 houses, mainly Officers' Quarters, but including some other marks accommodation.

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what defence training activities are being considered for provision under *(a)* private finance initiative and *(b)* public private partnership schemes; and what the timescale for (i) main gate approval and (ii) financial closure is. [12174]

**Mr. Touhig:** HM Treasury (HMT) defines Public Private Partnerships (PPP) as privately financed projects and other forms of joint ventures, but excludes Prime Contracts, Partnering and other outsourcing deals. This answer is based on the HMT definition of PPP.

The following three projects are currently being considered for provision under PPP arrangements as defined by HMT:

Royal School of Military Engineering—a contract to provide training facilities and construction engineering training for the Royal Engineers. Main Gate approval is currently anticipated in March 2006, and financial close is currently anticipated in November 2006.

Defence Training Review—contracts to meet rationalisation objectives while providing in-service specialised military training needs. Main Gate approval is currently anticipated in July 2006, and Financial Close is currently anticipated in July 2007.

UK Military Flying Training System—will provide tri-Service military flying training, utilising a mix of PFI and smart conventional procurement. It is currently anticipated that Main Gate approval will be sought during late 2006 and financial closure by mid 2007.

It must be emphasised that the dates provided are planning dates only and are continually being reviewed and may therefore change.

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which *(a)* private finance initiative and *(b)* public private partnership schemes have achieved financial closure so far in 2005; on what dates preferred bidders were announced; and what financial closure dates were anticipated when preferred bidders were announced. [12177]

**Mr. Ingram:** The C Vehicle Capability private finance initiative deal which was announced on 14 June 2005 is the only public private partnership (including PFI) project which has achieved financial closure so far in 2005. The decision to select the Amey Lex Consortium (ALC) as the preferred bidder for the C Vehicle Capability PFI project was announced on 17 December 2003. At the time of the preferred bidder announcement financial close was expected in October 2004.

This answer is based on the HM Treasury's definition of public private partnerships which includes privately funded projects and other forms of joint ventures but excludes prime contracts, partnering and other outsourcing deals.

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on his policy towards *(a)* public private partnership and *(b)* private finance initiative provision. [12247]

**Mr. Ingram:** HM Treasury (HMT) defines public private partnerships (PPP) as privately financed projects and other forms of joint ventures, but excludes prime contracts, partnering and other outsourcing deals. This answer is based on the HMT definition of PPP.

The Department seeks to deliver high quality products and services to our armed forces using the most appropriate procurement technique while ensuring that value for money is obtained for the taxpayer. PPP's as defined by HMT form part of the Departments overall procurement strategy to achieve this.

Existing PPP contracts are delivering value for money services to the Department and will continue to do so for the foreseeable future. To date the Department has committed to 53 PPP (PFI) contracts. These have resulted in £4.5 billion of private sector capital investment in defence. We have a further 12 PPP projects in procurement that will bring up to a further £6 billion of private sector capital investment in to defence if they all lead to contracts being placed.

The procurement tool used for procurement programmes or individual purchases, irrespective of their type, will be judged by the specific circumstances surrounding each procurement. For this reason the MoD does not place any dogma on the use of PPP, including PFI.

PPP and PFI specifically, will be considered for all procurements where substantial investment is needed, but PPP will not be pursued unless it can be

demonstrated to deliver better value for money than other procurement techniques. For example, the Department has adopted HM Treasury's Value for Money Assessment Guidance to test from an early stage in the procurement that PFI is the appropriate procurement tool to deliver the prevailing requirement.

### RAF Innsworth

**Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the terms were of the Compulsory Purchase Order made on the RAF Innsworth site when it was originally obtained; and if he will make a statement. [12116]

**Mr. Ingram:** The land which comprises RAF Innsworth was assembled following the outbreak of the Second World War by the acquisition of 11 separate freehold interests, either following agreement or by powers available at the time.

No specific Compulsory Purchase Order was made as most acquisitions at that time were initiated by requisition under the Defence (General) Regulations 1939 made under the Emergency Powers (Defence) Act 1939; under existing Defence Acts; or through other statutes in place at the time.

Eight conveyances of the land occurred between 1939 and 1945, two more in 1951, and the last in 1961. Each of these documents sets out the terms of the individual acquisitions and the consideration paid which, in some cases, included compensation for severance, depreciation and injurious affection to the vendors' adjoining estate.

As the land was acquired either by or under the threat of compulsion, should RAF Innsworth be released for sale, the Crichel Down Rules would be followed.

**Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will publish the Environmental Impact Assessment carried out on the RAF Innsworth site following the decision to transfer its operations to High Wycombe; and if he will make a statement. [12138]

**Mr. Ingram:** A statutory Environmental Impact Assessment is not required at RAF Innsworth, but an Environmental and Sustainability Appraisal has been completed. This document is currently being withheld because it relates to internal discussion and formulation of policy. However, it is our intention to publish this after the trade unions consultation period has ended and the final ministerial decision made.

**Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will publish the investment appraisal of the RAF Innsworth site following the decision to transfer its operations to High Wycombe; and if he will make a statement. [12139]

**Mr. Ingram:** The investment appraisal is being withheld at present because it relates to internal discussion and formulation of policy. However, it is our intention to publish this more widely after the trade unions consultation period has ended and the final ministerial decision made.

**Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the value of the land occupied by RAF Innsworth; what the value would be with planning permission for housing; and if he will make a statement. [12140]

**Mr. Ingram:** The assessment of the site's value included in the business case for the co- location of the RAF headquarters was £30 million, representing our agent's valuation as at August 2004 (and assuming planning permission for residential development for the whole site).

### Royal Navy

**Mr. Peter Robinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the operational strength is of the Royal Navy's *(a)* destroyers and *(b)* frigates. [14516]

**Mr. Ingram:** As at 20 July 2005, 23 of the Royal Navy's 27 destroyers and frigates were available for tasking by Cincfleet.

### Scottish Defence Bases

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the operating cost of each defence base in Scotland was in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [6237]

**Mr. Ingram:** The information requested is shown in the schedule.

The schedule is in two sections: Section A provides the operating costs for financial years 2001–02, 2002–03 and 2003–04 for defence sites in Scotland where the information you request is available; the operating costs relating to years 1997–98 to 2000–01 could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Section B provides a list of the remaining sites in Scotland for which operating costs are not readily available and, similarly, could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The operating costs shown in the schedule include non-cash transactions, principally depreciation and cost of capital charge, where appropriate and available.

*Operating cost of defence bases in Scotland: Section A*

*£ million*

| *Location* | *TLB* | *Description of base* | *2001–02* | *2002–03* | *2003–04* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Beith | DLO | Defence Munitions Beith | [1]7.593 | [1]6.099 | [1]3.873 |
| Crombie | DLO | Defence Munitions Crombie | [1]8.168 | [1]8.136 | [1]6.992 |
| Garelochhead | DLO | Oil Fuel Depot | 1.191 | 1.075 | 1.471 |
| Glen Douglas | DLO | Defence Munitions Glen Douglas | [1]5.175 | [1]4.557 | [1]5.163 |
| Barry Buddon | LAND | Defence Training | [2]1.384 | [2]1.714 | [2]1.749 |
| Dounreay | DPA | Nuclear Reactor Test Establishment | 24.500 | 24.500 | 25.500 |
| Buchan | STC | RAF Buchan | 29.749 | 26.102 | 23.327 |
| Coulport | DLO | RNAD Coulport and HMNB Faslane | 229.136 | 291.557 | 207.026 |
| Edinburgh | LAND | Dreghorn Barracks | [2]16.377 | [2]16.732 | [2]17.278 |

*Operating cost of defence bases in Scotland: Section A*

£ million

| Location | TLB | Description of base | 2001–02 | 2002–03 | 2003–04 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Edinburgh | LAND | Redford Infantry | [2]15.656 | [2]16.614 | [2]16.510 |
| Greenock | DLO | Marine Service Base | 1.078 | 1.217 | 0.719 |
| Kinloss | STC | RAF Kinloss | 193.451 | 211.497 | 162.298 |
| Leuchars | STC | RAF Leuchars St Andrews | 124.616 | 162.718 | 217.867 |
| Lossiemouth | STC | RAF Lossiemouth | 210.660 | 238.423 | 240.685 |
| Rosyth | DLO | HMS Caledonia | 31.816 | 44.685 | 20.844 |
| Stirling | DLO | Army Base Repairs | 5.937 | 8.048 | 8.572 |

[1] Excludes cost of capital charges, which are not attributed to individual bases.
[2] Excludes depreciation and cost of capital charges, which are not attributed to individual bases.

*Section B*

| Location | TLB | Description of base |
|---|---|---|
| Ballachulish | AG | Joint Service Mountain Training Centre |
| Camusbarron | LAND | Training Area |
| Cultybraggan | LAND | Training Camp |
| Edinburgh | LAND | Castlelaw Ranges |
| Edinburgh | LAND | Edinburgh Castle |
| Fort George | LAND | Fort George Ranges |
| Garelochhead | LAND | Garelochhead Camp |
| Glasgow | PTC | RAF University Air Squadron |
| Kingussie | LAND | Kingussie Training Hut |
| Kircudbright | LAND | Ranges |
| Penicuik | LAND | Army Training Regiment |
| Perth | LAND | Highland Brigade |
| Stirling | LAND | Drip Bridge Training Camp |
| Stirling | LAND | Highland Brigade |
| Ballater | LAND | Victoria Barracks |
| Fort George | LAND | Fort George Barracks |
| Inverness | LAND | Cameron barracks |
| Arbroath | Fleet | HMS Condor |
| Cape Wrath | DLO | Bombing Range |
| Crimond | DLO | RNWC Crimond- DCSA IT support |
| Eskdalemuir | DPA | Seismological Array station |
| Glasgow | Fleet | Royal Marines Reserve |
| Greenock | DLO | Navy Building Greenock |
| Prestwick | Fleet | HMS Garnet |

### Swan Hunter

**Mr. Nicholas Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what future naval shipbuilding work he has identified as being suitable for Swan Hunter shipyard to tender for; and what the timetable is for that work. [14157]

**Mr. Ingram:** As you are aware, we announced on 30 January 2003, *Official Report*, columns 1027–42, that Swan Hunter is one of the four shipyards identified that, subject to value for money considerations, could potentially participate in building the future carrier. The ship building strategy will be confirmed following the main investment decision, which will be taken when we are confident that we have sufficient understanding of the cost, scheduling and risks involved.

### Type 45 Destroyers

**Dr. Julian Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he last discussed with senior naval officers the merits of fitting tactical Tomahawk missiles to Type 45 destroyers with senior naval officers; and if he will make a statement. [12663]

**Mr. Touhig** *[holding answer 20 July 2005]:* Ministers routinely discuss equipment issues with senior military officers. Our position remains as stated in the answer which my hon. Friend the Minister of State for the Armed Forces gave the hon. Member on 7 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 466W.

### UK Overseas Territories

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) if he will estimate the costs associated with the defence of UK overseas territories in each of the last four years; [14909]

(2) what the costs were of running and maintaining UK military facilities in *(a)* UK overseas territories and *(b)* other UK military facilities overseas in each of the last four years. [14910]

**Mr. Ingram:** The costs of running and maintaining the many UK Military Facilities overseas are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, the major facilities are primarily, but not exclusively, managed by the Chief of Joint Operations (CJO) and I can provide the expenditure recorded by CJO in respect of the Permanent Joint Operating Bases in the three main overseas territories in each of the last four years:

£

| | Financial Year | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2001–02 | 2002–03 | 2003–04 | 2004–05 |
| Cyprus | 206 | 240 | 247 | 203 |
| Gibraltar | 79 | 113 | 81 | 94 |
| Falkland Islands | 115 | 120 | 111 | 113 |

There is no historical analysis of these costs that would distinguish between those associated with the actual defence of UK overseas territories and those incurred in other activities, such as training, exercises, and operations, at the locations concerned. It is, therefore, not possible to isolate the costs of defence alone nor to reliably estimate them.

## CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

### Bilingual Licence Applications

**Mark Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport for what reasons bilingual application forms for licences to sell alcohol have not been made available in Welsh local authorities. [12089]

**James Purnell:** We did not prescribe bilingual application forms in the Licensing Act 2003 regulations as we had concerns about practical issues, including the ability of non-Welsh speakers being able to engage in the process if applications were made in Welsh. However, following discussions with the Welsh Language Board, we have been reassured that requirements under Welsh language schemes protect the interests of Welsh and English speakers alike. On that basis, we are looking to prescribe the forms as soon as possible, although this will not be before the 6 August date for converting existing alcohol licences. I have made it clear that, in the meantime, I have no policy objection if licensing authorities in Wales wish to make forms available in Welsh or bilingually, and to accept them in Welsh under their Welsh language schemes. This approach has the support of the Welsh Language Board and I understand that Welsh authorities are issuing and accepting Welsh forms.

## Commonwealth Games (2014)

**Pete Wishart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether it is her policy to provide financial support for the bid to bring the Commonwealth Games to Glasgow in 2014. [14897]

**Mr. Caborn:** As sport in Scotland is a devolved matter, the costs of any bid to stage the 2014 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow are the responsibility of the key organisations concerned which are Glasgow city council, the Scottish Executive and the Commonwealth Games Council for Scotland.

**Pete Wishart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions she has had with the Scottish Executive on a Glasgow bid for the commonwealth games in 2014. [14898]

**Mr. Caborn:** I have had no formal discussions with the Scottish Executive on this issue. However officials from the Scottish Executive have been keeping my officials informed of progress with consideration of this issue.

## Correspondence

**Mr. Barstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many letters to her Department from hon. Members in session *(a)* 2004–05 and *(b)* 2005–06 remain unanswered, broken down by those which are (i) one month old, (ii) two months old, (iii) three months old, (iv) four months old and (v) over six months old. [13858]

**Mr. Caborn:** In response to your parliamentary question regarding unanswered correspondence in session *(a)* 2004–05, the Cabinet Office, on an annual basis, publishes a report to Parliament on the performance of Departments in replying to Members/ Peers correspondence. The Report for 2004 was published on 6 April 2005. *(b)* The following table shows the number of letters in the Department that have not received an answer for 2005–06:

*2005–06 (1 January 2005 to 30 June 2005)*

| | *Number* | |
|---|---|---|
| Current month | 28 | Due June |
| One month | 23 | Due May |
| Two months | 41 | Due April |
| Three months | 17 | Due March |
| Four months | 12 | Due February |
| Six months | nil | nil |

## Departmental Expenditure

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the total spending by her Department on *(a)* staff, *(b)* accommodation and *(c)* procurement in (i) Moray constituency and (ii) the Highland region was for the most recent year for which figures are available. [14853]

**Mr. Caborn:** The Department for Culture, Media and Sport has not spent anything on staff, accommodation or procurement in Moray or the Highland region.

**Stewart Hosie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the total spending by her Department on *(a)* staff, *(b)* accommodation and *(c)* procurement in (i) Dundee East constituency, (ii) Tayside and (iii) the city of Dundee was for the most recent year for which figures are available. [14878]

**Mr. Caborn:** The Department for Culture, Media and Sport has not spent anything on staff, accommodation or procurement in Dundee East, Tayside or the city of Dundee.

**Mr. Salmond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the total spending by her Department on *(a)* staff, *(b)* accommodation and *(c)* procurement in (i) Banff and Buchan and (ii) the North East of Scotland was for the most recent year for which figures are available. [14887]

**Mr. Caborn:** The Department for Culture, Media and Sport has not spent anything on staff, accommodation or procurement in Banff and Buchan or the North East of Scotland.

**Pete Wishart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the total spending by her Department on *(a)* staff, *(b)* accommodation and *(c)* procurement in Perth and North Perthshire was for the most recent year for which figures are available. [14921]

**Mr. Caborn:** The Department for Culture, Media and Sport has not spent anything on staff, accommodation or procurement in Perth or North Perthshire.

## Departmental Priorities

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what her Department's priorities are for the next 12 months. [14850]

**Tessa Jowell:** The priorities for my Department for 2005–06 are set out in the DCMS Business Plan 2005. Copies of the plan have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

### Digital Broadcasting

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many and what percentage of viewers in the Stroud constituency *(a)* have access to Freeview and *(b)* have converted from analogue to digital broadcasting; what strategy she has put in place to complete the conversion process; and if she will make a statement. [14152]

**James Purnell:** Freeview reception via Digital Terrestrial Television (DTT) is not currently extensive in Stroud, although it may be possible in some parts to receive signals from the main Mendip and Ridge Hill transmitters. We do not presently have figures for digital conversion in the area.

As regards strategy, I refer my right hon. Friend to the statement made by the Secretary of State in Parliament on the 21 July 2005, *Official Report*, columns 112–13WS.

**Mr. David Hamilton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many households in Midlothian are unable to receive digital television. [14187]

**James Purnell:** The vast majority of households in Midlothian can, with the appropriate equipment, receive digital television services via at least one of digital satellite or digital terrestrial.

**Mr. Streeter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) what provision has been made for households in Devon and Cornwall that will be unable to receive a digital signal by 2008; [14570]

(2) what assessment she has made of whether a digital signal will be available to every household in Devon and Cornwall by the time analogue transmission is ended; [14572]

(3) how many households that are receivers of analogue transmission in Devon and Cornwall are unable to receive a digital signal. [14573]

**James Purnell:** The vast majority of households in Devon and Cornwall can, with the appropriate equipment, receive digital television services via at least one of digital satellite, digital terrestrial or cable.

Digital Terrestrial Television (DTT) is broadcast from Devon and Cornwall's five main transmitters (Redruth, Caradon Hill, Huntshaw Cross, Beacon Hill and Stockland Hill), along with the Plympton relay transmitter.

The Government are committed to ensuring that everyone who currently receives the main public service broadcasting channels in analogue will be able, at digital switchover, to receive them in digital form.

### Equality and Diversity

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much the Department has spent promoting equality and diversity in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [14670]

**Mr. Caborn:** The Department for Culture, Media and Sport has spent the following amounts on promoting diversity in the last three years (the only years for which figures are available).

£

| | *Amount spent* |
|---|---|
| 2005–06 | [1]5,464 |
| 2004–05 | 56,272 |
| 2003–04 | 139,930 |

[1] 2005–06 amount is to date

### Licensing Act 2003

**Mr. Cranby:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions she has had with the Home Secretary on the implications for his Department of the implementation of the Licensing Act 2003 after 7 November. [14117]

**James Purnell:** Ministers and officials from DCMS and the Home Office continue to work together, with particular regard to crime and disorder, to ensure a smooth and successful implementation of the Licensing Act 2003, which comes into force on 24 November.

**Mr. Cranby:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what action she will expect from police forces regarding those who have neither a premises licence nor a personal licence under the Licensing Act 2003 after 7 November. [14118]

**James Purnell:** The Licensing Act 2003 comes into force on 24 November. Any person carrying on licensable activities after that date without the relevant permission under the 2003 Act would be liable to prosecution. Proceedings for an offence of this kind may be instituted by a licensing authority or by the Director of Public Prosecutions. Enforcement would be a matter for the police and licensing officers. It would be inappropriate for the executive to seek to influence decisions made in respect of prosecutions.

**Anne Main:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) if she will change the way in which charges are apportioned to licensed premises so that they are based on the rateable value of only the area that is serving alcohol, rather than the club or premises as a whole; [13760]

(2) what assessment her Department has made of the impact that the Licensing Act 2003 will have on garden centres who sell small amounts of alcohol in their cafés. [13763]

**James Purnell:** My Department has made no specific assessment of the impact of the Licensing Act 2003 on garden centres which sell small amounts of alcohol. However, Regulatory Impact Assessments were provided to Parliament with the Bill and the fees regulations, which considered the impact of the 2003 Act more broadly, including on small businesses. These are available in the Library of the House.

Fees were set which recognised the various sizes of businesses engaged in licensable activities. However, Ministers agreed to establish an Independent Fees Panel to review the impact of the fees. This has now been established under the chairmanship of Sir Les Elton. We expect the panel to consider a range of business concerns about the fees regime and draw on evidence and expertise provided during the course of the review

process, including the issue where the premises to be licensed only forms a small part of a larger hereditament and does not, itself, have a separate rateable value.

## National Lottery

**Mr. Swire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions her Department has had with the Department for Health on possible use of Lottery funding in schemes within the health service. [14096]

**Mr. Caborn:** Discussions took place between the two Departments in relation to some of the New Opportunities Fund's health programmes, for example Healthy Living Centres and cancer prevention, detection, treatment and care. Lottery funding for these programmes was quite separate from and additional to any money spent by the national health service in these areas. We have not discussed any future funding schemes within the health service.

**Mr. Swire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether she has given directions to the Big Lottery Fund to reduce balances held in the National Lottery Distribution Fund. [14097]

**Mr. Caborn:** My Department is working with all Lottery distributors, including the Big Lottery Fund, to ensure that lottery money is spent quickly, so that the public sees the benefits as soon as possible. As part of this process, guidance on managing lottery balances was issued to distributors in August 2003. No directions to reduce balances have been issued.

**Mr. Swire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether it is her intention that the Big Lottery Fund should be responsible for the distribution of more than 50 per cent. of lottery good cause funding. [14098]

**Mr. Caborn:** It is not our intention that the Big Lottery Fund should be responsible for the distribution of more than 50 per cent. of lottery good cause funding.

**Mr. Swire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions her Department has had with the Department for Education and Skills on the use of Lottery funding for projects in schools. [14099]

**Mr. Caborn:** We have regular discussions with colleagues at the Department for Education and Skills about joint programmes, such as those that receive funding from the Big Lottery fund and the Arts and Sports Councils. For example, this includes the £750 million New Opportunities for PE and Sport (NOPES) programme which is bringing about a step change in the provision of sporting facilities for young people and the community more generally.

## Olympics 2012

**Mr. Davey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate she has made of the number of employment opportunities that will become available as a result of the 2012 Olympics being hosted in London, broken down by *(a)* skill area and *(b)* borough. [13834]

**Mr. Caborn:** We know from the experience of past host cities that the Olympic games and Paralympic games can deliver thousands of jobs.

The socio-economic assessment produced to support the Olympic and Olympic legacy planning applications concluded that after the games, the Olympic park area alone will accommodate 11,270 permanent jobs as a direct result of the games, spread across the London boroughs of Hackney, Newham, Tower Hamlets and Waltham Forest. This estimate comprises:

5,880 heavy industrial;

4,050 commercial;

260 retail and leisure;

550 sports and recreation;

530 education.

For the construction of the Olympic park, venues and legacy facilities, the assessment estimated that 7,000 full time equivalent construction jobs will be created.

These estimates do not take into account the other jobs that will be created as a result of the games in sectors such as tourism, hospitality and food across the rest of London and the UK.

In addition, up to 70,000 volunteers and an estimated 3,500 operation staff will be needed to deliver the games.

**Mr. Burrowes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment she has made of the adequacy of the road infrastructure in East London for the Olympic games; and what discussions she has had with *(a)* Transport for London and *(b)* the Department for Transport concerning improvements, with particular reference to the A406. [14077]

**Mr. Caborn:** In preparing the London Olympic bid, London 2012 and Transport for London carried out detailed assessments of Olympic transport needs and the capacity of London's transport infrastructure, including roads, to meet them.

The plans for Olympic transport were based on these assessments; the Government were fully involved in developing them. They are set out in the Candidature File submitted to the International Olympic Committee in November 2004, and are based on making the best use of existing infrastructure and planned improvements. We are confident that, with these plans, London's road infrastructure will be adequate for meeting the needs of the Olympic and Paralympic games.

**Mr. McGovern:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what opportunities there are for cities other than London, with particular reference to Scottish cities, to be venues for the training camps of *(a)* British and *(b)* other Olympic teams in the run up to 2012. [13505]

**Mr. Caborn** *[holding answer 19 July 2005]:* Visiting teams will want time to prepare their athletes for the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games in 2012, accessing sporting facilities, acclimatising to weather conditions and assimilating themselves into British culture.

We expect that a number of visiting teams will want to stage training and preparation camps right across the UK. These camps offer a significant opportunity to

nations and regions to benefit economically from the Games and to be involved in the excitement being at close quarters to a visiting team, their culture and their language.

The London Organising Committee is working with the British Olympic Association, and others to produce central guidance that will assist partners in the devolved Administrations and the English regions to develop their plans to secure these training camps. However, ultimately, it will be the choice of each National Olympic Committee as to where they stage their training camps.

**Pete Wishart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the total financial support provided to date from *(a)* the Government and *(b)* Lottery funding for the London bid for the 2012 Olympics has been. [14896]

**Mr. Caborn:** The Government and the London Development Agency (LDA) have provided, in equal part, up to £30 million in support of London's bid to host the Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2012.

Lottery funds have not been used to support the London bid.

**Mr. Kemp:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will site an *(a)* Olympic event and *(b)* Olympic-related cultural event in (i) the constituency of Houghton and Washington East, (ii) the area covered by Sunderland city council and (iii) the North East of England in 2012. [13239]

**Mr. Caborn:** The Candidature File, submitted to the IOC on 15 November 2004, contains detailed proposals for all sports venues that will be used in the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games in 2012, including St. James' Park in Newcastle, which will host part of the Olympic football competition. The venues were selected using the technical guidelines provided by the IOC and have been agreed by the International Sports Federations.

Over the coming months, the London Organising Committee of the Games (LOCOG) culture and education team will establish a framework that will allow for the broadest levels of inclusion and engagement across the UK in the delivery of our Olympic culture and education programmes. They will build on the strong relationships London 2012 have already established with the Regional Cultural Consortia.

## Telephone Inquiries

**Mr. MacNeil:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what facilities her Department has to deal with telephone inquiries in *(a)* Welsh, *(b)* Scots Gaelic and *(c)* Irish Gaelic. [14735]

**Mr. Caborn:** The Department for Culture, Media and Sport can only answer telephone calls in English.

External translators are used to translate letters, e-mails and faxes into English.

*Correspondence translated into English, January to June 2005*

| | |
|---|---|
| Welsh | 3 |
| Scots Gaelic | 0 |
| Irish Gaelic | 89 |

## Websites

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, what websites come under her Department's responsibility; and what the *(a)* cost and *(b)* number of visitors to those sites was in the last 12 months. [16007]

**Mr. Caborn:** My Department has responsibility for the following:

1. DCS main website www.culture.gov.uk (http://www.culture.gov.uk).
2. Government Art Collection www.gac.culture.gov.uk (http://www.gac.culture.gov.uk).
3. Communications White Paper www.communications whitepaper.gov.uk (http://www.communicationswhitepaper.gov.uk).
4. Digital Television www.digitattelevision.gov.uk (http://www.digitaltelevision.gov.uk).
5. Digital Switchover www.digitaltelevision.gov.uk/digital_switchover_logo/index.html (http://www.digitaltelevisiongov.uk/digital_switchover_logo/index.html).
6. Culture Online www.cultureonline.gov.uk (http://www.cultureonline.gov.uk).
7. Sponsored bodies collaborative working www.agora.culture.gov.uk (http://www.agora.cultu re.gov.uk).
8. Business continuity for staff www.recovery.culture.gov.uk (http://www.recovery.culture.gov.uk).
9. National Lottery Awards www.lottery.culture.gov.uk (http://www.lottery.culture.gov.uk).
10. UK World Heritage Sites www.ukworldheritage.org.uk (http://www.ukworldheritage.org.uk).
11. BBC Charter Review www.bbccharterreview.gov.uk

*(a)* The total cost for the financial year 2004–05, for the aforementioned sites was £43,412.06.

*(b)* The number of visitors to each site in the last year (January to December 2004) was as follows:

1. DCS main website (570,354 Unique visitors).
2. Government Art Collection (88,675 Unique visitors).
3. Communications White Paper (31,115 Unique visitors).
4. Digital Television (73,765 Unique visitors).
5. Digital Switchover (part of the Digital Television site and therefore, visitor figures are not separate).
6. Culture Online (29,912 Unique visitors).
7. Sponsored bodies collaborative working (457 Unique visitors).
8. Business continuity for staff (Visitor figures not measured).
9. National Lottery Awards (29,778 Unique visitors).
10. UK World Heritage Sites (77 Unique visitors).
11. BBC Charter Review (62,257 Unique visitors).

## Young People

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the participation rates of young people in club sport were in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [15983]

**Mr. Lammy:** The 2003–04 PE, School Sport and Club Links survey found that 19 per cent. of pupils in the 6,500 schools taking part participated in sports clubs linked to their schools. The results of the survey were published on 29 April 2004 and copies of the report (The Impact of School-Sport Partnerships: The Results of the 2003–04 PE; School Sport and Club Links Survey) have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses. The results of the 2004–05 survey will be published in the autumn.

As part of the national PE, School Sport and Club links strategy, we are working with the National Governing Bodies of 22 sports to enhance and increase school-club links.

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### Advertising Expenditure

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much the *(a)* Department and *(b)* non-departmental bodies for which the Department is responsible has spent on advertising, broken down by media type in the last three years. [9500]

**Jim Knight:** The Department does not maintain separate records of its expenditure for advertising. The expenditure for publicity by Defra's Communications Directorate includes marketing, advertising, publications, events, shows and direct mailings. Expenditure for the last three financial years are:

| | £ million |
|---|---|
| 2002–03 | 4.7 |
| 2003–04 | 2.5 |
| 2004–05 | 4.2 |

This includes communications on a wide range of matters, much of it necessary or beneficial to the public and the wide range of industries in which Defra has an interest, together with local government, voluntary organisations and other bodies.

A breakdown of expenditure for each agency and non departmental body sponsored by the Department could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much the Department spent on advertising in each of the last five years. [10253]

**Jim Knight:** The Department does not maintain separate records of its expenditure for advertising. The expenditure for publicity by Defra's Communications Directorate includes marketing, advertising, publications, events, shows and direct mailings and is recorded for the financial years since Defra's creation in June 2001 as follows:

| | £ million |
|---|---|
| 2001–02 | 3.5 |
| 2002–03 | 4.7 |
| 2003–04 | 2.5 |
| 2004–05 | 4.2 |

This includes communications on a wide range of matters, much of it necessary or beneficial to the public and the wide range of industries in which Defra has an interest, together with local government, voluntary organisations and other bodies.

### Agricultural Exports

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which countries do not import British *(a)* beef, *(b)* lamb, *(c)* milk and *(d)* pork; and what steps she is taking to encourage these countries to import these products. [11137]

**Jim Knight:** Lists placed in the Library of the House detail the countries for which there were no recorded exports from the UK for *(a)* beef, *(b)* lamb, *(c)* milk and *(d)* pork in 2004. Figures are based on all UK exports and include products that have been imported from both EU and Third countries that are re-exported.

Government policy is not to attempt to intervene in the market but to facilitate the right economic framework, through the implementation of its Strategy for Sustainable Farming and Food which was published on 12 December 2002, to enable farmers to succeed, compete successfully internationally and have a profitable future. The strategy provides a clear and strategic long-term direction towards a more sustainable future. The Government will work in partnership with industry and other stakeholders to implement the strategy, providing the leadership to allow farmers to flourish by their own efforts.

### Air Sports

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she is taking to ensure that paragliding and hang gliding are not adversely affected by the new single farm payment scheme. [11281]

**Jim Knight:** The Department's guidance governing non-agricultural use of land under the single payment scheme is being updated to place hang gliding and paragliding in the category of activities that may be carried out without restriction provided that cross compliance requirements are met. As this is a new scheme, we expect the rules to evolve in the light of experience. That applies equally to the guidance on non-agricultural use of land which we will review again for the 2006 scheme year.

### Animal Experimentation

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will make a statement on the division of responsibilities in respect of animal experiments between her Department and the Home Office. [14220]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 makes provision for the protection of animals used for experimental or other scientific purposes in the United Kingdom. The 1986 Act is administered and enforced by the Home Office in England, Scotland and Wales and by the Department of Health, Social Security and Public Safety in Northern Ireland.

In cases where animals are kept at establishments designated under the 1986 Act but do not otherwise fall within scope of the Act (eg because they are not being kept for breeding purposes under the 1986 Act, or are not actually undergoing experimental or scientific procedures), the Protection of Animals Act 1911 applies, in England and Wales. Similar legislation exists in Scotland and Northern Ireland. Defra is responsible for the 1911 Act in England.

### Animal Fairs

**Dr. Gibson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the effects of the role of animal fairs on illegal trade in wildlife; and whether related prosecutions have taken place in the last three years. [14087]

**Jim Knight:** Animal fairs, like any other legal trade fora, can provide an opportunity for illegal transactions to take place. We have not assessed whether such fairs encourage the illegal trade and prosecution statistics do not identify which, if any, illegal trade cases have arisen from this type of event.

### Bovine TB

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent estimate her Department has made of the number of badgers killed due to *(a)* road vehicles, *(b)* illegal action, *(c)* Government-organised badger culling programmes and *(d)* other causes in the last year for which figures are available; and if she will make a statement. [13033]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** It is not possible to provide an estimate for each of the categories requested as no data is centrally held for the number of badgers killed due to illegal persecution or other causes. However, seven suspected incidents of illegal badger culling activities have been identified since February 2002 and reported to the police authorities.

*(a)* Between 2000 and May 2005 3,897 badgers were collected, killed due to road vehicles, within the Road Traffic Accident survey area which operates in the seven counties of Cornwall, Devon, Gloucestershire, Herefordshire, Worcestershire, Shropshire and Dorset. Outside of the seven counties no data are collected.

*(b)* 9,758 badgers have been dispatched since 1998 under the Government-organised Randomised Badger Culling Trial.

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many cattle have been culled as a consequence of bovine tuberculosis infection in each year since 1997, broken down by county. [14231]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The number of cattle culled as a consequence of bovine tuberculosis infection in each year from 1997 to 2004 by county is provided in eight tables, which will be made available in the Library in the House.

**Mr. Paterson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many bovines tested positive for bovine tuberculosis as a percentage of the total number of bovines in each of the counties of England and Wales in the past 12 months for which figures are available. [14451]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The information is not centrally held in the format requested. However, the following table provides data on the number of confirmed new herd incidents, broken down by county for 2004.

*Confirmed new herd incidents—1 January to 31 December 2004*

| *Region* | *Tests on unrestricted herds* | *Confirmed new herd incidents (CNIs)* | *CNIs as percentage of tests on unrestricted herds* |
|---|---|---|---|
| England and Wales total | 43,393 | 1,723 | 3.97 |
| England total | 34,287 | 1,407 | 4.10 |
| Wales total | 9,106 | 316 | 3.47 |
| *England* | | | |
| Avon | 1,053 | 46 | 4.37 |
| Bedfordshire | 51 | — | — |
| Berkshire | 89 | — | — |
| Buckinghamshire | 204 | — | — |
| Cambridgeshire | 93 | — | — |
| Cheshire | 1,173 | 16 | 1.36 |
| Cleveland | 59 | 1 | 1.69 |
| Cornwall | 3,469 | 209 | 6.02 |
| Cumbria | 2,223 | 17 | 0.76 |
| Derbyshire | 1,147 | 40 | 3.49 |
| Devon | 5,520 | 396 | 7.17 |
| Dorset | 994 | 22 | 2.21 |
| Durham | 399 | 1 | 0.25 |
| East Sussex | 265 | 8 | 3.02 |
| Essex | 89 | — | — |
| Gloucestershire | 1,544 | 135 | 8.74 |
| Greater London—East | 9 | — | — |
| Greater London—South East | 17 | — | — |
| Greater Manchester | 166 | — | — |
| Hampshire | 281 | — | — |
| Hereford and Worcester | 2,115 | 200 | 9.46 |
| Hertfordshire | 55 | — | — |
| Humberside | 341 | 6 | 1.76 |
| Isle of Wight | 54 | — | — |
| Isles of Scilly | 3 | — | — |
| Kent | 217 | — | — |
| Lancashire | 676 | — | — |
| Leicestershire | 456 | 5 | 1.10 |
| Lincolnshire | 397 | 3 | 0.76 |
| Merseyside | 33 | — | — |
| Norfolk | 309 | 1 | 0.32 |
| North Yorkshire (48) | 1,234 | 6 | 0.49 |
| North Yorkshire (50) | 58 | 1 | 1.72 |
| Northamptonshire | 262 | 5 | 1.91 |
| Northumberland | 656 | — | — |
| Nottinghamshire | 177 | 3 | 1.69 |
| Oxfordshire | 247 | 3 | 1.21 |
| Shropshire | 1,705 | 63 | 3.70 |
| Somerset | 2,008 | 72 | 3.59 |
| South Yorkshire | 117 | 1 | 0.85 |
| Staffordshire | 1,779 | 69 | 3.88 |
| Suffolk | 182 | 1 | 0.55 |
| Surrey | 127 | — | — |
| Tyne and Wear | 30 | — | — |
| Warwickshire | 320 | 5 | 1.56 |
| West Midlands | 34 | — | — |
| West Sussex | 176 | 1 | 0.34 |
| West Yorkshire | 296 | 1 | 0.34 |
| Wiltshire | 1,378 | 70 | 5.08 |
| Total | 34,287 | 1,407 | 4.10 |
| *Wales* | | | |
| Clwyd | 549 | 4 | 0.73 |
| Dyfed | 4,424 | 154 | 3.48 |
| Gwent | 895 | 36 | 4.02 |
| Gwynedd | 586 | 4 | 0.68 |

*Confirmed new herd incidents—1 January to 31 December 2004*

| Region | Tests on unrestricted herds | Confirmed new herd incidents (CNIs) | CNIs as percentage of tests on unrestricted herds |
|---|---|---|---|
| Mid Glamorgan | 169 | 2 | 1.18 |
| Powys | 2,161 | 104 | 4.81 |
| South Glamorgan | 82 | — | — |
| West Glamorgan | 240 | 12 | 5.00 |
| Total | 9,106 | 316 | 3.47 |

*Source:*
Provisional data downloaded from the State Veterinary Service Data Warehouse on 19 May 2005. Subject to change as more data become available.

## Cattle

**Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when the over thirty months scheme will end; and if she will make a statement. [13175]

**Jim Knight:** We believe that the lifting of the OTM Rule for cattle born after 1 August 1996 will bring a much needed boost to the income of the livestock industry through increasing the market return on cull cows.

We are hopeful that the replacing of the OTM rule with a robust BSE testing regime will only serve to increase consumer confidence in the safety and quality of UK beef.

We expect the changes to the OTM rule to happen towards the end of this year, subject to Government being satisfied that the BSE testing regime is robust. The over thirty months scheme will then be replaced by a three year Older Cattle Disposal Scheme to dispose of cattle born before 1 August 1996.

## Climate Change

**Mr. Llwyd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what decisions were reached by the recent meeting of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee on the impact of climate change. [14171]

**Mr. Lammy:** I have been asked to reply.

The decision of the 30th Session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee on the impact of climate change is set out as follows. The UK will play an active part in realising this decision through support to an expert working group.

The World Heritage Committee,

Having examined Document WHC-05/29.COM/7B.Rev,

Recognising the work being undertaken within the framework of the UN Convention on Climate Change (UNFCC), and the need for a proper co-ordination of such work with the activities under the convention,

Takes note of the four petitions seeking to have Sagarmatha National Park (Nepal), Huascaran National Park (Peru), the Great Barrier Reef (Australia) and the Belize Barrier Reef Reserve System (Belize) included on the List of World Heritage in Danger;

Appreciates the genuine concerns raised by the various organisations and individuals supporting these petitions relating to threats to natural World Heritage properties that are or may be the result of climate change;

Further notes that the impacts of climate change are affecting many and are likely to affect many more World Heritage properties, both natural and cultural in the years to come;

Encourages all States Parties to seriously consider the potential impacts of climate change within their management planning, in particular with monitoring, and risk preparedness strategies, and to take early action in response to these potential impacts.

Requests the World Heritage Centre in collaboration with the advisory bodies, interested states parties and petitioners, to establish a broad working group of experts to a) review the nature and scale of the risks posed to World Heritage properties arising specifically from climate change; and b) jointly develop a strategy to assist state parties to implement appropriate management responses;

Welcomes the offer of the state party of the United Kingdom to host a meeting of such working group of experts;

Requests that the working group of experts, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre, the advisory bodies and other relevant UN bodies, prepare a joint report on "Predicting and managing the effects of climate change on World Heritage", to be examined by the committee at its 30th session (2006);

Strongly encourages states parties and the advisory bodies to use the network of World Heritage properties to highlight the threats posed by climate change to natural and cultural heritage, start identifying the properties under most serious threats, and also use the network to demonstrate management actions that need to be taken to meet such threats, both within the properties and in their wider context;

Also encourages UNESCO to do its utmost to ensure that the results about climate change affecting the World Heritage sites reach the public at large, in order to mobilise political support for activities against climate change and to safeguard in this way the livelihood of the poorest people of our planet.

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which actions required of the UK Government in the G8 Plan of Action on climate change are not already being undertaken by the UK Government. [14995]

**Mr. Morley:** We have already started work on all aspects of the G8 Gleneagles Plan of Action on climate change. Discussions of the more formal arrangements for implementation will take place with other countries through the G8 climate change Dialogue and it's first meeting on 1 November 2005.

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which items of the G8 Plan of Action are not *(a)* already part of agreements made under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and *(b)* already being undertaken by other international bodies of which the UK is a member. [14996]

**Mr. Morley:** The Gleneagles Plan of Action is a new agreement between G8 partners to take action on climate change, clean energy and sustainable development through a series of items on transforming the way we use energy, powering a cleaner future, promoting networks for research and development, financing the transition to cleaner energy, managing the impact of climate change and tackling illegal logging. We will be utilising existing networks to achieve our goals, as well as setting up new agreements.

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate has been made of the change in carbon dioxide

emissions that would result from the full implementation of the G8 Plan of Action on climate change. [14997]

**Mr. Morley:** Assessments of the change of carbon dioxide emission have been made throughout the drafting and negotiation of the G8 Gleneagles Plan of Action on Climate Change, Clean Energy and Sustainable Development. Although it is very difficult to quantify the impacts of the package as a whole our assessment of the final Plan of Action suggests that if implemented fully, with full participation from all the countries involved, those measures that can be more easily quantified will deliver annual savings of around 550 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent by 2010—approximately equivalent to the emissions of the UK. By 2030 this is expected to rise to 4,500 MTCO2e—this is equivalent to around 19 per cent. of current global emissions.

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much additional investment in clean energy technologies from *(a)* public and *(b)* private sources is guaranteed under the G8 Plan of Action on climate change. [14998]

**Mr. Morley:** The G8 Plan of Action on climate change is a comprehensive programme of specific actions on clean energy and energy efficiency. The World Bank has agreed to lead on developing a framework for investment to finance these changes, which will be discussed at the first meeting of the G8 Climate Change Dialogue meeting on 1 November 2005.

### Common Agricultural Policy

**Paul Flynn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her latest estimate is of the total cost of the UK's contribution to the Common Agricultural Policy in each of the next five years if no major reforms take place. [11499]

**Jim Knight:** Figures for the UK's net contribution to EU institutions are given in the Treasury's statement on the 2005 EC Budget and measures to counter fraud and financial mismanagement and the 2005 Financial Statement and Budget Report. These figures are for the whole Budget, reflecting the fact that the UK contributes to the EC Budget as a whole rather than to specific components of it. As with other elements of total managed expenditure, forecasts are only available to the end of the current Spending Review in 2007–08.

On this basis, the UK net contribution is as follows:

*£ million*

| | *Net contributions to EC budget (rounded)* |
|---|---|
| 2003–04 outturn | 3,264 |
| 2004–05 estimated outturn | 4,310 |
| 2005–06 plans | 3,764 |
| 2006–07 plans | 3,398 |
| 2007–08 plans | 5,173 |

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs by what year she aims to have secured further substantive revision to the common agricultural policy regime. [15074]

**Jim Knight:** It is a key priority of the UK's presidency of the European Union to secure agreement to reform of the CAP sugar regime this year. Reviews of some of the minor regimes (fruit and vegetables, wine and flax and hemp) are scheduled for 2006, and the dairy regime is due for review in 2008.

The UK has also suggested a review of the whole EU budget—including, but not limited to, agriculture—midway through the next EU financial perspective (2007–13). If that is agreed by other member states, any resulting changes to the CAP budget may be made during the second half of that period.

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will make a statement on the balance of funds between pillar 1 and pillar 2 within the common agricultural policy. [15075]

**Jim Knight:** In 2004, pillar 2 expenditure accounted for 18 per cent. of the common agricultural policy. The UK is committed to rural development and views expenditure through pillar 2, as an important means of delivering public benefits and contributing to wider EU environmental objectives.

CAP reform in 2003 replaced a voluntary modulation system with a EU compulsory system leading to a maximum of 5 per cent. modulation. We are now working to secure further voluntary modulation from pillar 1 to 2 in the context of the financial perspectives negotiations.

### Conference Expenditure

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much the Department spent on *(a)* organising and *(b)* sponsoring conferences in each of the last five years. [10272]

**Jim Knight:** Defra was formed in June 2001. The spend on organising and sponsoring conferences by the Communications Directorate since that time is as follows:

| | *£000* |
|---|---|
| 2001–02 | 280,000 |
| 2002–03 | 90,000 |
| 2003–04 | 310,000 |
| 2004–05 | 970,000 |

These costs do not include provision for G8 and EU presidency activity which is still being collated.

### Dairy Prices

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what has been the average price of *(a)* one litre of milk and *(b)* 250 grams of butter in each year since 1997; and what those figures are at constant prices. [14308]

**Jim Knight:** Average retail prices for 1 litre of milk and 250 grams of butter are shown in the following table. The prices have also been converted to a constant price series using the All Items Retail Price Index. The All Items Retail Price Index and the constant prices for milk and butter (based on average 2004 prices) are also shown in the following table.

| | *1997* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Milk* | | | | | |
| Retail price of whole milk (pence per litre)[1] | 62 | 60 | 60 | 60 | 65 |
| Whole milk at constant 2004 prices (pence per litre) | 73 | 69 | 68 | 66 | 70 |
| *Butter* | | | | | |
| Retail price of butter (pence per250g) | 83 | 85 | 84 | 82 | 79 |
| Butter at constant 2004 prices (pence per 250g) | 98 | 97 | 95 | 90 | 85 |
| *Retail Price Index* | | | | | |
| All Items Retail Price Index annual average (1987 = 100) | 157.5 | 162.9 | 165.4 | 170.3 | 173.4 |

| | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005*[2] |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Milk* | | | | |
| Retail price of whole milk (pence per litre)[1] | 63 | 65 | 62 | 61 |
| Whole milk at constant 2004 prices (pence per litre) | 67 | 67 | 62 | 60 |
| *Butter* | | | | |
| Retail price of butter (pence per250g) | 77 | 76 | 80 | 77 |
| Butter at constant 2004 prices (pence per 250g) | 82 | 78 | 80 | 75 |
| *Retail Price Index* | | | | |
| All Items Retail Price Index annual average (1987 = 100) | 176.2 | 181.3 | 186.7 | 190.8 |

[1] Average price of one pint of delivered milk and the one pint equivalent of two pints of shop bought milk.
[2] To June

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions she has had with *(a)* the National Farmers Union, *(b)* supermarkets and *(c)* processors on the price of milk paid to farmers. [13484]

**Jim Knight:** Price negotiations between producers and processors, or processors and supermarkets are a private commercial matter in which the Government cannot and should not get involved, provided competition rules are respected. However, Ministers frequently meet representatives from all parts of the dairy supply chain, and are therefore keenly aware of the issues, particularly current concerns about the sustainability of the industry at current and projected prices. For example, the Dairy Supply Chain Forum, which my Noble Friend Lord Bach chairs, met on 20 July. Lord Bach also attended the board meeting of Dairy UK on 12 July, and met the President of the National Farmers' Union on 21 July.

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will make a statement on milk pricing following the April review. [9031]

**Jim Knight:** The current average farmgate price for milk delivered in April (the most recent month for which figures are available) was 17.68 pence per litre. This is only marginally below the price for April 2004 despite last year's cuts to intervention prices which were expected to result in lower farmgate prices. In partial compensation for the intervention price cuts, dairy farmers received a dairy premium subsidy payment in November 2004 worth 0.78 pence per litre. (This premium is not included in the farmgate price figures).

## Emissions

**Mr. Steen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she is taking to reduce carbon dioxide emissions in motor transport. [14426]

**Mr. Morley:** A number of steps are currently being taken to reduce carbon emissions from the road transport sector. These include improvements to average new car fuel efficiency through the voluntary agreements between the European Commission and the automotive industry, complemented by changes to vehicle taxation, and support for low carbon fuels such as biofuels. In the area of fuel efficiency alone, new cars in the UK are now emitting some 10 per cent. less carbon dioxide per kilometre on average than in 1995. Policy measures in the transport sector alone are forecast to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by some 4.4 million tonnes of carbon a year by 2010.

Fuel efficiency labels, similar to those currently displayed on fridges and other white goods, have been developed by the Low Carbon Vehicle Partnership (LowCVP) in an effort to provide information to car buyers on how they can save money and help the environment. All 42 car brands in the UK have signed up to the introduction of the voluntary labelling scheme, and the label is due to be in all UK car showrooms by 1 September. As well as highlighting the fuel efficiency of every new car on sale, the labels also contain information on how much motorists can expect to pay in fuel bills in a typical year for a particular car, and whether the car qualifies for a reduction in Vehicle Excise Duty.

The Climate Change Programme (CCP) published in 2000, is currently being reviewed by the Government. The CCP review is looking at how existing policies in all sectors are performing and the range of policies that might be put in place for the future. Evaluation of existing policies is almost completed and appraisal of possible new measures is currently under way. Responses to consultation along with outcome of analytical work will feed into the revised programme due to be published by the end of the year.

**Mr. Steen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will increase vehicle excise duty for 4x4 vehicles that emit high quantities of carbon dioxide. [14427]

**John Healey:** I have been asked to reply.

The Government keep all taxation policy under review. Any changes to taxation policy are announced by the Chancellor in the context of his Budget statement.

## Farming

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs by what date she expects all the IACS-22 forms for the Environmental Stewardship scheme to be processed. [13870]

**Jim Knight:** The Rural Payments Agency currently has a list of priority IACS 22 cases for the Environmental Stewardship scheme. There are currently some 4,000 on the list and these are estimated to be completed by the end of August.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what regulations protect the welfare of intensively farmed chickens; and if she will make a statement. [14307]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The welfare of chickens is protected by the Agriculture (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1968, which makes it an offence to cause unnecessary pain or unnecessary distress. More detailed standards are laid down in the Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2000 (S.I. 1870). These regulations include specific requirements on inspections, record keeping, freedom of movement, buildings and equipment and feed and water.

There is also a specific Code of Recommendations for the Welfare of Meat Chickens and Breeding Chickens. Flock-keepers are required by law to have access to, and be familiar with this code, which encourages all those who care for chickens to adopt the highest standards of husbandry.

**Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment her Department has made of the effects on cashflow in farms of the time scale for establishing the Entry Level Stewardship scheme. [12107]

**Jim Knight** *[holding answer 14 July 2005]:* Environmental Stewardship was launched on 3 March.

It has been an important priority to ensure that farmers could continue to plan their activities over the whole farming year. It is for this reason we remain fully committed to the 1 August start date for Entry Level Stewardship agreements. In the light of current IT and land registration delays, the contingency arrangements we have put in place—extension of the closing date for applications and prioritisation of registration requests submitted to the Rural Payments Agency—should help ensure that as many farmers as possible can benefit from the 1 August start date. In addition, moving to monthly start dates after 1 August should ensure that any delays in processing applications thereafter should be kept to a minimum. ELS has been designed so that those entering into agreements will be paid every six months, rather than at the end of every year, thereby improving their cash flow.

## Fisheries

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her assessment is of the effectiveness of the 12-mile pelagic pair trawl prohibition for bass and its impact on cetacean by-catch. [12377]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** A full report on research conducted by the Sea Mammal Research Unit on behalf of Defra in the 2004–05 UK pair trawl fishery will be published on the Defra website in the autumn. A preliminary analysis suggests that there was a total mortality of 142 common dolphins in the 2004–05 season (compared to 429 in 2003–04 and 114 in 2002–03). The fuller report will include an assessment of factors contributing to the reduction in by-catch this season.

The number of dolphins (includes common, white beaked, white sided and striped), stranded on south-west beaches in 2005 was 68, a decrease from the numbers recorded in 2003 (299) and 2004 (178).

**Mr. Salmond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) which Ministers from the UK attended each EU Fisheries Council meeting from the UK since 1997; [14830]

(2) on what occasions the Scottish Executive Fisheries Minister has requested to lead the UK delegation to a Fisheries Council meeting since 1999. [14831]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Secretary of State and the Fisheries Minister have attended most joint Agriculture and Fisheries Councils and the Fisheries Minister has attended Fisheries Councils. On a few occasions other Defra Ministers have represented the UK at such meetings. Defra Ministers have been supported at various Councils by Ministers from Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales.

The Concordat between the Government and the devolved Administrations on co-ordination of European Union policy issues makes it clear that the UK Minister retains overall responsibility for the negotiations and determines how each member of the team can contribute to securing the agreed policy position. The Concordat emphasises the importance in negotiations of working as a UK team.

The UK negotiating position in the discussions is agreed beforehand after full consultation between the Department and the devolved Administrations, which all play a thorough and constructive part in the process of developing the UK's negotiating position for Fisheries Councils.

**Mr. Salmond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what studies she has assessed on the effects of warming waters in the central North sea on the movement of cod stocks into the northern North sea. [14907]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** One of Defra's main areas of fisheries research is linking the abundance of young fish to changes in both parent stock size and environmental conditions. Other work studies the behaviour and movements of individual cod. This research is underpinned by an extensive monitoring system. These studies have allowed us to map changes in centres of concentration of North sea fish populations. The Defra studies are co-ordinated with others in Scotland, and international programmes such as the ICES-GLOBEC cod and climate change programme.

There is evidence of some relatively greater abundance of cod in the north-eastern North sea compared with more southern areas. However this does not mean that cod have moved from the south to the north.

**Mr. Salmond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the impact of environmental factors on levels of cod stocks in the North sea. [14908]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Department's scientists have contributed to the assessments undertaken by ICES Advisory Committee on Fishery Management (ACFM). ACFM advised last year that changes in the North sea environment may have played a role in the reduced productivity of cod, but so too does the depleted state of the parent stock. ACFM advised that if, in addition to the impact of fishing, climate change or other environmental changes have played a role in the reduced productivity of fish stocks, it becomes even more essential that exploitation rates on these stocks be reduced, to sustain the stocks under conditions of lower productivity.

### Foot and Mouth

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many contractors have been paid *(a)* more than £5 million, *(b)* £1 to £499,999, *(c)* £500,000 to £999,999, *(d)* £250,000 to £499,999, *(e)* £100,000 to £249,999, £50,000 to £99,999, *(g)* £25,000 to £49,999, *(h)* £10,000 to £24,999, *(i)* £5,000 to £9,999 and *(j)* less than £4,999 for foot and mouth clean-up work. [13613]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The information requested is not held centrally in the format required. The information could be collated only at a disproportionate cost.

### Illegal Timber

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she supports the European Parliament resolution of 14 July in respect of action on illegal timber imports into the EU. [14230]

**Mr. Morley:** The European Parliament adopted a resolution on 6 July on implementation of the Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade (FLEGT) action plan to tackle illegal logging.

The Government broadly supports the issues raised by the European Parliament, which fit closely with our aims for this dossier during the UK's presidency of the European Union.

We agree that more rapid progress should be made on this dossier, particularly on ensuring that the Commission and member states deliver the review of additional legislative options. We also support the call for the formal negotiation of partnership agreements with timber producing countries to start, that negotiations should take civil society's view points into account and that the implementation of the resulting Partnership agreements is well funded. We have noted the European Parliament's view on the legal base for the draft regulation. However, a change to the current legal base would require the support of the Commission or unanimous agreement to change the legal base by member states, neither of which is forthcoming.

### Internal Market Services Directive

**Mr. Davidson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the impact on environmental regulation of the EU Directive on services in the internal market. [9333]

**Mr. Morley:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him on 21 July 2005 by my hon. friend the Minister for Trade (Ian Pearson).

### Landfill

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many tonnes of former foodstuffs she estimates were sent to landfill in each year since 2000. [14228]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The requested data are not available in the form requested. The 1998–99 Environment Agency's National Waste Production Survey (NWPS) of 20,000 businesses in England and Wales, estimated it that 2.59 million tonnes of food waste were produced of which 25 per cent. was sent to landfill.

However these figures only relate to that fraction of the waste that is definitely food. A considerable amount of food waste is also likely to be contained within the general and biodegradable category which amounted to around 12.8 million tonnes, of which a third went to landfill. The Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) estimate that the amount of food waste produced by the hotel and restaurant sector alone, for example, could be as high as 3 million tonnes per year.

In 2003–04 households in England produced 25.4 million tonnes of waste, it is estimated that some 9 per cent. or around 2.4 million tonnes of this is compostable kitchen waste, including food waste. About 72 per cent. of household waste goes to landfill.

Results from the Environment Agency 2002–03 waste survey are expected to be published in August.

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) whether the Government are on course to meet the landfill diversion targets required under the Landfill Directive; [14992]

(2) what plans the Government have to measure progress towards their landfill diversion targets under the Landfill Directive. [14993]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Government do not currently hold information on whether the UK is on course to meet the Landfill Directive targets the first of which is in 2009–10. The Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme has been designed to ensure as far as possible that England does not breach any of its targets and the Environment Agency as monitoring authority will determine whether English authorities are landfilling waste in accordance with the allowances available.

The Office for Government Commerce is currently undertaking an information gathering project on municipal waste services as part of the Kelly Market Programme. This is being conducted in partnership with the Local Government Association and other local government stakeholders to assess the current and future diversion capacity in England. The information from this project will be reported later in 2005 and will give a clear indication about how the Landfill Directive targets are going to be met. The intention is to review this project annually, to allow the Government to closely monitor and evaluate progress towards the targets.

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment the Government have made of the capital investment that will be required if the UK is to meet its obligations under the *(a)* Landfill Directive and *(b)* other EU waste directives. [14994]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Department has published Regulatory Impact Assessments (RIAs) with the three rounds of consultation papers on the implementation of the Landfill Directive. This process has also been applied to other EU waste directives.

Copies of RIAs relating to the following waste directives are available in the House Library:

Landfill Directive

Hazardous Waste Directive

Waste Framework Directive

Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive

End of Life Vehicles Directive

Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive

The RIA provides a framework for analysis of the likely impacts of a policy change and the range of options for implementing it. Among other things, the RIAs estimate the costs and benefits of implementing the various waste directives.

### Livestock Feed

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she is taking to ensure that contaminated food is not fed to cattle. [15076]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** I am answering on the basis that the question is being asked in the context of BSE and the livestock feed provided to cattle.

The steps being taken are two-fold. Firstly, there are measures applied to ensure that all potentially BSE-infective material, including the carcasses of suspect animals, is effectively separated and disposed of, and is not therefore available for any use. But more directly, there are comprehensive and stringent feed controls which regulate the use of all animal protein products in the diets of all farmed animals, not just cattle. The controls now apply equally across the EU, banning animal proteins, with a few exceptions, from farmed animal feed.

The State Veterinary Service in Great Britain carries out a comprehensive programme of monitoring to ensure compliance with the feed ban. Calculated against Great Britain's level of compound feed production, the yearly level of monitoring recommended in EU legislation is to undertake a minimum of 940 inspections and to take 1,882 feed samples. The State Veterinary Service carried out 2,295 inspections and took 17,239 samples under the National Feed Audit during 2004—i.e. nearly 2.5 times more than the recommended minimum number of inspections, and over nine times more than the recommended minimum number of samples. Monitoring over the years has always indicated a high level of compliance with the feed ban, and this is reflected in the continuing reduction of the incidence of BSE in cattle.

The Department also keeps the efficacy of the feed ban under continuous review. An independent review by Professor William Hill FRS, of the University of Edinburgh, was requested by Defra and published on 7 July 2005. The review examined the possible reasons for the cases of BSE occurring since the reinforced feed ban in 1996, together with the control measures being applied by the Government. The review's conclusions re-confirmed the elimination of feed-borne sources to be the key to the eradication of BSE, and recommended that risk-based controls and monitoring should be maintained on animals and feed.

Professor Hill's review is available on Defra's internet site on the BSE home-page under "Latest developments" at: http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/bse/index.htm

### Ministerial Meeting

**Mr. Streeter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress has been made since the meeting of 15 June between the Minister in her Department responsible for water and WaterVoice the South West; and if she will make a statement. [14568]

**Mr. Morley:** The meeting with WaterVoice South West dealt with a number of concerns and issues and there were two specific follow up actions. First, we agreed that the affordability pilot study in the South West should be subject to peer review to help ensure its conclusions are robust and intellectually rigorous. Since the meeting, WaterVoice and other organisations have been working with DEFRA to finalise the specification for the work. Second, I invited WaterVoice's views on DEFRA's review of tariff structures and I am pleased that they were able to participate in the first meeting and are now helping shape the scope and programme of work.

## Newcastle Disease

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she is taking to ensure that imports of live *(a)* poultry and *(b)* game from elsewhere in the EU are not contaminated with Newcastle Disease; and if she will suspend all such imports until full biosecurity measures are in place. [14032]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Trade in game birds and poultry between EU member states is controlled by European Community legislation aimed to prevent the movement of diseased birds across the Community.

It is the responsibility of the authorities in each member state to ensure that the requirements of community law are met. However the risk of disease can never be reduced to zero; therefore Community law also sets control measures to be taken when disease is identified.

We maintain close contact with those member states where Newcastle disease is present and with the Commission who are satisfied that the measures we, and others, are taking are reasonable and proportionate.

## Pesticides

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate she has made of the quantity of pesticides used in England in each year from 1976. [15072]

**Mr. Morley:** The amount of pesticide active substances applied in England and Wales from 1976 to 2004, including sulphuric acid, are as follows:

| | *Tonnes* |
|---|---|
| 1976 | 21,703 |
| 1977 | 25,584 |
| 1978 | 25,638 |
| 1979 | 25,230 |
| 1980 | 25,004 |
| 1981 | 24,550 |
| 1982 | 36,150 |
| 1983 | 35,499 |
| 1984 | 35,476 |
| 1985 | 35,303 |
| 1986 | 35,236 |
| 1987 | 35,198 |
| 1988 | 30,013 |
| 1989 | 29,635 |
| 1990 | 28,852 |
| 1991 | 28,345 |
| 1992 | 25,288 |
| 1993 | 25,966 |
| 1994 | 26,178 |
| 1995 | 26,329 |
| 1996 | 27,266 |
| 1997 | 27,273 |
| 1998 | 26,907 |
| 1999 | 26,705 |
| 2000 | 26,047 |
| 2001 | 25,941 |
| 2002 | 22,276 |
| 2003 | 21,948 |
| 2004 | [1]23,401 |

[1] Provisional figure

## Regional Advisory Councils

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many regional advisory councils her Department has established; and what financial support her Department provides for them. [14237]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** So far, the North Sea RAC is the only regional advisory council to be established, out of the seven proposed. Officials have worked closely with the North Sea RAC secretariat in Aberdeenshire council to secure its establishment in November 2004. The North Western Waters RAC and the Pelagic RAC are likely to become established during the UK presidency.

DEFRA and fisheries departments from the Devolved Administrations provide a high level of support for the RACs, through dedicated staff members. They provide logistics support and assist with communication with the commission, other member states and stakeholders when stakeholders are forming proposals to establish the RACs. Since the establishment of the North Sea RAC, DEFRA has provided experts to assist the RAC with advice and help co-ordinate support from other member states.

In addition, DEFRA are allocating £200,000 in 2005–06 (and more in 2006–07) to a new science budget to address regionally and locally generated fisheries management issues, particularly those in support of the work of the new regional advisory councils.

## Scrapie

**Mr. Steen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the level of compensation for *(a)* sheep and *(b)* goats that have been destroyed because of scrapie is; how this compares to their market value; and whether additional payments for pedigree goat herds which are affected are available. [14328]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Compensation for a sheep or goat that is destroyed on suspicion of scrapie and found to be positive is £90 or £30 if the animal is at the end of its productive life. If tests are negative, compensation up to a maximum of £400 may be paid.

Once action is taken in a flock or herd under the compulsory scrapie flocks scheme, animals that have to be killed and destroyed are compensated at the rate of £90 for a sheep or goat or £50 for a lamb or kid. (Slightly lower rates apply to ewes and lambs in flocks which have been granted derogations). We believe these rates are broadly in line with current market rates but we are currently undertaking a review.

Under the compulsory scrapie flocks scheme a farmer who considers the compensation for his sheep or goats to be unreasonable can arrange a valuation by a valuer nominated by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (or the Institute of Auctioneers and Appraisers in Scotland).

Compensation is also paid at market value when a sheep or goat tested at an abattoir under the surveillance programme is found to be positive. In these cases, the entire carcase from the animal is destroyed.

**Mr. Steen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what evaluation she has made of research by *(a)* UK organisations, *(b)* the UK Government and *(c)* other EU member states into the spread of scrapie in herds of goats; on what scientific evidence the current guidelines for slaughtering an entire herd of goats if only one is diagnosed with scrapie are based; and if she will make a statement. [14443]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Research carried out in the UK provides evidence that goats are susceptible to both BSE and scrapie and naturally occurring scrapie has been recorded in goats in Great Britain. As in sheep, the clinical appearance of these two conditions in goats cannot be distinguished. Control measures to protect public health from BSE are therefore directed at the eradication of all Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathy (TSE) diseases from sheep and goats within the EU. Research on sheep in the UK and Europe has shown certain PrP genotypes to be more resistant to TSE infection. This is the basis of the national scrapie plan in which selective breeding is used to establish sheep flocks with more resistant genotypes. Studies on goats have shown considerable variability in PrP genotypes but there is no currently available evidence that resistant genotypes exist which can be promoted through genetic selection. Control of TSE disease, and thus any potential for the presence of BSE, in goat herds is based on the culling of herds in which scrapie is found to exist.

As there are very few cases of goat TSE reported in the UK, it has not been possible to carry out scientific epidemiological studies on the spread of TSEs in goats. Research is being done in European countries with much larger goat populations than the UK, notably in Cyprus where there is an ongoing TSE epidemic. DEFRA is monitoring this work to see if it has any implications for the UK goat population. Following the recently reported case of BSE in a goat in France the EU has announced a research call to investigate the topic of "BSE infectivity in milk, milk products and meat derived from goats". DEFRA will also monitor the progress of this proposed research.

The current whole-herd slaughter policy in herds where there is a confirmed case of a TSE in a goat is a requirement of European Community legislation (Regulation 999/2001). When drafting this legislation the commission took into consideration the opinion of their Scientific Steering Committee (SSC) on the safe sourcing of small ruminant (sheep and goat) material (4–5 April 2002). Because genotyping and removal of susceptible animals is not an option in goats, it was felt that the only way to protect consumers from the theoretical risk of BSE in goats was a whole goat herd cull policy. The commission are currently reviewing their TSE eradication policy for small ruminants.

### Single Payment Scheme

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) whether paragliding will be permitted to continue on land under the new Single Farm Payment scheme without a reduction in the grants received by the land owner; [3390]

(2) what factors underlay the decision to include paragliding and hang-gliding in the 28 category in relation to the Single Payment Scheme; and if she will reclassify these activities as generally permitted activities. [3987]

**Jim Knight:** The Department's guidance on the Single Payment Scheme (SPS) and non-agricultural use of land balances the need for diversification opportunities with the necessity to abide by EU rules on eligibility of land under the scheme. The guidance is built around the degree to which non-agricultural use impedes or is inconsistent with normal farming activities. Having considered representations from interested parties, the guidance will now be updated to move paragliding and hang gliding to the list of generally permitted activities. This means that these activities may take place on an unrestricted number of days on land used in support of claims for payment under the SPS in 2005. We will review the guidance in its entirety for the 2006 scheme based on experience during this first year of the scheme and any further developments in the EU rules.

### Tree Cover

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 13 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 1040W, on tree cover, what the figures were for each London borough. [14005]

**Jim Knight:** The National Inventory of Woodland and Trees and the 1980 Census of Woodland did not record or publish data by London borough. However, the London Biodiversity Partnership's biodiversity audit 2000 included woodland and scrub habitat and this produced the results given in the following table.

*Woodland and scrub in London (area in hectares)*

| *Borough* | *Native woodland* | *Non-native* | *Coniferous* | *Fen carr* | *Scrub* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Barking and Dagenham | 5.7 | 0.9 | — | 0.4 | 28.0 |
| Barnet | 277.6 | 66.3 | 8.3 | — | 126.0 |
| Bexley | 104.0 | 119.4 | 14.7 | 0.2 | 59.0 |
| Brent | 19.0 | 5.4 | — | — | 31.9 |
| Bromley | 1424.8 | 302.6 | 63.4 | 0.8 | 139.7 |
| Camden | 116.2 | 18.3 | 1.1 | — | 2.5 |
| City of London | — | — | — | — | 0.2 |
| Croydon | 638.7 | 62.0 | 36.9 | — | 166.7 |
| Ealing | 69.8 | 11.1 | 0.6 | — | 64.6 |
| Enfield | 372.0 | 17.3 | 17.7 | 0.3 | 62.2 |
| Greenwich | 218.1 | 53.7 | 0.4 | — | 73.3 |
| Hackney | 6.3 | 9.8 | — | 0.2 | 1.4 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 1.0 | 8.0 | — | — | 8.5 |
| Haringey | 77.9 | 18.3 | 0.4 | — | 8.2 |

*Woodland and scrub in London (area in hectares)*

| *Borough* | *Native woodland* | *Non-native* | *Coniferous* | *Fen carr* | *Scrub* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Harrow | 218.5 | 25.2 | 8.8 | 1.3 | 51.5 |
| Havering | 307.5 | 55.7 | 0.3 | 10.5 | 122.4 |
| Hillingdon | 614.1 | 42.6 | 0.9 | 2.6 | 156.4 |
| Hounslow | 76.8 | 24.1 | 2.1 | — | 98.4 |
| Islington | 1.7 | 1.7 | — | — | 1.5 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 3.9 | 11.1 | — | — | 3.3 |
| Kingston | 95.5 | 17.8 | 2.1 | — | 25.5 |
| Lambeth | 17.1 | 17.5 | — | — | 14.2 |
| Lewisham | 42.9 | 40.5 | 0.6 | — | 19.3 |
| Merton | 142.5 | 8.1 | — | — | 62.0 |
| Newham | 2.7 | 5.0 | — | — | 33.0 |
| Redbridge | 158.4 | 41.9 | — | — | 78.9 |
| Richmond | 396.2 | 78.0 | 0.9 | — | 35.2 |
| Southwark | 47.7 | 34.4 | 0.0 | — | 11.6 |
| Sutton | 36.5 | 57.0 | 2.6 | — | 42.8 |
| Tower Hamlets | 3.0 | 4.1 | — | — | 7.3 |
| Waltham Forest | 228.2 | 9.2 | 0.8 | — | 28.5 |
| Wandsworth | 169.4 | 37.2 | — | — | 14.4 |
| Westminster | 2.6 | 3.8 | — | — | 0.4 |

## Waste Management

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much *(a)* paper, *(b)* plastic, *(c)* glass, *(d)* aluminium and *(e)* steel waste was collected in London in 2004, broken down by borough; and how much of each material was recycled in 2004, broken down by borough. [10787]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Information on the amounts of material collected in the financial year 2003–04 is set out in the table. It is impossible to disaggregate aluminium and steel cans, so a figure for all cans is provided. It is also impossible to separate scrap metal from white goods (fridges, cookers etc).

An increasing amount of waste for recycling is collected as co-mingled materials where the weight of the individual materials is not known. Most co-mingled collections include paper, and many include paper, glass and cans. The individual figures for these materials, therefore, do not include tonnage of individual materials collected as co-mingled which is listed separately.

Defra does not measure the amount of waste actually recycled but the amount collected and sent for recycling by the local authorities, a small proportion of which is unfit for recycling and has to be disposed of.

*Tonnes*

| *Local authority name* | *Paper and card* | *Plastic* | *Glass* | *Cans (steel and aluminium)* | *Scrap metal and white goods* | *Co-mingled materials* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Bexley LB | 11,634 | 97 | 2,131 | 132 | 2,228 | 0 |
| Tower Hamlets LB | 1,985 | 0 | 1,055 | 81 | 737 | 0 |
| London Corporation LB | 329 | 0 | 91 | 1 | 18 | 0 |
| Westminster City Council LB | 4,985 | 0 | 4,791 | 31 | 361 | 2,057 |
| Redbridge LB | 5,967 | 0 | 1,110 | 61 | 121 | 690 |
| Newham LB | 1,447 | 0 | 707 | 49 | 0 | 645 |
| Havering LB | 947 | 0 | 1,548 | 6 | 217 | 4,501 |
| Barking and Dagenham LB | 575 | 0 | 397 | 0 | 0 | 2,473 |
| East London Waste Authority[1] | 392 | 2 | 84 | 8 | 6,203 | 0 |
| Waltham Forest LB | 4,463 | 0 | 1,893 | 115 | 906 | 0 |
| Islington LB | 3,485 | 0 | 2,003 | 86 | 0 | 0 |
| Haringey LB | 3,605 | 0 | 1,794 | 101 | 1,321 | 0 |
| Hackney LB | 510 | 0 | 388 | 14 | 461 | 3,340 |
| Enfield LB | 8,068 | 329 | 1,904 | 85 | 205 | 0 |
| Camden LB | 7,785 | 24 | 4,000 | 82 | 2,457 | 0 |
| Barnet LB | 12,220 | 34 | 3,139 | 300 | 1,596 | 0 |
| North London Waste Authority[1] | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Southwark LB | 4,140 | 0 | 1,467 | 57 | 1,055 | 0 |
| Lewisham LB | 6,801 | 1 | 1,709 | 46 | 193 | 30 |
| Greenwich LB | 1,074 | 0 | 945 | 0 | 334 | 8,034 |
| Sutton LB | 1,270 | 0 | 2,410 | 0 | 1,243 | 10,255 |
| Merton LB | 5,849 | 0 | 1,731 | 1 | 578 | 674 |
| Kingston upon Thames LB | 5,093 | 789 | 1,250 | 10 | 2,867 | 0 |
| Croydon LB | 6,777 | 0 | 3,874 | 120 | 3,319 | 0 |
| Bromley LB | 16,737 | 323 | 4,847 | 744 | 2,221 | 954 |
| Richmond upon Thames LB | 8,713 | 0 | 4,250 | 186 | 1,267 | 0 |
| Hounslow LB | 7,244 | 0 | 2,964 | 361 | 2,005 | 0 |
| Hillingdon LB | 2,121 | 16 | 1,619 | 7 | 4,715 | 9,974 |

Tonnes

| Local authority name | Paper and card | Plastic | Glass | Cans (steel and aluminium) | Scrap metal and white goods | Co-mingled materials |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Harrow LB | 5,972 | 0 | 1,818 | 624 | 1,028 | 0 |
| Ealing LB | 8,109 | 156 | 3,710 | 416 | 991 | 0 |
| Brent LB | 5,895 | 8 | 2,270 | 163 | 15 | 0 |
| West London Waste Authority[1] | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3,491 | 0 |
| Wandsworth LB | 1,118 | 0 | 590 | 27 | 0 | 13,511 |
| Lambeth LB | 5,386 | 0 | 3,814 | 353 | 122 | 0 |
| Kensington and Chelsea LB | 1,827 | 3 | 414 | 8 | 152 | 8,172 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham LB | 1,771 | 0 | 860 | 27 | 180 | 5,495 |
| Western Riverside Waste Authority[1] | 637 | 1 | 116 | 1 | 1,030 | 0 |
| All London Boroughs | 164,930 | 1,783 | 67,692 | 4,302 | 43,637 | 70,806 |

[1] Data from Defra's latest Municipal Waste Management Survey covering the amounts of material collected at Civic Amenity sites managed by the four joint waste disposal authorities in London.

**Stephen Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what *(a)* waste minimisation and *(b)* recycling targets the Government have set for local authorities for each year to 2015. [14477]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Government set targets for England and Wales in Waste Strategy 2000 for the recycling and composting of household waste by 25 per cent. by 2005, 30 per cent. by 2010 and 33 per cent. by 2015.

Each local authority in England was set an individual statutory performance standard for the recycling and composting of household waste for the financial years 2003–04 and 2005–06. For the future, the Government are currently undertaking a review of recycling and composting targets in the light of local authorities' performance against their 2003–04 targets.

No targets have been set for waste minimisation. The review will also consider whether it is appropriate to introduce waste minimisation targets.

**Stephen Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what measures her Department has in place *(a)* to reduce energy consumption, *(b)* to minimise waste and *(c)* to recycle waste; and whether these measures have been adopted by other central Government Departments and agencies. [14478]

**Mr. Morley:** The following energy and waste management measures are in place within Defra.

*(a)* We are working with the Carbon Trust on a Carbon Management Programme, which will identify the scope for significant savings in energy consumption and related carbon emissions. Energy consumption at all sites is continually monitored against benchmarks to drive down consumption and facilitate appropriate reaction to increases.

*(b)* Waste minimisation measures include raising awareness of the amount of waste generated (by waste stream) at individual sites to encourage local action for progressive reduction. Particular efforts are made to reduce paper waste by setting targets and campaigning for more efficient use of paper. Discussions also take place with suppliers to reduce packaging waste. By identifying the potential for re-using goods we divert them from the waste chain.

*(c)* All Defra sites have facilities for separating waste streams for recycling.

Within Defra we are increasingly managing these issues at local level through site specific Environmental Management Systems, accredited to ISO 14001.

Similar measures have been adopted in other Government Departments and agencies. The Framework for Sustainable Development on the Government Estate is the main vehicle for systematically assessing, reporting and improving Government performance in managing their own land and buildings sustainably. It sets cross-Government targets in all key operational areas including energy, waste and water. The Government are committed to reviewing the framework during 2005.

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which local authorities charge for the separate collection of green waste. [14222]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The information requested for England is not held centrally. Waste is a devolved function and the hon. Member may wish to write to the devolved Administrations.

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the impact of green waste collection and composting schemes on the levels of recycling of municipal waste; and how much municipal waste other than green waste was recycled in the last period for which figures are available. [14991]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Figures are available for the amount of green waste collected for composting from households in England since 1996–97. Household waste constitutes about 90 per cent. of all municipal waste, and the vast majority of non-household municipal waste collected for recycling is rubble from construction and industry.

The amount of waste collected for recycling from households has increased from 1.6 million tonnes in

1996–97 to 4.5 million tonnes in 2003–04. However, the amount of green waste collected for composting has increased from 0.3 million tonnes in 1996–97 to 1.4 million tonnes in 2003–04. In 2003–04 about 30 per cent. of household waste collected for recycling was green waste compared to only 17 per cent. in 1996–97.

*Household waste collected for recycling*

*Thousand tonnes*

| | *1996–97* | *1997–98* | *1998–99* | *1999–00* | *2000–01* | *2001–02* | *2002–03* | *2003–04* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Green Waste | 278 | 383 | 454 | 668 | 798 | 978 | 1,189 | 1,360 |
| Other Materials | 1,341 | 1,486 | 1,640 | 1,845 | 1,980 | 2,210 | 2,554 | 3,156 |
| All Materials | 1,619 | 1,869 | 2,094 | 2,513 | 2,777 | 3,188 | 3,743 | 4,516 |

DEFRA will be publishing recycling data for 2003–04 as part of the Municipal Waste Management Survey to be launched on 1 August. The results of the survey will include information on the materials collected.

### Water Charges

**Mr. Streeter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will take steps to reduce the differences in water charges between the south-west and other regions of the country. [14565]

**Mr. Morley:** The south-west does have the highest bills in England and Wales, but like other companies, water companies must meet their costs, including those of environmental standards. Ultimately, those costs have to be met by their customers. Ofwat sets an upper limit on customer prices, but there is a strong and visible link between what the company spends and the customers who fund that through their bills.

Measures to change the difference in water bills between regions would involve shifting some of the burden either onto national taxpayers or onto water customers in other parts of the country. There are no plans to subsidise South West Water's investment in this way. Any such measures would overturn the present legislative and regulatory framework—a system that has delivered impressive efficiency savings that have been passed on to customers.

There are vulnerable customers throughout the country, not only in the south-west, and we must consider their costs and the way in which any changes in the current charging system would apply to them.

**Mr. Streeter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will take steps to assist those on low incomes in the south-west to pay their water charges. [14567]

**Mr. Morley:** The Government have already taken action, through legislation, to alleviate problems with water affordability where there might be a risk to household health. We have legislated to stop household water disconnection because of inability to pay and set up protection for vulnerable groups on meters who might otherwise cut back on water that they could not afford.

Financial support for families and for pensioners on low and moderate incomes has risen significantly in recent years. As a result of personal tax and benefit measures implemented by the Government since 1997, by September this year, in real terms families with children will be on average £1,350 a year better off, pensioner households will be on average £1,350 a year better off and the poorest third of pensioner households will have gained £1,750 a year.

Further to the cross Government review of Water Affordability published in December 2004 we are working with other stakeholders on a pilot study in the south-west which will target, and assess the effectiveness of water affordability assistance to lower income households.

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what role the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister plays in the assessment of rateable values for water rates. [12014]

**Mr. Woolas:** I have been asked to reply.

The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister has no role in the assessment of rateable values for water rates.

Rateable values pre-date the current council tax system as a means of calculating local taxation rates. They were set by the Valuation Office, an executive agency of the Inland Revenue, and could be queried or reassessed prior to 1990, but this has not been possible since they ceased to be used for local taxation purposes and there has been no appeal mechanism since 31 March 1990.

Water companies continue to use rateable values as a basis for unmeasured water charging.

### Zoo Licensing Legislation

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will *(a)* issue definitive guidance to local authorities on all species status under the Zoo Licensing Act 1981 (as amended) and *(b)* revise the Zoo Licensing Act 1981. [14197]

**Jim Knight:** On point *(a)* , the Department already issues comprehensive guidance to local authorities on the Zoo Licensing Act 1981 (as amended) in the form of Defra Circular 02/2003 and the Secretary of State's Standards of Modern Zoo Practice (last revised in 2004). In addition, the Zoos Forum (the Government's advisers on zoos issues) also publishes supplementary guidance.

Circular 02/2003 includes guidance to local authorities on which groups of species are considered, for the purposes of the Act, to be "wild animals" (thereby triggering the requirement for a zoo licence if exhibited) or "normally domesticated" animals, focusing on cases which have caused uncertainty (this is updated by more recent guidance on llama and alpaca). The guidance is kept under review but there are no plans at present to develop further substantive guidance on this.

On point *(b)*, there are no plans at present to further revise the Zoo Licensing Act 1981.

### Environmental Funding

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much funding has been spent on or committed to environmental schemes within each growth area. [13787]

**Yvette Cooper:** I have been asked to reply.

All growth areas have benefited from various levels of investment in environmental schemes, much of which has been delivered through mainstream funding. The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and its non-departmental public bodies, such as the Countryside Agency, have invested approximately £65 million in environmentally based grant and programme support beyond mainstream funding since 2003 into the growth areas to support the development, protection and enhancement of all environmental assets. More targeted funding programmes led by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister such as the Growth Areas Fund and Liveability Fund, have provided £45.4 million between 2003 and 2006 to deliver environmental schemes to support the Sustainable Communities Plan.

## EDUCATION AND SKILLS

### 2020 Trust

**Mr. Cameron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much money her Department has given to the 2020 Trust in the last eight years; and for what purpose. [13755]

**Maria Eagle:** We have found no trace of any payments being made from the Department to an organisation named the 2020 Trust.

### Adoption

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills whether European Union member states which have ratified the European Convention of the Adoption of Children recognise adoptions made in the UK; and if she will make a statement. [14154]

**Maria Eagle:** The 1967 European Convention on the Adoption of Children aims to harmonise the laws in contracting states to promote the welfare of children who are adopted. However, the Convention does not provide for international recognition of adoptions made in the UK, or in any other country. It is a matter for each European Union member state which has ratified the Convention to decide whether to recognise adoptions made outside its jurisdiction.

**John Hemming:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills for what reasons the weight of potential foster parents or adoptive parents is taken into account when people are considered as potential candidates. [14803]

**Beverley Hughes:** In respect of foster carers, the Fostering Services Regulations 2002 require fostering service providers to obtain information about the health of a prospective carer, as well as a range of other information, in order to assess that person's suitability and capacity to care effectively for a looked after child. There are no specific requirements relating to weight.

In respect of adoptive parents, I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 11 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 830W.

### Adult/Community Learning

**Mr. Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what the Learning and Skills Council funding for adult education in each county has been in each year since 1997; [14102]

(2) what funding on adult education in Northamptonshire not including the funding for 14 to 19-year-olds is planned for the next 10 years, expressed in *(a)* actual and *(b)* real terms; and what assessment she has made of the implications of the funding settlement for lifelong learning in the county over that period. [14106]

**Beverley Hughes:** The Department allocates funds for education and training in the post-16 learning and skills sector to the Learning and Skills Council (LSC). In the Department's Grant Letter of 15 November 2004, the LSC was allocated £6.7 billion in 2005–06, £6.8 billion in 2006–07 and £7.1 billion in 2007–08 for learning participation, which includes funding for adult education. For the years from 2008–09, allocations will be determined by the next Spending Review. At local level, allocations are made by the LSC. This process has been completed for 2005/06 and the LSC expects to begin discussions about 2006/07 in September 2005.

The LSC publishes details of its allocations to learning providers. Information for further education and adult and community learning for 2004/05 and preceding years are available on the LSC website.

**Mr. Frank Field:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if she will ensure fee concessions remain in place for those aged 60 who wish to study in a further education college in Wirral. [7511]

**Beverley Hughes:** Older people will continue to be eligible for concessions funded by my Department through the Learning and Skills Council if they are receiving an income based benefit such as housing benefit or council tax benefit, or if they are receiving the pension (guarantee) credit. Learners of any age will also have access to literacy, numeracy and English language courses free of charge. Colleges in Wirral will continue to have considerable discretion in setting fees, and although we want colleges to raise more of the income they voluntarily forgo, we have no plans to stop colleges offering additional concessions if appropriate.

**Mr. Brady:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the budget for adult and community learning per head of population for each local education authority is for *(a)* 2005–06 and *(b)* 2006–07. [8792]

**Phil Hope:** The exact makeup and distribution of learning provision at local level are matters for local Learning and Skills Councils and their partners in colleges and other providers, according to their assessment of local needs and priorities. Mark Haysom,

the LSC's Chief Executive, will write to the hon. Member with more detailed information. A copy of his reply will be placed in the Library.

*Letter from Mark Haysom to Mr. Brady, dated 14 July 2005:*

I write in response to your recent Parliamentary Questions to the Secretary of State where you asked a) the number of people in each local education authority who are engaged in adult and community learning b) the budget for adult and community learning per head of population for each local education authority for *(a)* 2005–06 and *(b)* 2006–07.

The information we have on numbers of learners relates to the last full year, August 2003 until July 2004. In that year, 922,707 learners participated in adult and community learning (ACL) programmes, including those participating in Family Learning, Family Literacy, Language and Numeracy (FLLN) as well as main ACL.

ACL budgets for 2005/06 are with local Learning and Skills Councils, who are in the process of agreeing allocations with providers, including LEAs, for the year. Whilst it is not possible to supply complete LEA-level budget per head of population figures at present, I have attached the relevant figures at local LSC level.

We will take decisions about programme funding for 2006/07 early in the new year.

**Mr. Brady:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what estimate she has made of the number of people in each local education authority who are engaged in adult and community learning. [8868]

**Phil Hope:** The exact make up and distribution of learning provision at local level are matters for local Learning and Skills Councils and their partners in colleges and other providers, according to their assessment of local needs and priorities. Mark Haysom, the LSC's chief executive, will write to the hon. Member with more detailed information. A copy of his reply will be placed in the House Libraries.

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We will take decisions about programme funding for 2006/07 early in the new year.

### Adults (Qualifications)

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what percentage of working age people in the Southend West constituency hold a qualification at degree level or equivalent or above; and what the national average is. [14262]

**Beverley Hughes:** The following table shows both the number and proportion of those of working age[1] who hold at least a degree level or equivalent qualification (NVQ level 4 or higher) in England and the parliamentary constituency of Southend West.

| | *Degree or equivalent (number)* | *Degree or equivalent (Percentage)* | *Estimate of error (Percentage)* |
|---|---|---|---|
| England | 7,574,000 | 25.0 | 0.2 |
| Southend West | 10,000 | 21.9 | 3.5 |

*Source:*
Annual Local Area Labour Force Survey 2003–04

Figures for two years earlier, in 2001–02, are presented for comparison in the following table:

| | *Degree or equivalent (number)* | *Degree or equivalent (Percentage)* | *Estimate of error (Percentage)* |
|---|---|---|---|
| England | 7,035,000 | 23.4 | 0.2 |
| Southend West | 9,000 | 19.4 | 3.2 |

*Source:*
Annual Local Area Labour Force Survey 2001–02

[1] Working age defined here as males aged 16–64 and females aged 16–59.

### Affordable Childcare

**Lynda Waltho:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what steps the Government are taking to improve access to affordable child care for working women. [14323]

**Beverley Hughes:** The stock of child care places has increased by over 537,000 places nationally since 1999. This benefits all working parents.

The Government are also making significant contributions to help parents access affordable child care through tax credits. The child care element of the working tax credit enables parents to claim up to 70 per cent. of their child care costs to a maximum cost of £175 per week for one child and £300 per week for two or more children. From April 2006 the 70 per cent. maximum will increase to 80 per cent. making child care more affordable.

In addition to tax credits, we have introduced free nursery education for all three and four-year-olds for 33 weeks per year. From April 2006, this free entitlement will be extended to 38 weeks per year and from 2007, the weekly entitlement will extend from 12.5 hours per week to 15 hours and parents will be able to use this flexibly over three days. This increase will again make child care more accessible and affordable to parents.

Our recently announced Ten Year Strategy also included details of a Transformation Fund of £125 million a year which will be used to raise the quality and sustainability of affordable child care provision, ensuring value for money and without compromising affordability for parents.

Our strategy also announced that the Department, together with the Greater London Authority will pilot a range of approaches aimed at improving the

accessibility and affordability of good quality child care for parents on lower incomes. The first of these pilots is due to commence towards the end of this year.

### African Faith Healers

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what research she has commissioned into the influence of African faith healers on vulnerable children. [12810]

**Maria Eagle:** Ministers have not commissioned research into the influence of African faith healers. However we are currently working with our partners in the Immigration Department, police, social services, faith and community groups and other experts to better understand this complex issue. That is why we have convened an urgent round-table discussion with representatives of all these groups, to continue the process of dialogue and investigation and to deepen engagement with these hard-to-reach communities. Following this discussion we will set out the scope of further work in this area.

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what discussions she has had with social services in *(a)* Angola and *(b)* Nigeria regarding African faith healers and child abuse. [12829]

**Maria Eagle** *[holding answer 28 July 2005]:* Ministers have not had discussions with social services in Angola or Nigeria regarding this issue.

### Aimhigher Initiative

**Mr. Sarwar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the objectives and targets of the Aimhigher initiative are; and what assessment she has made of its effectiveness. [13433]

**Bill Rammell:** Aimhigher is funded to help widen participation in higher education (HE) and increase the number of young people who have the abilities and aspirations to benefit from it. The objectives are:

to raise aspirations and motivation to enter HE among young people in schools, further education and workplace learning, who are from under-represented groups;

to raise the attainment of potential HE students who are from under-represented groups, so that they gain the academic or vocational qualifications and learning skills that will enable them to enter HE;

to strengthen progression routes into HE via vocational courses, including modern Apprenticeships;

to raise students' aspirations to enter HE and to apply to the institution and/or course best able to match their abilities;

to improve the attainment, aspirations, motivation and self-esteem of gifted and talented young people aged 14–19; and the quality of identification, provision and support for those students in schools and colleges.

Further details can be found on the Aimhigher website www.aimhigher.ac.uk

Recent evaluation of the early stages of the former Excellence Challenge programme, which funded activities now typically funded through Aimhigher, has reported measurable improvements in attainment and aspirations. It shows that:

The programme has led to improved pre-16 attainment: pupils exposed to the programme are on average 4.6 percentage points more likely to attain a level 4 or above in Key Stage 3 Maths.

At Year 11, those who have been exposed to the programme are on average likely to increase their total GCSE score by 2.5 points, which corresponds to an increase of between 2 and 3 grades in one GCSE.

Exposure to the programme improves pupils' aspirations. The proportion exposed to the scheme and reporting that they intend to remain in full-time education until at least the age of 20 is 3.9 percentage points higher than it would be in the absence of the scheme.

Targeting two groups, (Gifted and Talented, and Widening Participation) has been effective. For the Gifted and Talented group there has been an additional 13.32 months of progress at Key Stage 3, and an additional 4.42 points in total GCSE score. For the Widening Participation group, there has been an additional 6.48 months of progress at Key Stage 3, and an additional 1.16 points in total GCSE points score.

The evaluation reports are available on the DfES website.

### Appointments

**Mr. Meacher:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what appointments were made to lead bodies providing services within the education sector for which she is responsible in each year since 1997; and what their *(a)* role, *(b)* pay, *(c)* length of tenure at appointment and *(d)* previous experience in (i) the public sector and (ii) private sector was in each case. [14373]

**Bill Rammell:** Details of appointments to the boards of non-departmental public bodies are published each year in the departmental report, listing names, role, pay and term of appointment.

The Department for Education and Skills (DfES) was established in June 2001. departmental reports for 2002 onwards are available online at the DfES website and in the House of Commons Library. Department for Education and Employment (DfEE) reports for 1997 to 2001 are available in the House of Commons Library.

Details of appointees' previous experience in the public or private sector are not recorded in the reports. This information is available from press notices announcing the appointments. Press notices from 1998 onwards are available from the DfES website.

### Apprenticeships

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many apprenticeships have started since May 2004 resulting from employer leads directly attributable to the Learning and Skills Council's marketing campaign for apprenticeships, broken down by region. [6506]

**Phil Hope:** This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council. Mark Haysom, the Council's Chief Executive, will write to the hon. Member with this information and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Libraries.

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many young people in each region responded to the recent apprenticeship marketing campaign; and how many inquiries led to apprenticeship starts. [6507]

**Phil Hope:** This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council. Mark Haysom, the Council's Chief Executive, will write to the hon. Member with this information and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Library.

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many employers have started training apprentices since May 2004 as a direct result of the apprenticeship marketing campaign, broken down by region; and how many of those have never trained apprentices before. [6508]

**Phil Hope:** This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council. Mark Haysom, the Council's Chief Executive, will write to the hon. Member with this information and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Library.

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much the Learning and Skills Council has spent on marketing and advertising apprenticeships, including development costs, since the beginning of 2004. [6509]

**Phil Hope:** This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council. Mark Haysom, the Council's Chief Executive, will write to the hon. Member with this information and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Library.

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many modern apprenticeships were taken up in *(a)* the North West, *(b)* Lancashire and *(c)* Chorley in each of the last three years; and how many were not completed. [7656]

**Bill Rammell:** The Government are committed to providing high quality apprenticeships for young people and the number of apprentices in training has more than tripled since 1997 to around 250,000. The Learning and Skills Council is responsible for the planning and funding of apprenticeships and Mark Haysom, the Council's Chief Executive, will write to my hon. Friend with the information requested for the North West, Lancashire and Chorley. A copy of his reply will be placed in the Library.

*Letter from Mark Haysom to Mr. Lindsay Hoyle, dated 8 July 2005:*

I write in response to your recent Parliamentary Question to the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (which has been referred to the Learning and Skills Council LSC for a response) regarding how many school leavers are expected to take up apprenticeships in 2005–06 in *(a)* Lancashire and *(b)* Chorley.

LSC Lancashire does not generate this information, however Connexions does gather data on the intended destinations of all young people leaving school each summer. The data for summer 2005 would give the best indication of the numbers of school leavers expected to take up apprenticeships in 2005–06. LSC Lancashire has contacted Connexions Lancashire and they have provided the following data. The number of young people in Lancashire intending to take up an apprenticeship is 4743 and of these, 284 will live in Chorley.

I trust this is helpful.

## Modern Apprenticeships

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what her estimate is of the number of people *(a)* starting and *(b)* completing Modern Apprenticeships in 2005–06; and what funding has been allocated to Modern Apprenticeships in 2005–06. [13901]

**Phil Hope:** The Apprenticeship programme continues to go from strength to strength with record numbers of young people participating and completion rates improving more quickly than expected. We have ensured that sufficient funding is made available to the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) who deliver the programme, to meet our targets and aspiration in this area. This will continue in the next funding year 2005–06. However, the details asked are a matter for the LSC and I have asked the Council's Chief Executive Mark Haysom to write to the hon. Member and a copy of the reply will be placed in the Library.

*Letter from Mark Haysom to Mr. Stephen O'Brien, dated 5 September 2005:*

I write in response to your recent Parliamentary Question to the Secretary of State for Education and Skills, which has been referred to the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) by Phil Hope.

You asked the number of people *(a)* starting and *(b)* completing Modern Apprenticeships in 2005–06; and what funding has been allocated to Modern Apprenticeships in 2005–06.

The planning assumptions on which the Apprenticeship programme for 2005–06 has been based are as follows:

*(a)* Apprenticeship starts forecasted at 232,394 learners.

*(b)* Apprenticeship framework completions 65,260 learners.

*(c)* Funding set aside for the Apprenticeship programme £831 million.

You also what the total spending by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) was on promotion of apprenticeships in each of the last 10 years.

The LSC was incorporated on 1st April 2001, as such the first financial year for which the LSC assumed responsibility for managing the delivery of apprenticeships was 2001–02. Table 1 below shows the total expenditure coded as marketing, advertising, development and promotion of apprenticeships in the LSCs accounts for the 2001–02 and subsequent financial years.

*Table 1*

| *Financial Year* | *Total expenditure (£ million)* |
|---|---|
| 2001–02 | 8.715 |
| 2002–03 | 10.750 |
| 2003–04 | 4.684 |
| 2004–05 | 15.050 |
| Total | 39.200 |

During the financial year April 2004 to March 2005, the LSC spent £12.206 million on national marketing and promotion of Apprenticeships; this included the national employer campaign.

Local LSCs spent a further £2.845 million undertaking brokerage activities with local partners to build on and respond to interest generated by the national employer campaign.

To date the national media campaign has achieved 28,925 responses, resulting in 18,743 employer leads.

Our research[1] also shows that awareness of Apprenticeships rose significantly during the campaign, with nearly 90% of employer respondents aware of Apprenticeships in October 2004 compared with 72% in December 2003 (pre-campaign).

I trust this is helpful.

[1] *Source:* Apprenticeship Research: Employers
Synovate November 2004
Commissioned for the LSC by COI Communications

## Chemistry

. **Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many undergraduates studied *(a)* chemistry and *(b)* biochemistry in (i) 2004–05 and (ii) 1995–96 (A) in total and (B) as a percentage of the total undergraduate population. [10168]

**Bill Rammell:** The latest information is given in the following table:

*Undergraduate students[1] at English HE institutions 1995/96 and 2003/04*

| | *Subject of study* | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Chemistry* | | *Biochemistry (including molecular biology and biophysics)* | |
| | *Student numbers* | *Percentage of undergraduate population* | *Student numbers* | *Percentage of undergraduate population* |
| 1995/96 | 12,960 | 1.1 | 5,125 | 0.5 |
| 2003/04 | 10,390 | 0.7 | 5,945 | 0.4 |

[1] Based on a count of students as at 1 December in each academic year.
*Notes:*
1. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 5.
2. In 2002/03, changes were made to the method used to allocate students to subjects of study. The main effect of this was to increase the number of students allocated to individual named subjects and to decrease those who were allocated to the "Combined Course" category. This means that figures for 2002/03 and 2003/04 are not directly comparable with those for earlier years.
*Source:*
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

## Child Minders

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) how many complaints against child minders investigated by Ofsted have subsequently turned out to be vexatious in each of the last five years; [12830]

(2) how many investigations against child minders have been undertaken by Ofsted in each of the last five years; and how many resulted in action. [12831]

**Beverley Hughes** *[holding answer 18 July 2005]:* These are matters for the Office of Standards in Education (Ofsted). David Bell, Her Majesty's Chief Inspector for Schools will write to the hon. Gentleman and a copy of his reply will be placed in the Library.

*Letter from David Bell to Mr. Tim Loughton, dated 22 July 2005:*

Your recent parliamentary questions concerning childminders have been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for reply.

You asked:

(i) how many complaints against childminders investigated by Ofsted have subsequently turned out to be vexatious in each of the last five years.

(ii) how many investigations against childminders have been undertaken by Ofsted in each of the last five years; and how many resulted in action.

In relation to the first question, Ofsted does not record the number of vexatious complaints made against childminders. Ofsted's role is to help to secure better education and care through effective inspection and regulation. Ofsted looks into complaints which suggest that childminders and day care providers are not meeting the government's National Standards.

Ofsted's first concern is with the welfare of the children in the provider's care. When Ofsted has investigated a complaint it records the outcome of the investigation. This could be the action the provider or Ofsted had to take to bring about compliance with the Standards or that Ofsted found the provider to be meeting the National Standards. Ofsted reports either outcome to parents and in its regular inspection reports. It does not record or report whether a complaint was vexatious. It may be, of course, that even if a complaint was vexatious it could still lead Ofsted to identify some areas for improvement in the childminder's practice and so have a positive impact on the children concerned.

However, Ofsted does recognise that providers will have concerns about having a number of complaints recorded against their names, even if Ofsted on inspection found that National Standards were being met. For that reason, where it appears that a number of complaints could have been made by the same source and they all resulted in a finding that the Standards were being met, they are not reported on in inspection reports individually.

Ofsted recognises the concern childminders may feel about this issue and is looking at its practice to see if it can handle complaints in a more transparent and effective way. The government has just consulted on a new duty to be placed on providers to investigate and report on complaints. It may be that Ofsted will be able to change its complaints procedures and recording in the light of this. It will work with provider organisations to make sure it does this as well as it can.

In relation to your second question, please find attached two tables with this information.

A copy of this reply has been sent to the Rt Hon Beverley Hughes MP and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

*Investigations against child minders undertaken by Ofsted and the number of resulting actions[1]*

| *Financial year[2]* | *Number of investigations against child minders* | *Number of resulting actions against child minders* |
|---|---|---|
| April 2004 to March 2005 | 2,448 | 456 |
| April 2003 to March 2004 | 2,550 | 398 |

| *Transitional period[3]* | *Number of complaints received by Ofsted about child care provision* | *Number of resulting enforcement actions against child minders and providers of day care* |
|---|---|---|
| September 2001 to March 2003 | [4]10,500 | [4]410 |

[1] The law gives Ofsted a number of actions that it can follow in the event of a provider failing to meet their statutory obligations, including compliance notices, prosecution for some offences and cancellation of a registration. Ofsted can also impose specific conditions on a registration or suspend a registration whilst steps are taken to reduce or eliminate the risk of harm to children.

[2] Ofsted's Early Years Directorate counts, records and publishes data by financial year, 1 April to 31 March, and not by calendar year.
[3] The duty to regulate and inspect under 8s child care transferred from the local authorities to Ofsted on 1 September 2001. The first 18 months of Ofsted's regulatory activity, between 1 September 2001 and March 2003, was considered a transitional period. During the transition period Ofsted's focused on ensuring existing child care providers were able to make the transition from local authority requirements to the governments new minimum criteria for all under 8s child care set out in "National standards for under 8s day care and childminding".
[4] No breakdown between day care and child minding for the period (see following note).
*Note:*
Data recorded during the transitional period does not always differentiate between day care and child minding. We have provided child minder data where this is available.

*Breakdown of enforcement action*

| *All figures are for child minding unless otherwise stated* | *September 2001 to March 2003*[1] | *April 2003 to March 2004*[2] | *April 2004 to March 2005*[2] |
|---|---|---|---|
| Notice of compliance instructing providers they must comply with the National Standards | [3]40 (Child minders 17) | 130 | 130 |
| Change to conditions of registration | [3]68 | 17 | 14 |
| Voluntary suspension of registration | [3]106 | 77 | 95 |
| Statutory suspension of registration[4] | n/a | 29 | 27 |
| Cancellation of registration | [3]45 | 36 | 81 |
| Emergency order from a Justice of the Peace | [3]27 | 2 | 4 |
| Prosecution | Confirming data | 3 | 1 |
| Enforcement action against unregistered child minding | 124 | 104 | 104 |
| Total number of resulting actions against child minders | — | 398 | 456 |

[1] The duty to regulate and inspect under 8s child care transferred from the local authorities to Ofsted on 1 September 2001. The first 18 months of Ofsted's regulatory activity, between 1 September 2001 and March 2003, was considered a transitional period. During the transition period Ofsted's focused on ensuring existing child care providers were able to make the transition from local authority requirements to the governments new minimum criteria for all under 8s child care set out in "National standards for under 8s day care and childminding".
[2] Ofsted's Early Years Directorate counts, records and publishes data by financial year, 1 April to 31 March, and not by calendar year.
[3] Total for child minding and day care (see note 1).
[4] Statutory powers to suspend providers came into force 1 April 2003.

## Childcare Places

**Mr. Denis Murphy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many new childcare places have been created in each of the last three years in *(a)* England, *(b)* Northumberland and *(c)* Wansbeck constituency. [14538]

**Bill Rammell:** The Department is unable to provide constituency level data on childcare places.

However, from March 2002 to March 2005 nationally the registered stock of childcare places has increased by 282,549, with 1,564 of these being created in Northumberland. The following table details the number of places created in all local authorities (LAs) throughout England year by year, for the past 3 years.

| | *Childcare places created* | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *2002/03* | *2003/04* | *2004/05* | *Total* |
| Barking and Dagenham | 93 | 257 | 72 | 421 |
| Barnet | 465 | 296 | 901 | 1,662 |
| Barnsley | 289 | 671 | 427 | 1,387 |
| Bath and North East Somerset | 279 | 123 | 395 | 797 |
| Bedfordshire | 1,302 | 926 | -339 | 1,889 |
| Bexley | 520 | 458 | 299 | 1,278 |
| Birmingham | 444 | 2,549 | 1,179 | 4,172 |
| Blackburn UA | 335 | 979 | 385 | 1,698 |
| Blackpool UA | 434 | 344 | 258 | 1,036 |
| Bolton | 402 | 1,045 | 301 | 1,749 |
| Bournemouth UA | 470 | 797 | 830 | 2,098 |
| Bracknell Forest UA | 142 | 280 | -189 | 233 |
| Bradford | 1,060 | 1,414 | 826 | 3,300 |
| Brent | 303 | 674 | 253 | 1,229 |
| Brighton and Hove UA | 264 | 482 | 453 | 1,199 |
| Bristol | 1,282 | 1,002 | -33 | 2,251 |
| Bromley | -27 | 729 | 500 | 1,203 |
| Buckinghamshire | 856 | 1,211 | 653 | 2,720 |
| Bury | 6 | 551 | 487 | 1,044 |
| Calderdale | 359 | 632 | 604 | 1,595 |
| Cambridgeshire | 444 | 1,597 | 1,010 | 3,051 |
| Camden | 217 | 234 | -119 | 331 |
| Cheshire | 580 | 1,579 | 880 | 3,039 |
| City of London | -291 | 122 | 45 | -124 |
| Cornwall | 3357 | 1,536 | 870 | 5,763 |
| Coventry | -181 | 766 | 603 | 1,187 |
| Croydon | 387 | 747 | 1,388 | 2,522 |

| | Childcare places created | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2002/03 | 2003/04 | 2004/05 | Total |
| Cumbria | 767 | 2,334 | 1,018 | 4,120 |
| Darlington UA | 267 | 295 | 163 | 725 |
| Derby UA | 404 | 639 | 206 | 1,249 |
| Derbyshire | 1231 | 945 | 1,143 | 3,319 |
| Devon | -17 | 730 | 982 | 1,695 |
| Doncaster | 662 | 945 | 852 | 2,460 |
| Dorset | 33 | 478 | 664 | 1,174 |
| Dudley | 474 | 351 | 214 | 1,040 |
| Durham | 672 | 920 | 536 | 2,128 |
| Ealing | 227 | 778 | 415 | 1,421 |
| East Riding of Yorkshire | 542 | 691 | 13 | 1,247 |
| East Sussex | 817 | 1,850 | 627 | 3,294 |
| Enfield | 377 | 395 | 217 | 989 |
| Essex | 948 | 1,150 | 1,068 | 3,165 |
| Gateshead | 180 | 464 | 589 | 1,232 |
| Gloucestershire | 32 | 184 | 401 | 617 |
| Greenwich | 843 | 612 | 376 | 1,831 |
| Hackney | 277 | 547 | 1,651 | 2,475 |
| Halton UA | 7 | 1,204 | 163 | 1,374 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 378 | 323 | 641 | 1,342 |
| Hampshire | -2260 | 4,481 | 1,823 | 4,044 |
| Haringey | 230 | 838 | 596 | 1,664 |
| Harrow | 581 | 492 | 59 | 1,132 |
| Hartlepool UA | 710 | 533 | 426 | 1,669 |
| Havering | 686 | 459 | 469 | 1,614 |
| Herefordshire | 634 | 371 | 32 | 1,038 |
| Hertfordshire | 868 | 3,727 | 1,271 | 5,866 |
| Hillingdon | -421 | 255 | -115 | -281 |
| Hounslow | 185 | 326 | 553 | 1,064 |
| Isle of Wight | 293 | 226 | 235 | 755 |
| Isles of Scilly | 16 | -76 | -1 | -61 |
| Islington | 63 | 241 | 336 | 640 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 292 | 266 | 116 | 675 |
| Kent | -58 | 3,354 | 2,811 | 6,107 |
| Kingston Upon Hull | 1422 | 520 | 305 | 2,248 |
| Kingston Upon Thames | 21 | 496 | 350 | 867 |
| Kirklees | 428 | 881 | 602 | 1,911 |
| Knowsley | 172 | 476 | 587 | 1,235 |
| Lambeth | 458 | 1,091 | 627 | 2,175 |
| Lancashire | 215 | 3,854 | 2,617 | 6,685 |
| Leeds | 1532 | 402 | 823 | 2,756 |
| Leicester UA | 138 | 142 | 188 | 468 |
| Leicestershire | 4028 | 1,732 | 628 | 6,389 |
| Lewisham | 540 | 1,029 | 451 | 2,020 |
| Lincolnshire | 1537 | 1,699 | 656 | 3,892 |
| Liverpool | 306 | 1,611 | 1,056 | 2,973 |
| Luton UA | 1015 | 899 | 542 | 2,455 |
| Manchester | 578 | 1,378 | 224 | 2,180 |
| Medway | 690 | 733 | 442 | 1,865 |
| Merton | 627 | 733 | 329 | 1,689 |
| Middlesbrough | 383 | -146 | 252 | 489 |
| Milton Keynes UA | 334 | 662 | 1,146 | 2,141 |
| NE Lincolnshire | 557 | 621 | 398 | 1,576 |
| Newcastle Upon Tyne | 552 | 629 | 177 | 1,358 |
| Newham | 721 | 1,191 | 185 | 2,097 |
| Norfolk | 759 | 2,761 | 588 | 4,109 |
| North Lincolnshire | 531 | 391 | 326 | 1,248 |
| North Somerset | 282 | 682 | 560 | 1,524 |
| North Tyneside | 316 | 1,291 | -105 | 1,501 |
| North Yorkshire | 918 | 1,800 | 124 | 2,842 |
| Northamptonshire | 46 | 2,015 | 1,589 | 3,649 |
| Northumberland | 323 | 755 | 486 | 1,564 |
| Nottingham UA | 198 | 491 | 129 | 818 |
| Nottinghamshire | 1485 | 2,362 | 82 | 3,929 |
| Oldham | 660 | 1,606 | 325 | 2,592 |
| Oxfordshire | 941 | 2,055 | 238 | 3,234 |
| Peterborough UA | 854 | 1,015 | 403 | 2,272 |
| Plymouth | 585 | 911 | 414 | 1,910 |
| Poole UA | 389 | 285 | 79 | 752 |
| Portsmouth UA | 52 | 570 | 629 | 1,252 |
| Reading | 31 | 958 | 5 | 994 |
| Redbridge | 374 | 591 | 1,051 | 2,016 |

| | Childcare places created | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2002/03 | 2003/04 | 2004/05 | Total |
| Redcar and Cleveland UA | 356 | 657 | -6 | 1,007 |
| Richmond Upon Thames | 78 | 423 | 567 | 1,068 |
| Rochdale | 503 | 705 | -328 | 880 |
| Rotherham | 472 | 578 | 79 | 1,129 |
| Rutland UA | 56 | 164 | 119 | 339 |
| Salford | 643 | 803 | 112 | 1,558 |
| Sandwell | 640 | 630 | -94 | 1,177 |
| Sefton | 488 | 899 | 247 | 1,635 |
| Sheffield | 965 | 1,729 | 1,029 | 3,722 |
| Shropshire | 643 | 775 | 427 | 1,845 |
| Slough UA | 196 | -108 | 495 | 584 |
| Solihull | 295 | 28 | 388 | 711 |
| Somerset | 66 | 789 | 180 | 1,035 |
| South Gloucestershire | 604 | 470 | 532 | 1,606 |
| South Tyneside | 364 | 1,811 | -551 | 1,625 |
| Southampton UA | 43 | 1,466 | 167 | 1,675 |
| Southend UA | 345 | 824 | 110 | 1,279 |
| Southwark | 48 | 1,005 | 1,319 | 2,373 |
| St. Helens | 402 | 511 | 983 | 1,896 |
| Staffordshire | 1013 | 2,839 | 1,142 | 4,994 |
| Stockport | 68 | 592 | 446 | 1,107 |
| Stockton-on-Tees UA | 341 | 797 | 442 | 1,580 |
| Stoke-on-Trent | 315 | 607 | 410 | 1,331 |
| Suffolk | 1459 | 2,926 | 1,372 | 5,757 |
| Sunderland | 140 | 490 | 672 | 1,302 |
| Surrey | 1465 | 1,835 | 1,065 | 4,365 |
| Sutton | 276 | 460 | 660 | 1,396 |
| Swindon | 224 | 727 | 267 | 1,218 |
| Tameside | 500 | 688 | 558 | 1,745 |
| Telford and Wrekin UA | 296 | 193 | -257 | 232 |
| Thurrock UA | 427 | 704 | 95 | 1,227 |
| Torbay UA | 215 | 695 | 106 | 1,015 |
| Tower Hamlets | 777 | 655 | 195 | 1,627 |
| Trafford | 314 | 766 | -230 | 850 |
| Wakefield | 691 | 794 | 839 | 2,325 |
| Walsall | 505 | 872 | -92 | 1,284 |
| Waltham Forest | 399 | 366 | -54 | 711 |
| Wandsworth | 346 | 871 | 201 | 1,418 |
| Warrington UA | 409 | 942 | -151 | 1,200 |
| Warwickshire | 2533 | 1,155 | 1,097 | 4,785 |
| West Berks | 383 | -368 | 686 | 700 |
| West Sussex | 1574 | 1,626 | 1,516 | 4,716 |
| Westminster | -404 | 208 | -242 | -439 |
| Wigan | 562 | 1,153 | 441 | 2,155 |
| Wiltshire | -79 | 629 | 964 | 1,514 |
| Windsor and Maidenhead UA | 103 | 553 | 340 | 996 |
| Wirral | 1325 | 485 | 315 | 2,125 |
| Wokingham UA | 134 | -13 | 386 | 508 |
| Wolverhampton | 722 | 205 | 502 | 1,429 |
| Worcestershire | 924 | 1,712 | -86 | 2,550 |
| York UA | 46 | 37 | 207 | 290 |
| National total | 74,931 | 134,864 | 72,585 | 282,381 |

## Childcare Vouchers Scheme

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what representations she has received about the eligibility of teachers for the salary-sacrifice childcare vouchers scheme; and if she will make a statement. [14155]

**Beverley Hughes:** Ministers and the Department have received a number of written and telephone representations from teachers and teacher employers about the use of salary sacrifice for childcare vouchers. The possibility of making salary sacrifice available to teachers for childcare vouchers and other benefits is currently being considered.

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what assessment she has made of the practicality of altering the school teachers' pay and conditions document to enable provision for salary-sacrifice childcare vouchers. [14156]

**Beverley Hughes:** Making a provision for salary sacrifice in the school teacher's pay and conditions document, enabling teachers to use this facility for childcare vouchers and other benefits, requires the consideration and recommendation of the independent School Teachers' Review Body following a remit from my right hon. Friend. Such an alteration would also be preceded by consultation with national representatives of teachers, employers and governors.

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many teaching staff have had salary-sacrifice childcare vouchers issued and subsequently withdrawn since the scheme began. [14190]

**Beverley Hughes:** The information requested is not held centrally.

### Communication Aid Project

**Mr. Cameron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) how many applications are outstanding under the Communication Aid Project for speech and language therapy equipment for children with special educational needs; [14360]

(2) what plans she has to extend the funding for the Communication Aid Project; and if she will make a statement. [14361]

**Beverley Hughes:** The Communication Aids Project (CAP) is designed to help pupils with significant communication difficulties. This includes difficulties with understanding language, impaired oral communication or difficulties with written communication. The project supplies assistive technology to meet individual, assessed needs.

Since it began in April 2002, CAP has provided assessment, equipment and training for 3,662 pupils. According to the British Educational Communications and Technology Agency, who administer CAP on behalf of the Department, there are currently 430 pupils either awaiting assessment, or awaiting equipment following CAP assessment.

On present indications, it is expected that providing for these children will take up all available CAP funding in 2005–06. If, however, expenditure falls short of anticipated levels, the difference will be deployed in support of additional cases. These would be drawn from a further 439 referrals, currently on hold. All applicants have been informed of the position.

CAP is currently funded to March 2006. We will be reviewing the case for further funding in the months to come as part of a wider review of expenditure priorities.

### Correspondence

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many letters to her Department from hon. Members in session *(a)* 2004–05 and *(b)* 2005–06 remain unanswered, broken down by those which are (i) one-month-old, (ii) two-months-old, (iii) three-months-old, (iv) four-months-old and (v) over six-months-old. [13861]

**Beverley Hughes:** Information on letters from hon. Members is not collected in this format. The Cabinet Office, on an annual basis, publishes a report to Parliament on the performance of departments in replying to Members/Peers correspondence. The report for 2004 was published on 6 April 2005, *Official Report*, columns 137–40WS.

### Cycling

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if she will take steps to encourage cycling among school children. [14743]

**Beverley Hughes:** The Department for Education and Skills is one of six Departments overseeing the new expert body, Cycling England, which has been created to plan the investment of £5 million for each of three years to inspire "more cycling, more safely". Cycling England's first annual work plan will be published shortly and I expect it to contain new programmes supporting cycling to school.

In September 2003 the Government launched the "Travelling to School" action plan to encourage more walking and cycling on the journey to school, by developing travel plans. Schools receive a capital grant on completion of their travel plans, and to date around £35 million has been paid to over 6,000 schools with travel plans. Much of this money has been spent on cycle storage facilities, lockers and other facilities supporting cycling.

### Departmental Purchasing

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if she will list the companies from which her Department has purchased goods and services of a total value above £1 million in each of the last three years; and how much was spent in respect of each company. [11735]

**Bill Rammell:** The information requested has been placed in the House Libraries.

### Dyslexic Students

**Helen Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what arrangements have been put in place for students with dyslexia whose reading age is equal to their chronological age and who may have difficulties with short-term memory and speed of processing when taking examinations. [13359]

**Maria Eagle** *[holding answer 19 July 2005]:* I refer my hon. Friend to the reply given on 19 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 1582W about the arrangements that the awarding bodies make for students with special requirements. The Joint Council for Qualifications' Guidance referred to in that reply states that students with a dyslexic condition affecting short-term memory and speed of processing may be allowed up to a maximum of 25 per cent. extra time, granted by centres and depending on need, to finish writing papers.

### Education Maintenance Allowance

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what estimate she has made of the number of people in receipt of education maintenance allowance in the City of Newcastle upon Tyne; how many people she estimates are eligible for education maintenance allowance in the City; and what the take-up rate in the City is. [6352]

**Beverley Hughes:** This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council. Mark Haysom, the Council's Chief Executive, will write to my hon. Friend with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the Library.

**Annette Brooke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what proportion of those in receipt of an education maintenance allowance of *(a)* £30,

*(b)* £20 and *(c)* £10 are studying in (i) a further education college, (ii) a sixth form college, (iii) a school sixth form, (iv) an independent school and (v) another institution. [8963]

**Bill Rammell** *[holding answer 4 July 2005]:* This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council. Mark Haysom, the Council's Chief Executive, will write to the hon. Member with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the Library.

*Letter from Rob Wye to Annette Brooke, dated 20 July 2005:*

I am writing on Mark Haysom's behalf, due to him currently being on annual leave, in response to your Parliamentary Question in which you asked the Secretary of State for Education and Skills "what proportion of those in receipt of an education maintenance allowance of *(a)* £30, *(b)* £20 and *(c)* £10 are studying in (i) a further education college, (ii) a sixth form college, (iii) a school sixth form, (iv) an independent school and (v) another institution."

Information on students in receipt of education maintenance allowance and broken down by the three defined payment bands of £30, £20 and £10 is set out in the table below. This information is further broken down by institution type using the categories that we have adopted for EMA purposes. We do not hold this information for the institution types that you have specifically requested.

*Percentage*

| *Establishment Type* | *Band* £30 | £20 | £10 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Academies | 88.6 | 5.0 | 6.4 |
| City Technology College | 74.9 | 11.3 | 13.7 |
| Community | 74.2 | 11.9 | 13.9 |
| Community Special | 88.2 | 6.3 | 5.5 |
| Foundation | 72.6 | 12.5 | 15.0 |
| Foundation Special | 85.7 | 6.1 | 8.2 |
| Further Education | 81.0 | 9.2 | 9.8 |
| Higher Education Institutes | 81.3 | 8.3 | 10.4 |
| Independent Approved for SEN pupils | 47.0 | 22.7 | 30.3 |
| Miscellaneous | 69.0 | 10.3 | 20.7 |
| Non-Standard Institute | 85.0 | 6.7 | 8.3 |
| Non Maintained Special | 56.5 | 18.6 | 24.8 |
| Other Independent | 75.2 | 12.9 | 12.0 |
| Other Independent Special | 94.7 | 2.6 | 2.6 |
| Pupil Referral Unit | 94.1 | 5.9 | 0.0 |
| Secure Units | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Sixth Form Centres | 80.0 | 8.5 | 11.6 |
| Voluntary Aided | 74.3 | 11.8 | 13.9 |
| Voluntary Controlled | 69.2 | 13.8 | 16.9 |

I hope this information is helpful and addresses your question. If you would like further details please contact Clare Worsdale at the LSC National Office on 0114 207 4546 or Clare.Worsdale@lsc.gov.uk

## Equality and Diversity

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much the Department has spent promoting equality and diversity in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [14667]

**Bill Rammell:** The Department for Education and Skills commitment not to discriminate unfairly on any grounds is set out clearly in our recently revised equality and diversity policy, which recognises that everyone should have an equal opportunity to meet their aspirations, realise their full potential and improve their life chances. Making this policy a reality is our opportunity to contribute to delivery of both economic prosperity and the development of a fair and inclusive society.

Equality and diversity is the responsibility of everyone in the Department and many teams take actions within existing budgets, in the normal course of business. It is therefore not possible to establish specific costs for each separate activity. Over and above this there are a small number of teams within DfES who have specific responsibility for championing and promoting equality and diversity, their budgets amounting to some £18.5 million over the last five years (this is 0.02 per cent. of the total education budget). In addition further corporate awareness raising or training initiatives in this period have cost in excess of £0.5 million and publication of our revised Race Equality Scheme was at a cost of £5,000k.

## Extended Schools Initiative

**Mr. Gibb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what guidance her Department plans to provide to *(a)* schools and *(b)* local authorities to help them identify voluntary sector partners as part of the extended schools initiative; and if she will make a statement. [13960]

**Beverley Hughes:** The DfES recognises the significant role of voluntary sector and community organisations in supporting schools and local authorities (LAs) to deliver extended services. They will be key to the successful delivery of extended services and local authorities and schools will need to draw on their provision and expertise. Initial guidance for schools and LAs on partnership working with voluntary sector providers is available through the Extended Schools prospectus, launched on 13 June 2005. Also a "Know How" leaflet entitled, "Involving and Working with the Voluntary and Community Sectors", available through the Extended Schools website (www.teachernet.gov.uk/extendedschools), offers practical guidance and information on partnership working, engaging with voluntary and community organisations and useful contacts.

The NRT (National Remodelling Team) and ContinYou will be supporting local authorities in developing their extended services and in doing so will support them in brokering partnerships with the voluntary sector.

There are many voluntary and community sector organisations that schools will know through their existing contacts and other partnership working, such as through Education Improvement Partnerships (formerly know as Foundation Partnerships). Local authorities, through established contacts, can provide advice about wider groups, agencies and services and neighbourhood—level initiatives that are willing to working in partnership to develop extended services.

## Finnish Education System

**Mr. Allen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if she will make an assessment of the effect on the Finnish education system on the teaching of social behaviour and willingness to learn in early years education; and if she will make a statement. [14561]

**Beverley Hughes:** We are keen to learn from the experiences of other countries in developing policy and programmes and make regular assessments of what is happening in key comparator countries such as Finland. The Department has carefully assessed the OFSTED study "The education of six year olds in England, Denmark and Finland" and the OECD review of Early Childhood and Early Care (ECEC) which includes Finland. We have learnt from these international studies and the Department's own Effective Provision of Pre-school Education (EPPE) study that supporting children's early personal, social and emotional development and helping children to develop a positive attitude to learning in a holistic approach is crucial to future success.

The Department is taking forward a significant programme of work to support children's holistic development in all early years settings. The widely welcomed Birth to Three Matters and Foundation Stage set out the key principles that enable children to develop the key skills and positive attitude needed for all future learning. As we set out in our Childcare Bill Consultation we will be developing the Early Learning Development and Learning Framework that will ensure that young children are able to access the same high quality experience regardless of the type of setting they attend. The Framework will support practitioners in creating stimulating, inclusive, caring and learning environments so that all children have the opportunity to reach their full potential.

### Fostered Children

**Annette Brooke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what proportion of children in foster care who achieved no GCSE grades A* to C in 2004 had three or more placements in the previous two years; [15004]

(2) what proportion of children in foster care who achieved five or more GCSE grades A* to C in 2004 had three or more placements in the previous two years. [15005]

**Beverley Hughes:** Information on the educational attainment of looked after children is not collected centrally by type or number of placements. However, information on the GCSE grades of all children who have been looked after for 12 months or more may be found in Table C of "Outcome Indicators for Looked-after Children, 12 months to 30 September 2004—England" which is available on the internet at: http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgatewav/DB/VOL/v000580/Vol03–2005.pdf

### Green/White Papers

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many *(a)* Green and *(b)* White papers her Department has produced since 1997; and if she will list these in date order. [10581]

**Maria Eagle:** The following list shows the Green and White papers produced between 1997 and 2001.

A list of all Command Papers produced by Departments from 10 May 2001 to the end of June 2005, prepared by the Office of Public Sector Information (OPSI) has been placed in the Library. This list, by Department, details the Command Paper number, title and date of publication.

A list of Command Papers from 2001 onwards is also available on the OPSI website at www.opsi.gov.uk with links to the Command Papers where known. The list can be viewed alphabetically by Department as well as numerically.

Green Papers (consultative and discussion documents):

*1997*

Excellence for all children: meeting special educational needs

Connecting the learning society: National Grid for Learning. Consultation paper. DfEE, October 1997. ISBN: 0 85522 645 5.

Framework for the organisation of schools: technical consultation. DfEE, August 1997.

Guaranteeing standards: a consultation of the structure of awarding bodies. A summary report. DfEE, July 1997.

Millennium Volunteers a consultation document for citizens service. Consultation document DfEE, October 1997. ISBN: 0 85522 659 5.

Qualifying for success: a consultation paper on the future of post-16 qualifications. DfEE, October 1997.

Target setting and benchmarking in schools. Consultation paper. DfEE, September 1997.

Targets for our future: a consultation document. DfEE, December, 1997.

Teaching: high status, high standards: General Teaching Council—a consultation document. DfEE, September 1997.

*1998*

The learning age: a renaissance for a new Britain

Teachers: meeting the challenge of change

Meeting the childcare challenge: a framework and consultation document.

Accountability in further education: a consultation paper. DfEE, March 1998.

Advantage: consultation on a code of practice for age diversity in employment. DfEE, November 1998. ISBN: 0 85522 919 5.

Code of practice on LEA-school relations: Draft guidance. DfEE, March 1998.

Duties of trade organisations to their disabled members and applicants: Consultation on proposals for a Code of Practice. Consultation package. DfEE, July 1998.

Education Development Plans: Local Education Authorities plans to promote improved standards of pupil performance. DfEE, February 1998.

Employment Zones Consultation Paper. DfEE, February 1998.

Fair funding: improving delegation to schools. Consultation document. DfEE, May 1998.

Homework: guidelines for primary schools. Draft for consultation. DfEE, April 1998.

Homework: guidelines for secondary schools. Draft for consultation. DfEE, April 1998.

Improving access to information about post-16 learning opportunities. Consultation Document. DfEE, May 1998.

Induction for new teachers. Consultation Document. DfEE, April 1998. ISBN: 0 85522 7702.

Ingredients for success: a consultation paper on nutritional standards for school lunches. DfEE, October 1998. ISBN: 0 85522 884 9.

Learning and working together for the future: a consultation document. DfEE, October 1998. ISBN: 085522 629 3.

New requirements to make good facilities and services more accessible to disabled people. Consultations on a code of practice and regulations. DfEE, July 1998.

Parent governor representatives on Education Committees: Consultation paper. DfEE, April 1998 and on website.

Schools capital strategy. Consultation paper. DfEE, February 1998.

Teaching: high status, high standards: the composition of the General Teaching Council. Consultation document. DfEE, April 1998.

TECS: meeting the millennium challenge. DfEE, July.

*1999*

Ethnic Minority Achievement Grant. Consultation paper. DfEE, June 1999.

Excellence in cities. DfEE, 1999.

Learning to succeed: school sixth form funding. Consultation paper. DfEE, 1999.

*2001*

Schools building on success : raising standards, promoting diversity, achieving results

*White Papers (policy documents)*

| | *Document* | *Command paper* |
|---|---|---|
| 1997 | Excellence in schools | Cm 3681 |
| 1998 | Promoting disabled people's rights: creating a Disability Rights Commission fit for the 21st century | Cm 3977 |
| 1999 | Learning to succeed: a new framework for post-16 learning | Cm 4392 |
| 2001 | Opportunity for all in a world of change | Cm 5052 |
| — | Schools achieving success | Cm 5230 |

## Higher Education

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many UK-domiciled higher education qualifiers at *(a)* first degree and *(b)* postgraduate degree level there were in each year between 1994 and 2004. [11099]

**Bill Rammell:** The latest information is shown in the table:

*UK domiciled students obtaining higher education qualifications English HE institutions 1994/95 to 2003/04*

| | *Qualification obtained* | |
|---|---|---|
| | *Postgraduate* | *First Degree* |
| 1994/95 | 59,055 | 181,215 |
| 1995/96 | 67,320 | 189,425 |
| 1996/97 | 70,515 | 190,795 |
| 1997/98 | 70,660 | 189,505 |
| 1998/99 | 71,930 | 193,070 |
| 1999/00 | 74,795 | 194,045 |
| 2000/01 | 90,135 | 199,550 |
| 2001/02 | 93,280 | 201,215 |
| 2002/03 | 96,060 | 206,350 |
| 2003/04 | 103,105 | 212,575 |

*Note:*
Figures have been rounded to the nearest 5.
*Source:*
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many and what percentage of pupils in *(a)* Southend, *(b)* the Metropolitan Police area of London and *(c)* Hertfordshire went on to higher education from (i) maintained school sixth forms, (ii) sixth form colleges, (iii) further education colleges and (iv) special schools in the last year for which figures are available. [14128]

**Beverley Hughes:** Figures on participation by local areas were published by the Higher Education Funding Council for England in January in "Young Participation in England", which is available from their website at: http://www.hefce.ac.uk/pubs/hefce/2005/05_037. Participation rates for local education authorities based on this work (including those within the Metropolitan Police area), showing figures for the years up to 2000, are given on the supporting POLAR website (www.hefce.ac.uk/polar). However, the figures are not dis-aggregated by type of school attended.

The Department uses the Higher Education Initial Participation Rate (HEIPR) to assess progress on increasing first-time participation of English students aged 18–30 in higher education towards 50 per cent.: the latest provisional figure for 2003/04 is 43 per cent. The HEIPR is not calculated at local area level.

## Immigration and Asylum

**Mrs. Gillan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the cost was in each of the last three financial years of delivering education to individuals and their families in the immigration and asylum system. [14691]

**Bill Rammell:** The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost, however the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) estimate that in 2003–04, the latest period for which data are currently available, further education (FE) colleges received approximately £47 million for the education of asylum seekers and their dependants. Information for earlier years is not readily available. Asylum seekers and their dependants are eligible for FE if they are supported by the National Asylum Support Service (NASS) or receive similar (usually local authority) support. Asylum seekers not receiving NASS or similar support are not eligible for publicly funded FE.

In the first quarter of 2005, the number of asylum applications was 22 per cent. lower than the same period in 2004, and 69 per cent. lower than the fourth quarter of 2002. This fall in intake follows the introduction of a range of measures by the Government to reduce the number of unfounded asylum claims. We are continuing to introduce measures that will reduce the number of unfounded claims still further and increase removals of failed asylum seekers.

The Department does not keep separate records on the number of children of those in the immigration and asylum system who are being educated at school. Nor do data produced by the Higher Education Statistics Agency separately identify individuals and their families in the immigration and asylum system studying in higher education courses. It is not therefore possible to estimate costs for these areas of education.

## Looked-after Children

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many independent children's homes are registered in England. [12813]

**Maria Eagle:** Information provided by CSCI indicates that 1,239 independent children's homes were registered in England, as at 19 July 2005.

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many *(a)* announced and *(b)* unannounced inspections of children's homes have taken place since July 2004; how many homes have been inspected; and what percentage of the total this represents. [12815]

**Beverley Hughes:** The number of children's homes registered with the National Care Standards Commission (NCSC) at 31 March 2004 was 1,845. The Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) took over the responsibilities of the NCSC on 1 April 2004 and at 31 March 2005 2,046 children's homes were registered with the Commission.

Between 1 April 2004 and 31 March 2005 CSCI completed 100 per cent. of its regulatory inspections of children's homes. Between July 2004 and June 2005 CSCI inspected 1,984 children's homes making 1,488 announced inspections and 1,762 unannounced inspections. The 1,984 homes inspected represents 97 per cent. of the 2,046 children's homes registered with the Commission.

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many and what proportion of looked-after children *(a)* under the age of two, *(b)* aged two to five, *(c)* aged six to 10 and *(d)* aged ten or above experienced three or more changes of placement in (i) 2000, (ii) 2001, (iii) 2002, (iv) 2003 and (v) 2004. [13785]

**Beverley Hughes:** The information requested is provided in the following tables:

*Children looked after at 31 March 2000 to 2004, with three or more placements during the year[1, 2, 3]: England*

*Number*

| *Age at 31 March* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| All children | 11,600 | 9,600 | 9,100 | 9,000 | 7,900 |
| Under 2 | 1,200 | 790 | 810 | 720 | 640 |
| 2–5 | 1,800 | 1,300 | 1,200 | 1,200 | 880 |
| 6–10 | 2,400 | 1,800 | 1,600 | 1,500 | 1,200 |
| Over 10 | 6,200 | 5,700 | 5,600 | 5,600 | 5,200 |

[1] Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short term placements.
[2] Figures taken from the SSDA 903 return.
[3] Figures over 1,000 are rounded to nearest 100. All other figures are rounded to the nearest 10

*Children looked after at 31 March 2000 to 2004, with three or more placements during the year as a proportion of each age group for all looked after children[1, 2, 3]: England*

*Percentage*

| *Age at 31 March* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| All children | 20 | 16 | 15 | 15 | 13 |
| Under 2 | 25 | 17 | 16 | 14 | 12 |
| 2–5 | 19 | 14 | 13 | 13 | 10 |
| 6–10 | 17 | 13 | 11 | 11 | 9 |
| Over 10 | 21 | 19 | 17 | 17 | 16 |

[1] Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short term placements.
[2] Figures taken from the SSDA 903 return.
[3] Figures over 1,000 are rounded to nearest 100. All other figures are rounded to the nearest 10

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many local authorities have a specific policy for service provision for minority ethnic looked-after children. [13793]

**Maria Eagle:** Information about the number of local authorities which have a specific policy for service provision for minority ethnic looked-after children is not collected centrally. Information from the Commission for Social Care Inspection indicates that they are at a range of different stages in adapting their services in order to comply with their statutory duty to promote race equality, as required by the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000.

### Management Consultancies

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills which five management consultancies received the highest value of contracts awarded by her Department in each of the last three years; and what the total value was of the contracts awarded to each. [12571]

**Maria Eagle:** This information could be provided only at disproportionate costs.

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the total expenditure saved in each of the last three years as a result of implementing recommendations by management consultancies within the Department was. [13574]

**Maria Eagle:** This information could be provided only at disproportionate costs.

### Mathematics

**Mr. Gibb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many and what proportion of schools were rated good or better by Ofsted at teaching mathematics at key stages *(a)* 1, *(b)* 2, *(c)* 3 and *(d)* 4. [13267]

**Jacqui Smith:** This is a matter for HM Chief Inspector of Schools. David Bell, Her Majesty's Chief Inspector for Schools will write to the hon. Gentleman and a copy of his reply will be placed in the Library.

*Letter from David Bell to Mr. Nick Gibb, dated 22 July 2005:*

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for reply.

You asked how many, and what proportion, of schools were rated good or better by Ofsted at teaching mathematics at key stages *(a)* 1, *(b)* 2, *(c)* 3 and *(d)* 4.

The most up to date information about the teaching of mathematics comes from the 2003/04 Annual Report. The proportions of schools that were inspected in which the teaching of mathematics was good or better, by Key Stage, are as follows.

| | *Percentage* | *Number* |
|---|---|---|
| Key Stage 1 | 69 | 2,200 |
| Key Stage 2 | 73 | 2,300 |
| Key Stage 3 | 69 | 430 |
| Key Stage 4 | 65 | 360 |

It is important to note the following points in relation to this data:

The number of schools in each case is shown in parenthesis.

The percentages relate to the number of schools inspected not the total number of schools in England.

The Key Stage 3 numbers are greater than those for Key Stage 4 partly because they include middle schools (deemed secondary).

Numbers of schools are rounded to the nearest 100 for Key Stages 1 and 2,and to the nearest 10 for Key Stages 3 and 4.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Jacqui Smith and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

**Mr. Gibb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what proportion of *(a)* undergraduate and *(b)* graduate students in English universities studying mathematics degrees were foreign nationals in the last year for which figures are available. [9265]

**Bill Rammell:** The latest information is shown in the table:

*Students[1] in UK HE Institutions studying mathematical sciences[2]—2003/04*

| | *All Undergraduates[3]* | | *Graduates* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Number* | *Percentage* | *Number* | *Percentage* |
| UK | 21,665 | 90 | 4,910 | 91 |
| EU | 465 | 2 | 115 | 2 |
| Overseas | 2,000 | 8 | 370 | 7 |
| Total | 24,130 | 100 | 5,393 | 100 |

[1] Covers any students who enrolled at any point during the academic year.
[2] Covers Mathematics, Statistics and Computing Science.
[3] Covers students on any year of an undergraduate course.
*Note:*
Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 5, so components may not sum to totals.
*Source:*
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many and what proportion of schools in Southend in each of the last five years were rated good or better by Ofsted at teaching mathematics at key stages *(a)* 1, *(b)* 2, *(c)* 3 and *(d)* 4. [14303]

**Beverley Hughes:** This is a matter for HM Chief Inspector of Schools. David Bell, Her Majesty Chief Inspector for Schools will write to the hon. Gentleman and a copy of his reply will be placed in the Library.

*Letter from David Bell to Mr David Amess dated 2 August 2005:*

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for reply.

You asked how many and what proportion of schools in Southend in each of the last five years were rated good or better by Ofsted at teaching mathematics ay key stages *(a)* 1, *(b)* 2, *(c)* 3 and *(d)* 4.

The attached table provides the proportion of schools, by key stage, where the teaching of mathematics was judged to be good or better.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Jacqui Smith and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

The tables below provide the numbers and proportion of schools, by key stage, where the teaching of mathematics was judged to be good or better.

| *Year*[1] | *Total number of schools Inspected*[3] | *Total number of KS1 Maths Judgements*[2] | *Percentage of good or better KS1 Maths Judgements* | *Total number of KS2 Maths Judgements* | *Percentage of good or better KS2 Maths Judgements* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2000/01 | 8 | 3 | 67 | 4 | 50 |
| 2001/02 | 14 | 6 | 50 | 5 | 100 |
| 2002/03 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2003/04 | 10 | 4 | 75 | 4 | 75 |
| 2004/05[4] | 6 | 5 | 80 | 4 | 75 |

| *Year*[1] | *Total number of KS3 Maths Judgements*[2] | *Percentage of good or better KS3 Maths Judgements* | *Total number of KS4 Maths Judgements* | *Percentage of good or better KS4 Maths Judgements* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2000/01 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2001/02 | 3 | 67 | 3 | 100 |
| 2002/03 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2003/04 | 2 | 100 | 2 | 100 |
| 2004/05[4] | 2 | 100 | 2 | 100 |

[1] Years 2000/01, 2001/02 and 2002/03 include both short and full inspections.
[2] In years 2000/2001, 2001/02 and 2002/03 these judgements were only made in full inspections.
[3] The total number of key stage judgements does not equal the total number of schools inspected.
[4] 2005 only included those schools inspected before 30 of June 2005.

**Mr. Clappison:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many students commenced undergraduate courses in *(a)* mathematics and *(b)* mathematics combined with another subject in English universities in each of the last 30 years. [8722]

**Bill Rammell:** The available information, covering institutions in Great Britain, is shown in the tables. Changes in the classification of subjects and in the coverage of institutions mean it is not possible to produce a consistent time series for the whole of this period. A corresponding time series for institutions in England is not available centrally.

*Entrants to full-time undergraduate mathematics and mathematics/physics courses Universities[1] in Great Britain 1973/74 to 1984/85*

| Academic year | Entrants |
|---|---|
| 1973/74 | 3,660 |
| 1974/75 | 3,645 |
| 1975/76 | 3,485 |
| 1976/77 | 3,655 |
| 1977/78 | 3,900 |
| 1978/79 | 4,185 |
| 1979/80 | 4,445 |
| 1980/81 | 5,020 |
| 1981/82 | 5,175 |
| 1982/83 | 5,105 |
| 1983/84 | 5,035 |
| 1984/85 | 5,130 |

[1] Former UFC-funded universities
*Source:* Universities Statistical Record (USR). Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 5.

*Entrants to full-time undergraduate mathematical science[1] courses Universities[2] in Great Britain 1985/86 to 1993/94*

| Academic year | Entrants |
|---|---|
| 1985/86 | 3,350 |
| 1986/87 | 3,150 |
| 1987/88 | 3,415 |
| 1988/89 | 3,745 |
| 1989/90 | 4,155 |
| 1990/91 | 4,020 |
| 1991/92 | 4,115 |
| 1992/93 | 4,085 |
| 1993/94 | 4,525 |

[1] Mathematics, statistics and combined mathematical sciences. The subject classification of higher education courses was totally revised for the 1985/86 academic year.
[2] Former UFC-funded universities.
*Source:* Universities Statistical Record (USR). Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 5.

*Entrants to full-time undergraduate mathematical sciences[1] courses HE institutions[2] in Great Britain*

| Academic year | Entrants |
|---|---|
| 1994/95 | 5,650 |
| 1995/96 | 5,190 |
| 1996/97 | 5,615 |
| 1997/98 | 5,930 |
| 1998/99 | 5,255 |
| 1999/2000 | 5,410 |
| 2000/01 | 5,425 |
| 2001/02 | 5,700 |
| 2002/03[3] | 6,505 |
| 2003/04 | 6,700 |

[1] Covers mathematics, statistics and combined mathematical sciences.
[2] Covers former UFC-funded universities, post-1992 universities, and HE colleges.
[3] In 2002/03, changes were made to the method used to allocate students to subjects of study. The main effect of this was to increase the number of students allocated to individual named subjects and to decrease those who were allocated to the "combined course" category. This means that figures for 2002/03 and 2003/04 are not directly comparable with those for earlier years.
*Source:*
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA). Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 5.

## Media Literacy

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how her Department defines media literacy. [14405]

**Beverley Hughes:** There is no single agreed definition of media literacy. OFCOM, the organisation whose duty it is to promote media literacy, define it as: the ability to access, understand and create communication in a variety of contexts.

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills whether her Department has strategies for improving media literacy in *(a)* school education, *(b)* further and higher education and *(c)* adult education; and if she will make a statement. [14406]

**Bill Rammell:** There is a range of activity across the Department to support aspects of media literacy. It does not exist as a separate subject in the national curriculum but, as part of a wide ranging and comprehensive English curriculum, pupils should study the language of media to develop their critical faculties. Media literacy can also be part of the approach to teaching and learning in any subject and has particular relevance in History and Citizenship.

The Department's e-Strategy "Harnessing Technology: Transforming Learning and Children's Services," supports the use of ICT, e-learning, Virtual Learning Environments, the internet, gaming, videoconferencing, the use of web cams and digital photography. The system-wide priorities and sector specific actions in this strategy will help provide the infrastructure to support media literacy. A copy of the strategy can be accessed at: www.dfes.gsi.gov.uk/publications/e-strategy

Programmes of study in higher education are a matter for individual institutions to determine and develop.

Under the Communications Act 2003 OFCOM (the independent regulator for the UK communications industries) has a statutory duty to promote better media literacy. As part of this activity OFCOM has been working with the National Institute of Adult Continuing Education (NIACE) and its partners, including the Department, in Adult Learners' Week during May 2005, in which the promotion of media literacy was a central theme.

We will be seeking to work closely with DCMS and OFCOM to ensure that media literacy gains the appropriate focus in education.

## New Members

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if she will arrange a Tuesday morning briefing by Ministers and senior officials introducing the work of the Department to new hon. Members. [11029]

**Bill Rammell:** I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 18 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 1281W by my right hon. Friend the Leader of the House.

## Nursery Places

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) how many *(a)* three and *(b)* four-year-old children in Southend West attended nursery in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available; [14126]

(2) how many children in Southend West have taken up free nursery places in each year since the policy was introduced; and if she will make a statement. [14127]

**Beverley Hughes:** All four-year-olds have been entitled to a free early education place since 1998 and from April 2004 this entitlement was extended to all three-year-olds. The free entitlement consists of a minimum of five two and a half hour sessions per week for 33 weeks of the year for six terms before statutory school age, which is the term following their fifth birthday.

Some local authorities may additionally offer subsidised child care places but this information is not collected centrally.

The latest provisional figures for January 2005 show that all four-year-old children receive some form of free entitlement. The figure for three-years-olds is 98 per cent. This covers all maintained, private, voluntary and independent providers and represents an estimated 546,400 three-year-olds and 573,500 four-year-olds.

Related information on the number of free nursery education places taken up by three and four-year-olds in Southend West parliamentary constituency area is only available for January 2004. These figures are shown in the table. The available information for Southend-on-Sea local education authority area since 1997 is also shown.

The latest figures on early education places for three and four-year-olds in England were published in Statistical First Release 18/2005 "Provision for children under five years of age in England—January 2005 (provisional)" in May, which is available on the Department's website www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgatewav/.

*Number of free nursery education places[1] taken up by three and four-year-olds Southend-on-Sea local education authority area. Position in January each year*

| | *3-year-olds* | | | *4-year-olds* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Maintained nursery and primary schools[2]* | *Other maintained and private, voluntary and maintained independent providers* | *Total 3-year-olds* | *Maintained nursery and primary schools[3]* | *Other maintained and private, voluntary and maintained independent providers* | *Total 4-year-olds* |
| 1997 | 210 | [4]— | 210 | [4]— | [4]— | [5]1,900 |
| 1998 | 250 | [4]— | 250 | [4]— | [4]— | [5]2,100 |
| 1999 | 390 | [4]— | 390 | [4]— | [4]— | [5]2,200 |
| 2000 | 450 | [6]0 | 450 | [4]— | [4]— | [5]2,100 |
| 2001 | 450 | [6]440 | 890 | [4]— | [4]— | [5]2,100 |
| 2002 | 490 | [6]750 | 1,200 | 1,600 | [5]450 | 2,000 |
| 2003 | 450 | [6]870 | 1,300 | 1,600 | [7]480 | 2,100 |
| 2004 | 450 | [8]1,100 | 1,600 | 1,500 | [9]520 | 2,000 |

[1] Figures are rounded to the nearest 10 or 100 as appropriate.

[2] Headcount of children aged three at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Annual Schools' Census.

[3] Headcount of children aged four at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Annual Schools' Census.

[4] Not available

[5] Part-time equivalent number of children aged four at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Nursery Education Grant data collection exercise.

[6] Part-time equivalent number of children aged three at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Nursery Education Grant data collection exercise.

[7] Part-time equivalent number of children aged four at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Early Years Census supplementary data collection exercise and the Annual Schools' Census.

[8] Part-time equivalent number of children aged three at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Early Years Census and the Annual Schools' Census.

[9] Part-time equivalent number of children aged four at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Early Years Census and the Annual Schools' Census.

*Number of free nursery education places[1] taken up by three and four-year-olds Southend West parliamentary constituency Position in January 2004*

| | |
|---|---|
| *3-year-olds* | |
| Maintained nursery and primary schools[2] | 150 |
| Other maintained and private, voluntary and maintained independent providers[3] | 500 |
| Total three-year-olds | 840 |
| *4-year-olds* | |
| Maintained nursery and primary schools[4] | 690 |
| Other maintained and private, voluntary and maintained independent providers[5] | 290 |
| Total 4-year-olds | 960 |

[1] Figures are rounded to the nearest 10 or 100 as appropriate.
[2] Headcount of children aged three at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Annual Schools' Census.
[3] Part-time equivalent number of children aged three at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Early Years Census and the Annual Schools1 Census.
[4] Headcount of children aged four at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Annual Schools1 Census.
[5] Part-time equivalent number of children aged four at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Early Years Census and the Annual Schools' Census.

Changes in pupil figures may arise from changes to the underlying population in the local education authority area and other factors. However, my Department doesn't publish population figures for individual age cohorts at sub-national level because of the unreliability of the underlying population estimates. The Office for National Statistics publish sub-national population estimates in five-year age bands.

### Offenders' Learning Skills Unit

**Mrs. Gillan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many people are working in the Offenders' Learning Skills Unit; and what their total annual budgets were for *(a)* 2004–05 and *(b)* 2005–06 expressed in (i) financial terms and (ii) as a percentage of the Learning and Skills Council budget. [14708]

**Beverley Hughes:** 33 people currently work in the Offenders' Learning and Skills Unit within the Department for Education and Skills.

Funding outturn for offender learning and skills in 2004–05 was £126 million and is planned to be £151 million in 2005–06.

Expressed as a percentage of the Learning and Skills Council budget, the offender learning totals would be the equivalent of around 1.5 per cent. in each year.

### Open University

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many overseas students from EU member states are enrolled with the Open university in Milton Keynes; and if she will make a statement. [12913]

**Bill Rammell:** In 2003/04 there were 11,177 students based in the EU (outside the UK) enrolled at the Open university[1]. The number of students from EU member states based in the UK and enrolled in the Open university is 270 for 2003/04[2].

*Sources:*
[1] The Open University.
[2] Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

### Opinion Surveys

**Mr. Weir:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the *(a)* subject matter and *(b)* dates were of opinion survey research undertaken by the Department and its agencies in the last 12 months; if she will place copies of the results of each survey in the Library; which companies were used in conducting the research; and how much each was paid. [14809]

**Bill Rammell:** In the last 12 months the Department carried out the following pieces of research into public opinion of the education and skills system. Information about opinion survey research carried out by the Department's agencies is not held centrally.

| *Title* | *Subject Matter* | *Date* | *Company* | *Cost* | *Available* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| British Social Attitudes Survey | Views on education and skills issues. | June-October 2004 | National Centre for Social Research | 65, 521 | Results are published by the National Centre for Social Research at http://www.natcen.ac.uk Results for 2004 are due to be published in November 2005. |
| Public Perception of Education | Views on standards and issues | May 2005 | Taylor Nelson Sofres | 21,050 | The results will be published as part of our research programme in the Autumn. A copy will also be placed in the Library. |

The Department also carries out a range of research to inform the development and evaluation of specific policies, some of which includes surveys of opinion. The Department publishes its research on the last Thursday of each month and research reports are available at www.dfes.gov.uk/research

### Overseas Students

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many students from *(a)* China and *(b)* India took courses in (i) science and (ii) engineering at higher education institutions in England at (A) undergraduate and (B) postgraduate level in each year between 1994 and 2004. [11103]

**Bill Rammell:** The latest information is given in the following table:

*Students[1] from China[2] and India, enrolled on Science and Engineering courses[3] English HE institutions 1994/95 to 2003/04*

| | *Postgraduate* | | *Undergraduate* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Science[4]* | *Engineering* | *Science[4]* | *Engineering* |
| *1994/95* | | | | |
| China | 235 | 415 | — | 110 |
| India | 95 | 115 | 15 | 95 |
| *1995/96* | | | | |
| China | 240 | 470 | 5 | 135 |
| India | 105 | 160 | 20 | 110 |

*Students[1] from China[2] and India, enrolled on Science and Engineering courses[3] English HE institutions 1994/95 to 2003/04*

| | Postgraduate | | Undergraduate | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Science[4] | Engineering | Science[4] | Engineering |
| *1996/97* | | | | |
| China | 215 | 480 | 10 | 60 |
| India | 115 | 150 | 10 | 145 |
| *1997/98* | | | | |
| China | 155 | 440 | 10 | 50 |
| India | 105 | 140 | 15 | 190 |
| *1998/99* | | | | |
| China | 150 | 460 | 25 | 90 |
| India | 130 | 150 | 20 | 245 |
| *1999/2000* | | | | |
| China | 165 | 505 | 30 | 245 |
| India | 125 | 195 | 25 | 210 |
| *2000/01* | | | | |
| China | 205 | 670 | 115 | 580 |
| India | 145 | 230 | 40 | 250 |
| *2001/02* | | | | |
| China | 245 | 915 | 240 | 885 |
| India | 230 | 380 | 50 | 325 |
| *2002/03* | | | | |
| China | 370 | 1,510 | 415 | 1,425 |
| India | 390 | 1,380 | 85 | 415 |
| *2003/04* | | | | |
| China | 570 | 2,495 | 705 | 1,605 |
| India | 535 | 1,820 | 105 | 525 |

[1] Based on a count of students as at 1 December each year.
[2] Excluding students from Hong Kong and Taiwan.
[3] In 2002/03, changes were made to the method used to allocate students to subjects of study. The main effect of this was to increase the number of students allocated to individual named subjects and to decrease those who were allocated to the "Combined Course" category. This means that figures for 2002/03 and 2003/04 are not directly comparable with those for earlier years.
4. Science includes Biological and Physical Sciences.
*Note:*
Figures have been rounded to the nearest 5.
*Source:*
Higher Education statistics Agency (HESA).

### Physiotherapy Graduates

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many graduates from physiotherapy degrees approved by the Health Professions Council there have been in each academic year since 2000–01. [14983]

**Beverley Hughes:** The information is not held centrally. The Higher Education Statistics Agency produce annual summaries of newly qualified graduates by subject, but those with physiotherapy degrees are not separately identified.

### Policy Costings

**Dr. Cable:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what costings of *(a)* Liberal Democrat and *(b)* Conservative party policies her Department has (i) undertaken, (ii) co-ordinated in the previous 12 months and (iii) advised upon in the previous 12 months. [7002]

**Bill Rammell:** I refer the hon. Member to the reply given by my hon. Friend the Chief Secretary to the Treasury on 18 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 1334W.

### Prisoner Education

**Mrs. Gillan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the cost was in 2004–05 of education for foreign national prisoners. [14692]

**Phil Hope:** This information is not collected.

**Mrs. Gillan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what her Department's total expenditure has been on prisoner education in each financial year since it took over responsibility for prisoner education from the Home Office. [14707]

**Bill Rammell:** The following table sets out the expenditure by the Department for Education and Skills on offender learning and skills in each full year since 2001–02.

| | *Spend (£ million)* |
|---|---|
| 2001–02 | 57 |
| 2002–03 | 73 |
| 2003–04 | 114 |
| 2004–05 | [1]122 |

[1] Includes £10 million for offenders in the community.

### Public Sector Education Provision

**Mr. Davidson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what assessment she has made of the effect of the EU Directive on Services in the Internal Market on public sector provision of *(a)* primary, *(b)* secondary, *(c)* further and *(d)* higher education. [9557]

**Beverley Hughes:** I refer to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Minister for Trade on 21 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 1930W.

### School Attendance

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many pupils attend each *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school in Southend. [14306]

**Beverley Hughes:** The information requested is shown in the table.

*Maintained primary and secondary schools: Number (headcount) of pupils: January 2005 (provisional)—Southend-on-Sea*

| | *Number of pupils* |
|---|---|
| Barons Court Infant School and Nursery | 146 |
| Blenheim Primary School | 458 |
| Bournemouth Park Primary School | 533 |
| Bournes Green Infant School | 180 |
| Bournes Green Junior School | 282 |
| Chalkwell Hall Infant School | 312 |
| Chalkwell Hall Junior School | 416 |
| Darlinghurst Primary and Nursery School | 389 |
| Earls Hall Infant School | 267 |
| Earls Hall Junior School | 354 |
| Eastwood infant and Nursery Foundation School | 181 |
| Eastwood Junior School | 226 |

*Maintained primary and secondary schools: Number (headcount) of pupils: January 2005 (provisional)—Southend-on-Sea*

| | Number of pupils |
|---|---|
| Edwards Hall Infant School | 182 |
| Edwards Hall Junior School | 275 |
| Fairways Primary School | 406 |
| Friars Primary School and Nursery | 521 |
| Hamstel Infant School | 452 |
| Hamstel Junior School | 467 |
| Heycroft Primary School | 424 |
| Hinguar Community Primary School | 290 |
| Leigh Infant School | 264 |
| Leigh North Street Junior School | 354 |
| Milton Hall Primary School | 443 |
| Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary School | 423 |
| Porters Grange Primary School and Nursery | 540 |
| Prince Avenue Primary Foundation School and Nursery | 382 |
| Richmond Avenue Primary School | 411 |
| Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School and Nursery | 238 |
| St George's Catholic Primary School | 206 |
| St Helen's Catholic Primary School | 207 |
| St Mary's, Prittlewell, CofE Primary School | 417 |
| Temple Sutton Primary School | 758 |
| The Westborough Primary School and Nursery | 704 |
| Thorpe Greenways Infant School | 334 |
| Thorpe Greenways Junior School | 482 |
| Thorpedene Infants' School | 262 |
| Thorpedene Junior School | 335 |
| West Leigh Infant School | 360 |
| West Leigh Junior School | 513 |
| Belfairs High School | 1243 |
| Cecil Jones High School | 1532 |
| Prittlewell Technology College | 917 |
| Shoeburyness High School | 1510 |
| Southend High School for Boys | 914 |
| Southend High School for Girls | 967 |
| St Bernard's High School | 869 |
| St Thomas More High School for Boys | 941 |
| The Eastwood School (11–18) | 922 |
| The Thorpe Bay School | 578 |
| Westcliff High School for Boys | 983 |
| Westcliff High School for Girls | 1032 |

*Source:*
Annual Schools' Census

## School Closures

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if she will list the schools whose closure has been approved by her Department in each year since 1997; and what the reason was for each closure. [14261]

**Beverley Hughes:** The information requested has been placed in the Libraries.

## School Leavers

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many people left school at 16 years in *(a)* Southend, *(b)* Essex and *(c)* England with no qualifications in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available. [14301]

**Beverley Hughes:** The table gives the number of 15-year-olds with no passes in GCSE qualifications and the proportion of the 15-year-old cohort for Southend LEA, Essex LEA and England between 1998 and 2004.

| | *England* | | *Essex LEA* | | *Southend LEA* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Number of 15-year-olds with no passes* | *Percentage of 15-year-old cohort* | *Number of 15-year-olds with no passes* | *Percentage of 15-year-old cohort* | *Number of 15-year-olds with no passes* | *Percentage of 15-year old cohort* |
| 2004 | 26,624 | 4.1 | 553 | 3.4 | 103 | 5.0 |
| 2003 | 32,518 | 5.2 | 652 | 4.2 | 113 | 5.7 |
| 2002 | 32,624 | 5.4 | 664 | 4.4 | 145 | 7.3 |
| 2001 | 32,939 | 5.5 | 621 | 4.2 | 93 | 5.0 |
| 2000 | 32,691 | 5.6 | 596 | 4.1 | 93 | 5.4 |
| 1999 | 35,036 | 6.0 | 617 | 4.3 | 101 | 5.9 |
| 1998 | 37,868 | 6.6 | 674 | 4.7 | 160 | 9.2 |

*Notes:*
1. Figures for 2004 are for GCSE and Equivalent qualifications. Figures for 1998 to 2003 are for GCSE and GNVQs only.
2. LEA figures only include pupils at maintained schools. England figures include all pupils.
3. Local government reorganisation took place on the 1 April 1998 and there are therefore no comparable figures for Essex and Southend prior to 1998.
4. Ages are taken at the start of the academic year (i.e. 31 August).

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many people left school at 16 years in *(a)* Southend, *(b)* Essex and *(c)* England with no qualifications, but subsequently gained qualifications by attending sixth form or higher education, in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available. [14302]

**Beverley Hughes:** PSA targets for attainment by age 16 and 19 are based around young people reaching level 2 (5 GCSEs A* to C or equivalent). Provisional matched administrative data show that 49.2 per cent. of 19-year-olds in 2004 in England had attained at least level 2 by age 16 increasing to 67.0 per cent. by age 19. This equates to around 110,000 additional learners attaining at least level 2 between age 16 and 19. Around 3,000 of these additional learners achieved in the Essex Learning and Skills Council (LSC) area. Figures are currently not available for respondents with no qualifications or below local LSC area. This is the first year for which we have matched data to age 19, hence time series data are not available.

## School Places (Cambridgeshire)

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many parental appeals were made against the allocation of school places in Cambridgeshire in each year since 1997; and how many were upheld. [14563]

**Beverley Hughes:** The information requested is shown in the table.

*Maintained primary and secondary schools[1]: Admission appeals. Each academic year: 1996/97 to 2003/04*
*Cambridgeshire local education authority*

| | | Maintained primary | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Appeals heard | | Appeals decided in parent's favour | |
| | Number of appeals lodged | Number | Percentage[1] | Number | Percentage[2] |
| 1996/1997 | 178 | 142 | 79.8 | 83 | 58.5 |
| 1997/1998 | 94 | 77 | 81.9 | 59 | 76.6 |
| 1998/1999 | 111 | 99 | 89.2 | 71 | 71.7 |
| 1999/2000 | 196 | 143 | 73.0 | 79 | 55.2 |
| 2000/2001 | 235 | 181 | 77.0 | 108 | 59.7 |
| 2001/2002 | 194 | 147 | 75.8 | 93 | 63.3 |
| 2002/2003 | 112 | 77 | 68.8 | 36 | 46.8 |
| 2003/2004 | 120 | 88 | 75.9 | 63 | 71.6 |

| | | Maintained secondary | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Appeals heard | | Appeals decided in parent's favour | |
| | Number of appeals lodged[1] | Number | Percentage[1] | Number | Percentage[2] |
| 1996/1997 | 335 | 312 | 93.1 | 208 | 66.7 |
| 1997/1998 | 164 | 134 | 81.7 | 108 | 80.6 |
| 1998/1999 | 266 | 251 | 94.4 | 138 | 55.0 |
| 1999/2000 | 366 | 294 | 80.3 | 180 | 61.2 |
| 2000/2001 | 269 | 194 | 72.1 | 123 | 63.4 |
| 2001/2002 | 287 | 231 | 80.5 | 138 | 59.7 |
| 2002/2003 | 265 | 202 | 76.2 | 87 | 43.1 |
| 2003/2004 | 182 | 144 | 79.1 | 75 | 52.1 |

[1] Number of appeals heard by a committee expressed as a percentage of the number of appeals lodged by parents.
[2] Number of appeals decided in favour of the parents expressed as a percentage of the number of appeals heard by a committee.
*Source:*
Annual Schools' Census and Admission Appeals Survey

### School Playing Fields

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many school playing fields there have been in each of the past 10 years; and what their total area has been. [14578]

**Beverley Hughes:** Data on school playing fields have been supplied to the Department by local education authorities in 2001 and 2003. However, because the data were incomplete and of variable quality, it is not possible to accurately assess the number and area of school playing fields.

### School Pupils (Weapons/Drugs)

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many pupils in Milton Keynes have been found to be in possession of *(a)* a weapon and *(b)* drugs on school premises in each of the last 10 years. [14245]

**Beverley Hughes:** The information requested is not held centrally.

### Schools Access Initiative

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills which schools in the Southend West constituency received funding from the Schools Access Initiative in *(a)* 2001–02, *(b)* 2002–03, *(c)* 2003–04 and *(d)* 2004–05. [14263]

**Beverley Hughes:** This information is not collected centrally. Overall funding under the School Access Initiative amounted to £320 million over the years 2001–02 to 2004–05. Funds were made available to local education authorities to distribute to schools in their area in the light of local priorities. Southend on Sea local authority received £1,074,679 over this period from the Schools Access Initiative.

### Science Graduates

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what estimate she has made of the number of science qualified graduates that *(a)* left the UK and *(b)* entered the UK as foreign nationals to take-up employment in the last year for which figures are available. [8699]

**Bill Rammell:** The latest information on the numbers of newly qualified science graduates leaving the UK to take up overseas employment, is shown in the table. Information on the numbers of foreign graduates entering the UK to take up employment is not held centrally.

*Employment rates of UK domiciled full-time first degree science[1] graduates UK HE Institutions—2003/04*

| | Number | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| Total graduates[2] | 181,870 | |
| *Of whom:* | | |
| Employed in UK | 110,745 | 97.2 |
| Employed overseas | 3,080 | 2.7 |
| Other[3] | 140 | 0.1 |
| Total employed | 113,965 | 100.0 |

[1] Covers graduates in Physical and Biological Sciences. The figures refer to the employment situation of graduates six months after graduation.
[2] Includes only those graduates who responded to the survey. The response rate for these surveys is just over 80 per cent.; the graduate figures in the table therefore exclude those who did not respond to the survey.

[1] Covers those students who did not provide details of the location of their employment.

*Note:*

Figures have been rounded to the nearest 5.

*Source:*

Destination of Leavers from Higher Education survey (DLHE), conducted by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

### Secondary Schools (Wellingborough)

**Mr. Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills whether provision is being made to build a new secondary school in the Wellingborough constituency; and if she will make a statement. [14088]

**Beverley Hughes:** Capital allocations for schools are made on a local authority basis, and local authorities decide priorities on where new building should take place. So, whilst capital funding is provided to the Northamptonshire local authority, currently £53.5 million over the next two years, no specific allocations are made to Wellingborough beyond the devolved formula capital provided directly to schools.

Northamptonshire's secondary schools are due to be refurbished or rebuilt as part of the Building Schools for the Future programme over the next six to fourteen years.

**Mr. Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many pupils there have been in each year group in each of the secondary schools in the Wellingborough constituency in each year since 1997. [14091]

**Beverley Hughes:** Information on pupils by National Curriculum Year Group was collected for the first time in 2003. The information provided in the table is pupils by age.

*Maintained secondary schools: pupils by age as at previous 31 August. 1997 to 2005[1]. Position in January each year—Wellingborough parliamentary constituency*

| | Pupils aged: | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *10* | *11* | *12* | *13* | *14* | *15* |
| *January 1997* | | | | | | |
| John Lea School | 0 | 0 | 43 | 19 | 49 | 83 |
| Wollaston School | 0 | 194 | 190 | 194 | 185 | 175 |
| The Ferrers Specialist Arts College | 0 | 181 | 181 | 180 | 177 | 169 |
| The Rushden Community College Specialising in Mathematics and Computing | 0 | 135 | 120 | 144 | 135 | 142 |
| Weavers School | 0 | 223 | 186 | 198 | 214 | 202 |
| Sir Christopher Hatton School | 0 | 177 | 165 | 151 | 132 | 160 |
| Wrenn School | 0 | 214 | 218 | 213 | 212 | 198 |
| *January 1998* | | | | | | |
| John Lea School | 0 | 0 | 0 | 26 | 0 | 41 |
| Wollaston School | 0 | 216 | 195 | 187 | 197 | 178 |
| The Ferrers Specialist Arts College | 0 | 181 | 177 | 180 | 182 | 178 |
| The Rushden Community College Specialising in Mathematics and Computing | 0 | 162 | 139 | 122 | 144 | 127 |
| Weavers School | 0 | 238 | 224 | 190 | 203 | 195 |
| Sir Christopher Hatton School | 0 | 174 | 177 | 162 | 153 | 128 |
| Wrenn School | 0 | 225 | 216 | 216 | 217 | 209 |
| *January 1999* | | | | | | |
| Wollaston School | 0 | 231 | 212 | 189 | 193 | 185 |
| The Ferrers Specialist Arts College | 0 | 178 | 181 | 175 | 180 | 181 |
| The Rushden Community College Specialising in Mathematics and Computing | 0 | 129 | 161 | 135 | 118 | 140 |
| Weavers School | 0 | 233 | 233 | 224 | 203 | 193 |
| Sir Christopher Hatton School | 0 | 173 | 173 | 174 | 161 | 143 |
| Wrenn School | 0 | 217 | 221 | 219 | 221 | 212 |
| *January 2000* | | | | | | |
| Wollaston School | 0 | 223 | 227 | 213 | 184 | 188 |
| The Ferrers Specialist Arts College | 0 | 181 | 186 | 178 | 180 | 180 |
| The Rushden Community College Specialising in Mathematics and Computing | 0 | 165 | 132 | 166 | 127 | 104 |
| Weavers School | 0 | 245 | 225 | 238 | 221 | 194 |
| Sir Christopher Hatton School | 2 | 204 | 170 | 169 | 166 | 155 |
| Wrenn School | 0 | 251 | 214 | 223 | 220 | 215 |
| *January 2001* | | | | | | |
| Wollaston School | 1 | 234 | 221 | 225 | 213 | 184 |
| The Ferrers Specialist Arts College | 0 | 185 | 181 | 180 | 178 | 177 |
| The Rushden Community College Specialising in Mathematics and Computing | 0 | 157 | 173 | 136 | 161 | 124 |
| Weavers School | 0 | 191 | 242 | 225 | 240 | 216 |
| Sir Christopher Hatton School | 1 | 207 | 208 | 166 | 165 | 163 |
| Wrenn School | 0 | 250 | 256 | 217 | 219 | 220 |
| *January 2002* | | | | | | |
| Wollaston School | 0 | 239 | 237 | 223 | 220 | 214 |
| The Ferrers Specialist Arts College | 0 | 180 | 185 | 183 | 176 | 173 |
| The Rushden Community College Specialising in Mathematics and Computing | 0 | 172 | 162 | 172 | 135 | 158 |
| Weavers School | 0 | 198 | 189 | 245 | 217 | 238 |
| Sir Christopher Hatton School | 0 | 207 | 209 | 206 | 165 | 164 |
| Wrenn School | 0 | 252 | 242 | 250 | 217 | 217 |
| *January 2003* | | | | | | |
| Wollaston School | 0 | 238 | 237 | 244 | 220 | 219 |
| The Ferrers Specialist Arts College | 0 | 175 | 178 | 181 | 180 | 173 |
| The Rushden Community College Specialising in Mathematics and Computing | 0 | 181 | 180 | 169 | 178 | 133 |
| Weavers School | 0 | 175 | 201 | 182 | 235 | 221 |

*Maintained secondary schools: pupils by age as at previous 31 August. 1997 to 2005[1]. Position in January each year—Wellingborough parliamentary constituency*

| | Pupils aged: | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *10* | *11* | *12* | *13* | *14* | *15* |
| Sir Christopher Hatton School | 0 | 208 | 205 | 209 | 205 | 164 |
| Wrenn School | 0 | 262 | 251 | 243 | 251 | 217 |
| *January 2004* | | | | | | |
| Wollaston School | 0 | 243 | 240 | 232 | 237 | 218 |
| The Ferrers Specialist Arts College | 0 | 190 | 179 | 180 | 179 | 178 |
| The Rushden Community College Specialising in Mathematics and Computing | 0 | 212 | 179 | 184 | 169 | 175 |
| Weavers School | 0 | 254 | 174 | 194 | 185 | 222 |
| Sir Christopher Hatton School | 0 | 210 | 207 | 207 | 209 | 199 |
| Wrenn School | 0 | 255 | 257 | 249 | 240 | 251 |
| *January 2005*[1] | | | | | | |
| Wollaston School | 0 | 240 | 244 | 236 | 231 | 235 |
| The Ferrers Specialist Arts College | 0 | 202 | 186 | 179 | 176 | 170 |
| The Rushden Community College Specialising in Mathematics and Computing | 0 | 167 | 212 | 185 | 183 | 168 |
| Weavers School | 0 | 188 | 253 | 185 | 193 | 177 |
| Sir Christopher Hatton School | 0 | 203 | 205 | 206 | 207 | 206 |
| Wrenn School | 0 | 246 | 258 | 254 | 246 | 239 |

| | *16* | *17* | *18* | *19* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *January 1997* | | | | | |
| John Lea School | 6 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 201 |
| Wollaston School | 94 | 84 | 4 | 0 | 1,120 |
| The Ferrers Specialist Arts College | 90 | 55 | 6 | 0 | 1,039 |
| The Rushden Community College Specialising in Mathematics and Computing | 50 | 19 | 1 | 0 | 746 |
| Weavers School | 87 | 56 | 0 | 0 | 1,166 |
| Sir Christopher Hatton School | 49 | 51 | 1 | 0 | 886 |
| Wrenn School | 89 | 62 | 4 | 0 | 1,210 |
| *January 1998* | | | | | |
| John Lea School | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 70 |
| Wollaston School | 80 | 67 | 16 | 0 | 1,136 |
| The Ferrers Specialist Arts College | 87 | 65 | 4 | 0 | 1,054 |
| The Rushden Community College Specialising in Mathematics and Computing | 48 | 31 | 1 | 0 | 774 |
| Weavers School | 98 | 59 | 1 | 0 | 1,208 |
| Sir Christopher Hatton School | 53 | 45 | 1 | 0 | 893 |
| Wrenn School | 103 | 72 | 1 | 0 | 1,259 |
| *January 1999* | | | | | |
| Wollaston School | 73 | 56 | 3 | 1 | 1,143 |
| The Ferrers Specialist Arts College | 80 | 61 | 6 | 0 | 1,042 |
| The Rushden Community College Specialising in Mathematics and Computing | 57 | 27 | 4 | 0 | 771 |
| Weavers School | 87 | 73 | 2 | 0 | 1,248 |
| Sir Christopher Hatton School | 41 | 40 | 1 | 0 | 906 |
| Wrenn School | 95 | 78 | 6 | 0 | 1,269 |
| *January 2000* | | | | | |
| Wollaston School | 87 | 50 | 7 | 0 | 1,179 |
| The Ferrers Specialist Arts College | 83 | 56 | 6 | 0 | 1,050 |
| The Rushden Community College Specialising in Mathematics and Computing | 32 | 32 | 8 | 1 | 767 |
| Weavers School | 55 | 65 | 0 | 0 | 1,243 |
| Sir Christopher Hatton School | 43 | 36 | 1 | 0 | 946 |
| Wrenn School | 86 | 67 | 10 | 0 | 1,286 |
| *January 2001* | | | | | |
| Wollaston School | 79 | 70 | 5 | 0 | 1,232 |
| The Ferrers Specialist Arts College | 83 | 64 | 2 | 0 | 1,050 |
| The Rushden Community College Specialising in Mathematics and Computing | 40 | 15 | 2 | 0 | 808 |
| Weavers School | 70 | 44 | 4 | 0 | 1,232 |
| Sir Christopher Hatton School | 57 | 36 | 1 | 0 | 1,004 |
| Wrenn School | 101 | 67 | 3 | 0 | 1,333 |
| *January 2002* | | | | | |
| Wollaston School | 72 | 66 | 5 | 0 | 1,276 |
| The Ferrers Specialist Arts College | 77 | 59 | 2 | 1 | 1,036 |
| The Rushden Community College Specialising in Mathematics and Computing | 52 | 13 | 0 | 0 | 869 |
| Weavers School | 46 | 41 | 1 | 0 | 1,175 |
| Sir Christopher Hatton School | 53 | 57 | 1 | 0 | 1,062 |
| Wrenn School | 84 | 79 | 1 | 0 | 1,342 |
| *January 2003* | | | | | |
| Wollaston School | 93 | 63 | 4 | 0 | 1,318 |
| The Ferrers Specialist Arts College | 86 | 59 | 2 | 1 | 1,035 |
| The Rushden Community College Specialising in Mathematics and Computing | 54 | 20 | 0 | 0 | 915 |
| Weavers School | 47 | 38 | 1 | 0 | 1,100 |
| Sir Christopher Hatton School | 68 | 42 | 4 | 1 | 1,106 |
| Wrenn School | 111 | 74 | 5 | 0 | 1,414 |

| | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *January 2004* | | | | | |
| Wollaston School | 89 | 68 | 3 | 0 | 1,330 |
| The Ferrers Specialist Arts College | 64 | 61 | 4 | 1 | 1,036 |
| The Rushden Community College Specialising in Mathematics and Computing | 45 | 25 | 1 | 0 | 990 |
| Weavers School | 56 | 33 | 0 | 0 | 1,118 |
| Sir Christopher Hatton School | 62 | 62 | 4 | 2 | 1,162 |
| Wrenn School | 98 | 73 | 4 | 1 | 1,428 |
| *January 2005*[1] | | | | | |
| Wollaston School | 97 | 77 | 5 | 0 | 1,365 |
| The Ferrers Specialist Arts College | 76 | 37 | 5 | 0 | 1,031 |
| The Rushden Community College Specialising in Mathematics and Computing | 47 | 25 | 1 | 0 | 988 |
| Weavers School | 77 | 27 | 3 | 0 | 1,103 |
| Sir Christopher Hatton School | 73 | 56 | 3 | 1 | 1,160 |
| Wrenn School | 105 | 70 | 2 | 1 | 1,421 |

[1] Provisional.

*Source:*
Annual Schools Census.

**Mr. Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many secondary schools there have been in the Wellingborough constituency in each year since 1997; and how many pupil places there were in each school in each year. [14092]

**Beverley Hughes:** The information requested is shown in the table.

*Maintained secondary schools: school capacity: Wellingborough parliamentary constituency*

| | School capacity[1] | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 |
| John Lea School | 681 | 687 | [2]— | [2]— | [2]— | [3]— | [2]— | [2]— |
| Wollaston School | 926 | 967 | 1,106 | 1,130 | 1,222 | [3]— | 1,304 | 1,382 |
| The Ferrers Specialist Arts College | 1,056 | 1,051 | 1,032 | 1,032 | 1,008 | [3]— | 1,048 | 1,051 |
| The Rushden Community College Specialising in Mathematics and Computing | 1,203 | 1,207 | 1,179 | 1,179 | 1,182 | [3]— | 1,203 | 1,174 |
| Weavers School | 1,208 | 1,135 | 1,161 | 1,161 | 1,128 | [3]— | 1,331 | 1,429 |
| Sir Christopher Hatton School | 850 | 857 | 871 | 871 | 871 | [3]— | 1,181 | 1,194 |
| Wrenn School | 1,278 | 1,307 | 1,283 | 1,572 | 1,318 | [3]— | 1,531 | 1,504 |

[1] From 1997 to 2001 capacity figures were calculated using the more open enrolment formula. From 2003 the capacity figures are calculated using net capacity measure.
[2] Not applicable. School closed July 1998.
[3] Not available. The Surplus Places Survey was not carried out in 2002.

*Source:*
Surplus Places Survey

**Mr. Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many children in the Wellingborough constituency have been left for any period of time without a secondary school place since 1997; and what the *(a)* average and *(b)* maximum length of time is for which such children have been left without a secondary school place. [14093]

**Beverley Hughes:** The Department does not collect this information centrally. Each local authority has a statutory duty to ensure that every child of compulsory school age in their area has access to education. The local authority should take appropriate measures to ensure that there are sufficient school places available.

**Mr. Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the estimated number of children of secondary school age in the Wellingborough constituency is in each of the next 20 years. [14094]

**Beverley Hughes:** The information requested is not available, as population projections are not available for parliamentary constituencies, except where they coincide with local authority boundaries. The area covered by Wellingborough local authority is different from the parliamentary constituency.

## Sixth Forms/Further Education

**David Maclean:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) if she will make a statement on the reasons for the funding gap between school sixth forms and further education colleges in the *(a)* Carlisle and *(b)* Penrith and the Border constituencies; [14186]

(2) when the funding gap between school sixth forms and further education colleges in Carlisle will be closed. [14209]

**Beverley Hughes:** The Department does not have information on what the funding gap is between school sixth forms and further education colleges in the *(a)* Carlisle and *(b)* Penrith and the Border constituencies specifically.

The current funding gap between school sixth forms and further education colleges has arisen due to a number of reasons including the 1992 Further and Higher Education Act and the removal of the incorporated FE sector funding systems from local authority control. This resulted in a divergence from local authority systems and funding differences. These differences were made more apparent when all post 16 funding became the responsibility of the Learning and Skills Council in 2001.

Government have shown their commitment to Further Education (FE) through the unprecedented investment they are now making. Total funding for FE will increase by over £1 billion in 2005/06 compared to 2002/03—a 25 per cent. cash increase.

The Government acknowledges that, despite this significant investment in FE and a narrowing of the difference between funding rates, there remains a funding gap between school sixth forms and colleges. We must be clear that continuing progress on narrowing the gap will not be easy and will depend on the resources available. However, as signalled in the Minister of State for Schools and 14–19 Learning's statement to the House of Commons 21 July we intend to explore the scope for addressing the technical anomalies between the school sixth form and further education funding systems. We aim to announce decisions on the way forward in the autumn.

### Small Schools

**Mr. Peter Robinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many small schools have been amalgamated since 2002. [14520]

**Beverley Hughes:** Decisions on school amalgamations in England are taken by locally constituted School Organisation Committees (SOCs). Since 2002 SOCs have approved the amalgamation of 189 small primary schools and 11 small secondary schools. The Department defines a small primary school as a school that has less than 200 pupils and a small secondary schools as one that has less than 600 pupils.

These figures include amalgamations either by closing two schools and establishing one new school; or closing one school and expanding another to accommodate displaced pupils.

### Social Care

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what representations she has received regarding the provision of day care in East Sussex; and if she will make a statement. [15012]

**Beverley Hughes:** The Department's Correspondence Handling System currently only holds electronic records dating back to January 2003, in line with our records and retention schedule which has been agreed with the National Archive. Since then the Department has received and responded to 1,921 official correspondence cases relating to East Sussex. Of these only one appears to relate to the provision of day care. This case specifically concerned the closure of a nursery in Langley in May 2005. Further information can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The Department has consulted nationally on the recent Government 10-year child care strategy "Choice for Parents, the best start for children" which was launched in December 2004. This confirmed that legislation will be in place by 2008 to impose a new duty on local authorities to secure sufficient supply of child care in their areas to meet the needs of families.

### Southend Council (Grants)

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what grants have been made by her Department to Southend Council in each year since 1997. [14129]

**Jacqui Smith:** The information requested is only available from 1998–99 as before that Southend was part of Essex county council. The following table shows the grants that have been paid directly by the Department.

*Breakdown of grant funding to Southend council from 1998–99 to 2004–05*

*(£ millions)*

| | *1998–99* | *1999–2000* | *2000–01* | *2001–02* | *2002–03* | *2003–04* | *2004–05* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| School Standards | 0.45 | 1.50 | 3.44 | 5.85 | 6.56 | 7.09 | 8.30 |
| School Capital | 0.44 | 0.92 | 2.71 | 5.11 | 4.08 | 6.23 | 7.15 |
| Teacher Threshold and Performance Pay Grants | — | — | 0.84 | 1.59 | 1.88 | 2.37 | 2.62 |
| Class Size | — | 0.24 | 0.45 | 0.47 | 0.41 | — | — |
| Budget Support[2] | — | — | 0.16 | 0.10 | — | 0.36 | 1.39 |
| Sure Start Grants (including Nursery Education Grants )[3,4] | 0.86 | 0.76 | 1.78 | 1.41 | 1.69 | 1.13 | 1.49 |
| Education Action Zones | — | 0.22 | 0.72 | 0.85 | 1.00 | 0.59 | 0.57 |
| Children's Fund | — | — | — | — | — | 0.53 | 0.50 |
| Quality Protects[5] | — | 0.26 | 0.41 | 1.10 | 1.84 | 2.09 | — |
| Teenage Pregnancy | — | — | — | — | 0.05 | 0.10 | 0.11 |
| Safeguarding Children | — | — | — | — | — | — | 0.32 |
| Choice Protects | — | — | — | — | — | — | 0.11 |
| Adoption Protects | — | — | — | — | — | — | 0.08 |
| Change Fund[6] | — | — | — | — | — | — | 0.04 |
| Total | 1.75 | 3.90 | 10.51 | 16.48 | 17.51 | 20.79 | 22.68 |

[1] Only includes money paid out directly by DfES and therefore excludes school funding and children's social services funding paid through ODPM. Also excludes payments made by NDPBs which could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

[2] The Budget Support Grant supports the school budgets of LEAs so they can successfully manage the change introduced by the new school funding system.

[3] The sums quoted exclude payments for Sure Start Local Programmes where, although the LA acts as the accountable body, the funding is controlled by the Sure Start Local Programme Partnerships. In 2004–05, this amounted to £1.055 million.

[4] From FY 2003–04 onwards the Nursery Education Grant has been paid through ODPM as part of its general school funding and so is excluded from Sure Start Grants.

[5] The Quality Protects grant ended in 2003–04. Most funding moved into children's social service funding paid through ODPM in 2004–05.

[6] The Change Fund was set-up to create Children's Trusts and help develop the Every Child Matters agenda.

### Special Advisers

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if she will list *(a)* the special advisers in her Department, *(b)* their specific areas of expertise and *(c)* the total cost of employing them in the latest year for which figures are available. [8832]

**Bill Rammell:** I refer the hon. Member to the reply given by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 4 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 36W.

### Special Needs

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if she will make a statement on special needs provision in North Yorkshire. [14031]

**Maria Eagle:** Arranging provision for children with special educational needs (SEN) is a matter for schools and local education authorities (LEAS), within the framework set out in the Education Act 1996 and taking account of statutory guidance, such as the SEN Code of Practice. More broadly, LEAs have statutory duties to provide sufficient schools and to keep their arrangements for SEN under review.

Under the Learning and Skills Act 2000 the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) must have regard to the needs of people with learning difficulties and or disabilities. The LSC is aware of the need to secure sufficient quantity, and appropriate quality, of provision for this group of learners and has commissioned an independent review of the planning and funding of provision. The review is due to report in September, following which there will be a wide consultation on the implementation of its recommendations.

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what her Department's policy is on funding for children with special needs in cases where children placed in higher bands for funding purposes attend moderate learning difficulty schools. [12971]

**Maria Eagle** *[holding answer 18 July 2005]:* The majority of funding for schools—mainstream and special—is provided by central Government through local authority (LA) formula spending shares, with LAs providing the rest through the council tax.

Funding is distributed to schools on the basis of funding formulae devised by LAs, which calculate the budget share for each of their schools. It is for each LA to devise and revise its own school funding formula, taking account of local needs and circumstances. For special schools, including schools for pupils with moderate learning difficulties, most funding is place-led, with the number of places agreed with the LA. The cost of planned places will depend on the complexity of the learning needs the schools have to address. LAs should review the number of planned places and their funding levels each year, in partnership with their special schools.

### Summer School Scheme

**Mr. Hood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much funding will be allocated to the proposed summer school scheme; and if she will make a statement. [8855]

**Beverley Hughes:** Schools and local authorities (LAs) already have access via the School Development Grant to funding for study support activities, which may include summer schools. In addition, we have recently announced our plans for all schools to offer extended services from 8 am to 6 pm all year round. Start-up funding of £680 million will be made available, in addition to the £160 million already committed.

### School Exclusions

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many children were *(a)* suspended for a time and *(b)* permanently expelled from a school in Essex in each of the past five years, broken down by local authority. [14130]

**Beverley Hughes:** Data on fixed period exclusions (suspensions) were collected for the first time in summer 2003 and so are not available prior to 2003–04.

The information requested on permanent exclusions and on fixed period exclusions for 2003–04 is shown in the table:

*Maintained primary secondary and special schools[1]. Number of permanent and fixed period exclusions 1997–98 to 2003–4*

| | *Essex* | | *Southend* | | *Thurrock* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Number of permanent exclusions[2]* | *Number of Pupils with one or more episodes of fixed period exclusion[3]* | *Number of permanent exclusions[2]* | *Number of Pupils with one or more episodes of fixed period exclusion[3]* | *Number of permanent exclusions[2]* | *Number of Pupils with one or more episodes of fixed period exclusion[3]* |
| 1999–2000 | 180 | — | 30 | — | 40 | — |
| 2000–01 | 200 | — | 30 | — | 50 | — |
| 2001–02 | 210 | — | 30 | — | 40 | — |
| 2002–03 | 170 | — | 30 | — | 30 | — |
| 2003–04 | 180 | 5,910 | 30 | 630 | 10 | 820 |

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.

[2] *Source*: Annual Schools Census.

[3] *Source*: Termly Exclusions Survey.

*Note:*

Data have been rounded to the nearest 10.

### Taxis

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the answer of 6 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 446W, on taxis, what estimate she has made of the cost of answering the question. [12591]

**Bill Rammell:** There is no central record of taxis usage and an assessment of the staff time and associated costs required to provide an answer was estimated to be significantly in excess of the disproportionate cost threshold of £600.

### Teachers

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what financial provision has been made to allow schools to provide temporary cover when teachers take advantage of planning, preparation and assessment time from September. [14189]

**Beverley Hughes:** Last year we worked with a sample of LEAs and schools to assess the costs of implementing PPA time. It was as a result of that work that the minimum funding guarantee for the current year was set at 5 per cent. for primary and nursery schools and 4 per cent. for secondary and special schools. The funding settlement was welcomed by members of the Workforce Agreement Monitoring Group—the signatories to the national agreement on work force reform. It is the view of all members of the group that there is enough money in the system for all schools to implement this reform in full.

As part of the funding arrangements from 2006–07, all schools will continue to be guaranteed a minimum increase in their per pupil funding. In autumn 2005 the Government expect to set the guarantee for 2006–07 and 2007–08 at a level covering anticipated average cost pressures on schools in each year, including the full year costs of implementing work force reform, subject to a final assessment of those pressures.

### Television

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if she will issue guidance on how many hours per day children between the ages of five to 15 should watch television. [11558]

**Beverley Hughes:** The Government currently have no plans to issue guidance on the amount of time per day that children aged five to 15 should watch television. We are aware of some studies which have found links between excessive television watching and obesity, disruptive behaviour, and poor educational performance in children. Parents are best placed to regulate their children's television viewing and to ensure that they lead a balanced, healthy lifestyle. To achieve that objective, the Government are working to increase the information available to parents. Through, for example, Extended Schools; our Youth Green Paper proposals; the Healthy Schools Standard; school sports and PE within the curriculum; and volunteering and mentoring in schools linked to PSHE within the curriculum, we are also working to increase the opportunities available for children and young people to participate in a range of constructive activities as an alternative to watching television.

### Undergraduate Students

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many *(a)* science, *(b)* mathematics and *(c)* modern foreign languages undergraduate students there were in each year between 1994 and 2004; and what proportion of these students were from (i) the UK, (ii) the EU and (iii) other overseas nations in each year. [11097]

**Bill Rammell:** The latest information is given in the table:

*Undergraduate students[1] at English HE Institutions 1994/95–2003/04*

| | | | Of which: percentage from | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Subject studied[2]* | *Total students* | *UK* | *EU* | *Other overseas* | *Total* |
| 1994/95 | Science | 85,745 | 95 | 3 | 2 | 100 |
| | Mathematics | 58,855 | 94 | 2 | 4 | 100 |
| | Modern Foreign Languages | 23,030 | 91 | 7 | 1 | 100 |
| 1995/96 | Science | 89,650 | 94 | 4 | 2 | 100 |
| | Mathematics | 61,760 | 93 | 3 | 4 | 100 |
| | Modern Foreign Languages | 27,245 | 89 | 9 | 3 | 100 |
| 1996/97 | Science | 95,075 | 94 | 4 | 2 | 100 |
| | Mathematics | 65,370 | 93 | 3 | 4 | 100 |
| | Modern Foreign Languages | 26,470 | 87 | 10 | 3 | 100 |
| 1997/98 | Science | 98,380 | 93 | 5 | 2 | 100 |
| | Mathematics | 68,895 | 92 | 4 | 5 | 100 |
| | Modern Foreign Languages | 25,190 | 85 | 11 | 3 | 100 |
| 1998/99 | Science | 98,725 | 93 | 5 | 2 | 100 |
| | Mathematics | 73,365 | 92 | 3 | 4 | 100 |
| | Modem Foreign Languages | 22,801 | 84 | 12 | 4 | 100 |
| 1999/00 | Science | 98,045 | 93 | 4 | 2 | 100 |
| | Mathematics | 77,115 | 92 | 3 | 4 | 100 |
| | Modern Foreign Languages | 21,595 | 82 | 13 | 5 | 100 |

*Undergraduate students[1] at English HE Institutions 1994/95–2003/04*

| | Subject studied[2] | Total students | Of which: percentage from UK | EU | Other overseas | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2000/01 | Science | 96,695 | 93 | 4 | 2 | 100 |
| | Mathematics | 85,840 | 92 | 3 | 5 | 100 |
| | Modern Foreign Languages | 21,330 | 80 | 14 | 7 | 100 |
| 2001/02 | Science | 94,640 | 94 | 4 | 3 | 100 |
| | Mathematics | 91,870 | 91 | 3 | 6 | 100 |
| | Modern Foreign Languages | 22,160 | 80 | 13 | 7 | 100 |
| 2002/03 | Science | 118,105 | 94 | 3 | 3 | 100 |
| | Mathematics | 105,690 | 90 | 3 | 8 | 100 |
| | Modern Foreign Languages | 41,158 | 83 | 10 | 7 | 100 |
| 2003/04 | Science | 141,820 | 95 | 2 | 3 | 100 |
| | Mathematics | 118,965 | 90 | 2 | 8 | 100 |
| | Modern Foreign Languages | 43,295 | 86 | 9 | 6 | 100 |

[1] Based on a count of students as at December 1st in each academic year.
[2] In 2002/03, changes were made to the method used to allocate students to subjects of study, which means that figures for 2002/03 and 2003/04 are not comparable with those for earlier years. Science includes Biological and Physical Sciences.
*Note:*
Figures have been rounded to the nearest 5, so components may not sum to totals.
*Source:*
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

## Universities

**Mr. Sarwar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what proportion of young people in England *(a)* currently attend and *(b)* are applying for a place at university; and if she will make a statement. [13432]

**Bill Rammell:** The Department uses the Higher Education Initial Participation Rate (HEIPR) to assess progress on increasing first-time participation of English students aged 18–30 in higher education towards 50 per cent.: the latest provisional figure for 2003/04 is 43 per cent.

The latest figures published by the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) on applicants for 2005/06 entry, shows that applicants from England to full-time undergraduate courses have increased by 9 per cent. to 344,000. But for a number of reasons, it is not possible to say exactly what effect this will have on the HEIPR: the HEIPR only covers students entering HE by age 30, and excludes those with prior HE experience; part-time students contribute to HEIPR, but these are excluded from the UCAS figures; and it is final acceptances, not applicants, which are important.

**Mr. McGovern:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many Scottish students have enrolled at English and Welsh universities in each of the past three years. [13452]

**Bill Rammell:** Data on the number of Scottish students enrolled in English and Welsh HE institutions are given in the following table.

*Scottish domiciled students enrolled on undergraduate courses HE institutions in England and Wales 2001/02 to 2003/04*

| | Full-time | | Part-time | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | First Degree | Other undergraduate | First Degree | Other undergraduate | Total(3) |
| 2001/02 | 5,800 | 305 | 380 | 1,885 | 8,365 |
| 2002/03 | 5,835 | 295 | 410 | 1,785 | 8,325 |
| 2003/04 | 5,730 | 310 | 400 | 1,850 | 8,285 |

*Note:*
Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 5, so components may not sum to totals.
*Source:*
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

**Mr. Hood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what percentage of young people in England *(a)* participated in university education in the academic year 2004/05 and *(b)* are expected to participate in university education in the academic year 2005/06; whether the Government expects to meet its 2010 target for university participation for 50 per cent. of the young people in England; and if she will make a statement. [14065]

**Bill Rammell:** The provisional participation rate among 18 to 30-year-olds for 2003/04 (the latest year for which data is available) is 43 per cent. The Department's expenditure plans allow for continuing increase in HEIPR in the period to 2007–08, but we do not publish forecasts for individual years.

The target we have published is to make progress towards a participation rate of 50 per cent. among 18 to 30-year-olds by 2010. We expect to continue to make progress towards this target. It has strategic importance for the UK economy because independent forecasts show that the majority of jobs created over the next decade and beyond will be in sectors with high graduate employment rates.

**Dr. Kumar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what percentage of school-leavers in *(a)* England, *(b)* Teesside and *(c)* the Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency went to university in the last period for which figures are available. [12524]

**Bill Rammell:** The latest available figures on participation by constituency were published by the Higher Education Funding Council for England in January in "Young Participation in England", which is available from their website at: http://www.hefce.ac.uk/pubs/hefce/2005/05_03/. Participation rates for constituencies based on this work, showing figures for the years up to 2000, are given on the supporting POLAR website (www.hefce.ac.uk/polar).

The Department uses the Higher Education Initial Participation Rate (HEIPR) to assess progress on increasing first-time participation of English students aged 18–30 in higher education towards 50 per cent.: the latest provisional figure for 2003/04 is 43 per cent. The HEIPR is not calculated at constituency level.

### Wales White Paper

**Peter Law:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how she intends to implement Paragraph 3.12 of the White Paper, "Better Government for Wales" (Cm 6582), in respect of any bill she introduces in the current session of Parliament. [14944]

**Jacqui Smith:** I intend to implement the Government's policy as stated in paragraph 3.12 of the White Paper "Better Governance for Wales" Cm 6582. My Department is in discussion with the Assembly Government on the issues concerned.

### Youth Green Paper

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many copies of the Green Paper Youth Matters have been, or will be, distributed to *(a)* schools, *(b)* youth groups and *(c)* youth work organisations. [14404]

**Beverley Hughes:** The Department distributed c.4,700 copies of the Youth Green Paper to stakeholders including youth groups, youth organisations and local authorities. The document is also available to order from The Stationery Office and free to download from www.dfes.gov.uk/publications/youth.

In line with departmental policy on reducing the volume of material sent to schools, we informed schools about Youth Matters through an e-mail alert; coverage on Teachernet and Governornet; an article in Teachers Magazine; and a letter to all independent schools.

We have also produced a young people's questionnaire. This is being distributed to young people through youth organisations such as the National Youth Agency, UK Youth Parliament and the DfES Children and Youth Board. Schools have also been made aware of this publication and have been encouraged to involve their pupils in the consultation.

The young people's questionnaire is also available in Braille, audio, Easy-read and British sign Language versions, which will be distributed to young people through organisations such as MENCAP.

## TREASURY

### Alcohol/Drugs-related Deaths (Easington)

**John Cummings:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many deaths where alcohol was the primary cause there were in the last five years in Easington constituency. [14469]

**John Healey:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Len Cook to Mr. John Cummings, dated 22 July 2005:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many deaths where alcohol was the primary cause there were in the last five years in Easington constituency. (14469)

The latest year for which figures are available is 2004. The attached table shows the numbers of deaths among residents of Easington Parliamentary Constituency where the underlying cause of death indicated a condition directly related to alcohol use in the years 2000 to 2004.

*Alcohol-related deaths[1] to usual residents of Easington Parliamentary Constituency, registered 2000 to 2004.*

| | *Number of deaths* |
|---|---|
| 2000 | 11 |
| 2001 | 6 |
| 2002 | 12 |
| 2003 | 20 |
| 2004 | 17 |

[1] For the year 2000 the cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9). The codes used by ONS to define alcohol-related deaths are listed below:

291—Alcoholic psychoses
303—Alcohol dependence syndrome
305.0—Non-dependent abuse of alcohol
425.5—Alcoholic cardiomyopathy
571—Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis
E860—Accidental poisoning by alcohol.

For the years 2001–04 the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) was used. To maintain comparability with earlier years the following codes were used:

F10—Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol
142.6—Alcoholic cardiomyopathy
K70—Alcoholic liver disease
K73—Chronic hepatitis, not elsewhere classified
K74—Fibrosis and cirrhosis of liver
X45—Accidental poisoning by and exposure to alcohol.

Deaths were selected using the original underlying cause.

The selection of codes to define alcohol-related deaths is described in:

Baker A and Rooney C (2003). Recent trends in alcohol-related mortality, and the impact of ICD-10 on the monitoring of these deaths in England and Wales. Health Statistics Quarterly 17, pp 5–14.

**John Cummings:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many deaths where misuse of drugs was the primary cause there were in the Easington constituency in the last five years. [14472]

**John Healey:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Len Cook to Mr. John Cummings, dated 26 July 2005:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many deaths where misuse of drugs was the primary cause of death there were in Easington constituency in each of the last five years. (14472)

The most recently available information is for deaths in 2003. There were fewer than five deaths related to drug misuse in total to residents of Easington constituency in the years 1999–2003. In order to maintain confidentiality, numbers cannot therefore be provided.

### Business Rates

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 23 May 2005, *Official Report*, column 33W, on business rates, for what reasons the estimated revenue of £15.3 billion in 2004–05 and £16.5 billion in 2005–06 differs from the net yield estimates given in *Official Report*, column 172W, 15 March 2005. [13157]

**Mr. Woolas:** I have been asked to reply.

The figures for estimated revenue quoted in the answer of 23 May 2005 were the national totals of net rate yields from local lists, as reported by billing authorities on NNDR1 returns to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister in advance of each financial year, whereas those given in the answer on 15 March were initial estimates, produced before NNDR1 returns for 2005–06 had been received.

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the change to business tax receipts in 2005–06 arising from the business rates revaluation in England. [13115]

**Mr. Woolas:** I have been asked to reply.

According to information reported to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister by billing authorities on NNDR1 returns, the net rate yield from local lists after reliefs was forecast to increase by 7.7 per cent., from £15,319 million for 2004–05 to £16,505 million for 2005–06.

### Call Centres/Manufacturing

**John Cummings:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people were employed in *(a)* call centres and *(b)* manufacturing in Easington constituency in the last year for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [14470]

**John Healey:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Len Cook to Mr. John Cummings, dated 22 July 2005:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question about employment in Easington. (14470)

The number of people employed in manufacturing in the Easington constituency for the 12-month period ending February 2004 is estimated to be 8,000. Estimates of the number of people employed in call centres are not available for the Easington constituency.

This estimate is based on annual local area Labour Force Survey data which, as with any sample survey, is subject to sampling variability.

### Cancer Survival Rates

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the survival rates for each of the common forms of cancer have been in each year since 1980, broken down by *(a)* social class and *(b)* English region. [14290]

**John Healey:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Len Cook to Mr. David Amess, dated 22 July 2005:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question concerning what the survival rates for each of the common forms of cancer have been in each year since 1980, broken down by *(a)* social class and *(b)* English region. [14290]

Cancer survival rates are not available by individual year of diagnosis.

Survival rates by socio-economic deprivation, trends in the rates, and NHS region for 58 cancers including 11 cancers in children diagnosed during 1971–90 in England and Wales were published in 1999: Coleman MP et al. in Cancer Survival Trends in England and Wales, 1971–1995: deprivation and NHS Region. Studies in Medical and Population Subjects No.61. London: The Stationery Office, 1999.

The availability of cancer survival information by socio-economic deprivation and English region for the years since 1990 was given in Hansard 905W, 2 February 2005.

Subsequent to the previous answer, figures have been published on patients diagnosed during 1995–97 and followed up to 31 December 2002, by government office regions (and strategic health authorities) in England. These can be found at: http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Expodata/Spreadsheets/D8974.xls

### Carers

**Mr. Hood:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what budget was allocated for carers and the carer's allowance in *(a)* Scotland and *(b)* the UK for 2004–05; and if he will make a statement. [13830]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The Government do not allocate a fixed budget for carer's allowance. Expenditure on carer's allowance is driven by the number of eligible claimants. Expenditure on carer's allowance in Scotland in 2004–05 was £106.7 million. Expenditure for the United Kingdom in the same period was £1,186.5 million. Depending on their individual circumstances, carers may also be entitled to other social security benefits or tax credits.

In England the carers grant was introduced in 1999 and since then has provided an extra £450 million over the past five years, to increase the number of breaks for carers. In 2004–05 the grant was £125 million. The grant is worth £185 million in 2005–06 and will continue at this level until 2007–08 at least. This is an area of devolved policy and therefore the budget for carers in Scotland is a matter for the Scottish Executive.

### Census

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many young people will reach the age of 18 years in each of the 10 years commencing 2000. [14260]

**John Healey:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Len Cook to Mr. David Amess, dated 27 July 2005:*

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your question concerning how many persons will reach the age of 18 in each of the 10 years commencing 2000. (14260)

Below is a table showing those aged 18 on the 30 June for mid-2000 to mid-2010, for England and Wales. Population estimates are provided for mid-2000 to mid-2003. As mid-2003 population estimates are the latest available, mid-2003 based population projections are shown for mid-2004 to mid-2010. (Population estimates for mid-2004 will be published on 25 August 2005.)

These data represent all persons who reached (will reach) the age of eighteen within the year (mid-year to mid-year) and who are usually resident in England and Wales at 30 June. They exclude any persons who died or left England and Wales after reaching the age of 18 and before 30 June, and include those resident in England and Wales at 30 June who reached the age of 18 elsewhere.

*Population aged 18 on 30 June in England Wales*

Thousand

| | |
|---|---|
| *Population estimates* | |
| 2000 | 621.9 |
| 2001 | 629.7 |
| 2002 | 651.8 |
| 2003 | 682.5 |
| *Projected estimates* | |
| 2004 | 680.0 |
| 2005 | 690.6 |
| 2006 | 705.8 |
| 2007 | 696.7 |
| 2008 | 705.0 |
| 2009 | 717.6 |
| 2010 | 707.1 |

*Source:*
Office for National Statistics, Government Actuary's Department

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many men aged *(a)* between 60 and 65, *(b)* 66 and 70 and *(c)* over 70 years of age are estimated to be employed in England and Wales. [14264]

**John Healey:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Len Cook to Mr. David Amess, dated 22 July 2005:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question about men who are not in employment in England and Wales. (14264)

The attached table gives, for the available age groups closest to those specified, the numbers of men who were not in employment and resident in England and Wales. The data are for the three-month period ending May 2005.

These estimates from Labour Force Survey (LFS) are, as with any sample survey, subject to sampling variability.

*The number of men aged 60 and over who are not in employment[1] in England and Wales—not seasonally adjusted*

Thousand

| | Not in employment[1] | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Three months ending May 2005* | *England and Wales* | *England* | *Wales* |
| 60 to 64 | 611 | 564 | 46 |
| 65 to 69 | 931 | 872 | 59 |
| 70 and over | 2,318 | 2,177 | 141 |

[1] Those who stated they were unemployed or inactive.
*Note:*
Sum of components may not equal due to founding.
*Source:*
ONS—Labour Force Survey

## Child Trust Fund

**Mr. David Hamilton:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many families in Midlothian have received the child trust fund. [14753]

**Mr. Denis Murphy:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many children in the Wansbeck constituency are eligible to receive the child trust fund; and how many applications have been made from the Wansbeck constituency. [14465]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** I refer the hon. Members to the answer given to the hon. Member for Houghton and Washington, East (Mr. Kemp) on 20 July 2005, *Official Report*, columns 1826-27W.

## Civil Servants

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was paid in bonus payments related to performance to Senior Civil Servants in the Inland Revenue in each of the last four years. [13879]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Bonuses awarded to members of the Senior Civil Service in the Inland Revenue over the last four years are as follows:

| | *Total bonuses paid (£)* | *Number of SCS staff receiving bonuses* | *Total number of SCS staff* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2005 | 1,147,900 | 228 | 299 |
| 2004 | 981,961 | 156 | 297 |
| 2003 | 860,207 | 169 | 278 |

## Climate Change Levy

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what assessment he has made of the effect of the climate change levy on *(a)* new tyre manufacturers and *(b)* manufacturers of retreaded tyres; [14640]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effects of the climate change levy on companies increasing expenditure to increase energy efficiency putting themselves below the 3 per cent. energy usage against manufacturing costs criteria required for the 80 per cent. climate change levy reduction; [14641]

(3) how many manufacturers of tyres have received a discount from the climate change levy; and how many have done so in each year since its introduction; [14642]

(4) how many *(a)* applicants in total and *(b)* tyre manufacturers have been unsuccessful in applying for a reduction in the climate change levy in each year since its introduction. [14643]

**John Healey:** Climate change levy is assessed on UK industry as a whole and it is not feasible to make an assessment of its impact on every business sector or individual company. The CCL was introduced with offsetting tax cuts for business which included a 0.3 percentage point reduction in employers' national insurance contributions introduced at the same time as the levy in April 2001, support for energy efficiency through enhanced capital allowances and the setting up of the Carbon Trust.

The Government published an independent evaluation by Cambridge Econometrics of the climate change levy at Budget 2005 (available from the House of Commons Library or the HMRC website.www.hmrc.gov.uk). This showed that climate change levy is expected to deliver significant annual carbon dioxide savings of over 3.5 million tonnes of carbon in 2010.

No specific assessment has been made of the effects of the levy on individual companies' investment decisions or energy intensity levels.

Businesses in sectors that sign climate change agreements committing them to meet energy efficiency targets receive an 80 per cent. reduction in the levy. Eligibility is currently dependent on a sector being covered by the Pollution Prevention and Control Regulations, although in Budget 2004 the Government announced plans to extend eligibility, subject to state aid approval to their proposals. Under the existing arrangements, climate change agreements were drawn up with relevant trade bodies before the levy was introduced in 2001. Six manufacturers have signed the New Rubber Tyre Manufacturing Sector's umbrella agreement and therefore receive the 80 per cent. discount. However, there has been no other formal application process under the current eligibility criteria, and therefore no details of successful or unsuccessful applicants in any sectors.

### Conferences

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 11 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 687W, on conferences, what estimate he has made of the cost of providing the information requested. [12773]

**John Healey:** The hon. Gentleman had asked how much the Department has spent on organising or sponsoring conferences in each of the last five years. The Treasury's accounting system did not, until 1 April 2005, treat conferences organised or sponsored by the Department as a separate category of expenditure. To provide the information requested, it would therefore have been necessary to review the transactions in each of the accounts to which conference costs might have been posted (for example the account for rent, for hire of conference premises; the accounts for travel and subsistence; the account for catering) and determine (by reference to invoices if necessary) which of those transactions were for hosted or sponsored conferences. There are many thousands of transactions each year and collating the information for any one financial year would have exceeded the £600 threshold for disproportionate cost.

Since 1 April 2005, the Treasury has an account specifically for the direct non-staff costs of conferences organised or sponsored by the Department, so it will be possible to provide that information for future years.

### Consultants

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what his Department's total spending on management consultants has been in each of the last three years; [13065]

(2) what estimate he has made of the total expenditure saved in each of the last three years as a result of implementing recommendations by management consultancies within his Department. [13622]

**John Healey:** In respect of 2002–03 and 2003–04, I refer the hon. Gentlemen to the answer the former Financial Secretary (Stephen Timms) gave to the hon. Member for Yeovil (Mr. Laws) on 22 February 2005, *Official Report*, columns 472–73. The corresponding figures for 2004–05 are £4.91 million (Revenue), £0.75 million (Capital) and £5.66 million (Total).

The advice of the consultants has contributed towards the planning and implementing of the department's efficiency plans. Information on progress against those plans and savings to date is set out in Annex C of the Treasury's 2005 Departmental Report, available on our website at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/about/departmental_reports/dept_report2005.cfm

### Correspondence

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what management information he collects on the amount by which tax credit awards change in-year to reflect a change of entitlement arising from *(a)* an increase in income above the disregard, *(b)* a change in circumstances and *(c)* official error. [13875]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Tax credit awards can be adjusted during the year to take account of a change in circumstances or income. Where the amount payable is reduced, payments are adjusted with the aim of paying out the right amount for the year as a whole. This is explained in HMRC's Code of Practice 26 "What happens if we have paid you too much tax credit?", which is accessible at http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/leaflets/cop26.htm. This is part of the normal operation of the tax credit system and we therefore do not keep records of the requested information.

**Mr. Frank Field:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many claimants have contacted Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs telephone call centres in each month since the inception of the tax credits scheme. [13878]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The following table shows the monthly total of separate telephone numbers from which calls were made to HMRC contact centres in Great Britain since August 2002.

*Callers to the tax credits helpline in Great Britain*

| *Month/Year* | *Number of callers (Thousand)* |
|---|---|
| *2002* | |
| August | 29 |
| September | 172 |
| October | 301 |
| November | 359 |
| December | 245 |
| *2003* | |
| January | 700 |
| February | 963 |
| March | 2,374 |
| April | 3,765 |
| May | 2,827 |
| June | 2,477 |
| July | 1,515 |
| August | 891 |
| September | 1,111 |
| October | 969 |
| November | 1,031 |
| December | 798 |
| *2004* | |
| January | 1,011 |
| February | 956 |
| March | 1,238 |
| April | 1,606 |
| May | 1,807 |
| June | 2,033 |
| July | 1,909 |
| August | 1,688 |
| September | 2,455 |
| October | 1,649 |
| November | 1,346 |
| December | 958 |
| *2005* | |
| January | 1,356 |
| February | 1,381 |
| March | 1,397 |
| April | 1,952 |
| May | 1,866 |
| June | 1,967 |

**Andrew Mackinlay:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when the Chairman of HM Revenue and Customs will make a substantive reply to the letter of the hon. Member for Thurrock dated 16 June in connection with the case of Mr. and Mrs. K R Collins of Aveley, Essex. [14081]

**Dawn Primarolo:** HM Revenue and Customs will reply to the hon. Member very shortly.

**Andrew Mackinlay:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer why acknowledgement letters to hon. Members from the Chairman of HM Revenue and Customs do not contain any reference number or other indication as to how letters can be subsequently traced; and if he will make a statement. [14082]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The current process of dealing with letters from hon. Members to the Chairman of HM Revenue and Customs means an acknowledgement is sent first, as a priority, before being recorded on the database that subsequently gives it a reference number. This ensures Members are informed at the earliest opportunity that their correspondence has been safely received and is being dealt with. Once the information has been recorded on the database, the case is easily traceable, not only by the reference, but by the constituents name, postcode or by the Member's name.

HM Revenue and Customs are committed to continually reviewing our processes, and actively looking for ways to improve them. We welcome feedback on how we can improve our services to hon. Members and to all our customers. We recognise that quoting a case reference will assist hon. Members, and therefore this will be done on all future acknowledgements from the Chairman's office.

## Departmental Expenditure

**Stewart Hosie:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the total spending by his Department on *(a)* staff, *(b)* accommodation and *(c)* procurement in (i) Dundee East constituency, (ii) Tayside and (iii) the City of Dundee was for the most recent year for which figures are available. [14874]

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the total spending by his Department on *(a)* staff, *(b)* accommodation and *(c)* procurement in the (i) Moray constituency and (ii) Highland Region was for the most recent year for which figures are available. [14842]

**Mr. Salmond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the total spending by his Department on *(a)* staff, *(b)* accommodation and *(c)* procurement in (i) Banff and Buchan and (ii) the North East of Scotland was for the most recent year for which figures are available. [14881]

**Pete Wishart:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the total spending by his Department on *(a)* staff, *(b)* accommodation and *(c)* procurement in Perth and North Perthshire was for the most recent year for which figures are available. [14915]

**John Healey:** The Treasury has no offices in Scotland. While some of the goods and services the Treasury purchases will have been produced in Scotland, and some may have been produced in the specific areas referred to in the questions, the information on where goods and services were produced is not recorded centrally. Figures could therefore be provided only at disproportionate cost.

## Developing Countries

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what measures his Department is taking to enable developing countries to examine the Bretton Woods institutions' programmes before they are implemented. [14201]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** IMF and World Bank support to developing countries, including that released under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries initiative, is based on Poverty Reduction Strategy papers. These are prepared by developing countries in consultation with civil society and aim to ensure countries are in control of their own development plans. The UK encourages participation by poor people and by parliaments as part of this. In addition, the UK supports countries directly in their engagement with the Bretton Woods institutions

though establishing a multi-donor trust fund to support independent analysis for use by African representatives at the IMF and World Bank.

The UK has consistently emphasised the need for the programmes of the Bretton Woods institutions to reflect the priorities contained within countries nationally owned Poverty Reduction Strategies. This approach is embodied in the UK Government's own approach to conditionality, as outlined in the Government paper "Partnerships for Poverty Reduction: rethinking conditionality". We will continue to work within the IMF Executive Board and use the annual meetings of both the IMF and the World Bank to promote this approach in a number of ways, including by:

encouraging the IMF and the World Bank to take full account of the poverty implications of its operations, specifically by enhancing the capacity to conduct Poverty and Social Impact Assessments (PSIA) in its work;

seeking to ensure the IMF's Poverty Reduction and Growth Facility is consistent with the aims set out in Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers; and

monitoring the ongoing review, launched in February 2005, by the IMF and the World Bank, of the Poverty Reduction Strategy process.

## Economic Cycle

**Stewart Hosie:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the change he announced to the Treasury Select Committee on 19 July on the start date for the economic cycle will require revision and alteration of documents and economic assessments previously published by his Department. [14632]

**John Healey:** The Government will next update their assessment of economic and fiscal developments and prospects in the autumn pre-Budget report, as usual, based on all relevant developments.

**Stewart Hosie:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he consulted the financial and business communities before announcing the revision to the start date for the economic cycle to the Treasury Select Committee on 19 July; and when the decision was made to change the start date for the economic cycle. [14633]

**John Healey:** As the Chancellor stated at the Treasury Select Committee on 19 July 2001

"Following the significant updating by the Office of National Statistics (ONS) on 30 June to GDP, it is right to update what has been a provisional judgement that the current economic cycle started in 1999–2000".

Analysis of evidence relevant to the dating of the cycle is set out in the paper "Evidence on the UK economic cycle" published by the Treasury on 19 July.

## Employment (Lanark and Hamilton, East)

**Mr. Hood:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what percentage of people in the Lanark and Hamilton, East constituency are classified as *(a)* professionals and *(b)* skilled workers; and if he will make a statement; [14063]

(2) what percentage of people in the Lanark and Hamilton, East constituency are employed in *(a)* service industries and *(b)* manufacturing industries; and if he will make a statement. [14064]

**John Healey:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Len Cook to Mr. Hood, dated 22 July 2005:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Questions about employment in Lanark and Hamilton East Parliamentary constituency. (14063, 14064)

The attached table contains the information requested for all those in employment in the Lanark and Hamilton East constituency for the year to February 2004. This estimate is based on annual local area Labour Force Survey data which, as with any sample survey, is subject to sampling variability.

*People employed in selected occupations in Lanark and Hamilton, East parliamentary constituency, year to February 2004*

| | Percentage |
|---|---|
| Professional occupations | 12 |
| Skilled workers | 12 |

*Source:*
Annual Local Area Labour Force Survey.

*People employed in selected industries in Lanark and Hamilton, East parliamentary constituency, year to February 2004*

| | Percentage |
|---|---|
| Service industries | 73 |
| Manufacturing | 14 |

*Source:*
Annual Local Area Labour Force Survey.

**Mr. Hood:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the unemployment rate was in the Lanark and Hamilton, East constituency for each year from 2001 to 2005; and if he will make a statement. [14067]

**John Healey:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Len Cook to Mr. Hood, dated 22 July 2005:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question about unemployment. (14067)

Due to the boundary changes introduced for the 2005 General Election there is a limited range of data available for Lanark and Hamilton East, and the other new UK Parliament Constituencies in Scotland.

The unemployment rate for the Lanark and Hamilton East constituency for the twelve months ending February 2004 was 6.2 per cent. Data for earlier periods are not available. This estimate is based on annual local area Labour Force Survey data which, as with any sample survey, is subject to sampling variability.

ONS also compiles statistics of those claiming Jobseeker's Allowance for local areas. The new Scottish constituencies are built up from 2003 Census Area Statistics wards but claimant count data are available for this geography only from February 2004. The average number of Job Seeker's Allowance claimants as a proportion of the resident working age population for the eleven months ending December 2004 was 2.5 per cent. For the six months ending June 2005 the figure was 2.4 per cent.

The data are published on the Office for National Statistics Nomis(r) website at: www.nomisweb.co.uk

The unemployment rate is also published in Table 13(1) of the Labour Market Statistics First Release for Scotland.

### Euro

**Mr. George Osborne:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he next expects to publish an assessment of the five economic tests for UK membership of the euro. [14070]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The Chancellor's statement to the House of Commons on 9 June 2003 set out a reform programme of concrete and practical steps to address policy requirements identified by the June assessment of the five economic tests. Budget 2005 noted that the Government did not propose a euro assesment be initiated at the time of the Budget and that the Treasury will again review the situation at Budget time next year as required by the Chancellor's June 2003 statement.

**Mr. George Osborne:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many civil servants are employed in assessing performance against the five economic tests for UK membership of the euro. [14071]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** Budget 2005 noted that the Government did not propose a euro assessment be initiated at this time. The Chancellor's statement to the House on 9 June 2003 on UK membership of the single currency set out a reform agenda of concrete and practical steps to address the policy requirements identified by the assessment of the five economic tests. A range of officials from across the Treasury contribute to this work.

### European Parliament (Regulatory Costs)

**Mr. Gauke:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate has been made of the regulatory costs that may be incurred as a consequence of the implementation of the European Commission's proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and the Council on the law applicable to non-contractual obligations (COM 2003 427 final (22.7.2003)). [15686]

**Bridget Prentice:** I have been asked to reply.

The Department for Constitutional Affairs has carried out a preliminary assessment of the regulatory costs of the draft regulation (referred to as "Rome II"). This assessment indicates that the Regulation is unlikely to create significant regulatory costs but much will depend on its final form.

### Family Tax Credit

**Stephen Williams:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many people had overpayments of family tax credits due to incorrect health or disability categorisation in the last year for which figures are available; [14475]

(2) what the total cost of overpaid family tax credits, due to incorrect categorisation on grounds of health or disability was in the last year for which figures are available. [14476]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The information is not available.

### Hiatt Handcuffs

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 12 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 889W, on Hiatt handcuffs, whether the results of the customs investigation into large Hiatt handcuffs will be made public. [13678]

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 12 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 889W, on Hiatt handcuffs, if he will place a copy of the results of the HM Revenue and Customs investigation into large Hiatt handcuffs in the Library; and if he will make a statement. [14351]

**Dawn Primarolo:** HM Revenue and Customs submitted their report to the Revenue and Customs Prosecution Office, which is wholly independent and reports to the Attorney General. HMRC will not be publishing their report of the investigations as to do so would breach their duty of confidentiality.

### Hospices

**Mr. Fallon:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will exempt hospices from VAT on building work and major repairs. [14232]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The construction of a new hospice is already VAT zero-rated. The repair and maintenance of existing buildings is standard-rated. While agreements with our European partners allow us to keep our zero rates as they currently stand, we cannot extend them or introduce new ones.

### Identity Cards

**Harry Cohen:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will list the public bodies that responded to the Citizen Information project in relation to the wider use of the identity card database; if he will *(a)* publish the responses and *(b)* place a copy of each response in the Library; and if he will make a statement on the progress of the Citizen Information project. [13285]

**Mr. Des Browne:** The Citizen Information Project has now reported to me, as envisaged in my statement to the House on 28 October 2004, *Official Report*, column 53WS. The Government will now consider the CIP recommendations and I shall make a statement to the House after the summer. At that time the CIP report will be published by the Office for National Statistics, including a list of public bodies consulted.

## Income Tax

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many and what proportion of people in *(a)* England and Wales, *(b)* Essex, *(c)* the Metropolitan police area of London and *(d)* Southend paid income tax at the (i) starting rate of 10 per cent., (ii) basic rate of 22 per cent. and (iii) higher rate of 40 per cent. in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [14287]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The information for taxpayers in England and Wales is in the following table. The starting rate of 10 per cent. was introduced in 1999–2000.

Similar information by tax bands on regional or sub-regional income tax revenue statistics is not available pending a review of national statistics on income tax and personal incomes. Further details of the review can be found on the HMRC website at the following page: http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/income_tax/NS_Review.htm.

*England and Wales, taxpayers only*

| | Starting rate | Savers' and basic rate[1] | Higher rate |
|---|---|---|---|
| *1999–2000* | | | |
| Number of taxpayers (thousand) | 2,300 | 22,400 | 2,500 |
| Percentage | 8 | 79 | 9 |
| *2000–01* | | | |
| Number of taxpayers (thousand) | 2,800 | 23,600 | 2,900 |
| Percentage | 10 | 77 | 10 |
| *2001–02* | | | |
| Number of taxpayers (thousand) | 3,000 | 22,600 | 3,000 |
| Percentage | 11 | 76 | 11 |
| *2002–03* | | | |
| Number of taxpayers (thousand) | 3,100 | 22,700 | 3,000 |
| Percentage | 11 | 76 | 11 |

[1] Includes taxpayers with a marginal rate of 20 per cent. on savings, 22 per cent. on earnings and 10 per cent. on dividends.

The number of people liable for tax in Essex county and the London region can be found in table 3.14 'Total income by borough and district or unitary authority' on the HM Revenue and Customs' website www.inlandrevenue.gov.uk/stats/income_distribution/menu.htm.

The income tax information is based upon the Survey of Personal Incomes (SPI) and 2002–03 is the latest survey year. The survey is based on information held by the HM Revenue and Customs tax offices on persons who are liable to UK tax.

**Stewart Hosie:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many and what percentage of pensioners do not pay income tax at the basic rate, broken down by nation and region of the UK. [14862]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The number of taxpaying pensioners estimated not to pay income tax at the basic rate in 2005–06 is in the following table.

*Taxpaying pensioners, 2005–06*

| | England | Wales | Scotland | Northern Ireland |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Taxpaying pensioners not paying at the basic rate[1] (thousands) | 1,600 | 99 | 162 | 36 |
| As percentage of the taxpaying pensioner population | 37 | 36 | 37 | 35 |
| Total number of taxpaying pensioners (thousands) | 4,330 | 279 | 437 | 105 |

[1] This covers all pensioners paying income tax at the starting, savers' and higher rate only.

The number of pensioners estimated not to pay income tax at the basic rate can be estimated by subtracting the number of pensioners paying tax at the basic rate from the total pensioner population. Population estimates are prepared by the Government Actuary's Department and can be found at http://www.gad.gov.uk/Population/2003/uk/wuk03singyear.xls

Similar information at regional or sub-regional level is not available pending a review of National Statistics on income tax and personal incomes. Further details of the review can be found on the HMRC website at the following page: http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/income_tax/NS_Review.htm

The income tax information is based upon the 2002–03 Survey of Personal projected forward to 2005–06 in line with Budget 2005 assumptions. The survey is based on information held by the HM Revenue and Customs tax offices on persons who are liable to UK tax.

**Stewart Hosie:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the costs of administering *(a)* the introduction of a lower or higher basic rate income tax level for Scotland and *(b)* the annual costs of such a change. [14863]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The White Paper of 24 July 1997 "Scotland's Parliament" estimated that costs of introducing a Scottish variable rate would be in the order of £10 million with annual costs of £8 million. As both administrations of the Scottish Parliament have indicated that they will not take advantage of the Scottish variable rate, the cost estimates have not been uprated. Doing so before a decision was made to introduce a Scottish variable rate would not produce a meaningful estimate of any change bearing in mind continuing modernisation of HMRC's IT development processes.

### Job Vacancies

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many job vacancies there were in the United Kingdom in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [14266]

**John Healey:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Len Cook to Mr. Amess, dated 22 July 2005:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about job vacancies in the United Kingdom. (14266)

The attached table shows the average number of vacancies in the United Kingdom for the three months ending in June in each of the last five years. The data are seasonally adjusted and are published monthly in the Office for National Statistics Labour Market Statistics First Release, and on the National Statistics website at: http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=13310&More=n.

*Numbers of vacancies: United Kingdom*
*Seasonally adjusted*

*Thousands*

| *3 months ending June* | *Total* |
|---|---|
| 2001 | 667.8 |
| 2002 | 607.0 |
| 2003 | 574.1 |
| 2004 | 632.6 |
| 2005[1] | 639.9 |

[1] Provisional
*Source:*
ONS Vacancy Survey

### Les Goodland Ltd.

**Mr. Steen:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects to complete his inquiries as to when the Enforcement Notice was issued by the Inland Revenue against Les Goodland Ltd. of Paignton and sent to his accountant, Mr. C. Howe, of Totnes Road, Paignton. [14425]

**Dawn Primarolo:** I can not comment on progress in respect of a particular inquiry or in relation to a named business or individual, where details are not already in the public domain, as to do so would breach their right to confidentiality. If the hon. Gentleman would like to write to me about this specific case and make clear who he is representing I will look into the matter.

### Lorry Road User Charge

**Mr. Duncan:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much work has been undertaken by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* private organisations to develop equipment for the administration of the Lorry Road User Charge; and how many contracts have been issued, broken down by (i) value and (ii) purpose. [12746]

**John Healey:** In respect of work undertaken on the Lorry Road-User Charge (LRUC) by HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC), I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave to him and the hon. Member for Carshalton and Wallington (Tom Brake) on 19 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 1689W.

The LRUC programme has also sought the advice of a range of professional consultants since it was established in 2002. In line with good practice guidance for significant Government procurements of this type, preparations for and the conduct of the procurement phase, which began in May 2004, included the advice of technical, commercial and legal specialists. The provisional total for this expenditure since the LRUC programme was established in May 2002 up to 31 March 2005, the end of the last complete year for which figures are available, was £31.2 million, representing contracts for up to 198 consultants from 22 organisations.

Seven organisations were short-listed in the procurement process for the LRUC scheme. HMRC entered into contracts with each of them for 'proof of solution' testing to be conducted at test track facilities in Berkshire, to allow them to demonstrate their credibility and that their technical solutions could work. The value of these contracts cannot be disclosed while it would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of HMRC and those organisations.

### National Savings Accounts

**Stewart Hosie:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the total value is of unclaimed assets in national savings accounts. [14861]

**John Healey:** The total unclaimed monies (unaudited) as at 31 March 2005 were £34,587,000. Unclaimed monies in the National Savings and Investments Product Accounts refer to monies where: the product has been redeemed by the Treasury, monthly interest or prizes are due, or to un-cashed Savings Stamps.

To help re-unite customers with their dormant assets, National Savings and Investments operates a free tracing service which, since its launch in 2001 has helped to re-unite 11,300 customers successfully with their assets worth £10.2 million.

### National Statistician

**Mr. Fallon:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects to announce the appointment of the next National Statistician; and if he will make a statement. [14234]

**John Healey:** The recruitment of the next National Statistician will be carried out in accordance with standard civil service practice. The appointment will be made by the Prime Minister following the recommendation of a selection panel, which has four members (including an independent chair and only one Government representative).

### Oil and Gas Prices

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment the Government have made of the impact on their revenues of changes in oil and gas prices. [14452]

**John Healey:** The impact of higher oil prices on the public finances is discussed in Box 2.5 in the 2004 pre-Budget report.

The Government will publish an update of the effect of oil prices on the UK's public finances and updated forecasts for the UK and world economies in the 2005 pre-Budget report as usual, taking into account all relevant factors and developments.

### Personal Income Tax Allowance

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people with incomes below £10,000 per year had incomes above the personal income tax allowance for each year from 1997–98 to 2005–06; and if he will make a statement. [14344]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The information on the number of people with annual total income above the personal income tax allowance but below £10,000 from 1998–99 to 2005–06 is available in table 3.3 'Distribution of total income before and after tax by gender' on the HM Revenue and Customs website: http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/income_distribution/menu.htm.

There were 9.6 million people with annual total income above the personal income tax allowance but below £10,000 in 1997–98.

The income tax information for the years 1997–98 to 2002–03 is based upon the Survey of Personal Incomes, and that for the years 2003–04 to 2005–06 is based upon the 2002–03 survey projected forward. The survey is based on information held by the HM Revenue and Customs tax offices on persons who are liable to UK tax.

### Pound Sterling

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the purchasing power is of the pound sterling, taking its May 1997 value as 100p. [14288]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Len Cook to Mr. David Amess, dated 22 July 2005:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question, concerning what the purchasing power is of the pound sterling, taking its May 1997 value as 100p. (14288)

Based in the Retail Prices Index, the purchasing power of 100p in May 1997 is 82p as at June 2005 (the latest month available). In other words, the purchasing power fell by 18% during this period.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average value of the pound sterling against the United States Dollar has been in each month since 1997. [14289]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Len Cook to Mr. David Amess, dated 5 September 2005:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question concerning what the average value of the pound sterling against the United States Dollar has been in each month since 1997. (14289)

Average rates against sterling figures for the United States Dollar are published in table 7.1A of "Financial Statistics" (ONS Publication), published by Palgrave Macmillan, and available via the House of Commons Library. Long run historic data is available on the ONS Website at:

http://nswebcopy/statbase/tsdtablesl.asp?vlnk=fsf

### Pregnancies (Wellingborough)

**Mr. Bone:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many pregnancies there were in the age groups *(a)* under 16-year-olds, *(b)* 16 to 19-year-olds and *(c)* aged 20 years and over in the Wellingborough constituency in each year since 1997. [14773]

**John Healey:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician. I have asked him to reply.

*Letter from Len Cook to Mr. Peter Bone, dated 22 July 2005:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many pregnancies there were in the age groups *(a)* under 16 years old, *(b)* 16 to 19 years old and *(c)* aged 20 years and over in the Wellingborough constituency each year since 1997. (14773)

Information on conceptions is routinely published for local authorities and strategic health authorities. Figures cannot be provided for Wellingborough Parliamentary Constituency because of the risk of disclosing information on individuals due to small differences with local authority boundaries.

Figures for Wellingborough Local Authority are given in the table below.

*Number of conceptions, Wellingborough LA, 1997 to 2003.*

| | Age under 16 | Age 16 to 19 | Age over 20 | All ages |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1997 | 12 | 134 | 891 | 1,037 |
| 1998 | 10 | 149 | 923 | 1,062 |
| 1999 | 15 | 131 | 887 | 1,033 |
| 2000 | 19 | 132 | 835 | 986 |
| 2001 | 13 | 134 | 884 | 1,031 |
| 2002 | 10 | 148 | 919 | 1,077 |
| 2003[1] | 23 | 144 | 894 | 1,061 |

[1] Figures for 2003 are provisional.

### Retirement Age

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females reached retirement age in each year since 1975. [14265]

**John Healey:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Len Cook to Mr. David Amess, dated 22 July 2005:*

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your question concerning how many *(a)* females and *(b)* females reached retirement age in each year since 1975. (14265)

Attached is a table showing the male population aged 65 and the female population aged 60 on the 30 June for mid-1975 to mid-2003, for England and Wales. Retirement age during this period was 65 for males and 60 for females.

These figures represent males and females who reached retirement age within the previous year (mid-year to mid-year) and who are usually resident in the UK at 30 June. They exclude any people who died or left the UK after reaching retirement age and before 30 June, and include anyone resident in the UK at 30 June who reached retirement age elsewhere.

Mid-2003 population estimates are the latest available. Mid-2004 population estimates will be published on 25 August 2005.

*Males aged 65 and females aged 60 on 30 June, in England and Wales*

*Thousand*

| | *Males age 65* | *Females age 60* |
|---|---|---|
| 1975 | 246.9 | 304.7 |
| 1976 | 242.5 | 280.6 |
| 1977 | 243.4 | 260.9 |
| 1978 | 246.8 | 231.9 |
| 1979 | 247.0 | 239.1 |
| 1980 | 242.3 | 348.3 |
| 1981 | 226.5 | 330.1 |
| 1982 | 208.2 | 311.4 |
| 1983 | 184.1 | 293.2 |
| 1984 | 191.5 | 287.2 |
| 1985 | 282.1 | 281.4 |
| 1986 | 268.1 | 279.4 |
| 1987 | 256.7 | 272.7 |
| 1988 | 242.5 | 267.1 |
| 1989 | 240.2 | 267.8 |
| 1990 | 238.3 | 270.8 |
| 1991 | 240.8 | 267.9 |
| 1992 | 234.7 | 258.6 |
| 1993 | 230.0 | 250.8 |
| 1994 | 230.6 | 248.4 |
| 1995 | 233.2 | 254.0 |
| 1996 | 235.2 | 259.1 |
| 1997 | 231.4 | 262.2 |
| 1998 | 226.1 | 266.7 |
| 1999 | 225.1 | 267.9 |
| 2000 | 232.0 | 265.1 |
| 2001 | 236.2 | 253.1 |
| 2002 | 241.2 | 267.0 |
| 2003 | 244.3 | 293.3 |

*Notes:*

1. Population estimates are shown in thousands and rounded to the nearest 100 people.
2. Figures may not add exactly due to rounding.

*Source:*

Office for National Statistics.

## Savings Gateway Scheme

**Mr. Kemp:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will extend the new Savings Gateway scheme for low income and unemployed people to the constituency of Houghton and Washington East. [14450]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The first Saving Gateway ran from August 2002 to November 2004 and was piloted in five parts of the country, alongside the Department for Education and Skills Community Finance and Learning Initiative. In the pre-Budget report the Government announced the second Saving Gateway pilot to build on the evidence base. This pilot is being run in the same areas as the first, with one additional area to link in with educational support.

The second Saving Gateway pilot will test alternative match rates, different monthly contribution limits, the effect of an initial endowment, and the support of a wider range of community financial education bodies. It will also be made available to a wider range of income groups than the first pilot and will inform the development of matching as a central pillar in Government strategy for promoting saving and asset ownership for all.

## Scottish Fisheries Protection Vessels

**Mr. MacNeil:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) on what dates *(a)* he and *(b)* his Department discussed with the Scottish Executive the EU rules governing the tendering process for Scottish Fisheries Protection vessels; and what (i) information and (ii) advice he has given to the Scottish Executive on the application of these rules in relation to the requirement to award contracts competitively, with particular reference to whether it is possible to award such contracts solely to British shipyards; [14050]

(2) what representations he has made to the European Commission on behalf of the Scottish Executive in relation to the rules governing the tendering process for Scottish Fisheries Protection vessels; and what *(a)* information and *(b)* advice he has received from the European Commission on the application of the European Union procurement rules in this case. [14051]

**Mr. Des Browne:** Neither I, nor my Department, have had discussions with the Scottish Executive or the European Commission regarding the tendering process for the Scottish Fisheries Protection Vessels. Responsibility for the application of the EU procurement rules rests in this case with the contracting authority, the Scottish Fisheries Protection Agency. Since devolution, the Scottish Executive has overall policy responsibility for public procurement in Scotland in devolved areas.

## Self-invested Personal Pensions

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) under what circumstances from April 2006 funds from a self-invested personal pension can be invested in properties already owned by the fund holder prior to April 2006, or prior to the fund being set up; [14379]

(2) whether payments equivalent to market rent must be made into self- invested personal pension funds for properties bought with fund finances during periods for which they are unoccupied; [14380]

(3) what types of property may be purchased, and in what circumstances, with funds from a self-invested personal pension from April 2006; [14382]

(4) if he will estimate the net effect on revenues to his Department of the changes to self invested personal pension funds due to be implemented in April 2006 for each of the next five financial years; [14436]

(5) in what circumstances funds from the sale of properties financed through a self invested personal pension fund will be subject to capital gains tax from April 2006. [14437]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** Pension tax simplification replaces the numerous existing tax regimes with a universal regime for tax-privileged pension savings providing greater flexibility to some 15 million pension savers. Currently most pension funds may invest in property, and many do. Under the new simplified regime self-invested personal pensions (SIPPs) and small self-administered schemes (SSASs) may invest in all types of property including residential property from 6 April 2006. Around 200,000 people, compared to over 15 million pension scheme

members, hold these specialist pension vehicles. Creating a single set of allowable investments across all pension schemes fits the requirement to create a single regime for tax privileged pension saving and corrects an existing distortion by giving investors greater choice.

Using a SIPP to invest in a buy to let residential property or holiday home will have the following consequences:

the property becomes an asset of the pension fund and there is a requirement to put all rental income into the pension fund so it is locked away and cannot be accessed until retirement;

if the property is made available to a member of the scheme or members of their family it will give rise to a benefits in kind tax charge if a market rent is not paid (even if they choose not to use it);

any property bought by the pension fund in most cases will need to be sold before the pension can be drawn, to provide a secured income in retirement;

only 25 per cent. of the capital in the property will be able to be extracted as a lump sum, the remainder will be locked in the pension to be drawn out over the period of retirement;

the restriction on borrowing of 50 per cent. of the value of the scheme's assets will limit the numbers who have or are able to build up sufficient funds in their SIPP to purchase a property;

although any rental income or capital gains from the disposal of the property will be tax free in the pension fund when the money is extracted it will be taxed at 30 per cent. (higher rate tax at 40 per cent. on 75 per cent. of the gain assuming 25 per cent. is taken as a tax free lump sum) which is higher than the rate under the CGT regime payable after the property has been held for seven years;

putting any previously-owned property into the SIPP will trigger any unrealised chargeable gain on the property, and transaction costs such as stamp duty;

maximum tax relief on contributions made in any year is 100 per cent. of UK chargeable earnings, subject to an annual allowance set initially at £215,000. Tax relieved pension savings are also subject to a lifetime allowance initially set at £1.5 million.

Therefore, although the measure will increase the number of pension funds that can invest in residential property, these factors will mean that for most people (including the relatively few affected by the liberalisation) residential property will not be an appropriate investment.

The regulatory impact assessment (RIA) "Simplifying the Taxation of Pensions" published in April 2004, which can be found at http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/ria/simplifying-pensions.pdf set out an assessment of the potential impact of the whole pensions simplification package, including the changes to the lifetime allowance and ages at which pensions can be taken, together with allowing residential property into SIPPs and SSASs. These elements cannot easily be separated and therefore the RIA estimates the overall cost of the pensions simplification package to the Exchequer at around £½billion within four years. Paragraphs 55 and 56 deal specifically with the potential consequences of allowing residential property into SIPPs and SSASs.

The Government will keep this aspect of the tax system, as with all others, under review.

## Special Advisers

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will list *(a)* the special advisers in his Department, *(b)* their specific areas of expertise and *(c)* the total cost of employing them in the latest year for which figures are available. [8820]

**John Healey:** I refer the hon. Member to the written statement which the Prime Minister issued on 21 July.

## Tax Credits

**John Hemming:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what formula is used for calculating the rate at which tax credit overpayments are recovered from recipients; how many and what proportion of recipients making repayments are doing so using direct debit; and what proportion of overpayments were recovered by direct debit on the latest date for which figures are available. [11301]

**Dawn Primarolo:** I refer the hon. Member to HMRC's Code of Practice 26, "What happens if we have paid you too much tax credit?", a copy of which is in the Library. HMRC have set up 59,718 direct debit arrangements since December 2004. The rest of the information requested is not available.

**John Hemming:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make it his policy for terms of repayment of overpaid tax credit to be agreed with recipients before deductions are made. [11303]

**Dawn Primarolo:** I refer the hon. Member to my statement of 26 May 2005, *Official Report*, columns 22–23WS. This confirmed that I had asked HMRC to review the operation of the code of practice on overpayments. Meeting the commitment made by HMRC's chairman to the Public Accounts Committee in January 2005, the Department will ensure that in cases of genuine hardship where the recovery of an overpayment is disputed, recovery can be suspended while the dispute is resolved.

**Mr. George Osborne:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many complaints about the recovery of overpaid tax credits his Department has received in each month since April 2003. [13707]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Overpayments for 2003–04 were only finally identified after April 2004 when HMRC started finalising awards for that year.

The monthly breakdown of disputes against overpayments received each month from May 2004 is as follows:

| *Month* | *Disputes received* |
|---|---|
| May 2004 | 2,000 |
| June 2004 | 12,000 |
| July 2004 | 17,000 |
| August 2004 | 9,000 |
| September 2004 | 28,000 |
| October 2004 | 25,000 |
| November 2004 | 22,000 |
| December 2004 | 16,000 |
| January 2005 | 18,000 |
| February 2005 | 24,000 |
| March 2005 | 44,000 |
| April 2005 | 32,000 |
| May 2005 | 22,000 |
| June 2005 | 23,000 |

**Mr. George Osborne:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many complaints about tax credit awards his Department has received in each month since April 2003. [13709]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Claimants can contact HM Revenue and Customs to appeal if they think that their tax credits award is wrong. The Department will seek to agree the amount of the award with the claimant and make the correct payment. Information concerning appeals can be found in the HMRC leaflet WTC/AP "How to appeal against a tax credits decision or award" which is available on the internet at—http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/leaflets/wtc_ap.pdf.

The number of appeals recorded against tax credits decisions in each month since April 2003 is as follows:

*2003–04*

| *Month* | *Number of appeals received (Great Britain)* |
|---|---|
| April 2003 | 1,275 |
| May 2003 | 3,555 |
| June 2003 | 3,900 |
| July 2003 | 3,830 |
| August 2003 | 2,665 |
| September 2003 | 3,225 |
| October 2003 | 3,730 |
| November 2003 | 2,490 |
| December 2003 | 2,320 |
| January 2004 | 2,145 |
| February 2004 | 2,030 |
| March 2004 | 2,120 |

*Note:*
Rounded to the nearest 5 cases.

In 2003–04 a further 370 appeals were recorded by Tax Credit Office in Northern Ireland (NI). A monthly breakdown of this figure is not available.

*2004 to June 2005 (including NI)*

| *Month* | *Number of appeals received (UK)* |
|---|---|
| April 2004 | 2,720 |
| May 2004 | 2,380 |
| June 2004 | 3,910 |
| July 2004 | 6,100 |
| August 2004 | 3,395 |
| September 2004 | 2,950 |
| October 2004 | 2,210 |
| November 2004 | 3,390 |
| December 2004 | 5,065 |
| January 2005 | 3,560 |
| February 2005 | 3,170 |
| March 2005 | 5,225 |
| April 2005 | 4,375 |
| May 2005 | 3,830 |
| June 2005 | 2,610 |

*Note:*
Rounded to the nearest 5 cases.

**Mr. George Osborne:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the cost of postage relating to tax credits was in each year from 1999–2000 to 2004–05. [13718]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Postage costs for tax credits were around £3 million for 1999–2000; £5 million for 2001–02; £9 million, for 2002–03; £10.5 million, for 2003–04 and £14 million for 2004–05.

The costs for 1999–2000 relate to the costs of sending information to working families' tax credit (WFTC) and disabled person's tax credit (DPTC) applicants. This was a much smaller population that for child tax credit (CTC) and working tax credit (WTC) and the fixed nature of WFTC and DPTC awards meant that fewer communications were necessary.

During 2002–03 recipients of WFTC, DPTC and children's tax credit were sent claim packs in readiness for the introduction for CTC and WTC in April 2003. From 2004–05 renewals packs were sent to all CTC and WTC claimants, then each claimant would have received award notice as the previous year's award was finalised and the new award set up. So, the number of items each claimant needed to receive in the second year was more than in the first year.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the oral statement of 12 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 720, on tax credits, how many staff will be dedicated to the pilot scheme for contacting customers to encourage them to report changes to their tax credit award; whether these will be *(a)* new members of staff and *(b)* staff already working on the tax credit helpline or dealing with complaints; how long he expects the pilots to run for; what he estimates the cost of the scheme will be; and how he will evaluate the success of the pilot scheme. [13842]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The pilot exercises have begun and are expected to run throughout 2005–06. It is not expected that significant numbers of HMRC staff will be re-deployed from their day to day work to support the pilots nor is it expected that additional staff will be recruited. The cost of the exercise is expected to be modest.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the oral statement of 12 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 722, on tax credits, how many tax credit overpayments for 2003–04 were the result of *(a)* rises in income from (i) £2,500 to £2,999, (ii) £3,000 to £3,999, (iii) £4,000 to £4,999, (iv) £5,000 to £5,999, (v) £6,000 to £6,999, (vi) £7,000 to £7,999, (vii) £8,000 to £8,999, (viii) £9,000 to £9,999, (ix) over £10,000, *(b)* changes in circumstances and *(c)* official error. [13843]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Reductions in tax credits awards can result from a combination of changes in circumstances and incomes, which can also be reported at different times. It is not always possible to say whether any particular change caused or contributed to an eventual overpayment.

On *(a)* to (i), Table 6 of "Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics. Finalised awards 2003–04. Supplement on payments in 2003–04" analyses by income bands the 1,879 thousand awards where payments in 2003–04, as recorded on the computer record for each case, exceeded the finalised entitlement for 2003–04 by more than £10. This publication can be found at www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/menu.htm. The following table shows the number in each specified band of rise in income where this is at least £2,500.

*Overpaid 2003–04 awards where the increase in income between 2001–02 and 2003–04 exceeded £2,500*

| *Increase in family's income between 2001–02 and 2003–04* | *Number of awards overpaid at 5 April 2004, based on finalised incomes[1] (Thousand)* |
|---|---|
| *(a)* 2,500 to 2,999 | 77 |
| *(b)* 3,000 to 3,999 | 144 |
| *(c)* 4,000 to 4,999 | 119 |
| *(d)* 5,000 to 5,999 | 96 |
| *(e)* 6,000 to 6,999 | 79 |
| *(f)* 7,000 to 7,999 | 67 |

*Overpaid 2003–04 awards where the increase in income between 2001–02 and 2003–04 exceeded £2,500*

| *Increase in family's income between 2001–02 and 2003–04* | *Number of awards overpaid at 5 April 2004, based on finalised incomes[1] (Thousand)* |
|---|---|
| *(g)* 8,000 to 8,999 | 59 |
| *(h)* 9,000 to 9,999 | 49 |
| *(i)* 10,000 and over | 313 |
| Total 2,500 and over | 1,003 |

[1] Excluding awards with overpayments under £10. See the note in the publication referred to.

On *(j)* , it is not possible to establish how many overpaid cases experienced a change in circumstance reducing the value of their 2003–04 award, except at disproportionate cost.

On *(k)* , no complete analysis exists of official error causing or contributing to overpayments.

**Mr. Frank Field:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many claimants had *(a)* in-year and *(b)* end-of year adjustments made to their tax credits awards in each year since 2003–04; and in how many in-year adjustments the tax credit award was reduced to zero. [13918]

**Dawn Primarolo** *[holding answer 21 July 2005]:* Tax credit awards can be adjusted during the year to take account of changes in circumstances or income reported at that time. In-year adjustments are therefore part of the normal operation of the tax credit system and their numbers are not monitored.

For 2.1 million 2003–04 tax credits awards the finalised entitlement differed from that based on the family's circumstances and incomes as reported by 5 April 2004. No figure for 2004–05 awards will be available until all such awards are finalised.

**Greg Clark:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many tax credit claimants in the Tunbridge Wells constituency there were in each year since the scheme began; and how many have been *(a)* underpaid and *(b)* overpaid. [14355]

**Dawn Primarolo:** I refer the hon. Member to my reply to the hon. Member for Peterborough (Mr. Jackson) on 4 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 95W. Estimates of numbers of overpayments or underpayments for 2004–05 awards will not be available until spring 2006, after final 2004–05 incomes and family circumstances have been reported.

**Mr. Denis Murphy:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many families in the Wansbeck constituency have been advised by the Inland Revenue that they have been overpaid tax credits; and how many families have had their overpayments written off. [14463]

**Dawn Primarolo:** For the first part of the question I refer my hon. Friend to my reply to the hon. Member for Peterborough (Mr. Jackson) on 4 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 95W.

With regard to the second part of the question, information about the amounts written off is not available at a regional level.

**Mr. Bone:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people have had their tax credit payments suspended due to overpayments in each year since the tax credit system was introduced in *(a)* each county in England and Wales and *(b)* Wellingborough constituency. [14771]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Overpayments of tax credits are not identified until final incomes and family circumstances for the year are reported. Details of how overpayments are recovered are provided in the Department's Code of Practice 26 "What happens if we have paid you too much tax credit?", which is available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/leaflets/cop26.htm.

Information on the number of families whose awards were reduced to zero is only available at disproportionate costs.

Tax credit awards can also be adjusted during the year to take account of a change in circumstances or income. Where this leads to a change in entitlement, payments will be adjusted with the aim of paying out the right amount for the year as whole. This is also explained in the Code of Practice 26 "What happens if we have paid you too much tax credit?" This is part of the normal operation of the tax credit system and no count of such occurrences is maintained.

**Stewart Hosie:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many working tax credit overpayments there were in each parliamentary constituency in each of the last two years; and what the total value was of overpayments in each year; [14856]

(2) what the total value is of overpayments for each tax credit, broken down by region and nation of the UK. [14857]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The number and value of 2003–04 tax credit awards that were underpaid and overpaid after finalisation, by region, parliamentary constituency and local authority can be found in the publication "Child and Working Tax Credit Statistics. Finalised Awards 2003–04. Supplement on Payments in 2003–04. Geographical Analyses". This is available on the HMRC website at http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/menu.htm.

Estimates of numbers and value of overpayments or underpayments for 2004–05 awards will not be available until after final incomes and family circumstances for 2004–05 have been reported.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the statement of 22 June 2005 by the Paymaster General, *Official Report*, columns 801–14, on tax credits, (1) what plans he has to review the right of appeal within the tax credit system; and what assessment he has made of the merits of the adoption of a statutory test for the recovery of excess payments and overpayments of tax credits; [8020]

(2) what action his Department is taking to allow people to appeal against tax credit overpayments which were recovered prior to June; and if he will make a statement; [8581]

(3) what plans he has to introduce an independent right of appeal in relation to tax credit overpayment recovery; and if he will make a statement. [8586]

**Mr. Frank Field:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if HM Revenue and Customs will permit a right of appeal to an independent tribunal to persons from whom the recovery of overpayment of tax credits is sought. [10216]

**Dawn Primarolo** *[holding answer 7 July 2005]:* I refer the hon. Member and my right hon. Friend to my statement of 26 May 2005, *Official Report*, column 802, on tax credits.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the statement of 12th July 2005, *Official Report*, column 720, how long it takes on average to identify tax credit IT system problems; what actions will be taken to speed up their identification; and whether he will set internal targets for identifying and resolving IT system problems. [13836]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Tax credit IT system problems are managed according to industry best practice as set out in the Office of Government Commerce's IT Infrastructure Library. HMRC uses the mechanisms that are recommended for the identification and subsequent resolution of any problem. The Department is also working with its IT partner to test additional diagnostic tools.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many telephone calls were made each month to the *(a)* tax credits helpline and *(b)* hon. Members' tax credit helpline from January 2003 to June 2005; how many of these calls were not answered; and if he will make a statement; [8574]

(3) how many calls to the tax credits helpline were made between April 2003 and April 2005; and if he will make a statement; [9896]

(2) how many telephone calls were made to the tax credits helpline in each month in 2003–04 and 2004–05, broken down by *(a)* calls answered and *(b)* calls not answered; and if he will make a statement; [12298]

(4) how many calls have been *(a)* received and *(b)* handled by the Inland Revenue tax credits telephone helpline in each month since August 2002; and if he will make a statement. [12297]

**Mr. George Osborne:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many calls were made to the tax credit helpline in each of the last 24 months. [9846]

**Dawn Primarolo** *[holding answer 19 and 20 July 2005]:* The information requested is as follows:

*(a)* Details of calls made to the helpline are given in the following table.

*Thousand*

| | *Received*[1] | *Handled*[2] | *Engaged and busy*[3] |
|---|---|---|---|
| *2002–03* | | | |
| August | 28 | 28 | — |
| September | 179 | 177 | — |
| October | 324 | 320 | — |
| November | 394 | 374 | — |
| December | 268 | 265 | — |
| January | 851 | 771 | 3 |
| February | 1,168 | 957 | 348 |
| March | 2,487 | 1,701 | 4,237 |
| *2003–04* | | | |
| April | 2,509 | 1,768 | 12,880 |
| May | 2,000 | 1,680 | 9,478 |
| June | 957 | 913 | 12,920 |
| July | 1,254 | 1,168 | 4,096 |
| August | 1,059 | 999 | 311 |
| September | 1,259 | 1,196 | 555 |
| October | 1,139 | 1,104 | 70 |
| November | 1,158 | 1,102 | 216 |
| December | 902 | 878 | 127 |
| January | 1,132 | 1,107 | 116 |
| February | 1,087 | 1,066 | 56 |
| March | 1,475 | 1,453 | 33 |
| *2004–05* | | | |
| April | 1,869 | 1,824 | 301 |
| May | 2,101 | 2,064 | 208 |
| June | 2,321 | 2,287 | 191 |
| July | 2,149 | 2,109 | 262 |
| August | 1,936 | 1,913 | 32 |
| September | 2,774 | 2,620 | 244 |
| October | 1,818 | 1,793 | 52 |
| November | 1,493 | 1,471 | 101 |
| December | 1,097 | 1,065 | 62 |
| January | 1,694 | 1,627 | 199 |
| February | 1,529 | 1,471 | 256 |
| March | 1,554 | 1,504 | 103 |
| *2005–06* | | | |
| April | 1,962 | 1,842 | 652 |
| May | 2,051 | 1,940 | 350 |
| June | 2,164 | 2,043 | 327 |

[1] Where the caller selected an option from the call steering menu and was put in a queue to speak to an adviser.

[2] Where the caller spoke to an adviser.

[3] Details for the period August to December 2002 are not available.

*(b)* The MPs' hotline in HM Revenue & Customs' Tax Credit Office deals with calls from hon. Members about their constituents' tax credits claims. Figures are not available for the period January 2003 to March 2003. For the number of calls answered by the MPs' hotline in 2003–04 and for April to December 2004, I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Northavon (Steve Webb), 21 February 2005, *Official Report*, columns 75–76W. The figures for 1 January 2005 to 31 May 2005 are given in the following table. The telephony equipment does not record the number of calls not answered.

| *2005* | *Number of calls to Tax Credit Office MPs' Hotline* |
|---|---|
| January | 1,730 |
| February | 1,690 |
| March | 1,700 |
| April | 1,411 |
| May | 942 |

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what representations were made by EDS to the Inland Revenue in *(a)* 2002 and *(b)* 2003 in relation to the timetable for testing the tax credit system; and if he will make a statement. [10018]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The representations made by EDS about the timetable for testing the tax credits system were covered by the Public Accounts Committee at its hearing of 3 December 2003.

As EDS made clear in that PAC hearing they advised the Department at the time that there was no material reason not to go live with the tax credits system, and had no evidence at that time that the problems that did occur would do so.

**Mr. George Osborne:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many of the tax credit awards involving underpayments of £5,000 or more in 2003–04 involved underpayments of *(a)* £6,000 or more, *(b)* £7,000 or more, *(c)* £8,000 or more, *(d)* £9,000 or more and *(e)* £10,000 or more; and if he will make a statement; [11451]

(2) how many of the tax credit awards involving overpayments of £5,000 or more in 2003–04 involved overpayments of *(a)* £6,000 or more, *(b)* £7,000 or more, *(c)* £8,000 or more, *(d)* £9,000 or more and *(e)* £10,000 or more; and if he will make a statement. [11452]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Information on the number and sizes of 2003–04 tax credit awards overpaid and underpaid at the 5 April 2004 with an overpayment or underpayment of more than £5,000 based on final family circumstances and income is available in the HMRC publication "Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics. Finalised awards 2003–04. Supplement on payments in 2003–04" This publication can be found on the HMRC website at http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-quarterly-stats.htm.

The following table shows a further breakdown of the number of overpayments and underpayments of more than £5,000.

*Finalised 2003–04 awards underpaid or overpaid at 5 April 2004, by size of under or overpayment*

*Thousands*

| *Size of underpayment or overpayment* | *Underpaid awards* | *Overpaid awards* |
|---|---|---|
| Greater or equal to £5,000 but less than £6,000 | 3 | 22 |
| Greater or equal to £6,000 but less than £7,000 | 1 | 11 |
| Greater or equal to £7,000 but less than £8,000 | — | 4 |
| Greater or equal to £8,000 but less than £9,000 | — | 2 |
| Greater or equal to £9,000 but less than £10,000 | — | 1 |
| Greater or equal to £10,000 | — | 1 |

*Notes.*
These figures are estimates based on a sample of all awards, therefore due to sampling uncertainty all figures below 0.5 thousand have been withheld.
The level of under or overpayment at 5 April 2004 for each award is based on the 2003–04 entitlement calculated from the family's circumstances and income in 2003–04 reported by April 2005.

**John Hemming:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many manual tax credit payments were made in May 2005; and for what reasons manual payments were necessary. [12178]

**Dawn Primarolo:** In May 2005, around 14,100,000 tax credits payments were made.

The main reasons that manual payments were made in May were to prevent hardship *(a)* where there had been delays in processing changes in circumstances; *(b)* where claims had been terminated because the award notice had not been signed and the claim was subsequently reinstated; *(c)* where an error resulted in a child or children no longer being shown on the award notice.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people have faced a penalty for withdrawing their tax credit claims in *(a)* 2003–04, *(b)* 2004–05 and *(c)* 2005–06 to date. [12393]

**Dawn Primarolo:** HMRC may charge penalties where a claim has been made fraudulently or negligently. A claim may be withdrawn before it is processed, although not afterwards. If the information provided by the claimant is incorrect a penalty can be charged even if the claim is withdrawn. It would be possible only to ascertain the number of penalties charged in respect of claims that had been withdrawn at disproportionate cost.

**Mr. Dorrell:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the statement by the Chief Secretary to the Treasury on 12 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 713, what the precedents are to which he refers. [12961]

**Dawn Primarolo** *[holding answer 19 July 2005]:* The term "Official Error" has a long history of use to describe serious administrative mistakes. It has been used for many years by the Inland Revenue (now HMRC) where the Department has made serious mistakes in handling a person's tax affairs.

Since 1971, this has developed into Extra Statutory Concession (A19) under which tax can be waived where arrears arise because of the Department's failure to make proper and timely use of information supplied by the taxpayer, so that they could reasonably have believed their tax affairs were in order.

**Mr. George Osborne:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many families received an annual tax credit award of *(a)* £10 or less, *(b)* £20 or less, *(c)* £50 or less and *(d)* £100 or less in the latest year for which figures are available. [13703]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Estimates of the average number of tax credit awards broken down by the size of awards in 2003–04 are available in the HMRC publication, "Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics. Finalised Annual Awards 2003–04." This publication can be found on the HMRC website at: http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-quarterly-stats.htm

The minimum tax credits award payable is £26 per year. Cumulative figures for the average number of in-work families that received tax credit awards in 2003–04 of less than £50 and less than £100 are shown in the following table:

| *Level of annualised entitlement* | *Average number of in-work families benefiting (thousand)* |
|---|---|
| Less than £50 per annum | 4.9 |
| Less than £100 per annum | 14.5 |

**Mr. George Osborne:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will release provisional data relating to the *(a)* underpayment and *(b)* overpayment of tax credits in the year 2004–05. [13704]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Estimates of numbers and values of overpayments or underpayments for 2004–05 awards at 5 April 2005 will be published in spring 2006, after all the awards are finalised.

**Mr. George Osborne:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer of the underpaid tax credit awards in 2003–04, excluding underpayments of less than £10, how many have been rectified to date. [13705]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Where underpaid awards of 2003–04 were identified, HM Revenue and Customs' policy is that they should be repaid as lump sums as soon as possible. Of the 713,000 awards that were underpaid at 5 April 2004, almost all have been recompensed.

**Mr. George Osborne:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the cost of *(a)* management consultants and *(b)* IT consultants in relation to tax credits was in each year from 1999–2000 to 2004–05. [13708]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The cost of IT consultants for 1999–2000 was around £150,000; for 2000–01 around £250,000; for 2001–02 around £4.4 million; for 2002–03 around £7.3 million; for 2003–04 around £8 million and for 2004–05 around £4.4 million.

No management consultants were employed.

**Mr. George Osborne:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the minimum number of overpayments, expressed as a percentage of caseload, which could be achieved without making changes to the structure of the tax credit system. [13710]

**Dawn Primarolo:** In a system, which is designed to be flexible to respond to changes in families' incomes and circumstances, there will inevitably be adjustments at the end of the year and in some cases these will involve overpayments. HMRC are working to reduce the number of overpayments by reminding claimants of the need to ensure that HMRC have up to date information about their circumstances. It is not possible to say what the minimum number of overpayments would be.

**Mr. George Osborne:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many households saw their tax credit awards reduced by *(a)* 5 per cent. or more, *(b)* 10 per cent. or more, *(c)* 25 per cent. or more, *(d)* 50 per cent. or more and *(e)* 75 per cent. of more, as a result of the recovery of earlier overpayments in 2004–05; [13715]

(2) how many households saw their tax credit awards reduced by more than *(a)* £5, *(b)* £10, *(c)* £25 and *(d)* £50 a week, as a result of the recovery of overpaid tax credits in 2004–05. [13717]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The information requested is not available and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. There are limits to the extent to which payments are reduced to recover overpayments in previous years, and families for whom such reductions would cause them hardship can discuss their cases with the Department—see HMRC Code of Practice 26—"What happens if we have paid you too much tax credit?"

**Mr. George Osborne:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the *(a)* largest and *(b)* average number of letters relating to tax credits sent to a single household was in the last 12 months. [13716]

**Dawn Primarolo:** This information is not available.

**Mr. George Osborne:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make a statement on the assumptions about the scale of tax credit underpayments and overpayments in each year from 2003–04, together with the extent and timing of their subsequent recovery or rectification, which underpin his public finance projections. [13719]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Estimates of underpayments and overpayments are based upon administrative data of outturn to date. It is assumed that recovery will be made in accordance with the Code of Practice 26 (available online at http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/leaflets/cop26.pdf)

**Mr. George Osborne:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the recovery in 2004–05 of a tax credit overpayment made in 2003–04 would serve to reduce his estimate of Government borrowing in *(a)* 2003–04 and *(b)* 2004–05. [13720]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The recovery in 2004–05 of a tax credit overpayment made in 2003–04 would reduce Government borrowing in 2004–05.

**Mr. George Osborne:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the cost of legal fees relating to tax credit disputes was in each year from 1999–2000 to 2004–05. [13721]

**Dawn Primarolo:** A total of £42,648 has been spent since 2001.

**Mr. George Osborne:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what targets he has set for the take-up of *(a)* working tax credit and *(b)* child tax credit in each year from 2003–04 to 2005–06. [13722]

**Dawn Primarolo:** There are no targets for the take-up of working tax credit and child tax credit. Initial analysis suggests that in its first year, child tax credit achieved an estimated take-up rate of 80 per cent. by caseload, considerably higher than the take-up rate in the first full year of working families' tax credit (62 to 65 per cent.) and the first year take-up rate for family credit (57 per cent.).

## Tax Refunds

**Stewart Hosie:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the total value of unclaimed tax refunds was for each year since 2001. [14860]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Tax refunds are made either as a result of a taxpayer filing a tax return or making a specific claim. No information is available on the total amount of refunds of tax unclaimed since 2001.

## Total Public Expenditure

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) if he will set out for each region *(a)* total public expenditure, *(b)* total public expenditure excluding debt interest, *(c)* total public expenditure excluding all transfer payments, *(d)* total public expenditure excluding all transfer payments and all defence expenditure, *(e)* total public expenditure on education, *(f)* total public expenditure on health, *(g)* total public expenditure on the police and *(h)* total public expenditure on transfer payments as a share of gross domestic product; [14120]

(2) what the *(a)* total public expenditure, *(b)* public expenditure excluding debt interest, *(c)* public expenditure excluding transfer payments, *(d)* public expenditure excluding transfer payments and defence

expenditure, *(e)* public expenditure on education, *(f)* public expenditure on health, *(g)* public expenditure on the police and *(h)* public expenditure on transfer payments was in 2004–05 per head of population in each standard region calculated on the same basis as the usual figures provided for the UK. [14163]

**John Healey:** Information on identifiable public spending by region and by function is published in Chapter 8 of Public Expenditure Analyses (Cm 6521).

## Welsh Language

**Hywel Williams:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he is taking as part of the efficiency review to safeguard Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs' future provision of services to the public through the medium of the Welsh language. [14823]

**Dawn Primarolo:** HMRC is preparing business plans to meet its efficiency savings for 2005–08. It is too early to say how this might affect any particular office. Any decisions will be made in full consultation with the unions and appropriate stakeholders.

**Hywel Williams:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the potential change of the number of Welsh speakers employed by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs as a result of the efficiency review. [14825]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The necessity of providing a high quality Welsh language service remains one of HMRCs objectives, in addition to being a legal requirement. The Head of HMRCs Welsh Language Unit is currently preparing a Linguistics Skills Strategy in accordance with the Welsh Language Board's guidelines. This strategy will facilitate the implementation of HMRCs Welsh Language Scheme.

## Work Force (Milton Keynes)

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what percentage of people in Milton Keynes are classified as *(a)* professionals and *(b)* skilled workers; and if he will make a statement; [14255]

(2) what percentage of people in Milton Keynes are employed in *(a)* service industries and *(b)* manufacturing industries; and if he will make a statement. [14256]

**John Healey:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Len Cook to Mr. Mark Lancaster, dated 22 July 2005:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Questions about employment in Milton Keynes. (14255, 14256)

The attached tables contain the information requested for all those in employment in Milton Keynes for the year ending February 2004, the latest year for which information is available. These estimates are based on annual local area Labour Force Survey data which, as with any sample survey, is subject to sampling variability.

*People employed in selected occupations in Milton Keynes local authority; year to February 2004*

Percentage

| Professional occupations | Skilled workers |
|---|---|
| 13 | 11 |

*Source:*
Annual Local Area Labour Force Survey

*People employed in selected industries in Milton Keynes local authority; year to February 2004*

Percentage

| Service industries | Manufacturing |
|---|---|
| 80 | 13 |

*Source:*
Annual Local Area Labour Force Survey

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the unemployment rate was in Milton Keynes in each year between 2001 and 2005; and if he will make a statement. [14257]

**John Healey:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Len Cook to Mr. Lancaster, dated 22 July 2005:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about unemployment in Milton Keynes. (14257)

Table 1 overleaf shows the unemployment rates for Milton Keynes unitary authority for each 12-month period ending February of each year from 2002 to 2004, the latest data available. These estimates are based on annual local area Labour Force Survey data which, as with any sample survey, is subject to sampling variability.

The Office for National Statistics also compiles statistics of those claiming Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) for local areas. Table 2 overleaf shows the annual average number of JSA claimants, resident in Milton Keynes, as a proportion of the resident working age population for each year from 2001 to 2004.

These data, together with monthly counts of JSA claimants, are published on the Office for National Statistics Nomis(r) website: www.nomisweb.co.uk

*Table 1: Unemployment rates for persons aged 16 and over: Milton Keynes*

Per cent.

| 12 months ending February | Unemployment rate |
|---|---|
| 2002 | 3.5 |
| 2003 | 5.3 |
| 2004 | 5.2 |

*Source:*
Annual local area Labour Force Survey

*Table 2: Annual average proportions of JSA claimants: Milton Keynes*

Per cent.

| | Proportion of resident working age population |
|---|---|
| 2001 | 1.4 |
| 2002 | 1.7 |
| 2003 | 1.9 |
| 2004 | 1.8 |

*Source:*
Jobcentre Plus Administrative system

### Working Tax Credit

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people classified as having a disability are eligible for working tax credit; and what the percentage uptake is among this group. [14381]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Work to produce final take-up rate estimates for child tax credit and working tax credit for 2003–04 is continuing and we expect this analysis to be completed towards the end of 2005–06. As part of this work we are exploring the feasibility of estimating take-up for sub-groups of the eligible population.

## TRANSPORT

### Accident Statistics

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the estimated cost of road accidents in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* England was in the last year for which figures are available; and how much of that estimate is accounted for by (i) lost output, (ii) police and administration costs, (iii) medical and ambulance costs, (iv) damage to property and (v) allowance for loss in human terms. [14309]

**Dr. Ladyman:** Estimated costs of road accidents are only available for Great Britain. Information for Essex and England could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the estimated cost per *(a)* fatal, *(b)* serious, *(c)* slight and *(d)* damage-only road accident in (i) Essex and (ii) Great Britain was in the last year for which figures are available. [14310]

**Dr. Ladyman:** The estimated average cost in 2003 in Great Britain per *(a)* fatal accident was £1,492,910; *(b)* serious accident £174,530; *(c)* slight accident £17,550; *(d)* damage only accident £1,570. Data for accident costs in Essex are not available and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Airport Security

**Dr. Francis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which agencies are responsible for security at UK airports. [14431]

**Ms Buck:** The Secretary of State for Transport is responsible for the UK National Aviation Security Programme (NASP) which is administered by the Department for Transport (DfT). The NASP allocates legal responsibility for individual security measures to specific elements of the aviation industry and DfT inspectors monitor and enforce their compliance. The NASP is maintained in co-ordination with, and in addition to the work of, other control authorities particularly the Police, HM Revenue and Customs and the UK Immigration Service.

### Airprox Events

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many Airprox events within a three mile radius of Wargrave, Berkshire have been recorded since 1999. [14779]

**Ms Buck:** There have been two—one in July 2002 and the other in April 2004. Both events were assessed by the UK Airprox Board as having no risk of collision.

### Altmark Trans

**Mr. MacNeil:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the ruling by the European Court of Justice in the case of Altmark Trans, with particular reference to its implications for *(a)* lifeline ferry services and *(b)* competitive tendering; and if he will make a statement. [14055]

**Dr. Ladyman:** Our assessment is that the Altmark ruling does not affect the requirement for competitive tendering of these ferry services. We consider that the ruling would apply only where there is no specific EU legislation applying to the services in issue. The requirement to tender ferry services in Scotland stems from Council Regulation (EEC) No. 3577/92 on Maritime Cabotage which does apply to these ferry services.

### Better Government for Wales

**Peter Law:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how he intends to implement Paragraph 3.12 of the White Paper, "Better Government for Wales" (Cm 6582), in respect of any bill he introduces in the current Session of Parliament. [14946]

**Derek Twigg:** We intend to implement the Government's policy as stated in paragraph 3.12 of the White Paper "Better Governance for Wales" Cm 6582. We are in discussion with the Assembly Government on the issues concerned.

### Biofuels

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make a statement on the Government's response to the EU Commission's decision to start infraction proceedings against the UK in relation to the use of biofuels. [14045]

**Dr. Ladyman:** We are confident that we have implemented the biofuels directive properly and in full. We will be responding to the European Commission shortly with a robust justification of our approach. As a result of Government support, sales of biofuels in the UK are now running at some 10 million litres a month, a 500 per cent. increase since this time last year.

### Bus Services

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the cost per mile of operating bus services outside London has been in each year since 1997; and what estimate he has made of the cost for the next five years. [14859]

**Ms Buck:** Annual surveys of the bus and coach industry for each financial year show the cost per mile of operating local bus services in Great Britain outside London and the latest available data are given in the following table. There are no forecasts for future years.

*Cost per vehicle mile (at 2003-04 prices)*

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 1996–97 | 1.51 |
| 1997–98 | 1.51 |
| 1998–99 | 1.53 |
| 1999–2000 | 1.46 |
| 2000–01 | 1.56 |
| 2001–02 | 1.62 |
| 2002–03 | 1.52 |
| 2003–04 | 1.60 |

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much money his Department has given to each local authority outside London towards the cost of subsidising local bus services in each of the last three years; and what the budget is for the next three years. [14865]

**Derek Twigg:** The Department's main grant to local authorities for the support of local bus services is Rural Bus Subsidy Grant (RBSG). Annual allocations of that grant to each authority are shown as follows:

£

| Council | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Bath and NE Somerset | 208,878 | 216,957 | 225,464 |
| Bedfordshire | 661,054 | 680,806 | 707,583 |
| Blackburn with Darwen | 58,239 | 59,986 | 62,338 |
| Bracknell Forest | 59,749 | 61,541 | 63,954 |
| Brighton and Hove | — | 24,367 | 25,322 |
| Bristol | 9,733 | 10,025 | 10,418 |
| Buckinghamshire | 837,352 | 887,526 | 922,326 |
| Cambridgeshire | 1,179,323 | 1,316,889 | 1,368,503 |
| Cheshire | 914,504 | 947,889 | 985,055 |
| Cornwall | 1,822,209 | 1,876,875 | 1,950,466 |
| Cumbria | 1,428,712 | 1,471,573 | 1,529,273 |
| Darlington | 72,156 | 94,605 | 98,314 |
| Derbyshire | 1,065,690 | 1,138,789 | 1,183,440 |
| Devon | 2,102,692 | 2,165,773 | 2,250, 692 |
| Dorset | 864,586 | 904,265 | 939,721 |
| Durham | 902,115 | 929,178 | 965,61 1 |
| East Riding | 797,436 | 821,259 | 853,460 |
| East Sussex | 834,542 | 874,401 | 908,686 |
| Essex | 1,567,295 | 1,694,611 | 1,761,056 |
| Gloucestershire | 1,185,018 | 1,220,569 | 1,268,427 |
| Greater Manchester | 197,464 | 286,868 | 298,116 |
| Halton | 18,930 | 34,597 | 35,860 |
| Hampshire | 1,334,822 | 1,374,867 | 1,428,775 |
| Hartlepool | 25,178 | 25,933 | 26,950 |
| Herefordshire | 779,674 | 803,064 | 834,552 |
| Hertfordshire | 662,158 | 682,023 | 708,765 |
| Isle of Wight | 237,681 | 244,811 | 254,410 |
| Kent | 1,925,061 | 2,088,151 | 2,170,027 |
| Lancashire | 1,121,377 | 1,238,021 | 1,286,563 |
| Leicestershire | 829,966 | 854,865 | 888,384 |
| Lincolnshire | 1,782,390 | 1,835,862 | 1,907,845 |
| Medway | 130,569 | 166,717 | 173,254 |
| Merseyside | 124,569 | 128,306 | 133,337 |
| Middlesbrough | 17,224 | 17,741 | 18,437 |
| Milton Keynes | 106,694 | 112,759 | 117,180 |
| Norfolk | 2,379,242 | 2,450,619 | 2,546,707 |
| NE Lincolnshire | 63,650 | 73,794 | 76,687 |
| North Lincolnshire | 384,195 | 395,721 | 411,237 |
| North Somerset | 198,261 | 204,209 | 212,216 |
| North Yorkshire | 2,059,752 | 2,121,545 | 2,204,730 |
| Northamptonshire | 1,039,798 | 1,070,982 | 1,112,975 |
| Northumberland | 710,850 | 768,870 | 799,017 |
| Nottinghamshire | 780,008 | 808,123 | 839,809 |
| Oxfordshire | 1,383,229 | 1,424,726 | 1,480,589 |
| Peterborough | 125,414 | 158,211 | 164,414 |
| Plymouth | 14,559 | 14,996 | 15,584 |
| Poole | 11,074 | 11,406 | 11,853 |
| Redcar and Cleveland | 84,311 | 86,840 | 90,245 |
| Rutland | 159,692 | 168,946 | 175,570 |
| Shropshire | 940,682 | 968,902 | 1,006,992 |
| Somerset | 1,518,856 | 1,608,722 | 1,671,799 |
| South Gloucestershire | 285,650 | 294,220 | 305,756 |
| South Yorkshire | 505,546 | 520,712 | 541,129 |
| Stockton-on-Tees | 50,488 | 53,084 | 55,709 |
| Stoke-on-Trent | 8,093 | 8,336 | 8,663 |
| Staffordshire | 1,207,499 | 1,243,724 | 1,292,493 |
| Swindon | 83,230 | 85,727 | 89,088 |
| Suffolk | 1,793,147 | 1,846,941 | 1,919,359 |
| Surrey | 911,328 | 970,188 | 1,008,230 |
| Telford and the Wrekin | 113,487 | 116,892 | 121,475 |
| Thurrock | 56,970 | 58,679 | 60,988 |
| Torbay | 12,512 | 15,105 | 15,697 |
| Tyne and Wear | 122,439 | 128,645 | 133,689 |
| Warrington | 89,007 | 107,875 | 112,105 |
| Warwickshire | 889,993 | 933,388 | 969,906 |
| West Berkshire | 347,114 | 357,632 | 371,655 |
| West Midlands | 129,532 | 142,945 | 148,559 |
| West Sussex | 864,530 | 890,466 | 925,381 |
| West Yorkshire | 829,325 | 980,819 | 1,019,276 |
| Wiltshire | 1,173,172 | 1,227,044 | 1,275,156 |
| Windsor and Maidenhead | 75,487 | 95,812 | 99,569 |
| Wokingham | 115,558 | 130,769 | 135,896 |
| Worcestershire | 1,008,061 | 1,038,303 | 1,079,014 |
| York | 109,261 | 123,342 | 128,178 |
| Total | 46,500,000 | 51,000,000 | 53,000,000 |

Allocations to individual authorities have not yet been made for 2006–07 and 2007–08 but the total sums provisionally set aside for those years are £54.3 million and £55.6million respectively.

In addition to RBSG, we have awarded a total of £163million to some 400 local authority projects following success in Bus Challenge competitions held between 1998 and 2003. Many of these projects are still in receipt of funding. A full list of all Bus Challenge awards, showing the local authority involved, is available on the Department's website.

We will also be awarding a further sum, provisionally set at £20million over three years, to projects successful in a "Kickstart" bus funding competition which is currently under way this summer. The authorities successful in this competition will be announced in the autumn.

The majority of local authority bus subsidy is funded by authorities from their own resources, including the revenue support grant from Government.

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the cost of subsidised bus services for each *(a)* route and *(b)* miles for each local authority outside London in each of the last three years; and what forecast he has made of the cost of subsidising bus services in each of the next two years. [14866]

**Derek Twigg:** The Department for Transport does not make annual estimates, or forecasts, of the costs for each local authority of subsidised bus services. However, in 2001 we commissioned a three-year research study of overall trends in the provision of such services, including changes in contract prices. The research report is on the Department's website.

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* commercially operated bus services and *(b)* subsidised routes have been operating in each local authority area outside London in each of the last three years; and what estimate he has made of the number which will operate in each of the next two years. [14867]

**Derek Twigg:** The Department for Transport does not collect information, or make forecasts, on the number of commercial or subsidised bus routes in each local authority area.

### Crossrail

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the effect of the construction of Crossrail on mainline services between the South West and London Paddington *(a)* during construction and *(b)* once construction is complete. [13579]

**Derek Twigg:** Crossrail involves line upgrading work such as track alteration, electrification and platform lengthening. This will be managed through a series of night time and weekend track possessions and a two week closure of Paddington. When Crossrail services come into operation they will normally run on the northern pair of tracks, known as the relief lines. During normal running, Crossrail services will not affect the southern pair of lines, known as the main lines, on which the South West services operate, and there is no intention of displacing existing traffic from the relief to the main lines.

**Dr. Starkey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the merits of supporting the Superlink proposal as an additional element to the Crossrail project. [13728]

**Derek Twigg:** The Superlink proposal would be a whole route alternative to Crossrail, not an element that could be added to Crossrail. I understand that Cross London Rail Links Ltd. assessed and rejected the proposal as part of its consideration of alternative routes to that set out in the Government's Hybrid Bill now before Parliament.

In addition to posing serious practical and environmental problems, the more expensive Superlink proposals would be contrary to the Government's wider policy objectives and would represent a much greater challenge in terms of funding.

**Dr. Starkey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether an additional rail connection between the West Coast Mainline and the Great Western Mainline, as required by the Superlink proposal, is being considered within the Crossrail project. [13729]

**Derek Twigg:** No proposal for an additional rail connection between West Coast Mainline and the Great Western Mainline is being considered under the Crossrail project.

### Cycle Lanes

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what measures will be taken to *(a)* incorporate cycle lanes into the transport system and *(b)* provide secured cycle parking, in preparation for the 2012 Olympic games. [14579]

**Ms Buck:** London's plans for the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games were set out in the candidature file submitted to the International Olympic Committee in November 2004.

These plans include proposals to allow parking for 4,000 cycles in the Olympic zone and to add 50 km of new cycle lanes to the London cycle network.

### Driving Tests

**Mr. Hood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* passes and *(b)* failures of the driving test there were in each test centre in Lanark and Hamilton East in each of the last five years. [14057]

**Dr. Ladyman:** The table shows the results of practical car driving tests conducted at test centres in the constituency of Lanark and Hamilton East in each of the last five years.

*Pass/fail rates for test centres in Lanark and Hamilton East*

| | Pass | Fail | Total | Percentage pass |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Hamilton driving test centre* | | | | |
| 2000-01 | 733 | 1243 | 1976 | 37.10 |
| 2001-02 | 904 | 1642 | 2546 | 35.51 |
| 2002-03 | 1052 | 1789 | 2841 | 37.03 |
| 2003-04 | 1456 | 2148 | 3604 | 40.40 |
| 2004-05 | 1667 | 2795 | 4462 | 37.36 |
| *Lanark driving test centre* | | | | |
| 2000-01 | 380 | 441 | 821 | 46.29 |
| 2001-02 | 416 | 510 | 926 | 44.92 |
| 2002-03 | 455 | 555 | 1010 | 45.05 |
| 2003-04 | 539 | 516 | 1055 | 51.09 |
| 2004-05 | 507 | 509 | 1016 | 49.90 |

### Dual Carriageways (Central Reservation Fencing)

**Mark Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what proportion of dual carriageway trunk roads have central reservation fencing. [14829]

**Dr. Ladyman:** All dual carriageway trunk roads in England with a speed limit over 50 mph have central reserve fencing, except where:

The central reservation is wider than 10 metres, and fencing is not needed.

There are gaps in the central reservation for junctions and maintenance crossovers.

A small proportion (about 3 per cent.) has a speed limit of less than 50 mph and may or may not have central reservation fencing.

**Mark Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many kilometres of all purpose dual carriageways there are without safety fences in non-urban areas of England. [14833]

**Dr. Ladyman:** There are 3,979 kilometres of non-urban, all purpose dual carriageways in England. 2,551 kilometres are trunk roads and standards require these to have safety fences if the speed limit is 50 mph or greater and otherwise where they are justified.

Roads other than trunk roads are the responsibility of Local Highway Authorities. Records are not held centrally for the lengths of non-trunk, all purpose dual carriageways without safety fences.

### Environmental Costs

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what estimate he has made of the cost of the effects of the average *(a)* lorry and *(b)* motor vehicle on (i) the environment and (ii) the road network. [15063]

**Dr. Ladyman:** Estimates of the environmental and infrastructure costs imposed by lorries and cars can be found in tables 7.2 to 7.5 of "Surface Transport Costs and Charges: Great Britain 1998" Institute for Transport Studies, University of Leeds, July 2001. The research was commissioned by the then Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions and a copy can be found in the Library.

### Equality and Diversity

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much the Department has spent promoting equality and diversity in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [14657]

**Ms Buck:** The Department for Transport is fully committed to the equality and diversity agenda and has policies and processes in place to ensure that there is no unfair discrimination on any grounds.

The Department was formed in May 2002 and has specifically promoted the equality and diversity agenda and has spent:

£

| | *Outturn* |
|---|---|
| 2002–03 | 494,551.97 |
| 2003–04 | 560,889.73 |
| 2004–05 | 704,663.05 |

The Department for Transport employs a team of 16 staff who specifically work on diversity and equality issues.

In 2004–05, £39,000.00 was spent running diversity and equality seminars and on related issues such as achieving a better work/life balance, disability, ethnicity, sexual orientation; religion and or belief and harassment and bullying.

We consistently support participants on corporate diversity programmes such as Pathways (£15,000.00 over two years), the disability bursary scheme (£20,000.00 per year in 2003–04 and 2004–05) and the undergraduate summer placement scheme (£60,028.14 from 2002 to 2005).

We funded diversity and equality-related training courses for all staff including harassment contact officer.

We ensure that advertisements for external recruitment campaigns appear in all sections of the media. In 2000–01 we were involved in the Diversity UK exhibition (£3,619.00). In 2003–04 our vacancies were advertised in the Disability View magazine at a cost of £795.00.

Our policies and practices for all staff are general equality proofed in-house. However, to ensure that we are complying with the Cabinet Office PSA targets it was necessary to employ consultants to equality proof the Bands 4, Bands 6 and Senior Civil Service Assessment processes at a cost of £4,523.50.

External consultants have been used for the positive action Green Light development programme aimed at minority ethnic staff across the Department.

### Flitwick Railway Station

**Mrs. Dorries:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether the bid process for the new Greater Western and Thameslink/GN rail franchise will take account of car parking charges and capacity at Flitwick Railway Station, Bedfordshire. [14781]

**Derek Twigg:** As part of their bids, bidders for the franchise are required to submit plans that demonstrate how they intend to manage car parks at stations effectively, monitoring demand and matching it with a suitable number of parking places as far as possible. These plans form part of the overall evaluation of the bid.

### Irish Light Dues Subsidy

**Mr. Crabb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress is being made towards renegotiating the Irish Light Dues subsidy; and how much has been allocated to this subsidy for 2005–06. [13459]

**Dr. Ladyman:** We have begun to work with the Irish Government's Department of Communication, Marine and Natural Resources to review the current funding arrangements for the Commissioners of Irish Lights (CIL), focusing initially on agreeing common ground and exploring possible solutions.

CIL is currently funded both through the General Lighthouse Fund, from light dues levied on commercial shipping calling at UK and Republic of Ireland ports, and also from a top-up contribution from the Irish Government. Half of the sum CIL is deemed to spend in the Republic of Ireland comes from light dues levied on shipping at UK ports, but no amount is allocated in advance for this contribution. It varies depending on the amount of light dues collected in the Republic of Ireland and the fluctuations in the exchange rate.

### Leeds Supertram

**Mr. Fabian Hamilton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he will make an announcement on the Leeds Supertram proposal. [14710]

**Derek Twigg:** The Secretary of State made clear the position on the Supertram scheme in his oral statement last summer on 20 July 2004, *Official Report*, column 159. Since then we have been in discussions with WYPTE about their alternative proposals which we will decide upon in due course.

### Management Consultants

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his Department's total spending on management consultants has been in each of the last three years. [13134]

**Ms Buck:** Details of spend on external consultants and advisers by the Department are shown in the following table:

| | £ million |
|---|---|
| 2002–03 | 292.5 |
| 2003–04 | 239.5 |
| 2004–05 | 193.3 |

Separate figures for management consultancy are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Maritime Cabotage Regulations

**Mr. MacNeil:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport on what dates *(a)* he and *(b)* his Department discussed with the Scottish Executive how the EU maritime cabotage regulations and EU rules on state aid apply to the provision of lifeline island ferry services; and what (i) information and (ii) advice he has given to the Scottish Executive on the application of these rules in relation to competitive tendering for the west coast ferry routes operated by Caledonian MacBrayne. [14052]

**Dr. Ladyman:** The Department has discussed these matters with the Scottish Executive over a period of several years.

**Mr. MacNeil:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what representations he has made to the European Commission on behalf of the Scottish Executive in relation to how the EU's maritime cabotage regulations and rules governing state aid apply to the delivery of lifeline ferry services. [14053]

**Dr. Ladyman:** The UK Government responded to the Commission's consultation on its then draft Community Guidelines on State Aid to Maritime Transport on 3 June 2003. The response dealt with issues in relation to the UK and included, on behalf of the Scottish Executive, the application of the new guidelines to Scottish lifeline ferry services. Particular subjects covered included mainland to mainland routes, extent of tendered contract periods, and financial and passenger threshold levels.

**Mr. MacNeil:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what *(a)* information and *(b)* advice he has received from the European Commission on the application of the maritime cabotage regulations and state aid to the Scottish west coast ferry routes; and what representations he has received from the European Commission on competitive tendering for these routes. [14054]

**Dr. Ladyman:** The European Commission produced a Communication on Community Guidelines on State aid to Maritime Transport on 17 January 2004. We have been kept informed of the correspondence between the Scottish Executive and the Commission on the specific question of state aid to the Scottish west coast ferry services. We received a pre-infraction letter from the European Commission on 29 June 2005, seeking clarification on apparent lack of progress to comply with Community requirements in relation to these routes.

### Mersey Crossing

**Mr. Mike Hall:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he will announce his decision on Halton borough council's submission on a new crossing over the River Mersey; and if he will make a statement. [12865]

**Dr. Ladyman:** We are currently reviewing further appraisal information recently submitted by Halton borough council for this scheme. It is not yet possible to say when a decision will be announced.

### Motorway Signs

**David Maclean:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the cost has been *(a)* in Cumbria and *(b)* on the rest of the motorway network of erecting signs with the messages Highways Agency and Highways Agency End. [14207]

**Dr. Ladyman:** The information is as follows:

(a) The cost is estimated at £76,352 for the trial in Cumbria, including fabrication and installation of the signs and assessment of their effectiveness. The trial is intended to test whether signing improves public understanding of the role of the Highways Agency and, thereby, improves the communication with the public.

(b) Nil: No signs have been installed elsewhere. No decision will be taken on a wider roll out until the results of the research have been fully evaluated.

**David Maclean:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many signs *(a)* have been and *(b)* are proposed to be erected on motorways which contain the messages Highways Agency and Highways Agency End. [14208]

**Dr. Ladyman:** The information is as follows:

(a) The Agency has installed 23 signs on the M6 and its slip roads and 11 signs on the A66, under the trial to increase driver awareness of the Agency's management of these roads.

(b) No more signs will be installed until the results of the current trial are assessed.

**David Maclean:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the purpose is of traffic signs on the approaches to the slip road of the M6 motorway in Cumbria which state Highways Agency and Highways Agency End. [14218]

**Dr. Ladyman:** The purpose of the signs is to advise road users that a road branded in this way is one maintained, managed and operated by the Highways Agency. This enables road users to direct their views on the road to the correct authority and increases awareness of the Agency's role in managing the country's strategic road network.

### Railways

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the *(a)* cost, *(b)* feasibility and *(c)* effects of re-doubling the rail line between Kemble and Swindon; and what discussions he has had with (i) the Strategic Rail Authority, (ii) Network Rail and (iii) the bidders for the relevant franchise on this issue. [14075]

**Derek Twigg:** SRA made an assessment of the demand for rail travel on the Swindon-Gloucester corridor as part of its recently-published Great Western

Route Utilisation Strategy (RUS), and concluded that the infrastructure was adequate to support the forecast demand for the duration of the RUS period (to 2012).

The issue will next be reassessed, by Network Rail, when signalling renewals for the route become due.

Bidders for the Greater Western franchise are not required to provide prices for any infrastructure schemes.

**Mr. Duncan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many miles of new railway line he expects to be built in the next 12 months. [7116]

**Mr. Darling:** Construction of section 2 of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link, which is 24 miles long, is well under way and is due to be completed in 2007. In addition, there are a number of other smaller projects under way.

### Safety Cameras

**Mrs. Dorries:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 14 July 2005, *Official Report*, columns 1228–29W, on safety cameras, how and where the estimated revenue generated through fixed penalties from 2000 to 2003 was distributed and spent. [14890]

**Dr. Ladyman:** Bedfordshire joined the safety camera programme in April 2002, receipts from fixed penalties for speeding prior to that will have accrued to the Treasury's consolidated fund.

The table shows receipts from fixed penalties, expenditure by the partnership and the balance accruing to the Treasury for the Bedfordshire and Luton safety camera partnership area from April 2002.

£

| | *2002–03* | *2003–04* |
|---|---|---|
| Receipts from fixed penalties | 3,047,520 | 3,655,200 |
| Expenditure | 2,655,021 | 2,292,260 |
| Balance, accruing to the Treasury | 392,499 | 1,362,940 |

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what *(a)* recent assessment he has made and *(b)* assessment he plans to make of the possible effects of (i) forward facing and (ii) rear facing speed camera flash on a driver driving at night; and if he will make a statement. [14297]

**Dr. Ladyman:** We have not assessed and have no plans to assess the effects of the camera flash from rear and forward facing speed cameras on a driver at night. We are not aware of any evidence to suggest that the flash from a camera has a detrimental affect on drivers.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much money has been collected in fines from motorists as a result of speed cameras on the A13 and A127 between Southend and the M25. [14293]

**Dr. Ladyman:** The information requested is not held centrally by the Department.

### SRA

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what role the Strategic Rail Authority plays in regional planning assessments; and if he will make a statement on the Government's plans for such assessments. [11993]

**Derek Twigg:** The Strategic Rail Authority (SRA) is working with the railway industry and local stakeholders to prepare a series of regional planning assessments, which will form the basis on which the development of the railway is planned over the next five to 20 years. The Department for Transport will take on this work as the SRA is wound down.

### Tonnage Tax

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 18 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 1295W, on tonnage tax, how many companies have to date failed to make returns within 30 days of each four month period since January 2004; and how many prosecutions *(a)* have resulted and *(b)* are in progress as a consequence. [14938]

**Dr. Ladyman:** The number of company groups failing to make returns within 30 days of each four month period since January 2004 is as in the table. No prosecutions have resulted or are in progress.

| *Year/period* | *Number of returns outstanding 31 days or more after end of Period* |
|---|---|
| *2003–04* | |
| 1—October 2003 to January 2004 | 31 |
| 2—February to May 2004 | 35 |
| 3—June to September 2004 | 26 |
| *2004–05* | |
| 1—October 2004 to January 2005 | 39 |
| 2—February to May 2005 | 28 |

### Traffic Congestion

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he is taking to reduce congestion on the A5 between the A406 and the A407; and if he will make a statement. [14294]

**Dr. Ladyman:** The A5 between the A406 and the A407 is the responsibility of the London Boroughs of Barnet and Brent.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he is taking to reduce congestion on the A5 between the A4003 and the A501; and if he will make a statement. [14311]

**Dr. Ladyman:** The section of the A5 between the A5205 and the A501 forms part of the Transport for London Road Network (TLRN) which is the responsibility of the Mayor of London and Transport for London (TfL). The section of the A5 between the A4003 and the A5205 is the responsibility of the London boroughs of Brent and Camden and the city of Westminster.

### Transport Contracts

**Mr. MacNeil:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport on which occasions in the last four years his Department has put transport contracts out for competitive tender under the requirements of EU regulations. [14056]

**Ms Buck:** The Department was formed in May 2002. The numbers of contracts awarded by the Department under the EU regulations in each of the last three years are as follows:

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2002 | 134 |
| 2003 | 84 |
| 2004 | 135 |

### Variable Vehicle Excise Rates

**Jeremy Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has to develop and extend the scheme of variable vehicle excise rates for vehicles which have reduced environmental impact. [14112]

**John Healey:** I have been asked to reply.

The Government keep all taxation policy under review. Any changes to taxation policy are announced by the Chancellor in the context of his Budget statement.

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS

### Ambassadors (Subordinate Staff)

**Andrew Mackinlay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many complaints of misconduct made by Her Majesty's Ambassadors against subordinate staff are outstanding; how long each case has been outstanding; whether investigations in each case have been concluded; and when in each case the complaint is expected to be determined. [14399]

**Mr. Straw:** None.

### Burma

**John Bercow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) how regularly the British ambassador to Burma is in contact with members of the National League for Democracy; [13998]

(2) when the British ambassador to Burma last met *(a)* Aung San Suu Kyi and *(b)* other members of the National League for Democracy; [13999]

(3) when the British ambassador to Burma last requested a meeting with Aung San Suu Kyi; and what the outcome was of this request. [14000]

**Ian Pearson:** Our ambassador in Rangoon last met Daw Aung San Suu Kyi on 25 April 2003. Since she was detained on 30 May 2003, the Burmese regime has refused all requests by our ambassador to call on her. Most recently our ambassador raised her case with the Burmese Foreign Minister on 16 May.

We have repeatedly called for Aung San Suu Kyi's immediate release, most recently in a press statement my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary issued on 16 June when we made clear that her continued detention is completely unjustified. A copy of the statement is available on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website: www.fco.gov.uk/policy/news/press-releases. We continue to highlight her detention with the Burmese, reminding the regime that our EU and international partners have all called for the restrictions on her to be lifted and that we hold the regime responsible for her safety and security. We have also continued to press the regime to allow Tan Sri Razali, UN Secretary-General's Special Representative, and Professor Pinheiro, Special Rapporteur of the UN Commission on Human Rights, unrestricted access to Burma. Our embassy in Rangoon monitors the situation closely and maintains regular contact with the National League for Democracy. Our ambassador visited their headquarters most recently on 27 May 2005.

**John Bercow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to the government of Burma regarding its refusal to grant Razali bin Ismail, the UN Special Envoy to Burma, a visa. [14001]

**Ian Pearson:** We regularly urge the regime to allow the UN Secretary-General's Special Representative, Tan Sri Razali, unrestricted access to Burma, so he can continue his positive work there. Most recently this was done when the EU Troika, including the United Kingdom, met the Burmese Foreign Minister in Kyoto on 6 May.

We firmly support the mandate of Tan Sri Razali and remain in close and frequent contact with him and his staff.

We also urge the regime to allow access to Professor Pinheiro, the Special Rapporteur of the UN Commission on Human Rights.

We will continue to press this issue.

### China

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what initiatives the Government will be taking during the course of their presidency of the European Union to address concerns about the one child policy in China; and if he will make a statement. [14298]

**Ian Pearson:** We have never questioned China's right or need to implement family planning policies but we have raised concerns about reports of enforced sterilisation and abortion. We will continue to do so where this is an issue, including during our EU presidency and through our bilateral contacts.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will list the occasions during the last 12 months when the Government have publicly condemned the one child policy in China; and if he will make a statement. [14299]

**Ian Pearson:** We have never questioned China's right or need to implement family planning policies but have made it clear that we believe these should be implemented based on the principles of the

International Conference on Population and Development: consent not coercion. We have in the past raised concerns about reports of enforced sterilisation and abortion.

### Collinson Grant Report

**Andrew Mackinlay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on what date he was given sight of the Collinson Grant report on the management of his Department; and if he will make a statement. [14401]

**Mr. Straw:** I saw a summary of the report, including key findings, on 3 February, followed by the report itself shortly afterwards.

**Andrew Mackinlay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will place a copy of the Collinson Grant report on the management of his Department in the Library. [14403]

**Mr. Straw:** A copy of the Collision Grant report has been placed in the Library of the House.

### Consultants

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will list management consultants employed by his Department in each of the last three years. [14357]

**Mr. Straw:** I refer my hon. Friend to the reply I gave him today (UIN 12583).

### Correspondence

**Mr. MacNeil:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his Department's policy is for dealing with and responding to correspondence received in *(a)* Welsh, *(b)* Scots Gaelic and *(c)* Irish Gaelic. [14736]

**Mr. Straw:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has no formal policies or statutory obligations relating to the translation of documents into minority languages.

On past practice, we have translated certain major publications into Welsh, but we do not routinely translate smaller documents into Welsh, and do not translate into Scottish Gaelic and Irish Gaelic, on the grounds that no clear cost-benefits case exist.

The FCO has the capability to translate into Welsh and other languages, if required, through approved third-party translators via the FCO Translation Service.

### Departmental Expenditure

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the spending by his Department on *(a)* staff, *(b)* accommodation and *(c)* procurement in (i) Moray constituency and (ii) the Highland Region was for the most recent year for which figures are available. [14854]

**Mr. Straw:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office does not categorise its expenditure by region and this information could therefore be provided only at disproportionate cost.

**Stewart Hosie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the total spending by his Department on *(a)* staff, *(b)* accommodation and *(c)* procurement in (i) Dundee East constituency, (ii) Tayside and (iii) the City of Dundee was for the most recent year for which figures are available. [14870]

**Mr. Straw:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office does not categorise its expenditure by region and this information could therefore be provided only at disproportionate cost.

**Mr. Salmond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the total spending by his Department on *(a)* staff, *(b)* accommodation and *(c)* procurement in (i) Banff and Buchan and (ii) the North East of Scotland was for the most recent year for which figures are available. [14888]

**Mr. Straw:** The Foreign Commonwealth Office does not categorise its expenditure by region and this information could therefore be provided only at disproportionate cost.

**Pete Wishart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the total spending by his Department on *(a)* staff, *(b)* accommodation and *(c)* procurement in Perth and North Perthshire was for the most recent year for which figures are available. [14922]

**Mr. Straw:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office does not categorise its expenditure by region and this information could therefore be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Staff

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many full-time equivalents have worked for the Department for each of the last five financial years for which figures are available. [11483]

**Mr. Straw:** Figures for Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) staff numbers are notified to the Cabinet Office according to a central counting convention. The figure for full-time equivalents is not yet available for 2005. The numbers of UK based employees, i.e. excluding staff employed locally at posts, for each of the previous five years, at the first of April, and including the FCO's Agency, Wilton Park, were as follows:

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2004 | 5,970 |
| 2003 | 5,950 |
| 2002 | 5,680 |
| 2001 | 5,500 |
| 2000 | 5,460 |

The increase in staff numbers is largely due to the sustained growth in demand for visas and consular services over the last five years.

### Deputy Legal Adviser

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what civil service grade the Deputy Legal Adviser in his Department is. [13555]

**Mr. Straw:** Deputy Legal Advisers in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, of which there are three, are graded as Senior Management Structure (SMS) staff; their seniority equates approximately to the former Grade 3 in the home civil service.

### Equality and Diversity

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much the Department has spent promoting equality and diversity in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [14665]

**Mr. Straw:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has spent the following amounts promoting equality and diversity in each of the last five years:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2000–01 | 24,874 |
| 2001–02 | 354,292 |
| 2002–03 | 359,014 |
| 2003–04 | 512,725 |
| 2004–05 | 592,306 |

These figures include spending on activities promoting equality and diversity within and outside the FCO through training courses, sponsoring internal and external events, membership of diversity organisations, diversity recruitment advertising and providing reasonable adjustments for disabled staff. For Financial Year 2004–05, the figures include expenditure by UK visas, a joint Home Office and FCO unit which runs the UK's visa service through British Diplomatic Posts overseas. Prior to that, we have no record of UK visas funding separate activities promoting equality and diversity. The figures for Financial Year 2003–04 and 2004–05 include spending by the UK Outreach Team, which was formed in early 2003. Full figures for years before Financial Year 2001–02 are not available.

The Department for Trade and Industry has met the costs of United Kingdom Trade and Investment's activities promoting diversity and equality.

The cost of running the FCO's nurseries and subsidising nursery places with external providers is not included in the above figures. Calculating this could be provided only at disproportionate cost as the contributions from parents go into a central budget.

Spending on improving access to our UK sites is not included in the above figures. Establishing these costs would involve looking at all UK Estate invoices from the past five years. This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The FCO's overseas posts and its non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs) may also incur costs promoting equality and diversity. Collating this information would involve contacting individual overseas posts and individual sponsoring departments of NDPBs. Sponsoring departments would then have to contact each NDPB for details. This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### EU Laws

**Mr. Brady:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will list draft EU laws in respect of which the Government have made representations seeking their withdrawal. [14111]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** As part of their better regulation efforts, the European Commission is reviewing over 200 legislative proposals with a view to their possible withdrawal or modification. They include proposals for which no impact assessment was carried out; on which substantial progress has not been made for some time; or where new scientific evidence, market developments or social change justify a review. We fully support this initiative and have suggested two specific proposals that could be considered in this review:

Draft directives on the safety of nuclear installations and on the management of spent fuel and radioactive waste; and

Draft directive 2003/0246 on Access to Justice.

In both cases, we judge that appropriate EU and/or national measures already exist. The memorandum submitted to the Commission on these directives has been placed in the Library of the House.

### EU Meetings (Scottish Executive Ministers)

**Mr. Salmond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on Scottish Executive Ministers *(a)* attending EU council meetings, *(b)* chairing EU council meetings during the UK presidency and *(c)* leading the UK delegation to EU council meetings. [14834]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** Scottish interests are represented at all EU council meetings by the UK delegation. On certain occasions Scottish Executive Ministers also attend council meetings, as part of the UK delegation. This happened most recently at the Agriculture and Fisheries Council in Luxembourg on 20–21 June 2005 (Scottish Executive Minister Ross Finnie). I am informed that the Scottish Executive is also consulted, as a matter of course, on devolved matters likely to be raised at council meetings.

**Mr. Salmond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on what occasions Scottish Executive Ministers have led UK delegations to EU council meetings. [14835]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** Scottish Executive Ministers have attended EU Council meetings on 68 occasions since 1999, leading the UK delegation on three occasions. Details of attendance can be found at http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Government/International-Relations/Europe/Page6

| *Date* | *Council* | *Minister* |
|---|---|---|
| 8 June 2000 | Education | Nicol Stephen |
| 12 February 2001 | Education | Nicol Stephen |
| 4 June 2001 | Health | Susan Deacon |

**Mr. Salmond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which council meetings during the UK presidency of the EU Scottish Executive Ministers are scheduled to chair. [14836]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** Scottish Executive Ministers will not be chairing council meetings during the UK presidency of the EU.

The Scottish Executive Minister for Tourism, Culture and Sport (Patricia Ferguson) will take the UK seat at the Culture and Audiovisual Council on 14–15 November 2005 in Brussels.

### EU Presidency

**Mr. Salmond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will list the EU council meetings to be held in *(a)* London, *(b)* England, *(c)* Wales, *(d)* Northern Ireland and *(e)* Scotland during the UK presidency of the EU. [14837]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** During the UK presidency of the EU all formal EU council meetings will be held in Brussels or Luxembourg.

### European Union

**Mr. Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the UK's financial contribution has been to the European Union in each year since 1997. [14780]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** Details of UK contributions to the EU budgets are set out in HM Treasury's White Papers on European Community Finances which are available in the Library of the House. The budget statements for 2003, 2004 and 2005 cover UK contributions since 1997.

### Freedom of Information

**Pete Wishart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many Freedom of Information Act 2000 requests have been answered by the Department; and in how many cases *(a)* information was wholly exempted, *(b)* information was partly exempted and *(c)* the requests were answered in full. [14969]

**Mr. Straw:** Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2000 statistics published by the Department for Constitutional Affairs on 23 June show that during the period 1 January to 31 March 2005, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) answered 491 requests, of which 61 were wholly exempted, 222 were partly exempted, and 92 were answered in full. Of the remaining 116 requests, no information was held in 27 cases, and in 89 the FCO required further information in order to identify and locate the information requested.

The Department for Constitutional Affairs (DCA) is committed to publishing quarterly updates in relation to departmental performance under FOI, including information on both the volume and outcomes of requests. The first of these updates was published on 23 June 2005 and can be found both on the DCA website at http://www.foi.gov.uk/statsjan-mar05.htm and in the Library of the House. The next bulletin is due in the autumn of this year, while an annual report is also to be published in early 2006.

### Grievance Procedures

**Andrew Mackinlay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what responsibilities fall *(a)* to him and *(b)* to the Permanent Under-Secretary in relation to complaints of misconduct against officers appointed to senior positions in the Department. [14402]

**Mr. Straw:** Staff misconduct matters are dealt with by Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) officials. I am briefed on more serious cases of misconduct.

All diplomatic service officials can appeal to the Diplomatic Service Appeal Board (DSAB) against dismissal. All home civil servants can appeal to the Civil Service Appeal Board (CSAB). The DSAB and CSAB would submit their recommendations to me.

The Permanent Under-Secretary would hear any appeal by a senior FCO official in his direct line management chain. This would be when an allegation of misconduct had previously been upheld by the offending official's line manager.

The FCO Misconduct Procedure is consistent with best practice and statutory obligations. A copy of the Procedure is available in the Library of the House.

**Andrew Mackinlay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when the *(a)* First Division Association and *(b)* each of the other representative bodies of his Department's staff were consulted about the last substantive revision of the Department's grievance procedure; and what representations were made by each representative body. [14446]

**Mr. Straw:** The First Division Association and the two other trade unions recognised by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), were fully consulted during the drafting and review process of the Department's grievance procedure via the Trade Union Secretariat, in August 2004 prior to its implementation.

When it was introduced, FCO Management agreed with the Trade Union Side to review the new procedure after six months and have offered to meet them for this purpose.

The views of all the constituent unions were collated by the Trade Union Secretariat during the review process. Those views included concerns about the handling of grievances by line managers and the provision of relevant training for those managers. These concerns were largely addressed at the time the updated procedure was implemented.

**Andrew Mackinlay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when his Department's grievance procedure underwent a substantive revision; what the consequential principal variations in the procedure and appeal machinery are; and if he will make a statement. [14461]

**Mr. Straw:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office's grievance procedures were reviewed and updated on 29 September 2004. The key features of the updated procedure are:

Expectation that informal resolution will be attempted first wherever possible;

Formal grievance to be submitted using standard format;

Grievance to be looked at the lowest appropriate level in the line management chain;

Face-to-face meeting to be offered, with right to be accompanied;

New, clearly-defined appeal process;

Single procedure for all grievances but modified for cases of alleged bullying/harassment.

A copy of the Department's grievance procedures is in the Library of the House.

### Intelligence Service

**Harry Cohen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many complaints have been made to the relevant Tribunal or Commissioner in relation to the actions of the Intelligence Service since the enactment of the Intelligence Service Acts and Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000; and how many complainants had their complaint upheld in each year. [13171]

**Mr. Straw:** The number of complaints received by the Tribunal/Commissioner under section 9 of the Intelligence Services Act 1994 were as follows:

| *Date* | *Number of complaints (Secret Intelligence Service and General Communications Headquarters)* | *Of which, complaints referred to Commissioner in respect of property* |
|---|---|---|
| 1995 | 21 | 5 |
| 1996 | 3 | 3 |
| 1997 | 6 | 4 |
| 1998 | 7 | 5 |
| 1999 | 5 | 3 |
| January to September 2000 | 7 | 3 |

On no occasion did the Tribunal/Commissioner uphold any complaint.

The Investigatory Powers Tribunal (IPT), established under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA), came into being on 2 October 2000. From that date the IPT assumed responsibility for the jurisdiction previously held by, among others, the Intelligence Service Tribunal. As the Intelligence Services Commissioner explains in his 2000 and subsequent annual reports to my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister, "complaints to the IPT cannot easily be "categorised" under the three Tribunal system that existed prior to RIPA. Consequently, I am unable to detail those complaints that relate solely to the actions of the intelligence services. I can only provide information on the total number of complaints made to the Tribunal."

The total number of complaints received by the IPT are as follows:

| *Date* | *Number of complaints* |
|---|---|
| 2000 | [1]11 |
| 2001 | 91 |
| 2002 | 130 |
| 2003 | 109 |
| 2004 | (*1) |

[1] October to December.

(*1) Figures to be published shortly in the Commissioner's Annual 2004 Report.

On no occasion has the IPT concluded that there has been a contravention of RIP A or the Human Rights Act 1989. Consequently no complaints have been upheld.

### Iraq

**Mr. Martyn Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of civilians killed in Iraq by *(a)* insurgent forces and *(b)* coalition forces since April 2003; and if he will make a statement. [14840]

**Dr. Howells:** We believe that the Iraqi authorities remain in the best position to record the civilian casualties in their country. The Iraqi Ministry of Health (MOH) has released figures covering the period from 5 April 2004, when collation of statistics began, to 5 April 2005. These figures show that 6,629 Iraqis were killed and 28,838 injured during that period. The MOH records roughly the kind of incident that caused the deaths but cannot be definitive on who was responsible for the incident. The figures cover all Iraqis, including civilians, Iraqi Security Forces and insurgents, killed as a result of violence.

### Islamabad (Visa Applications)

**Mike Gapes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the length of time taken by the British High Commission in Islamabad to produce the explanatory statement required by the Home Office to initiate a visit visa appeals process. [9671]

**Dr. Howells** *[Holding answer 6 July 2005]:* I would like to apologise to my hon. Friend for the delay in replying.

The visa section in Islamabad aims to meet best practice targets on the issue of family visit appeals, which, prior to a change in the appeals procedure, were dispatched directly to the Immigration Appellate Authority (IAA). The Asylum and Immigration Tribunal have now replaced the IAA. Best Practice target guidance requires visa sections at British overseas missions to issue papers to the UK within one month of receipt.

### Management Consultancies

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which five management consultancies received the highest value of contracts awarded by his Department in each of the last three years; and what the total value was of the contracts awarded to each. [12583]

**Mr. Straw:** I refer my hon. Friend to the reply I gave him on 18 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 1372W. Expenditure specifically on "management" consultancy is not categorised separately from that for external consultancy as a whole.

However, the following details of our expenditure with our main suppliers of external consultancy in general over the period in question may be helpful:

£

| *Company* | *2002–03* | *2003–04* | *2004–05* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Fugitsu | 5,386,000 | 561,000 | 3,241,000 |
| ATOS/KPMG | 2,156,000 | 4,086,000 | 2,805,000 |
| Logica UK | 3,425,000 | 1,937,000 | 843,000 |
| Parity Resources | 1,474,000 | 1,848,000 | 0 |
| PA Consulting | 1,079,000 | 1,255,000 | 590,000 |
| Cedar Enterprise Solutions | 1,177,000 | 771,000 | 0 |
| WS Atkins | 1,132,000 | 703,000 | 0 |

### Media Relations

**Mr. Salmond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much the Department has spent on external media relations in each month of the last year. [14679]

**Ian Pearson:** In the financial year 2004–05, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) spent £543,160 on external media relations. Of this total consular directorate spent £458,160: £425,160 in June 2004 for the "Know Before You Go" consular campaign and £33,000 in March 2005 for work on the forced marriage publicity campaign. EU Directorate paid £12,500 each month from October 2004 to March 2005 and £10,000 to the Central Office of Information in March 2005 for managing external media relations in connection with the UK's presidency of the EU. In total EU Directorate paid £85,000.

The FCO's overseas posts and its non-departmental public bodies also incur costs on external media consultants. Information about these could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

### Middle East

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he is making to the Palestinians to stop the Qassam missile attacks on Israeli communities; and if he will make a statement. [14192]

**Dr. Howells:** We are pressing the Palestinian Authority to take immediate and effective action against those involved in attacks on Israelis. The Palestinian Security Forces have made some efforts, which we have encouraged, to tackle those attempting to launch Qassam rockets.

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the impact of the recent missile attacks on Israeli communities from Gaza on the Israeli Gaza disengagement plan; and if he will make a statement. [14193]

**Dr. Howells:** We condemn unreservedly the recent and continuing missile attacks on Israel. We also condemn violence by Palestinian militants against Palestinian security personnel. At the same time, we view with great concern attacks by the Israeli Air Force that have killed a number of Palestinian militants in the West Bank and Gaza. We urge Israel to exercise maximum self-restraint and urge co-operation between Israel and the Palestinian Authority. We also call for immediate and effective Palestinian action against those involved in attacks on Israelis.

It is very important that the momentum of recent months is not lost, and that the Palestinian Authority and Israel work together to focus on the opportunity that disengagement offers. Successful disengagement will offer greater security for Israel and a chance for a better life for Palestinians, as well as a critical opportunity for both parties to return to the Roadmap.

### NATO Parliamentary Assembly

**Graham Stringer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will list the members of the UK delegation to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly. [14104]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** The following right hon. and hon. Members and Peers will represent the United Kingdom at the NATO Parliamentary Assembly:

Hugh Bayley MP
Michael Clapham MP
Frank Cook MP
David Crausby MP
right hon. Bruce George MP
Jimmy Hood MP
Ann McKechin MP
Denis MacShane MP
Baroness Ramsay of Cartvale
Lord Sewel CBE
right hon. Michael Mates MP
right hon. Sir John Stanley MP
Peter Viggers MP
right hon. Lord Jopling
Derek Conway MP
Peter Bottomley MP
right hon. Sir Menzies Campbell CBE QC MP
Paul Keetch MP

### Opinion Surveys

**Mr. Weir:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the *(a)* subject matter and *(b)* dates were of opinion survey research undertaken by the Department and its agencies in the last 12 months; if he will place copies of the results of each survey in the Library; which companies were used in conducting the research; and how much each was paid. [14818]

**Ian Pearson:** Aside from informal qualitative consultations used to inform the planning of public diplomacy campaigns overseas and outreach activities within the UK, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and its agencies have centrally commissioned only one opinion research survey during this period. The details of this study are as follows:

Date: October 2004

Subject: India pre-campaign survey

Detail: This opinion survey aimed to benchmark attitudes towards, and associations with, the UK among educated, urban 18 to 35-year-old Indians in advance of a major public diplomacy initiative in India.

Contractor: Synovate India

Cost: £4,850

The results of this piece of research will be placed in the Library of the House.

In addition to the survey listed above, the FCO's posts overseas will occasionally commission survey research locally. However, a comprehensive list of these studies is not kept centrally, and could be compiled only over a much longer timescale, and at disproportionate cost.

### Philippines

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the political situation in the Philippines. [15011]

**Ian Pearson:** We are aware of the rapidly-changing situation in the Philippines, and monitor it closely. The current domestic political situation is an internal matter for the Philippines to resolve, in accordance with its constitutional provisions.

### Raoul Wallenberg

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations the UK Government have made since 1997 to the Government of Russia about the fate of Raoul Wallenberg; and if he will make a statement. [14300]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** There is no record of the Government having made representations since 1997 to the Russian Government about the fate of Raoul Wallenberg.

### Telephone Inquiries

**Mr. MacNeil:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what facilities his Department has to deal with telephone inquiries in *(a)* Welsh, *(b)* Scots Gaelic and *(c)* Irish Gaelic. [14737]

**Mr. Straw:** We have no such facilities.

### Tibet

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the implementation of outstanding UN resolutions relating to Tibet. [14105]

**Ian Pearson:** The Government accords with the three UN resolutions on Tibet, which call for respect for human rights there, by raising our concerns, including individual cases, at every suitable opportunity and at the highest level with the Chinese. We believe Tibetans should have a greater say in running their own affairs in Tibet. The best way to achieve this is through dialogue between the Chinese Government and the Dalai Lama, without preconditions.

### UN Counter-Terrorism Committee

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress has been made in implementing UN Security Council Resolution 1373; which countries have not reported to the Counter-Terrorism Committee on steps taken or planned to implement the resolution; and if he will make a statement. [13855]

**Dr. Howells:** Every country in the UN has reported to the Counter-Terrorism Committee at least once. Many countries, including the UK, have reported on several occasions. There have been major advances in counter-terrorism efforts since Resolution 1373 was passed in September 2001, but clearly more remains to be done. The committee has begun visits to states and has a new expert team in place to improve its efforts to monitor—and assist—states' implementation.

### United Nations

**Mr. Iain Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what steps he is taking to improve the governance of the United Nations.. [13444]

**Ian Pearson** *[pursuant to the reply, 21 July 2005, Official Report, c. 2107W]:* I regret that the answer of 21 July contained an error. The correct answer should read as follows:

In September 2005 the UN Millennium Review Summit will address recommendations on reform of the UN system put forward by the UN Secretary- General in his report "In Larger Freedom: Towards Development, Security and Human Rights for All".

The Government welcome these proposals and hope to build on them at the summit. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary, in his meetings with the UN Secretary-General, has highlighted the importance that the UK attaches to improved governance at the UN.

The UK has identified four areas of governance where we would like to see specific actions taken:

Accountability—oversight capacity within the UN must be strengthened, and its independence and authority enhanced.

Professionalism and modernisation—there must be transparent, competence based recruitment throughout the UN system and the introduction of modern human resources practices.

Efficiency—activity at the UN should be rationalised, modernised and streamlined to reduce duplication and to focus on priority areas.

Flexibility—in return for the measures mentioned above, the Secretary-General should be provided with the authority and flexibility to manage resources and to redeploy them according to need.

In addition, we want to see a Security Council that reflects today's world and the contributions of the UN's members to its objectives. The UK therefore supports the expansion of both the permanent and non-permanent membership.

**Harry Cohen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 18 July 2005, reference 10415, how much has been paid to the UK Government to date by the United Nations Compensation Committee for distribution to claimants; how much more is expected to be paid to the

UK Government in due course for disbursement to claimants; and if he will list *(a)* all UK claimants who have so far received disbursements from the UK Government and the amount received by each and *(b)* all UK claimants who will receive disbursements in due course from the UK Government and the amount each of them will receive. [14626]

**Dr. Howells:** To date the United Nations Compensation Committee (UNCC) has made available the sum of US$ 296,323,049.57 to the UK Government for payment to UK claimants.

The sum of US$ 132,228,811.11 in compensation awards remains to be received by the UK Government from the UNCC for payment to UK claimants.

Nearly 5,000 UK claimants have so far received disbursements of varying amounts from the UK Government.

Approximately 50 UK claims remain to be paid in full or in part.

To release the list of all UK claimants would require permission from each individual for their information to be released, therefore it is not possible to give such a listing without incurring disproportionate cost.

### Visas

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many applications for a family visitor visa were refused by UK entry clearance officers worldwide in each month since 1 January 2004. [11662]

**Dr. Howells:** I would like to apologise to my hon. Friend for the delay in replying.

The information on applications for family visitors' visas that were refused world- wide since 1 January 2004, is as follows:

| | *Received* | *Refused* | *Refusal Rate* |
|---|---|---|---|
| January 2004 | 18,289 | 5,121 | 28.0 |
| February 2004 | 19,778 | 4,867 | 24.6 |
| March 2004 | 33,625 | 7,504 | 22.3 |
| April 2004 | 38,779 | 7,770 | 20.0 |
| May 2004 | 42,085 | 9,384 | 22.3 |
| June 2004 | 51,961 | 14,305 | 27.5 |
| July 2004 | 47,304 | 12,095 | 25.6 |
| August 2004 | 38,232 | 10,589 | 27.7 |
| September 2004 | 30,904 | 10,092 | 32.7 |
| October 2004 | 27,900 | 10,124 | 36.3 |
| November 2004 | 30,545 | 14,180 | 46.4 |
| December 2004 | 32,070 | 15,022 | 46.8 |
| January 2005 | 23,974 | 14,339 | 59.8 |
| February 2005 | 26,403 | 10,759 | 40.7 |
| March 2005 | 36,544 | 11,761 | 32.2 |
| Total | 498,393 | 157,912 | 31.7 |

Figures for April 2005 to July 2005 are not yet available.

Though every effort is made to ensure that statistics are correct, the complexity of UKvisas' global business, including technical failures and inconsistencies in data means that one hundred percent accuracy cannot be guaranteed.

### Working Holidaymakers Scheme

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many applications have been received under the working holidaymakers scheme since 25 August 2003 from *(a)* India, *(b)* Pakistan, *(c)* Sri Lanka, *(d)* Nigeria, *(e)* Ghana, *(f)* Sierra Leone and *(g)* Jamaica; and how many of these were (i) refused, (ii) granted and (iii) appealed against. [8795]

**Dr. Howells:** The information on applications received under the working holiday makers scheme for the countries requested, is as follows:

| | *1 April 2003 -31 March 2004* | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Working holiday maker applications* | *Received* | *Refused* | *Granted* |
| India | 7,665 | 4,106 | 1,218 |
| Pakistan | 14 | 0 | 47 |
| Sri Lanka | 4,534 | 3,510 | 962 |
| Nigeria | 120 | 73 | 47 |
| Ghana | 2,367 | 712 | 1,532 |
| Sierra Leone | 4 | 2 | 1 |
| Jamaica | 481 | 187 | 301 |

It is not possible to provide figures for the exact date range requested. The figures supplied represent applications received in the financial year 2003–04. In addition, monthly return statistics for appeals for this period are not available specifically for the working holiday maker category. They are only available for generic categories: non-settlement, settlement and family visit.

The total number of applications issued and refused may not always equal the total of applications received. This can be caused by a variety of reasons. Applications can be carried forward from one year to another before being resolved. They may be withdrawn during processing, but still count as an application received. In these circumstances, delays can and do occur between the application being received and the decision being taken.

The statistics provided are publicly available on the UKvisas website, www.ukvisas.gov.uk. UKvisas is the department responsible for entry clearance overseas. Figures for April 2004 to March 2005 are not yet available. When they are, they can be found, along with other entry clearance statistics, on the website at www.ukvisas.gov.uk— "Entry Clearance: Facts and Figures".

## DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

### Arm's-length Management

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will list the arm's length management organisations in operation, broken down by date of creation; and what sums have been paid by the Government to date. [14748]

**Yvette Cooper:** The information requested about the arm's length management organisations (ALMOs) which are currently in operation is in the following table:

| Local authority | Arm's Length Management Organisation | Date of s.27 approval[1] | ALMO funding to 2004–05 (£ million) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Ashfield | Ashfield Homes | March 2002 | 46.0 |
| Blyth Valley | Blyth Valley Housing | March 2002 | 16.3 |
| Derby | Derby Homes | March 2002 | 78.3 |
| Hounslow | Hounslow Homes | March 2002 | 70.0 |
| Kirklees | Kirklees Neighbourhood Housing | March 2002 | 90.4 |
| Oldham | First Choice Homes | March 2002 | 36.0 |
| Rochdale | Rochdale Boroughwide Housing | March 2002 | 82.2 |
| Stockton | Tristar Homes | March 2002 | 63.0 |
| Westminster | CityWest Homes | March 2002 | 47.9 |
| Wigan | Wigan and Leigh Housing | March 2002 | 97.8 |
| Brent | Brent Housing Partnership | September 2002 | 36.7 |
| Salford | New Prospect Housing | September 2002 | 0.0 |
| Bolton | Bolton at Home | October 2002 | 53.0 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | Kensington and Chelsea Tenant Management Organisation | October 2002 | 21.6 |
| Barnsley | Berneslai Homes | November 2002 | 48.2 |
| Leeds | Leeds East Homes | January 2003 | 6.5 |
| Leeds | Leeds North East Homes | January 2003 | 10.5 |
| Leeds | Leeds North West Homes | January 2003 | 8.1 |
| Leeds | Leeds South East Homes | January 2003 | 8.4 |
| Leeds | Leeds South Homes | January 2003 | 12.9 |
| Leeds | Leeds West Homes | January 2003 | 18.3 |
| Carrick | Carrick Housing | March 2003 | 7.3 |
| Cheltenham | Cheltenham Borough Homes | March 2003 | 10.0 |
| Hillingdon | Hillingdon Homes | April 2003 | 16.6 |
| Waltham Forest | Ascham Homes | April 2003 | 0.0 |
| Colchester | Colchester Borough Homes | August 2003 | 13.5 |
| Gateshead | Gateshead Housing Company | December 2003 | 0.0 |
| High Peak | High Peak Community Housing[2] | January 2004 | 0.0 |
| Solihull | Solihull Community Housing | January 2004 | 1.2 |
| South Lakeland | South Lakes Housing[2] | January 2004 | 0.0 |
| Warrington | Golden Gates Housing | January 2004 | 4.3 |
| Barnet | Barnet Homes | February 2004 | 4.0 |
| Easington | East Durham Homes | March 2004 | 0.0 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | Hammersmith and Fulham Housing Management Services[2] | March 2004 | 0.0 |
| Islington | Homes for Islington | March 2004 | 2.9 |
| Newcastle | Your Homes Newcastle | March 2004 | 16.0 |
| Poole | Poole Housing Partnership | March 2004 | 1.3 |
| Sheffield | Sheffield Homes | April 2004 | 25.2 |
| Ealing | Ealing Homes | August 2004 | 0.0 |
| Sandwell | Sandwell Homes | August 2004 | 0.0 |
| Bassetlaw | A1 Housing Bassetlaw | September 2004 | 0.0 |
| Newark and Sherwood | Newark and Sherwood Homes | October 2004 | 0.0 |
| Bury | Six Town Housing | March 2005 | 0.0 |
| Eastbourne | Eastbourne Homes | March 2005 | 0.0 |
| Nottingham | Nottingham City Homes | March 2005 | 0.0 |
| Rotherham | 2010 Rotherham | March 2005 | 0.0 |
| | | Total | 954.2 |

[1] The dates given are those when the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister gave approval under s.27 of the Housing Act 1985 for the local authority to delegate housing management responsibilities to its ALMO. The ALMO would normally become operational shortly afterwards.

[2] These ALMOs have been awarded a rating of at least 2 stars by the Housing Inspectorate and have qualified for ALMO funding from 2005–06. The other ALMOs with no recorded expenditure have yet to secure a qualifying rating.

## Building Regulations

**Mr. Ian Austin:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what estimate he has made of the cost to business and industry of a change to building regulations requiring seven-foot doors. [8367]

**Yvette Cooper:** There are no proposals, nor has there been any consideration of proposals, to amend the building regulations to require doors to be built to a specific height. No estimate of costs accruing to business and industry has accordingly been made.

**Mr. Ian Austin:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what estimate he has made of the costs to *(a)* Government and *(b)* local authorities of amending building regulations to require doors to be built to a specified height. [7997]

**Yvette Cooper:** There are no proposals, nor has there been any consideration of proposals, to amend the building regulations to require doors to be built to a specific height. No estimate of costs accruing to either central or local government has accordingly been made.

**Mr. Ian Austin:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what estimate he has made of *(a)* the number of staff required and *(b)* the cost of building inspectors to check whether doorways have been built to the height specified in regulations; and if he will make a statement. [7998]

**Yvette Cooper:** There are no proposals, nor has there been any consideration of proposals, to amend the building regulations to require doors to be built to a specific height. No estimate of staff numbers or cost of compliance inspections has accordingly been made.

### Childhood Cancer

**Dr. Stoate:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister (1) what assessment he has made of the Draper Report on Childhood cancer in relation to distance from high voltage power lines in England and Wales: a case-control study; and if he will make a statement; [14776]

(2) if he will introduce an immediate moratorium on the building of new homes in the vicinity of high voltage power lines; and if he will make a statement; [14777]

(3) if he will discuss the findings of the Draper Report on Childhood cancer in relation to distance from high voltage power lines in England and Wales: a case-control study with *(a)* ministerial colleagues in the Department for Education and Skills and the Department of Health and *(b)* the National Grid and power suppliers; and if he will make a statement. [14778]

**Yvette Cooper:** The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister takes advice from the Department of Health who consider the implications of medical research projects.

The Department of Health have advised the recent publication in the *British Medical Journal* by Dr Draper and colleagues found a statistically increased incidence of leukaemia for children whose home address at birth was near power lines compared with those further away. The work was funded by the Department of Health and has significantly added to the body of knowledge built up over the last few years regarding this very important subject. The work will continue with an investigation of the electromagnetic field (EMF) exposures at the addresses studied.

The World Health Organization and indeed the Health Protection Agency have recommended additional research and the need for further precautionary measures to be considered.

The stakeholder advisory group on electromagnetic ELF fields (SAGE) set up last year has already enabled Government officials to engage in detailed discussions with industry, regulators, professional bodies and interest groups about how to respond to this complex issue. The intention of the process is to offer carefully considered practical recommendations in the interests of society as a whole. Information about this process can be found at: www.rkpartnership.co.uk/sage

### Civil Service

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether the work of the Sustainable Procurement Task Force is to be guided by the recommendations of the Gershon Review. [13528]

**Mr. Morley:** The work of the Sustainable Procurement Task Force will take into account the recommendations of the Gershon Review.

The Task Force has been established under the chairmanship of Sir Neville Simms and is charged with the task of developing a national action plan for sustainable procurement by April 2006.

### Consultants

**Mr. Betts:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many consultants have been employed to advise on the Best Practice Guidance for Tourism; who they are; what their brief was; what the cost of the contracts was; and for what reasons the contracts were terminated. [14417]

**Yvette Cooper:** Land Use Consultants were awarded a contract in January 2004 to produce good practice guidance for planning and tourism. The contract comprised three core objectives: to identify and recommend the scope of good practice guidance; to identify and articulate good practice in a variety of contexts; and to draft the guidance. The fixed price for the contract, had all the work been undertaken by Land Use Consultants, was £93,255 excluding VAT. However, the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and Land Use Consultants agreed in early 2005 that it would be better, given the level of planning policy expertise resting within ODPM, for some of the work to be completed in-house. Around 40 per cent. of the total contract price was paid to Land Use Consultants.

### Council Housing

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many council houses have been sold to sitting tenants since May 1979. [14277]

**Yvette Cooper:** The specific information requested is not available. Since its introduction in 1980 there have been almost 1.660 million sales of council dwellings in England under the right to buy scheme up to the end of 2003–04.

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister for what reason councils opting to retain council housing stock have to prepare a 30-year financial forecast; and what assistance the Government provides in preparation of such plans. [14235]

**Yvette Cooper:** Local authorities have since April 2001 been required to produce a 30 year financial model at least every three years, as part of the HRA business planning process. The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister provides a standard financial model for use in this process, which can also be used to help deliver a financial model for the stock options appraisal if it is required.

Housing is a long life asset. If optimum benefit is to be derived from housing properties it is therefore essential that management decisions are taken with due regard to their long-term implications. The true outcome of choices made in the short term can often only be properly assessed with reference to their impact in the long term. If resource allocation decisions are to be soundly based it is important to evaluate available options over a period that captures all the associated effects.

We would expect local authorities that retain ownership and management of their stock to put a business plan in place that takes a long term view and Government Offices may want to use such information to track progress in delivering decent homes.

## Council Tax

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how much council tax was uncollected within the Southend local authority in each of the last five years for which figures are available, broken down by council tax band. [14279]

**Mr. Woolas:** Details of how much council tax was uncollected within the Southend local authority in each of the last five years are published on the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister's website and can be found under the heading "Information For Taxpayers—Council Tax Collection Rates" at: http://www.local.odpm.gov.uk/finance/ct.htm.

It is not possible to provide the data broken down by council tax band as the data are not collected centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what assesament he has made of the likely impact of the council tax revaluation on Cambridgeshire. [14631]

**Mr. Woolas:** The terms of reference for the independent inquiry into local government funding by Sir Michael Lyons require him to make recommendations on how best to reform council tax, taking into account the forthcoming revaluation of domestic property. His report is due to be submitted by the end of the year to my right hon. Friends the Deputy Prime Minister and the Chancellor of the Exchequer. Sir Michael's work will inform the Government's decisions on council tax bands.

The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister has accordingly made no assessment of the likely impact of revaluation on Cambridgeshire.

## Council Wardens

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what assessment he has made of the effects of council wardens and police working together in Lancashire. [14592]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** Joined up working has significant benefits as part of the plural policing agenda in Lancashire. The wardens contribution towards this is typically assisting with environmental improvements, such as litter, graffiti, dog fouling and housing management; tackling antisocial behaviour, building community pride and cohesion and providing a link between local residents, and key agencies like local authorities and Fire & Rescue Services. This level of involvement frees up the police to concentrate on the more serious crimes.

## Empty Homes

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many empty homes there are in *(a)* South Cambridgeshire and *(b)* East Cambridgeshire. [14587]

**Yvette Cooper:** The total number of vacant dwellings at 1 April 2004 in: *(a)* South Cambridgeshire is 1,884; and *(b)* East Cambridgeshire is 451. These are the latest figures available from a combination of the ODPM's Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix return and Housing Corporation's Regulatory and Statistical Return.

## Fire Service

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many attacks have been recorded on members of fire crews in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* the Metropolitan police area of London in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available. [14281]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** Annual returns have been required from Fire and Rescue Authorities only since 2004. London have not reported any such incidents for this period. I refer the hon. Member to the reply to his previous question on 7 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 558W, with regards to Essex.

**Mr. Clifton-Brown:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what trials will be carried out on mobile data terminals in connection with the proposed regionalisation of fire control centres. [14609]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** No formal trials of mobile data terminals are proposed, since many Fire and Rescue Services already use mobile data terminals. However, all the equipment required to operate the new control centres will be subject to a rigorous and extensive testing regime, which will be negotiated as part of the supply agreement.

**Mr. Clifton-Brown:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what the time scale is for announcing the location of the Regional Fire Control Headquarters. [14610]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** We hope to make an announcement on the location of the new fire control centres soon. They are not planned as "headquarters".

**Mr. Clifton-Brown:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what discussions have taken place in his Department on merging county fire brigades. [14612]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Government is encouraging and assisting Fire and Rescue Authorities to work together through Regional Management Boards in order to improve their efficiency effectiveness in maintaining and improving public safety. In the course of these discussions, some Fire and Rescue Authorities have sought advice on how they could undertake a voluntary merger, should they wish to do so.

**Mr. Clifton-Brown:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what the expected change will be in response times for fire emergencies following the proposed regionalisation of fire control centres. [14613]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 21 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 2088W to the hon. Member for Gosport (Peter Viggers).

**Mr. Clifton-Brown:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how areas where there is no radio signal will be administered under the Government proposals to regionalise fire control centres; and what percentage of the total area is involved. [14621]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** Wide area radio coverage will be provided in accordance with the user requirement as defined in the Firelink contract. This has been agreed with the operational user community both at strategic and technical level.

**Mr. Clifton-Brown:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what the costs are of *(a)* dismantling the present fire control system and *(b)* establishing the regionalised fire control system. [14622]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** All the costs involved in setting up the new Fire Control Centres are set out in the FiReControl Outline Business Case, which is available on www.firecontrol.odpm.gsi.gov.uk. This business case is in the process of being updated and a new version will be available later in the year.

**Mr. Clifton-Brown:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what the role of the Fire Training College at Moreton-in-Marsh, Gloucestershire will be under the proposed regionalised fire control arrangements. [14625]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The introduction of a national network of control centres will not affect the role of the Fire Service College.

**Mr. Clifton-Brown:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what the training strategy will be under the proposed regionalisation of fire control centres; and whether this will involve developing more regional training structures. [14654]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The recent invitation to submit outline proposals (ISOP) for infrastructure services, including training, for the new control centres sought proposals from bidders to inform the development of the strategy. There are no proposals to develop additional regional training facilities. Regional Management Boards (RMBs) have a responsibility to promote better use of existing training facilities.

**Mr. Carswell:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many fire stations have closed since January 2000. [14784]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The available information from annual returns submitted by fire and rescue services in England shows that between 31 March 2000 and 31 March 2004, the following fire stations have either closed, or closed and merged to form new fire stations:

*Closed fire stations*

| *Fire and Rescue Service* | *Stations* |
|---|---|
| Hampshire | Titchfield<br>Twyford |

*Closed and merged*

| *Fire and Rescue Service* | *Stations* | *New station* |
|---|---|---|
| West Yorkshire | Bramley<br>Pudsey | Stanningley |
| Lancashire | Accrington<br>Oswaldtwistle | Hyndburn |

*Source:*
ODPM Performance and Management information database.

Information for the year ending 31 March 2005 is currently being collected from fire and rescue services, but a full return for 2004–05 is not yet available.

However, the closure of the Manchester Square fire station in London W1 was announced by the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority on 7 June 2005.

## Green Belt

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister (1) how many hectares of undeveloped green belt there were in Cambridgeshire in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* the latest date for which figures are available; [14585]

(2) what proportion of Cambridgeshire comprised undeveloped green belt in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* the latest year for which figures are available. [14586]

**Yvette Cooper:** In 1997, the extent of designated green belt in Cambridgeshire amounted to 26,690 hectares of which 430 hectares are estimated to be built-up land. Therefore, undeveloped green belt land in Cambridgeshire in 1997 was around 26,260 hectares, 9 per cent. of the total land area of Cambridgeshire. The extent of green belt in 2003 remained the same as in 1997, over the period an estimated 32 hectares of Greenfield land, within the designated green belt in Cambridgeshire has been developed.

Data on the extent of designated green belt in each local authority area in England in 1997 and 2003 were published by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister on 16 September 2004. Copies are available in the Library of the House. The publication is also available on the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister's website at www.odpm.gov.uk/stellent/groups/odpm_planning/documents/page/odpm_plan_031125.hcsp

## Homeless Households

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many homeless households in the Southend, West constituency have been resident in bed-and-breakfast accommodation in each year since 2000; and what percentage of them claimed benefit in each year. [14280]

**Yvette Cooper:** Information on statutory homelessness is not collected at constituency level, only at local authority level. Information reported by Southend on Sea borough council about the number of households in bed and breakfast style accommodation as at 31 March of each year since 2000 is tabled as follows. Also included are comparable data on the number of households in all forms of temporary accommodation.

The number of these households claiming, or in receipt of, housing or social security benefits is not collected centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

*Households in bed and breakfast, and in all forms of temporary accommodation, secured by Southend on Sea borough council*[1]

| | *Bed and breakfast as at 31 March* | | *All forms of temporary accommodation as at 31 March* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Total* | *of which: Families*[2] | *Total* | *of which: Families*[2] |
| 2000 | 21 | n/a | 105 | n/a |
| 2001 | 50 | n/a | 161 | n/a |
| 2002 | 24 | 21 | 121 | 110 |
| 2003 | 69 | 41 | 175 | 132 |
| 2004 | 16 | 0 | 228 | 165 |
| 2005 | 13 | 0 | 207 | 168 |

n/a denotes not available; data collected from March 2002 onwards

[1] Bed and breakfast-style accommodation (involving shared-use of bathroom and/or kitchen facilities) arranged by the local authority pending inquiries, or after being accepted, under homelessness legislation.
[2] Families are households with dependent children or an expectant mother.
*Source:*
ODPM P1E homelessness returns (quarterly).

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many households in *(a)* South Cambridgeshire and *(b)* East Cambridgeshire were accepted as homeless in each year since 1997. [14588]

**Yvette Cooper:** A summary of information reported by South Cambridgeshire and East Cambridgeshire district councils about the number of households accepted under homelessness legislation as eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and in priority need, in each year since 1997–98 is tabled as follows:

*Households accepted as homeless[1] in East Cambridgeshire and South Cambridgeshire district councils*

| | *East Cambridgeshire* | | *South Cambridgeshire* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Total* | *Rate per 1,000 households[2]* | *Total* | *Rate per 1,000 households[2]* |
| 1997–98 | 92 | 3.3 | 80 | 1.5 |
| 1998–99 | 167 | 5.6 | 67 | 1.3 |
| 1999–2000 | 180 | 6.0 | 85 | 1.6 |
| 2000–01 | 208 | 6.7 | 125 | 2.3 |
| 2001–02 | 207 | 6.9 | 148 | 2.8 |
| 2002–03 | 150 | 4.8 | 103 | 1.9 |
| 2003–04 | 185 | 5.8 | 129 | 2.4 |
| 2004–05 | 192 | 6.0 | 116 | 2.1 |

[1] Households found to be eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and falling within a priority need group, and consequently owed a main homelessness duty by the local authority.
[2] Based on mid-year estimates of household population.
*Source:*
ODPM P1E homelessness returns (quarterly)

## Housebuilding (Wellingborough)

**Mr. Bone:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what estimate he has made of the number of houses to be built in Wellingborough constituency in each of the next 20 years. [14770]

**Yvette Cooper:** The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, the Milton Keynes and South Midlands Sub-Regional Strategy published on 17 March 2005 gives figures for housing provision for each local authority area, for each of the five year phases over the period 2001–21. For the local authority areas relevant to your constituency the annual average rates are tabled as follows:

| | *Local authority area* | |
|---|---|---|
| | *Wellingborough* | *East Northants* |
| 2001–06 | 595 | 520 |
| 2006–11 | 595 | 520 |
| 2011–16 | 685 | 420 |
| 2016–21 | 685 | 420 |

## Housing

**John Hemming:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what the estimated shortfall or surplus of low-cost housing for rent was in each local housing authority area on the latest date for which figures are available; and how many such housing units there were in each housing authority area on that date. [11297]

**Yvette Cooper:** Information in the format requested is not available centrally. However information on the number of dwellings available for rent owned by local authorities and registered social landlords (RSLs) on 1 April 2004 is given on a table that has been placed in the Library of the House. These data have been taken from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister's Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix return and the Housing Corporation's Regulatory and Statistical Return. The table also shows the number of households on the housing register and the number of vacant dwellings. Local authorities that have common housing registers with RSLs in their area are indicated on the table.

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether he plans to end the use of the private finance initiative as a method of achieving the Decent Homes Standard; and if he will make a statement. [12858]

**Yvette Cooper:** Use of the private finance initiative (PFI) will remain an option for local authorities seeking additional funding to achieve the Decent Homes Standard.

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether he plans to pay the consultancy fees for councils that have not yet submitted stock options. [12860]

**Yvette Cooper:** No.

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many stock transfers of council housing to registered social landlords his task force has overseen since 1999. [12861]

**Yvette Cooper:** The Community Housing Task Force was established is May 2001 and has been available to advise all 59 housing transfers that have taken place since that date.

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how much per household per week was transferred out of the housing revenue account of each Yorkshire and Humberside local authority in cross-subsidisation in the last year for which figures are available. [12932]

**Yvette Cooper:** The weekly per-dwelling figures for those authorities in positive and negative subsidy in the Yorkshire and Humberside region are given in the following table. These figures are taken from the latest data available for 2004–05 as provided by the authorities on their subsidy claim forms.

£

| *Authority* | *Positive HRA subsidy entitlement* | *Negative HRA subsidy entitlement* |
|---|---|---|
| Barnsley | 0.76 | — |
| City of York | — | 11.71 |
| Doncaster | — | 2.27 |
| East Riding | — | 13.31 |
| Harrogate | — | 10.51 |
| Kingston upon Hull | 0.15 | — |
| Kirklees | 5.30 | — |
| Leeds | — | 0.52 |
| North East Linconshire | — | 1.17 |
| North Lincolnshire | — | 3.23 |

£

| Authority | Positive HRA subsidy entitlement | Negative HRA subsidy entitlement |
|---|---|---|
| Richmondshire | — | 10.52 |
| Rotherham | — | 4.37 |
| Scarborough | 0.13 | — |
| Selby | — | 14.75 |
| Sheffield | 4.70 | — |
| Wakefield | — | 8.35 |

The Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Subsidy regime is based, in part, on the assumed income and expenditure for each authority. Those authorities with a notional income greater than their notional expenditure are negative subsidy authorities. Their subsidy surplus is pooled centrally and redistributed to deficit authorities. This redistribution occurs at a national, rather than regional level.

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister pursuant to the answer of 12 July 2005, *Official Report*, columns 962–63W, on the Decent Homes Standard, what performance rating was achieved by *(a)* Waltham Forest, *(b)* Stockton and *(c)* Stockport; and what the funding implications are in each case. [13414]

**Yvette Cooper:** ALMOs must secure at least a two star rating, on a scale of zero to three stars, to qualify for additional Government funding. The ratings and funding implications for the ALMOs tabled as follows, are:

| Local authority and ALMO | Audit Commission rating | Funding implications |
|---|---|---|
| *(a)* Waltham Forest-Ascham Homes | April 2004: one star | Conditional funding offer of 28. 2 million for 2003–04 and 2004–05 has lapsed. Further bid not accepted in June 2005. No longer on the ALMO programme. |
| (b) Stockton-Tristar Homes | October 2002: two stars<br>May 2005: one star | The one star rating in May 2005 has no funding implications since Tristar Homes had already used its total allocation of £63 million in 2002–03, 2003–04 and 2004–05 before the reduction in the star rating took place. |
| *(c)* Stockport -Stockport Homes | First ALMO Inspection due in June 2006 | Conditional funding of £40.36 million for 2006–07 and 2007–08 announced in June 2005. |

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister (1) if the Government will ensure that the full results of the research on the environmental implications of increasing housing supply are made available at the same time as they publish their proposals to revise national planning policy guidance on housing for consultation; [13645]

(2) what assessment he has made of the implications of releasing extra land for housing in line with Kate Barker's recommendations five and nine for *(a)* urban regeneration and *(b)* the Government's target for 60 per cent. of housing development to go on previously developed sites; [13646]

(3) when the Government plans to publish the results of the research it commissioned on the implications of a significant increase in housebuilding for the environment and other sustainable development considerations. [13647]

**Yvette Cooper:** In addressing the specific recommendations in Kate Barker's report we will adopt the same principles as set out in the Sustainable Communities Plan. The Government have accepted her central recommendation that there should be a step change in housing supply and has announced their intention to respond to her recommendations by the end of 2005.

In order to inform the response, we have commissioned two closely-related research projects. The first analyses the relationship between housebuilding and affordability. The second, jointly commissioned with DEFRA, looks at the implications of various levels of additional housebuilding for sustainable communities. It considers a broad range of impacts, including land use as well as social, environmental, economic and fiscal impacts.

The research is still being finalised and, in order to ensure that the findings are robust and credible, the research will be subject to peer review before publication later this year.

**Mr. Soames:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how much the Housing Corporation committed towards the provision of affordable housing for each district area in West Sussex in each of the last five years. [10172]

**Yvette Cooper:** The funding provided via the housing corporation for each district area in West Sussex for the past five years is detailed in the table.

£ million

| | 2000–01 | 2001–02 | 2002–03 | 2003–04 | 2004–05 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Adur | 2.491 | 0.597 | 1.339 | 2.094 | 0.802 |
| Arun | 0.562 | 2.710 | 4.912 | 6.046 | 2.642 |
| Chichester | 3.940 | 3.795 | 4.355 | 8.128 | 2.206 |
| Crawley | 0.897 | 1.071 | 3.549 | 4.619 | 2.236 |
| Horsham | 0.472 | 3.805 | 7.175 | 6.190 | 6.454 |
| Mid Sussex | 1.667 | 2.196 | 2.285 | 7.697 | 3.441 |
| Worthing | 3.506 | 4.727 | 2.472 | 4.399 | 2.125 |
| West Sussex Total | 13.535 | 18.901 | 26.087 | 39.173 | 19.906 |

**Mr. Soames:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how much of the Housing Corporation's affordable housing programme he expects to be committed to help provide affordable housing in the Mid Sussex district over the next three years; and how much the Government intends to commit to the provision of affordable housing in West Sussex in each of the next three years. [10173]

**Yvette Cooper:** Decisions on the overall level of funding for affordable housing in each region in 2006–07 and 2007–08 will be taken over the summer in the light of advice from the regional housing boards. The allocation of these funds across the regions, which will be announced early next year, will reflect advice from the boards and the quantity and value for money of bids to the housing corporation. Provision from 2008–09 will be dependent of the outcome of the next spending review in 2006.

**Mr. Love:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what estimate has been made of the *(a)* impact on public expenditure of and *(b)* likely timescale for bringing remaining local authority housing up to the decent homes standard whilst retaining ownership and management by the local authority; and if he will make a statement. [10410]

**Yvette Cooper:** The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister has set a target to bring all social housing up to the decent homes standard by 2010. Local authorities can opt to retain ownership and direct management of their stock if they can afford to meet the target through the resources currently available to them.

**Mr. Paterson:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many new housing developments have been approved in North Shropshire in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [10932]

**Yvette Cooper:** The numbers of planning applications for new housing developments in North Shropshire granted by the local authority in the last five years are:

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2000–01 | 146 |
| 2001–02 | 125 |
| 2002–03 | 155 |
| 2003–04 | 150 |
| 2004–05 | 146 |

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many homes have been built in the North East Milton Keynes constituency in each of the last five years. [13238]

**Yvette Cooper:** The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister collects housebuilding data only at local authority level so there are no figures available for the constituency of North East Milton Keynes. The annual numbers of new build completions reported for Milton Keynes local authority since 2000–01 are tabled as follows.

| | *New-build completions* |
|---|---|
| 2000–01 | 1,475 |
| 2001–02 | 1,246 |
| 2002–03 | 1,239 |
| 2003–04 | [1]1,074 |
| 2004–05 | 1,064 |

[1] Missing June 2003 quarter P2 return from Milton Keynes.
*Source:*
Returns (P2/NHBC) to ODPM on building control completions

**Mr. Meacher:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what appointments were made to lead bodies providing services related to housing provision for which he is responsible in each year since 1997; and what their *(a)* role, *(b)* pay, *(c)* length of tenure at appointment and *(d)* previous experience in the (i) public sector and (ii) private sector was in each case. [14374]

**Yvette Cooper:** The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, some of the information requested can be found in the Annual Reports of the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, and in the Cabinet Office's annual publication "Public Bodies", which will be available shortly on the Public Bodies website.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many and what percentage of *(a)* one-parent families and *(b)* two-parent families have been living in (i) private rented housing, (ii) local authority housing, (iii) owner-occupied housing with a mortgage, (iv) owner-occupied housing owned outright, (v) shared accommodation and (vi) housing association accommodation in each year since 1997. [14278]

**Yvette Cooper:** Estimates of the numbers of households by housing tenure from 1997 to 2004 are set out for two types of household: *(a)* lone parents with dependent children and *(b)* couples with dependent children. Tables showing the equivalent percentages are also included.

*Table 1: Lone parents with dependent children, number of households by tenure*

*thousands*

| | *Housing tenure* | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Owner occupiers* | | | *Social renters* | | | |
| | *Owned outright* | *Buying with a mortgage* | *Shared Ownership* | *Council* | *Housing Association* | *Private renters* | *Total* |
| 1997 | 65 | 357 | 6 | 489 | 154 | 191 | 1,262 |
| 1998 | 85 | 361 | 9 | 514 | 168 | 207 | 1,344 |
| 1999 | 80 | 377 | 11 | 525 | 176 | 184 | 1,353 |
| 2000 | 89 | 373 | 7 | 477 | 182 | 197 | 1,325 |
| 2001 | 88 | 374 | 7 | 476 | 213 | 190 | 1,348 |
| 2002 | 82 | 415 | 6 | 480 | 243 | 215 | 1,441 |
| 2003 | 89 | 433 | 4 | 456 | 230 | 227 | 1,440 |
| 2004 | 93 | 429 | 8 | 458 | 252 | 214 | 1,454 |

*Table 2: Lone parents with dependent children, percentage of households by tenure*

| | Housing tenure | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Owner occupiers | | | Social renters | | | |
| | Owned outright | Buying with a mortgage | Shared Ownership | Council | Housing Association | Private renters | Total |
| 1997 | 5 | 28 | 1 | 39 | 12 | 15 | 100 |
| 1998 | 6 | 27 | 1 | 38 | 12 | 16 | 100 |
| 1999 | 6 | 28 | 1 | 39 | 13 | 13 | 100 |
| 2000 | 7 | 28 | 1 | 36 | 14 | 14 | 100 |
| 2001 | 7 | 28 | 1 | 35 | 16 | 14 | 100 |
| 2002 | 6 | 29 | 0 | 33 | 17 | 15 | 100 |
| 2003 | 6 | 30 | 0 | 32 | 16 | 16 | 100 |
| 2004 | 6 | 29 | 1 | 32 | 17 | 15 | 100 |

*Table 3: Couples with dependent children, number of households by tenure*

*thousands*

| | Housing tenure | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Owner occupiers | | | Social renters | | | |
| | Owned outright | Buying with a mortgage | Shared ownership | Council | Housing Association | Private renters | Total |
| 1997 | 310 | 3,349 | 19 | 550 | 152 | 311 | 4,691 |
| 1998 | 326 | 3,327 | 24 | 522 | 148 | 311 | 4,642 |
| 1999 | 325 | 3,356 | 21 | 513 | 145 | 305 | 4,665 |
| 2000 | 334 | 3,369 | 19 | 478 | 179 | 285 | 4,663 |
| 2001 | 344 | 3,323 | 19 | 469 | 183 | 312 | 4,651 |
| 2002 | 372 | 3,278 | 18 | 419 | 186 | 304 | 4,576 |
| 2003 | 366 | 3,275 | 16 | 348 | 195 | 310 | 4,509 |
| 2004 | 389 | 3,273 | 21 | 351 | 187 | 325 | 4,545 |

*Table 4: Couples with dependent children, percentage of households by tenure*

| | Housing tenure | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Owner occupiers | | | Social renters | | | |
| | Owned outright | Buying with a mortgage | Shared ownership | Council | Housing Association | Private renters | Total |
| 1997 | 7 | 71 | 0 | 12 | 3 | 7 | 100 |
| 1998 | 7 | 71 | 1 | 11 | 3 | 7 | 100 |
| 1999 | 7 | 72 | 0 | 11 | 3 | 7 | 100 |
| 2000 | 7 | 72 | 0 | 10 | 4 | 6 | 100 |
| 2001 | 7 | 71 | 0 | 10 | 4 | 7 | 100 |
| 2002 | 8 | 72 | 0 | 9 | 4 | 7 | 100 |
| 2003 | 8 | 73 | 0 | 8 | 4 | 7 | 100 |
| 2004 | 9 | 72 | 0 | 8 | 4 | 7 | 100 |

*Source:*
Labour Force Survey

Note that the number of social renters in council-owned accommodation may be an over-estimate; conversely the number of households in accommodation provided by housing associations may be an under-estimate. This is as a result of the ongoing transfer of council-owned stock to housing associations. It has been noted (in the 2001 census and in most household surveys—including the labour force survey) that households living in dwellings where there has been a change of ownership have a tendency to continue to report that they rent from the council rather than a housing association for some time after the transfer.

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will list the local authorities in the South-East *(a)* whose housing waiting list is open to applicants who live and work in the area and *(b)* that operate a closed list available only to applicants with a direct local connection. [14752]

**Yvette Cooper:** The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister does not hold the information requested, and in any event it is not lawful for a local authority to maintain a "closed" waiting list. This is because changes to the allocation legislation (Part 6 of the Housing Act 1996) introduced by the Homelessness Act 2002 removed the power for local authorities to implement blanket exclusions of certain categories of applicant. All applicants are eligible for an allocation of accommodation, with the exception of certain persons from abroad, and those whom the authority decide to treat as ineligible as a result of serious unacceptable behaviour. However, local authorities may take into account any local connection which exists between the applicant and the local authority district in determining priority for an allocation.

## Key Worker Living Initiative

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what discussions his Department has had with local councils on how many homes should be built in a borough under the Key Worker Living Initiative. [12755]

**Yvette Cooper:** The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister has not had any detailed discussions with individual local authorities on how many homes should be built under the Key Worker Living Initiative.

Decisions on funding are taken in light of evidence from regional housing boards and the quality and value for money of the bids submitted by registered social landlords. Local authorities are involved in the process of drawing up regional housing strategies which underpin the advice from regional housing boards.

## Lyons Review

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will list documents *(a)* the Department and *(b)* the Valuation Office Agency has provided to the Lyons Review. [11398]

**Mr. Woolas:** As my right hon. Friend the Member for Greenwich and Woolwich (Mr. Raynsford) explained in his answer to the hon. Member on 14 March 2005, *Official Report*, column 1499W, Sir Michael Lyons intends to make available the evidence that underpins his conclusions and recommendations once the report is published.

## Milton Keynes

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many people in Milton Keynes are classified as homeless. [14246]

**Yvette Cooper:** Information about local authorities' actions under homelessness legislation is collected quarterly and is in respect of households rather than persons. The number of households accepted by Milton Keynes Unitary Authority as eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and in priority need during 2004–05, and the number of households in temporary accommodation arranged by the authority under homelessness legislation as at 31 March 2005 is in the following table.

The duty owed to a person accepted as eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and in priority need is to secure suitable accommodation. If a settled home is not immediately available, the authority may secure temporary accommodation until a settled home becomes available. As an alternative to the provision of temporary accommodation some authorities arrange for households to remain in their current accommodation (homeless at home) until a settled solution becomes available.

Information is also collected on the number of people who sleep rough—that is, those who are literally roofless on a single night—and these are also presented in the following table.

| *Milton Keynes UA* | *Number* |
|---|---|
| Households accepted[1] as owed a main duty during 2004–05 | 705 |
| Households in temporary accommodation[2] on 31 March 2005 | 849 |
| Rough sleepers 2004[3] (number of persons) | 0 |

[1] Households eligible under homelessness legislation, found to be unintentionally homeless and in a priority need category, and consequently owed a main homelessness duty between April 2004 and March 2005.

[2] Households in accommodation either pending a decision on their homelessness application or awaiting re-allocation of a settled home following acceptance. Excludes those households designated as "homeless at home" that have remained in their existing accommodation and have the same rights to suitable alternative accommodation as those in accommodation arranged by the authority.

[3] June 2004 estimates.

*Source:*

ODPM PIE Homelessness returns (quarterly) and Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix (annual) (for Rough Sleepers data)

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how much funding Milton Keynes Unitary Authority has received from all Government sources over the past 10 years in *(a)* nominal and *(b)* real terms. [14258]

**Mr. Woolas:** The funding Milton Keynes Unitary Authority has received from all Government sources since the authority was created in 1997–98 in both nominal and real terms, is shown in the following table.

*£000*

| | *Nominal* | *Real terms* |
|---|---|---|
| 1997–98 | 119,781 | 140,629 |
| 1998–99 | 126,392 | 144,638 |
| 1999–2000 | 137,519 | 154,335 |
| 2000–01 | 145,020 | 160,650 |
| 2001–02 | 162,228 | 175,382 |
| 2002–03 | 164,663 | 172,530 |
| 2003–04 | 191,871 | 195,879 |
| 2004–05 | 239,018 | 239,018 |
| 2005–06 | 229,852 | 224,244 |

The data are as reported by the local authority and are taken from the Revenue Outturn (RO) and the Capital Outturn forms for 1997–98 to 2003–04, the Revenue Account (RA) budget form for 2004–05 and 2005–06, Capital Provisional Outturn (CPR4) form for 2004–05 and the Capital Estimates Return (CER) form for 2005–06.

The revenue grants included are special and specific grants inside Aggregate External Finance, revenue support grant and redistributed non-domestic rates.

The data for capital funding show resources used during that particular year funded by capital grants from central Government Departments; the revenue grants are shown in the year in which they are paid.

Comparisons across years may not be valid due to changing local authority responsibilities.

The real terms figures have been revalued for previous years at 2004–05 prices using the GDP deflator.

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many *(a)* consultation and *(b)* advisory documents were sent to parish councils in the North East Milton Keynes constituency by his Department in each of the last five years. [14259]

**Mr. Woolas:** I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given to the hon. Member for Shrewsbury and Atcham (Daniel Kawczynski) on 21 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 2093W.

## OFTEC Scheme

**Janet Anderson:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister (1) if he will make an assessment of the *(a)* effectiveness and *(b)* coverage of the OFTEC scheme; [14562]

(2) what his latest estimate is of the proportion of oil-fired heating installers which are covered by the OFTEC scheme. [14564]

**Yvette Cooper:** The effectiveness of the competent person scheme operated by the Oil Firing Technical Association for the Petroleum Industry Ltd. (OFTEC) in England and Wales was considered in a formal review

in 2003. This concluded that it had achieved a higher level of building regulations compliance than would otherwise have been the case and had helped to raise installation standards. Since that time the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister has kept OFTEC under informal review and believes that these conclusions remain valid.

Since it was established in April 2002, coverage of the OFTEC scheme has grown steadily: the number of oil installers and servicers now stands at 7,500 registered technicians in the UK, of whom 5,600 are in England, an increase of 400 since January, compared with fewer than 3,000 registered technicians in April 2003 when the scheme was reviewed.

Precise figures for the number of oil installers and services are not available but OFTEC estimate that there are approximately 10,000 in the UK, of whom 6–7,000 are in England and Wales.

## Planning

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what the timetable is for the revision of the departmental circular on planning obligations. [5588]

**Yvette Cooper:** The Government published a new circular on planning obligations on 18 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 44WS. To complement the circular a standard section 106 agreement and a good practice guide will also be published later in 2005.

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what guidance he offers to local authorities on the procedures for dealing with retrospective planning applications; how many retrospective applications were received by each local authority in the last year for which figures are available; how many of these were subsequently *(a)* successful and *(b)* withdrawn; and in how many cases enforcement action was taken. [14782]

**Yvette Cooper:** Guidance to local authorities on dealing with retrospective planning applications is given in Planning Policy Guidance Note 18 [PPG18] "Enforcing Planning Control" and "Enforcing Planning Control: Good Practice Guide for Local Planning Authorities", which are available from the Stationery Office [ISBN 0–11–752554–5/ISBN 0–11–753405–6 respectively]. PPG18 is also available on the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister's website at www.odpm.gov.uk

The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister does not record statistics on the number of retrospective planning applications received by each local authority in the last year. However, a one-off survey carried out in 1999 showed that just over 3 per cent. of all applications to district planning authorities and county councils for planning permission were applied for retrospectively. The success rate for retrospective applications was 85 per cent. as against 88 per cent. overall. Subsequent enforcement action was taken in around half of all retrospective refusals.

**Bob Russell:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will list the organisations and individuals who have requested that Application COL/05/0964 to construct a visual arts building at Colchester be called in to be determined by a public inquiry. [12997]

**Yvette Cooper** *[holding answer 18 July 2005]:* The release of this information, without the prior agreements of the organisations and individuals, is likely to breach the data protection principles set out in the Data Protection Act 1998.

**Roger Berry:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what progress has been made in *(a)* establishing mechanisms for funding for access groups in England and Wales and *(b)* identifying suitable disability organisations to administer this funding in relation to implementation of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.[10942]

**Yvette Cooper** *[Holding answer 11 July 2005]:* Section 115 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 provides the legal mechanism for funding access groups in England and Wales. In accepting an amendment with this effect in March 2004, the Noble Lord Rooker made it clear that the Government had not set aside funds for assisting such groups. There has been no change to this position.

**Mr. Steen:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what the average time taken to arrange a site visit by a representative of the Planning Inspectorate in cases of appeal against a planning decision by the local authority was in 2004–05; how long he estimates the time taken to arrange a site visit to 7 and 8 Fore Street, Salcombe, Devon will be; and if he will make a statement. [14376]

**Yvette Cooper:** The average time taken to arrange a site visit by a representative of the Planning Inspectorate in appeal against a planning decision by the local authority for this financial year is 12 weeks. This compares to 23 weeks for the last financial year. It is estimated that a site visit to 7 and 8 Fore Street, Salcombe, Devon will be conducted in the week commencing 25 July 2005.

**Sir Michael Spicer:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether it is his policy to call in all planning appeals with respect to applications by Travellers to settle on land they have bought; and if he will make a statement. [11200]

**Yvette Cooper** *[Holding answer 11 July 2005]:* The First Secretary of State's policy on calling in planning applications is set out in the parliamentary reply given by the then Planning Minister my right hon. Friend the Member for Sheffield Central to my hon. Friend the Member for Sheffield Heeley on 16 June 1999, *Official Report*, column 138).

Most planning appeals are transferred to the Planning Inspectorate for Inspectors to decide on behalf of the Secretary of State. However, some planning appeals are recovered for decision by the Secretary of State. My right hon. Friend's policy and guidelines for recovering cases is set out in a parliamentary reply given to my hon. Friend the Member for Basildon by the then Planning Minister my right hon. Friend the Member for Greenwich and Woolwich on 25 July 2000, *Official Report*, column 594W).

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether dormant companies may make applications for planning permission. [13105]

**Yvette Cooper:** Any individual or organisation can apply for planning permission. Applications are decided in the light of policies in the local development plan, and other material considerations. An applicant's identity will generally not be relevant.

### Regional Government

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what the referendum results were for the two questions asked in the north east regional assembly referendum in each local authority area in the north east. [13109]

**Yvette Cooper:** The full results of the two questions asked in the referendum on the establishment of an elected regional assembly in the north east are available on the Electoral Commission website http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/election-data/index.cfm?epage=q&frmElectionID=4.

### Regional Housing Board

**Joan Walley:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what the funding allocations for local authorities in the West Midlands from the Regional Housing Board were for 2004–05 and 2005–06. [14113]

**Yvette Cooper:** The allocations from regional housing pot funds made to West Midlands authorities, which were in line with recommendations from the West Midlands Housing Board, were:

*£k*

| | *2004–05* | *2005–06* |
|---|---|---|
| Birmingham | 34,295.200 | 35,082.000 |
| Bridgnorth | 479.700 | 481.000 |
| Bromsgrove | 614.000 | 542.000 |
| Cannock Chase | 845.351 | 818.000 |
| Coventry | 5,023.000 | 5,131.000 |
| Dudley | 3,165.000 | 3,212.000 |
| East Staffordshire | 986.000 | 984.000 |
| Herefordshire | 2,072.000 | 2,063.000 |
| Lichfield | 557.000 | 544.000 |
| Malvern Hills | 749.000 | 748.000 |
| Newcastle-under-Lyme | 1,066.000 | 1,067.000 |
| North Shropshire | 645.000 | 647.000 |
| North Warwickshire | 531.000 | 545.000 |
| Nuneaton and Bedworth | 1,149.000 | 1,180.000 |
| Oswestry | 417.000 | 418.000 |
| Redditch | 586.000 | 603.000 |
| Rugby | 853.000 | 855.000 |
| Sandwell | 6,929.800 | 7,837.000 |
| Shrewsbury and Atcham | 849.000 | 850.000 |
| Solihull | 1,388.000 | 1,343.000 |
| South Shropshire | 535.000 | 534.000 |
| South Staffordshire | 538.000 | 538.000 |
| Stafford | 987.000 | 992.000 |
| Staffordshire Moorlands | 833.000 | 832.000 |
| Stoke-on-Trent | 5,344.167 | 5,344.000 |
| Stratford-on-Avon | 937.000 | 935.000 |
| Tamworth | 599.000 | 614.000 |
| Telford and Wrekin | 1,141.600 | 1,067.000 |
| Walsall | 3,714.000 | 3,671.000 |
| Warwick | 1,291.000 | 1,296.000 |
| Wolverhampton | 7,394.457 | 7,472.500 |
| Worcester | 1,073.000 | 962.000 |
| Wychavon | 876.000 | 876.000 |
| Wyre Forest | 794.000 | 797.000 |
| Total | 89,257.275 | 90,880.500 |

The allocations to some authorities include an element intended to be spent on behalf of the authority and its neighbours.

### Regional Plans

**Mr. Clifton-Brown:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what the time scale is for adoption of each *(a)* regional spatial strategy, *(b)* county structure plan and *(c)* local development plan. [14617]

**Yvette Cooper:** The time scale for the revision and adoption of a Regional Spatial Strategies (RSS) is outlined under PPS11 as being approximately two years and six months to three years (between 30 to 35 months).

Similarly under PPS12 the approximate time scale for the development and adoption of a development plan document is up to three years.

Structure plans under the old system took on average four years to prepare from the publication of the Regional Planning Guidance to the adoption of the structure plan.

### Respect

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what responsibilities his Department has for fostering respect. [11386]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister contributes to respect across the range of its functions.

### Revenue Support Grant

**Colin Burgon:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how much revenue support grant was awarded to Leeds city council in each year since 1995–96. [14418]

**Mr. Woolas:** The table shows the amount of formula grant that Leeds city council received in each year since 1995–96. Formula grant consists of the following grants (where appropriate):

Revenue Support Grant;

Redistributed Business Rates;

SSA Reduction Grant (SSA Review); and

Central Support Protection Grant.

*£ million*

| | *Formula grant* |
|---|---|
| 1995–96 | 406.626093 |
| 1996–97 | 431.478283 |
| 1997–98 | 417.375527 |
| 1998–99 | 439.900130 |
| 1999–2000 | 464.712757 |
| 2000–01 | 481.715430 |
| 2001–02 | 493.596932 |
| 2002–03 | 490.946026 |
| 2003–04 | 537.096546 |
| 2004–05 | 560.273223 |
| 2005–06 | 592.477665 |

Please note that the above data should not be used for the purpose of calculating year-on-year changes. This is because the data are not comparable year-on-year due to changes in the funding and function of services.

### Rough Sleepers

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what recent estimate he has made of the number of rough sleepers in Cambridgeshire. [14589]

**Yvette Cooper:** The most recent estimate, as at June 2004, showed there were 508 people sleeping rough in England on any single night. Street counts showed four rough sleepers in Peterborough and three in Cambridge. Other local authorities in Cambridgeshire had not conducted recent street counts. East Cambridgeshire, South Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire estimated rough sleeper levels of between 0–10 and Fenland did not submit an estimate.

### Satellite Dishes

**Mr. Olner:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister when he will publish the response to the consultation on satellite dishes and other antennae. [13479]

**Yvette Cooper:** The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister has been carefully considering the responses to the consultation document on satellite dishes and other antennas in the context of the Government's plans for the rollout of digital television and broadband internet services. We will be announcing the outcome of the review in the autumn.

### Social Housing

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister which registered social landlords (RSLs) who have taken over council housing stock have subsequently been *(a)* taken over by and *(b)* merged with other RSLs; and how many homes have been affected in each case. [13390]

**Yvette Cooper:** On 18 May 2005 the First Secretary of State gave his consent under section 133 of the Housing Act 1988, after consulting the Housing Corporation, to the transfer of 2,553 dwellings from Hart Housing Association Ltd. to Oakfern Housing Association Ltd., both of which are members of Sentinel Housing Group Ltd. Residents of Hart Housing Association Ltd. and Oakfern Housing Association Ltd. were consulted about the proposals prior to consent being given.

The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister has received no other request by a registered social landlord to transfer the ownership of its housing stock to another registered social landlord.

The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister does not hold details on those registered social landlords that merge as the First Secretary of State's consent is not required.

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister which local authorities in England since May have decided their stock options appraisal in favour of *(a)* stock transfer, *(b)* arm's length management organisation, *(c)* private finance initiative and *(d)* stock retention by the council; how many homes each authority has; which authorities have yet to advise his Office of their intentions; and how many homes they own in each case. [13411]

**Yvette Cooper:** Since 1 May 2005, 32 local authorities have had their options appraisal signed off.

Some local authorities have opted for more than one solution for their stock and they are listed separately, with the options they have chosen.

94 local authorities have yet to have their options appraisal signed off for the whole of their stock, with 40 having been submitted and awaiting sign off.

Tables detailing this information have been placed in the Libraries of the House.

**Alan Simpson:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how much spending has been allocated to improving heating and insulation standards in social housing in each year since 2000, by *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* registered social landlords; and if he will express this spending as a percentage of all social landlord expenditure on remedial work to the housing stock. [13547]

**Yvette Cooper:** Data are only available for local authorities and are set out in the following table. The figures show what local authorities have spent/plan to spend on improving heating and insulation.

Over the period shown in the table, this represents 16 per cent. of all expenditure on remedial works.

*Total LA expenditure on central heating and insulation*

| *Financial year* | *£000* |
|---|---|
| 1999–2000 | 246,725 |
| 2000–01 | 283,033 |
| 2001–02 | 318,559 |
| 2002–03 | 333,034 |
| 2003–04 | 385,548 |
| 2004–05 | 405,352 |

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what the cost for each member of the social housing task force was in the last year for which figures are available; what contribution *(a)* councils considering transfer and *(b)* the private sector makes to its costs; and what assessment he has made of the effects on the private sector of the task force. [14750]

**Yvette Cooper:** Salaries for members of the Community Housing Task Force are in the range of £39,728 to £51,646 per annum.

Neither councils considering transfer nor any other organisation make contributions to the costs of the Community Housing Task Force.

There has been no assessment of the effects on the private sector of the work of the Community Housing Task Force.

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how he proposes to allow tenants of housing associations to buy a share in the property; and whether this right will be extended to tenants of private landlords. [11165]

**Yvette Cooper:** The Government's proposals for a new Social HomeBuy scheme for social tenants were set out in the consultation document "HomeBuy—Expanding the Opportunity to Own". Copies of the document are available from the Library of the House. The consultation period closed on 24 June 2005 and we are currently considering the responses.

The Government have no plans to institute a similar scheme for tenants in the private rented sector.

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how much funding has been made available to registered social landlords since performance requirements for gap funding were removed. [14747]

**Yvette Cooper:** None. The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister consulted on the arrangements for gap funding prior to their introduction. On introduction there were no qualifying performance requirements for registered social landlords to receive gap funding.

### Tamworth Borough Council

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how much funding Tamworth borough council has received from all Government sources over the past 10 years in *(a)* nominal and *(b)* real terms. [13838]

**Mr. Woolas:** The funding Tamworth borough council has received from all Government sources over the past 10 years in both nominal and real terms, is shown in the following table.

*£000*

| | *Nominal* | *Real terms* |
|---|---|---|
| 1996–97 | 4,931 | 5,960 |
| 1997–98 | 4,980 | 5,847 |
| 1998–99 | 4,590 | 5,253 |
| 1999–2000 | 4,739 | 5,319 |
| 2000–01 | 4,803 | 5,321 |
| 2001–02 | 5,115 | 5,530 |
| 2002–03 | 5,749 | 6,024 |
| 2003–04 | 6,312 | 6,444 |
| 2004–05 | 7,023 | 7,023 |
| 2005–06 | 6,499 | 6,340 |

The data are as reported by the local authority and are taken from the Revenue Outturn (RO) and the Capital Outturn forms for 1996–97 to 2003–04, the Revenue Account (RA) budget form for 2004–05 and 2005–06, Capital Provisional Outturn (CPR4) form for 2004–05 and the Capital Estimates Return (CER) form for 2005–06.

The revenue grants included are special and specific grants inside Aggregate External Finance, revenue support grant, SSA reduction grant and redistributed non-domestic rates.

The data for capital funding show resources used during that particular year funded by capital grants from central Government Departments; the revenue grants are shown in the year in which they are paid.

Comparisons across years may not be valid due to changing local authority responsibilities.

The real terms figures have been revalued for previous years at 2004–05 prices using the GDP deflator.

### Telecommunications Base Stations

**Mr. Burrowes:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister (1) how many telecommunication base stations are situated in Enfield, Southgate; [13648]

(2) how many *(a)* telecommunication base stations and *(b)* mobile phone masts have been installed in Enfield, Southgate under permitted development rights since PPG8 became effective. [13649]

**Yvette Cooper:** The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

However, during September and October every year the mobile network operators write to every local authority with details of their network rollout for the year ahead. When they write to the local authority they also provide details of their existing sites within the local authority area. My hon. Friend may want to contact the network operators for copies of their plans.

### Telecommunications Masts

**Mr. Burrowes:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many appeals to the Planning Inspectorate have been made by mobile phone operators since 2002; and how many have been successful. [13650]

**Yvette Cooper:** The following table details the number of planning appeals received, decided and allowed for Telecommunications (including radio/TV-Mast/Aerial/Dish/Antenna).

| | *Received* | *Decided* | *Allowed* | *Percentage* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2002 | 871 | 761 | 517 | 68 |
| 2003 | 636 | 705 | 413 | 59 |
| 2004 | 738 | 478 | 252 | 53 |
| 2005 | 232 | 405 | 226 | 56 |
| Total | 2,477 | 2,349 | 1,408 | 60 |

### Tenants Representation

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many *(a)* councils, *(b)* registered social landlords and *(c)* arm's length management organisations have tenants' representation structures. [14749]

**Yvette Cooper:** The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister does not hold data on which local authorities have formal procedures for tenant representation. However, research conducted in 2003 by the Department, "Interim Evaluation of Tenant Participation Compacts" (ODPM October 2003), found that all local authorities that manage housing stock have systems in place for tenants' views to be taken into account in decision making processes. A copy of this research is available in the Library of the House.

Under the regulatory code for Registered Social Landlords, published by the Housing Corporation, "Housing Associations must seek and be responsive to residents' views and priorities (Part 2.5 page V)". The methods of achieving this will vary from landlord to landlord. We expect all RSLs which are established as part of a stock transfer to draw approximately one third of their management board from residents.

All arm's length management organisations have a management board made up of at least one third tenants.

### Tourism

**Mr. Betts:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what representations he has received from industry on the draft Best Practice Guidance for Tourism. [14416]

**Yvette Cooper:** The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister has shared draft good practice guidance with more than 30 stakeholders, including representatives of the tourism industry. Their comments have expressed concern about various matters in the draft including the need better to recognise the contribution that tourism makes to the economy and inadequate sector-specific guidance.

To meet these concerns and others raised, we are proposing to redraft the guidance. ODPM officials have discussed the scope of the revised draft with the Tourism Review and Implementation Group (TRIG) Planning sub-group which advises the Minister for Tourism about the industry's concerns. We will continue to work with them as we develop the revised draft.

### Town and Country Planning (Control of Advertisements)

**Ben Chapman:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether his plans to update the Town and Country Planning (Control of Advertisements) Regulations 1992 include making changes to Part IV of these regulations (Areas of Special Control over Advertisements); and if he will make a statement. [14002]

**Yvette Cooper:** The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister has no plans make changes to Part IV of the Regulations. However, in November 2000, all local planning authorities were asked to undertake a review of Areas of Special Control of Advertisements in their areas in order to satisfy themselves that they remain appropriate and necessary.

### Travellers

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many Traveller caravans were on *(a)* authorised and *(b)* unauthorised sites in (i) South Cambridgeshire, (ii) East Cambridgeshire, (iii) Cambridgeshire and (iv) England in each year since 1997. [14584]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The information requested is held in the bi-annual count of Gypsy and Traveller caravans and copies are available in the Library of the House.

### Unoccupied Dwellings

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what estimate he has made of the number of unoccupied dwellings, broken down by local authority area. [14275]

**Yvette Cooper:** Information on the number of vacant dwellings in each local authority in England has been placed in the Library of the House. Figures provided are as at 1 April 2004, the latest year available. The data are produced by combining the reported figures from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister's Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix (HSSA) return and Housing Corporation's Regulatory and Statistical Return.

The total number of empty homes for the whole of England is estimated to be about 690,000 for 2004 a drop of 70,000 empty dwellings since 1997. These figures are from the HSSA returns alone and they include estimates for those local authorities who did not supply a figure.

### Wind Farms

**Mr. Bone:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will make a statement on the siting of onshore wind farm developments, with specific reference to Airfield Farm, Podington, Bedfordshire. [14384]

**Yvette Cooper:** National planning policies on the location of renewable energy developments are set out in Planning Policy Statement 22 (PPS22) "Renewable Energy". PPS22 requires planning authorities to set criteria based policies against which planning applications for renewable energy projects can then be considered.

Any proposal for a wind farm with an installed capacity of less than 50 MW will require a planning application to be submitted in the first instance to the local planning authority. The local authority will then need to consider the application in light of the policies in the development plan for the area and any other material considerations. As any application may subsequently come before my right hon. Friend the Deputy Prime Minister the First Secretary of State for decision, it would be inappropriate for me to comment on this specific proposal.

Proposals for wind farms with an installed capacity over 50 MW will be considered by the Secretary of State for Energy under section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989, with the local planning authority being a statutory consultee.

## NORTHERN IRELAND

### 11-plus

**Mrs. Iris Robinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will undertake a technical analysis of the 11-plus transfer test. [15086]

**Angela E. Smith:** The 11-plus transfer tests are conducted by the Council for Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment (CCEA) on behalf of the Department of Education. CCEA commissions an external agency to develop tests. Each year, a technical analysis is undertaken as part of the development of the new tests, with extensive and rigorous testing and analysis to ensure their validity in terms of the elements of the subjects specified for the tests, that they reflect the relevant programmes of study and that the standard is consistent from year to year.

**Mrs. Iris Robinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether the proposed pupil profile as an alternative to the 11-plus transfer test satisfies minimum recognised standards of reliability and validity. [15089]

**Angela E. Smith:** The Pupil Profile is not an alternative to the 11-plus transfer tests: its purpose is to provide a holistic picture of a pupil's progress, aptitudes, interests and aspirations, that will help to inform choices throughout a pupil's education.

The Council for Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment (CCEA) has been developing and trialling the Pupil Profile over the last two years to ensure that it is robust, manageable and useful for parents, pupils and

teachers. Further development work is planned for 2005/06. CCEA will ensure that the Pupil Profile will meet standards of validity and reliability by benchmarking them against the Assessment Reform Group's principles for effective teacher assessment.

### Adult Literacy

**Dr. McCrea:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, what assessment has been made of the level of adult literacy in each Northern Ireland constituency. [15318]

**Angela E. Smith:** The International Adult Literacy Survey (IALS) which was conducted in 1996 indicated that 24 per cent. of the adult population in Northern Ireland performed at the lowest level of literacy, Level 1. Due to sample constraints, it is not possible to disaggregate the data in the Survey below Northern Ireland level.

Available data indicates that of those adults performing at the lowest level of literacy:

20 per cent. were aged between 16–25.

16 per cent. were aged between 26–35.

21 per cent. were aged between 36–45.

43 per cent. were aged over 45.

Since the launch of the Essential Skills for Living Strategy in October 2002 to March 2005, 28,965 adults have been supported to improve their levels of literacy and numeracy.

### Agricultural Subsidies

**Lady Hermon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the cost of administration in respect of agricultural subsidies in Northern Ireland was in the last year for which figures are available. [13894]

**Angela E. Smith:** The costs associated with the administration of the range of agricultural subsidy schemes for the financial year 2004–05 was in the region of £6.64 million.

### Air Weapons

**Stewart Hosie:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what *(a)* discussions and *(b)* correspondence he has had with the Scottish Executive on proposals on the control and licensing of air weapons in Scotland. [14941]

**Paul Goggins:** We are in close touch with the Scottish Executive and have had meetings at both ministerial and official level to discuss what further measures might be taken to tighten up controls on air weapons.

### Alcohol Related Deaths

**Dr. McCrea:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many deaths in which the primary cause was alcohol have been identified in Northern Ireland. [15317]

**Angela E. Smith:** The following table gives the number of deaths in Northern Ireland in the latest year available—2004, where the underlying cause of death indicated a condition directly relating to alcohol use[1].

*Number of alcohol-related deaths registered in Northern Ireland, 2004*

| | *Alcohol-related deaths*[1] |
|---|---|
| 2004[2] | 31 |

[1] For the year 2004 the cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10). The codes used to define alcohol-related deaths are listed as follows:
F10—Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol
I42.6—Alcoholic cardiomyopathy
K70—Alcoholic liver disease
K73—Chronic hepatitis, not elsewhere classified
K74—Fibrosis and cirrhosis of liver
X45—Accidental poisoning by and exposure to alcohol
[2] Data for 2004 are provisional

### Antisocial Behaviour Orders

**Mr. Denis Murphy:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many antisocial behaviour orders were *(a)* applied for and *(b)* issued in (i) the Northumbria Police force area and (ii) the local authority areas of *(a)* Wansbeck and *(b)* Castle Morpeth in each of the last three years. [14462]

**Hazel Blears:** The available information is given in the table.

*Number of ASBOs applied for and issued, as notified to the Home Office, within the Northumbria police force area and where restrictions are imposed within specific local authority areas for 2002 to 2004 (latest available)*

| | *ASBOs on application* | | *ASBOs on conviction* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Area* | *Total applications* | *Total issued* | *Total issued* | *Total issued on application/ on conviction* |
| *Northumbria police force area* | | | | |
| 2002 | 16 | 16 | 16 | 0 |
| 2003 | 4 | 4 | 13 | 17 |
| 2004 | 8 | 8 | 21 | 31 |
| *Castle Morpeth borough council* | | | | |
| 2002 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2003 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2004 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| *Wansbeck district council* | | | | |
| 2002 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2003 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2004 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

**Mr. Peter Robinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many antisocial behaviour orders have been issued since their introduction in each of the Westminster constituencies in Northern Ireland. [12073]

**Mr. Hanson:** Five interim antisocial behaviour orders have been granted in Northern Ireland to date; one in the Belfast city council area, two in the Larne borough council area, and two in the Coleraine borough council area. Data is not collected by constituency.

### Asbestos

**Lady Hermon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will make a statement on the progress of the removal of asbestos from *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in Northern Ireland. [11349]

**Angela E. Smith:** All the Education and Library Boards have now completed asbestos surveys of schools. Where necessary, work on the removal of asbestos is taking place over the summer period and I am advised by the Education and Library Boards that by the end of September 2005, all top priority asbestos will have been removed from both primary and post-primary schools. Where it is not necessary to remove the asbestos immediately, the Boards and other school authorities are responsible for managing the asbestos safely.

**Mrs. Iris Robinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will make a statement on progress with the Department of Education's asbestos survey; in which schools asbestos remains; and what the timescale is for the removal of asbestos from all buildings used by the Department. [11952]

**Angela E. Smith:** All the Education and Library Boards have now completed asbestos surveys of schools. Where necessary, work on the removal of asbestos is taking place over the summer period and I am advised by the Education and Library Boards that by the end of September 2005, all top priority asbestos will have been removed. Where it is not necessary to remove the asbestos immediately, the Boards and other school authorities are responsible for managing the asbestos safely. I will write to the hon. Member as soon as possible regarding the buildings where asbestos remains and the timescale for removal.

### Asylum Seekers

**John Bercow:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment he has made of the appropriateness of the fast-tracking of asylum applications from Darfuri citizens. [15028]

**Mr. McNulty:** All asylum claims in the detained fast track (there is no other fast track as such) are considered, as all other asylum claims, on their individual merits. Any claim from any country may be fast-tracked where it appears after screening to be one that may be decided within the indicative process timescale.

**John Bercow:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment he has made of the appropriateness of the fast-tracking of asylum applications from torture victims. [15029]

**Mr. McNulty:** Where it becomes apparent that a decision cannot be taken within the relevant timescales (e.g. because issues arise which require further investigation which cannot be completed quickly) a case will be taken out of the (detained) fast track process. A person's physical and mental health will also be a relevant consideration in deciding whether the individual is suitable for detention. But, the fact that a person is or may have been a victim of torture does not necessarily mean that a decision cannot be made quickly on the individual's claim.

**John Bercow:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what his Department's procedure is for fast-tracking asylum applications from Darfuri citizens. [15030]

**Mr. McNulty:** All asylum claims in the detained fast track (there is no other fast track as such) are considered, as all other asylum claims, on their individual merits. Any claim from any country may be fast-tracked where it appears after screening to be one that may be decided within the indicative process timescale.

The Government are committed to providing protection for those individuals found to be genuinely in need, in accordance with our commitments under international law. Asylum decision-makers carefully assess the protection needs of each asylum claimant against a comprehensive background of country information when making a decision on an asylum claim.

Every effort is made to establish each individual applicant's personal circumstances and full basis of claim before a final decision is made. All applications for asylum, including those from Sudanese nationals are considered on a case-by-case basis. Where it is found that a claimant is at risk of treatment amounting to persecution under the terms of the 1951 Convention, the grant of asylum is made. If a claimant's particular circumstances are found to engage the UK's obligations under the ECHR, then a form of subsidiary protection is granted.

Claimants who are found by the Home Office and the independent appeals process not to be in need of international protection are deemed to be safe from persecution and are liable for return to their country of origin. We fully recognise that the precarious conditions in Sudan for those of non-Arab ethnicity originating from Darfur are such that there are individuals who are able to demonstrate a need for international protection. We do not however consider that each and every Sudanese national from Darfur who applies for asylum is in need of international protection.

### Bullying

**Mr. Peter Robinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many incidences of bullying of children have been reported *(a)* at primary schools and *(b)* in post-primary education in the last three years, broken down by (i) board area and (ii) category of bullying; and whether the incident took place on public transport to or from school in each case. [12049]

**Angela E. Smith:** The Department of Education does not collect the information requested. General information about the scale and nature of bullying in Northern Ireland schools is contained in a bullying research report published in October 2002. A research briefing summary is available on the Department's website at www.deni.gov.uk/facts_figures/researchb/rb2002/rb8_02.pdf.

The Department will be commissioning updated research into bullying, in all its forms, during the 2005/06 school year and the results will also be published in due course.

### Children/Child Care Sectors

**Mark Durkan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will make a statement on the

funding for the children's and childcare sectors; and if he will take steps to assist with the funding difficulties on which he has received representations. [14488]

**Angela E. Smith:** Children and families continue to be a priority for Government. At a local level, the 2005–08 priorities and budget outcome provided a significant amount of funding for children's services, through a wide range of policies and programmes. In addition, and at national level, the significant expenditure through the social security and benefits systems contributes substantially to addressing the needs of children in the most vulnerable circumstances in Northern Ireland.

Ministers will continue to listen carefully to all representations made regarding funding difficulties.

### Civil Servants

**Mr. Peter Robinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many civil servants worked in the Northern Ireland Civil Service in each of the last 10 years. [12052]

**Angela E. Smith:** The number of civil servants (permanent and temporary) working in the 11 Departments of the NI Administration and the NIO, including agencies, at 1 January for each of the past 10 years was as follows:

| | *Permanent* | *Temporary* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1996 | 25,446 | [1]— | 25,446 |
| 1997 | 24,140 | [1]— | 24,140 |
| 1998 | 23,500 | [1]— | 23,500 |
| 1999 | 23,802 | 1,485 | 25,287 |
| 2000 | 24,214 | 1,359 | 25,573 |
| 2001 | 25,381 | 1,002 | 26,383 |
| 2002 | 26,668 | 1,040 | 27,708 |
| 2003 | 27,584 | 897 | 28,481 |
| 2004 | 28,486 | 1,076 | 29,562 |
| 2005 | 29,205 | 641 | 29,846 |

[1] Information on temporary staff is not available prior to 1999.

### Coolkeeragh Power Station

**Lady Hermon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) how much will be raised per year via the levy on gas and electricity users in Northern Ireland in relation to the system value agreement related to the new Coolkeeragh Power Station; and for how long these payments are expected to continue; [11285]

(2) what account was taken of the intended export of output from Coolkeeragh Power Station in the Republic of Ireland when granting the Electricity Supply Board financial benefits to be paid through levies on gas and electricity users in Northern Ireland. [11290]

**Angela E. Smith:** The Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment is precluded, by virtue of Article 63(1) of the Energy (Northern Ireland) Order 2003 (No. 419, N.I. 6), from disclosing information in relation to the system value agreement, without the consent of Coolkeeragh ESB Ltd. (the owner of Coolkeeragh Power Station) and SONI Ltd. (the transmission system operator in Northern Ireland) who are the parties to the agreement.

The Department has asked the parties whether they would consent to the disclosure of the information sought, and I will write to the hon. Member in light of the outcome.

### Correspondence

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many letters to his Department from hon. Members in session *(a)* 2004–05 and *(b)* 2005–06 remain unanswered, broken down by those which are (i) one month old, (ii) two months old, (iii) three months old, (iv) four months old and (v) over six months old. [13845]

**Mr. Hain:** No letters received from hon. Members in the 2004–05 session remain unanswered. In the current session, three letters, all in the category of one month old, have not yet received substantive replies.

The above information relates to the 11 Departments of the Northern Ireland Administration and the Northern Ireland Office.

**Mr. MacNeil:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what his Department's policy is for dealing with correspondence received in *(a)* Welsh, *(b)* Scots Gaelic and *(c)* Irish Gaelic. [14701]

**Mr. Hanson:** Central guidance for Northern Ireland officials on meeting UK Government commitments in respect of Irish as set out in the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages has been developed by the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure and agreed by all Northern Ireland Departments and other Government Departments operating in the Northern Ireland.

Guidance for use by officials from the NIO and NI Departments and associated public bodies on correspondence in Irish advises officials to reply, wherever possible, in Irish to correspondence received in that language.

There are no official obligations in Northern Ireland in respect of Welsh or Scots Gaelic, although, where practicable, Departments would endeavour to accommodate the needs of persons wishing to correspond in those languages.

### Defence Exports

**Mr. Peter Robinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much British Trade International spent on promoting defence exports in each of the last three years. [12053]

**Ian Pearson:** I have been asked to reply.

The promotion of defence exports is a matter for Defence Exports Services Organisation. Under its Support for Exhibitions Seminars Abroad (SESA) programme United Kingdom Trade and Investment does provide support for trade associations to organise groups to attend overseas exhibitions and seminars. This has included the Defence Manufacturers Association (DMA) and the Society of British Aerospace Companies (SBAC) and can involve the promotion of non-weapon products for the defence

industry as well as civil markets. In the last three years support for DMA and SBAC events overseas under SESA has been:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2002–03 | 521,472 |
| 2003–04 | 379,661 |
| 2004–05 | 280,740 |

### Departmental Purchasing

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will list the companies from which his Department has purchased goods and services of a total value above £1 million in each of the last three years; and how much was spent in respect of each company. [11739]

**Angela E. Smith:** Details of companies from which Departments in Northern Ireland have purchased goods and services of a total value above £1 million in each of the last three years and how much was spent in respect of each company are set out as follows. Cumulative spends above £1 million with individual companies across Departments could be identified only at disproportionate cost and are therefore not provided.

£

| *Name of company/vendor* | *2002–03* | *2003–04* | *2004–05* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Aventis Pasteur MSD | 1,171,410 | — | 1,153,051 |
| Belfast Centre of Learning | 1,249,000 | 1,052,000 | 1,195,000 |
| BIC Systems | — | 1,374,749 | — |
| British Telecom NI | 1,420,531 | — | 1,570,484 |
| BTW Shiells Ltd. | — | — | 1,693,656 |
| Corporate Document Services | 1,032,894 | 1,233,774 | 1,064,784 |
| Dale Farm Dairies Ltd. | — | — | 1,321,600 |
| EDS Ltd. | — | 3,235,291 | 4,689,739 |
| Electrical Training NI Ltd. | 2,325,000 | 2,536,000 | 2,834,000 |
| Energia | — | — | 1,067,572 |
| Fujitsu | 10,178,791 | 12,817,986 | 10,941,673 |
| H&J Martin Ltd. | — | 1,062,278 | 3,594,225 |
| Herbert Smith Solicitors | — | — | 1,012,563 |
| Hewlett Packard Ltd. | — | — | 1,450,534 |
| IBM United Kingdom Ltd. | — | 2,681,768 | — |
| Joblink | 1,310,000 | 1,607,000 | 1,924,000 |
| John Sheridan & Sons Ltd. | — | 1,083,936 | — |
| Logica CMC UK Ltd. | — | 1,855,449 | — |
| Maybin Property Support Services (NI) Ltd. | — | 1,144,767 | 1,199,753 |
| McCann Erickson/Lyle Bailie | 2,663,808 | 1,806,438 | 4,171,988 |
| McConnell Martin | — | 1,575,475 | 1,628,775 |
| McLaughlin & Harvey Ltd. | — | — | 3,496,567 |
| MVM Consultants plc | 1,248,590 | 1,363,520 | 1,327,525 |
| Navigator Blue | — | 1,401,757 | 1,300,784 |
| New Deal West | 1,731,000 | 1,861,000 | 2,162,000 |
| NI Electricity plc | 1,203,655 | 1,014,519 | — |
| North City Training Ltd. | 1,848,000 | 1,973,000 | 2,521,000 |
| PricewaterhouseCoopers Ltd. | 1,281,452 | — | — |
| Protocol Skills | 1,100,000 | 1,403,000 | 1,551,000 |
| Romalta | 1,427,785 | 3,034,150 | 3,330,126 |
| Royal Mail (NI) Ltd. | 2,342,779 | 3,174,527 | 2,317,625 |
| Springvale Training Ltd. | 1,640,000 | 1,709,000 | 2,005,000 |
| Steria Ltd. | — | 3,154,165 | 3,014,693 |
| SX3 | — | — | 1,216,353 |
| Syntegra | 3,876,176 | 5,502,151 | 7,369,283 |
| The Post Office Ltd. | — | — | 7,038,943 |
| Workforce Training Services | 1,061,000 | 1,198,000 | 1,172,000 |

In addition the Northern Ireland Office purchased goods and services of a total value of £26,425,626 from nine companies in 2002–03, £25,485,195 from 11 companies in 2003–04 and £27,045,080 from 10 companies in 2004–05. In each case the total amount purchased from each company exceeded £1 million. Due to security and commercial confidentiality it is not appropriate to name individuals companies in this case.

### Departmental Staff (Stress)

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many cases of work-related stress have been reported in his Department in each of the last three years; how much compensation was paid to employees in each year; how many work days were lost due to work-related stress in each year; at what cost; what procedures have been put in place to reduce work-related stress; at what cost; and if he will make a statement. [7869]

**Angela E. Smith:** NI Departments hold information in respect of working days lost due to psychiatric/psychological illnesses. However, it is not currently possible to determine precisely if these absences have been caused by, or made worse by work-related stress. Therefore, the information set out as follows reflects only those cases where work-related stress was specifically reported on either self-certificates or on medical certificates. Information on costs is not readily available and could be obtained only at disproportionate costs. Work is under way to develop a coding system that will more accurately record work-related illnesses.

A range of corporate measures has been introduced to help tackle stress including the promotion of work life balance, healthy lifestyle programmes and a Workplace Health Improvement Programme. Departments have also produced guidance for staff and managers on how to identify and manage work-related stress and complimented by training and awareness seminars. Managers also have the support of the Occupational Health Service (OHS), including the provision of Psychiatric nursing services, a comprehensive Welfare service and Employee Support Programmes (EAP). These programmes and support mechanisms take a more holistic view of staff health and well-being, including stress. While we can identify the overall cost of the provision of services, such as the OHS, Welfare and EAPs, any costing information, specific to work-related stress, is not readily available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

A major workforce health survey is currently underway with over 30,000 Northern Ireland civil servants invited to complete a health questionnaire. The survey contains a substantial section on stress, and seeks to identify where work may have been a contributory factor. The stress questions have been based on the Health and Safety Executive's Stress Management Standards.

| | Number of cases of work-related stress have been reported |
|---|---|
| 2002–03 | 58 |
| 2003–04 | 76 |
| 2004–05 | 90 |

| | Total compensation paid[1] (£) |
|---|---|
| 2002–03 | 0 |
| 2003–04 | 10,000 |
| 2004–05 | 0 |

[1] *"Compensation" has been interpreted as that paid as a result of litigation arising out of work-related stress cases.*

| | Number of work days lost due to work-related stress |
|---|---|
| 2002–03 | 3,797 |
| 2003–04 | 4,548 |
| 2004–05 | 5,448 |

### Domestic Rates in Northern Ireland

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, how much revenue was raised from domestic rates in Northern Ireland in *(a)* 1997–98 and *(b)* 2004–05; and what the projected level for 2005–06 is. [15191]

**Angela E. Smith:** The amount of rates collected from the domestic sector for 1997–98 and 2004–05 was £166.5 million and £346.8 million respectively.

The projected domestic revenue for 2005–06 is £366.3 million.

### Educational Performance

**Mr. Peter Robinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will list the 10 worst areas in Northern Ireland for educational accomplishment based on the Nolan indices; and what steps he is taking in each area to make improvements in performance. [14504]

**Angela E. Smith:** The 10 most deprived areas for achievement of qualifications and access to education under the Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure 2005, the "children and young people" sub-domain, are:

| Rank | Super output area | Local government district |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Shankill 1 | Belfast |
| 2 | Shankill 2 | Belfast |
| 3 | The Mount 1 | Belfast |
| 4 | Crumlin2 | Belfast |
| 5 | Blackstaff 2 | Belfast |
| 6 | WoodvaleS | Belfast |
| 7 | Whiterock 2 | Belfast |
| 8 | Falls 2 | Belfast |
| 9 | Crumlin 1 | Belfast |
| 10 | Glencairn 1 | Belfast |

*Note:*
Rank no. 1 relates to the most deprived area.

Super Output Areas (SOAs) are a new geography that has been developed by NISRA to improve the reporting of small area statistics. Until now the standard unit of presenting local statistical information has been the Electoral Ward (Wards). However, in Northern Ireland, Wards vary greatly in population size (Census 2001), from fewer than 800 residents to more than 9,000. This is not ideal for regional and local comparisons. SOAs have been created on a ward-by-ward basis taking into account measures of population size and mutual proximity. SOAs may constitute a whole ward, or part of a ward, and aim to provide standard areas of geography with a population between a lower threshold of 1,300 and an upper threshold of 2800.

Raising the educational achievement of all young people, and especially those in areas of greatest social need, is a key priority for Government. This is reflected in a variety of measures including increased funding (under TSN, enhanced pre-school provision and a range of intervention programmes to improve literacy and numeracy, and to make curriculum provision more relevant to pupils' needs.

### Electricity Prices

**Lady Hermon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent discussions he has had with energy providers about electricity prices in Northern Ireland. [13892]

**Angela E. Smith:** Neither my right. hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland nor I have had recent discussions with energy providers about electricity prices in Northern Ireland. However, I plan to meet with representatives of two of the providers in the near future.

**Lady Hermon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will take steps to reduce electricity prices in Northern Ireland; and if he will make a statement. [13893]

**Angela E. Smith:** The Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment is continuing to work towards securing EU State aid approval of a proposed Government intervention of some £30 million a year aimed at reducing electricity prices. The proposed intervention would remove some of the excess costs inherited from privatisation.

As an interim measure, £8.8 million of the available funding has been allocated to assist with energy efficiency measures which will have the effect of an average 1.5 per cent. reduction in electricity tariffs for all customers in the 2005–06 tariff year.

### Epilepsy-related Deaths

**Mr. Peter Robinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people in Northern Ireland have died from epilepsy-related deaths in each of the last five years. [14528]

**Angela E. Smith:** The following table gives the number of deaths in Northern Ireland per year between 2000 and 2004 where the underlying cause of death was recorded as epilepsy[1].

*Number of deaths registered in Northern Ireland due to epilepsy, 2000 to 2004*

| | *Deaths due to epilepsy*[1] |
|---|---|
| 2000 | 23 |
| 2001 | 22 |
| 2002 | 22 |
| 2003 | 22 |
| 2004[2] | 31 |

[1] International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision code G40 for years 2001–04 and Ninth Revision code 345 for year 2000.
[2] Data for 2004 is provisional

### Fabrication Jobs

**Mr. Peter Robinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many fabrication jobs there are in Northern Ireland; and what the figures are for each of the last four years. [14515]

**Angela E. Smith:** Estimates of the number of employee jobs in the Manufacture of Fabricated Metal Products, Except Machinery and Equipment in Northern Ireland at March in each year 2002 to 2005 are detailed in the following table.

*Table 1: Employee jobs[1] in the manufacture of fabricated metal products, except machinery and equipment*

| *As at March* | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2002 | 6,420 |
| 2003 | 6,340 |
| 2004[2] | 6,740 |
| 2005[3] | 6,920 |

[1] Figures are rounded to the nearest 10
[2] Revised
[3] Provisional
*Note:*
Figures are not seasonally adjusted
*Source:*
Quarterly Employment Survey, DETI

### Free School Transport

To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, how many children are eligible for free school transport within each of the education boards. [15308]

**Angela E. Smith:** The following numbers of pupils were eligible, per board, for assisted school transport in school year 2004–05:

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| BELB | 3,990 |
| NEELB | 22,084 |
| SEELB | 19,611 |
| SELB | 26,456 |
| WELB | 25,650 |

### Global Point Industrial Centre

**Dr. McCrea:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, what plans there are to commence work on Global Point Industrial Centre, Newtownabbey. [15190]

**Angela E. Smith:** Invest NI and its predecessor IDB have been developing site infrastructure at Global Point in phases over the past number of years. Further development on the site is not expected until the public inquiry into the Belfast metropolitan plan is completed.

### Housing Indicator Figures

**Dr. McCrea:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland when he expects to announce the latest housing indicator figures for each Northern Ireland local authority. [15315]

**Mr. Woodward:** Following consideration of the responses to the consultation on the housing growth indicators, I have decided to hold a public examination of the proposals. The public examination will be held in the autumn, with a final announcement at the end of the year.

### Illegal Trading

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the estimated illicit market share for *(a)* cigarettes, *(b)* spirits, *(c)* diesel and *(d)* petrol has been in each of the last five years. [13936]

**John Healey:** I have been asked to reply.

Estimates of the illicit market share for cigarettes and spirits are not made separately for Northern Ireland. Figures for the UK were published by HM Customs and Excise in "Measuring Indirect Tax Fraud" in December 2004, together with a description of the methodology used to derive them. These covered the years 2000–01 to 2003–04 for cigarettes and 1999–2000 to 2002–03 for spirits. This publication is available in the House of Commons Library.

Because of difficulties in measuring cross-border shopping across the Intra-Ireland border, it is not possible to produce estimates of the illicit market for Northern Ireland in diesel and petrol. However, estimates of the share of these markets in Northern Ireland that are not UK-duty paid for the years 2000 to 2003 were also published in "Measuring Indirect Tax Fraud"

### Jobcentres (Assaults)

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many Job Centre staff in Northern Ireland have been the victims of assault in each of the last 10 years. [13906]

**Angela E. Smith:** The recorded incidents are set out in the following tables.

*Reported incidents of violence or verbal abuse in jobcentres*

| | *Violence to staff* *Commit an actual physical assault on staff, contractor or customer; regardless of whether or not injury occurred* | *Verbal abuse* *Verbal abuse, shouting, swearing, name calling, insults threats-with or without a weapon, abusive phone calls, written abuse* | *Incidents involving customers* *Fighting between themselves or damage to property* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1995–2001 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2002 | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| 2003 | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| 2004 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2005 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Total | 0 | 7 | 2 |

*Reported incidents of violence or verbal abuse in jobs and benefits offices*[1]

| | *Violence to staff* *Commit an actual physical assault on staff, contractor or customer; regardless of whether or not injury occurred* | *Verbal abuse* *Verbal abuse, shouting, swearing, name calling, insults threats-with or without a weapon, abusive phone calls, written abuse* | *Incidents involving customers* *Fighting between themselves or damage to property* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1995–2001 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2002 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2003 | 0 | 3 | 2 |
| 2004 | 1 | 7 | 0 |
| 2005 | 0 | 3 | 1 |
| Total | 1 | 13 | 3 |

[1] Jobs and Benefits Offices were introduced in 2002.

## Labour Force Survey

**Dr. McCrea:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, what percentage of people in the South Antrim constituency are classified as *(a)* professionals and *(b)* skilled workers. [15319]

**Angela E. Smith:** Latest figures from the spring 2005 labour force survey show that 13 per cent.[1] of those in employment in the South Antrim constituency area are classified as being in professional occupations and 16 per cent.[1] are classified into skilled trade occupations.

[1] These estimates are based on small sample sizes and are therefore subject to a higher than usual degree of sampling variability. They should therefore be treated with caution.

## Local Government Finance

**Mr. Peter Robinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much central Government funding was given to each council in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years. [11776]

**Angela E. Smith:** The information requested is set out in the following tables:

*Central Government funding for district councils 2000–01 to 2004–05*

£

| *District council* | *2000–01* | *2001–02* | *2002–03* | *2003–04* | *2004–05* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Antrim | 1,221,962 | 1,142,009 | 1,394,288 | 1,957,613 | 2,046,893 | 7,762,765 |
| Ards | 2,001,608 | 2,140,099 | 2,925,295 | 2,898,836 | 2,985,496 | 12,951,334 |
| Armagh | 2,705,788 | 2,909,730 | 3,272,211 | 3,450,383 | 3,428,497 | 15,766,609 |
| Ballymena | 1,197,564 | 1,328,781 | 1,425,234 | 1,946,627 | 1,982,152 | 7,880,358 |
| Ballymoney | 1,598,125 | 1,828,984 | 1,630,693 | 1,857,095 | 1,806,545 | 8,721,442 |
| Banbridge | 1,660,844 | 2,307,511 | 2,086,536 | 2,326,236 | 2,381,570 | 10,762,697 |
| Belfast | 7,981,658 | 8,534,348 | 9,418,492 | 11,162,783 | 11,497,195 | 48,594,476 |
| Carrickfergus | 1,528,876 | 976,784 | 1,002,582 | 1,653,794 | 1,584,821 | 6,746,857 |
| Castlereagh | 1,142,769 | 1,146,245 | 1,328,465 | 1,413,861 | 2,051,104 | 7,082,444 |
| Coleraine | 630,185 | 869,973 | 798,026 | 1,163,980 | 1,960,715 | 5,422,879 |
| Cookstown | 1,401,333 | 1,641,757 | 1,817,692 | 2,192,382 | 2,386,276 | 9,439,440 |
| Craigavon | 3,027,700 | 3,327,577 | 2,815,392 | 3,559,153 | 4,557,348 | 17,287,170 |
| Derry | 3,152,200 | 2,832,151 | 3,449,096 | 3,909,602 | 5,031,597 | 18,374,646 |
| Down | 3,207,863 | 3,552,429 | 3,280,728 | 3,308,630 | 3,979,151 | 17,328,801 |
| Dungannon | 2,051,596 | 2,028,771 | 2,411,776 | 3,445,659 | 3,156,924 | 13,094,726 |
| Fermanagh | 1,744,347 | 1,743,813 | 2,143,569 | 3,228,336 | 3,002,245 | 11,862,310 |
| Larne | 537,289 | 558,689 | 872,430 | 1,324,920 | 1,019,840 | 4,313,168 |
| Limavady | 1,184,028 | 1,465,426 | 1,531,842 | 1,741,735 | 1,926,251 | 7,849,282 |
| Lisburn | 2,055,635 | 2,158,159 | 2,306,801 | 2,576,397 | 3,196,290 | 12,293,282 |
| Magherafelt | 1,939,720 | 2,012,192 | 2,162,024 | 2,536,305 | 2,599,786 | 11,250,027 |
| Moyle | 1,005,307 | 1,098,737 | 1,161,954 | 1,065,284 | 1,083,893 | 5,415,175 |
| Newry and Mourne | 4,720,991 | 5,772,130 | 4,640,469 | 4,891,645 | 5,424,034 | 25,449,269 |
| Newtownabbey | 1,685,346 | 1,736,238 | 2,227,015 | 2,718,824 | 3,154,124 | 11,521,547 |

*Central Government funding for district councils 2000–01 to 2004–05*

£

| District council | 2000–01 | 2001–02 | 2002–03 | 2003–04 | 2004–05 | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| North Down | 909,992 | 921,596 | 840,847 | 1,414,936 | 1,555,362 | 5,642,733 |
| Omagh | 2,428,368 | 2,414,582 | 2,842,863 | 3,305,773 | 3,552,886 | 14,544,472 |
| Strabane | 2,323,684 | 2,551,162 | 2,638,544 | 3,131,768 | 3,671,719 | 14,316,877 |
| Total | 55,044,778 | 58,999,873 | 62,424,864 | 74,182,557 | 81,022,714 | 331,674,786 |

In addition to the aforementioned figures, the following payments have been made to designated employer councils (responsible for distributing funding within their respective groups):

*Construction products grants (DOE)*

£

| District council | 2000–01 | 2001–02 | 2002–03 | 2003–04 | 2004–05 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Armagh | 38,199 | 39,250 | 40,339 | 41,536 | 41,821 |
| Ballymena | 52,727 | 54,113 | 55,505 | 57,074 | 57,103 |
| Belfast | 35,583 | 36,059 | 36,515 | 37,009 | 36,446 |
| Castlereagh | 47,892 | 49,053 | 50,346 | 51,796 | 51,837 |
| Omagh | 34,599 | 35,525 | 36,295 | 37,585 | 37,793 |
| Total | 209,000 | 214,000 | 219,000 | 225,000 | 225,000 |

*Food safety grants (DOE)*

£

| District council | 2000–01 | 2001–02 | 2002–03 | 2003–04 | 2004–05 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Armagh | 240,150 | 243,682 | 252,348 | 0 | 0 |
| Ballymena | 286,656 | 290,508 | 301,212 | 0 | 0 |
| Belfast | 231,240 | 231,613 | 236,438 | 0 | 0 |
| Castlereagh | 295,733 | 299,312 | 309,706 | 0 | 0 |
| Omagh | 201,221 | 203,885 | 210,296 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 1,255,000 | 1,269,000 | 1,310,000 | 0 | 0 |

## Lottery Funding

**Mr. Peter Robinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much each district council in Northern Ireland received for projects from Lottery funding in each of the last five years. [14505]

**Mr. Hanson:** In the last five financial years the Lottery distributors have made the following awards to each of the district councils in Northern Ireland.

| District council | 2004–05 | 2003–04 | 2002–03 | 2001–02 | 2000–01 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Antrim | 210,732 | 11,845 | 305,000 | — | — |
| Ards | — | — | — | — | — |
| Armagh | — | — | 1,086,500 | 4,449 | — |
| Ballymena | — | — | — | — | 4,441,000 |
| Ballymoney | 173,050 | — | — | — | 50,000 |
| Banbridge | — | — | 3,970 | 53,000 | — |
| Belfast | 517,218 | — | — | 100,000 | — |
| Carrickfergus | — | 5,000 | — | 695,500 | — |
| Castlereagh | — | — | 18,400 | 18,315 | — |
| Coleraine | — | — | — | 1,387,875 | — |
| Cookstown | 40,367 | 9,750 | — | — | 12,056 |
| Craigavon | 372,271 | — | 1,427,276 | — | 109,000 |
| Derry | 180,254 | — | 1,480,000 | — | — |
| Down | 57,969 | 819,000 | 97,250 | 20,000 | — |
| Dungannon | — | 5,000 | — | — | 500,000 |
| Fermanagh | 384,789 | — | 100,000 | — | — |
| Larne | 19,628 | 200,000 | 604,500 | 269,976 | — |
| Limavady | — | — | — | — | 15,000 |
| Lisburn | 35,301 | 38,000 | 542,500 | 79,564 | — |
| Magherafelt | — | — | — | — | — |
| Moyle | 587,215 | — | — | — | — |
| Newry and Mourne | — | 1,500,000 | 70,000 | 90,000 | — |
| Newtownabbey | 221,350 | — | — | — | 506,500 |
| North Down | 198,948 | — | 66,120 | — | — |
| Omagh | — | — | — | — | — |
| Strabane | 248,000 | 100,000 | 771,200 | — | — |

## Management Consultants

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland which five management consultancies received the highest value of contracts awarded by his Department in each of the last three years; and what the total value was of the contracts awarded to each. [12577]

**Angela E. Smith:** Information about the value of management consultancy contracts awarded by individual Departments in Northern Ireland is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Information on management consultancy contracts awarded by the Central Procurement Directorate on behalf of Departments in Northern Ireland is held by that directorate and is set out as follows.

| Management consultancies | Contract values at the time of award (£) |
|---|---|
| *2002–03* | |
| PricewaterhouseCoopers | 3,202,892 |
| Deloitte & Touche | 799,568 |
| Helm Corporation | 427,894 |
| BDO Stoy Hayward | 318,806 |
| Capita | 243,026 |
| *2003–04* | |
| PricewaterhouseCoopers | 3,024,158 |
| Deloitte & Touche | 1,273,258 |
| Capita | 627,585 |
| Helm Corporation | 472,900 |
| FPM Chartered Accountants | 265,609 |
| *2004–05* | |
| Deloitte & Touche | 2,034,602 |
| PricewaterhouseCoopers | 1,795,149 |
| BDO Stoy Hayward | 495,181 |
| Helm Corporation | 475,389 |
| ASM Howarth | 359,791 |

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what his Department's total spending on management consultants has been in each of the last three years. [13144]

**Angela E. Smith:** The following outlines the expenditure by the 11 Departments of the Northern

Ireland administration and the Northern Ireland Office excluding agencies and non-departmental public bodies:

| | *Management consultants*[1] |
|---|---|
| 2002–03 | 4,410,990 |
| 2003–04 | 4,853,689 |

[1] Defined as management advisory consultancy work relating to policy appraisal and review, strategic management, organisational development and performance measurement.

Figures for 2004–05 are not currently held centrally however details will be forwarded to my hon. Friend as soon as they are available.

### Maternities

**Dr. McCrea:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many young women in Northern Ireland in each age cohort from 12 to 18 years gave birth in each year since 2000–01 [15264]

**Angela E. Smith:** The following table gives the number of maternities[1] registered by age of mother in Northern Ireland for each calendar year from 2000 to 2004.

*Number of maternities by age of mother, 2000–04*

| | *Registration year* | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Age of mother* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004*[2] |
| 12 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 13 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 3 |
| 14 | 10 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 2 |
| 15 | 47 | 37 | 32 | 29 | 34 |
| 16 | 163 | 127 | 113 | 122 | 133 |
| 17 | 311 | 278 | 304 | 268 | 271 |
| 18 | 481 | 489 | 491 | 469 | 467 |
| 12–18 | 1,013 | 936 | 945 | 892 | 910 |

[1] Maternities are defined to be the number of pregnancies ending in stillbirth or live births with multiple births counting only once.
[2] Data for 2004 are provisional.

### Meetings

**Jim Dobbin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will make a statement on the outcome of his recent meetings with political parties in Northern Ireland on the political situation in Northern Ireland. [10660]

**Mr. Hain:** My meetings with all the Northern Ireland political parties have been extremely useful and I hope to intensify this process.

There is cross-party agreement that, in order for there to be progress, we need to rebuild trust and confidence in the political process.

In order for that to happen, we need to see a complete and verifiable end to all criminal and paramilitary activity and the decommissioning of all illegally held weapons.

### Minister for Women

**Lady Hermon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will appoint a Minister for Women in Northern Ireland. [9130]

**Mr. Hain:** The Minister of State for Northern Ireland, Lord Rooker, has responsibility for equality matters in Northern Ireland and is fully committed to tackling gender inequalities and promoting equality of opportunity for women in Northern Ireland.

### School Bullying

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many pupils in Northern Ireland have reported incidents of bullying in each of the last 10 years. [13902]

**Angela E. Smith:** The Department of Education does not collect the information requested.

Information about the scale and nature of bullying in Northern Ireland schools is contained in a research report published in October 2002. A research briefing summary is available on the Department's website at:

www.deni.gov.uk/facts_figures/researchb/rb2002/rb8_02.pdf.

The Department will be commissioning updated research into bullying, in all its forms, during the 2005–06 school year and the results will also be published in due course.

### School Discipline

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many pupils in Northern Ireland have been found to be in the possession of *(a)* a weapon and *(b)* drugs on school premises in each of the last 10 years. [13935]

**Angela E. Smith:** The Department does not collect the information requested.

From 2002–03 school year, the Department of Education has been gathering statistics on reasons for suspensions on an annual basis from each of the Education and Library Boards. Statistics are available for the number of suspensions from schools for possessing, using or dealing in illegal drugs or solvents on school premises. The statistics are available on the Department's website at:

www.deni.gov.uk/facts_figures/education_stats/suspension_stats.htm.

Notifications from schools do not identify carrying an offensive weapon as a specific reason for suspension, but could be recorded by schools on the suspension notification form in other categories.

### Sickness Absence

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many days the Department has lost due to sickness in the past five years for which figures are available. [11462]

**Angela E. Smith:** Sick absence statistics for the Northern Ireland Departments are analysed by financial year as opposed to calendar year. The information set out as follows represents the total number of days lost due to sickness absence in the 11 Departments of the NI Administration, their Agencies and the NIO for the period 2000/01–2003–04, the years for which the figures are available in this format.

The figures for 2004–05 are currently being processed and are not yet available. Published statistics for Northern Ireland Departments for the financial years 2000/01–2003–04 are accessible on the Department's website at www.dfpni.gov.uk/publications.

| | *Number of days lost due to sickness* |
|---|---|
| 2000–01 | 331,937 |
| 2001–02 | 349,116 |
| 2002–03 | 371,470 |
| 2003–04 | 390,818 |

### Sinn Fein

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much has been claimed in expenses by Sinn Fein councillors since the suspension of the Northern Ireland Assembly. [13943]

**Angela E. Smith:** The maximum rates of expenses payable to councillors are determined by the Department of the Environment but the amounts claimed by individual councillors or political parties are not held centrally.

### South Eastern Education and Library Board

**Mrs. Iris Robinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what plans he has for the management of the South Eastern Education and Library Board following the resignation of its chief executive. [11979]

**Angela E. Smith:** I understand that the Chief Executive of the South Eastern Education and Library Board announced his resignation at the Board meeting held on 30 June. His resignation will take effect from 30 September 2005.

My Department is currently working with the South Eastern Education and Library Board on the appointment of a new Chief Executive.

### Staff Sickness

**Mr. Lidington:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many days were lost through staff sickness in respect of each department, agency and non-departmental public body in Northern Ireland in *(a)* 2003–04 and *(b)* 2004–05; what the average number of days lost per employee was in each case; and what estimate has been made of the cost of sickness absence in each year. [12960]

**Angela E. Smith:** Sick absence statistics for the Northern Ireland Departments are analysed by financial year as opposed to calendar year. The information set out at table 1 as follows represents the total number of days lost due to sickness absence in each of the 11 Departments of the NI Administration, their agencies and the NIO for the period 2003–04. The information relating to non-departmental public bodies is not available centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. The 2004–05 figures for NI Departments and NIO are currently being processed and are not yet available.

The information set out at table 2 represents the total number of days lost due to sickness in the NI Prison Service for the period 2003–05.

The "Working days lost per staff year" approach is based on Cabinet Office recommendation. This approach replaced "working days lost per person" which can misrepresent the absence rate in organisations which have a high proportion of part-time staff and/or high levels of staff turnover.

Published statistics for Northern Ireland Departments for the financial years 2000–01 to 2003–04 are accessible on the Department's website at www.dfpni.gov.uk/publications.

*Table 1: NI Departments and NIO: 2003–04*

| *Department/agency*[1] | *Total number of days lost* | *Average days lost per staff year* | *Cost (£)* |
|---|---|---|---|
| DARD | 40,428.5 | 12.4 | 3,076,221 |
| *which includes:* | | | |
| Forest Service | 1,154.1 | 9.5 | 97,347 |
| Rivers Agency | 2,047.4 | 12.5 | 172,520 |
| DCAL | 6,464.4 | 15.1 | 594,459 |
| *which includes:* | | | |
| PRONI | 1,290.6 | 15.6 | 88,652 |
| OSNI | 2,498.3 | 13.3 | 253,893 |
| DE | 6,984.9 | 11.7 | 530,094 |
| DEL | 28,413.8 | 17.7 | 2,117,164 |
| DETI[1] | 8,218.2 | 11.8 | 639,922 |
| DFP[2] | 40,020.6 | 14.3 | 2,837,135 |
| *which includes:* | | | |
| BDS | 4,916.3 | 21.1 | 359,432 |
| NISRA | 4,042.2 | 12.1 | 295,942 |
| VLA | 3,339.4 | 11.6 | 265,918 |
| Land Registers of NI | 5,388.7 | 24.6 | 334,713 |
| Rate Collection Agency | 5,039.9 | 19.3 | 281,938 |
| DHSSPS | 12,128.9 | 12.3 | 1,127,489 |
| *which includes:* | | | |
| Health Estates Agency | 1,011.3 | 7.8 | 118,927 |
| DOE | 29,216.4 | 13.4 | 2,291,734 |
| *which includes:* | | | |
| Planning Service | 6,935.1 | 10.8 | 625,859 |
| Environment and Heritage Service | 5,056.8 | 11.2 | 427,643 |
| DVLNI | 9,263.2 | 21.1 | 593,365 |
| DVTA | 5,339.6 | 11.7 | 416,714 |
| DRD | 37,036.9 | 12.0 | 3,125,789 |
| *which includes:* | | | |
| Roads Service | 17,068.9 | 11.7 | 1,402,675 |
| Water Service | 11,806.9 | 10.6 | 1,020,126 |
| DSD | 159,088.4 | 19.7 | 9,414,774 |
| *which includes:* | | | |
| CSA | 38,822.5 | 24.5 | 2,026,395 |
| SSA | 110,562.5 | 18.8 | 6,634,158 |
| OFMDFM | 4,815.5 | 12.6 | 355,725 |
| NIO (including Home Civil Service) | 18,001.5 | 13.0 | 1,439,378 |
| Total | 390,818.0 | 15.3 | 27,549,883 |

[1] Staff from Health and Safety Executive NI and Office for the Regulation of Electricity and Gas (OFREG) are included in the DETI figures.

[2] Staff from the Parliamentary Commissioner for Complaints and the Planning Appeals Commission are included in the DFP figures.

*Table 2: NI Prison Service*

| | *2003–04* | *2004–05* |
|---|---|---|
| Total number of days lost | 43,808 | 33,272 |
| Average days lost per staff year | 20.7 | 15.9 |
| Cost (£ million) | 5.1 | 3.8 |

### Teachers

**Lady Hermon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, how many teachers are currently employed in *(a)* Catholic maintained schools and *(b)* non-Catholic maintained schools; and if he will detail the average gross salary paid to teachers in each category for the last financial year for which figures are available. [11352]

**Angela E. Smith** *[pursuant to the reply, 11 July 2005, Official Report, col. 820W]*: Regarding teachers' salaries, there are 7,063 teachers, including 522 Principals, employed in Catholic maintained schools and the individual average gross salary paid to these teachers (excluding Principals) in the 2004–05 financial year was £30,371.27. There are 168 teachers, including 22 Principals, employed in non-Catholic maintained schools (these are Irish medium schools) and the average gross salary paid to these teachers (excluding Principals) in 2004–05 was £26,093.92.

**Lady Hermon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will list the appointments made by boards of governors that were subsequently changed on the recommendation of the Teachers Appointment Committee in each of the last five years, broken down by *(a)* sector, *(b)* school type, *(c)* Education and Library Board area and *(d)* date. [11369]

**Angela E. Smith:** Boards of Governors of controlled and Catholic maintained schools do not make appointments of staff; this is a matter for each Education and Library Board or the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools respectively. In the case of controlled schools, the Boards' Teaching Appointments Schemes provide for the Board of Governors to draw up a personnel specification for the vacant post, to interview those applicants who meet the agreed short-listing criteria, and then to submit the name of one candidate to the Teaching Appointments Committee for ratification. The Education and Library Boards have informed me that no Teaching Appointments Committee has overturned any submission for the appointment of a classroom teacher during the last five years.

For Principal and Vice-Principal posts in controlled schools, Boards of Governors submit up to three names for consideration by the Teaching Appointments Committee, who then undertake a selection process from the names listed. Under the Teaching Appointments Schemes the Teaching Appointments Committees are not obliged to appoint one of the candidates listed. I have asked for further information from the Education and Library Boards about numbers of instances where a Teaching Appointments Committee has decided not to appoint any of the candidates nominated by a Board of Governors, and will write when this is available.

The Council for Catholic Maintained Schools does not have a Teaching Appointments Committee for the purpose of appointing teachers to their schools. Appointments procedures are delegated to Boards of Governors in line with their Teaching Appointments Scheme; the selected candidates are ratified, and their appointment made, by Council.

Voluntary grammar and grant-maintained integrated schools appoint and employ their own staff.

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many teachers have been the victims of *(a)* assault and *(b)* sexual assault in schools in Northern Ireland in each of the last 10 years. [13903]

**Angela E. Smith:** Information on the number of physical attacks on school staff, which have led to suspension of pupils have been recorded since 2002–03, and on expulsions since 2003–04. The information is published on the Departments website at:

www. deni.gov.uk/facts_figures/education_stats/index_other.htm

Information on any sexual attacks is not held separately.

### Telecommunications Masts

**Mr. Peter Robinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many telecommunications masts there are in Northern Ireland, broken down by telecommunications company. [14512]

**Angela E. Smith:** The term telecommunication mast covers a wide range of applications but in this instance is taken to mean cellular mobile communication masts (as opposed to radio and television broadcasters, utility companies, the emergency services, taxi companies, government services, aeronautical radio, and the paging industry)

The Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment does not have information on the number of telecommunications masts in Northern Ireland or the details of ownership. Telecommunications is a privatised industry subject to the independent regulator, the Office for Communications (OFCOM).

### Telephone Inquiries

**Mr. MacNeil:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what facilities his Department has to deal with telephone Inquiries in *(a)* Welsh, *(b)* Scots Gaelic and *(c)* Irish Gaelic. [14702]

**Mr. Hanson:** Central guidance for Northern Ireland officials on meeting UK Government commitments in respect of Irish as set out in the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages has been developed by the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure and agreed by all Northern Ireland Departments and other Government Departments operating in the Northern Ireland.

Telephone inquiries received in Irish are dealt with in that language if the official receiving the call is confident that he/she can do so. If the official is unable to carry out a conversation in Irish, the caller can be directed or diverted to either an Irish-speaking member of staff, should one be available, or an Irish language voicemail facility.

There are no official obligations in Northern Ireland in respect of Welsh or Scots Gaelic, although, where practicable, Departments would endeavour to accommodate the needs of persons speaking those languages.

### Tyres

**Mr. Peter Robinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many tyres were scrapped in each of the last five years in Northern Ireland; how many tonnes this amounts to; and what his best estimate is of the proportion of the tyres which were *(a)* disposed of in landfill sites and *(b)* illegally dumped. [14513]

**Angela E. Smith:** The Environment and Heritage Service (EHS) does not hold detailed data for the quantities of tyres scrapped in each of the last five years but it has commissioned a data survey for the waste tyre stream. Its findings estimated that 16,000 tonnes of used tyres were generated in Northern Ireland in 2000; less than 1 per cent. was estimated to have been landfilled and 30 per cent. were estimated to have been disposed of to unknown destinations.

I am aware of the problems generated by the illegal disposal of tyres and EHS has recently made contact with tyre depots remind them of their responsibilities.

### Unemployment

**Mr. Peter Robinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the level of unemployment was in each of the last five years in Northern Ireland. [14495]

**Angela E. Smith:** Labour Force Survey estimates of the level of unemployment in Northern Ireland for each of the last 5 years can be found in the following Table 1.

*Table 1: Number of unemployed persons in Northern Ireland*

| *Period (Spring)* | *Unemployment* |
|---|---|
| 2000 | 50,000 |
| 2001 | 46,000 |
| 2002 | 41,000 |
| 2003 | 41,000 |
| 2004 | 35,000 |
| 2005 | 36,000 |

*Source:*
NI Labour Force Survey

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Benefit Claims

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions under what circumstances claims for *(a)* income support and *(b)* other benefits are considered to be active even though payment has been stopped. [12369]

**Mr. Timms** *[holding answer 18 July 2005]:* For income support and most other benefits, claims remain active where: a question arises about the claimant's entitlement to that benefit and further investigation is required to resolve the question; an appeal is pending; or, benefit is recoverable for some reason. In these circumstances, the claim would remain active until the issues were resolved.

For jobseekers allowance and incapacity benefit, where a claimant is not entitled to receive a cash benefit, but meets the other criteria, they may nevertheless receive National Insurance contribution credits for the duration of their claim.

Many social security benefits are subject to overlap rules. Where somebody is entitled to two such benefits only one will be paid. However, an underlying entitlement to both benefits remains and both claims would remain active whilst the circumstances of entitlement exist.

### Benefit fraud

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of benefit fraud he estimates to be due to identity fraud, broken down by benefit; and if he will make a statement. [2080]

**Mr. Timms:** Identity-related benefit fraud costs the Department £20 to £50 million annually. This broad estimate is derived mainly from national data produced by our regional benefit review process, which, by examining a percentage of cases is designed to uncover fraud and error in the most vulnerable, income-related, benefits. As we estimate that about £1.5 billion a year is lost through benefit fraud, our figures for identity fraud represent between 1 to 3 percent. of this total.

We are not able to provide a breakdown by benefit but our evidence suggests that the problem is concentrated mainly in the income-related benefits.

**Mr. Crabb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of calls made to the benefit fraud hotline led to *(a)* investigation and *(b)* conviction of individuals named by callers in the last year for which figures are available. [8194]

**Mr. Timms:** The information is in the table.

*Proportion of calls made to the National Benefit Fraud Hotline between April 2004 and March 2005 that resulted in convictions and referral for investigation.*

| | |
|---|---|
| Calls made (number) | 278,513 |
| Calls answered (number) | 199,004 |
| Referrals for investigation as a proportion of calls made (percentage) | 39.46 |
| Convictions as a proportion of calls made (percentage) | 0.23 |

*Source:*
National Benefit Fraud Hotline

### Benefit Receipt (Scotland)

**Mr. Hood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in *(a)* Scotland and *(b)* the Lanark and Hamilton East constituency are in receipt of (i) severe disability allowance, (ii) widows benefit, (iii) housing benefit, (iv) council tax benefit, (v) pension credit and (vi) income support; and if he will make a statement. [14058]

**Mr. Timms:** The information in respect of Scotland is given in the following table. The information is not currently available in respect of the new constituency of Lanark and Hamilton East, but should become available towards the end of this year.

*Claimants of severe disablement allowance, incapacity benefit, widows benefit, housing benefit, council tax benefit, pension credit and income support in Scotland*

| *Benefit* | *Date* | *Claimants* |
|---|---|---|
| Severe disablement allowance | February 2005 | 33,800 |
| Incapacity benefit | February 2005 | 281,500 |
| Income support | February 2005 | 229,100 |
| Housing benefit | February 2005 | 446,600 |
| Council tax benefit | February 2005 | 545,000 |
| Widows benefit | September 2004 | 16,100 |
| Pension credit | March 2005 | 280,795 |

*Notes:*

1. Figures have been rounded to the nearest hundred, apart from that for pension credit which has been rounded to the nearest five.

2. Severe disablement allowance, incapacity benefit, income support and widows benefit are based on 5 per cent. samples and are subject to sampling variation.

Housing benefit, council tax benefit and pension credit are based on 100 per cent. caseloads.

3. Government Office Region is assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant ONS Postcode Directory.

4. Housing benefit/council tax benefit figures for any non-responding authorities have been estimated.

5. Council tax benefit totals exclude any second adult rebate cases.

6. Housing benefit figures exclude any extended payment cases.

7. Pension credit figures are taken from the Generalised Matching Service (GMS) 100 per cent. scans taken on the 18 March and have been rated up to give month-end estimates.

8. Severe disablement allowance/incapacity benefit figures include credits only cases.

*Source:*

Information Directorate, Department for Work and Pensions, 5 per cent. and 100 per cent. samples

Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit Management Information System Quarterly 100 per cent. caseload stock-count taken in February 2005

**Mr. Weir:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the *(a)* total and *(b)* change in the number of people claiming each state benefit has been for each Scottish constituency, since 2001. [14904]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** Housing benefit, council tax benefit, and maternity benefit figures are not available at parliamentary constituency level. The available information has been placed in the Library.

## Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what discussions the Health and Safety Executive has had with the emergency services about co-ordinating investigations when carbon monoxide poisoning is suspected. [14787]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The Work-Related Deaths Protocol (WRDP) sets out the principles for liaison between the investigating authorities in relation to all work-related deaths in England and Wales. Additionally, its associated "Investigators Guide" includes practical guidance for dealing with domestic gas incidents. In March 2005, HSE issued through the WRDP's network of regional groups, revised guidance on the role of gas suppliers' investigators and revised arrangements for carrying out simulation tests.

## Carer's Allowance

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many pensioners *(a)* are receiving payment of carer's allowance and *(b)* have an underlying entitlement to carer's allowance; [10143]

(2) in what circumstances pensioners are entitled to carer's allowance; and what measures are in place to ensure that those pensioners are informed of their entitlement. [10144]

**Mrs. McGuire:** In October 2002, we removed the upper age limit on claims to carer's allowance so that people of state pension age can qualify for the benefit on exactly the same basis as people of working age.

As at 28 February 2005, the latest date for which information is available, about 24,360 people of state pension age were receiving carer's allowance. A further 218,710 had claimed and qualified for the allowance, but were not receiving it because of the operation of the overlapping benefit rules[1]. Pensioners on a low income who hold an entitlement to carer's allowance can get extra help within pension credit which is currently worth up to £25.80 per week. As at February 2005 some 133,200 carers of state pension age were receiving this additional amount.

Information about carer's allowance is made available to carers via a wide variety of outlets—social security offices, Jobcentre Plus offices, Welfare Benefits offices, on-line at DWP websites and through various helplines. In addition, through its network of pension centres and its local service, the Pension Service considers the needs of all its customers and encourages them to take up the range of benefits, including carer's allowance, to which they may be entitled.

[1] Data source: DWP Information Directorate, 100 per cent. sample. Figures are rounded to the nearest five.

## Child Support Agency

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the average time taken to process new Child Support Agency claims in the last period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [976]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the chief executive, Mr. Stephen Geraghty. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Mike Isaac to Mr. David Laws, dated 5 September 2005:*

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive. As he is currently on leave I am responding on his behalf.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what estimate he has made of the average time taken to process new Child Support Agency claims in the last period for which figures are available.

The information you seek is not currently available with any level of accuracy as the Agency is progressively improving its management information systems. Whilst I am unable to provide a more up-to-date assessment currently, I expect that planned improvements in management information will allow me to do so in the coming months.

Our previous Chief Executive Doug Smith, informed the Work and Pensions Select Committee on 17 November 2004 that the average time for handling a case, up to the stage where the maintenance assessment is calculatid, was between 15 to 22 weeks.

I am sorry that we are not able to be more helpful at present.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what level of accuracy the Child Support Agency's checking teams have been assessed to have achieved on each separate occasion when they have been assessed; and what level of accuracy was achieved by the agency's front end staff; [5635]

(2) how often checks have been made on the accuracy of the Child Support Agency's checking teams. [5656]

**Mr. Timms:** The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the chief executive, Mr. Stephen Geraghty. He will write to the hon. Member with the requested information.

*Letter from Stephen Geraghty to Mr. David Laws, dated 5 September 2005:*

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Questions about the Child Support Agency the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what level of accuracy the Child Support Agency's checking teams have been assessed to have achieved on each separate occasion when they have been assessed; and what level of accuracy was achieved by the Agency's front end staff. You also asked, how often checks have been made on the accuracy of the Child Support Agency's checking teams.

The Agency's Secretary of State target for new scheme cases is "that accuracy on the last decision for all maintenance calculations checked to be correct to the nearest penny in at least 90% of cases." For 2004/2005, the Agency reported 75% accuracy for new scheme cases and for 2005/2006, the year to date total for new scheme cases has increased to 82%.

For old scheme cases, the Agency's internal target is "that accuracy on the last decision for all maintenance calculations checked to be correct to the nearest penny in at least 82% of cases." For 2004/2005, the Agency reported 78% accuracy for old scheme cases and for 2005/2006, the year to date total for old scheme cases is 77%.

The accuracy rate of child support assessments is determined by checks carried out by the Monitoring and Guidance Unit (MAGU). This unit was established as an independent body to monitor quality independent from the Agency. MAGU was audited by the Internal Assurance Service last year following their assessment of the 2003/2004 accuracy rate. As part of this validation process, 26 cases were selected at random per business unit (156 in total for the Agency). Internal Assurance Service concluded that they agreed with MAGU's findings, confirming the validity of their results. I am satisfied that the monitoring of cases undertaken by MAGU forms an appropriate independent assurance; their accuracy rate is therefore not checked on a regular basis.

Business units carry out a number of local checks, including accuracy, debt adjustment and closure. They are provided with a quota for each of these checks to determine the number to be done. These checks are not validated by MAGU. They provide the business with an assurance that these types of cases are being actioned correctly and that any incorrect practices can be addressed at a local level.

I hope that this reply has been useful.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what validation checks are performed each month on the *(a)* old and *(b)* new Child Support Agency computer system. [6196]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Stephen Geraghty to Mr. David Laws:*

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about what validation checks are performed each month on the *(a)* old and *(b)* new Child Support Agency computer system.

The Agency operates a dual approach to checking; establishing the performance of decision makers through mandatory business checks, and through validation checks.

The Agency operates a risk-based methodology for mandatory business checks. This is underpinned by a quota system, which is reviewed bi monthly to determine the volume of checks to be undertaken. The volume is derived from the amount of work actioned in business units and the level of accuracy achieved.

Last year the Agency undertook 37,895 checks on the old scheme cases and 23,226 checks on new scheme cases.

A minimum of 20 validation checks are undertaken every month in each business unit split equally between new and old scheme cases.

In addition to these checks the Agency's Monitoring and Guidance Unit undertakes an independent assessment of Agency accuracy, based on a random sample of 1,500 cases split across both the old and new scheme.

I hope you have found this answer useful.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many calls to the Child Support Agency have been abandoned by *(a)* Agency staff and *(b)* clients in each month since 2003. [8750]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Stephen Geraghty to Mr. David Laws, dated 5 September 2005:*

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many calls to the Child Support Agency have been abandoned by *(a)* Agency staff and *(b)* clients in each month since 2003.

The table below provides the number of calls abandoned by callers for the period April 2003 to May 2005. Generally, an abandoned call is where the caller hangs up before the call is answered. In CSA this is defined as before the call has been answered by either the National Helpline or a caseworker; and for CS2 clients, excludes those callers who hang-up during the Interactive Voice Response (IVR) process. To put these figures into perspective I have also provided the number of calls received in the same period. Agency staff cannot abandon calls.

| *Calendar month* | *Calls received* | *Calls abandoned by caller* |
|---|---|---|
| April 2003 | 317,637 | 68,012 |
| May 2003 | 439,891 | 102,292 |
| June 2003 | 388,261 | 93,653 |
| July 2003 | 420,005 | 106,604 |
| August 2003 | 392,537 | 95,766 |
| September 2003 | 478,207 | 147,505 |
| October 2003 | 510,904 | 168,298 |
| November 2003 | 421,273 | 110,241 |
| December 2003 | 204,456 | 47,227 |
| January 2004 | 454,029 | 137,896 |
| February 2004 | 425,584 | 114,252 |
| March 2004 | 520,791 | 145,586 |
| April 2004 | 433,841 | 105,262 |
| May 2004 | 392,694 | 65,084 |
| June 2004 | 434,038 | 43,298 |

| Calendar month | Calls received | Calls abandoned by caller |
|---|---|---|
| July 2004 | 408,863 | 52,156 |
| August 2004 | 412,137 | 61,286 |
| September 2004 | 491,625 | 102,607 |
| October 2004 | 448,608 | 81,180 |
| November 2004 | 459,991 | 59,094 |
| December 2004 | 326,753 | 35,845 |
| January 2005 | 451,661 | 71,119 |
| February 2005 | 389,362 | 50,082 |
| March 2005 | 424,345 | 65,252 |
| April 2005 | 414,691 | 53,429 |
| May 2005 | 381,609 | 36,611 |

I hope you find this useful.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on how many occasions in the last two years Child Support Agency maintenance payments have been erroneously paid to the parent with care instead of to him; how much these payments were for; and whether they were all recovered. [8752]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The information requested is not available.

Payments could have been erroneously paid to the person with care instead of to the Secretary of State when the Child Support Agency believes the person with care is off benefit but they are actually on benefit. If the person with care fails to report receipt of this payment as an income, there would be an overpayment of benefit and this would have to be recovered. Child Support Agency do not hold records on how often this occurs or the amounts that are involved for this category of overpayment.

All overpayments of benefit are recovered via our debt management organisation. To be able to answer the question our records would have to be able to identify erroneous payments of maintenance as an overpayment cause. Unfortunately our systems do not capture data on this specific cause—they would be included in all records of overpayments caused by income.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what percentage of full-time equivalent Child Support Agency (CSA) staff are employed as frontline staff; how many staff were employed in March; what the staff turnover rate was in the latest period for which figures are available; how many staff *(a)* left the CSA and *(b)* went on leave in that period; and how many staff have been recruited since April 2003. [8867]

**Mr. Timms:** The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the chief executive, Mr. Stephen Geraghty. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Mike Isaac to Mr. David Laws, dated 5 September 2005:*

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive. As he is currently on leave I am responding on his behalf.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many and what percentage of full time equivalent Child Support Agency staff are employed as frontline staff; how many staff were employed in March; what the staff turnover rate was in the latest period for which figures are available; how many staff *(a)* left the Child Support Agency and *(b)* went on leave in that period; and how many staff have been recruited since April 2003.

In March 2005 the Child Support Agency employed 9784 full time equivalent staff; this figure does not include staff working in Northern Ireland who are employed by the Northern Ireland Civil Service. 75% of these staff work in frontline duties and the remainder are employed in frontline management and support functions or head quarters and support services.

In the period April 2003 to March 2004 the total turnover was 15% and between April 2004 to March 2005 17%. For the purpose of this response turnover has been taken to include all staff who joined or left the Agency in this period. Between April 2003 and March 2005 3398 full time equivalent staff left the Agency and 2290 full time equivalent staff were recruited. These figures include temporary staff.

All staff in the Agency have an annual entitlement to leave and are expected to use that entitlement over the course of the year. All staff should therefore have taken leave between April 2003 and March 2005.

I hope this answer is useful.

**Derek Wyatt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what action he plans to take with the senior management of the Child Support Agency over the handling of the case of Simone Hampshire, a constituent of the hon. Member for Sittingbourne and Sheppey; [9818]

(2) for what reasons a reply has not been sent from the Child Support Agency to Simone Hampshire, a constituent of the hon. Member for Sittingbourne and Sheppey, due on 8 June; [9820]

(3) what compensation he plans to offer to Simone Hampshire, a constituent of the hon. Member for Sittingbourne and Sheppey, for losing her Child Support Agency case notes. [9821]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the chief executive. He will write to my hon. Friend with the information requested.

*Letter from Mike Isaac to Mr. Derek Wyatt, dated 5 September 2005:*

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Questions about the Child Support Agency the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive. As he is currently on leave I am responding on his behalf.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what action he plans to take with the senior management of the Child Support Agency over the handling of the case of Simone Hampshire; why the reply from the Child Support Agency to Simone Hampshire due on the 8 June has not been forthcoming; and what compensation he plans to offer to Simone Hampshire for losing her Child Support Agency case notes.

As details about individual cases are confidential I have written to you separately about this case.

**Derek Conway:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of claimants who decline to identify the father of their child for Child Support Agency purposes. [11651]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Mike Isaac to Mr. Derek Conway:*

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what estimate he has made of the number of claimants who decline to identify the father of their child for Child Support Agency purposes.

Under the child support scheme that existed prior to March 2003, a parent with care was required to authorise the Secretary of State to pursue maintenance from the non-resident parent. Under the new scheme, where an application is made by a parent with care for Income Support or income based Jobseekers Allowance, this is also treated as an application for child maintenance. The parent with care is then required to supply the details of the non-resident parent. However, if there are reasonable grounds for believing that if they were to be required to comply there would be a risk to them or to any of their children living with them of harm or undue distress as a result, no further action will be taken. If there are no such grounds, withholding information can lead to a loss of benefit under a Reduced Benefit Direction.

The following table shows the number of cases for the last financial year broken down by good cause, applications and decisions. We are unable to identify the number of male parents with care included in these figures as the information is not recorded by gender.

| | *Total CSA interest cases claiming Good Cause referred for decision* | *Total number of Good Cause accepted* | *Total number of Good Cause not accepted* | *Total number of Reduced Benefit Directions imposed* | *Number of cases where maintenance application form subsequently completed* | *Number of Good Cause claims outstanding carried over each month* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| April 2004 | 2,629 | 966 | 1,084 | 878 | 1,131 | 4,244 |
| May 2004 | 3,028 | 1,204 | 981 | 720 | 1,312 | 4,116 |
| June 2004 | 3,895 | 1,323 | 1,120 | 974 | 1,756 | 3,884 |
| July 2004 | 3,160 | 1,103 | 1,107 | 987 | 1,499 | 3,277 |
| August 2004 | 2,938 | 901 | 1,139 | 957 | 1,189 | 3,735 |
| September 2004 | 3,200 | 1,034 | 1,151 | 904 | 1,653 | 3,807 |
| October 2004 | 3,240 | 1,163 | 1,102 | 909 | 1,503 | 3,839 |
| November 2004 | 3,322 | 1,405 | 1,220 | 1,072 | 1,530 | 3,406 |
| December 2004 | 2,978 | 989 | 983 | 792 | 1,091 | 3,870 |
| January 2005 | 2,832 | 1,128 | 1,127 | 1,036 | 1,333 | 3,552 |
| February 2005 | 3,309 | 1,164 | 1,068 | 1,057 | 1,326 | 3,605 |
| March 2005 | 3,376 | 1,214 | 1,148 | 978 | 1,547 | 3,117 |
| Total YTD | 37,907 | 13,594 | 13,225 | 11,264 | 16,870 | — |

I hope this has been useful.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will place in the Library the minutes of the Child Support Agency's Audit Committee for the last four years. [13550]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The disclosure of this information is considered likely to prejudice the effective operation of the Child Support Agency's Audit Committee. The effectiveness of on-going reporting and management of identified risks and the open and free disclosures and discussions regarding Internal Audit findings would likely be inhibited. This would negatively impact the free and frank dialogue of the Audit Committee and ultimately the agency's ability to operate efficiently. There is a well established process of external audit by National Audit Office (NAO). Therefore, any audit issues that are of major concern or public interest are considered appropriately and reports are freely available.

## Children in Poverty

**Mr. Hepburn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many children of school age in *(a)* the Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England were living in poverty in each year since 1997. [12045]

**Mr. Timms:** Specific information regarding low income for the United Kingdom is available in 'Households Below Average Income 1994–95 to 2003–04'. The threshold of below 60 per cent. median income is the most commonly used in reporting trends in low income.

The number of school age children in the North East in 2003–04 living in households with low incomes was 110,000 when incomes were reported Before Housing Costs, and 130,000 when incomes were reported After Housing Costs. The reporting of year on year changes in low-income rates for regions is not reliable and Information is not available below regional level.

Information regarding England is in the table.

*School age children living in England living in low income households*

| | *Income below 60 per cent. of contemporary median income* | | *Income below 60 per cent. of 1996–97 median income held constant in real terms* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Before housing costs* | *After housing costs* | *Before housing costs* | *After housing costs* |
| 1997–98 | 2,100,000 | 2,800,000 | 2,100,000 | 2,700,000 |
| 1998–99 | 2,100,000 | 2,800,000 | 2,000,000 | 2,600,000 |
| 1999–00 | 2,000,000 | 2,700,000 | 1,600,000 | 2,400,000 |
| 2000–01 | 1,800,000 | 2,600,000 | 1,400,000 | 2,100,000 |
| 2001–02 | 1,800,000 | 2,500,000 | 1,100,000 | 1,800,000 |
| 2002–03 | 1,800,000 | 2,400,000 | 1,000,000 | 1,600,000 |
| 2003–04 | 1,800,000 | 2,400,000 | 1,000,000 | 1,500,000 |

*Note:*
The table shows the number of children rounded to the nearest 100,000.
*Source:*
Family Resources Survey

**Mr. Hepburn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* children and *(b)* disabled children in single parent families have been assessed as living in poverty in (i) the Jarrow constituency, (ii) South Tyneside, (iii) the north-east and (iv) the UK in each year since 1997. [12066]

**Mr. Timms:** Specific information regarding low income for the United Kingdom is available in 'Households Below Average Income 1994–95 to 2003–04'. The threshold of below 60 per cent. median income is the most commonly used in reporting trends in low income.

The number of children in 2003–04 living in lone parents families in households with low incomes in the North East was 60,000 when incomes were measured Before Housing Costs, and 80,000 when incomes were measured After Housing Costs.

Information regarding the number of children living in lone parent families in low income households is not available below regional level. Information regarding the number of disabled children in single parent families living in low income households is not available below national level.

The number of children living in lone parent families in households with low incomes in Great Britain in each year since 1997 and the number of disabled children living in lone parent families in households with low incomes in Great Britain in each year since 1997 is presented in the tables:

*Children living in lone parent families in households with low incomes in Great Britain*

| | *Income below 60 per cent. of contemporary median income* | | *Income below 60 per cent. of 1996–97 median income held constant in real terms* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Before housing costs* | *After housing costs* | *Before housing costs* | *After housing costs* |
| 1997–98 | 1,100,000 | 1,700,000 | 1,100,000 | 1,700,000 |
| 1998–99 | 1,100,000 | 1,700,000 | 1,000,000 | 1,600,000 |
| 1999–2000 | 1,100,000 | 1,800,000 | 900,000 | 1,600,000 |
| 2000–01 | 1,000,000 | 1,600,000 | 700,000 | 1,300,000 |
| 2001–02 | 1,000,000 | 1,600,000 | 500,000 | 1,100,000 |
| 2002–03 | 1,000,000 | 1,600,000 | 400,000 | 900,000 |
| 2003–04 | 900,000 | 1,400,000 | 400,000 | 900,000 |

*Disabled children living in lone parent families in households with low incomes in Great Britain*

| | *Income below 60 per cent. of contemporary median income* | | *Income below 60 per cent. of 1996–97 median income held constant in real terms* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Before housing costs* | *After housing costs* | *Before housing costs* | *After housing costs* |
| 1997–98 | 111,000 | 150,000 | 110,000 | 150,000 |
| 1998–99 | 70,000 | 110,000 | 60,000 | 100,000 |
| 1999–00 | 80,000 | 120,000 | 70,000 | 110,000 |
| 2000–01 | 90,000 | 130,000 | 60,000 | 100,000 |
| 2001–02 | 50,000 | 100,000 | 20,000 | 60,000 |
| 2002–03 | 60,000 | 90,000 | 20,000 | 60,000 |
| 2003–04 | 60,000 | 100,000 | 30,000 | 70,000 |

*Notes:*
1. GB has been provided in the table to provide a consistent time series because UK information is only available from 2002–03.
2. The table shows national results for the number of children rounded to the nearest 100,000. Regional figures for 2003–04 are presented to the nearest 10,000. The results are drawn from a survey of a sample of households. While the tables give an indication of trends over time, the figures, especially those at regional level, should not be viewed as giving an accurate picture of year-on-year changes.
3. The definition for disabled here is consistent across all year, and is defined where a long standing illness that limits mobility is reported.

*Source:*
Family Resources Survey

## Computer Crime

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many cases of computer *(a)* hacking, *(b)* fraud and *(c)* theft his Department recorded in each year since 2001–02; and on how many occasions computer systems have been illegally accessed by computer hackers (i) within and (ii) outside his Department in each year.; [13107]

(2) how many cases of computer *(a)* hacking, *(b)* fraud and *(c)* theft his Department recorded in each year since 2001–02; and for each year on how many occasions computer systems have been illegally accessed by computer hackers (i) within and (ii) outside his Department. [6950]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The information requested is in the following table. Appropriate action is taken following an examination of all incidences on a case-by-case basis.

| | *Hacking* | *Fraud* | *Theft* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2002–03 | 0 | 2 | 128 |
| 2003–04 | 0 | 2 | 185 |
| 2004–05 | 1 | 4 | 82 |

*Note:*
1. The single hacking incident was perpetrated by a person outside the Department.
2. All fraud cases relate to frauds committed by staff within the Department.

## Conferences

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much the Department spent on organising or sponsoring conferences in each of the last five years. [10259]

**Mrs. McGuire:** The information requested is not available centrally in the format requested and could be collected only at disproportionate cost.

## Construction Industry

**Mr. Nicholas Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what progress has been reported to him from the Health and Safety Commission in meeting the targets for the reduction of deaths and injuries at work in the construction industry; what the most recent figure is for the *(a)* fatal and *(b)* non-fatal injury rate for the construction sector in the UK: and what the EU comparator is. [13977]

**Mr. Timms:** The Chief Inspector of Construction last reported to Ministers on progress towards health and safety targets in February this year.

The latest available statistics for 2003–04 (provisional) show the rate of fatal injury to workers was 3.5 per 100,000, the rate of major injuries to employees was 335.1 and over three-day injuries to employees was 683.6. These rates represent the lowest on record and exceed the all-industry Revitalising Health and Safety targets set by the Government in 2000. However, so far, progress falls short of meeting targets set and announced in 2001 by the industry itself for achievement in 2010.

Provisional fatal injury statistics for 2004–05 will be published shortly.

The latest figures available from Eurostat show that in 2000 the EU average rate for fatal injuries in construction was 11.4 per 100,000 workers and 7548.0 over three-day injuries per 100,000 workers. Eurostat's rate of over three-day injury includes those injuries defined in the UK as 'major' injuries. When GB's over three-day and major injury rates are combined, the rate is 1018.7.

## Correspondence

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many letters to his Department from hon. Members in session *(a)* 2004–05 and *(b)* 2005–06 remain unanswered, broken down by those which are (i) one month old, (ii) two months old, (iii) three months old, (iv) four months old and (v) over six months old. [13854]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** During 2004 we received over 13,000 letters from hon. Members to which we replied to 86 per cent. within 20 working days. As at 12 August, there were 54 unanswered letters from hon. Members which were more than one month old and a further 15 that were more than two months old. All of these letters were received since the start of the current parliamentary session.

## Child Support Agency

**Mr. Steen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many resident parents are not receiving maintenance payments from former partners due to technical difficulties experienced by the Child Support Agency's new computer system; what the average sum involved is; what the average time taken to resolve cases via the new computer system is; how many cases have been referred to the Clerical Options Team; and how long on average it took for cases to be resolved clerically in the last period for which figures are available. [6261]

**Mr. Plaskitt** *[holding answer 22 June 2005]:* The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive, Mr. Stephen Geraghty. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Stephen Geraghty to Mr. Anthony Steen:*

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many resident parents are not receiving maintenance payments from former partners due to technical difficulties experienced by the Child Support Agency's new computer system; what the average sum involved is; what the average time taken to resolve cases via the new computer system is; how many cases have been referred to the Clerical Options Team; and how long on average it took for cases to be resolved clerically in the last period for which figures are available.

I am unable to provide the number of resident parents who are not receiving maintenance payments due to technical difficulties with the new computer system. Similarly I am unable to give you information on the average sum involved. However, we have systems in place to deal with any cases where technical difficulties delay payments to resident parents.

The Agency is presently not in a position to fully answer the question on what the average time taken to resolve a case is. We are progressively improving our management information systems and I will write to you again with the complete answer once the information is available and assured. My predecessor Doug Smith informed the Work and Pensions Select Committee on 17 November 2004 that the average time for handling a case, up to the stage where the maintenance assessment is calculated, was between 15 to 22 weeks.

Around 12,000 cases have been referred to the Agency's Clerical Teams to be progressed clerically. On average the time taken for clerical cases to reach maintenance calculation is 22 weeks from receipt to the clerical team.

I am sorry that we are not able to be more helpful at present.

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much has been spent on enforcement by the Child Support Agency in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [10141]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the chief executive. He will write to the hon. Member.

*Letter from Mike Isaac to Mr. Danny Alexander, dated 5 September 2005:*

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive. As he is currently on leave I am responding on his behalf.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how much has been spent on enforcement by the Child Support Agency in each of the last five years for which figures are available.

The amounts spent on enforcement by the Child Support Agency in each of the last three years are:

| | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| 2003–04 | 3.6 |
| 2004–05 | 3.6 |
| 2005–06 | [1]4 |

[1] Projected spend

These amounts reflect the cost of staff deployed directly on enforcement casework. In each of the three years mentioned, the Agency also incurred expenditure of approximately £3 million on progressing cases through the Court System. Information for the years prior to 2003/04 is not available.

I hope you find this answer useful.

### Departmental Purchasing

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will list the companies from which his Department has purchased goods and services of a total value above £1 million in each of the last three years; and how much was spent in respect of each company. [11726]

**Mrs. McGuire:** The details of the principal companies with which the Department for Work and Pensions has purchased goods and services in the last three financial years, in order of the total spend with each, have been placed in the Library. The tables show the top 100 companies in 2002–03 and the top 200 companies in 2003–04 and 2004–05. The tables are based on the level of detail collected as standard at the time and identify most, but not all, companies where the spend was over £1 million in the year covered. The additional information about companies that would fall below the threshold of these tables but where spend is over £1 million is not readily available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Staff

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what his estimate is of the number of employees in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies for each year from 1985–86; what the planned figures are for each year to 2008–09; and if he will make a statement; [820]

(2) what plans he has to reduce staff numbers in his Department in the next three years; in which areas reductions will be made; and if he will make a statement; [821]

(3) what estimate he has made of the number of staff in the Department, broken down by agency or body within the departmental budget, in each year from 1996–97 to 2008–09 (planned); and if he will make a statement. [1571]

**Mrs. McGuire:** The Department for Work and Pensions was established in June 2001 bringing together the former Department of Social Security, parts of the former Department of Education and Employment including the Employment Service. The number of staff in the new Department at this date was 119,052. Comparable historical staffing figures before this date are not available.

The breakdown of staffing within the Department and its agencies from April 2002 to March 2005 is in table 1.

*Table 1: Staffing numbers 30 April 2002 to 31 March 2005*

| | *30 April 2002* | *31 March 2003* | *31 March 2004* | *31 March 2005* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Jobcentre Plus | 86,082 | 78,564 | 79,122 | 73,406 |
| The Pension Service | 8,782 | 17,019 | 18,567 | 16,189 |
| Child Support Agency | 10,753 | 11,256 | 10,779 | 9,784 |
| Disability and Carers Service | 7,380 | 7,207 | 7,103 | 6,506 |
| Appeals Service | 925 | 881 | 816 | 752 |
| The Rent Service | — | — | — | 718 |
| Other departmental units | 12,892 | 13,898 | 12,068 | 11,874 |
| Total | 126,814 | 128,825 | 128,455 | 119,229 |

*Notes:*
1. Figures are full-time equivalents, are consistent with Cabinet Office definitions and exclude staff on paid maternity leave.
2. Jobcentre Plus and the Pension Service were established on 1 April 2002.
3. The Rent Service joined the Department from 1 April 2004 from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister.
4. Disability and Carers Service was granted agency status from 1 November 2004.

Announced in the 2004 spending review, the Department has plans to reduce overall staff numbers by 30,000 by 31 March 2008. Planned staffing numbers for each year up to 2008 are shown in table 2.

Between 1 March 2004 to 31 March 2005 staffing reduced by 11,402. Staffing reductions are a feature in all Government office regions.

*Table 2: DWP planned staffing numbers*

| | *31 March 2006* | *31 March 2007* | *31 March 2008* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Jobcentre Plus | 70,200 | 67,550 | 65,650 |
| The Pension Service | 14,200 | 13,350 | 9,200 |
| Child Support Agency | 9,400 | 9,400 | 9,400 |
| Disability and Carers Service | 6,400 | 5,950 | 5,550 |
| Appeals Service | 750 | 750 | 0 |
| The Rent Service | 750 | 650 | 200 |
| Other departmental units | 10,800 | 10,350 | 8,450 |
| Total | 112,500 | 108,000 | 100,000 |

*Notes:*
1. Figures are full-time equivalents rounded to the nearest 50, are consistent with Cabinet Office definitions and exclude staff on paid maternity leave.
2. Plans are subject to ongoing review.

### Disability Premium

**Mrs. Riordan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many applications have been received for the disability premium in each of the last 12 months, broken down by means by which the application was made; how many were refused; how many were subsequently approved on appeal; and if he will make a statement. [12488]

**Mr. Timms:** The information is not available; claimants do not apply for disability premiums paid with income related benefits. The premiums are triggered by the claimant's circumstances and awarded accordingly.

### Disabled People (Employment)

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will list the statutory provisions and regulations in force to promote or ensure the employment of disabled people. [14444]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The relevant provisions and regulations are listed as follows.

The Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) 1995 (as amended by the DDA 2005), Part 2, sections 3A to 18E which deals specifically with the employment field, and Part 3 section 21A, which places duties on employment services, are intended to tackle discrimination against disabled people in employment and in the provision of employment services.

The Disability Rights Commission Act 1999 established the Disability Rights Commission to work towards the elimination of discrimination against disabled people; promote equalisation of opportunities for disabled people; encourage good practice in the treatment of disabled people, and review the working of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (including section 2). In particular, the Disability Rights Commission issues Codes of Practice for the Disability Discrimination Act 1995. The Code of Practice on Employment and Occupation came into effect on 1 October 2004 by virtue of SI No 2302 of 2004, Disability Discrimination Codes of Practice (Employment and Occupation, and Trade Organisations and Qualifications Bodies) Appointed Day Order 2004.

Section 2 of the Employment and Training Act 1973 (replacing repealed sections 2 to 5 in the Disabled Persons (Employment) Act 1944) provides that the Secretary of State shall make such arrangements as are considered appropriate for the purpose of assisting people to select, train for, obtain and retain employment suitable for their ages and capacities, or of assisting people to obtain suitable employees. Specifically, under section 2(2) *(b)*, arrangements may include arrangements for encouraging increases in the opportunities for employment and training that are available to disabled people.

Sections 15, 16, 18, 20, 22 and 23 of the Disabled Persons (Employment) Act 1944 remain in force. Section 15 makes provision for registered persons who are seriously disabled of employment, or work on their own account, under special conditions. The remaining provisions in force do not specifically promote or ensure the employment of disabled people.

Section 1 of the Education Act 1994 provides for the establishment of a Teacher Training Agency, with the objectives of contributing to raising the standards of teaching; to promote teaching as a career; to improve the quality and efficiency of all routes into the teaching profession and to secure the involvement of schools in all courses and programmes for the initial training of school teachers. In exercising their functions, the Teacher Training Agency shall have regard to the requirements of ,people who are disabled for the purposes of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (section 1(4) of the Education Act 1994).

Ancillary to the above provisions, the Learning and Skills Council are required, when exercising their functions (which include the provision of proper facilities for education and training taking into account, among others matters, the education and training required in different sections of employment for employees and potential employees, sections 2 and 3 of the Learning and Skills Act 2000) to have due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity between people who are disabled and those who are not, by virtue of section 14(1 )*(c)* of the Learning and Skills Act 2000.

In addition, working tax credits are available for disabled people working at least 16 hours per week by virtue of sections 10 and 11 of the Tax Credit Act 2002. This replaces the previous benefits of the disabled person's tax credits and disabled persons working allowance, for which some regulations are still in force.

### Disability Living Allowance

**Mr. Hood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in the Lanark and Hamilton, East constituency are in receipt of the disability living allowance; and if he will make a statement. [10064]

**Mrs. McGuire:** The administration of disability living allowance is a matter for the chief executive of the Disability and Carers Service, Mr. Terry Moran. He will write to my hon. Friend with the information requested.

*Letter from Terry Moran to Mr. Jimmy Hood, dated 18 July 2005:*

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many people in the Lanark and Hamilton East constituency are currently in receipt of disability living allowance. The Minister for Disabled People, Anne McGuire MP, promised you a substantive reply from the Chief Executive of the Disability and Carers Service.

The requested information is not available. This is because Lanark and Hamilton East is one of the new Scottish constituencies formed following the recent boundary changes. We currently only have information based on the previous constituency boundaries, as at February 2005. Information about the new constituencies will not be available until the autumn.

I am sorry I cannot be more helpful at this time.

### Economic Inactivity

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will make a statement on the level of economic inactivity. [7552]

**Mr. Timms:** There are 7.9 million people of working age who are economically inactive, about a fifth of the working age population. The main groups classed as economically inactive are students and those who are long-term sick or disabled. Also included within this group are those people who undertake valuable caring responsibilities. Other main reasons for inactivity are retirement and temporary sickness.

### Employment Projects Fund/Transport Projects Fund

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) if he will make a statement on the future funding of the *(a)* Employment Projects Fund and *(b)* Transport Projects Fund. [12819]

(2) if he will make a statement on the effectiveness of the *(a)* Employment Programme Fund and *(b)* Transport Programme Fund in helping to overcome barriers to employment; how much money has been spent by each programme; how many people have been helped into work by each programme, broken down by region; how much money has been spent under each programme by each provider; and how many people have been helped into work by each provider; [12820]

(3) if he will make a statement on the effectiveness of the Action Team for Jobs programme in helping economically inactive people into work since its introduction; and what plans he has to continue Action Team for jobs beyond March 2006. [12822]

**Mr. Timms:** The Employment Projects and Transport Projects Fund enabled Action Teams for Jobs to bid for additional money for initiatives that help support disadvantaged people into employment.

Funding was provided for projects that could bring long term benefits to the wider community and included: payment for childcare facilities; the funding of new bus routes to connect housing estates to new businesses, and car leasing schemes. Such initiatives have helped contribute to the success Action Teams have had in supporting more than 133,500 people into work.

Action Teams are funded until March 2006. We are currently reviewing the most effective and efficient method of providing employment support to disadvantaged people in the most deprived areas of the

country. As part of this review, applications to the Employment Project and Transport Project Fund have been suspended although existing projects and any approved bids will continue to be funded.

There have been 91 Employment Projects Fund applications and 47 Transport Projects Fund applications have been approved. The amount approved for each Fund by region and by provider is in the table.

*Approved applications to the Employment Projects and Transport Projects Fund by region and provider*

| *Region* | *Employment projects fund (£)* | *Transport projects fund (£)* |
|---|---|---|
| Wales | 1,731,250.82 | 832,180.00 |
| Yorkshire and Humberside | 392,924.00 | 95,960.63 |
| West Midlands | 300,204.00 | 0.00 |
| South West | 805,813.00 | 205,409.95 |
| South East | 302,225.00 | 0.00 |
| Scotland | 747,015.49 | 393,857.74 |
| North West | 508,872.90 | 296,970.00 |
| North East | 1,174,703.10 | 1,054,804.00 |
| Total | 6,163,008.31 | 2,879,182.32 |
| *Provider* | | |
| Jobcentre Plus | 4,839,631.21 | 1,851,722.32 |
| Working Links | 857,355.10 | 832,180.00 |
| Reed in Partnership | 441,022.00 | 117,500.00 |
| Dingle Opportunities | 25,000.00 | 77,780.00 |
| Total | 6,163,008.31 | 2,879,182.32 |

*Note:*
1. Data is to July 2005.
*Source:*
Jobcentre Plus Jobseeker Support Division.

The number of people helped into work by Action Teams for Jobs, broken down by provider and region is in the table.

*People helped into work by Action Teams, by Provider and Region*

| *Provider* | *Number* |
|---|---|
| Jobcentre Plus | 84,359 |
| Celtec | 178 |
| Reed in Partnership | 19,292 |
| Pertemps Employment Alliance | 3,743 |
| Working Links | 17,830 |
| Glasgow North | 2,538 |
| East End Partnership | 2,486 |
| Dingle Opportunities | 1,176 |
| Tower Hamlets Partnership | 2,192 |
| Total | 133,794 |
| *Region* | |
| West Midlands | 9,649 |
| Wales | 13,987 |
| London | 22,482 |
| South East | 2,799 |
| Yorkshire and Humberside | 8,067 |
| Scotland | 19,104 |
| North West | 30,947 |
| North East | 21,051 |
| East Midlands | 2,341 |
| South West | 3,367 |
| Total | 133,794 |

*Note:*
1. Data is to April 2005.
*Source:*
Jobcentre Plus Jobseeker Support and Contracting Policy and Support Divisions.

**Employment Target**

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will set out the baseline against which progress towards the 80 per cent. employment target will be measured; when he expects the target to be achieved; and if he will make a statement. [13534]

**Mr. Timms:** An employment rate equivalent to 80 per cent. of the working age population in work is a long-term and challenging aim.

With unemployment at low levels, helping economically inactive people into work is crucial to achieving our aim. Building on recent reforms we intend to go further to:

support more children and families; including helping more lone parents into work by making work possible and making work pay;

help more people on incapacity benefits to get the support they need to fulfil their ambitions to return to work and achieve independence;

further break down the barriers that prevent disabled people, older people, ethnic minorities and others at a disadvantage in the labour market from moving back into work.

We are currently discussing the baseline against which progress towards 80 per cent. employment will be measured.

**Families and Children Study**

**Andrew Selous:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions for what reason the Families and Children Study no longer identifies separately married, cohabiting and step families; and if he will revert to providing this breakdown at the first opportunity. [11336]

**Mr. Plaskitt** *[holding answer 11 July 2005]:* The Families and Children Study collects a wealth of information. Because of the quantity of variables on the dataset it is not practical to include all of these in the annual reports. Judgments are made about which information is most relevant to the Government Departments sponsoring the study. The report "Family life in Britain: findings from the 2003 Families and Children Study", which is available in the Library, describes families as either lone parent or couple families as this is consistent with how DWP clients are segmented in welfare-to-work programmes and the benefit system. We have no plans to change this.

The full datasets, including variables indicating the nature of the relationship between all individuals in a household, are made publicly available through the Economic Social and Research Council data archive, as is standard practice for surveys commissioned by this Department.

**Housing Benefit**

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will break down the housing benefit case load by *(a)* (i) elderly, (ii) unemployed, (iii) disabled and (iv) single parent client group, *(b)* age and *(c)* region in each year since 1997. [5480]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The information has been placed in the Library.

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many and what percentage of new housing benefit claims were successful in each year since 1997, broken down by region; [5483]

(2) how many new housing benefit claims were made in each year since 1997, broken down by *(a)* basis of claim and *(b)* region. [5484]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** A breakdown of information by the basis for which a claim was made is not available. The available information has been placed in the Library.

### HSC 10-year Plan

**Mr. Nicholas Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what progress has been made against the targets contained in the Health and Safety Commission's Revitalising Health and Safety Strategy 10-year Plan published in June 2000. [13980]

**Margaret Hodge:** The health and safety statistics for 2004–05 will be published in the autumn. These will provide the latest information on progress against the Government and HSC/E's targets.

### Identity Cards

**Mr. Garnier:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what estimate he has made of the cost of equipping his Department's premises with identity card readers; [9891]

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what assessment he has made of *(a)* the cost and *(b)* the merits of checking the biometric identities of individuals receiving benefits and services through his Department. [9941]

**Mr. Timms:** We have been working with the Home Office to identify areas where the identity cards scheme could provide business benefits. On 28 June 2005, my right hon. friend, the Home Secretary placed in the Library a paper containing the latest estimates of benefits of the identity cards scheme which shows that the benefits outweigh the costs once the scheme is fully operational.

The cost of equipping premises will depend on the nature of the use of the identity cards scheme and the type of identity check(s) necessary to deliver the business benefits. In some cases, benefits could be realised without the use of card readers and the cost of installing any readers needs to be considered alongside future plans to refresh or upgrade IT systems. As the design of the scheme matures, during and after the procurement exercise, so will our understanding of where the scheme will be of most benefit which will allow us to further refine our estimates of costs and benefits.

We have conducted a high level assessment of the number of card readers that will be required by the Department. Our initial estimate is that in the region of 4,500 readers may be required. The Home Office currently estimate the cost of a card reader would fall within the range of £250—£750 depending on their level of sophistication and performance.

Detailed work is being undertaken on how the Department will make use of checking the biometric identities of individuals. This will become clearer following further definition of the identity card scheme and DWP business requirements for interaction with the scheme are fully known. However the use of the biometric identity card will facilitate the verification of customer identity and improve customer service. From a counter fraud perspective the production of a biometric identity card will stop an individual registering a claim to benefit in more than one identity.

### Incapacity Benefit

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many claimants of incapacity benefit there were on average in each social services authority in *(a)* 2001 and *(b)* the most recent period for which figures are available. [6327]

**Mrs. McGuire:** The information is not available in the format requested. The information for local authorities in Great Britain has been placed in the Library.

**Mr. Byers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many new claimants aged *(a)* 20 to 29, *(b)* 30 to 39, *(c)* 40 to 49 and *(d)* 50 to 59 years were awarded incapacity benefit in (i) each standard English region, (ii) Wales and (iii) Scotland in each of the last five years; and what percentage this represented of the population in each age group in each year. [7412]

**Mrs. McGuire** *[holding answer 27 June 2005]:* The information has been placed in the Library.

**Mr. Hood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Scotland are in receipt of incapacity benefit; how much money was allocated to incapacity benefit in Scotland in 2004; and if he will make a statement. [14006]

**Mr. Timms:** The incapacity benefit caseload in Scotland for 2004–05 was 326,900.

The incapacity related benefits expenditure in Scotland for 2004–05 was £1,453,000,000 in cash terms.

*Notes:*

1. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest hundred and shown in thousands.

2. The Caseload figures relate to 2004–05.

3. Incapacity-related benefits are Incapacity Benefit (IB), Severe Disablement Allowance (SDA) and Income Support (IS) with a disability premium—credits only IB/SDA cases are also included.

4. Working age claimants are men aged 16–64 and women aged 16–59.

5. Expenditure figures are 2004–05 estimated outturn and are consistent with the DWP Budget 2005 Expenditure Tables on the Internet.

*Source:*

Information Directorate, 5 per cent. Working Age Client Group samples.

### Income Support

**Mr. Frank Field:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the disregard for income support claimants of working age would be if it had been annually increased in line with *(a)* prices and *(b)* earnings. [12362]

**Mr. Timms:** The information requested is in the table.

*The value of income support disregards if indexed to retail prices index (RPI)/average earnings index (AEI) since introduction.*

*(£ per week)*

| | | *Single* | *Couple* | *Lone parent/sick and disabled/carers* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1987 | Actual disregard in 1987 | 5.00 | 15.00 | 15.00 |
| | Value at 2005 if uprated with RPI | 9.60 | 28.85 | 28.85 |
| | Value at 2005 if uprated with Earnings | 12.75 | 38.35 | 38.35 |
| 1997 | Actual disregard in 1997 | 5.00 | 10.00 | 15.00 |
| | Value at 2005 if uprated with RPI | 6.15 | 12.20 | 18.45 |
| | Value at 2005 if uprated with Earnings | 6.95 | 14.00 | 20.85 |
| 2001 | Actual disregard in 2001 | 5.00 | 10.00 | 20.00 |
| | Value at 2005 if uprated with RPI | 5.50 | 10.95 | 21.95 |
| | Value at 2005 if uprated with Earnings | 5.85 | 11.70 | 23.40 |

Notes:
1. RPI/AEI as published by the Office for National Statistics.
2. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 5 pence at each uprating.

*Source:*
Information Directorate (IFD)

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average cost of processing a claim for income support using the Customer Management System (CMS) is; and what the cost was *(a)* prior to the introduction of CMS and *(b)* where the system has yet to be introduced. [12698]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. She will write to the hon. Member.

*Letter from Lesley Strathie to Dr. Lynne Jones, dated 30 August 2005:*

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question concerning what the average cost of processing a claim for Income Support using the Customer Management System (CMS) is; what the cost was *(a)* prior to the introduction of CMS and *(b)* where the system has yet to be introduced. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

In answer to the first part of your question, the implementation of CMS is being progressed on an office-by-office basis along with various other new initiatives. Unit cost data is generated at this level but you will appreciate that this is not the only change impacting on districts over this period of time. You will also appreciate that the significant changes in processing necessitated by CMS mean that some costs are now incurred in different parts of the business. Due to these complexities work to correctly evaluate the impact of CMS implementation has not as yet been completed and I am not currently in a position to provide this data.

However, as part of the original business case, a work study exercise was performed on the part of the Income Support claim process affected by CMS. This identified that pre-CMS, the average cost of this part of the process was £17.40. After CMS is introduced the average cost is expected to fall to £15.09, representing an average saving per claim of £2.31. Jobcentre Plus processes approximately 900,000 new Income Support claims per annum. This would imply an annual saving in the region of £2 million, but this does not take into account all the other benefits arising from more efficient management of customer information.

Nevertheless, when CMS has been fully rolled out across Jobcentre Plus we will be able to compare costs before and after implementation. We are currently intending to perform a full post-implementation evaluation in Spring 2006 when more detailed unit cost information will be available. However, as other initiatives are being implemented in Jobcentre Plus, changes in unit costs may not necessarily be directly attributable to CMS introduction.

Regarding the second part of your question, up to the week commencing 11 July 2005, CMS had been introduced in 24 contact centres and 437 Jobcentre Plus offices around the country, and has yet to be introduced in approximately 62% of the network.

I hope this is helpful.

### Jamie Holyoake

**Mr. Steen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he expects to refund the back-dated income support owed to Jamie Holyoake of Kingsbridge following the decision of the Appeal Tribunal on 16 June at Exeter (registration no. U/03/194/2005/00149). [14435]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. She will write to the hon. Member.

*Letter from Lesley Strathie to Mr. Anthony Steen, dated 30 August 2005:*

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply direct to your question concerning payment of Income Support for Mr Jamie Holyoake of Kingsbridge, following an appeal tribunal decision. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Details of benefit claims are confidential and I will write to you directly on the matter in question.

### Jobcentres

**Hywel Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what discussions he has had with the Minister for Economic Development of the National Assembly for Wales Government regarding job losses arising out of the reconfiguration of jobcentre services on Wales. [14826]

**Margaret Hodge:** There have been no specific discussions with the Minister for Economic Development at the Welsh Assembly Government regarding job losses and Jobcentre Plus office closures in Wales however the Department has engaged with many other Welsh representatives on these issues. I have asked the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie, to write to the hon. Member.

*Letter from Lesley Strathie to Mr. Hywel Williams, dated 30 August 2005:*

The Secretary of State has asked me to write in response to your question regarding discussions he has had with the Minister for Economic Development at the Welsh Assembly Government about job losses arising out of the reconfiguration of Jobcentre services in Wales. The administration of Jobcentre Plus is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive.

I am aware that the Secretary of State for Wales and the First Minister have discussed the effect of the Efficiency Review on Civil Service jobs in Wales on a number of occasions.

In November last year Sheelagh Keyse, the Jobcentre Plus Director for Wales met with Jane Davidson, Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning, to discuss the impact of the changes to service delivery and office closures. At that meeting Mrs Keyse gave an assurance that Jobcentre Plus was committed to avoiding redundancies as far as possible by redeployment, transfers to other Government Departments and Voluntary Early Release Schemes.

Jobcentre Plus is working closely with other Government Departments in Wales, including the Assembly, to ensure that staff affected by these changes have access to other Civil Service vacancies. Compulsory redundancies will only be used as a last resort, where all alternative measures have failed.

I also know that the Jobcentre Plus Management Team in Wales have kept Assembly Members, Members of Parliament and other partners informed of the proposed changes, at regular intervals. They have held a number of meetings with interested parties and as we move to new ways of delivering our services, we will continue to keep everyone fully informed.

**Hywel Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what assessment he has made of the potential change in the number of Welsh speakers employed in jobcentres following reconfiguration of the organisation; [14827]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effect of reconfiguration on jobcentres' ability to provide services to the public through the medium of the Welsh language; and what steps he is taking to ensure that this ability is maintained. [14672]

**Mr. Timms:** The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. She will write to the hon. Member.

*Letter from Mark Fisher to Hywel Williams:*

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply direct to your questions concerning Jobcentre Plus' Modernisation Programme and the impact upon its Welsh Language service. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to Lesley Strathie as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus. As she is currently on leave I am responding on her behalf.

Firstly, I must re-affirm Jobcentre Plus' commitment to providing a fully bi-lingual service to our customers in Wales. Although we will be changing the way we deliver some of our services, it is not envisaged that these changes will have an adverse effect upon our Welsh Language service.

The provision of an effective Welsh Language service is no longer dependent upon the existence of a large number of public facing offices. We are conducting more of our business by telephone or on-line. Where it is necessary to see a customer in person this is generally done by appointment, allowing enough time to arrange for a suitably skilled member of staff to conduct the interview in the customer's language of choice.

You will no doubt recall that David Anderson, the former Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, wrote to you in September last year, in response to your earlier question about our Welsh Language service. In his letter, Mr Anderson outlined the steps we were taking to safeguard this service, which included our plans for a new Contact Centre in Bangor, North Wales and I am now in a position to confirm that our Bangor site will open in April 2006, providing employment opportunities for up to 330 staff.

Whilst I am unable to say specifically how many of our Welsh speaking staff, or for that matter their English speaking colleagues, will be affected by the changes in the way we deliver our services, the availability of Welsh speakers, amongst both our existing workforce and, more generally, the local population, was a key influencing factor when deciding to locate to Bangor. We envisage that a minimum of 50 staff, at this site, will be engaged full-time, in providing a dedicated Welsh Language service to our customers.

Jobcentre Plus also has a long-standing commitment to encourage and support existing members of staff wishing to learn Welsh or improve their ability to speak Welsh in the workplace.

I am confident that the commitments we have entered into in the Departtnent's Welsh Language Scheme, along with our significant investment in Bangor, will mean that Jobcentre Plus is well placed to provide a robust Welsh Language service for many years to come.

## Jobseekers Allowance

**Mr. Weir:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people have moved from claiming jobseekers' allowance *(a)* to work, *(b)* to training and *(c)* to other benefits, broken down by benefit received in each of the last four years. [14903]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The available information requested is in the table.

*JSA off-flows by reason in Great Britain: July 2001 to June 2005*

| Month | Found work | Increases work to 16+ hours/week | Claimed income support | Claimed incapacity benefit | Claimed another benefit | Gone onto approved training | Transfer to Government-supported training |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| July 2001 | 95,160 | 4,115 | 4,390 | 9,955 | 2,555 | 715 | 10,490 |
| August 2001 | 93,025 | 3,680 | 4,180 | 9,165 | 2,395 | 710 | 10,025 |
| September 2001 | 130,645 | 3,720 | 5,190 | 11,020 | 2,970 | 1,060 | 16,355 |
| October 2001 | 110,570 | 3,240 | 4,130 | 9,250 | 2,255 | 1,050 | 13,820 |
| November 2001 | 101,435 | 2,980 | 4,175 | 9,075 | 2,340 | 600 | 13,245 |
| December 2001 | 115,545 | 3,485 | 4,755 | 10,475 | 2,545 | 680 | 17,285 |
| January 2002 | 54,520 | 2,810 | 2,950 | 5,750 | 1,590 | 265 | 6,715 |
| February 2002 | 131,960 | 3,935 | 5,970 | 12,845 | 3,130 | 1,040 | 19,935 |
| March 2002 | 110,945 | 2,930 | 4,450 | 9,580 | 2,360 | 850 | 15,230 |
| April 2002 | 105,765 | 3,030 | 4,055 | 8,585 | 2,135 | 660 | 12,940 |
| May 2002 | 104,990 | 2,700 | 4,370 | 9,255 | 2,230 | 680 | 13,930 |
| June 2002 | 113,860 | 3,240 | 5,275 | 11,085 | 2,670 | 765 | 16,645 |
| July 2002 | 93,400 | 3,045 | 4,610 | 9,455 | 2,335 | 585 | 15,585 |
| August 2002 | 91,645 | 3,350 | 4,535 | 9,040 | 2,290 | 580 | 13,565 |
| September 2002 | 127,360 | 3,520 | 5,390 | 10,770 | 2,795 | 940 | 17,410 |
| October 2002 | 106,760 | 2,940 | 4,585 | 9,075 | 2,440 | 885 | 15,785 |
| November 2002 | 123,805 | 3,520 | 5,665 | 11,275 | 2,870 | 640 | 17,270 |
| December 2002 | 88,035 | 2,600 | 4,080 | 7,880 | 2,050 | 490 | 13,505 |
| January 2003 | 48,205 | 2,500 | 2,945 | 5,280 | 1,510 | 215 | 6,350 |
| February 2003 | 122,385 | 3,480 | 6,285 | 12,395 | 3,385 | 955 | 20,830 |
| March 2003 | 105,905 | 2,725 | 4,680 | 9,450 | 2,655 | 745 | 15,935 |
| April 2003 | 105,260 | 2,505 | 4,430 | 9,225 | 2,420 | 740 | 15,480 |
| May 2002 | 85,100 | 2,330 | 3,925 | 7,625 | 2,050 | 515 | 12,555 |
| June 2003 | 113,325 | 3,140 | 5,520 | 10,735 | 3,075 | 760 | 18,465 |

*JSA off-flows by reason in Great Britain: July 2001 to June 2005*

| Month | Found work | Increases work to 16+ hours/week | Claimed income support | Claimed incapacity benefit | Claimed another benefit | Gone onto approved training | Transfer to Government-supported training |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| July 2003 | 88,155 | 2,610 | 4,640 | 9,120 | 2,600 | 500 | 15,290 |
| August 2003 | 106,840 | 3,295 | 5,435 | 10,455 | 3,025 | 550 | 16,920 |
| September 2003 | 98,475 | 2,465 | 4,450 | 7,945 | 2,395 | 695 | 13,900 |
| October 2003 | 100,920 | 2,485 | 4,370 | 8,400 | 2,440 | 860 | 14,905 |
| November 2003 | 117,085 | 3,100 | 5,430 | 10,295 | 2,925 | 620 | 17,235 |
| December 2003 | 82,710 | 2,220 | 3,755 | 7,505 | 2,125 | 440 | 13,520 |
| January 2004 | 45,000 | 2,115 | 2,840 | 4,785 | 1,570 | 180 | 6,250 |
| February 2004 | 114,935 | 3,050 | 5,790 | 11,525 | 3,405 | 810 | 20,365 |
| March 2004 | 97,025 | 2,435 | 4,225 | 8,710 | 2,675 | 665 | 14,760 |
| April 2004 | 92,900 | 2,130 | 3,985 | 8,015 | 2,360 | 650 | 14,145 |
| May 2004 | 103,980 | 2,495 | 4,755 | 9,170 | 2,775 | 645 | 15,580 |
| June 2004 | 83,400 | 2,130 | 3,960 | 7,745 | 2,565 | 470 | 13,720 |
| July 2004 | 77,960 | 1,920 | 4,115 | 8,290 | 2,600 | 385 | 14,350 |
| August 2004 | 90,765 | 2,500 | 4,885 | 9,425 | 3,130 | 425 | 16,940 |
| September 2004 | 81,110 | 1,895 | 3,790 | 7,310 | 2,325 | 460 | 14,020 |
| October 2004 | 107,505 | 2,500 | 5,070 | 9,605 | 2,920 | 800 | 18,545 |
| November 2004 | 81,405 | 1,950 | 3,985 | 7,375 | 2,285 | 355 | 13,900 |
| December 2004 | 75,420 | 1,865 | 3,700 | 7,055 | 2,095 | 400 | 14,005 |
| January 2005 | 55,945 | 2,055 | 3,620 | 6,055 | 1,980 | 245 | 10,320 |
| February 2005 | 79,295 | 1,910 | 4,285 | 8,030 | 2,570 | 575 | 16,055 |
| March 2005 | 82,125 | 1,930 | 3,970 | 7,625 | 2,505 | 570 | 15,390 |
| April 2005 | 97,290 | 2,070 | 4,555 | 8,475 | 2,785 | 570 | 15,690 |
| May 2005 | 73,995 | 1,710 | 3,890 | 7,340 | 2,265 | 515 | 12,415 |
| June 2005 | 71,930 | 1,750 | 3,945 | 7,180 | 2,270 | 485 | 12,105 |

*Notes:*
1. Caseloads have been rounded to the nearest five.
2. Based on 100 per cent. claimant count.
3. Figures refer to number of awards and not people flowing off JSA.
4. Claimants can flow on and off benefit more than once.

*Source:*
Count of unemployment-related benefits, Jobcentre Plus computer systems (computer held cases only).

**Mr. Hood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in *(a)* Scotland and *(b)* the Lanark and Hamilton East constituency received jobseeker's allowance in 2004; and if he will make a statement. [14062]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The information requested is not available. This is because any figures are snapshots of claimants at a given time. We do not have claimant start or end dates to benefit and cannot therefore produce an annual figure. An overestimate would therefore occur because claimants may appear in more than one monthly figure, when the figures are collected.

However I am able to give you information on the monthly average of people receiving jobseekers allowance (JSA) and a month by month breakdown. It is only possible to provide an average on eleven months of figures as NOMIS only holds historic data going back to February 2004 on the new parliamentary constituency boundaries which came into effect in 2005.

The eleven month average of JSA claimants in Scotland is 93,768 and in Lanark and Hamilton parliamentary constituency is 1,511.

The month by month breakdown is in the table.

*JSA Claimants in Scotland and Lanark and Hamilton East parliamentary constituency, February 2004 to December 2004*

| 2004 | Scotland | Lanark and Hamilton East PC |
|---|---|---|
| February | 106,896 | 1,758 |
| March | 103,519 | 1,681 |
| April | 99,027 | 1,546 |
| May | 94,507 | 1,430 |
| June | 92,406 | 1,468 |
| July | 94,080 | 1,522 |
| August | 94,494 | 1,527 |
| September | 88,401 | 1,416 |
| October | 86,025 | 1,452 |
| November | 86,053 | 1,402 |
| December | 86,043 | 1,418 |

*Notes:*
1. Figures are unrounded.
2. NOMIS figures include clerically held cases.
3. Based on 100 per cent. claimant count.
4. Figures are not available for January 2004.

*Source:*
Count of unemployment-related benefits, Jobcentre Plus computer systems (including clerically held cases).

## Lone Parents (Great Grimsby)

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assistance is available to lone parents who wish to return to work in the Great Grimsby constituency area; how many people took up this assistance in 2004–05; and if he will make a statement. [14370]

**Mr. Timms:** Work focused interviews provide lone parents with the opportunity to discuss work options and find out about the help available to them through the new deal for lone parents. The new deal offers lone parents access to support, advice and training which will improve their employment prospects. Other measures to tackle barriers to lone parents entering work include improving the availability of affordable child care and making work pay through the introduction of child tax credit and working tax credit.

1,700 lone parents have started the new deal for lone parents in Great Grimsby since the beginning of the programme in October 1998, and 950 have gained a job. Figures for lone parents who have participated in and gained work through other new deal programmes are not available.

### Management Consultants

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which five management consultancies received the highest value of contracts awarded by his Department in each of the last three years; and what the total value was of the contracts awarded to each. [12582]

**Mr. Timms:** Information for 2002–03 and 2003–04 is not held centrally and can be obtained only at disproportionate cost. Information for 2004–05 is as follows.

*Top five management consultancies—highest value single contract*

| *Consultancy* | *£ million Original contract value* |
|---|---|
| PA Consulting | 3,374,680 |
| KPMG | 1,699,150 |
| IBM | 1,269,798 |
| PA Consulting | 1,188,220 |
| PwC | 1,139,000 |

*Top five management consultancies—highest total value of contacts*

| *Consultancy* | *£000 Total expenditure* |
|---|---|
| CapGemini | 45,870,317 |
| IBM | 33,975,211 |
| BoozeAllen Hamilton | 17,300,000 |
| PA Consulting | 13,573,955 |
| Deloitte | 4,828,914 |

The Department awards contracts in open and fair competition in accordance with EU procurement regulations based on best value for money.

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his Department's total spending on management consultants has been in each of the last three years. [13152]

**Mr. Timms:** The Department for Work and Pensions spending on management consultancy over the last three financial years was:

£47.79 million in 2002–03;

£223.35 million in 2003–04; and

£98.64 million in 2004–05.

Spend is now reducing from the peak in 2003–04 which represented the middle of the Department's major modernisation programme with its high requirement for external expertise.

### Marginal Deduction Rates

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners have had marginal deduction rates of more than *(a)* 30 per cent., *(b)* 40 per cent., *(c)* 50 per cent., *(d)* 60 per cent., *(e)* 70 per cent., *(f)* 80 per cent., *(g)* 90 per cent. and *(h)* 100 per cent. in each year since 199[illegible]. [13883]

**Mr. Timms:** The information is not available in the format requested. There were 770,000 pensioner households (952,000 individuals) receiving the guarantee element of pension credit only at March 2005. Income is brought fully into account in these cases, although they are not subject to separate benefit withdrawal of council tax benefit or housing benefit (CTB/HB). There were an additional 1,346,000 pensioner households (1,554,000 individuals) receiving both the guarantee and savings credit elements of pension credit at March 2005. These households would be subject to marginal deduction rates (MDRs) of at least 40 per cent.

There were an estimated additional 390,000 pensioner households (510,000 individuals) with incomes above guarantee element levels, but receiving both tapered housing benefit (HB) and tapered council tax benefit CTB). These households would be subject to marginal deduction rates (MDRs) of less than 100 per cent., though they would often exceed 85 pence in the pound.

All recipients of the minimum income guarantee (MIG) were subject to MDRs of 100 per cent. At May 1997, there were 1,720,000 MIG households (1,986,000 individuals). These people are now entitled to pension credit and many of them—of the order of 60 per cent. of those in private households—are also benefiting from the savings element of pension credit. As a result of pension credit, this 60 per cent. no longer face MDRs of 100 per cent. In addition, at May 1997 there were 630,000 pensioner households (820,000 individuals) with incomes above guarantee element levels, but receiving both tapered HB and tapered CTB. These households would be subject to MDRs of less than 100 per cent., though they would often exceed 85 pence in the pound.

*Notes:*

1. MIG and HB/CTB figures are subject to a degree of sampling variation.

2. Pension credit, MIG and HB/CTB are awarded to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple.

3. Pension credit and MIG figures are rounded to the nearest thousand. Due to the estimation procedure to produce the figures for HB/CTB and the collection procedures in Scotland, HB/CTB figures are rounded to the nearest ten thousand.

*Source:*

Information directorate, Department for Work and Pensions. Pension credit data from 100 per cent. extract and MIG data from 5 per cent. extract of income support computer system at March 2005 and May 1997 respectively. HB/CTB data from housing benefit and council tax benefit management information system, Annual 1 per cent. sample, taken in May 2003 and 1997.

### Maximum Working Temperatures

**John Hemming:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has to issue guidelines on maximum working temperatures; and if he will make a statement. [14166]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) is working to enhance existing guidance on thermal comfort in the workplace aimed at employees, employers and other interested parties.

The HSE is working on a new website, which will be launched within the next few weeks. The website has been designed to provide a step-by-step approach to the management, assessment and control of thermal comfort, and includes a number of tools and aide-memoirs to help both employers and employees.

There is also a facility to provide feedback and to join in a debate with other website users. HSE will be using the responses to improve and supplement the website and guidance over the next 12 months.

## New Deal

**Mr. Boswell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the rate of continuing employment was for those placed under each of the new deal schemes after *(a)* 13 weeks, *(b)* 26 weeks and *(c)* 52 weeks in the last period for which figures are available. [12490]

**Mr. Timms:** Information is not available on the length of time individuals have spent in jobs gained through the new deal.

The available information on the number of individuals gaining jobs through new deal, and the proportion of those not returning to claim a working age benefit within 13, 26, and 52 weeks is in the tables.

*New deal for young people*

| | *Number of people gaining a job* | *Proportion of those gaining a job who have not claimed a subsequent working age benefit (percentage)* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | *Within 13 weeks* | *Within 26 weeks* | *Within 52 weeks* |
| January 1998 to June 1999 | 102,090 | — | — | — |
| July 1999 to February 2004 | 384,800 | 79 | 62 | 47 |
| March 2004 to March 2005 | 75,420 | — | — | — |

*Notes:*

1. Information from the longitudinal study is available from July 1999—February 2005. To enable information to be provided on those not returning to claim a working age benefit within 52 weeks, this data is provided up to February 2004.
2. Information on the proportion not claiming a subsequent benefit excludes people who continued an existing benefit claim after starting employment.
3. Numbers are rounded to the nearest 10 and percentages are calculated on unrounded figures.

*Sources:*

New Deal Evaluation Database, Department for Work and Pensions Information Directorate, Department for Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

*New deal for25 plus*

| | *Number of people gaining a job* | *Proportion of those gaining a job who have not claimed a subsequent working age benefit (percentage)* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | *Within 13 weeks* | *Within 26 weeks* | *Within 52 weeks* |
| January 1998 to June 1999 | 18,560 | — | — | — |
| July 1999 to February 2004 | 160,780 | 81 | 68 | 55 |
| March 2004 to March 2005 | 42,050 | — | — | — |

*Notes:*

1. Information from the longitudinal study is available from July 1999—February 2005. To enable information to be provided on those not returning to claim a working age benefit within 52 weeks, this data is provided up to February 2004.
2. Information on the proportion not claiming a subsequent benefit excludes people who continued an existing benefit claim after starting employment.
3. Numbers are rounded to the nearest 10 and percentages are calculated on unrounded figures.

*Sources:*

New Deal Evaluation Database, Department for Work and Pensions Information Directorate, Department for Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

*New deal for lone parents*

| | *Number of people gaining a job* | *Proportion of those gaining a job who have not claimed a subsequent working age benefit (percentage)* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | *Within 13 weeks* | *Within 26 weeks* | *Within 52 weeks* |
| January 1998 to June 1999 | 16,780 | — | — | — |
| July 1999 to February 2004 | 244,040 | 93 | 84 | 74 |
| March 2004 to March 2005 | 71,210 | — | — | — |

*Notes:*

1. Information from the DWP Work and Pensions longitudinal study is available from July 1999—February 2005. To enable information to be provided on those not returning to claim a working age benefit within 52 weeks, this data is provided up to February 2004.
2. Information on the proportion not claiming a subsequent benefit excludes people who continued an existing benefit claim after starting employment.
3. Numbers are rounded to the nearest 10 and percentages are calculated on unrounded figures.

*Sources:*

New Deal Evaluation Database, Department for Work and Pensions Information Directorate, Department for Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

*New deal for disabled people*

| | Number of people gaining a job | Proportion of those gaining a job who have not claimed a subsequent working age benefit (percentage) Within 13 weeks | Within 26 weeks | Within 52 weeks |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| July 2001 to February 2004 | 27,610 | 89 | 82 | 74 |
| March 2004 to March 2005 | 34,450 | — | — | — |

*Notes:*
1. Information from the DWP Work and Pensions longitudinal study is available from July 1999—February 2005. To enable information to be provided on those not returning to claim a working age benefit within 52 weeks, this data is provided up to February 2004.
2. Information on the proportion not claiming a subsequent benefit excludes people who continued an existing benefit claim after starting employment.
3. Numbers are rounded to the nearest 10 and percentages are calculated on unrounded figures.

*Sources:*
New Deal Evaluation Database, Department for Work and Pensions Information Directorate, Department for Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

*New deal 50 plus*

| | Number of people gaining a job | Proportion of those gaining a job who have not claimed a subsequent working age benefit (percentage) Within 13 weeks | Within 26 weeks | Within 52 weeks |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| April 2000 to March 2003 | 98,060 | — | — | — |
| April 2003 to February 2004 | 20,650 | 80 | 71 | 61 |
| March 2004 to March 2005 | 18,580 | — | — | — |

*Notes:*
1. Number of people gaining a job between April 2000 and March 2003 relates to starts to the new deal 50 plus employment credit. Information is not available on the period of time elapsing before people return to claim a working age benefit.
2. Figures from April 2003 to March 2005 are national statistics on people gaining a job through the new deal 50 plus programme.
3. Information from the DWP Work and Pensions longitudinal study is available to February 2005. To enable information to be provided on those not returning to claim a working age benefit within 52 weeks, this data is provided up to February 2004.
4. Information on the proportion not claiming a subsequent benefit excludes people who continued an existing benefit claim after starting employment.
5. Numbers are rounded to the nearest 10 and percentages are calculated on unrounded figures.

*Sources:*
New Deal Evaluation Database, Department for Work and Pensions Information Directorate, Department for Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

*New deal for partners*

| | Number of people gaining a job |
|---|---|
| May 1999 to March 2004 | 1,860 |

*Notes:*
1. Information is not available on the period of time elapsing before people return to claim a working age benefit.
2. Information is for people getting a job through the programme.
3. Numbers are rounded to the nearest 10.

*Sources:* New Deal Evaluation Database, Department for Work and Pensions Information Directorate.

**Mr. Hood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in *(a)* Scotland and *(b)* Lanark and Hamilton East entered the New Deal programme in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [14061]

**Mr. Timms:** The available information for new deal in Scotland is in the following tables, however information for Lanark and Hamilton East is not available as this became a new constituency from May 2005.

*New deal for young people in Scotland*

| Period | Individual starts | Individuals into work |
|---|---|---|
| January 1998 to March 1998 | 560 | 80 |
| April 1998 to March 1999 | 16,530 | 8,040 |
| April 1999 to March 2000 | 14,020 | 12,240 |
| April 2000 to March 2001 | 12,220 | 10,500 |
| April 2001 to March 2002 | 12,870 | 8,930 |
| April 2002 to March 2003 | 14,290 | 8,930 |
| April 2003 to March 2004 | 17,710 | 9,040 |
| April 2004 to March 2005 | 17,370 | 9,150 |

*New deal 25 plus in Scotland*

| Period | Individual starts | Individuals into work |
|---|---|---|
| July 1998 to March 1999 | 4,910 | 980 |
| April 1999 to March 2000 | 7,140 | 2,230 |
| April 2000 to March 2001 | 6,230 | 2,500 |
| April 2001 to March 2002 | 10,890 | 4,260 |
| April 2002 to March 2003 | 11,610 | 5,220 |
| April 2003 to March 2004 | 11,400 | 5,040 |
| April 2004 to March 2005 | 11,450 | 4,910 |

*New deal for lone parents in Scotland*

| Period | Individual starts | Individuals into work |
|---|---|---|
| October 1998 to March1999 | 2,980 | 960 |
| April 1999 to March 2000 | 5,520 | 4,190 |
| April 2000 to March 2001 | 5,690 | 4,330 |
| April 2001 to March 2002 | 8,180 | 5,470 |
| April 2002 to March 2003 | 10,580 | 6,710 |
| April 2003 to March 2004 | 13,470 | 7,340 |
| April 2004 to March 2005 | 17,000 | 7,570 |

*New deal for disabled people in Scotland*

| Period | Individual starts | Individuals into work |
|---|---|---|
| July 2001 to March 2002 | 1,320 | 200 |
| April 2002 to March 2003 | 4,010 | 1,280 |
| April 2003 to March 2004 | 4,240 | 2,460 |
| April 2004 to March 2005 | 7,120 | 4,070 |

*New deal 50 plus in Scotland*

| Period | Individuals into work |
|---|---|
| April 2000 to March 2001 | 4,110 |
| April 2001 to March 2002 | 4,060 |
| April 2002 to March 2003 | 4,010 |
| April 2003 to March 2004 | 3,130 |
| April 2004 to March 2005 | 2,410 |

*Notes:*

1. Figures for new deal 50 plus relate to employment credit starts for the period April 2000 to March 2003, and to people gaining a job through the new deal 50 plus between April 2003 and March 2005.
2. Information is only available on individuals into work for new deal 50 plus.
3. Information for people starting and gaining a job in Scotland is not available for new deal for partners.
4. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

*Source:*

Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate

## Northern Way Agenda

**Mr. Iain Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what mechanisms are in place to co-ordinate Welfare to Work policies with the Northern Way agenda of the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister. [13437]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** This is an important area for partnership between DWP and the three Departments—the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, HM Treasury and the Department of Trade and Industry—with responsibility for the regional economic performance PSA target. DWP has given its support to the objectives of the REP PSA and is represented on the steering group that co-ordinates government activity aimed at meeting the target.

Over 90 per cent. of local authorities in Great Britain have an employment rate above the EU average. Low employment is concentrated in a relatively small number of areas across the country, particularly in our major cities, some former industrial areas and some coastal towns, including Hartlepool.

DWP's PSA targets support the Government's wider agenda by aiming to raise employment rates, especially for groups and areas of the country that currently lag behind the national average. Central to achieving this is the work of Jobcentre Plus and programmes such as new deal, which concentrate resources on areas with concentrations of long-term unemployment and economic inactivity. In addition there are locally focused programmes such as action teams that provide additional support in particularly disadvantaged areas.

Initiatives such as the Northern Way complement this approach by providing further help and support on top of existing welfare to work policies. The Northern Way has recognised the importance of tackling the number of people on incapacity benefits. The last year has seen the numbers on these benefits nationally fall for the first time in several decades, partly through the success of Jobcentre Plus, the new deal and pathways to work. Although the improvement has been concentrated in the areas with the highest rates of benefit receipt, parts of the north-east and other regions continue to have disproportionate numbers claiming incapacity benefits.

## Part-time Study Rules

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he expects to complete the review of the part-time study rules for jobseeker's allowance and housing benefit recipients. [12223]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The review of the part-time study rules is complete. As a result of that review we will be trialling an Adult Learning Option from autumn 2006 in two or three Jobcentre Plus districts in England. The pilot will test the effectiveness of providing financial support for adult Jobcentre Plus customers whose current qualification is below Level 2 to enable them to take up a first full Level 2 qualification through Learning and Skills Council funded provision. Study will be full-time for those taking up the option. At the same time, for those on Jobseekers Allowance who do not take up the learning option, the benefit rules will be strengthened to ensure that any learning is genuinely part-time and does not interfere with job search activity.

## Pathways to Work

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has been made of the effect on people of being subject to Pathways to Work related sanctions in the pilot area. [14330]

**Mr. Timms:** People claiming incapacity benefit in Pathways to Work areas may be sanctioned for failing to attend or take part in a work focused interview (WFI) with a Jobcentre Plus personal adviser.

As part of the evaluation of the pathways pilots the Department has commissioned studies to examine the experiences of incapacity benefit customers and personal advisers; this will include sanctions.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people on incapacity benefit in each of the Pathways to Work areas have had a work focussed interview *(a)* waived or *(b)* deferred. [14339]

**Margaret Hodge:** The information is in the following table:

*Initial work focused interviews (WFI) waived or deferred in each of the seven pathways to work pilots to March 2005*

| District | WFI deferred | WFI waived |
|---|---|---|
| Renfrewshire, Inverclyde, Argyll and Bute | 291 | 771 |
| Derbyshire | 869 | 1,074 |
| Bridgend, Rhondda, Cynon and Taff | 518 | 925 |
| Essex | 721 | 1,150 |
| Gateshead and South Tyneside | 270 | 358 |
| Somerset | 197 | 350 |
| Lancashire East | 546 | 823 |
| Total | 3,412 | 5,451 |

*Source:*

DWP statistics

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people on incapacity benefit who are *(a)* mandatory and *(b)* voluntary participants of the Pathways to Work pilots have taken up (i) condition management programmes, (ii) new deal for disabled people, (iii) Access to Work and (iv) return to work credit. [14340]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** Information on the take up of Access to Work among participants of the Pathways to Work pilots is not available. The available information is in the table.

*Participants in the Pathways to Work pilots who have taken up Condition Management Programmes (CMP), New Deal for Disabled People (NDDP) and Return to Work Credit (RTWC)*

| | CMP | NDDP | RTWC |
|---|---|---|---|
| Mandatory | 4,234 | 4,551 | 4,704 |
| Voluntary | 679 | 1,105 | 2,693 |
| Total | 4,913 | 5,656 | 7,397 |

*Note:*
All figures to March 2005.

**Sir Malcolm Rifkind:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the total expenditure per job obtained under *(a)* the new deal for disabled people and *(b)* the incapacity benefit Pathways to Work pilots has been. [14394]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The average cost of helping an individual into work through new deal for disabled people is £3,948[1].

As the Pathways pilots are still at an early stage, information on cost per individual moving into work is not yet available.

[1] Based on costs and individuals into work up to March 2004.

**Sir Malcolm Rifkind:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will publish his Department's latest assessment of the Pathways to Work pilots. [14397]

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how the Pathways to Work pilot schemes are being evaluated; and when the findings will be published. [14332]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The Department has commissioned a consortium of organisations led by the Policy Studies Institute to conduct a comprehensive evaluation of the Pathways to Work pilots. This involves research with incapacity benefit customers, jobcentre plus staff and service providers and includes qualitative and quantitative assessments of process and outcomes.

The Department has published the following reports as part of the evaluation of the Pathways to Work pilots.

"Incapacity Benefit Reforms—Early findings from qualitative research", the National Centre for Social Research, DWP report no 202 (published September 2004).

"Incapacity Benefit Reforms—The Personal Adviser Role & Practices", the National Centre for Social Research, DWP report no 212 (published November 2004).

"IB Reforms Pilot: Findings from a longitudinal panel of clients", Social Policy Research Unit, DWP report no. 259 (published 7 July 2005).

These reports are available in the Library.

The programme of evaluation continues through until 2008. Further reports will be published in the DWP research series.

### Pension Credit

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many recipients there are of pension credit in the Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey constituency. [14944]

**Mr. Timms:** The information is not currently available. Information on numbers of households and individuals in receipt of pension credit and average awards in each constituency at 31 March 2005 is contained in the most recent quarterly pension credit progress report, which was published on 20 June. A copy of the report is in the Library. The next progress report, with information as at the end of June, will include the new constituencies which came into being at the general election. We expect to be in a position to publish these figures later this year.

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average entitlement to pension credit is in Scotland. [14545]

**Mr. Timms:** At 31 March 2005 the average pension credit award in Scotland was £40.19. Information on numbers of households and individuals in receipt of pension credit in each Government Office region and constituency at 31 March 2005, with average awards, is contained in the most recent quarterly pension credit progress report published on 20 June 2005. A copy of the report is in the Library.

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the uptake of pensions credit as a percentage of overall eligibility.[14546]

**Mr. Timms:** There are now over 2.7 million households in Great Britain receiving pension credit. Estimates based on the Family Resources Survey suggest that there are 3.85 million households entitled to pension credit in Great Britain in 2005–06. These two figures come from different sources, are calculated differently and are not directly comparable. We plan to publish definitive national statistics on take-up and entitlement for the first six months of pension credit by the end of 2005.

### Pension Inequality

**Lynda Waltho:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he is taking to tackle women's pension inequality. [14325]

**Mr. Timms:** For today's women pensioners, pension credit has made a significant contribution to tackling the legacy of pension inequality. For younger women, the state second pension, improving opportunities for women in the workplace and the increasing options for pension flexibility have all contributed to ensuring more equal pension rights for future female pensioners. The proportion of women who are now accruing significant second-tier state pensions is similar to that of men.

We want to continue to make progress. Fair outcomes for women and carers is one of our principles for pension reform and will be one of the key factors on which proposals for reform will be judged. To help develop our thinking, we will be holding an event later this year to discuss how to make the pensions system work well for women. Prior to this event, we will publish our analysis of the pension position of women to enable evidence-based discussion.

### Pension Service/Benefits Agency

**Mr. Salmond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many complaints have been received

relating to the loss of *(a)* birth certificates and *(b)* other supporting documents sent to the Dundee Pension Service Centre in each year since 2001; whether an internal assessment has been made of the number of (i) birth certificates and (ii) other supporting documents lost at the Dundee Pension Service Centre; and what estimates he has made of the number of (A) birth certificates and (B) other supporting documents lost at each Pension Service Centre for each year since 2001. [14606]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** In 2004–05 the Dundee Pension Centre handled 92,485 claims to state pension and applications for pension credit and during this period the Royal Mail handled 308,796 items of mail on its behalf. The Dundee Pension Centre regularly analyses data about complaints, in order to identify and resolve any problems as they arise. Where necessary, procedures are changed to improve service delivery.

Between 1 April 2002 and 21 July 2005 the Dundee Pension Centre 70 complaints about lost documents. The data held do not distinguish between types of document.

Information on numbers of complaints before April 2002, when the Pension Service came into being, is not available. Information on the number of documents lost at pension centres is not held centrally.

**Mr. Salmond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the effectiveness and security of mail delivery and opening arrangements at *(a)* the Dundee Pension Service centre and *(b)* other Pension Service centres. [14607]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The opening and distribution of mail in pension centres in Great Britain, whether by in-house teams or external providers, is carried out according to service level agreements or similar terms and conditions. These arrangements are monitored on a regular basis. In addition, the Department has a number of regional contract managers who ensure that agreements are being adhered to and that the security, confidentiality and effectiveness of mail handling arrangements are maintained. We are aware of the value that our customers place in their documentation and so the Pension Service is committed to returning them within five working days.

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many fax machines are sited at the work stations of helpline staff of *(a)* the Benefits Agency and *(b)* the Pensions Service. [10267]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** Jobcentre Plus, which brought together the Benefits Agency and the Employment Service in 2002, operates two national telephone helplines, namely Jobseeker Direct and Employer Direct. All Jobcentre Plus call centres have fax machines, but information on the number of machines is not available. The various telephone services provided by the Pension Service are not regarded as helplines and none of its staff are regarded as helpline staff.

## Pensions

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the level of business pensions which are at risk because of off-balance sheet budgeting by companies; and if he will make a statement. [7646]

**Mr. Timms:** We have made no such estimate.

## Publications

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will list the publications issued by his Department in each of the last seven years; and what the *(a)* circulation, *(b)* cost and *(c)* purpose of each was. [10478]

**Mrs. McGuire:** This information is not held centrally and could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

## SERPS

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) if he will include inherited SERPS from contracted-out pensions in pension forecasts where applicable; [14350]

(2) if he will produce a leaflet giving advice on claiming inherited SERPS for widows or widowers whose spouse was contracted-out of SERPS; [14352]

(3) how many pensioners receive inherited SERPS where the contributing spouse was *(a)* contracted into and *(b)* contracted-out of SERPS; [14353]

(4) what estimate he has made of the number of people who do not benefit from an entitlement to inherited SERPS where the contributing spouse was contracted-out of SERPS. [14354]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** Rights to a state earnings-related pension scheme (SERPS) pension inherited from a deceased spouse, including rights derived from contracted-out employment prior to 6 April 1997, are included in the surviving spouses state pension forecasts where the Department is informed of the person's marital status.

A number of factors, including contracting-out, determine the extent to which state SERPS pension can be inherited. Leaflet SERPSL1 provides general information on inheritance of a SERPS pension and points out that there is an interaction with any contracted-out occupational pension provision accrued prior to 1997. More detailed information is available in leaflet NP46: a guide to State Pensions. We keep the content of our leaflets under review to ensure that the information is accurate.

Information on the total number of people receiving an inherited SERPS pension and whether the deceased spouse, from whose contributions the pension is derived, was contracted-out of SERPS is not available as it is not possible to separately identify the inherited element of a SERPS pension where the recipient is also entitled to a SERPS pension in their own right. Such information as is available is below and relates solely to people whose only entitlement to a SERPS pension is derived from their deceased spouse's contributions.

At 30 September 2004, around 639,200 recipients of category B state pension had potential entitlement to an inherited SERPS pension before any adjustment in respect of their deceased's spouse's contracted-out

employment was applied. An adjustment was applied in 366,800 cases. Following the adjustment, 1,000 had no entitlement to an inherited SERPS pension and 365,800 had entitlement to a reduced inherited SERPS pension.

*Notes:*

1. Figures are taken from a 5 per cent. sample and are subject to a degree of sampling variation.
2. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest hundred
3. Entitlement to a category B state pension is derived solely from a spouse's or deceased spouse's national insurance contributions.

*Source:*

Information directorate, 5 per cent. sample.

### Shipyard Workers

**Mr. Nicholas Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what measures have been put in place on Tyneside by his Department to help unemployed former shipyard workers *(a)* retrain for and *(b)* find another job. [13975]

**Mr. Timms:** Our flexible employment programmes, such as the new deal, delivered through Jobcentre Plus and work based learning for adults, provide a service that meets the needs of individuals, local areas and local employers and have been a tremendous success in helping to achieve record levels of employment.

In addition to mainstream programmes, Jobcentre Plus has approved rapid response funding in excess of £370,000 to assist customers, made redundant in the shipbuilding industry on Tyneside, through re-training programmes. Such re-training is still continuing and training programmes accessed cover a range of subjects, the most common being offshore survival, safety training passports, rope access courses and upgrading of welding certificates.

Partner organisations who worked alongside Jobcentre Plus to assist those made redundant consisted of; One North East, Government office for the north east, North Tyneside council, South Tyneside council, Business Link, Learning Skills Council and Work Force Development.

### Sickness Absence

**Sir Malcolm Rifkind:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many days of sickness absence were taken in his Department in the year to April 2005. [12211]

**Mrs. McGuire:** For the 12 month period 1 April 2004 to 30 March 2005 the average number of working days lost in the Department for Work and Pensions was 12.5 days.

### Staff Numbers

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many members of staff have been employed in each agency and non-departmental public body sponsored by his Department in each year since 1997–98; and if he will make a statement. [12275]

**Mrs. McGuire:** The Department for Work and Pensions was established in June 2001 bringing together the Department of Social Security and parts of the former Department for Education and Employment, including the Employment Service. The number of staff in the new Department at this date was 119,052. Comparable historical staffing figures before this date are not available.

The breakdown of staffing within the Department, agencies and non-departmental public bodies from April 2002 to March 2005 is in the following table.

*Staffing numbers 30 April 2002 to 31 March 2005*

| | *30 April 2002* | *31 March 2003* | *31 March 2004* | *31 March 2005* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Jobcentre Plus | 86,082 | 78,564 | 79,122 | 73,406 |
| The Pension Service | 8,782 | 17,019 | 18,567 | 16,189 |
| Child Support Agency | 10,753 | 11,256 | 10,779 | 9,784 |
| Disability and Carers Service | 7,380 | 7,207 | 7,103 | 6,506 |
| Appeals Service | 925 | 881 | 816 | 752 |
| The Rent Service | — | — | — | 718 |
| Other departmental units | 12,701 | 13,715 | 11,895 | 11,719 |
| Non-departmental public bodies | 191 | 183 | 173 | 155 |
| Departmental total | 126,814 | 128,825 | 128,455 | 119,229 |
| Health and Safety Executive | 4,282 | 4,162 | 4,019 | 3,854 |

*Notes:*

1. Figures are civil service full time equivalent posts (rounded) and exclude staff on paid maternity leave.
2. Jobcentre Plus and the Pension Service were established on 1 April 2002.
3. The Rent Service joined the Department from 1 April 2004 from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister.
4. Disability and Carers Service was granted agency status from 1 November 2004.
5. The Health and Safety Executive joined the Department on 24 July 2002. The Health and Safety Executive is not normally included in departmental staffing totals.

### State Retirement Pensioners

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many state retirement pensioners there are in the Stroud constituency; and what percentage that represents of the total electorate of that constituency. [14153]

**Mr. Timms:** As at 30 September 2004 there were 20,800 recipients of the state pension in the Stroud parliamentary constituency of whom 7,600 were males and 13,200 females. This represents around 26 per cent. of the electorate.

*Notes:*

1. Recipient figures, rounded to the nearest 100, are taken from a 5 per cent. sample and are therefore subject to a high degree of sampling variation.
2. Parliamentary constituencies are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant Office for National Statistics postcode directory.

*Sources:*

1. Number of recipients—IAD Information Centre, 5 per cent. sample as at September 2004.
2. 2005 electoral data—Stroud district council.

### Work Placement Services

**Mr. Boswell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what research he has collated on the relative *(a)* efficiency and *(b)* cost of work placement services conducted by Jobcentre Plus and the private sector. [12489]

**Mr. Timms:** Jobcentre Plus works in partnership with the Private and Voluntary Sector in delivering a significant proportion of the support to Jobcentre Plus customers. There are few examples where it is possible to make a robust, like-for-like, comparison. However, an analysis of relative cost-effectiveness formed part of the wider analysis of Employment Zones, and the results are contained within the report "Working age research and analysis", publication No. 176 (2003), which is available on the Department for Work and Pensions website.

The report relates to the original Employment Zones which helped the New Deal 25 plus client group. Analysis showed that the costs per participant were approximately £1,500 for Employment Zones, approximately £500 higher than those incurred by Jobcentre Plus for mandatory customers.

However, the analysis also identified that Employment Zones achieved more employment outcomes. These findings suggest that Employment Zones are broadly as cost-effective as Jobcentre Plus at providing work placements.

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### 2012 Olympics

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what meetings have been held with the International Olympic Commission to discuss security for the 2012 Olympics following the events of 7 July. [16020]

**Mr. Charles Clarke:** There have been no security meetings with the International Olympic Commission since 7 July. In accordance with the arrangements set out in the London bid, a committee chaired by myself will be responsible for overseeing the security preparations for the 2012 Olympic Games.

**Mr. Horam:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) whether handgun competitions will be permitted to be held in London in 2012 as part of the Olympic games; [14337]

(2) whether pistol shooting will be permitted in UK rifle and pistol clubs so that British competitors can train in Olympic disciplines in the UK prior to 2012. [14338]

**Hazel Blears:** We have no plans to repeal the provisions in the Firearms (Amendment) Acts 1997 which prohibit the private possession of handguns. However, special arrangements will be put in place to allow pistol shooting events at the London Olympics as with the 2002 Commonwealth games. These arrangements will include a warm up event if this is deemed necessary

### Abductions

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 14 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 1210W, on abductions, if he will break down the figures by *(a)* London borough, *(b)* gender, *(c)* age and *(d)* nationality. [15509]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** Data from the Home Office Court Proceedings database on the number of people prosecuted for abduction or kidnapping by London borough, gender and age, 1997 to 2003 are contained in the table. Data on the defendant's nationality are not centrally collected.

Statistics for 2004 court proceedings will be available in the autumn.

*Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts for abduction or kidnapping in London, 1997–2003*[1,2]*, by age and sex*

*Defendants*

| *Offence description* | *Principal statute* | *Sex* | *Age group* | *1997* | *1998* | *1999* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Abduction of children | Child Abduction Act 1984 s.1 and 2 as amended by the Children Act 1989 | Male | 15–17 | — | — | 1 |
| | | | 18–20 | — | 3 | — |
| | | | 21 and over | 14 | 6 | 10 |
| | | | Total | 14 | 9 | 11 |
| | | Female | 15–17 | 1 | — | — |
| | | | 18–20 | — | 1 | 2 |
| | | | 21 and over | 4 | 1 | 5 |
| | | | Total | 5 | 2 | 7 |
| Abduction of female having interest in property | Sexual Offences Act 1956 s.17 (in part) | Male | 21 and over | — | — | 1 |
| Abduction of female by force | Sexual Offences Act 1956 s.17 (in part) | Male | 21 and over | 2 | — | 2 |
| Abduction of unmarried girl under 16 | Sexual Offences Act 1956 s.20 | Male | 15–17 | — | — | — |
| | | | 21 and over | 2 | 2 | 3 |
| | | | Total | 2 | 2 | 3 |
| | | Female | 21 and over | — | — | — |
| Kidnapping | Common Law | Male | 10–14 | — | — | — |
| | | | 15–17 | 22 | 2 | 15 |
| | | | 18–20 | 13 | 6 | 22 |
| | | | 21 and over | 38 | 56 | 50 |
| | | | Total | 73 | 64 | 87 |

*Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts for abduction or kidnapping in London, 1997–2003 [1,2], by age and sex*

*Defendants*

| *Offence description* | *Principal statute* | *Sex* | *Age group* | *1997* | *1998* | *1999* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Female | 10–14 | — | 1 | — |
| | | | 15–17 | 1 | — | 2 |
| | | | 18–20 | — | 1 | 2 |
| | | | 21 and over | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| | | | Total | 3 | 4 | 5 |

| *Offence description* | *Principal statute* | *Sex* | *Age group* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Abduction of children | Child Abduction Act 1984 s.1 and 2 as amended by the Children Act 1989 | Male | 15–17 | 1 | — | — | — |
| | | | 18–20 | — | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| | | | 21 and over | 5 | 8 | 9 | 11 |
| | | | Total | 6 | 9 | 10 | 12 |
| | | Female | 15–17 | — | — | — | 1 |
| | | | 18–20 | 1 | — | — | — |
| | | | 21 and over | 5 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| | | | Total | 6 | 3 | 2 | 2 |
| Abduction of female having interest in property | Sexual Offences Act 1956 s.17 (in part | Male | 21 and over | — | — | — | — |
| Abduction of female by force | Sexual Offences Act 1956 s.17 (in part) | Male | 21 and over | — | — | — | — |
| Abduction of unmarried girl under 16 | Sexual Offences Act 1956 s.20 | Male | 15–17 | — | — | 1 | 1 |
| | | | 21 and over | — | — | 1 | — |
| | | | Total | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 |
| | | Female | 21 and over | — | — | 1 | — |
| Kidnapping | Common Law | Male | 10–14 | — | — | 1 | 5 |
| | | | 15–17 | 6 | 12 | 17 | 16 |
| | | | 18–20 | 17 | 31 | 20 | 29 |
| | | | 21 and over | 41 | 80 | 80 | 92 |
| | | | Total | 64 | 123 | 118 | 142 |
| | | Female | 10–14 | 2 | — | 1 | — |
| | | | 15–17 | — | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| | | | 18–20 | 1 | — | 2 | 2 |
| | | | 21 and over | 4 | 4 | 7 | 7 |
| | | | Total | 7 | 5 | 12 | 10 |

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis
[2] Includes Metropolitan and City of London police force areas.

### Advisory Council for the Misuse of Drugs

**Mrs. Gillan:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the date of appointment was of each member of the Advisory Council for the Misuse of Drugs. [4042]

**Paul Goggins:** Members of the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs are appointed by the Secretary of State as required by the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 and in accordance with the Code of Practice for the public appointments process issued by the Office of the Commissioner of Public Appointments.

Members are ordinarily appointed for terms of three years each, subject to a maximum of 10 years. Details of the date of first appointment, number of terms served and date of last appointment of each current member is given in the table.

*Annex A*
*Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs*

| *Member* | *No. of terms* | *First appointed* | *Reappointed* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Professor Sir Michael Rawlins (Chair) | 2 | 1 November 1998 | 1 November 2002 |
| Dr. Dima Abdulrahim | 1 | 1 January 2002 | 1 January 2005 |
| Lord Victor Adebowale | 1 | 1 January 2002 | 1 January 2005 |
| Mr. Martin Barnes[1] | — | 1 January 2005 | — |
| Dr. Margaret Birtwistle | 1 | 1 January 2002 | 1 January 2005 |
| Reverend Martin Blakebrough | 2 | 1 January 1999 | 1 January 2005 |
| Dr. Cecilia Bottomley | 1 | 1 January 2002 | 1 January 2005 |
| Ms Carmel Clancy | 1 | 1 January 2002 | 1 January 2005 |
| Professor Ilana Crome | 1 | 1 January 2002 | 1 January 2005 |
| Ms Robyn Doran | 1 | 1 January 2002 | 1 January 2005 |
| Ms Dianne Draper[1] | — | 1 January 2005 | — |
| Mr. Robert Eschle | 1 | 1 January 2002 | 1 January 2005 |
| Professor Hugh Edmondson | 1 | 1 January 2002 | 1 January 2005 |

*Annex A*
*Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs*

| *Member* | *No. of terms* | *First appointed* | *Reappointed* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Ms Vivienne Evans | 2 | 1 January 1999 | 1 January 2005 |
| Professor C. Robin Ganellin FRS | 1 | 1 January 2002 | 1 January 2005 |
| Dr. Clare Gerada[1] | — | 1 January 2005 | — |
| Dr. Laurence Gruer | 3 | 1 January 1996 | 1 January 2005 |
| Mr. Paul Hayes | 2 | 1 January 1999 | 1 January 2005 |
| Mr. Andrew Hayman | 1 | 1 January 2002 | 1 January 2005 |
| Mr. Russell Hayton | 2 | 1 January 1999 | 1 January 2005 |
| Ms Caroline Healy[1] | — | 1 January 2005 | — |
| Dr. Matthew Hickman[1] | — | 1 January 2005 | — |
| Mr. Alan Hunter | 2 | 1 January 1999 | 1 January 2005 |
| Professor Leslie Iversen[1] | — | 1 January 2005 | — |
| His Honour Judge Thomas Joseph | 1 | 1 January 2002 | 1 January 2005 |
| Dr. John Marsden | 1 | 1 January 2002 | 1 January 2005 |
| Mr. Peter Martin | 1 | 1 January 2002 | 1 January 2005 |
| Professor David Nutt | 2 | 1 March 2000 | 1 January 2005 |
| Dr. Richard Pates | 1 | 1 January 2002 | 1 January 2005 |
| Mr. Trevor Pearce | 1 | 1 January 2002 | 1 January 2005 |
| Mrs Kay Roberts | 2 | 1 January 1999 | 1 January 2005 |
| Dr. Roy Robertson | 3 | 1 January 1996 | 1 January 2005 |
| Dr. Mary Rowlands | 1 | 1 January 2002 | 1 January 2005 |
| Dr. Polly Taylor | 1 | 1 January 2002 | 1 January 2005 |
| Ms Monique Tomlinson | 1 | 1 January 2002 | 1 January 2005 |
| Mr. Arthur Wing[1] | — | 1 January 2005 | — |

[1] Indicates new member

**Mrs. Gillan:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he has asked members of the Advisory Council for the Misuse of Drugs whether they have *(a)* previously used cannabis and *(b)* advocated liberalisation of the laws governing the use of cannabis. [4862]

**Paul Goggins:** The members of the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs have not been asked either of these questions.

### Air Weapons

**Stewart Hosie:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proposals he has received from the Scottish Executive on possible amendments to the Violent Crime Reduction Bill in relation to licensing or control of air weapons in Scotland. [14940]

**Hazel Blears:** We are considering what further measures might be taken to tighten up controls on air weapons across Great Britain as a whole and in doing so we have been discussing a range of options with the Scottish Executive.

### Airgun Clubs

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many airgun clubs there are which have been approved by his Department. [14838]

**Hazel Blears:** There are currently 1,252 rifle clubs approved by the Home Office. It is not possible to say how many of these use air weapons.

### Alcohol Abuse

**Mr. Crabb:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what financial assistance was provided by his Department to support the work of organisations dealing with alcohol abuse in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2004, broken down by organisation. [7544]

**Hazel Blears:** The Home Office does not provide any direct funding to organisations dealing with alcohol abuse. Money provided for probation services may be used on alcohol treatment, though it is up to individual probation areas to decide whether to do so.

### Alcohol-related Crime

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people in Milton Keynes have been convicted of crimes in which alcohol has been a contributory factor in each of the last five years. [14244]

**Paul Goggins:** It is not possible from the data held on the Home Office court proceedings database to identify all offences in which alcohol has been a contributory factor as information on the background of the offences is not collected.

The following table gives figures for offenders convicted in Milton Keynes between 1999 and 2003 of offences relating to drunkenness and drink driving.

Figures for 2004 will be available in the autumn.

*Numbers of offenders in Milton Keynes convicted at all courts of crimes relating to alcohol, 1999 to 2003*

*Offenders convicted*

| *Offence* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Drunkenness | 161 | 148 | 170 | 131 | 157 |
| Driving etc, after consuming alcohol or taking drug | 540 | 438 | 500 | 544 | 564 |
| Causing death by careless driving when under the influence of drink or drugs | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |

*Note:*
Figures are on a principal offence basis

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many incidents of alcohol-related violence there were in Cambridgeshire in each year since 1997; and what percentage of the total number of violent crimes this represented in each case. [14552]

**Paul Goggins:** The information requested is not collected centrally. It is not possible from the recorded crime statistics to identify those offences which are alcohol related.

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prosecutions there have been in Cambridgeshire for *(a)* permitting drunkenness or riotous conduct on the premises or selling liquor to a drunken person, *(b)* selling intoxicating liquor to persons under 18 years for consumption on the premises, *(c)* wholesalers selling intoxicating liquor to a person under 18 years and *(d)* delivery of alcohol to a person under 18 years or allowing such delivery in each year since 1997. [14553]

**Andy Burnham:** Information on number of defendants proceeded against at Cambridgeshire magistrates courts, between 1997 and 2003, for selling intoxicating liquor to persons under 18 years for consumption on the premises, is provided in the table. There were no prosecutions in Cambridgeshire for the other offences during this period.

*Number of defendants proceeded against at Cambridgeshire magistrates courts for selling etc intoxicating liquor to person under 18 for consumption on the premises' under the Licensing Act 1964 S.169 A and B as added by Licensing (Young Persons) Act 2000 S.11997–2003*[1]

| | *Proceeded against* |
|---|---|
| 1997 | 2 |
| 1998 | 7 |
| 1999 | — |
| 2000 | 4 |
| 2001 | 2 |
| 2002 | — |
| 2003 | — |

[1] These data are on a principal offence basis.

## Antisocial Behaviour

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individuals have been *(a)* dispersed, *(b)* arrested and *(c)* removed to their home address under the relevant powers contained in the Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003 in each month of 2004, broken down by (i) borough, (ii) age, (iii) ethnicity, (iv) offence and (v) outcome. [13101]

**Hazel Blears** *[holding answer 18 July 2005]:* This information is not collected centrally. It is estimated that dispersal powers have been authorised in over 400 areas in England and Wales between January 2004, when the powers came into force in September 2004. The Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police tells me that, between January and December 2004, the Metropolitan Police authorised 63 dispersal areas under section 30 of the Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003. A breakdown by London borough is shown in the following table

| *London boroughs* | *Number of dispersal areas January to December 2004* |
|---|---|
| Barnet | 1 |
| Brent | 2 |
| Bromley | 6 |
| Camden | 2 |
| Croydon | 4 |
| Dagenham | 2 |
| Ealing | 5 |
| Enfield | 4 |
| Greenwich | 1 |
| Hackney | 1 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 3 |
| Haringey | 1 |
| Hillingdon | 5 |
| Hounslow | 3 |
| Islington | 4 |
| Lambeth | 2 |
| Lewisham | 1 |
| Merton | 2 |
| Newham | 1 |
| Redbridge | 2 |
| Richmond | 3 |
| Romford | 1 |
| Tower Hamlets | 2 |
| Waltham Forest | 1 |
| Wandsworth | 1 |
| Westminster | 3 |
| Total | 63 |

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what medical history is taken from individuals issued with an antisocial behaviour orders. [13561]

**Hazel Blears:** It is for local agencies to determine what medical history should be considered when applying for an antisocial behaviour order (ASBO). If there is evidence to suggest that a perpetrator of antisocial behaviour is suffering from a medical condition, mental health condition, disability or is vulnerable in any other way then a practitioner with specialist knowledge should be involved in an assessment process to determine the cause of the behaviour and whether an ASBO is the most appropriate tool to address that behaviour. The assessment should take account of any known medical conditions or disabilities as well as uncovering undiagnosed problems.

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps the Government have taken to tackle the causes of antisocial behaviour; and if he will make a statement. [13745]

**Hazel Blears:** An effective approach to tackling antisocial behaviour is based on a mixture of support and sanction. For example, the Home Office recently announced on 29 June half a million pounds funding for individual support orders (ISOs) for young people between the ages of 10 and 17.

The TOGETHER campaign was set up to ensure that antisocial behaviour is dealt with swiftly and effectively by local services. The first phase was about equipping practitioners with the tools and the know-how. We have seen some good results: over 4,500 antisocial behaviour orders, over 150 crack house closure orders and over 400 dispersal orders.

**Mr. Llwyd:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he plans to introduce across the country mediation schemes aimed at individuals who exhibit antisocial behaviour. [14172]

**Hazel Blears:** The Home Office has no plans to introduce mediation schemes aimed at individuals across the country who exhibit antisocial behaviour. The Government response to the Home Affairs Select Committee published in June 2005 addressed this point after it had been raised during the Committee's inquiry into antisocial behaviour.

The Government explained that mediation can form an important part of a tiered approach to tackling antisocial behaviour. However we would not wish to advocate one single response approach as this might not be applicable to all local circumstances.

Mediation also forms part of our advice to practitioners on the preventive and support measures as part of the TOGETHER campaign.

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will publish figures for the number of antisocial behaviour orders levied by each local authority since their introduction. [15208]

**Paul Goggins:** A detailed breakdown of antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) issued by local authority area up to 31 December 2004 (latest available) can be downloaded from the Crime Reduction website at: www.crimereduction.gov.uk/asbos2.htm

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will state how many antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) have been issued in *(a)* Birmingham and *(b)* Solihull in each year since the creation of ASBOs. [15211]

**Hazel Blears:** The available information is given in the table.

*Number of ASBOs applied for and issued, as notified to the Home Office, where restriction: are imposed within specific local authority areas from 1 April 1999[1,2] to 31 December 2004 (latest available)*

| *Area/year* | *Total ASBOs issued on application/on conviction* |
|---|---|
| *Birmingham city council* | |
| 1 April 1999 to 31 May 2000 | [3]— |
| 1 June 2000 to 31 December 2000 | 3 |
| 1 January 2001 to 31 December 2001 | 13 |
| 1 January 2002 to 31 December 2002 | 10 |
| 1 January 2003 to 31 December 2003 | 25 |
| 1 January 2004 to 31 December 2004 | 72 |
| Total | [4]123 |
| *Solihull metropolitan borough council* | |
| 1 April 1999 to 31 May 2000 | [3]— |
| 1 June 2000 to 31 December 2000 | 0 |
| 1 January 2001 to 31 December 2001 | 0 |
| 1 January 2002 to 31 December 2002 | 1 |
| 1 January 2003 to 31 December 2003 | 5 |
| 1 January 2004 to 31 December 2004 | 17 |
| Total | [5]23 |

[1] ASBOs introduced from 1 April 1999 under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.
[2] Between 1 April 1999 to 31 May 2000 data were collected on aggregate numbers only by police force area (pfa). 11 ASBOs were issued within the West Midlands pfa within this period.
[3] Not known
[4] Includes 25 orders where restrictions include the whole of England and Wales and four orders which include the whole of the West Midlands.
[5] Includes two orders where restrictions include the whole of England and Wales and one order which includes the whole of the West Midlands.

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many antisocial behaviour orders have been issued in Milton Keynes since 1 January 2004. [13997]

**Hazel Blears:** From 1 January 2004 up to 31 December 2004 (latest available) the number of antisocial behaviour orders issued at all courts, as reported to the Home Office, where restrictions were imposed within the local government authority area of Milton Keynes borough council, is 13.

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, for what reason his Department does not keep the figures for prosecutions in the event of an antisocial behaviour order being breached. [15938]

**Hazel Blears:** The Home Office Court Proceedings Database only holds details of prosecutions for breaching a criminal or civil order where the person has been found guilty. All other outcomes are excluded. Hence all of the breach figures we give in answer to parliamentary questions are based on findings of guilt.

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many antisocial behaviour orders have been issued in *(a)* South Cambridgeshire, *(b)* East Cambridgeshire and *(c)* Cambridgeshire in each year since they were introduced. [14554]

**Hazel Blears:** The available information is given in the following table.

*The number of ASBOs applied for and issued, as notified to the Home Office, within Cambridgeshire and where restrictions are imposed within specific local authority areas from 1 April 1999[1] to 31 December 2004 (latest available)*

| *Area/year* | *Total ASBOs issued on application/on conviction* |
|---|---|
| *Cambridgeshire* | |
| 1 April 1999 to 31 May 2000 | 5 |
| 1 June 2000 to 31 December 2000 | 1 |
| 1 January 2001 to 31 December 2001 | 2 |
| 1 January 2002 to 31 December 2002 | 2 |
| 1 January 2003 to 31 December 2003 | 14 |
| 1 January 2004 to 31 December 2004 | 24 |
| Total | [2]48 |
| *South Cambridgeshire district council* | |
| 1 April 1999 to 31 May 2000 | [3]— |
| 1 June 2000 to 31 December 2000 | 0 |
| 1 January 2001 to 31 December 2001 | 0 |
| 1 January 2002 to 31 December 2002 | 0 |
| 1 January 2003 to 31 December 2003 | 0 |
| 1 January 2004 to 31 December 2004 | 0 |
| Total | 0 |
| *East Cambridgeshire district council* | |
| 1 April 1999 to 31 May 2000 | [3]— |
| 1 June 2000 to 31 December 2000 | 0 |
| 1 January 2001 to 31 December 2001 | 0 |
| 1 January 2002 to 31 December 2002 | 0 |
| 1 January 2003 to 31 December 2003 | 0 |
| 1 January 2004 to 31 December 2004 | 0 |
| Total | 0 |

[1] ASBOs introduced from 1 April 1999 under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.
[2] Includes four orders where restrictions apply to the whole of England and Wales and eight orders which apply to the whole of the county.
[3] Not known.

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many antisocial behaviour orders have been breached in Cambridgeshire in each year since they were introduced; and what percentage of the total issued this represented in each case. [14555]

**Hazel Blears:** Data on convictions for breach of an antisocial behaviour order (ASBO) are currently available from one June 2000 to 31 December 2003 and are available at the criminal justice system (CJS) area level only. Of the 19 ASBOs reported to the Home Office as having been issued in the Cambridgeshire CJS area (which is coterminous with the county area) during this period, eight were breached on one or more occasions. The number and years in which first time breaches occurred are as follows: one in 2001, one in 2002 and six in 2003.

Breach data for 2004 will be available towards the end of the year.

### Arrests

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance he has given to police officers on briefing the media when a person is *(a)* arrested, *(b)* detained in custody and *(c)* convicted; if he will place such guidance in the Library; and if he will make a statement. [14123]

**Hazel Blears:** I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave on 23 February 2005, *Official Report*, column 736W. The guidance is publicly available on the ACPO website and I have placed a copy in the Library. Conviction is a matter of public record and any briefing subsequent to conviction is a matter for the chief officer of the force concerned.

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will issue guidance to police forces that a representative from social services should be present when possible when a mentally disabled person is arrested. [13142]

**Hazel Blears:** As indicated in my earlier response to the hon. Member of 18 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 1495W, the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (PACE) and associated Codes of Practice require that persons detained in a police station who appear to be mentally vulnerable must be given special consideration as summarised in Code C, Annex E. In cases of those people detained under section 136 of the Mental Health Act 1983, an approved social worker and registered medical practitioner must be called to interview and examine the detainee. The police station is not the most suitable place to detain people suffering from mental disorder and it is not always possible in that environment to ensure that people suffering from mental disorder are identified and given suitable attention.

These issues are exacerbated at the point of arrest. In cases of arrest which are not pre-planned, the ability to make use of someone from social services is impractical. The circumstances of the arrest and any considered risk must be notified to the custody officer on arrival at the police station. In cases of a planned arrest, it is an operational decision for the chief officer of the force concerned how best that should be carried out and any other personnel who should accompany the arresting officer.

### Assaults

**Mr. Kemp:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many physical attacks have been made on *(a)* firefighters, *(b)* police officers and *(c)* ambulance staff in Houghton and Washington East constituency in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [13183]

**Hazel Blears:** The information requested is not collected centrally.

**Mr. Kemp:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many physical attacks have been made on shop workers in the constituency of Houghton and Washington East in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [13240]

**Hazel Blears:** Recorded crime statistics do not normally identify the location of offences, or the occupation of victims. The British Crime Survey provides an overview of the extent of violence at work in England and Wales, examines the nature of these incidents and looks at the level of worry among workers about becoming victims of workplace violence. Information is not, however, available at a local level.

**Mr. Iain Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many attacks have been made on shop workers in Hartlepool in the last three years. [13443]

**Paul Goggins:** Recorded crime statistics do not normally identify the location of offences, or the occupation of victims. The British Crime Survey provides an overview of the extent of violence at work in England and Wales, examines the nature of these incidents and looks at the level of worry among workers about becoming victims of workplace violence.

Information is not, however, available at a local level.

### Asylum Seekers

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 4 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 115W, on asylum seekers, how many asylum seekers have applied for the right to work following the introduction of the EU directive; and what steps he has taken to publicise this change in the law. [13215]

**Mr. McNulty** *[holding answer 18 July 2005]:* The information requested is not centrally recorded and could be obtained only by examination of individual case files. The National Asylum Support Service (NASS) amended its policy bulletin number 72 on Employment and Voluntary Activity to make the change clear. This was shared with the voluntary sector agencies assisting asylum seekers supported by NASS and with other members of the National Asylum Support Forum, and is available on the internet. In addition, guidance issued to new asylum seekers was amended to take account of the change in policy.

**Mr. Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the total number of failed asylum seekers in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* each county. [14095]

**Mr. McNulty:** The information requested is not available and could be produced only at disproportionate cost.

The recent National Audit Office report "Returning failed asylum applicants" acknowledges that the number of failed asylum seekers in the UK is impossible to determine as some will have left the country of their own accord.

No Government have ever been able to produce an accurate figure for the number of failed asylum seekers who are in the country illegally. By its very nature it is impossible to quantify accurately, and that remains the case. We do not know how many failed asylum seekers remain in the country, because there is no means of counting those who leave the country on their own accord without informing the immigration authorities.

Information on the number of removals of failed asylum seekers is published quarterly and annually, on the Home Office Research Development and Statistics Directorate website at http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html

**Mr. Fabian Hamilton:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what support his Department offers asylum seekers who have failed in their applications but whose countries are too dangerous for them to be returned to. [14713]

**Mr. McNulty:** Unsuccessful asylum seekers unable to leave the country immediately due to circumstances entirely beyond their control may be provided with support under section four of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999. This support is provided in the form of accommodation and, where possible, food. Where food is not provided vouchers valued at £35 per week are issued to enable the supported person to buy food. Essential toiletries are also provided.

**Mr. Fabian Hamilton:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will allow asylum seekers to work while their applications are being considered. [14714]

**Mr. McNulty:** I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave him on 4 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 115W.

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many failed asylum seekers have been returned to safe third countries in each of the last five years, broken down by country; and if he will make a statement. [14719]

**Mr. McNulty:** The requested information is not available. Information on the destination of failed asylum seekers removed from the UK during 2004, including a breakdown between removals to the country of nationality and removals to elsewhere, will be published in the Home Office Statistical Bulletin: Asylum Statistics United Kingdom 2004, which will be published in August. Information for earlier years is not available and could be produced only at disproportionate cost.

Information on the numbers of failed asylum seekers removed are published every quarter on the Home Office website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html.

**Mr. Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the total amount spent on benefits for asylum seekers has been in each county in each year since 1997. [14760]

**Mr. McNulty:** The information is not available in the precise format requested. Local authorities retain responsibility for providing support to certain asylum seekers and can claim grant from the Home Office to meet the reasonable costs of providing this support. Details of the grants paid for adults and families since 1 April 1999 and Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC), since 1 April 2000 are available on the Immigration and Nationality Directorate website:

http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/ind/en/home/applying/national_asylum_support/stakeholders/finance.html.

Other expenditure on the provision of support to asylum seekers is not recorded by individual county or local authority and therefore a breakdown cannot be provided. Prior to 1 April 1999 the Department of Health was responsible for the grant to local authorities for the provision of support to asylum seekers.

**John Bercow:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Darfuri asylum seekers whose applications are being fast-tracked are being detained. [15031]

**Mr. McNulty:** Immigration and Nationality Department electronic records are based on the nationality or country of origin of the claimant rather than ethnicity or regional origin. Accordingly figures can only be provided for Sudanese claims. Information relating to asylum seekers claiming to be from Darfur would not necessarily be reliable, and could be produced only at disproportionate cost by examination of individual case files.

Information on the numbers of asylum seekers detained, by nationality, is published quarterly in the official asylum statistics, available from the Library of the House and from the quarterly and annually, on the Home Office Research Development and Statistics Directorate website at http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html.

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum seekers have been housed in *(a)* the East of England, *(b)* Suffolk, *(c)* the constituency of Bury St. Edmunds and *(d)* each local authority area in Suffolk in each of the last seven years. [15122]

**Mr. McNulty:** The information is not available in the format requested. Statistical information on the location of asylum seekers is linked to the support they are receiving. Since 3 April 2000 the National Asylum Support Service (NASS) has been responsible for providing support for adult and family asylum seekers. Local authorities retain responsibility for supporting some longer standing adult and family asylum seekers under the Asylum Support (Interim Provisions) Regulations 1999, as amended. Local social services departments are responsible for supporting unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASCs) irrespective of when the application for asylum is made. Available information on the location of asylum seekers housed either directly by the National Asylum Support Service (NASS) or by local authorities is in the following tables.

In addition, at the end of March 2005 there were 50 unsuccessful asylum seekers receiving support under section four of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 in the East of England region.

*Asylum seekers supported by local authority*

| East of England local authorities | March 2003 | | March 2004 | | March 2005 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Interim scheme | UASCs | Interim scheme | UASCs | Interim scheme | UASCs |
| Bedfordshire | 85 | 15 | 50 | 10 | n/a | 5 |
| Cambridgeshire | 135 | 25 | 35 | 15 | 25 | 15 |
| Essex | 110 | 55 | 110 | 60 | 60 | 65 |
| Hertfordshire | n/a | 95 | 110 | 85 | 40 | 50 |
| Luton | 300 | 50 | 235 | 55 | 90 | 20 |
| Norfolk | 90 | 35 | 80 | n/a | 40 | n/a |
| Peterborough | 55 | 35 | 40 | 30 | 10 | 25 |
| Southend on Sea | 200 | 15 | 155 | 15 | 85 | 15 |
| Suffolk | 15 | 15 | 10 | 35 | 10 | 15 |
| Thurrock | 110 | 110 | 70 | 90 | 25 | 50 |
| Total | 1,100 | 450 | 895 | 395 | 385 | 260 |

*Number of people in MASS accommodation in the East of England*

| Local authority | As at end December: 2002 | 2003 | 2004 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Bedford | 15 | 25 | * |
| Broadland | — | * | 5 |
| Cambridge | * | — | * |
| Epping Forest | 10 | 15 | 10 |
| Ipswich | 75 | 75 | 65 |
| Luton | 5 | 5 | 10 |
| Norwich | — | 100 | 145 |
| Peterborough | 425 | 470 | 350 |
| Southend-on-Sea | — | 20 | 10 |
| Stevenage | — | * | * |
| Watford | — | 5 | — |
| Sub-total | 535 | 730 | 590 |

* = 1 or 2.

*Note:*
Figures are rounded to the nearest 5 and therefore may not sum

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many units of council accommodation his Department has reserved in each local authority area in Suffolk for asylum seekers; for what period; and how many are vacant. [15123]

**Mr. McNulty:** The National Asylum Support Service (NASS) has contracted with both the private and public sector and registered social landlords to provide accommodation for asylum seekers. Within Suffolk there is one designated dispersal area for asylum seekers requiring accommodation. That area is Ipswich and there are no units of contracted council accommodation within that area.

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what was the net current expenditure on asylum seekers by each local authority, in each year since 1996; and what is the estimated figure for 2005–06. [15212]

**Mr. McNulty:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my predecessor, the hon. member for Kilmarnock on 17 November 2004, *Official Report*, column 1574W.

Information on claims and grants for the financial years 1999–2000 to 2003–04 is on the Immigration and Nationality Directorate website. Information for 2004–05 will be included on the website as soon as the figures have been cleared by the auditors.

**Peter Bottomley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many Zimbabweans have been removed to Zimbabwe and to Malawi in each of the past six months. [15870]

**Mr. McNulty:** The latest published information on removal of asylum seekers covers the first quarter of 2005.

The number of persons removed of Zimbabwean nationality, for the six months from October 2004 until March 2005, by destination is shown in the table. These figures include people departing voluntarily after enforcement action has been initiated against them and people leaving under assisted voluntary returns programmes run by the International Organization for Migration. Figures have been rounded to the nearest five.

Information on removals of asylum seekers for the second quarter of 2005 will be published in August on the Home Office website at http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html.

*Removals and voluntary departures[1] of asylum applicants, excluding dependants, nationals of Zimbabwe, October 2004 to March 2005, by destination[2]*
*Number of principal applicants*

| | Total persons[3,4] | of whom returned to Zimbabwe | Malawi |
|---|---|---|---|
| October 2004 | 10 | 10 | — |
| November 2004 | 10 | 10 | — |
| December 2004 | 30 | 30 | — |
| January 2005 | 35 | 35 | — |
| February 2005 | 20 | 20 | — |
| March 2005 | 40 | 35 | * |

[1] Includes persons departing "voluntarily" after enforcement action had been initiated against them, persons leaving under assisted voluntary return programmes run by the International Organization for Migration, and removals on safe third country grounds.
[2] Provisional figures.
[3] Figures rounded to the nearest five, with * = 1 or 2 and — = 0, may not sum due to rounding.
[4] Figures exclude dependants of asylum seekers removed.

### Automatic Number Plate Recognition

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many number plates have been logged per day on average in each month since the automatic number plate recognition system has been in place; and how many related to *(a)* stolen vehicles,

*(b)* non-payment of vehicle excise duty, *(c)* expired MOT certificates and *(d)* absence of insurance in each case. [3957]

**Paul Goggins:** During the 18 month period that covered both Laser pilot exercises, automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) systems recorded over 32 million reads. However, a detailed breakdown of these reads is not held centrally.

### Badger Cruelty

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make it his policy to make badger cruelty a notifiable offence. [12462]

**Hazel Blears:** The Protection of Badgers Act 1992 provides the required statutory protection for badgers. Offences under the Act are recordable on the Police National Computer, although they are not notifiable to the Home Office for the purposes of the recorded crime statistics.

The recorded crime statistics are restricted to offences which are indictable or triable either way and a few closely related summary offences. Although these arrangements may be changed without legislation, we do not consider that the additional workload on the police which would be entailed by a requirement to notify such summary offences would be justified.

### Benefits

**Mr. Sarwar:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) if he will remove *(a)* incapacity benefit and *(b)* disability living allowance from the list of public funds HC 251 (as amended); [14377]

(2) for what reasons *(a)* disability living allowance and *(b)* incapacity benefits are included in the list of public funds in HC 251 (as amended). [14378]

**Mr. McNulty:** As a general rule, individuals with limited leave to remain in the UK are not entitled to certain income-related benefits, including disability living allowance and severe disablement allowance, because they are funded entirely out of revenue from general taxation and entitlement does not require payment of national insurance contributions. The rationale behind this is that those who have not established their right to remain permanently in the UK should not have welfare provision on the same basis as those whose citizenship or status here gives them an entitlement to benefits when in need. This is reflected in the immigration rules.

All those admitted to the UK for a temporary purpose are required under the rules to be able to maintain and accommodate themselves and any dependants without recourse to a defined list of public funds. Consequently all those in the UK on limited leave generally have a condition endorsed in their passports prohibiting recourse to public funds.

There are no plans to remove disability living allowance and severe disablement allowance from the list of public funds. Incapacity benefit is not currently on the list because entitlement generally depends on the payment of national insurance contributions.

### Bio-terrorism

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what advice his Department has issued on dealing with the latest forms of bio-terrorism; and if he will make a statement. [13973]

**Mr. Charles Clarke:** The latest Government advice on counter terrorism including bio-terrorism can be found on the following websites: UK Resilience (www.ukresiliene.info/home.htm) and the Security Service (www.mi5.gov.uk). More detailed advice can also be found on the Health Protection Agency website (www.hpa.org.uk).

The Government will issue any specific advice on particular threats as and when it is needed. General advice on dealing with emergencies, can be found on the UK Resilience website and was also issued to households and businesses last year.

### Borders

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what research his Department has conducted into the role that advance passenger information can provide in strengthening border security. [13211]

**Mr. McNulty:** The systematic capture of passenger information in advance of travel is at the heart of our multi-agency e-Borders programme, which will create a modernised and secure border for the UK.

As part of the work which led to the development of the e-Borders vision, a significant amount of research was carried out by the Immigration Service into the potential benefits that the receipt of passenger information in advance of travel could bring in improving both the effectiveness and efficiency of border control. As part of that work a comprehensive study was carried out in 2002 by an external contractor, which concluded that there were substantial benefits, including in the area of enhanced border security, to be gained from an Advance Passenger Processing system with advance passenger information at its core.

Many other countries have introduced, or are seeking to introduce, systems which aim to exploit the benefits of advance passenger information and the development of the e-Borders concept owes much to the research we have conducted into other countries' practical experience in this area.

The border agencies are already using passenger information to varying degrees and day to day experience demonstrates the benefits that having such data in advance of travel can bring. Moving forward with the e-Borders programme, project Semaphore, the pilot test bed project for the wider programme, is currently giving us the opportunity to learn more about the practical use of advance passenger information the receipt of which, even on the restricted number of routes involved so far, is already providing tangible operational benefits.

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the treaty basis is for those elements of the EU borders agency FRONTEX that have been established. [15911]

**Mr. McNulty:** The treaty bases for Council Regulation (EC) No 2007/2004 of 26 October 2004 (OJ L 349, 25 November 2004) which established the European Border Agency (FRONTEX) are Articles 62(2)*(a)* and 66 of the treaty establishing the European Community.

On 26 April, on the basis of Article 15 of Regulation 2007/2004, the Council adopted Council Decision 8151/05 FRONT 61 COMIX 246 + COR1(en) + COR2(en) to site the agency's headquarters in Warsaw. The agency was then formally established on 1 May and two meetings of its Management Board have subsequently been held in Warsaw. The agency's executive director, Colonel Ilkka Laitinen, has been appointed on the basis of Article 20 of Regulation 2007/2004 and following the procedure set out under Article 26 of that Regulation.

### British Citizenship

**Ian Stewart:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department why additional documentary evidence was not requested until 22 October 2004 with regard to Application H 357963 for British citizenship. [14363]

**Mr. McNulty:** The case was reviewed while we were awaiting the result of our enquiries. It came to light during that review that more satisfactory evidence should have been obtained from the applicant to confirm that she met the residence requirements. This further evidence was duly sought.

### Burglar Alarms

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent changes have been made to the protocols governing the police response to burglar alarms in *(a)* Greater Manchester and *(b)* England and Wales; what national guidelines exist in this area; and what recent discussions he has had with the insurance industry on this matter. [13221]

**Hazel Blears** *[holding answer 18 July 2005]:* The policy governing police response to burglar alarms in England and Wales was produced by the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) in 1995 and is reviewed on a regular basis. The policy ('Police Response to Security Systems') was most recently reviewed in April 2005 and is available on the ACPO website (www.acpo.police.uk); no substantive changes were made as a result of the review. The policy resulted from discussions held by ACPO with the private security industry and the Association of British Insurers, who continue to be consulted as part of any review.

### Car Tax Discs

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cars in Lancashire have been crushed for not having tax discs in each of the last three years. [14591]

**Dr. Ladyman:** I have been asked to reply. The number of unlicensed vehicles in Lancashire (including Greater Manchester and Merseyside) which have been disposed of by crushing is as follows.

| | Number |
|---|---|
| 2002-03 | 2,529 |
| 2003-04 | 3,721 |
| 2004-05 | 3,329 |

### Careless Driving

**Mr. Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the results of his consultation exercise on careless driving will be published; and if he will make a statement. [14649]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** The Review of Road Traffic Offences involving Bad Driving consultation paper was published on 3 February. The consultation paper included a proposal for a new offence of causing death by careless driving. The consultation period ended 6 May. We have received 185 responses from individuals and organisations and the consultation has also been the subject of 11 petitions.

We are now in the process of carefully analysing all the responses received and we will publish a summary in due course alongside our plans for addressing this issue.

### Cash in Transit Attacks

**Mr. McGovern:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how cash in transit attacks are classified in the recorded crime statistics. [15147]

**Hazel Blears** *[holding answer 20 July 2005]:* Such offences are recorded by the police as robbery of business property. They cannot be separately identified from other offences which are recorded under this classification.

**Mr. McGovern:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether there is a national strategy for dealing with cash in transit attacks; and if he will make a statement. [15148]

**Fiona Mactaggart** *[holding answer 20 July 2005]:* The Home Office has been in discussion with the British Security Industry Association and the police to consider ways of reducing cash in transit robberies in England and Wales.

The industry has committed itself to tackling this crime through the spreading of good practice and the use of technology to protect cash in transit deliveries. They are also working closely with the police to share intelligence relating to such robberies.

In addition, the police are developing a menu of options to address commercial robbery more generally, including those relating to cash in transit vehicles and personnel.

**Mr. McGovern:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if he will allocate greater police resources to tackle cash in transit attacks. [15149]

**Hazel Blears** *[holding answer 20 July 2005]:* The Government has put significant resources into the police service in England and Wales over the last few years. Expenditure on policing supported by Government grant or spent centrally on services for the police has risen by over 39 per cent. or £3 billion between 2000-01 and 2005-06.

Operational issues, such as tackling cash in transit attacks, are matters for the local chief constable.

**Mr. McGovern:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many passers-by have been injured in cash in transit attacks in each year since 2000. [15150]

**Hazel Blears** *[holding answer 20 July 2005]:* The information requested is not collected centrally.

### Child Abuse

**Mrs. Curtis-Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress the Senior Investigating Officers Handbook on abuse investigations' review group has made; and if he will make a statement. [13644]

**Paul Goggins:** The Senior Investigating Officers' working group is making steady progress in revising and updating this manual of guidance. It deals with the investigation of allegations of historical, institutional and complex child abuse. A conference involving relevant practitioners is due to be held in September and the target is to submit a draft of the revised guidance to the Association of Chief Police Officers in April 2006.

### Child Protection

**Mr. Sarwar:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps he is taking to strengthen child protection on the internet. [13641]

**Paul Goggins:** The Government are determined to do everything they can to protect children from the insidious use of the internet by paedophiles.

We have established the Task Force on Child Protection on the internet which includes representatives of the industry, the police, children's charities, MPs from the main parties and others, as a forum where ideas to protect children and promote safe use of the internet can be discussed and developed. Among the many initiatives to come out of the task force's work, the Home Office has run four public awareness campaigns to reinforce the basic safety messages to parents and children, has developed various models of good practice including access to content through mobile phones, and is close to finalising documents covering moderated chat and search services. The industry has worked, through the Internet Watch Foundation, to virtually eliminate hosting of illegal images of child abuse by UK companies and a number of providers have developed solutions to block access to material hosted overseas.

The Sexual Offences Act 2003, which came into force on 1 May 2004, made grooming a child, both offline and online, an offence, punishable by up to 10 years in jail. We have increased the maximum sentences for possession and distribution of indecent images of children (offences for possession from six months to five years and for production and distribution offences from three years' imprisonment to 10 years).

We also announced in April that we will set up a new Centre for Child Protection on the internet to support the police and child protection agencies. The centre will target paedophiles using the internet to distribute illegal images and "groom" children, and aims to reduce the harm caused to children, families and the wider community by child abuse facilitated by misuse of the internet. The centre will also include the Secretariat to the Virtual Global Taskforce, an international alliance of law enforcement agencies seeking to share lessons learned from investigations into on-line child abuse around the world.

This is an international issue and we continue to take a lead within international fora in tackling this problem, for example through the G8 where Ministers have recently committed to the development of an international database of child abuse images, and through initiatives such as a joint EU Presidency/Virtual Global Taskforce Conference to be held on 14–16 November in Belfast.

### Civil Participation (Faith Communities)

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what policies he is pursuing to encourage greater participation in civil society by faith communities; and if he will make a statement. [3893]

**Paul Goggins:** Faith communities play an important role in building strong active communities and provide benefits to wider society.

Through the "Working Together" framework Government are improving consultation and engagement with faith communities across Whitehall.

In addition, the Government actively encourages and supports faith communities to contribute to community cohesion through its strategy "Improving Opportunity, Strengthening Society", which focuses on improving the life chances of the most disadvantaged communities. The £3 million capacity building fund, announced as part of this strategy, will assist faith communities to participate more effectively in civil society.

### Community Orders

**Mrs. Curtis-Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make a statement on the effectiveness of community orders since their inception. [11812]

**Paul Goggins:** Community penalties can be an effective alternative to short term custodial sentences. The actual reconviction rate within two years for adults commencing an order in 2001 was 51 per cent., 1 per cent. lower than the predicted reconviction rate.

Community penalties also display a high compliance rate. Figures for May 2005 show that the compliance rate is 74 per cent. Community penalties allow offenders to maintain employment, education and family links, all factors which are important in reducing the risk of reoffending, whilst punishing the offender and delivering interventions to address offending behaviour.

The Criminal Justice Act 2003 changes the structure of community sentences by providing a single order made up of one or more requirements. This allows the court greater flexibility in tailoring the sentence to the offence and the offender in each case, enabling a greater prospect of effectiveness.

### Community Support Officers

**Mr. Hands:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many police community support officers there are in each London borough. [16222]

**Hazel Blears:** I understand from the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis that the number of Police community support officers in London boroughs s at 31 March 2005 is that as provided in the following table.

*Police community support officers in the Metropolitan Police, as at 31 March 2005*

| | *Strength (full-time equivalent)* |
|---|---|
| Kensington and Chelsea | 63.12 |
| Westminster | 245.74 |
| Camden | 48.44 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 32.55 |
| Hackney | 51.00 |
| Tower Hamlets | 59.00 |
| Waltham Forest | 38.84 |
| Redbridge | 38.72 |
| Havering | 40.56 |
| Newham | 75.87 |
| Barking and Dagenham | 38.40 |
| Lambeth | 75.00 |
| Southwark | 41.00 |
| Islington | 38.00 |
| Lewisham | 36.55 |
| Bromley | 33.00 |
| Harrow | 35.00 |
| Brent | 30.00 |
| Greenwich | 43.00 |
| Bexley | 47.28 |
| Barnet | 44.00 |
| Richmond upon Thames | 36.00 |
| Hounslow | 44.60 |
| Kingston upon Thames | 29.00 |
| Merton | 33.10 |
| Wandsworth | 47.00 |
| Ealing | 43.27 |
| Hillingdon | 34.00 |
| Enfield | 44.56 |
| Haringey | 37.00 |
| Croydon | 46.78 |
| Sutton | 32.00 |
| Total | 1,622.38 |

### Control Orders

**John Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the next report on control orders will be published; and if he will make a statement. [14725]

**Mr. Charles Clarke:** Section 14(1) of the Prevention of Terrorism Act 2005 (the 2005 Act) requires me to report to Parliament as soon as reasonably practicable after the end of every relevant three month period on my exercise of the control order powers during that period.

The current three month period ends on 10 September. As the House is currently in recess, I will report to Parliament as required as soon as practicable in the new Session.

I can however say now that during the period 11 June to 7 September, I made one order with the permission of the court under section 3(1)*(a)* of the 2005 Act on 5 September 2005 in respect of a British national. And I have revoked nine of the orders which I made in the previous quarter against individuals who were formerly certified under section 21(1) of the Anti-terrorism, Crime and Security Act 2001. There are therefore three control orders currently in force.

I have refused three requests to modify the obligations in the control orders which I have made. A right of appeal exists in section 10 of the 2005 Act against a decision by the Secretary of State not to modify an obligation contained in a control order. None of those subject to a control order has exercised this right in respect of the refusals mentioned above.

### Controlled Drugs

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment has been made of the merits of moving responsibility for policy on controlled drugs from the Home Office to the Department of Health; and if he will make a statement. [14551]

**Paul Goggins:** The Home Department remains in the lead for co-ordinating the Government's response to the problems of drug misuse.

The Department of Health is leading on strengthening the governance arrangements for controlled drugs in healthcare settings. These strengthened arrangements will replace the existing, fragmented system for monitoring and inspecting controlled drugs. Changes are being made in response to the recommendation made by Dame Janet Smith in her 4th Report of the Shipman Inquiry: The Regulation of Controlled Drugs in the Community.

Consideration is also currently being given to transferring the licensing and inspection functions of the Home Office to the Medicines Healthcare Regulatory Agency (MHRA), an agency of the Department of Health. This would be a rationalisation measure following the implementation of the Shipman Inquiry recommendations.

### Correspondence

**Sir Gerald Kaufman:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) when he expects to reply to the letter to him dated 19 January 2005 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton, with regard to Juliet Kufvor; [10687]

(2) when he will answer the letter dated 19 January 2005 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton, with regard to Juliet Kufvor. [7931]

**Mr. Charles Clarke:** I wrote to my right hon. Friend on 22 July 2005.

**Mr. MacShane:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will reply to the letter of the right hon. Member for Rotherham sent on 13 December 2004 requesting the return of identity documents to Mr. Iskaudar Anwar Raouf. [13928]

**Mr. McNulty** *[holding answer 21 July 2005]:* I wrote to my hon. Friend to clarify Mr. Raouf's immigration status on 21 July 2005. A letter was also sent by recorded delivery to Mr. Raouf's legal representatives on 20 July 2005, enclosing documents confirming his immigration status.

**Mr. Mullin:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects to respond to the letter of 17 June from the hon. Member for Sunderland South regarding Gholameza Mohtashami Tootkabori (ref: T1019249). [15151]

**Mr. McNulty:** I wrote to my hon. Friend on 25 July 2005.

**Mr. Mullin:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what response he has made to letters from Mr. Clive Stafford Smith dated 15 May and 28 June regarding UK residents currently detained in Guantanamo Bay; and if he will place a copy in the Library. [15884]

**Mr. McNulty:** It would not be appropriate to place copies of correspondence about an individual's immigration status in the Library. I replied to the letter of 15 May 2005 on 8 July 2005 and shall reply to the letter of 28 June 2005 as soon as I possibly can.

## Courts (Police Time)

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make a statement on the results of co-operation between the courts and the police to ensure efficient use of police time during court hearings. [8048]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** In 2003 pilots were undertaken to test an approach for improving the use of officers' time whilst waiting to give evidence. Following evaluation, the proposals were not taken forward as success was dependent upon the close geographical location of the court and police station.

The Criminal Case Management Framework, which was issued in July 2004 and reissued on 21 July 2005, brings together a number of CJS initiatives and is aimed at providing court users with more consistency and higher levels of service. The framework strongly recommends that hearings are properly prepared; that witnesses, including police witnesses, are notified of hearing dates in advance; and, where possible, evidence that is agreed is identified prior to the hearing.

## Crime

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if he will publish figures for the number of recorded offences of *(a)* violence against the person, *(b)* sexual offences, *(c)* robberies, *(d)* burglaries, *(e)* theft of a vehicle, *(f)* theft from a vehicle in (i) Birmingham and (ii) Solihull crime and disorder reduction partnership areas, in each year since 1998. [15209]

**Hazel Blears:** The available information is given in the tables. Data at Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership area level is only available from 1999–2000. The National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS) was introduced on one April 2002 and figures before and after that date are not directly comparable. It is estimated that the effect of the introduction nationally of the NCRS was a 23 percent. increase in recorded violence against the person in its first year.

The introduction of the Sexual Offences Act 2003 in May 2004 resulted in substantial changes in the sexual offences group which mean that figures for 2004–05 are not comparable with those for previous years.

*Table 1: Recorded offences in the Birmingham Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership area—1999–2000 to 2001–02*

*Number of offences*

| *Period* | *Violence against the person* | *Sexual offences* | *Robbery* | *Burglary in a dwelling* | *Theft of a vehicle* | *Theft from a vehicle* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1999–2000 | 16,723 | 931 | 6,375 | 15,793 | 14,461 | 19,851 |
| 2000–01 | 19,854 | 1,061 | 6,835 | 13,770 | 12,021 | 17,075 |
| 2001–02 | 23,137 | 1,362 | 7,915 | 14,314 | 11,012 | 16,687 |

*Note:*
The data in this table is prior to the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002. These figures are not directly comparable with those for later years.

*Table 2: Recorded offences in the Birmingham Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership area—2002–03 to 2004–05*

*Number of offences*

| *Period* | *Violence against the person* | *Sexual offences* | *Robbery* | *Burglary in a dwelling* | *Theft of a vehicle* | *Theft from a vehicle* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2002–03 | 22,002 | 1,340 | 5,976 | 11,811 | 10,244 | 15,745 |
| 2003–04 | 23,903 | 1,377 | 6,164 | 12,170 | 9,811 | 13,949 |
| 2004–05 | 24,036 | 1,446 | 5,135 | 8,250 | 7,248 | 10,583 |

*Note:*
The data in this table takes account of the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002. These figures are not directly comparable with those for earlier years.

*Table 3: Recorded offences in the Solihull Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership area—1999–2000 to 2001–02*

*Number of offences*

| *Period* | *Violence against the person* | *Sexual offences* | *Robbery* | *Burglary in a dwelling* | *Theft of a vehicle* | *Theft from a vehicle* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1999–2000 | 2,225 | 105 | 324 | 1,904 | 1,850 | 3,658 |
| 2000–01 | 2,543 | 107 | 467 | 1,765 | 1,522 | 3,467 |
| 2001–02 | 2,382 | 126 | 663 | 1,815 | 1,377 | 3,147 |

*Note:*
1. The data in this table is prior to the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002. These figures are not directly comparable with those for later years.

*Table 4: Recorded offences in the Solihull Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership area—2002–03 to 2004–05*

*Number of offences*

| *Period* | *Violence against the person* | *Sexual offences* | *Robbery* | *Burglary in a dwelling* | *Theft of a vehicle* | *Theft from a vehicle* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2002–03 | 2,597 | 129 | 452 | 1,645 | 1,301 | 3,451 |
| 2003–04 | 2,936 | 168 | 449 | 1,687 | 1,041 | 3,221 |
| 2004–05 | 2,974 | 198 | 529 | 1,270 | 900 | 2,572 |

*Note:*
The data in this table takes account of the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002. These figures are not directly comparable with those for earlier years.

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many individuals have been *(a)* prosecuted and *(b)* convicted under the Mobile Telephones (Reprogramming) Act 2002. [15367]

**Hazel Blears:** The available information taken from the Home Office court proceedings database shows the number of defendants proceeded against and found guilty in 2003 for offences under the Mobile Telephones (Reprogramming) Act 2002.

Data for 2004 will be available in the autumn.

*Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for offences under the Mobile Telephones (Re-programming) Act 2002, England and Wales 2003*[1]

| *Offence* | *Proceeded against* | *Found guilty* |
|---|---|---|
| Re-programming mobile telephone etc | 11 | 3 |
| Possession or supply of anything for re-programming purposes | 4 | 1 |

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment has been made of the impact of alcohol-disorder designation on rents and rateable values for businesses within the zone. [15835]

**Hazel Blears:** The Regulatory Impact Assessment for the Alcohol Disorder Zone (ADZ) provision of the Violent Crime Reduction Bill has been printed.

The ADZ is an instrument to tackle the problem of alcohol-related crime and disorder that afflicts a particular area. It is the problem rather than the means of tackling it that affect to the most serious degree the rents and rateable values of businesses.

It should also be added that the ADZ is seen as a measure of last resort to deal with entrenched problems. The need for designation must be reviewed after three months by the local authority. It is not intended as a permanent measure but, by facilitating swift resolution of the problems, benefits all those within the zone.

**Anne Main:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the reoffending rate of offenders within the Hertfordshire probation area is. [16232]

**Paul Goggins:** The information requested is not currently available.

**Mr. Sheerman:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate he has made of the value of the illegal drugs trade in *(a)* Huddersfield, *(b)* Yorkshire and *(c)* England in the past 10 years. [16287]

**Paul Goggins:** The information requested is not routinely collected, although in 2001 the Home Office published a report that provided an estimate of the total value of the illegal drugs market in the UK. The report is available on the RDS website at http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs/occ74-drugs.pdf. It shows that the estimated total value of the UK market in 1998 was £6.6 billion.

**Mr. Sheerman:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what representations he has received from the manufacturers of airsoft guns on adapting to the provisions of the Violent Crime Reduction Bill. [16292]

**Paul Goggins:** We have received and are considering representations from a range of individuals and organisations about the effect the Violent Crime Reduction Bill will have on airsoft guns. Only realistic imitation firearms will be caught by the proposed ban on manufacture, import or sale and owners of existing guns will be able to retain and use them.

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent research he has evaluated concerning the cost of crime to households in Barnet. [8279]

**Hazel Blears:** The updated cost of crime estimates were published by the Home Office on 30 June and show costs by crime type. A geographical breakdown of the estimates at local level is not available.

**Dr. Kumar:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* muggings and *(b)* drug-related crimes have been recorded in the area covered by the Middlesbrough, South and East Cleveland constituency in each year since 1997. [12525]

**Hazel Blears:** Mugging is not a category of offence for police recorded crime. There is a mugging category for the British Crime Survey that includes robbery of personal property and snatch theft, but this does not provide data at the local level.

The available information relates to the Middlesbrough Crime and Disorder Reduction

Partnership (CDRP) area. Data at CDRP level are only available from 1999–2000. For 1999–2000 and 2000–01 only data for all robbery are available. From 2001–02 figures can be split between robbery of personal and business property.

Because of the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS) in April 2002, violent crime figures before and after that date are not directly comparable. It is estimated that the effect of the introduction nationally of the NCRS in April 2002 was a 20 per cent. increase in recorded violent crime in its first year.

Information on drug-related offences is not collected centrally for recorded crime.

*Table 1: Robberies recorded by the police in the Middlesbrough Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) area, 1999–2000 to 2001–02*

| | *All robbery offences* | *Robbery of personal property* | *Robbery of business property* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1999–2000 | 410 | — | — |
| 2000–01 | 522 | — | — |
| 2001–02 | 696 | 651 | 45 |

*Note:*
The data in this table are prior to the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard. These figures are not directly comparable with those for later years.

*Table 2: Robberies recorded by the police in the Middlesbrough Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) area, 2002–03 and 2003–04*

| | *All robbery offences* | *Robbery of personal property* | *Robbery of business property* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2002–03 | 874 | 846 | 28 |
| 2003–04 | 779 | 758 | 21 |

*Note:*
The data in this table take account of the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002. These figures are not directly comparable with those for earlier years.

**Mr. Hepburn:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the most common forms of crime committed against young people of school age were in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England and Wales in the last year for which figures are available. [8352]

**Hazel Blears:** Statistics on crimes against young people of school age are not collected in this way. The most reliable source of information we have on the subject comes from the Youth Justice Board's MORI survey, a self report study of young people across England and Wales.

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will place in the Library the details of the Partnership Assessment and Delivery System for the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership and community safety partnership. [13769]

**Hazel Blears:** The Home Office plans to officially launch the Partnership Assessment and Delivery System in November 2005. The Partnership Performance and Support Unit in the Home Office is currently designing and consulting on all components of the system. When the publication is available a copy will be placed in the Library.

**Anne Milton:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will list the datasets that his Department holds that include figures for the *(a)* Guildford, *(b)* Waverley crime and disorder reduction partnership areas and *(c)* West Surrey Basic Command Unit area. [12844]

**Hazel Blears:** The Home Office collects a number of datasets relating to Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs) and Basic Command Units (BCUs). These include monthly figures on crimes recorded by the police for all BCUs and CDRPs in England and Wales. These data are collected monthly and are broken down by offence type. Corresponding figures are collected for each BCU on detections, by method of detection.

Figures for crimes recorded and crimes detected are published annually for each BCU and CDRP on the Home Office website for the key offences within violent crime, burglary and vehicle crime; and a more detailed offence breakdown for each CDRP is available on the website www.crimestatistics.org.uk. We also collect data relating to the performance of prolific and other priority offender schemes in each CDRP area. This is collected monthly.

In addition, the Home Office collects annual data on numbers of police officers, probationers, police staff (i.e. civilians) and specials for each BCU. The police officer figures are published on the Home Office website. Under the Policing Performance Assessment Framework, data is also collected at BCU level in relation to user satisfaction of police services and officer and police staff sickness levels.

**Anne Milton:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the crime detection rates for *(a)* violence against the person, *(b)* sexual offences, *(c)* robberies, *(d)* burglaries, *(e)* theft of a vehicle and *(f)* theft from a vehicle were for (i) Guildford and (ii) Waverley crime and disorder reduction partnership areas in 2004–05. [12845]

**Hazel Blears:** Detection data are not recorded for crime and disorder reduction partnerships.

**Anne Milton:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 20 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 751W, on crime and disorder statistics, what the crime detection rates were for *(a)* violence against the person, *(b)* sexual offences, *(c)* robberies, *(d)* burglaries, *(e)* theft of a vehicle and *(f)* theft from a vehicle in the West Surrey Basic Command Unit in each year since June 1997. [12870]

**Hazel Blears:** Recorded crime data for Basic Command Units (BCUs) was centrally collected from 1999–2000. West Surrey BCU was not formally created until 2001–02, though figures for 2000–01 were replicated from old boundaries for comparative purposes.

*West Surrey*

*Detection rate percentage*

| *Financial Year* | *Burglary in dwelling* | *Robbery* | *Sexual offences* | *Violence against the person* | *Theft from vehicle* | *Unauthorised taking of motor vehicle* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2000–01 | 15 | 42 | n/a | 77 | 5 | 16 |
| 2001–02 | 12 | 35 | 40 | 71 | 4 | 17 |
| 2002–03 | 8 | 32 | 37 | 60 | 3 | 16 |
| 2003–04 | 13 | 33 | 38 | 60 | 7 | 28 |

n/a = not applicable

*Note:*

Due to boundary changes data for 1999–2000 is not available.

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the crime detection rates for *(a)* violence against the person, *(b)* sexual offences, *(c)* robberies, *(d)* burglaries, *(e)* theft of a vehicle and *(f)* theft from a vehicle, were in each of the basic command unit areas that cover Birmingham and Solihull in each year since 1998. [15210]

**Hazel Blears:** The available information is given in the tables. Data at Basic Command Unit level is only available from 1999–2000.

It is estimated that the effect of the introduction nationally of the National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS) in April 2002 was a 23 per cent. increase in recorded violence against the person in its first year. This will also have impacted on detection rates.

The introduction of the Sexual Offences Act 2003 in May 2004 resulted in substantial changes to the sexual offences. This means that figures for 2004–05 are not comparable with those for previous years.

*Table 1: Percentage of offences detected in the basic command units covering the Birmingham area 1999–2000 to 2001–02*

*Percentage detected*

| *Period* | *Violence against the person* | *Sexual offences* | *Robbery* | *Burglary in a dwelling* | *Theft of a vehicle* | *Theft from a vehicle* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1999–2000 | 72 | 56 | 15 | 16 | 11 | 6 |
| 2000–01 | 70 | 51 | 18 | 15 | 12 | 6 |
| 2001–02 | 69 | n/a | 18 | 18 | 16 | 6 |

*Notes:*

1. The data in this table is prior to the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002. These figures are not directly comparable with those for later years.

2. n/a = Not available.

*Table 2: Percentage of offences detected in the basic command units covering the Birmingham area 2002–03 to 2004–05*

*Percentage detected*

| *Period* | *Violence against the person* | *Sexual offences* | *Robbery* | *Burglary in a dwelling* | *Theft of a vehicle* | *Theft from a vehicle* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2002–03 | 56 | 41 | 21 | 18 | 16 | 8 |
| 2003–04[1] | 48 | 38 | 22 | 20 | 16 | 8 |
| 2004–05[2] | 43 | 29 | 21 | 11 | 10 | 5 |

[1] The data in this table takes account of the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002. These figures are not directly comparable with those for earlier years.

[2] The introduction of the Sexual Offences Act 2003 in May 2004 resulted in substantial changes to the sexual offences. This means that figures for 2004–05 are not comparable with those for previous years.

*Table 3: Percentage of offences detected in the Solihull basic command unit 1999–2000 to 2001–02*

*Percentage detected*

| *Period* | *Violence against the person* | *Sexual offences* | *Robbery* | *Burglary in a dwelling* | *Theft of a vehicle* | *Theft from a vehicle* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1999–2000 | 73 | 54 | 25 | 21 | 23 | 9 |
| 2000–01 | 72 | 64 | 31 | 15 | 17 | 10 |
| 2001–02 | 71 | n/a | 20 | 23 | 22 | 9 |

*Notes:*

1. The data in this table is prior to the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002. These figures are not directly comparable with those for later years.

2. n/a = Not available.

*Table 4: Percentage of offences detected in the Solihull basic command unit 2002–03 to 2004–05*

*Percentage detected*

| Period | Violence against the person | Sexual offences | Robbery | Burglary in a dwelling | Theft of a vehicle | Theft from a vehicle |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2002–03 | 60 | 47 | 23 | 16 | 23 | 8 |
| 2003–04[1] | 49 | 32 | 21 | 17 | 18 | 6 |
| 2004–05[2] | 43 | 24 | 18 | 8 | 12 | 2 |

[1] The data in this table takes account of the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002. These figures are not directly comparable with those for earlier years.
[2] The introduction of the Sexual Offences Act 2003 in May 2004 resulted in substantial changes to the sexual offences. This means that figures for 2004–05 are not comparable with those for previous years.

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will list the *(a)* agencies and *(b)* partnerships responsible for the reduction of crime in North East Milton Keynes constituency. [12916]

**Hazel Blears:** The Milton Keynes Crime and Community Safety Partnership is the accountable body responsible for the reduction of crime within the Milton Keynes local authority area.

The key partners, known as responsible authorities under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, consist of representatives from the local authority, police force, police authority, fire authority and the primary care trust. The partnership also works with a range of other partners, including parish councillors, prisons, probation, the drug action team and the youth offending team as well as the local strategic partnership and the local criminal justice board.

**Mr. Jack:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans he has to develop a unified scheme for recording crime statistics. [15740]

**Hazel Blears:** The recording and detecting of crime are governed by the Home Office Counting Rules for Recorded Crime. These are instructions for the police for the counting and classifying of crime.

In April 2002, the National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS) was introduced nationally across England and Wales. The aim of the NCRS is to promote greater consistency between police in the recording of crime and to take a more victim oriented approach to crime recording.

Following the introduction of the NCRS, the National Crime Recording Steering Group (NCRSG) has met regularly to review the Counting Rules. The steering group includes members of Research Development and Statistics and the Police Standards Unit of the Home Office, force crime registrars and statistics officers, and representatives of the Association of Chief Police Officers and Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary. The Counting Rules are up-dated annually to reflect decisions taken by the NCRSG, changes in legislation and changes to improve clarity and ensure consistency in recording by police forces. In addition, rigorous audit procedures are in place to further ensure a consistent approach across all the police forces in England and Wales. The Counting Rules can be found on the main Home Office website at www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/countrules.html.

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many defendants were *(a)* convicted and *(b)* not convicted in the Suffolk constabulary area in each of the last eight years. [15127]

**Paul Goggins:** Data from the Home Office Court Proceedings database on the number of defendants convicted and not convicted at all courts in the Suffolk constabulary area 1996 to 2003 is contained in the table. Statistics for 2004 court proceedings will be available in the autumn.

*Defendents convicted and not convicted at all courts in Suffolk police force area, 1996–2003*[1]

| | Convicted | Not convicted[2] |
|---|---|---|
| 1996 | 14,405 | 1,031 |
| 1997 | 13,963 | 883 |
| 1998 | 14,677 | 886 |
| 1999 | 14,901 | 997 |
| 2000 | 14,434 | 1,102 |
| 2001 | 14,638 | 1,219 |
| 2002 | 15,953 | 1,312 |
| 2003 | 16,098 | 1,316 |

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Includes those cases acquitted at the Crown court, discharged or dismissed at the magistrates courts.

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if he will make a statement on levels of *(a)* violent crime, *(b)* sexual crime, *(c)* car crime, *(d)* robbery and *(e)* burglary in the Forest of Dean constituency. [15762]

**Hazel Blears:** Statistics covering 2003–04 and 2004–05 have been published for the offences requested for the Forest of Dean Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) area. In addition to actual number of offences recorded, the statistics give percentage changes for the periods covered and rates per 1,000 population.

The CDRP data is available on the Home Office website as a supplementary table to "Crime in England and Wales 2004–05". The publication itself can be found at: http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/crimeew0405.html.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the percentage change in *(a)* overall recorded crime, *(b)* burglaries and *(c)* vehicle thefts in (i) Essex, broken down by police division and (ii) Southend (A) has been since 1997 and (B) was between 1988 to 1996; and if he will make a statement. [14121]

**Hazel Blears:** The available information for the periods requested relates to the Essex police force area as a whole. Statistics at basic command unit level have only been published since 1999.

Although the percentage change figures have been provided in the table, changes in reporting and recording have had a significant impact on recorded crime data and this needs to be taken into account for percentage changes between 1997 and 2004–05.

Since 1997, there have been two major changes to the way in which crime is recorded. The effect of the change in counting rules in 1998 was to artificially increase overall recorded crime in Essex by an estimated 10 per cent. It is also estimated that, following the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002, the impact on total recorded crime in Essex in 2002–03 was an increase of 21 per cent.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the level of violent crimes in Southend has been in each year since 1995. [15354]

**Hazel Blears:** The available information relates to the Southend-on-Sea Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) area and is given in the tables. Data at CDRP level is only available from 1999–2000.

The National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS) was introduced in April 2002. It is estimated that this change in the method of recording created a 20 per cent. increase in the number of recorded violent crimes in its first year.

*Table 1: Recorded offences of violent crime in the Southend-on-Sea Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership area—1999–2000 to 2001–02*

| | *Violence against the person* | *Sexual offences* | *Robbery* | *Total violent crime* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1999–2000 | 1,463 | 157 | 166 | 1,786 |
| 2000–01 | 1,414 | 135 | 148 | 1,697 |
| 2001–02 | 1,444 | 139 | 217 | 1,800 |

*Note:*
The data in this table is prior to the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002. These figures are not directly comparable with those for later years.

*Table 2: Recorded offences of violent crime in the Southend-on-Sea Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership area—2002–03 to 2004–05*

| | *Violence against the person* | *Sexual offences* | *Robbery* | *Total violent crime* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2002–03 | 3,043 | 195 | 313 | 3,551 |
| 2003–04 | 3,253 | 188 | 408 | 3,849 |
| 2004–05 | 3,318 | 200 | 296 | 3,814 |

*Note:*
The data in this table takes account of the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002. These figures are not directly comparable with those for earlier years.

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if he will make a statement on detection rates of *(a)* violent crime, *(b)* sexual crime, *(c)* car crime, *(d)* robbery and *(e)* burglary in the Forest of Dean constituency. [15763]

**Hazel Blears:** Statistics covering detection rates 2003–04 and 2004–05 have been published for the offences requested for the Forest and Gloucester Basic Command Unit (BCU). In addition to the detection rates, the actual number of offences recorded and detected are also provided. The BCU data is available on the Home Office website as a supplementary table to "Crime in England and Wales 2004/05". The publication itself can be found at: http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/crimeew0405.html

## Criminal Records Bureau

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 14 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 1217W, on the criminal records bureau, what other forms of functionality have been added to the IT system in each of the last two years. [14006]

**Andy Burnham:** The Criminal Records Bureau maintains a continuous programme of IT development including extending process automation and support and has delivered substantial technical developments in line with legislation, including checking against the new POVA list and the introduction of the POVA First process tailored specifically for the care sector. The CRB has developed its IT system in line with the needs of the business and to further enhance the process wherever possible. Enhancements have also been made in line with the strategic aims of the bureau, with more planned in the future.

It has also made significant enhancements to the accessibility of police information used in the checking process through the introduction of the I-PLX system, with the support and co-operation of all 43 police forces of England and Wales, the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) and the Police Information Technology Organisation (PITO). I-PLX is the first step towards a national database of police force intelligence and represents a significant advancement in the protection of the vulnerable.

Other initiatives aimed at improving the service to its customers include upgrading the telephone system to enable calls to be routed more efficiently to agents, Interactive Voice Response (IVR) and enhancements to invoicing processes.

## CSPs

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many requests were made by *(a)* the Metropolitan police and *(b)* the National Criminal Intelligence Service to communications providers (CSPs) for the disclosure of communications traffic data in 2004, broken down by CSP; and how much was paid to the relevant companies for providing this data. [15368]

**Hazel Blears:** This information is not held centrally.

## Cycling Offences

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cyclists were *(a)* charged and *(b)* convicted of passing a traffic light at red in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [13619]

**Paul Goggins:** Information on the number of people charged is not centrally collected.

Passing a red traffic light is not a specific offence, however it is included in the offence of neglect of traffic directions under the Road Traffic Act 1988 SS.35 and 36. The relevant data for 1999–2003 are provided in the table.

Statistics for 2004 will be available in the autumn.

*Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates' courts and found guilty at all courts for neglect of traffic regulations under the Road Traffic Act 1988 Sections 35 and 36 England and Wales 1999–2003*[1]

| | *Proceeded against* | *Found guilty* |
|---|---|---|
| 1999 | 63 | 60 |
| 2000 | 52 | 47 |
| 2001 | 38 | 34 |
| 2002 | 19 | 16 |
| 2003 | 38 | 31 |

[1] These data are on a principal offence basis.

*Note:*

Staffordshire police force were only able to submit sample data for persons proceeded against and convicted in the magistrates' courts for the year 2000. Although sufficient to estimate higher orders of data, these data are not robust enough at a detailed level and have been excluded from the table.

## Departmental Expenditure

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the total spending by his Department on *(a)* staff, *(b)* accommodation and *(c)* procurement in (i) Moray constituency and (ii) Highland region was in the most recent year for which figures are available. [14848]

**Mr. Charles Clarke:** The Home Office does not retain information by constituency. The Departmental Report 2004–05 page 128 Table 6.6 identifies expenditure on services, by country which includes the figures for Scotland only.

**Stewart Hosie:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the total spending by his Department on *(a)* staff, *(b)* accommodation and *(c)* procurement in (i) Dundee East constituency, (ii) Tayside and (iii) the City of Dundee was for the most recent year for which figures are available. [14877]

**Mr. Charles Clarke:** The Home Office does not retain information by constituency. The Departmental Report 2004–05 page 128 Table 6.6 identifies expenditure on services, by country which includes the figures for Scotland only.

**Mr. Salmond:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the total spending by his Department on *(a)* staff, *(b)* accommodation and *(c)* procurement in (i) Banff and Buchan and (ii) the North East of Scotland was for the most recent year for which figures are available. [14886]

**Mr. Charles Clarke:** The Home Office does not retain information by constituency. The Departmental Report 2004–05 page 128 Table 6.6 identifies expenditure on services, by country which includes the figures for Scotland only.

**Pete Wishart:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the total spending by his Department on *(a)* staff, *(b)* accommodation and *(c)* procurement in Perth and North Perthshire was for the most recent year for which figures are available. [14920]

**Mr. Charles Clarke:** The Home Office does not retain information by constituency. The Departmental Report 2004–05 page 128 Table 6.6 identifies expenditure on services, by country which includes the figures for Scotland only.

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies spent on (i) electricity and (ii) water and sewerage services in each year from 1997. [16187]

**Mr. Charles Clarke:** The table shows expenditure on electricity and water for the years 1997–98 onwards. The departmental electricity and water expenditure for key Home Office (non prisons) buildings for 2004–05 is not yet available. The figures for the Home Office (non prisons) includes key sites on the Department's other agency estates. Separate figures for these agency sites could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

£

| | *Home Office (non prisons)*[1] | | *HM Prison Service* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Electricity* | *Water* | *Electricity* | *Water* |
| 1997–98 | 1,373,063 | [2]— | 14,448,221 | 10,511,619 |
| 1998–99 | 1,441,853 | [2]— | 14,017,081 | 11,171,786 |
| 1999–2000 | 1,928,377 | 311,947 | 15,533,183 | 11,311,562 |
| 2000–01 | 2,017,331 | 351,987 | 16,823,070 | 9,491,363 |
| 2001–02 | 2,562,161 | 323,350 | 12,645,259 | 10,041,407 |
| 2002–03 | 2,576,900 | 175,993 | 12,477,271 | 10,761,183 |
| 2003–04 | 2,783,686 | 192,341 | 13,814,118 | 11,126,677 |
| 2004–05 | [2]— | [2]— | 16,267,718 | 11,376,869 |

[1] These costs relate to key buildings only.
[2] Not available.

## Departmental Staff

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many full-time equivalents have worked for the Department for each of the last five financial years for which figures are available. [11485]

**Mr. Charles Clarke:** This information is available in table C of Civil Service Statistics 2004 which is available on the Cabinet Office website or from the Library. This table shows the number of staff in the Home Office and its agencies between 1998 and 2004 on a full-time equivalent basis.

## Departmental Offices

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what total floor space area of building is owned and leased by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies. [16198]

**Mr. Charles Clarke:** The Home Office owns 247,740 square metres of floor space and leases 511,302 square metres. Its agencies own 3,660,230 square metres and leases 36,413 square metres.

The properties comprise offices, residential accommodation, prisons and other specialised buildings.

The figures include premises that are held under service agreements and those where costs are shared with other Government Departments where the other Department pays the rent. Residential properties, both owned and leased, have been excluded as the floor areas of this type of property are not known.

### Domestic Violence

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what research he has undertaken into whether there are linkages between domestic violence and cases of animal cruelty; and what steps he is taking to tackle each. [13974]

**Hazel Blears:** The Home Office has not commissioned or undertaken any research into the links between domestic violence and animal cruelty.

There have, however, been a number of studies, conducted in the United States that have aimed to explore the links between animal cruelty and family violence. In addition, organisations in the United Kingdom including the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) and the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty of Animals (RSPCA) have also undertaken studies, which have looked at the links between serious animal abuse and family violence. These studies suggest that there may be some links between the serious abuse of animals and family violence, including the abuse of children. Although they are of interest it should be noted that most of these studies involve small sample sizes, many of the populations studied are non-representative and no control or comparison groups have been incorporated into the research design. The findings from these studies should, therefore, be treated with a degree of caution.

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prosecutions have taken place under the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004 since it came into force. [14720]

**Paul Goggins:** Information on prosecutions under the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004 are not available; not all sections of the act have yet been implemented. Statistics of court proceedings for 2005 will be published in the autumn of 2006.

### Drugs

**Mr. Hood:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the estimated number is of crimes committed by cocaine and heroin drug users in England and Wales in each year between 2001 and 2004; and if he will make a statement. [11274]

**Paul Goggins:** Crime statistics used for monitoring overall crime trends, such as recorded crime and the British Crime Survey, do not contain information about the drug habits of individual offenders. It is therefore not possible to provide figures for the total number of crimes committed by drug users each year.

The crimes committed by drug users are frequently acquisitive crimes committed to obtain money to buy drugs. Between 2001–02 and 2004–05 there has been a 14 per cent. reduction in these crimes overall. This includes a 23 per cent. decrease in burglary, a 27 per cent. reduction in robbery and an 8 per cent. reduction in shoplifting over this time period.

The Home Office sponsored New English and Welsh Arrestee Drug Abuse Monitoring (NEW-ADAM) survey, which involved interviewing and drug testing those arrested by the police, provides an insight into the proportion of crimes that are drug related. In the study carried out between 1999 and 2001 at 16 custody suites in high crime areas across England and Wales, 38 per cent. of all arrestees included in the survey tested positive for opiates such as heroin, and cocaine/crack. However, the proportion testing positive was higher among those arrested for acquisitive offences: 57 per cent. for those arrested for burglary, 60 per cent. for those arrested for robbery; and 66 per cent. for those arrested for shoplifting.

A new Arrestee Survey is currently being undertaken which will provide more comprehensive and nationally representative information on the proportion of crime that is drug-related in the future.

**Mrs. Gillan:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offenders who tested positive for drugs at charge *(a)* completed treatment and *(b)* dropped out of treatment before completion in each month since January 2004. [11946]

**Paul Goggins:** Data on the drug treatment of individuals is currently stored in the National Drug Treatment Monitoring System (NDTMS). The data is confidential and there are complex issues in matching this with Criminal Justice data about individuals. While it is possible to do this on an anonymised basis, the information requested could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

We are currently considering ways of improving the monitoring of treatment completion and individual offenders' criminal justice history, which will include drug testing.

**Anne Main:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how the implementation of *(a)* drug treatment testing orders and *(b)* drug rehabilitation requirements is administered by his Department; what the cost of the administration of (i) drug treatment testing orders and (ii) drug rehabilitation requirements by his Department was in the last year for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [10867]

**Paul Goggins:** The Interventions Unit of the National Probation Directorate (NPD) has the main national responsibility for issuing guidance and is responsible for overseeing the delivery of Drug Treatment and Testing Orders (DTTOs) and Drug Rehabilitation Requirements (DRRs) by the National Probation Service (NPS) in accordance with National Standards. The staff costs of the small team that carry out this work are estimated to be £125,000 per annum.

Probation areas in England are responsible for the supervision and enforcement of DTTOs/DRRs. Welsh areas have the additional responsibility of commissioning DTTO/DRR treatment and testing provision. In 2005–06 £39 million was allocated to probation areas in England and Wales; £7 million to the national offender

management service; and the remaining £42 million to the Department of Health Pooled Treatment Budget (out of a total of £88 million DTTO/DRR funding).

**Mrs. Dorries:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what *(a)* facilities and *(b)* premises are provided by his Department in Mid-Bedfordshire for the provision of (i) drug treatment and testing and (ii) rehabilitation of offenders; and if he will make a statement. [11090]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** All adult offenders in Mid-Bedfordshire serving community sentences or subject to supervision following their release from prison on licence are case managed by probation staff based at Bedfordshire probation area's office at 41 Harpur Street, Bedford. This includes offenders subject to Drug Treatment and Testing Orders (DTTOs), Drug Rehabilitation Requirements (DRRs) of the new community order, drug testing licence conditions and Prolific and other Priority Offenders (PPOs) with drug misuse problems. Assessments, offender management interviews, delivery of accredited offending behaviour programmes and drug testing, where appropriate, take place at these premises.

Young offenders from Mid-Bedfordshire serving community sentences under the youth justice system are supervised by Bedfordshire Youth Offending Service at 39 Oakwood Avenue, Dunstable.

The other facilities and premises for the provision of drug treatment and testing and the rehabilitation of offenders in Mid-Bedfordshire are as set out in the following table.

| *Name of provider* | *Address of premises* | *Description of facilities* |
|---|---|---|
| Healthlink | 26 Bromham Road, Bedford | Provides clinical input e.g. prescribing and drug testing to offenders on DTTOs/ DRRs |
| CAN | 44 Bromham Road, Bedford | Delivers structured day care and counselling to offenders on DTTOs/DRRs |
| Drug Interventions Programme (DIP) | 105–107 Tavistock Street, Bedford, MK40 2RR<br>2 Albion Street, Dunstable, LU6 1SA | Assessment of offenders within the Criminal Justice System and referral to the most appropriate of 15 treatment services within Bedford or Dunstable. |
| PUKE | 32 St John's Street, Bedford, MK42 ODH | Provides counselling and group work for young offenders |
| Plan B | 26–28 Bromham Road, Bedford, MK40 2QD | Delivers clinical input e.g. prescribing to young offenders |

**Anne Main:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many non-governmental voluntary bodies within *(a)* England and *(b)* Hertfordshire are included in the implementation of drug treatment testing orders and drug rehabilitation requirement. [16228]

**Paul Goggins:** This information is not available centrally for England and Wales and could be only collected at disproportionate cost.

The treatment and testing components of drug treatment and testing orders (DTTOs) and drug rehabilitation requirements (DRRs) in England are commissioned by local drug action teams (DATs). Probation areas are responsible for the supervision and enforcement of DTTOs/DRRs and the delivery of some interventions. Welsh probation areas are funded to meet full DTTO/DRR costs.

There are three non-governmental voluntary sector treatment providers involved in the implementation of DTTOs and DRRs in Hertfordshire: Drugcare; Druglink and Vale House Stabilisation Service.

*Drugcare*

29 Upper Lattimore Road

St. Albans

Hertfordshire

AL1 3UA

*Druglink*

Trefoil House

Red Lion Lane

Hemel Hempstead

Hertfordshire

HP3 9TE

*Vale House Stabilisation Service*

43 Cowbridge

Hertford

Hertfordshire SG14 1PN

**Mr. Hood:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the estimated value is of seizures of *(a)* heroin and *(b)* cocaine in the UK in 2003–04; and if he will make a statement. [11217]

**Paul Goggins:** Data on the value of heroin and cocaine seizures in 2003–04 is not collated by the Home Office.

The most recent data on the estimated street value of heroin and cocaine seized is available in Drug Seizure and Offender Statistics, United Kingdom, 2000. The figures for cocaine and heroin are provided in table one. They show that in 2000, the estimated street value of all cocaine and heroin seizures was £256,393,000 and £236,708,000, respectively.

The most recent data on the volume of drug seizures made by UK police and customs is from 2002, published in Drug Seizures and Offender Statistics, United Kingdom 2001 and 2002. In that year, 2,730 kilos of heroin and 3,580 kilos of cocaine were seized. Copies of this report are available on the RDS website at http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs04/hosb0804.pdf.

*Table 1: Estimated street value of UK heroin and cocaine seizures in 2000*

£

| | *UK Police* | *UK Customs* | *All seizures* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Cocaine | 102,297,000 | 154,096,000 | 256,393,000 |
| Heroin | 139,277,000 | 94,431,000 | 236,708,000 |

*Source:*
Drug Seizure and Offender Statistics, United Kingdom, 2000.

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what research he has commissioned on the relationship between drug use and gun crime. [13926]

**Hazel Blears** *[holding answer 21 July 2005]:* The Home Office sponsored New English and Welsh Arrestee Drug Abuse Monitoring (NEW-ADAM) survey, which involved interviewing and drug testing those arrested by the police, included questions on carrying guns. A paper based on the data has been published by T. H. Bennett and K. Holloway, "Possession and use of illegal guns among criminals in England and Wales" (Howard Journal of Criminal Justice, Vol 43, No three, pp 237–252). The Home Office has also conducted an Arrestee Survey which may highlight this issue. The results of this survey will be published later this year. There have also been discussions in the context of the Home Secretary's round table on gun crime, which has looked at possible links and appropriate interventions.

This research is used to inform policy and legislative proposals. The Violent Crime Reduction Bill includes a number of measures designed to further tighten the firearms legislation, including a ban on the manufacture, import or sale of realistic imitation firearms, an increase from a maximum of six to 12 months sentence for carrying an imitation firearm in a public place without lawful authority or reasonable excuse, and an increase in the minimum age for possession of an air weapon to 18. The Bill also includes a new offence of using another person to look after, hide or transport a dangerous weapon. These measures complement existing legislation and demonstrate our determination to tackle gun crime.

**Mrs. Gillan:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department in how many road traffic accidents drivers *(a)* had been using and *(b)* tested positive for drugs in the last 12 months, broken down by police authority. [4041]

**Paul Goggins:** The information requested is not collected on the Home Office motoring offences database or on the recorded crime database.

**Paul Flynn:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what his estimate is of the street price of *(a)* heroin, *(b)* cocaine and *(c)* cannabis in each of the past 10 years. [10848]

**Paul Goggins:** UK average prices for *(a)* heroin, *(b)* cocaine and *(c)* cannabis resin and herbal cannabis for the past 10 years are shown in the table.

*£ per ounce*

| | *Herbal cannabis* | *Cannabis resin* |
|---|---|---|
| July 1995 | 95 | 100 |
| September 1996 | 91 | 114 |
| December 1997 | 95 | 97 |
| December 1998 | 91 | 93 |
| December 1999 | 89 | 100 |
| December 2000 | 82 | 85 |
| December 2001 | 80 | 77 |
| December 2002 | 83 | 81 |
| December 2003 | 72 | 66 |
| December 2004 | 72 | 61 |

*£ per gram*

| | *Heroin* | *Cocaine* |
|---|---|---|
| July 1995 | 88 | 80 |
| December 1996 | 72 | 69 |
| December 1997 | 74 | 71 |
| December 1998 | 74 | 77 |
| December 1999 | 65 | 63 |
| December 2000 | 70 | 65 |
| December 2001 | 63 | 60 |
| December 2002 | 61 | 56 |
| December 2003 | 62 | 55 |
| December 2004 | 55 | 51 |

**Paul Flynn:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which prisons have been free of all illegal drugs use in each of the past five years; and what proportion they represent of all prisons. [6119]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** The Mandatory Drug Testing (MDT) programme monitors levels of drug misuse. Prisoners are tested routinely for a panel of seven illegal drugs. No prison, in the past five years, has been entirely free of illegal drugs.

**Paul Flynn:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what targets for reduction in the use of illegal drugs were published by the Government in 1998. [10995]

**Paul Goggins:** The Comprehensive Spending Review, published in July 1998, set out targets for the reduction in the use of illegal drugs as follows:

To reduce the proportion of people under 25 reporting using illegal drugs;

To reduce levels of repeat offending among drug misusing offenders;

To increase the participation of problem drug misusers, including prisoners, in drug treatment programmes which have a positive impact on health and reducing crime; and

To reduce access to all drugs among those aged between five to 16 years.

These targets were revised in subsequent Spending Reviews to reflect the developing evidence base. The current Public Service Agreement targets agreed in Spending Review 2004 have a clear focus on outcomes and delivery, and are both challenging and measurable.

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 4 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 127W, on the Drugs Act 2005, if he will break the figures down by the relevant sections of the Act. [13216]

**Paul Goggins:** The table sets out the estimates of additional prosecutions and additional convictions in a full year arising from various provisions of the Drugs Act 2005.

I regret that an arithmetical error resulted in the estimate for convictions arising from section two being omitted from the total estimate of convictions provided in the answer given on 4 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 127W. I have written to the hon. Member for Newport West (Paul Flynn) correcting the error and placed a copy of my letter in the Library.

| Provision in the Drugs Act 2005 | Estimated additional prosecutions | Estimated additional convictions |
|---|---|---|
| *Part one* | | |
| Section one—Aggravated supply | 0 | 0 |
| Section two—Proof intention of to supply | 0 | 299 |
| *Part two* | | |
| Police Powers. Sections three, four, five and six—X-rays ultrasounds and intimate searches | 0 | 105 |
| Section eight—Extended detention | 100 | 100 |
| *Part three* | | |
| Sections nine to 19—Assessment of Misuse of Drugs (DIP provisions) | 2,966 | 1,780 |
| *Part four* | | |
| Miscellaneous. Section 21—Magic mushrooms | 10 | 10 |

### Emergency Helplines (Charges)

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will review the telephone charges to those calling emergency helpline numbers, with particular reference to the London bombings; and if he will make a statement. [14114]

**Hazel Blears:** When the Casualty Bureau was opened on 7 July 2005, it was accessed through an 0870 number. The cost of those calls varied depending upon the caller's telephone service provider.

On 15 July, I announced an urgent review of the use of 0870 numbers in respect of the Casualty Bureau. That review has now taken place and, with immediate effect, the use of 0870 numbers will be discontinued in respect of Casualty Bureau access to the public. 0800 numbers will be made available as the main contact number between the Police Service Casualty Bureau and the public.

0800 freephone numbers are free at the point of use to landline customers. Mobile users are likely to be charged based upon their mobile tariff. 0800 numbers may not be accessed from overseas and an alternative 020 geographic number is therefore being provided primarily for the use of overseas callers. This number is also available to UK customers, including those using mobile phones who may find the charges lower than the standard rate for 0800.

### Emergency Response Times

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average response time to an emergency call to the police was for each police authority in each of the last 10 years. [14741]

**Hazel Blears:** This information is not held centrally and can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

**Mr. Clegg:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average response time to an emergency call to the police was in Sheffield, Hallam in each year since 1997. [13780]

**Hazel Blears:** The average response times to emergency calls to the police in Sheffield, Hallam are given in the table.

Sheffield Hallam constituency is not a co-terminous force area, therefore these figures are approximate. Data prior to December 2002 is not available.

| Period | Number of immediate response incidents with recorded response time available | Average response time (in seconds) |
|---|---|---|
| December 2002 | 151 | 446 |
| 2003 | 1951 | 339 |
| 2004 | 2,053 | 324 |
| 2005 (to date) | 1,213 | 224 |

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many emergency 999 calls were made in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* the Metropolitan police area of London in each of the last five years, broken down by emergency service responding. [14141]

**Paul Goggins:** Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Constabulary (HMCIC) publishes statistics on the number of 999 calls received. The latest available statistics relate to 2003–04 and are published in table five of HMCIC's Annual Report. The publication is available via the Home Office website: http://www.official-ocuments.co.uk/document/deps/hc/hc171/171.pdf

The equivalent figures for earlier years, up to 2000–01, are available from previous annual reports, copies of which should be in the Library.

### European Community Association Agreement

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the average waiting time for a decision on an application for leave to remain under the provisions of the European Community Association Agreement was in the last period for which figures are available. [15522]

**Mr. McNulty:** The average waiting time for Bulgarian and Romanian European Community Association Agreement (ECAA) applications in the last period for which figures are available was 258 working days. Information about Turkish ECAA applications is not currently available but is scheduled to be published with other relevant data in late August 2005. It should be noted that consideration of all applications made under the provisions of the ECAA was suspended on 30 March 2004 and has been resumed in stages with Bulgarian and Romanian switching cases re- starting on 1 October 2004, further leave and indefinite leave to remain on 14 February 2005 and all Turkish cases on 9 May 2005. All ECAA applications continue to be dealt with in strict order of original receipt.

### European Constitution

**Mr. Davidson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what competent authorities in the UK would fall under the remit of the Standing Committee on Internal Security created in Article 111–261 of the Treaty Establishing a Constitution for Europe, should the Constitution be ratified. [15476]

**Andy Burnham:** In the absence of agreement on the Constitutional Treaty no decision has been taken on whether to establish an internal security committee. Accordingly, it is not appropriate to decide which competent authorities would be members of, or be represented by, the United Kingdom's delegation to such a committee, as this would depend on its precise remit.

### European Enforcement Order

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) if he will make a statement in the context of the European Enforcement Order as set out in 2005/C 150/01 of Official Journal C150, vol 48, of 21 June 2005, on the relationship between this Order and the European Arrest Warrant; [15908]

(2) if he will make a statement, in the context of the European Enforcement Order as set out in 2005/C 150/01 of Official Journal C150, vol 48, of 21 June, on the criminalisation of unlawful residence; [16092]

(3) if he will make a statement in the context of the European Enforcement Order as set out in 2005/C 150/01 of Official Journal C150 vol 48 of 21 June, Article 7, on cases involving xenophobia; [16327]

(4) if he will make a statement, in the context of the European Enforcement Order as set out in 2005/C 150/01 of Official Journal C150, vol 48, of 21 June 2005, Article 7, on the list of terrorist organisations to be recognised; [15907]

(5) if he will make a statement, in the context of the European Enforcement Order as set out in 2005/C 150/01 of Official Journal C150, vol 48, of 21 June, on the mechanism for determining the nature of the prison regime to be used; [16094]

(6) if he will make a statement, in the context of the European Enforcement Order as set out in 2005/C 150/01 of Official Journal C150, vol 48, of 21 June, on the right of appeal; what grounds exist; what higher system of appeal exists; what time scale is permitted; and what legal aid is available; [16096]

(7) if he will make a statement, in the context of the European Enforcement Order as set out in 2005/C 150/01 of Official Journal C150, vol 48, of 21 June 2005, on the central administrative authority to be designated for the UK; [15909]

(8) if he will make a statement, in the context of the European Enforcement Order as set out in 2005/C 150/01 of Official Journal C150, vol 48, of 21 June 2005, Article 7, on the development of the European Public Prosecutor. [15906]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** The draft Framework Decision on the European Enforcement Order and the transfer of sentenced persons between member states of the European Union is at the early stages of negotiation and is subject to a UK Parliamentary scrutiny reservation. The draft Framework Decision is intended to speed up and simplify the existing arrangements for the transfer of prisoners between member states of the EU. It is also intended to facilitate the return of prisoners extradited in accordance with Article 5(3) of the Council Framework Decision of 13 June 2000 on the European Arrest Warrant, where surrender of own nationals or residents was subject to a condition that the person would be returned in order to serve any sentence imposed.

Article 7 of the draft Framework Decision proposes a list of generic offences for which dual criminality would not be required in order to execute a European Enforcement Order. The restriction on the application of dual criminality has been accepted by the Government as a necessary element of the mutual recognition arrangements which are to form the basis for judicial co-operation within the EU. The proposed list of offences corresponds to that in the Framework Decision on the European Arrest Warrant and in the Council Framework Decision of 22 July 2003 on the execution in the European Union of orders freezing property or evidence.

The draft Framework Decision does not require prisoners to consent to the transfer, although they must be given an opportunity to express their opinion. Prisoners do not have a right of appeal under the proposed Framework Decision. However, prisoners in the United Kingdom will be able to seek judicial review of any decision made, for which they may be granted publicly funded legal aid.

Prisoners transferred under the draft Framework Decision will be subject to the same prison regime as any other prisoner sentenced in the executing state.

It is likely that the National Offender Management Service will be designated as the central authority for England and Wales. The designation of a central authority for Scotland and for Northern Ireland is a matter for Scottish Ministers and for the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

### European Public Prosecutor

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if he will make a statement, in the context of the European Enforcement Order as set out in 2005/C 150/01 of Official Journal C150, vol 48, of 21 June 2005, Article seven, on the development of the European Public Prosecutor [15906]

**Paul Goggins:** The draft Framework Decision on the European Enforcement Order has no implications for the development of a European Public Prosecutor (EPP). Any proposal for the development of an EPP remains subject to ratification of the Constitutional Treaty and the unanimous agreement of the member states. We remain unconvinced that the creation of an EPP is necessary or desirable.

### Explosives Detection Systems

**Mr. Ian Austin:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment he has made of the likely role of new generation terahertz scanners in detecting potential bomb attacks. [15411]

**Hazel Blears:** The Home Office Scientific Development Branch (formerly the Police Scientific Development Branch) has been developing a terahertz-based explosives detection capability since April 2003. Techniques have the potential for identifying explosives hidden under clothing, as well as producing images of hidden items. The work is carried out in close liaison with the police service, Department for Transport and Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs to ensure that it addresses their specific operational requirements. Effort is split between commercial contractors who are developing instrumentation, and in-house work to determine the physical limitations of the technology.

Although the full potential of terahertz technology is not likely to be realised for several years, some capability may be available in the shorter term.

**Mr. Ian Austin:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what funding his Department has allocated to research into the use of ion mobility spectrometers to detect minute particles of explosives in public places in each of the last five years. [15412]

**Hazel Blears:** Explosives trace detection systems based Ion Mobility Spectrometry (IMS) have been in use for many years. In recent years they have been widely deployed at UK airports. The Home Office Scientific Development Branch (formerly the Police Scientific Development Branch) routinely tests new trace detection systems and gives advice on their performance to customers such as the police service and Department for Transport.

The test methods used are agreed with the customers and kept under review to ensure they are relevant to the currently perceived terrorist threat. The equipment is supplied by manufacturers free of charge for the trials period.

Unfortunately, since the testing of IMS systems is done as part of a larger programme of evaluation of search and detection equipment it is not possible to say specifically how much it costs each year.

### Faith Awareness Training

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many civil servants in the Department received faith awareness training in 2004. [3805]

**Paul Goggins:** The Home Office holds an annual diversity week to raise staff awareness of all diversity issues including faith. In 2004, diversity week included presentations on Buddhism, a Ramadan awareness session, business planning/managing workload around religious festivals and visits to different places of worship.

The Home Office has also published "A brief guide to Major Religious and Cultural Observance in the UK" that gives information on the 11 most observed religions or cultures in the UK. The guide is intended to assist managers when considering applications for leave for religious or cultural occasions or when scheduling meetings or other events. The Home Office publishes a notice each year giving specific dates for each of the religious festivals detailed in the guide.

### Faryadi Zardad

**Mrs. Gillan:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the total costs are to date of the investigation, detention and hearings related to the two trials of Faryadi Zardad, broken down by *(a)* legal aid support, *(b)* police costs, *(c)* benefits, *(d)* custody costs, *(e)* trial costs and *(f)* other costs. [15052]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** The costs associated with the investigation and prosecution of Faryadi Zardad have not been fully assessed and to provide them at this stage would involve a number of other departments and agencies and would incur a disproportionate cost.

### Fixed-penalty Notices

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many fixed penalty notices for disorder have been issued in Cambridgeshire in each year since 1997, broken down by category; and what percentage of fines has been collected in each case. [14558]

**Paul Goggins:** The Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 provided for penalty notices for disorder. Pilots took place between August 2002 and September 2003 and the scheme was rolled out to all police forces in England and Wales during the 2003–04 financial year.

Penalty notices for disorder were first issued in Cambridgeshire in April 2004. The available information on the number of notices issued in Cambridgeshire in the 12 months from April 2004 to March 2005 is provided in the table and includes the percentage of penalties that were paid.

The recipient of a penalty notice has 21 days in which to pay the penalty or request a court hearing. If no action is taken within this time a fine of one and a half times the penalty is registered against the recipient. The fine is then enforced by the courts. The current payment rate for fines is 80 per cent.

*Penalty Notices issued in Cambridgshire from 1 April 2004 to 31 March 2005*

| | *Penalty notices issued* | *Paid in full* | *Percentage paid in full* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Wasting police time or giving false report | 3 | 2 | 67 |
| Using public telecommunications system for sending false messages | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Causing harassment, alarm or distress | 158 | 88 | 56 |
| Throwing fireworks in a thoroughfare | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Drunk and disorderly | 263 | 152 | 58 |
| Destroying/damaging property (under £500) | 26 | 20 | 77 |
| Theft (retail under £200) | 28 | 18 | 64 |
| Trespassing on a railway | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Being drunk in a highway, other public place or licensed premises | 56 | 38 | 68 |
| Consumption of alcohol in designated public place | 6 | 1 | 17 |
| Depositing and leaving litter | 4 | 2 | 50 |
| Total | 548 | 321 | 59 |

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many fixed penalty notices for fly-posting and graffiti have been issued since the implementation of the Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003; and what percentage have been collected. [14559]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** I have been asked to reply.

The power to issue fixed penalty notices for graffiti and fly-posting offences came into force in March 2004. Data for the year April 2004 to March 2005 are still being collected, with 170 returns forms received to date from England and Wales' 358 local authorities. These 170 authorities issued 19 fixed penalty notices for graffiti over the year, of which 74 per cent. were paid, and 57 fixed penalty notices for fly posting, of which 79 per cent. were paid.

### Fly-tipping

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many incidents of fly-tipping were reported in Cambridgeshire in each year since 1997. [14556]

**Paul Goggins:** The information requested is not collected centrally. "Unauthorised dumping" is an offence under Section 2 of the Refuse Disposal (Amenity) Act 1978. It is a summary offence and is not included in the recorded crime statistics.

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prosecutions for fly-tipping there were in Cambridgeshire in each year since 1997. [14557]

**Paul Goggins:** The available information is contained in the following table and gives the number of defendants proceeded against for "fly-tipping" offences for Cambridgeshire police force area, 1997 to 2003. Statistics on court proceedings for 2004 will be published in the autumn.

*Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts for "fly-tipping" offences[1,2], Cambridgeshire police force area, 1997 to 2003*

| | *Proceeded against* |
|---|---|
| 1997 | 4 |
| 1998 | 9 |
| 1999 | 3 |
| 2000 | 1 |
| 2001 | — |
| 2002 | — |
| 2003 | — |

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Includes offences under: Environmental Protection Act 1990, Secs 33 (6) (8) (9), 34 and 59.

### Foreign Nationals (Detention)

**Mrs. Gillan:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign nationals are held in prisons or other establishments awaiting deportation, broken down by *(a)* nationality and *(b)* establishment. [14689]

**Mr. McNulty:** Information on the number of foreign nationals awaiting deportation is unavailable.

Information on the number of persons who were detained under Immigration Act powers, and of those the number awaiting deportation is not available. It would only be available by examination of individual case files at disproportionate cost.

The Prison Service does not record information on deportation orders on the Inmate Information System. Information on the number of persons held in prison who are the subject of a deportation order is not therefore available except by examination of individual case-files, at disproportionate cost.

Work is ongoing to improve the quality of data held on those people detained under Immigration Act powers in Prison Service establishments.

### Freedom of Information

**Pete Wishart:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Freedom of Information Act 2000 requests have been answered by the Department; and in how many cases *(a)* information was wholly exempted, *(b)* information was partly exempted and *(c)* the requests were answered in full. [14966]

**Mr. Charles Clarke:** 512 Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2000 requests were answered by the department in the period January to March of this year. Of these 189 were wholly exempted, 61 were partly exempted and 171 were answered in full. The remaining 91 responses related to requests where the information was not held by the department.

The Department for Constitutional Affairs (DCA) is committed to publishing quarterly updates in relation to departmental performance under FOI, including information on both the volume and outcomes of requests. The first of these updates was published on 23 June 2005 and can be found both on the DCA website at http://www.foi.gov.uk/statsjan-mar05.htm and in the Library. The next bulletin is due in the autumn of this year, while an annual report is also to be published in early 2006.

### Full-time Staff

**Mrs. Gillan:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff were employed in his Department in each financial year from 1997–98; and what the payroll costs were in each year. [12094]

**Mr. Charles Clarke:** Details of staff numbers and payroll costs are taken from Home Office departmental reports. The only exception to this are the payroll costs for 2004–05, where the costs are taken from the pre-audit resource accounts 2004–05. Full details are supplied with the table.

The following table shows the average number of civil service staff employed in the Home Office group.

*Average number of civil service staff employed in the Home Office group*

| | Total staff numbers |
|---|---|
| 1997–98 | 52,683 |
| 1998–99 | 53,363 |
| 1999–2000 | 53,461 |
| 2000–01 | 61,715 |
| 2001–02 | 61,726 |
| 2002–03 | 65,299 |
| 2003–04 | 70,319 |
| 2004–05 | 73,306 |

*Note:*
Staff numbers for 1997–98 and 1998–99 are from the Home Office Departmental Report 2002–03 (Cm 5908); the figures for 1999–2000 onwards are from the Home Office Departmental Report 2004–05 (Cm 6528). The figures give the full-time equivalent (FTE) number of permanent civil servants and are calculated on a five-quarter moving average. They include an allowance for overtime and casual appointments.

The following table shows payroll costs for the Home Office group. These are taken from the Home Office Departmental Report 2002–03 (Cm 5908) for 1998–99 to 2003–4. Figures for 1997–98 are not available. The figure for 2004–05 is from the pre-audit resource accounts 2004–05.

*Payroll costs for the Home Office group*

£000

| | Payroll |
|---|---|
| 1997–98 | — |
| 1998–99 | 1,272,182 |
| 1999–2000 | 1,312,821 |
| 2000–01 | 1,434,636 |
| 2001–02 | 1,647,136 |
| 2002–03 | 1,742,394 |
| 2003–04 | 2,016,593 |
| 2004–05 | 2,167,602 |

*Note:*
The payroll figures reported in the departmental report include costs for the Criminal Records Bureau and for the National Probation Service. They are not therefore directly comparable with the staff numbers, which include permanent civil servants employed by the Home Office and its main agencies.

## Gun Crime

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the answer of 6 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 530W, on gun crime, if he will publish the statistics for gun crime deaths by police force area. [16097]

**Hazel Blears:** The number of fatalities involving firearms, excluding air weapons, between 1999–2000 and 2003–04 is shown in the table.

*Fatalities involving firearms[1] (excluding air weapons) in England and Wales by police force*

| Police force area | 1999–2000 | 2000–01 | 2001–02 | 2002–03 | 2003–04 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Avon and Somerset | 0 | 2 | 0 | 6 | 3 |
| Bedfordshire | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Cambridgeshire | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Cheshire | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Cleveland | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Cumbria | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Derbyshire | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Devon and Cornwall | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Dorset | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Durham | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Dyfed-Powys | 0 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| Essex | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 0 |
| Gloucestershire | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Greater Manchester | 9 | 10 | 11 | 6 | 8 |
| Gwent | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Hampshire | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Hertfordshire | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Humberside | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Kent | 3 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 1 |
| Lancashire | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Leicestershire | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Lincolnshire | 0 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| London, City of | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| London, Metropolitan | 24 | 28 | 44 | 35 | 23 |
| Merseyside | 3 | 3 | 6 | 5 | 5 |
| Norfolk | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| North Wales | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| North Yorkshire | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Northamptonshire | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1 |
| Northumbria | 4 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Nottinghamshire | 1 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 3 |
| South Wales | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| South Yorkshire | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Staffordshire | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Suffolk | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Surrey | 0 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Sussex | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Thames Valley | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| Warwickshire | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| West Mercia | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

*Fatalities involving firearms[1] (excluding air weapons) in England and Wales by police force*

| *Police force area* | *1999–2000* | *2000–01* | *2001–02* | *2002–03* | *2003–04* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| West Midlands | 3 | 4 | 7 | 9 | 8 |
| West Yorkshire | 1 | 3 | 7 | 1 | 4 |
| Wiltshire | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| England and Wales | 62 | 72 | 96 | 80 | 68 |

[1] By weapons being fired, used as a blunt instrument or in a threat.

### Harmful Gaseous Substances

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what measures his Department has put in place to respond to a deliberate release of harmful gaseous substances. [14786]

**Mr. Charles Clarke:** The emergency services, Government Departments and agencies, local authorities and other relevant organisations have contingency plans in place to enable them to provide a multi-agency response to a wide range of incidents including the deliberate release of chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) substances and material. It would not be appropriate to disclose details about specific operational and technical procedures as these might be of potential use to terrorists.

The Government have published a wide range of advice for responders and consequence managers on the deliberate release of CBRN substances which can be accessed through the following website: UK Resilience (www.ukresilience.info/home.htm).

### Hate Crime

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps are being taken to protect the Muslim community from reprisals following the bombings on 7 July, with particular reference to Brent; and if he will make a statement. [16038]

**Mr. Charles Clarke:** It is for chief officers of police to decide how best to protect members of the public from being attacked. I understand that the Association of Chief Police Officers has issued guidance to forces reminding them of the need to pay particular attention to communicating with, and providing appropriate levels of policing to, communities which may feel vulnerable to attack following the bombings in London.

In Brent, as elsewhere, the police established a security group headed by a senior officer, the Muslim community is represented on the group, and extra patrols have also been deployed to protect and reassure communities who feel vulnerable. Police officers have received specific briefing to ensure that hate crimes are identified, recorded and investigated robustly.

### Home Detention Curfew Scheme

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many participants there have been in the Home Detention Curfew Scheme in London in each month since its inception; and if he will make a statement. [15357]

**Paul Goggins:** Information on the home address of persons participating in the Home Detention Curfew Scheme (HDC) is not recorded centrally. The number of participants in the HDC Scheme who were discharged from London prisons is available and is provided in a table which will be placed in the Library.

The figures refer to the number of persons recorded as participating in the HDC Scheme on the last Friday of the month, and are not available for the period January 1999 to February 2000.

### Human Rights

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what elements of the EU Human Rights Agency have been agreed to be established; what elements have been established; what the treaty basis is for those elements; and if he will make a statement. [15910]

**Ms Harman:** I have been asked to reply.

A European Council working group attended by all member states has begun to consider the European Commission's proposal for the establishment of a Fundamental Rights Agency and will develop the details of the proposal during the UK Presidency. The Government consider the legal base for the proposed agency should be Article 308 of the Treaty of the European Community.

### Identity Card Scheme

**Mr. Carmichael:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what discussions he has had with representatives of the shipping industry on the implementation of the ID card scheme. [15295]

**Andy Burnham:** Home Office officials are engaged in discussions with the Department for Transport (DfT). These will continue and will take account of relevant outcomes of the DfT's and the Maritime Coastguard Agency's discussions with their social partners.

**Harry Cohen:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will identify those items in the database of registerable facts associated with the identity card which are not considered to be personal data as defined in the Data Protection Act 1998; and if he will make a statement. [13166]

**Andy Burnham:** The definition of "personal data" is set out in section one of the Data Protection Act. It is as follows.

"Personal data" means data which relate to a living individual who can be identified:

(a) from those data, or

(b) from those data and other information which is in the possession of, or is likely to come into the possession of, the data controller, and includes any expression of opinion about the individual and any indication of the intentions of the data controller or any other person in respect of the individual.

Whether or not data is personal therefore depends on whether it relates to an individual and whether he can be identified from that data either on its own or in conjunction with other data.

The information which may be recorded in the National Identity Register is set out in schedule 1 of the Identity Cards Bill. Although much of the data held on the National Identity Register could not, on its own, identify the individual to whom it relates, some items of data in a person's entry on the register could be used, in conjunction with other data in his entry, to identify him.

Any information recorded under paragraphs 1 to 4, *5(a)* , *7(a)* , *7(b)* , 8 and 9 of schedule 1 will most likely fall within the definition of personal information. Any information recorded under paragraphs *5(b)* , *5(c)* ,6, *7(c)* , *7(d)* and *7(e)* will most likely fall outside of the definition. Paragraph *5(c)* allows for the recording of a person's date of death. Information which relates to a dead person is not personal data for the purposes of the Data Protection Act.

None of the information listed in schedule 1 of the Identity Cards Bill falls within the definition of sensitive personal data as defined in the Data Protection Act.

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what methodology was used to arrive at the estimates contained in the document Identity Cards Scheme Benefits Overview on the financial benefits to *(a)* citizens, *(b)* the public sector and *(c)* the private sector; which (i) public, (ii) private and (iii) voluntary sector organisations were consulted as part of the research; how much the research cost to conduct; and what the duration of the research was from commissioning to completion. [13214]

**Mr. Charles Clarke:** The methodology used to calculate the Identity Card Scheme's financial and economic benefits is based on the Treasury's "Green Book: Appraisal and Evaluation in Central Government" guidelines. This outlines how public sector proposals should be appraised before significant funds are committed.

In addition, our estimates have been developed based on input from stakeholders based on a consistent set of assumptions. Associated costs, potential dis-benefits and risks are accounted for and updated regularly using best information available at the time. In the course of conducting our benefits research, the following organisations have been consulted:

Criminal Records Bureau (CRB), Driving and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA), Driving Standards Authority, Office of e-Envoy, Department for Education and Skills (DfES), Confederation of British Industry, Department of Health (DoH), the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO), Royal Mail, Post Office, Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC), Department for Work and Pensions (DWPO, Bichard Projects involving CRB and DfES, Criminal Justice Information Technology (CJIT), UK Passport Service (UKPS), UK Visas, Board of Airline Representatives, British Air Transport Association, Office of National Statistics (ONS), Immigration and Nationality Directorate (IND), E-Borders Programme, Department for Transport (DfT), the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM), Newham Council, Greenwich Council, Hammersmith and Fulham Council, Telecommunications UK Fraud Forum (TUFF), British Bankers Association, Association of Payment Clearance Services (APACS), Credit Industry Fraud Avoidance, Financial Services Authority(FSA).

In addition, a consultation group of 35 employers were engaged through HMRC to discuss benefits relating to payroll and human resource management for the private sector.

In the calculation of the benefits overview, no voluntary organisations have been involved to date. However, we are engaging a range of voluntary organisations with regard to requirements definition of the identity card scheme as a whole.

Finally, members of the scheme's principal users group (PUG) and private sector user groups (PSUG) were either involved or informed of this work. The membership of these groups is as follows:

*PUG:*

Cabinet Office, Department for Constitutional Affairs, Department for Education and Skills, Department for Transport, Department of Health, DVLA, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs, Her Majesty's Treasury, IND, Local Government Association, the Northern Ireland Office, the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, the Office for National Statistics, E-Government Unit, ACPO, RDS, Scottish Executive, UKPS, National Assembly of Wales.

*PSUG:*

Airbus, British Airways, BAA, BAE Systems, Bank of England, Barclays, BBC, BNFL, BP, BT, BT Syntegra, Eli Lilly, Experian, GlaxoSmithKline, HBOS, HSBC Holdings, Lloyds TSB, Pfizer, Pilkington, Proctor and Gamble, Rolls-Royce, Royal Bank of Scotland, Royal Mail, Sainsbury's, Shell, Standard Chartered Bank, Tesco, Unilever, Verisign, Visa International, Visa Europe, Vodaphone and YELL

While exploratory work started in 2003, in-depth work on the calculations involved in the benefits overview commenced in July 2004. The work behind the benefits overview was conducted as part of the overall work of the identity cards programme team, not as a specific research project, and cannot be separately quantified.

**Mr. Willis:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment he has made of the types of crimes that would be preventable under the Identity Card Scheme. [15967]

**Andy Burnham:** The Identity Cards Programme has worked extensively with law enforcement agencies and a number of public and private sector organisations to consider how the Identity Cards Scheme will achieve its strategic objective of preventing crime.

As a whole, the Identity Cards Scheme will put additional deterrents in place for those who might otherwise commit crimes. It will hinder the ability of criminals to operate by introducing a more reliable system of identity checks and by helping to prevent the use of false or multiple identities. It will also increase the likelihood of the criminal being caught by providing additional tools to law enforcement agencies to assist in their investigations.

The "Identity Cards Scheme Benefits Overview", published on 28 June 2005, provides some specific examples of how the Scheme can prevent crime and in particular, identity fraud. Work is continuing with

stakeholders in this area to understand how the Identity Cards Scheme can achieve further crime prevention objectives.

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much his Department has spent on preparations for and feasibility studies on identity cards. [4607]

**Paul Goggins:** The Government announced their intention to introduce legislation for an identity cards scheme in November 2003, following a six-month consultation exercise. In preparation £19.00 million has been spent since the start of the 2003 financial year and the end of June 2005. A further £1.61 million has been spent on trials.

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost of the identity cards scheme has been to date. [9946]

**Paul Goggins:** The Government announced their intention to introduce legislation for an identity cards scheme in November 2003, following a six month consultation exercise. In preparation £19 million has been spent since the start of the 2003 financial year and the end of June 2005. A further £1.61 million has been spent on trials.

**Mr. Carmichael:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if British seafarers possessing an international biometric identity card will also be required to purchase a UK identity card; what consideration the Government have given to the overlap of these two schemes; and if he will make a statement. [15296]

**Paul Goggins:** The Government are working towards ratification of ILO Convention No. 185 on Seafarers' Identity Documentation and is undertaking a detailed study of the practical and technical issues. The Maritime and Coastguards Agency is in the final stages of agreeing a specification for a feasibility study in respect of a biometric Seafarers' identity card.

This will include consideration of a range of options, including the possibility of sharing facilities and functions with other biometric initiatives.

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many *(a)* civil servants, *(b)* public sector secondees, *(c)* private sector secondees and *(d)* consultants are (i) employed by the identity cards programme team and (ii) otherwise employed on the identity cards project. [15369]

**Paul Goggins:** As at end of May 2005, the identity cards programme team comprised 43 civil servants and contracted staff, 62 consultants and one public sector secondee. Within the Immigration and Nationality Department, there are 4.5 people working on the Identity Cards Project. All figures are full-time equivalent. As of end of financial year 2004–05 there were a number of people at UKPS working on the ID Cards Project although none exclusively. In terms of full-time equivalent there were 4.2 consultants and 3.2 UKPS staff working on the Identity Cards Project.

**Mr. Willis:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether the citizen identification number carried on identity cards will appear on computerised Government databases for *(a)* health, *(b)* tax, *(c)* social security and *(d)* other records. [15966]

**Andy Burnham:** The unique identifier applied to each entry on the National Identity Register will be the National Identity Register Number, NIRN. Final decisions have not been taken on which databases include the NIRN. However this would be with the consent of the individual under Clause 14 of the Identity Cards Bill or under Clause 15 of the Bill in relation to the provision of a public service. In addition the NIRN can be provided to public authorities in limited circumstances under Clauses 19 to 23 of the Identity Cards Bill.

Administrators of any databases which include the NIRN will need to ensure that any use of that number is compliant with their obligations under the Data Protection Act 2004.

### Illegal Immigrants

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the main countries of origin of people who are in the UK illegally. [10456]

**Mr. McNulty:** The methodology that was used in the report published on 30 June 2005—Sizing the unauthorised (illegal) migrant population in the United Kingdom in 2001—cannot be used to make an assessment of the main countries of origin of people in the UK illegally.

### Immigration

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate he has made of the cost of transferring the UK's immigration system to one based on points; and if he will make a statement. [15119]

**Mr. McNulty:** The launch of the consultation exercise, on 19 July 2005, will help us shape the operational model needed to deliver a points based system, and with that the establishment of the costs of that system.

**Mr. Love:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many qualified adjudication officers have been employed in the Immigration Department in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [16098]

**Mr. McNulty:** Table 1 shows the approximate number of full-time equivalent staff members deployed in initial decision-making areas, in case working grades in the Immigration and Nationality Directorate, in each year since September 2000. Decision-making grades are administrative officer and executive officer and equivalent grades.

*Table 1*

| *Date* | *Asylum* | *NASS* | *MM* | *IS* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| September 2000 | 405 | 351 | [1]1,099 | 2,453 |
| September 2001 | 410 | 399 | [1]1,316 | 3,082 |
| September 2002 | 505 | 818 | [2]1,899 | 3,324 |
| September 2003 | 400 | 718 | 1,208 | 3,869 |
| September 2004 | 345 | 711 | 1,355 | 4,006 |
| June 2005 | [3]924 | 639 | 1,773 | 4,023 |

[1] ICD Croydon only.
[2] ICD.
[3] Includes appeals, which are not initial decision cases, in this figure for June 2005, only.

*Notes:*
1. NASS is the National Asylum Support Service which makes decisions on entitlement to support which are an ancillary decision to initial asylum decisions.
2. MM is Managed Migration and the figures are for AO grade only.
3. The headcount is the actual number of people employed by the organisation, some of whom will be part time, or on career breaks. The hours of those working part time are added together and divided by normal full-time working hours to arrive at the full-time equivalent.

Historically, immigration staff-in-post data has not been collated by job type, but by grade and directorate. These figures therefore include some staff whose work supports the caseworkers. The numbers of those who work in the Immigration Service as Immigration Officers and Assistant Immigration Officers have also been shown because decisions at points of entry are significant initial decisions. Immigration Service staff are deployed on many various aspects of immigration control and it is not possible to identify particular numbers for particular types of work.

The total number of staff employed by the Immigration and Nationality Department at the end of each financial year since 1997 is indicated in table 2. These figures include all elements of the work, not just initial decision areas.

*Table 2*

| *As at 31 March* | *Full-time equivalent* | *Headcount* |
|---|---|---|
| 1997 | – | 5,697 |
| 1998 | – | 5,160 |
| 1999 | 4,655 | 5,750 |
| 2000 | 5,976 | 6,582 |
| 2001 | 9,117 | 9,757 |
| 2002 | 9,984 | 10,404 |
| 2003 | 12,752 | 13,226 |
| 2004 | 14,482 | 15,164 |
| 2005 | 14,891 | 15,652 |

## IMPACT

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what decision has been reached in relation to whether the IMPACT system will contain unevaluated information and intelligence in addition to evaluated intelligence; and what the implications are of each option in terms of *(a)* cost and *(b)* the time scale of the project. [16029]

**Hazel Blears:** The aim of the IMPACT Programme is to deliver an effective local, regional and national information sharing and intelligence capability. This is likely to include access to both evaluated intelligence and other information, and decisions will be taken as the programme progresses as to the nature and extent of the information available. How this is to be achieved will be outlined in a business case for a long term programme of work in September that will address costs and time scale associated with each project. Full guidance to the police is being prepared on all aspects of information management and sharing.

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how much has been spent on the IMPACT programme to date; and what the projected total cost of the programme is. [16028]

**Hazel Blears:** The total projected cost of the programme will be determined under the work to finalise the business case. A total of £160 million was allocated to the Programme in the 2004 Spending Review. To date (end June 2005) including monies spent in 2004–05 £7.1 million has been spent and committed.

## Internet

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if he will list *(a)* UK and *(b)* EU (i) initiatives, (ii) programmes and (iii) laws under discussion concerning improper use of the internet. [16067]

**Paul Goggins:** The Government have always taken the view that all legislation must be robust enough to deal with offences whether they are committed on or off line. To this end there is a variety of legislation which deals with offences which can be commissioned utilising computer systems and networks, but which contain no specific reference to use of the internet.

Initiatives and programmes under discussion on which the Home Office leads on this issue include: educating computer users about the risks of fraud committed using the internet through advice on the Home Office website on avoiding internet fraud; we have published jointly with APACS (the Association of Payment Clearing Services) a leaflet on card safety which includes a section on using cards safely over the internet; the Home Office has also created and maintains the "e-tailing" mini site www.crimereduction.gov.uk/etailing00.htm, which provides information to help both businesses and consumers protect themselves specifically when using the internet; and finally the Home Secretary's Task Force on Child Protection on the Internet seeks to protect children using the internet, and from abuse fuelled by criminal misuse of new technologies, and promote safe use of the internet.

In respect of legislation under discussion being developed by the Home Office, the Government and the opposition are working together to develop three new offences that could relate to terrorists' use of the internet. These are: (1) Indirect incitement—covering any method of making a message available to the public which is intended to encourage others to engage in terrorist activities, while not directly calling upon them to do so; (2) Training in terrorist methods and techniques, and in making or using hazardous substances for terrorist purposes. This offence could be used if individuals take advantage of the internet to carry out such training; (3) Acts preparatory. This would target individuals and groups involved in preparing, instigating or conspiring to commit an act of terrorism. Where the internet is used in this process, such improper use could be targeted. In all three cases, intent to cause or facilitate terrorist activities would have to be proved.

In addition, the Fraud Bill is seeking to ensure that use of computers or the internet to commit or facilitate fraud is criminalised in legislation, the Identity Cards Bill includes an offence of tampering with the National Identity Register including the unauthorised modification of its contents by electronic means, and Government will seek to make amendments to the Computer Misuse Act 1990 when parliamentary time allows.

Within the EU the Safer Internet Programme is designed to complement legislative approaches to combating illegal and harmful material on the internet, by stimulating and supporting self-help and self-regulatory approaches. The original €38.3 million programme between 1999 and 2004: financed projects to create a safer environment via a European network of hot-lines to report illegal content; encouraged self-regulation and codes of conduct; developed filtering and rating systems; and encouraged awareness actions. The new programme, Safer Internet Plus, will run from 2005 to 2008 and has a €45 million budget. The proposed Safer Internet Plus programme aims to both build on its predecessor's achievements and meet new threats.

### Kidnappings (London)

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people have been kidnapped in London in each year since 1997. [15519]

**Paul Goggins:** The available information relates to recorded offences of kidnapping and is given in the tables. The National Crime Recording Standard was introduced on one April 2002 and statistics before and after that date are not directly comparable.

*Table 1: Recorded offences of kidnapping in the London area[1]— 1997 to 2001–02*

| Period | Kidnapping (number of offences) |
|---|---|
| 1997 | 542 |
| 1998–99 | 628 |
| 1999–2000 | 787 |
| 2000–01 | 890 |
| 2001–02 | 1,095 |

[1] Includes the Metropolitan Police and City of London police.
*Note:*
The data in this table are prior to the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002. These figures are not directly comparable with those for later years.

*Table 2: Recorded offences of kidnapping in the London area[1]— 2002–03 to 2004–05*

| Period | Kidnapping (number of offences) |
|---|---|
| 2002–03 | 1,145 |
| 2003–04 | 1,013 |
| 2004–05 | 819 |

[1] Includes the Metropolitan Police and City of London police.
*Note:*
The data in this table take account of the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002. These figures are not directly comparable with those for earlier years.

### Licensing Act

**Anne Milton:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the proposed criteria are by which an area can be designated an alcohol disorder zone. [12839]

**Hazel Blears:** The proposed criteria for the designation of an alcohol disorder zone are set out at clause 13, subsections (1) and (8) of the Violent Crime Reduction Bill (www.parliament.uk) In summary: the criteria provide for a test on whether there is nuisance or annoyance or disorder in or near the locality that is linked with the consumption of alcohol; and a local authority may only designate a locality an alcohol disorder zone where the action plan (setting out the remedial steps that would make designation unnecessary) will not be implemented.

### Mentally Disturbed Offenders

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make a statement on the progress on work in standardising court diversion schemes for the mentally ill as set out in the Government's reply to the Seventh report of the Joint Committee on Human Rights of 2004–05 on Deaths in Custody. [15360]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** Improving the arrangements for Criminal Justice Liaison and Diversion services is now a part of dedicated joint project of the Home Office, Department of Health and Department of Constitutional Affairs aimed at improving the way health and social services advise and support the management of those before the courts. A series of regional events involving health, criminal justice and social care agencies is planned later this year.

These events will provide an opportunity to raise the profile of diversion schemes for mentally disordered offenders, identify good practice, and promote a co-ordinated approach to planning and delivery of services. Each diversion scheme will need to meet the needs of the community that it serves, ensuring that offenders coming before the courts have their mental health or other needs assessed at the earliest opportunity, informing sentencing decisions, and facilitating access to health or social care interventions at the right time.

### Ministerial Speeches

**David Davis:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many speeches have been made by his Department's Ministers in each month since 1997; and how many have been published on the www.homeoffice.gov.uk website. [1397]

**Mr. Charles Clarke:** Details relating to the number of speeches made by Ministers are not collated centrally and to provide them would incur disproportionate costs.

37 ministerial speeches are currently available to download from the Home Office website.

### Missing Dogs

**Susan Kramer:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many dogs have been reported missing or stolen each year in the United Kingdom since 2000, broken down by borough. [15880]

**Hazel Blears:** It is not possible to identify the number of dogs stolen from the recorded crime statistics collected by the Home Office for England and Wales. Information is not collected by the Home Office on the number of dogs reported missing.

Statistics for Scotland and Northern Ireland are matters for the respective Secretaries of State.

### Missing Persons (London)

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been reported as missing in London in each year since 1997. [15521]

**Hazel Blears:** The information requested is not collected centrally by the Home Office.

### Mopeds

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance he has issued on whether mopeds may be parked in pedestrian zones, including pavements. [14089]

**Paul Goggins:** Guidance on pedestrianised zones is issued to local authorities by the Government Offices for the Regions. Enforcement against vehicles improperly parked is an operational matter for the police or the local authority.

### Motorbike Nuisance

**Tony Lloyd:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on how many occasions police forces have used powers under the Police Reform Act 2002 to issue warnings to individuals and to seize motorbikes following offences concerning motorbike nuisance. [14804]

**Paul Goggins:** Figures for the number of warnings issued to individuals and the number of motorbikes seized under the provisions of Section 59 of the Police Reform Act are not collected centrally.

**Jessica Morden:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what powers are available to the police to combat the anti-social use of micro-bikes. [13309]

**Paul Goggins:** The police have the power under the Police Reform Act 2002 to seize ay mechanically propelled vehicle which is being driven both in a careless and inconsiderate manner on-road or off-road without lawful authority, and is causing or likely to cause alarm , distress or annoyance to members of the public. If a microbike is ridden on the pavement, the police can deal with this as an offence under the Highways Act 1835. Where the rider is a child the police may choose instead to warn him and advise his parents as necessary.

**Mr. Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what powers the police have to deal with nuisance and disturbance caused by the use of mini-motorbikes. [14899]

**Paul Goggins:** The police have a power under the Police Reform Act to seize any mechanically propelled vehicle which is being driven both in a careless and inconsiderate manner on-road, or off-road without lawful authority, and causing or likely to cause alarm, distress or annoyance to members of the public. If a microbike is ridden on the pavement, the police can deal with this as an offence under the Highways Act 1835. Where the rider is a child the police may choose instead to warn him and advise his parents as necessary.

### Motoring Offences

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will list the penalties, including number of penalty points, for each motoring offence. [10547]

**Paul Goggins:** The penalties for all motoring offences are listed in schedule two to the Road Traffic Offenders Act 1988 as amended, a copy of which is available in the Library.

### Multiple Passports

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will estimate how many people who have a British passport also are *(a)* in possession of and *(b)* entitled to a passport of a different nationality; and what mechanisms are in place to monitor the use of multiple passports. [14072]

**Andy Burnham:** The UK Passport Service does not retain this information. UK nationality law does not prohibit the holding of dual nationality and the UK Passport Service does not record whether British passport holders have another nationality. The use of multiple passports is also not monitored.

### National Casualty Helpline

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the price per minute is for the National Casualty Helpline; if he will make it his policy to ensure that future helplines are given a free phone number; and if he will make a statement. [12460]

**Hazel Blears:** When the Casualty Bureau was opened on 7 July, it was accessed through an 0870 number. The cost of those calls varied depending upon the caller's telephone service provider.

On 15 July, I announced an urgent review of the use of 0870 numbers in respect of the Casualty Bureau. That review has now taken place and, with immediate effect, the use of 0870 numbers will be discontinued in respect of Casualty Bureau access to the public. 0800 numbers will be made available as the main contact number between the Police Service Casualty Bureau and the public.

0800 freephone numbers are free at the point of use to landline customers. Mobile users are likely to be charged based upon their mobile tariff. 0800 numbers may not be accessed from overseas and an alternative 020 geographic number is therefore being provided primarily for the use of overseas callers. This number is also available to UK customers, including those using mobile phones who may find the charges lower than the standard rate for 0800.

### National Offender Management Service

**Mrs. Gillan:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what the salary range will be for the new chief executive of the National Offender Management Service; [12025]

(2) what steps he has taken to recruit a replacement for the chief executive of the National Offender Management Service; and when he expects to make the new appointment; [12026]

(3) where the position of the chief executive of the National Offender Management Service is to be advertised; when it will be advertised; and at what level. [15625]

**Mr. Charles Clarke:** The post of chief executive National Offender Management Service is being advertised internally within the Home Office and NHS. It has been placed within the senior civil service pay band three, salary range £93,139–132,586. Interviews are expected to begin in late September, and an appointment made as soon as possible thereafter.

**Mrs. Gillan:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much money has been spent on the National Offender Management Service since its inception. [15622]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** The expenditure of the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) is contained in the following table. The table details expenditure from 1 June 2004, when NOMS came into being, until 30 June 2005, the most recent figures available.

*National Offender Management Service from 1 June 2004 to 30 June 2005*

*Provisional outturn: £ million*

| | *13 months* | |
|---|---|---|
| | *Resource* | *Capital* |
| NOMS HQ | 343.9 | 150.3 |
| Prisons | 2,277.6 | 208.4 |
| NPS | 942.7 | 16.7 |
| Total | 3,564.2 | 375.4 |

**Mrs. Gillan:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many Home Office officials have been *(a)* seconded and *(b)* moved to the National Offender Management Service. [15623]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** The National Offender Management Service Headquarters (NOMS HQ) was set up in June 2004. It was formed initially from existing Home Office units and at present remains part of the core Home Office.

**Mrs. Gillan:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people have been *(a)* seconded and *(b)* recruited from outside his Department to the National Offender Management Service. [15626]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** The National Offender Management Service Headquarters (NOMS HQ) was set up in June 2004. It was formed initially from existing Home Office units. Since then a number of staff and functions have transferred in from the Prison Service HQ which is an Agency of the Home Office. There is only a minority of staff within NOMS HQ who have been recruited from outside the Department. In April 2005 a number of functions and staff were transferred to NOMS from the Prison Service and the National Probation Service, these included 44 staff seconded from the National Probation Service.

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how much has been spent to date on establishing regional offender managers as part of the National Offender Management Service. [16033]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** As a result of recruiting the 10 regional offender managers from staff working in the National Offender Management Service there were no additional staff costs to NOMS in 2004–05. The budget for the regional offender managers in 2005–06 will be £5.4 million which will include the costs of additional support staff.

### National Police Intelligence System

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment has been made of progress in developing a national police intelligence system; and if he will make a statement. [14034]

**Paul Goggins:** The development of a national IT system to support police intelligence in England and Wales was recommended by the Bichard inquiry in June 2004. The Government passed Sir Michael Bichard, who chaired the inquiry, a full progress report on 22 December 2004, detailing progress made in implementing all 31 recommendations. This was made public on 11 January 2005. In reply, he stated he was broadly content with the direction and pace of progress, including the development and implementation of the IMPACT programme, which will deliver the national IT programme.

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the national police intelligence system IMPACT is due to be completed; and whether a timeframe for its roll out has been agreed. [14035]

**Paul Goggins:** The programme will deliver, by the end of the year, a nominal index which police forces will be able to search to discover which other forces hold, on their local systems, information relating to a person under investigation or for vetting purposes.

The programme is also developing a longer term vision and strategy for a national IT system to support police information sharing, including the future of the police national computer.

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects the business case for the development of the national police intelligence system IMPACT to be published. [14036]

**Paul Goggins:** An outline business case will be prepared in September. For commercial reasons, business cases are not released until all associated contractual activities are completed.

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance he has given to police forces in England and Wales on updating their IT systems pending the delivery of a national police intelligence system. [14037]

**Paul Goggins:** The Home Office has issued no guidance to forces on updating their IT systems in the context of the IMPACT Programme, pending the outcome of the programme definition. The police service are closely involved in the programme, which reports to a board chaired by ACPO, though the programme has recently issued guidance on the need to extract nominal data from paper and unstructured force systems to enter onto the Criminal Records Bureau's I-PLX system. Guidance has also been issued on the need to develop a capability to extract data from force IT

systems in common data format, in preparation for data sharing initiatives to be delivered in later stages of the programme.

## Offenders

**John Hemming:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people of each standard juvenile and adult age cohort were convicted of each of the standard offence categories for each year between 1997 and 2005; and how many convicted offenders had previously been given a final warning or reprimand for *(a)* that same offence and *(b)* any other offence. [14892]

**Paul Goggins:** Information on the number of offenders convicted in England and Wales between 1997 and 2003 is given in the following tables.

Statistics for 2004 will be published in the autumn. It is not possible from the data held on the Home Office Court Proceedings Database to identify offenders previously given a reprimand or final warning.

*Number of persons convicted at all courts in England and Wales, by age group and offence type*

*1997*

| | Age | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Offence type* | *10–11* | *12–14* | *15–17* | *18–20* | *21 and over* | *All ages* |
| Violence against the person | 18 | 855 | 5,012 | 5,787 | 22,890 | 34,562 |
| Sexual offences | 4 | 123 | 342 | 245 | 3,309 | 4,523 |
| Burglary | 63 | 1,532 | 7,033 | 7,116 | 15,959 | 31,703 |
| Robbery | 27 | 440 | 1,875 | 1,260 | 1,987 | 5,589 |
| Theft and handling stolen goods | 151 | 3,681 | 15,746 | 20,114 | 78,748 | 118,440 |
| Fraud and forgery | 0 | 82 | 724 | 2,171 | 14,029 | 17,006 |
| Criminal damage | 29 | 588 | 1,646 | 1,833 | 6,417 | 10,513 |
| Drug offences | 0 | 83 | 1,764 | 6,493 | 32,326 | 40,666 |
| Other indictable offences | 12 | 428 | 3,738 | 8,367 | 33,710 | 46,255 |
| Indictable motoring offences | 0 | 27 | 335 | 1,271 | 7,836 | 9,469 |
| Summary offences (excluding motoring) | 106 | 2,959 | 18,971 | 39,868 | 352,329 | 414,233 |
| Summary motoring offences | 13 | 406 | 10,338 | 62,212 | 568,587 | 641,556 |
| Total | 423 | 11,204 | 67,524 | 156,737 | 1,138,627 | 1,374,515 |

*1998*

| | Age | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Offence type* | *10–11* | *12–14* | *15–17* | *18–20* | *21 and over* | *All ages* |
| Violence against the person | 19 | 947 | 5,047 | 6,366 | 24,671 | 37,050 |
| Sexual offences | 1 | 119 | 347 | 291 | 3,809 | 4,567 |
| Burglary | 87 | 1,745 | 6,696 | 6,830 | 15,411 | 30,769 |
| Robbery | 19 | 412 | 1,739 | 1,302 | 2,070 | 5,542 |
| Theft and handling stolen goods | 236 | 4,540 | 17,108 | 21,737 | 82,122 | 125,743 |
| Fraud and forgery | 0 | 91 | 872 | 2,495 | 16,295 | 19,753 |
| Criminal damage | 40 | 602 | 1,682 | 1,870 | 6,749 | 10,943 |
| Drug offences | 4 | 112 | 2,633 | 8,118 | 37,954 | 48,821 |
| Other indictable offences | 14 | 427 | 3,771 | 8,760 | 35,175 | 48,147 |
| Indictable motoring offences | 0 | 29 | 394 | 1,165 | 7,347 | 8,935 |
| Summary offences (excluding motoring) | 164 | 3,846 | 21,508 | 44,859 | 390,098 | 460,475 |
| Summary motoring offences | 25 | 408 | 10,822 | 63,597 | 581,969 | 656,821 |
| Total | 609 | 13,278 | 72,619 | 167,390 | 1,203,670 | 1,457,566 |

*1999*

| | Age | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Offence type* | *10–11* | *12–14* | *15–17* | *18–20* | *21 and over* | *All ages* |
| Violence against the person | 26 | 987 | 4,969 | 6,326 | 23,392 | 35,700 |
| Sexual offences | 8 | 129 | 352 | 275 | 3,540 | 4,304 |
| Burglary | 113 | 1,667 | 6,024 | 6,565 | 14,892 | 29,261 |
| Robbery | 23 | 410 | 1,611 | 1,235 | 2,347 | 5,626 |
| Theft and handling stolen goods | 321 | 4,859 | 17,470 | 23,051 | 85,523 | 131,224 |
| Fraud and forgery | 6 | 86 | 988 | 2,866 | 16,357 | 20,303 |
| Criminal damage | 86 | 810 | 1,795 | 1,817 | 6,364 | 10,872 |
| Drug offences | 2 | 187 | 2,924 | 8,445 | 37,153 | 48,711 |
| Other indictable offences | 15 | 516 | 3,814 | 8,522 | 33,705 | 46,572 |
| Indictable motoring offences | 2 | 39 | 401 | 1,151 | 6,490 | 8,083 |
| Summary offences (excluding motoring) | 280 | 5,005 | 21,725 | 43,489 | 361,009 | 431,508 |
| Summary motoring offences | 26 | 568 | 12,036 | 62,073 | 551,404 | 626,107 |
| Total | 908 | 15,263 | 74,109 | 165,815 | 1,142,176 | 1,398,271 |

*2000*

| Offence type | Age 10–11 | 12–14 | 15–17 | 18–20 | 21 and over | All ages |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Violence against the person | 40 | 1,088 | 5,276 | 6,353 | 22,513 | 35,270 |
| Sexual offences | 4 | 121 | 341 | 251 | 3,226 | 3,943 |
| Burglary | 106 | 1,491 | 5,217 | 5,650 | 13,758 | 26,222 |
| Robbery | 31 | 469 | 1,725 | 1,261 | 2,405 | 5,891 |
| Theft and handling stolen goods | 315 | 4,677 | 16,011 | 22,048 | 84,921 | 127,972 |
| Fraud and forgery | 3 | 92 | 922 | 2,638 | 15,567 | 19,222 |
| Criminal damage | 78 | 790 | 1,708 | 1,734 | 5,940 | 10,250 |
| Drug offences | 6 | 243 | 3,488 | 8,105 | 32,779 | 44,621 |
| Other indictable offences | 15 | 561 | 3,818 | 8,267 | 30,604 | 43,265 |
| Indictable motoring offences | 1 | 52 | 502 | 1,156 | 5,838 | 7,549 |
| Summary offences (excluding motoring) | 336 | 5,767 | 21,634 | 44,441 | 416,485 | 488,663 |
| Summary motoring offences | 19 | 610 | 13,866 | 60,376 | 525,820 | 600,691 |
| Total | 954 | 15,961 | 74,508 | 162,280 | 1,159,856 | 1,413,559 |

*2001*

| Offence type | Age 10–11 | 12–14 | 15–17 | 18–20 | 21 and over | All ages |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Violence against the person | 47 | 1,161 | 5,702 | 6,331 | 22,057 | 35,298 |
| Sexual offences | 5 | 164 | 342 | 265 | 3,267 | 4,043 |
| Burglary | 113 | 1,440 | 4,718 | 4,948 | 13,583 | 24,802 |
| Robbery | 26 | 681 | 2,085 | 1,446 | 2,584 | 6,822 |
| Theft and handling stolen goods | 278 | 4,591 | 15,691 | 20,298 | 86,128 | 126,986 |
| Fraud and forgery | 2 | 78 | 933 | 2,584 | 14,685 | 18,282 |
| Criminal damage | 75 | 928 | 1,894 | 1,733 | 6,021 | 10,651 |
| Drug offences | 10 | 351 | 3,980 | 8,257 | 33,023 | 45,621 |
| Other indictable offences | 18 | 625 | 3,696 | 8,079 | 30,291 | 42,709 |
| Indictable motoring offences | 0 | 53 | 618 | 1,192 | 5,824 | 7,687 |
| Summary offences (excluding motoring) | 336 | 6,022 | 22,142 | 44,500 | 367,266 | 440,266 |
| Summary motoring offences | 16 | 792 | 15,917 | 58,796 | 501,041 | 576,562 |
| Total | 926 | 16,886 | 77,718 | 158,429 | 1,085,770 | 1,339,729 |

*2002*

| Offence type | Age 10–11 | 12–14 | 15–17 | 18–20 | 21 and over | All ages |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Violence against the person | 39 | 1,161 | 5,671 | 6,663 | 24,174 | 37,708 |
| Sexual offences | 6 | 159 | 392 | 286 | 3,541 | 4,384 |
| Burglary | 117 | 1,590 | 4,711 | 4,730 | 15,543 | 26,691 |
| Robbery | 36 | 632 | 2,139 | 1,480 | 3,424 | 7,711 |
| Theft and handling stolen goods | 255 | 4,130 | 14,051 | 18,041 | 90,856 | 127,333 |
| Fraud and forgery | 6 | 98 | 842 | 2,331 | 14,864 | 18,141 |
| Criminal damage | 83 | 937 | 1,890 | 1,708 | 6,382 | 11,000 |
| Drug offences | 5 | 393 | 4,559 | 8,672 | 35,407 | 49,036 |
| Other indictable offences | 22 | 623 | 3,797 | 8,258 | 34,138 | 46,838 |
| Indictable motoring offences | 0 | 62 | 704 | 1,302 | 6,171 | 8,239 |
| Summary offences (excluding motoring) | 314 | 6,032 | 22,005 | 45,903 | 411,232 | 485,485 |
| Summary motoring offences | 19 | 840 | 16,226 | 60,416 | 512,134 | 589,635 |
| Total | 902 | 16,657 | 76,987 | 159,790 | 1,157,865 | 1,412,201 |

*2003*

| Offence type | Age 10–11 | 12–14 | 15–17 | 18–20 | 21 and over | All ages |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Violence against the person | 46 | 1,194 | 5,339 | 6,542 | 24,915 | 38,036 |
| Sexual offences | 3 | 106 | 339 | 273 | 3,634 | 4,355 |
| Burglary | 78 | 1,373 | 4,300 | 4,181 | 15,794 | 25,726 |
| Robbery | 33 | 679 | 1,929 | 1,314 | 3,348 | 7,303 |
| Theft and handling stolen goods | 242 | 3,759 | 12,537 | 15,452 | 87,108 | 119,098 |
| Fraud and forgery | 1 | 78 | 732 | 2,146 | 15,062 | 18,019 |
| Criminal damage | 89 | 896 | 1,963 | 1,778 | 6,507 | 11,233 |
| Drug offences | 4 | 436 | 4,705 | 8,712 | 37,305 | 51,162 |
| Other indictable offences | 24 | 546 | 3,708 | 8,262 | 37,483 | 50,023 |
| Indictable motoring offences | 1 | 56 | 760 | 1,335 | 6,544 | 8,696 |
| Summary offences (excluding motoring) | 333 | 6,102 | 22,310 | 47,643 | 415,367 | 491,755 |
| Summary motoring offences | 28 | 855 | 16,957 | 64,850 | 573,125 | 655,815 |
| Total | 882 | 16,080 | 75,579 | 162,488 | 1,226,192 | 1,481,221 |

*Note:*
These data are on a principal offence basis.

## Passports

**David Davis:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many fraudulent passports were detected in each year since 1997. [9799]

**Mr. Charles Clarke:** The National Document Fraud Unit (NDFU) is the UK Immigration Service's centre of expertise concerning information about passports and travel document security and in combating travel document abuse. NDFU collates statistics for the numbers of forged and counterfeit passports and travel documents detected.

In the period since 1997, the following totals of fraudulent travel documents have been detected at United Kingdom ports of entry:

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 1997 | 4,411 |
| 1998 | 6,338 |
| 1999 | 5,516 |
| 2000 | 5,394 |
| 2001 | 6,601 |
| 2002 | 9,665 |
| 2003 | 7,985 |
| 2004 | 8,285 |

In addition to the 8,285 false travel documents detected at ports of entry in 2004, a further 2,335 fraudulent travel documents were detected by Immigration Service staff at enforcement units and also at the NDFU office in Croydon, which deals with after-entry cases. Further, the figures do not include the numbers of inadequately documented passengers denied boarding by commercial carriers overseas working in conjunction with UK Airline Liaison Officers. Some of these passengers will have held forged documents. Precise figures on the number denied boarding for this reason are not available.

**Mr. Osten:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the answer of 12 July 2005, *Official Report*, columns 913–4W, on passports, what estimate he has made of the *(a)* costs and *(b)* effects of each of the measures being taken under the UK Passport Services' anti-fraud programme. [15505]

**Mr. Charles Clarke:** We are currently working on the benefits case for the various anti fraud measures and their effectiveness. We are planning to be in a position to complete and give the details of this work before the end of this calendar year, in so far as security considerations allow.

**Mr. Osten:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the answer of 12 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 913W, on passports, what disadvantages for British passport holders he expects would be incurred if the Government chooses not to mirror the EU Directive on the fingerprinting of passport applicants; and if he will make a statement. [15517]

**Andy Burnham:** The UK wishes to co-operate as closely as possible with EU partners on asylum and immigration measures despite our position outside Schengen. It would be hard to defend the UK adopting lower biometric standards and a less secure passport design than the rest of our European colleagues, particularly given our resolve with our European partners to strengthen security and border controls following the Madrid bombings. The UKPS Corporate and Business Plan, published in April, noted the likelihood of incorporating fingerprints in UK passports by the end of the decade.

Once Schengen passports contain fingerprints, British passports without fingerprints would move from being amongst the most secure in the world to being one of the weaker links and therefore a more attractive target for forgery and fraudulent applications. The inclusion of fingerprints would strengthen the link between the passport and the holder, would make the document more difficult to forge and would reduce very significantly the risk of duplicate identities on the passport database. Fingerprints are more accurate in identifying fraudulent multiple applications than facial image.

Having the two biometrics, facial image and fingerprint, would increase certainty of identification and help address the situation where one biometric fails to validate the identity. It would facilitate the strengthening of UK border controls for passport holders returning to the UK and hence our national security. Incorporating fingerprints in UK passports would also mean that UK passport holders will not be inconvenienced should other countries further tighten their border controls and would allow British passport holders to benefit from potential future entry control systems in the UK and overseas (e.g. as already being rolled out in Hong Kong).

Once European countries have moved to include fingerprints in passports, if the UK does not follow suit there is every chance our passport holders would be inconvenienced when travelling into Schengen countries especially from outside Europe and be subject to delays and additional questions at border controls.

**Mr. Pelling:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what provision there is to provide a discount for those from less well-off families to pay the £500 premium for an indefinite leave to remain in the UK stamp to be placed in a new passport. [15597]

**Mr. McNulty:** The cost of processing an application for the transfer of an indefinite leave to remain stamp to new passport is £160 for postal applications, and £500 for the premium service at any of the public enquiry offices. The fee for transfer of leave stamps is for the processing of the application and there are no exemptions or provision for any discounts.

## Police

**Mr. Ian Austin:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many police community support officers have been introduced in *(a)* Dudley north and *(b)* the borough of Dudley; and what assessment he has made of the impact on crime and antisocial behaviour. [15385]

**Hazel Blears:** West Midlands constabulary had 219 community support officers (CSOs) on 31 March 2005. Information is not centrally collected about the number of CSOs in basic command units. Arrangements are being made to collect such data.

We have commissioned a national evaluation of CSOs which will be published later this year. An interim report, "National Evaluation of Community Support Officers", published in December 2004 (available at www.policereform.gov.uk), indicated that CSOs are having a positive impact on some types of antisocial behaviour and lower level crime, for example vehicle related crime and personal robbery. The main aim of CSOs is to provide a visible and reassuring presence on the streets.

**Mr. Ian Austin:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many police officers there were in *(a)* Dudley north and *(b)* the borough of Dudley in each year since 1997. [15386]

**Hazel Blears:** Information on strength at basic command unit (BCD) level is collected annually and reflects the position at the end of March for each year. Information on BCU strength is only available from 2002 and is set out in a table, which will be placed in the Library. Information is not collected on the number of police officers at constituency level. Dudley is part of the J1 operational command unit (OCU) which also includes Sedgley and Brierley Hill.

The deployment of officers to BCUs is a matter for the chief constable (Paul Scott-Lee) and within the "J1" OCU deployment of officers is a matter for the divisional commander.

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the number and percentage of police officers in *(a)* the Metropolitan police and *(b)* the City of London police was in each year since 1997, broken down by ethnicity. [15998]

**Hazel Blears:** The figures are provided in the following table. Data is available only from 1998 onwards.

*Number and percentage of minority ethnic police officers in the Metropolitan police and the City of London police by year*

| | Metropolitan police | | City of London police | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| As at 31 March.: | Number of minority ethnic police officers | Percentage of total officer strength | Number of minority ethnic police officers | Percentage of total officer strength |
| 2005 | 2,179 | 7.0 | 43 | 4.9 |
| 2004 | 1,976 | 6.6 | 34 | 4.0 |
| 2003 | 1,574 | 5.6 | 28 | 3.5 |
| 2002 | 1,286 | 4.9 | 24 | 3.1 |
| 2001 | 1,049 | 4.2 | 18 | 2.6 |
| 2000 | 1,009 | 4.0 | 17 | 2.3 |
| 1999 | 854 | 3.4 | 17 | 2.2 |
| 1998 | 861 | 3.3 | 20 | 2.4 |

**Mr. Hands:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many police officers there were in each London borough on 5 May. [16328]

**Paul Goggins:** The following table provides data for the number of police officers as at 31 March 2005. Data specifically for 5 May are not available centrally.

*Police officer strength by Metropolitan police basic command units as at 31 March 2005*

| Basic command unit | Full-time equivalents |
|---|---|
| Barking and Dagenham | 419.08 |
| Barnet | 561.01 |
| Bexley | 382.65 |
| Brent | 679.4 |
| Bromley | 489.19 |
| Camden | 850.41 |
| Central Services | 11,223.89 |
| City of Westminster | 1,617.10 |
| Croydon | 692.01 |
| Ealing | 686.18 |
| Enfield | 574.66 |
| Greenwich | 605.23 |
| Hackney | 788.52 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 526.68 |
| Haringey | 683.21 |
| Harrow | 342.24 |
| Havering | 383.42 |
| Heathrow | 437.48 |
| Hillingdon | 497.8 |
| Hounslow | 509.65 |
| Islington | 683.35 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 561.59 |
| Kingston upon Thames | 298.19 |
| Lambeth | 984.46 |
| Lewisham | 645.94 |
| Merton | 351.7 |
| Newham | 781.93 |
| Redbridge | 458.66 |
| Richmond upon Thames | 286.8 |
| Southwark | 891.42 |
| Sutton | 291.03 |
| Tower Hamlets | 761 |
| Waltham Forest | 545.84 |
| Wandsworth | 582.25 |
| Total | 31,073.37 |

**Mr. Denis Murphy:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many acceptable behaviour contracts were entered into in *(a)* Northumbria police force area and *(b)* Castle Morpeth and Wansbeck local authority areas in each of the last three years. [14599]

**Hazel Blears:** The number of Acceptable Behaviour Contracts (ABCs) entered into by the Northumbria police force and Castle Morpeth and Wansbeck local authority areas is not known as this information is not collected centrally. ABCs are voluntary agreements with no statutory basis and can be entered into by various local services such as local authority social services or housing departments, Youth Inclusion and Support Panels or the police. They are therefore unsuitable for central data collection.

A recent survey carried out by the Home Office and sent to all Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships estimated that 5,383 ABCs were made between October 2003 and September 2004.

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many working days were lost because of attacks on police in Lancashire in 2004–05. [14593]

**Paul Goggins:** The number of working days lost in 2004–05 as a result of assaults on police in Lancashire was 1,330.

**Chris Bryant:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many officers left the police due to mental health problems in each of the last 10 years. [13424]

**Hazel Blears:** The information requested is not collected centrally.

**Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the usefulness and effectiveness of the practice of publishing the mobile phone numbers of police officers; and if he will make a statement. [14185]

**Paul Goggins:** The practice of publishing the mobile phone numbers of police officers is a matter for individual forces and the Government have no current plans to assess it.

The Government are committed to ensuring that local people receive the best possible service from the police and want to encourage robust and innovative communication between the police and the public through a variety of means. We are committed to providing all communities with more visible and accessible neighbourhood policing teams, and publishing mobile phone numbers of local officers may contribute towards the success of these teams.

Forces are assessed on overall user satisfaction and confidence levels through the police performance assessment framework.

**Anne Milton:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which *(a)* parliamentary constituencies, *(b)* local authorities and *(c)* local government wards fall within the West Surrey Basic Command Unit. [12877]

**Paul Goggins:** There are two parliamentary constituencies within the West Surrey Basic Command Unit: South West Surrey and Guildford. There are also two local authorities: Guildford borough council and Waverley borough council.

The 22 local government wards for Guildford borough council are:

Ash S. and Tongham
Ash Vale
Ash Wharf
Burpham
Christchurch
Clandon and Horsley
Effingham
Friary and St. Nicolas
Holy Trinity
Lovelace
Merrow
Normandy
Onslow
Pilgrims
Pirbright
Send
Shalford
Stoke
Stoughton
Tillingbourne
Westborough
Worplesdon.

The 29 local government wards for Waverley borough council are:

Alfold
Cranleigh Rural and Ellens Green
Blackheath and Wonersh
Bramley Busbridge and Hascombe
Chiddingfold and Dunsfold
Cranleigh East
Cranleigh West
Elstead and Thursley
Ewhurst, Farnham Bourne
Farnham Castle
Farnham Firgrove
Farnham Hale and Heath End
Farnham Moor Park
Farnham Shortheath and Boundstone
Farnham Upper Hale
Farnham Weybourne and Badshot Lea
Farnham Wrecclesham and Rowledge
Frensham Dockenfield and Tilford
Godalming Binscombe
Godalming Central and Ockford
Godalming Charterhouse
Godalming Farncombe and Catteshall
Godalming Holloway
Haslemere Critchmere and Shottermill
Haslemere East and Grayswood
Hindhead
Milford
Shamley Green and Cranleigh North
Witley and Hambledon.

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will list for each constabulary the number of assaults per head of population on *(a)* police officers and *(b)* police community support officers in each of the last three years. [7215]

**Hazel Blears:** The available information is given in the table. Figures for assaults on police officers are based on recorded crime data. Community support officers were introduced in September 2002 so only one year's data can be provided. These figures are taken from the police service strength returns.

*Table 1: Assaults on constables per 100,000 population*

| *Police force area* | *2001–02* | *2002–03* | *2003–04*[1] |
|---|---|---|---|
| Avon and Somerset | 21 | 27 | 36 |
| Bedfordshire | 43 | 61 | 55 |
| Cambridgeshire | 34 | 40 | 36 |
| Cheshire | 56 | 63 | 73 |
| Cleveland | 37 | 58 | 44 |
| Cumbria | 42 | 37 | 37 |
| Derbyshire | 65 | 89 | 41 |
| Devon and Cornwall | 41 | 43 | 27 |
| Dorset | 58 | 71 | 47 |
| Durham | 206 | 182 | 31 |
| Dyfed-Powys | 64 | 70 | 46 |
| Essex | 22 | 31 | 36 |
| Gloucestershire | 36 | 49 | 34 |

*Table 1: Assaults on constables per 100,000 population*

| Police force area | 2001–02 | 2002–03 | 2003–04[1] |
|---|---|---|---|
| Greater Manchester | 76 | 81 | 32 |
| Gwent | 91 | 108 | 57 |
| Hampshire | 39 | 55 | 56 |
| Hertfordshire | 37 | 43 | 68 |
| Humberside | 61 | 87 | 50 |
| Kent | 40 | 54 | 48 |
| Lancashire | 96 | 109 | 57 |
| Leicestershire | 36 | 48 | 46 |
| Lincolnshire | 34 | 43 | 24 |
| London, City of[2] | 612 | 625 | 436 |
| Merseyside | 97 | 121 | 72 |
| Metropolitan Police | 17 | 27 | 38 |
| Norfolk | 55 | 69 | 55 |
| North Wales | 66 | 83 | 37 |
| North Yorkshire | 60 | 77 | 36 |
| Northamptonshire | 49 | 56 | 48 |
| Northumbria | 83 | 116 | 43 |
| Nottinghamshire | 53 | 44 | 50 |
| South Wales | 72 | 86 | 58 |
| South Yorkshire | 60 | 54 | 34 |
| Staffordshire | 62 | 76 | 50 |
| Suffolk | 44 | 54 | 48 |
| Surrey | 21 | 27 | 39 |
| Sussex | 74 | 73 | 42 |
| Thames Valley | 59 | 73 | 34 |
| Warwickshire | 51 | 61 | 45 |
| West Mercia | 67 | 73 | 45 |
| West Midlands | 146 | 110 | 14 |
| West Yorkshire | 71 | 81 | 30 |
| Wiltshire | 47 | 56 | 44 |

[1] In April 2003, offences of obstructing a constable and resisting a constable in the execution of his/her duty were removed from the recorded crime series. Figures for 2003–04 may be affected by this.
[2] Numbers are affected by the size of the resident population relative to the transient or visiting population and therefore over-represent the number of crimes relative to the real population.

*Table 2: Assaults on community support officers[1] per 100,000 population*

| Police force area | 2003–04 |
|---|---|
| Avon and Somerset | 0.0 |
| Bedfordshire | 0.0 |
| Cambridgeshire | 0.0 |
| Cheshire | 0.0 |
| Cleveland | 0.2 |
| Cumbria | 0.0 |
| Derbyshire | 0.0 |
| Devon and Cornwall | 0.1 |
| Dorset | 0.3 |
| Durham | 0.0 |

*Table 2: Assaults on community support officers[1] per 100,000 population*

| Police force area | 2003–04 |
|---|---|
| Dyfed-Powys | 0.0 |
| Essex | 0.0 |
| Gloucestershire | 0.4 |
| Greater Manchester | 0.0 |
| Gwent | 0.0 |
| Hampshire | 0.0 |
| Hertfordshire | 0.0 |
| Humberside | 0.0 |
| Kent | 0.0 |
| Lancashire | 0.0 |
| Leicestershire | 0.3 |
| Lincolnshire | 0.0 |
| London, City of | 0.0 |
| Merseyside | 0.1 |
| Metropolitan Police | 0.0 |
| Norfolk | 0.0 |
| North Wales | 0.0 |
| North Yorkshire | 0.0 |
| Northamptonshire | 0.0 |
| Northumbria | 0.0 |
| Nottinghamshire | 0.0 |
| South Wales | 0.2 |
| South Yorkshire | 0.0 |
| Staffordshire | 0.0 |
| Suffolk | 0.1 |
| Surrey | 0.4 |
| Sussex | 0.3 |
| Thames Valley | 0.0 |
| Warwickshire | 0.0 |
| West Mercia | 0.0 |
| West Midlands | 0.0 |
| West Yorkshire | 0.7 |
| Wiltshire | 0.2 |

[1] Community support officers first introduced in September 2002

**Mr. Mazde:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much funding has been *(a)* spent on and *(b)* committed to policing schemes within each growth area. [13786]

**Hazel Blears:** Government grants since 2003–04 to the eight police forces covering the four designated housing growth areas of Ashford, London-Stansted-Cambridge-Peterborough (LSCP), Milton Keynes-South Midlands (MKSM) and Thames Gateway are set out in the table.

Allocation of these resources and appropriate budget management are matters for each Chief Constable and Police Authority, who will make decisions according to local plans and operational priorities.

*£ million*

| | 2003–04 | | 2004–05 | | 2005–06 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | General government grants[1] | Specific grants and capital support[2] | General government grants[1] | Specific grants and capital support[2] | General government grants[1] | Specific grants and capital support[2] |
| Bedfordshire Police | 60.14 | 6.52 | 62.11 | 6.64 | 64.92 | 7.16 |
| Cambridgeshire Constabulary | 71.07 | 8.31 | 73.41 | 9.67 | 77.88 | 8.95 |
| Essex Police | 155.87 | 15.85 | 160.93 | 14.57 | 166.97 | 16.80 |
| Hertfordshire Police | 101.52 | 8.28 | 104.83 | 8.69 | 108.79 | 9.88 |
| Kent Police | 176.84 | 24.41 | 182.61 | 19.00 | 189.47 | 19.24 |
| Metropolitan Police | 1,764.05 | 263.22 | 1,821.98 | 281.58 | 1,927.81 | 288.57 |
| Northamptonshire Police | 62.22 | 9.32 | 64.27 | 7.45 | 67.78 | 7.56 |
| Thames Valley Police | 205.94 | 23.69 | 212.65 | 24.69 | 220.63 | 26.26 |

[1] Comprises Home Office principal police grant and ODPM Revenue Support Grant and redistributed business rates.
[2] Includes Crime Fighting Fund, Rural Policing Fund, Basic Command Unit funding, Community Support Officer funding (including, for 2004–05 and 2005–06, Round 1 of the Neighbourhood Policing Fund), Airwave, DMA Expansion Programme, Street Crime Initiative, Special Priority Payments, Counter Terrorism funding (MPS only) and capital grants.

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will list *(a)* the six areas where, according to page 47 of the Home Office Annual Report 2004–05, performance is below the baseline and *(b)* the 18 areas defined as worst performing. [13784]

**Hazel Blears:** The Home Office SR2002 Public Service Agreement sets a target to "Improve the delivery of justice by increasing the number of crimes for which an offender is brought to justice to 1.15 million by 2005–06; with an improvement in all CJS areas, a greater increase in the worst performing areas and a reduction in the proportion of ineffective trials".

The worst performing areas were determined in September 2003 by two measures: the percentage of recorded crime that was brought to justice; and the number of offences brought to justice per police officer (excluding officers in their probationary period). The CJ areas which fell below the England and Wales average were defined as "worse performing".

The areas that were defined as "worst performing" were: Avon and Somerset, Greater Manchester, Humberside, London, Merseyside, Nottinghamshire, Thames Valley, West Yorkshire, Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Cheshire, Derbyshire, Dorset, Durham, Essex, Lincolnshire, Northampton and Surrey.

The target will be met if the average performance improvement achieved by the worse performing areas is greater than the national average performance improvement by 2005–06, as compared with the baseline year 2001–02.

In December 2004 six areas were performing below the baseline year. These were: Durham, Dyfed Powys, Gloucestershire, Gwent, Northumbria and West Midlands.

**Mr. Ian Austin:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much funding was allocated to police services in *(a)* Dudley North and *(b)* the borough of Dudley in each year since 1997. [15384384]

**Hazel Blears:** The local distribution of resources is a matter for the Chief Constable and police authority to determine in the light of local operational priorities. Information on resources for Dudley is not held centrally.

We have invested strongly in local policing in the West Midlands. General government grants to West Midlands police authority rose from £399.3 million in 2004–05 to £426.5 million this year, an increase of 6.8 per cent. per cent. This is the highest increase in general grants to any police authority in England and Wales. West Midlands police authority will also continue to benefit from a full range of specific grants for targeted programmes, receiving around £41.6 million in specific grants and capital provision this year.

**Mr. Carswell:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police stations have closed since January 2000. [14783]

**Paul Goggins:** I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to the hon. Member for Winchester (Mr. Oaten) on 4 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 138W.

**Mr. Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers there have been per 1000 population in each police force in each year since 1997. [14015]

**Hazel Blears** *[holding answer 21 July 2005]:* The information requested is available annually in a Home Office Statistical Bulletin on Police Service Strength. The latest information was published on 29 September 2004 in Home Office Statistical Bulletin number 13/04, "Police Service Strength England and Wales, 31 March 2004'.

This and earlier bulletins can be found on website:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/index.htm.

**Mr. Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers *(a)* have taken early retirement, *(b)* have retired and *(c)* have left the force for reasons other than retirement or early retirement for each police force in each of the last three years; and what the average length of service is of a police officer for each category, broken down by police force area. [14016]

**Hazel Blears** *[holding answer 21 July 2005]:* A full breakdown of reasons for leaving by police officers has only been collected centrally since 31 March 2003. Prior to that date the breakdown was limited to retirements, resignations and other wastage. The following table provides the full breakdown requested for the last two years and a limited breakdown for data as at 31 March 2002.

Information on length of service on leaving is collected in groups of years. This means average length of service of a police officer on leaving is not available.

*Police officer wastage*

| | *Early retirements (medical)* | | *Ordinary retirements* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *2002–03* | *2003–04* | *2002–03* | *2003–04* |
| Avon and Somerset | 34 | 10 | 77 | 55 |
| Bedfordshire | 7 | 1 | 25 | 26 |
| Cambridgeshire | 8 | 4 | 36 | 37 |
| Cheshire | 27 | 15 | 46 | 51 |
| Cleveland | 18 | 11 | 32 | 33 |
| Cumbria | 7 | 4 | 30 | 28 |
| Derbyshire | 12 | 2 | 66 | 52 |
| Devon and Cornwall | 10 | 6 | 90 | 81 |
| Dorset | 3 | 9 | 33 | 36 |
| Durham | 12 | 6 | 40 | 34 |
| Dyfed-Powys | 11 | 7 | 24 | 18 |
| Essex | 22 | 16 | 58 | 71 |
| Gloucestershire | 13 | 5 | 35 | 18 |
| Greater Manchester | 33 | 10 | 165 | 130 |
| Gwent | 22 | 8 | 24 | 41 |
| Hampshire | 11 | 11 | 121 | 98 |
| Hertfordshire | 7 | 3 | 45 | 43 |
| Humberside | 10 | 2 | 51 | 45 |
| Kent | 21 | 9 | 85 | 85 |
| Lancashire | n/a | 13 | n/a | 66 |
| Leicestershire | 9 | 6 | 49 | 32 |
| Lincolnshire | 10 | 3 | 37 | 30 |
| London, City of | 7 | 8 | 15 | 18 |
| Merseyside | 51 | 25 | 103 | 87 |
| Metropolitan Police | 156 | 60 | 495 | 519 |
| Norfolk | 13 | 6 | 52 | 26 |
| Northamptonshire | 3 | 3 | 28 | 24 |
| Northumbria | 29 | 9 | 77 | 88 |
| North Wales | 16 | 6 | 36 | 0 |
| North Yorkshire | 9 | 8 | 27 | 33 |
| Nottinghamshire | 34 | 12 | 54 | 67 |

*Police officer wastage*

| | Early retirements (medical) | | Ordinary retirements | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2002–03 | 2003–04 | 2002–03 | 2003–04 |
| South Wales | 33 | 14 | 70 | 94 |
| South Yorkshire | 13 | 12 | 93 | 89 |
| Staffordshire | 22 | 14 | 57 | 44 |
| Suffolk | 12 | 8 | 34 | 28 |
| Surrey | 12 | 10 | 45 | 34 |
| Sussex | 9 | 4 | 81 | 84 |
| Thames Valley | 29 | 17 | 99 | 91 |
| Warwickshire | 8 | 4 | 21 | 22 |
| West Mercia | 20 | 11 | 55 | 48 |
| West Midlands | 21 | 13 | 175 | 143 |
| West Yorkshire | 23 | 11 | 154 | 129 |
| Wiltshire | 13 | 2 | 31 | 27 |

| | Total retirements | | | Leaving other than retirement | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2001–02[1] | 2002–03 | 2003–04 | 2001–02[2] | 2002–03 | 2003–04 |
| Avon and Somerset | 121 | 111 | 65 | 35 | 95 | 79 |
| Bedfordshire | 26 | 32 | 27 | 24 | 60 | 77 |
| Cambridgeshire | 43 | 44 | 41 | 36 | 63 | 54 |
| Cheshire | 78 | 93 | 66 | 12 | 20 | 45 |
| Cleveland | 57 | 50 | 44 | 20 | 11 | 36 |
| Cumbria | 30 | 37 | 32 | 11 | 22 | 16 |
| Derbyshire | 56 | 78 | 54 | 7 | 32 | 32 |
| Devon and Cornwall | 96 | 100 | 87 | 32 | 54 | 41 |
| Dorset | 58 | 36 | 45 | 36 | 32 | 30 |
| Durham | 51 | 52 | 40 | 14 | 22 | 38 |
| Dyfed-Powys | 21 | 35 | 25 | 23 | 20 | 15 |
| Essex | 72 | 80 | 87 | 75 | 135 | 120 |
| Gloucestershire | 49 | 48 | 23 | 14 | 35 | 34 |
| Greater Manchester | 176 | 198 | 140 | 98 | 177 | 191 |
| Gwent | 79 | 46 | 49 | 20 | 15 | 24 |
| Hampshire | 121 | 132 | 109 | 49 | 93 | 123 |
| Hertfordshire | 65 | 52 | 46 | 48 | 138 | 112 |
| Humberside | 64 | 61 | 47 | 19 | 43 | 50 |
| Kent | 139 | 106 | 94 | 81 | 109 | 132 |
| Lancashire | 107 | n/a | 79 | 70 | n/a | 47 |
| Leicestershire | 52 | 58 | 38 | 40 | 69 | 48 |
| Lincolnshire | 50 | 47 | 33 | 15 | 26 | 28 |
| London, City of | 32 | 22 | 26 | 21 | 37 | 30 |
| Merseyside | 163 | 154 | 112 | 28 | 42 | 64 |
| Metropolitan Police | 717 | 651 | 579 | 545 | 1,093 | 998 |
| Norfolk | 51 | 65 | 32 | 23 | 27 | 19 |
| Northamptonshire | 28 | 31 | 27 | 14 | 25 | 46 |
| Northumbria | 107 | 106 | 97 | 54 | 58 | 85 |
| North Wales | 51 | 52 | 6 | 11 | 25 | 51 |
| North Yorkshire | 53 | 36 | 41 | 15 | 22 | 33 |
| Nottinghamshire | 87 | 88 | 79 | 51 | 49 | 45 |
| South Wales | 101 | 103 | 108 | 40 | 50 | 39 |
| South Yorkshire | 133 | 106 | 101 | 38 | 66 | 62 |
| Staffordshire | 63 | 79 | 58 | 42 | 52 | 45 |
| Suffolk | 36 | 46 | 36 | 24 | 39 | 39 |
| Surrey | 62 | 57 | 44 | 43 | 190 | 104 |
| Sussex | 98 | 90 | 88 | 88 | 154 | 202 |
| Thames Valley | 104 | 128 | 108 | 65 | 242 | 210 |
| Warwickshire | 27 | 29 | 26 | 20 | 29 | 30 |
| West Mercia | 80 | 75 | 59 | 37 | 41 | 64 |
| West Midlands | 216 | 196 | 156 | 278 | 331 | 294 |
| West Yorkshire | 223 | 177 | 140 | 101 | 80 | 109 |
| Wiltshire | 32 | 44 | 29 | 28 | 38 | 37 |

[1] For 2001–02 no breakdown of retirements available.
[2] Does not include transfers to other England and Wales forces.

**Mr. Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers have been recruited per police force area in each of the last three years. [14017]

**Paul Goggins** *[holding answer 21 July 2005]:* The available information is given in the following table. Due to changes in the data collection, figures for 2002–03 and 2003–04 are not comparable to previous recruitment figures as data includes transfers from other England and Wales forces and officers returning after a period of secondment.

*Police officer recruitment for 2001–02 and police officer joiners from 2002–03*

| | 2001–02 | 2002–03[1] | 2003–04[1] |
|---|---|---|---|
| Avon and Somerset | 274 | 264 | 389 |
| Bedfordshire | 131 | 136 | 186 |
| Cambridgeshire | 134 | 139 | 137 |
| Cheshire | 158 | 198 | 167 |
| Cleveland | 105 | 143 | 172 |
| Cumbria | 84 | 108 | 136 |
| Derbyshire | 112 | 283 | 161 |
| Devon and Cornwall | 181 | 335 | 243 |
| Dorset | 99 | 111 | 105 |
| Durham | 86 | 131 | 120 |

*Police officer recruitment for 2001–02 and police officer joiners from 2002–03*

| | 2001–02 | 2002–03[1] | 2003–04[1] |
|---|---|---|---|
| Dyfed-Powys | 87 | 87 | 72 |
| Essex | 233 | 296 | 335 |
| Gloucestershire | 78 | 139 | 123 |
| Greater Manchester | 583 | 546 | 1,059 |
| Gwent | 107 | 89 | 100 |
| Hampshire | 211 | 444 | 317 |
| Hertfordshire | 183 | 320 | 297 |
| Humberside | 237 | 152 | 206 |
| Kent | 286 | 370 | 326 |
| Lancashire | 203 | 224 | 332 |
| Leicestershire | 150 | 181 | 236 |
| Lincolnshire | 61 | 103 | 67 |
| London, City of | 71 | 116 | 98 |
| Merseyside | 201 | 174 | 221 |
| Metropolitan Police | 2,554 | 3,489 | 3,362 |
| Norfolk | 99 | 128 | 82 |
| Northamptonshire | 96 | 68 | 118 |
| Northumbria | 223 | 266 | 226 |
| North Wales | 90 | 133 | 115 |
| North Yorkshire | 99 | 97 | 128 |
| Nottinghamshire | 226 | 218 | 155 |
| South Wales | 185 | 269 | 187 |
| South Yorkshire | 181 | 172 | 293 |
| Staffordshire | 125 | 245 | 170 |
| Suffolk | 137 | 133 | 133 |
| Surrey | 225 | 187 | 160 |
| Sussex | 226 | 357 | 355 |
| Thames Valley | 321 | 458 | 520 |
| Warwickshire | 72 | 91 | 66 |
| West Mercia | 147 | 405 | 180 |
| West Midlands | 676 | 792 | 643 |
| West Yorkshire | 371 | 434 | 511 |
| Wiltshire | 107 | 96 | 127 |
| Total | 10,215 | 13,126 | 13,137 |

[1] Not comparable to previous recruitment figures as data includes transfers from other England and Wales forces and officers returning after a period of secondment.

**Mr. Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what funding each police force *(a)* should have received under the Government's formula and *(b)* received in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [14028]

**Hazel Blears** *[holding answer 21 July 2005]:* The information is set out in the table.

Government funding for police authorities is chiefly allocated using a funding formula that distributes resources on the basis of relative need and resources. A damping mechanism subsequently applied to protect all authorities against financial instability ensures all authorities receive an increase in grant at least equal to the "floor" level on a like–for–like basis year–on–year. Grant floors will remain an integral part of the finance system.

Between 2003–04 and 2005–06, every police authority received the amount of grant to which it was entitled under annual Police Grant Reports and Local Government Finance Reports.

The funding formula is currently being reviewed to ensure it continues to provide a robust and fair distribution of grant. A 12 week consultation period on options for formula change began on 19 July and will last until 10 October. This is an opportunity for all interested parties to comment on a range of proposals.

*2003–04*

*£ million*

| | Formula grant before floor damping[1] | Formula grant after floor damping[1] | Difference |
|---|---|---|---|
| Avon and Somerset Police | 157.1 | 157.1 | 0.0 |
| Bedfordshire Police | 60.2 | 60.1 | −0.1 |
| Cambridgeshire Police | 73.2 | 71.1 | −2.1 |
| Cheshire Police | 105.6 | 103.9 | −1.7 |
| Cleveland Police | 84.5 | 84.1 | −0.4 |
| Cumbria Police | 57.8 | 57.7 | 0.0 |
| Derbyshire Police | 97.3 | 97.9 | 0.7 |
| Devon and Cornwall Police | 160.4 | 161.5 | 1.1 |
| Dorset Police | 58.6 | 61.6 | 2.9 |
| Durham Police | 81.7 | 81.5 | −0.2 |
| Dyfed – Powys[2] | 48.9 | 49.3 | 0.4 |
| Essex Police | 143.3 | 155.9 | 12.6 |
| GLA—Police | 1,788.5 | 1,764.0 | −24.5 |
| Gloucestershire Police | 56.5 | 57.0 | 0.5 |
| Greater Manchester Police | 388.5 | 380.8 | −7.7 |
| Gwent[2] | 69.6 | 69.6 | 0.0 |
| Hampshire Police | 179.7 | 184.5 | 4.8 |
| Hertfordshire Police | 97.0 | 101.5 | 4.5 |
| Humberside Police | 111.1 | 110.9 | −0.2 |
| Kent Police | 168.7 | 176.8 | 8.2 |
| Lancashire Police | 179.1 | 177.1 | −2.0 |
| Leicestershire Police | 98.9 | 98.8 | −0.1 |
| Lincolnshire Police | 58.2 | 58.7 | 0.5 |
| Merseyside Police | 243.1 | 240.5 | −2.5 |
| Norfolk Police | 79.6 | 79.6 | −0.1 |
| North Wales[2] | 73.4 | 73.4 | 0.0 |
| North Yorkshire Police | 68.2 | 70.4 | 2.2 |
| Northamptonshire Police | 64.2 | 62.2 | −2.0 |
| Northumbria Police | 221.1 | 214.3 | −6.7 |
| Nottinghamshire Police | 123.7 | 123.6 | −0.2 |
| South Wales[2] | 158.3 | 163.0 | 4.7 |
| South Yorkshire Police | 172.7 | 172.3 | −0.4 |
| Staffordshire Police | 104.3 | 105.8 | 1.5 |
| Suffolk Police | 63.1 | 63.9 | 0.8 |
| Surrey Police | 71.1 | 85.4 | 14.3 |
| Sussex Police | 144.8 | 153.1 | 8.3 |
| Thames Valley Police | 204.0 | 205.9 | 2.0 |
| Warwickshire Police | 47.8 | 48.2 | 0.4 |
| West Mercia Police | 103.0 | 104.4 | 1.4 |
| West Midlands Police | 413.6 | 386.5 | −27.1 |
| West Yorkshire Police | 298.6 | 289.4 | −9.2 |
| Wiltshire Police | 58.7 | 58.7 | 0.0 |

*2004–05*

*£ million*

| | Formula grant before floor damping | Formula grant after floor damping | Difference |
|---|---|---|---|
| Avon and Somerset Police | 160.4 | 162.2 | 1.8 |
| Bedfordshire Police | 62.1 | 62.1 | 0.0 |
| Cambridgeshire Police | 74.9 | 73.4 | −1.5 |
| Cheshire Police | 107.1 | 107.2 | 0.1 |
| Cleveland Police | 84.7 | 86.8 | 2.1 |
| Cumbria Police | 57.6 | 59.6 | 2.0 |
| Derbyshire Police | 100.9 | 101.2 | 0.3 |
| Devon and Cornwall Police | 164.1 | 166.7 | 2.6 |
| Dorset Police | 59.2 | 63.6 | 4.4 |
| Durham Police | 83.2 | 84.2 | 1.0 |
| Dyfed – Powys[2] | 49.5 | 50.9 | 1.4 |
| Essex Police | 145.8 | 160.9 | 15.1 |
| GLA—Police | 1,878.4 | 1,822.0 | −56.4 |
| Gloucestershire Police | 56.9 | 58.9 | 2.0 |
| Greater Manchester Police | 399.9 | 393.2 | −6.7 |
| Gwent[2] | 69.7 | 71.8 | 2.1 |
| Hampshire Police | 186.2 | 190.5 | 4.3 |
| Hertfordshire Police | 99.1 | 104.8 | 5.7 |
| Humberside Police | 113.5 | 114.6 | 1.1 |
| Kent Police | 167.9 | 182.6 | 14.7 |
| Lancashire Police | 184.5 | 182.9 | −1.6 |
| Leicestershire Police | 102.0 | 102.0 | 0.0 |
| Lincolnshire Police | 60.1 | 60.6 | 0.5 |
| Merseyside Police | 246.4 | 248.4 | 2.0 |
| Norfolk Police | 81.6 | 82.2 | 0.6 |
| North Wales[2] | 75.8 | 75.8 | 0.0 |
| North Yorkshire Police | 69.7 | 72.7 | 3.0 |

*2004–05*

*£ million*

| | *Formula grant before floor damping* | *Formula grant after floor damping* | *Difference* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Northamptonshire Police | 66.5 | 64.3 | −2.2 |
| Northumbria Police | 225.1 | 221.4 | −3.7 |
| Nottinghamshire Police | 127.7 | 127.6 | −0.1 |
| South Wales[2] | 159.5 | 168.2 | 8.7 |
| South Yorkshire Police | 176.1 | 178.0 | 1.9 |
| Staffordshire Police | 105.1 | 109.2 | 4.1 |
| Suffolk Police | 63.2 | 66.0 | 2.8 |
| Surrey Police | 72.5 | 88.2 | 15.7 |
| Sussex Police | 147.4 | 158.1 | 10.7 |
| Thames Valley Police | 208.0 | 212.6 | 4.6 |
| Warwickshire Police | 49.5 | 49.8 | 0.3 |
| West Mercia Police | 106.4 | 107.7 | 1.3 |
| West Midlands Police | 426.3 | 399.3 | −27.0 |
| West Yorkshire Police | 305.7 | 298.9 | −6.8 |
| Wiltshire Police | 59.1 | 60.6 | 1.5 |

*2005–06*

*£ million*

| | *Formula grant before floor damping* | *Formula grant after floor damping* | *Difference* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Avon and Somerset Police | 172.2 | 170.0 | −2.2 |
| Bedfordshire Police | 65.7 | 65.1 | −0.6 |
| Cambridgeshire Police | 80.1 | 77.9 | −2.2 |
| Cheshire Police | 110.8 | 111.3 | 0.4 |
| Cleveland Police | 91.9 | 90.9 | −1.0 |
| Cumbria Police | 61.0 | 62.1 | 1.1 |
| Derbyshire Police | 103.7 | 105.0 | 1.3 |
| Devon and Cornwall Police | 171.2 | 173.0 | 1.8 |
| Dorset Police | 61.8 | 66.0 | 4.2 |
| Durham Police | 86.9 | 87.8 | 0.9 |
| Dyfed – Powys[2] | 51.0 | 52.2 | 1.2 |
| Essex Police | 153.3 | 167.0 | 13.6 |
| GLA—Police | 1,976.3 | 1,927.8 | −48.5 |
| Gloucestershire Police | 59.8 | 61.1 | 1.3 |
| Greater Manchester Police | 418.3 | 412.5 | −5.8 |
| Gwent[2] | 72.9 | 74.1 | 1.2 |
| Hampshire Police | 192.7 | 197.7 | 4.9 |
| Hertfordshire Police | 104.1 | 108.8 | 4.7 |
| Humberside Police | 118.2 | 118.9 | 0.7 |
| Kent Police | 177.9 | 189.5 | 11.5 |
| Lancashire Police | 192.1 | 190.8 | −1.3 |
| Leicestershire Police | 109.8 | 107.7 | −2.1 |
| Lincolnshire Police | 64.0 | 63.4 | −0.6 |
| Merseyside Police | 255.6 | 257.7 | 2.1 |
| Norfolk Police | 86.0 | 85.9 | −0.2 |
| North Wales[2] | 76.3 | 78.3 | 2.0 |
| North Yorkshire Police | 72.6 | 75.4 | 2.9 |
| Northamptonshire Police | 69.2 | 67.8 | −1.4 |
| Northumbria Police | 235.4 | 232.2 | −3.2 |
| Nottinghamshire Police | 133.9 | 133.3 | −0.5 |
| South Wales[2] | 165.1 | 174.5 | 9.4 |
| South Yorkshire Police | 184.1 | 185.7 | 1.6 |
| Staffordshire Police | 111.0 | 113.3 | 2.3 |
| Suffolk Police | 67.6 | 68.5 | 0.8 |
| Surrey Police | 77.2 | 91.5 | 14.3 |
| Sussex Police | 152.1 | 164.0 | 11.9 |
| Thames Valley Police | 216.5 | 220.6 | 4.1 |
| Warwickshire Police | 52.0 | 51.8 | −0.2 |
| West Mercia Police | 109.3 | 111.8 | 2.5 |
| West Midlands Police | 442.3 | 426.5 | −15.8 |
| West Yorkshire Police | 318.3 | 313.6 | −4.6 |
| Wiltshire Police | 61.7 | 62.9 | 1.2 |

[1] Original allocations.

[2] Because the Welsh Assembly does not operate a grant damping mechanism, the Home Secretary has for several years provided additional funding to ensure Welsh police authorities receive at least a minimum increase in grant in line with English authorities. These additional grants, amounted to £5.1 million in 2003–04, £12.2 million in 2004–05 and £13.9 million in 2005–06.

*Note:*

The City of London police are part of the City Corporation. Grant cannot be directly compared with that for other police authorities.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much Government funding has been spent on policing in Essex in each of the last 10 years. [14122]

**Hazel Blears:** The information is set out in the table.

| | *General Government grants[1] (£)* | *Percentage change* | *Specific grants and capital provision[2] (£)* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1996–97 | 127.2 | 3.6 | 6.7 |
| 1997–98 | 129.7 | 1.9 | 3.7 |
| 1998–99 | 131.5 | 1.4 | 2.1 |
| 1999–2000 | 134.8 | 2.5 | 3.1 |
| 2000–01[3] | 143.8 | 6.7 | 4.3 |
| 2001–02[4] | 151.9 | 5.6 | 6.7 |
| 2001–02[4] | 147.9 | — | 6.7 |
| 2002–03 | 151.3 | 2.3 | 14.8 |
| 2003–04 | 155.9 | 3.0 | 15.9 |
| 2004–05 | 160.9 | 3.3 | 14.5 |
| 2005–06 | 167.0 | 3.8 | 16.8 |

[1] General Government grants comprise Home Office police grant, ODPM revenue support grant and national non-domestic rates.

[2] Includes specific grants: Crime Fighting Fund, Rural Policing Fund, Basic Command Unit funding, Community Support Officer funding (including, for 2004–05 and 2005–06, Round one of the Neighbourhood Policing Fund), Airwave, DNA Expansion Programme, special priority payments and capital grants. The Home Office also funds 75 per cent. of the cost of the South East Allowance for all qualifying officers. These figures are not included within the totals.

[3] As of April 2000, the Metropolitan police force was reduced in size by a transfer of responsibility for policing some areas to the surrounding forces, including Essex.

[4] Figures for 2001–02 are not directly comparable with 2002–03 due to the change in funding arrangements of NCS/NCIS. Adjusted figures for 2001–02 are therefore included.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers there were in Essex in *(a)* 1979, *(b)* 1983, *(c)* 1987, *(d)* 1992 and *(e)* each of the last 10 years for which figures are available. [14124]

**Paul Goggins:** The information requested is given in the following table.

*Police officer strength Essex[1] police force*

| *Strength as at 31 March* | *Number (full-time equivalent)* |
|---|---|
| 1979 | 2,461 |
| 1983 | 2,641 |
| 1987 | 2,718 |
| 1992 | 2,898 |
| 1996 | 2,884 |
| 1997 | 2,961 |
| 1998 | 2,928 |
| 1999 | 2,891 |
| 2000 | 2,806 |
| 2001 | 2,897 |
| 2002 | 2,946 |
| 2003[2] | 2,989 |
| 2004[2] | 3,098 |
| 2005[2] | 3,190 |

[1] Due to police force area reorganisation, the officer strength series is not consistent with earlier data after 1 April 2000.

[2] Excludes staff on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave (comparable with figures prior to March 2003).

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* fatal and *(b)* non-fatal accidents involving police service vehicles there

were in Greater London in each year since 1995, broken down by London borough; and if he will make a statement. [8117]

**Hazel Blears** *[holding answer 4 July 2005]:* Figures for road traffic collisions are currently available from 2002–03.

The available information for the numbers of casualties and degree of injury from road traffic collisions resulting from immediate/emergency response and police pursuits on public roads involving the Metropolitan police and City of London police is provided in the table. Figures are not held centrally at individual borough level.

*Degree of injury from road traffic collisions involving police forces in the Greater London area*

| | *City of London police* | *Metropolitan police* |
|---|---|---|
| *2002–03* | | |
| Fatal injury | 0 | 5 |
| Serious injury | 0 | 14 |
| Other injury | 0 | [1] |
| Total | 0 | [1] |
| *2003–04* | | |
| Fatal injury | 0 | 4 |
| Serious injury | 1 | 21 |
| Other injury | 1 | 600 |
| Total | 2 | 625 |

[1] Data are not available.

**David Maclean:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will list the inspections of Cumbria police for the 12 month period ending 31 March. [14215]

**Hazel Blears:** The inspections carried out in the year to March 2005 are shown in the table, which has been placed in the Library, along with the resources deployed to them, their purpose, findings and comment on recommendations. In summary, 17 external inspections are documented in this report, with an estimated total of 102.5 police staff days; 115.5 police officer days at a total opportunity cost of £38,203.

**David Maclean:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what resources Cumbria police deployed to assist those conducting inspections of the force in the 12-month period ending 31 March; and how many officer hours were involved. [14216]

**Hazel Blears:** The inspections carried out in the year to March 2005 are shown, in the table, which has been placed in the Library, along with the resources deployed to them, their purpose, findings and comment on recommendations. In summary, 17 external inspections are documented in this report, with an estimated total of 102.5 police staff days, 115.5 police officer days at a total opportunity cost of £38,203.

**David Maclean:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the purpose was of each of the inspections of Cumbria Constabulary carried out to the year ending 31 March; and what key findings and recommendations he intends to implement. [14217]

**Hazel Blears:** The inspections carried out in the year to March 2005 are shown in the table, which has been placed in the Library, along with the resources deployed to them, their purpose, findings and comment on recommendations. In summary, 17 external inspections are documented in this report, with an estimated total of 102.5 police staff days, 115.5 police officer days at a total opportunity cost of £38,203.

**Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will take steps to increase provision of policing in rural areas. [8697]

**Hazel Blears:** The Home Office's £30 million a year Rural Policing Fund has been specifically introduced to increase the visibility and accessibility of the police in rural areas. 31 police authorities with the most widespread populations benefit from this additional funding. Police authorities who are in receipt of money from this fund may spend it as they see fit. This may involve recruiting additional officers for rural areas or spending the money on other innovative ways to tackle crime and the fear of crime. Examples of existing good practice include the use of mobile police stations or the deployment of community beat officers to patrol clusters of villages or neighbourhoods. Forces are also using dedicated parish or neighbourhood special constables.

A number of police forces have introduced community support officers (CSOs) in rural areas since their introduction in 2002. CSOs help to tackle crime and disorder and provide public reassurance in the communities where they work. The Home Office is also involved in a "Blue Light" pilot for community support officers which aims to create a community focused, multi-functional role for these officers in some rural villages.

## Prisons

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what mechanisms exist for prisoners to appeal against the decisions of independent adjudicators on prison discipline in relation to *(a)* findings of guilt and *(b)* punishments awarded; what plans he has to amend the existing appeal procedures; and if he will make a statement. [16034]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** A prisoner can apply within 14 days of the adjudication to the Senior District Judge for review of the punishment.

These arrangements meet our obligations under the European Convention on Human Rights and provide an important new safeguard. The District Judges who hear the adjudications are transparently independent and the review by the Senior District Judge ensures even-handedness.

**Mr. Denis Murphy:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many uniformed prison officers were injured while on duty at prisons in England and Wales in each of the last five years. [14466]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** The number of prison officers sustaining an injury while on duty is not routinely collected. Injuries to officer grades caused by accidents or assaults resulting in absence from work and attracting sick leave excusal are recorded. Sick excusal is granted after seven working days for accidents on duty

and immediately for assaults. This form of sickness absence for the public sector Prison Service of England and Wales is shown in table 1.

The number of individual cases of sick excusal due to accidents or assaults is not available for 2000–01. Information on the total number of accidents and near-misses are also recorded centrally for the public sector Prison Service of England and Wales since 2003–04. This data cannot be disaggregated by grade. The data in table 2 represent all recorded accidents and near-misses for all staff (including those due to assaults), and not just those where injury occurred.

Information about staff in the Scottish and Northern Ireland prison services is the responsibility of the Scottish Executive and the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland respectively. Information on privately managed prisons is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

*Table 1*

| | *Cases* | *Average working days lost per case* | *Average working days lost per officer* | *Percentage of sickness absence due to injuries at work* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2004–05 | 1,404 | 26.7 | 1.5 | 10.9 |
| 2003–04 | 1,523 | 25.8 | 1.6 | 10.8 |
| 2002–03 | 1,431 | 28.7 | 1.8 | 10.3 |
| 2001–02 | 1,264 | 29.7 | 1.6 | 10.2 |
| 2000–01 | | | 1.5 | 10.1 |

*Table 2*

| | *Recorded accidents and near misses (all staff)* |
|---|---|
| 2003–04 | 8,060 |
| 2004–05 | 9,381 |
| April to July 2005 | 2,285 |

**Mr. Denis Murphy:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many uniformed prison officers are employed in prisons in England and Wales; and what their average age is. [14467]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** At 30 June 2005, there were 24,180 officer grade staff (prison officers, senior officers and principal officers) employed within public sector Prison Service establishments. Their average age was 41 years nine months. Information on the number and ages of staff within prisons managed by the private sector is not collected centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will list the *(a)* prison and *(b)* young offenders institutions which (i) offer and (ii) do not offer parenting programmes. [6966]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** Many prisons and young offender institutions offer parenting courses and other family learning programmes.

However, data is not collected centrally about the different types of parenting programmes that are offered across the entire prison estate. Such provision is decided at operational level by the heads of learning and skills in establishments on a needs analysis basis.

**Mr. Llwyd:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the percentage staff turnover was in each *(a)* private and *(b)* public prison in England and Wales in (i) 2002–03, (ii) 2003–04 and (iii) 2004–05. [14168]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** Information on staff turnover in the public sector prison service is shown in the following table. Information on staffing turnover in the contracted estate is not collected centrally.

*Total turnover, including casual staff by public sector prison service establishment*

*Percentage*

| *Location* | *2002–03* | *2003–04* | *2004–05* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Acklington | 8.2 | 10.3 | 7.7 |
| Albany | 8.1 | 10.9 | 9.8 |
| Ashwell | 13.0 | 13.5 | 17.4 |
| Askham Grange | 16.1 | 15.9 | 11.4 |
| Aylesbury | 9.8 | 9.2 | 9.9 |
| Bedford | 17.5 | 7.4 | 12.1 |
| Belmarsh | 8.6 | 7.1 | 5.6 |
| Birmingham | 8.8 | 9.3 | 8.6 |
| Blakenhurst | 9.7 | 13.8 | 11.5 |
| Blantyre House | 13.9 | 6.7 | 9.2 |
| Blundeston | 11.7 | 6.8 | 10.6 |
| Brinsford | 7.6 | 7.8 | 8.9 |
| Bristol | 7.9 | 10.6 | 8.5 |
| Brixton | 19.8 | 13.9 | 14.9 |
| Brockhill | 13.6 | 6.2 | 13.2 |
| Buckley Hall | 6.8 | 9.0 | 9.5 |
| Bullingdon | 12.0 | 10.3 | 7.7 |
| Bullwood Hall | 15.1 | 11.5 | 16.2 |
| Camp Hill | 9.0 | 17.6 | 8.5 |
| Canterbury | 9.7 | 12.1 | 6.5 |
| Cardiff | 7.0 | 7.5 | 7.2 |
| Castington | 10.2 | 6.3 | 9.6 |
| Channings Wood | 10.4 | 12.3 | 7.5 |
| Chelmsford | 10.7 | 13.2 | 16.2 |
| Coldingley | 9.3 | 6.6 | 10.5 |
| Cookham Wood | 11.6 | 9.7 | 16.3 |
| Dartmoor | 8.3 | 13.0 | 10.0 |
| Deerbolt | 11.0 | 9.9 | 12.8 |
| Dorchester | 9.1 | 12.2 | 13.8 |
| Dover | 13.3 | 8.8 | 7.9 |
| Downview | 12.3 | 11.4 | 12.2 |
| Drake Hall | 19.2 | 15.7 | 11.7 |
| Durham | 5.8 | 5.0 | 7.0 |
| East Sutton Park | 20.7 | 11.6 | 20.2 |
| Eastwood Park | 16.7 | 16.0 | 16.6 |
| Edmunds Hill | 7.1 | 14.4 | 9.5 |
| Elmley | 7.0 | 7.9 | 9.3 |
| Erlestoke | 11.3 | 15.5 | 13.9 |
| Everthorpe | 8.3 | 10.4 | 10.4 |
| Exeter | 13.5 | 11.7 | 11.2 |
| Featherstone | 5.5 | 6.8 | 10.8 |
| Feltham | 11.5 | 10.0 | 11.4 |
| Ford | 8.8 | 13.3 | 14.5 |
| Foston Hall | 7.3 | 10.4 | 13.2 |
| Frankland | 4.8 | 4.5 | 4.8 |
| Full Sutton | 6.0 | 6.9 | 5.9 |
| Garth | 5.1 | 5.5 | 7.5 |
| Gartree | 9.9 | 6.6 | 11.4 |
| Glen Parva | 8.8 | 10.6 | 9.9 |
| Gloucester | 14.4 | 13.1 | 15.6 |

*Total turnover, including casual staff by public sector prison service establishment*

*Percentage*

| *Location* | *2002–03* | *2003–04* | *2004–05* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Grendon | 8.2 | 10.4 | 11.1 |
| Guys Marsh | 11.4 | 13.0 | 10.6 |
| Haslar | 17.1 | 11.8 | 17.8 |
| Hatfield | 15.6 | — | — |
| Haverigg | 6.0 | 10.6 | 11.9 |
| Hewell Grange | 9.7 | 6.4 | 9.9 |
| High Down | 11.2 | 10.4 | 7.0 |
| Highpoint | 16.1 | 11.5 | 8.5 |
| Hindley | 11.5 | 14.0 | 10.6 |
| Hollesley Bay | 8.0 | 8.9 | 10.5 |
| Holloway | 10.3 | 9.4 | 11.4 |
| Holme House | 8.5 | 7.9 | 10.7 |
| Hull | 5.9 | 8.3 | 6.9 |
| Huntercombe | 17.1 | 16.7 | 12.9 |
| Kingston | 10.1 | 8.5 | 14.7 |
| Kirkham | 8.7 | 8.1 | 9.7 |
| Kirklevington Grange | 8.2 | 9.5 | 8.5 |
| Lancaster | 12.5 | 11.3 | 14.6 |
| Lancaster Farms | 9.2 | 6.3 | 9.0 |
| Latchmere House | 14.0 | 10.3 | 18.5 |
| Leeds | 7.3 | 6.7 | 7.7 |
| Leicester | 11.6 | 14.1 | 10.4 |
| Lewes | 20.0 | 8.4 | 8.7 |
| Leyhill | 13.8 | 13.3 | 11.5 |
| Lincoln | 10.7 | 8.0 | 12.5 |
| Lindholme | 10.8 | 11.0 | 12.1 |
| Littlehey | 12.4 | 10.6 | 12.7 |
| Liverpool | 6.4 | 7.6 | 8.5 |
| Long Lartin | 7.1 | 7.2 | 7.2 |
| Low Newton | 6.1 | 10.9 | 10.8 |
| Maidstone | 8.1 | 16.2 | 9.7 |
| Manchester | 5.3 | 6.1 | 4.0 |
| Moorland | 4.1 | 5.3 | 7.1 |
| Motion Hall | 15.8 | 16.0 | 13.3 |
| New Hall | 9.1 | 12.5 | 9.6 |
| North Sea Camp | 12.7 | 9.0 | 10.4 |
| Northallerton | 7.6 | 14.6 | 20.8 |
| Norwich | 10.1 | 9.6 | 10.7 |
| Nottingham | 9.0 | 6.4 | 8.5 |
| Onley | 11.8 | 9.2 | 12.6 |
| Parkhurst | 10.6 | 9.8 | 11.4 |
| Pentonville | 9.5 | 10.8 | 10.2 |
| Portland | 11.4 | 12.8 | 10.9 |
| Preston | 6.9 | 14.7 | 11.2 |
| Ranby | 8.6 | 10.6 | 9.0 |
| Reading | 15.5 | 9.6 | 10.5 |
| Risley | 13.0 | 9.9 | 9.2 |
| Rochester | 15.3 | 15.8 | 8.3 |
| Send | 10.0 | 15.3 | 9.7 |
| Shepton Mallet | 13.8 | 13.7 | 14.7 |
| Shrewsbury | 10.9 | 7.2 | 8.9 |
| Stafford | 11.6 | 12.7 | 10.2 |
| Standford Hill | 10.3 | 12.1 | 8.0 |
| Stocken | 10.6 | 8.6 | 9.4 |
| Stoke Heath | 8.9 | 11.9 | 13.9 |
| Styal | 13.5 | 13.9 | 8.3 |
| Sudbury | 8.4 | 8.9 | 9.1 |
| Swaleside | 8.6 | 6.8 | 5.5 |
| Swansea | 9.1 | 12.0 | 8.5 |
| Swinfen Hall | 10.2 | 7.5 | 10.8 |
| The Mount | 12.5 | 12.1 | 14:5 |
| The Verne | 8.8 | 12.6 | 4.8 |
| Thorn Cross | 11.6 | 7.0 | 9.3 |
| Usk/Prescoed | 11.1 | 11.5 | 6.2 |
| Wakefield | 6.4 | 6.7 | 5.3 |
| Wandsworth | 10.6 | 11.5 | 8.9 |
| Warren Hill | 2.2 | 13.5 | 9.7 |
| Wayland | 8.2 | 7.7 | 4.8 |
| Wealstun | 9.7 | 8.6 | 12.3 |
| Weare | 8.6 | 4.2 | 11.7 |
| Wellingborough | 12.2 | 13.5 | 10.0 |
| Werrington | 15.9 | 12.3 | 8.8 |
| Wetherby | 9.7 | 8.2 | 11.4 |
| Whatton | 8.8 | 12.9 | 10.8 |
| Whitemoor | 6.8 | 5.7 | 6.5 |
| Winchester | 10.7 | 10.3 | 9.3 |
| Woodhill | 5.7 | 6.2 | 5.7 |
| Wormwood Scrubs | 9.8 | 14.7 | 13.3 |
| Wymott | 5.6 | 5.5 | 9.5 |
| Total Establishments | 9.6 | 9.7 | 9.7 |

*Notes:*

1. Healthcare staff transferring to primary care trusts as part of transfer of healthcare commissioning have been excluded.
2. Casual staff are included.

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individuals were in *(a)* prison and *(b)* young offenders institute in the last period for which figures are available. [14722]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** On 30 June 2005 there were 65,390 adults held in prison accommodation under prison rules in England and Wales.

On the same date there were 8,490 young adults aged 18–20 (including some 21- year-olds who have not yet been reclassified as adults) held in prison establishments in England and Wales. Of these, 6,461 were sentenced to detention in a young offenders institution under YOI rules. There were a further 1,925 young adults aged 18–20 held on remand under prison rules, and 104 young adults held as civil prisoners.

On 30 June 2005 there were 2,310 juveniles aged 15–17 held in juvenile establishments in England and Wales. Of these, 1,830 were sentenced juveniles held in YOIs under YOI rules. There were a further 475 remand juveniles held under prison rules, and five juveniles aged 15–17 held as civil prisoners.

The above information is as recorded on the Prison Service IT system, and excludes those held outside of the prison estate in secure training centres and local authority secure children's homes.

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many suicides there have been in prisons in England and Wales in each month since January 2000, broken down by prison. [12854]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** The information requested with respect to apparently self-inflicted deaths in prisons in England and Wales, January 2000 to June 2005, is available in the Library.

The number of apparently self-inflicted deaths in prisons is a cause of very serious concern to Ministers, the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) and the prisons community. Reducing the number of such tragic incidents is a key priority, and an unprecedented amount of work is being done in this area. A broad, integrated and evidence-based prisoner

suicide prevention strategy is in place. This balances specific measures for those judged most at risk with broader approaches for prisoners generally.

**Mrs. Gillan:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the ratio of staff to prisoners is in *(a)* prisons operated by the private sector and *(b)* other prison establishments. [10182]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** Within public sector prison service establishments there was a ratio of one member of staff to 1.50 prisoners on 30 June 2005.

Within the contracted estate there was a ratio of one member of staff to 1.78 prisoners on 30 June 2005.

**Mrs. Gillan:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of the prison population is held in private prisons. [10183]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** On 30 June 2005, 9.66 percent. of the total prison population was held in the contracted prison sector.

**Mr. Bellingham:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment he has made of the extent of racism in the Prison Service; and if he will make a statement. [13394]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** The Commission for Racial Equality's (CRE's) formal investigation into race relations in the Prison Service was published in December 2003. The investigation was conducted in three prisons (Brixton, Feltham and Parc), identified by the Prison Service and Her Majesty's Chief Inspectorate of Prisons. Its findings were accepted in full by the Prison Service.

As a result of the Investigation, the Prison Service is working closely with the CRE to ensure that race equality is managed more effectively across all of the Service's functions, activities and core business requirements. A joint action plan was produced: "Implementing Race Equality in Prisons: A Shared Agenda for Change" which represented a milestone for race relations in the service. The plan forms the basis of a long-term strategy for the Prison Service and will ensure that all establishments fully comply with the legal requirements of the Race Rations (Amendment) Act 2000 and embed the lessons learned from the CRE investigation.

The Prison Service is developing robust measures to identify matters of concern and how to address them, focusing in particular on:

monitoring information through quarterly questionnaires and impact assessments;

development of key performance targets on race equality for staff and prisoners;

training on impact assessments and diversity issues across the estate; and

prisoner intervention strategies.

Over the last 12 months, the Race and Equalities Action Group has revised the Prison Service Race Equality Scheme, which sets out how the service will meet its general statutory duty under the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000 to eliminate unlawful racial discrimination, promote equality of opportunity, and promote good relations between people of different racial groups during 2005–08.

Over the next three years, establishments and policy leads will be undertaking impact assessments of all functions, policies and activities within the Prison Service. These assessments will provide evidenced analysis of whether there is the potential for adverse impact or whether there has been actual adverse impact on any racial group. Where there is such evidence, establishments and policy leads will consider what changes need to be made, and make the changes.

**Mrs. Gillan:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, when the Sheppey improvement process was assessed; and by whom. [15624]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** The market test of the Sheppey prisons was suspended and replaced by a performance improvement test following a meeting between my right hon. friend the Home Secretary and the Prison Officers Association on 18 May. The process of the performance improvement test follows procedures similar to those previously used by the Prison Service. A specification for the performance improvement test was issued by the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) on 30 June. The Prison Service has until 30 September to put forward their proposals in response to the specification. The proposals will be evaluated by NOMS and the outcome should be announced by the end of October.

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the average length of time was between each death in prison custody, initially assessed as self-inflicted, and the opening of the inquest into that death in each of the last five years; and in how many cases there was a delay of more than one year. [16035]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** The information requested could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost.

**Mr. Bellingham:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will list the instances when *(a)* prison governors and *(b)* prison officers were investigated for taking drugs into London prisons in each month since January; how long each investigation took; what conclusions each reached; and if he will make a statement. [14203]

**Paul Goggins:** At Brixton prison an investigation took place in June and July 2005 into the conduct of one member of staff. The disciplinary process is underway. At Wandsworth, one member of staff was investigated in July 2005. This resulted in advice and guidance being issued about the handling of drugs taken from a prisoner's possession. At Wormwood Scrubs, one officer was dismissed in January 2005 and another in March 2005, both as a result of investigations begun in 2004.

There have been no such incidents at Belmarsh, Feltham, Holloway, Pentonville and Latchmere House.

**Colin Burgon:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what research his Department has carried out into the operational viability of prisons with a capacity of around 2,000 places. [14434]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** As the options for the prison estate are considered, strategic need and operational viability are key criteria. Large multi-functional prisons are among the options, and would enable prisoners to progress through their sentences while remaining close

to their families and community support, and provide better regimes to help rehabilitate prisoners and reduce re-offending. They would also be designed for purpose and efficiency.

No decision to proceed with any such prison has yet been made. If the decision is to be made, all factors, including the detailed operation of such a prison, will be considered.

Broadly, we are satisfied that a large prison appropriately designed with separate sections and zoning is operationally viable.

**Mr. Llwyd:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what prime function he has specified for private prisons in England and Wales. [14174]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** The prime functions for contracted prisons in England and Wales are:

to protect the public by holding in custody those committed by the courts in a safe, decent and healthy environment.

to reduce crime by providing constructive regimes which address offending behaviours and improve education and resettlement opportunities when released.

## Prisoners

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent estimate he has made of the number of individuals recalled to custody who have received a dossier detailing their recall within *(a)* one week, *(b)* two weeks and *(c)* one month. [15362]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** We do not record centrally the date on which recalled determinate sentence prisoners are handed their revocation dossier. However, Table 1 shows the number of revocation dossiers dispatched to prisons one week, two weeks, and over two weeks, from the date of their return to custody being notified to the National Offender Management Service. The target for issuing the dossier is one working day after notification.

*Table 1: 2005*

| *Revocation dossiers issued, by number* | *April* | *May* | *June* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Total revocation dossiers sent to establishments | 183 | 413 | 693 |
| Within seven days of notified return to custody | 147 | 357 | 611 |
| Within 14 days of notified return to custody | 14 | 27 | 39 |
| Over 14 days | 22 | 29 | 43 |

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent estimate he has made of the average time it takes the prison receiving a recalled prisoner to be given that individual's sentence planning information and risk assessment details; and whether there is a target for them to do so. [15363]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** Prison service instructions require prisons to notify the National Offender Management Service when receiving a recalled determinate sentence prisoner within 24 hours of the offender being received into custody. The revocation dossier includes a risk assessment, completed by the probation service. The target for issuing the dossier is one working day. Data held centrally records 81 percent. dossiers being issued within the target since 1 April 2005.

Probation service national standards require a risk management plan to be completed within 15 days of a recalled determinate sentence prisoner being received into custody. The plan details the risk the offender presents and how it is proposed to manage the risk when the offender is released back into the community. Upon its completion, the report must be disclosed to the prisoner immediately. No data is held centrally on the number of risk management plans issued within the 15 day target.

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many of the annual reports submitted to him by independent monitoring boards in the last 12 months have raised concerns that prisoners are arriving from the courts too late in the day to provide an adequate first night in custody service; and if he will make a statement. [15366]

**Mr. Charles Clarke:** This information is not held centrally. However, where those concerns are raised, they are taken up with the contractors concerned who are responsible for the movement of prisoners around the prison estate.

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many foreign national prisoners were being held in each prison in England and Wales awaiting deportation after the expiry of their sentence on 30 June. [15364]

**Paul Goggins:** Information on the number of people detained in prison establishments solely under Immigration Act powers after the completion of a criminal sentence is not available. The Prison Service does not record information on deportation orders on the Inmate Information System. Information on the number of persons held in prison who are the subject of a deportation order is not therefore available except by examination of individual case-files, at disproportionate cost. Work is on-going to improve the quality of data held on those people detained solely under Immigration Act powers in Prison Service establishments.

**Colin Burgon:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate his Department has made of the population of prisoners originating from West Yorkshire in the last year for which figures are available. [14432]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** Information is not recorded centrally on the home address of prisoners in England and Wales. Information is, however, held on the court that a prisoner is committed to or sentenced at.

On 31 May 2005 there were 4,046 persons held in prison establishments in England and Wales who were committed to or sentenced at courts in West Yorkshire, as recorded on the Prison Service IT system.

**Colin Burgon:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate his Department has made of the projected population of prisoners originating from West Yorkshire in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2010, *(c)* 2015 and *(d)* 2025. [14433]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** The Home Office does not currently project the population of prisoners originating from specific geographical areas of England and Wales. The latest national prison population projections are published in the Home Office Statistical Bulletin "Prison Population Projections: 2005–2011, England and Wales, HOSB 01/05". An update to these projections will be published (HOSB 10/05) on the 26 July 2005.

### Private Security Firms

**Mr. Davidson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the effect of the EU Directive on Services in the Internal Market on the regulation of private security providers in England and Wales who are based in other EU member states. [9369]

**Paul Goggins:** As currently drafted, it is believed that the impact of the Services Directive on the regulation of private security providers who are based in other EU member states will be minimal. This is because the provisions of the Directive on the Recognition of Professional Qualifications (currently being considered by the European Parliament) which deal with the fitness to practice in a regulated profession are exempt from the country of origin principle found in the Services Directive. This means that individuals established in other EU member states who provide security services temporarily in England and Wales will be required to register with the Security Industry Authority.

### Private Surveillance Cameras

**Hywel Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the effect on the right to privacy of the use by private individuals of surveillance video cameras overlooking public spaces. [11275]

**Hazel Blears** *[holding answer 11 July 2005]:* The Home Office has made no formal evaluation of the effect on the right to privacy arising from the use by private individuals of surveillance video cameras overlooking public spaces.

CCTV is subject to regulation by the Information Commissioner through the CCTV Systems Code of Practice and the Data Protection Act 1998. Information on this Act can be located at the following web address: http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk/eventual.aspx?id=5739 or by writing to the Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe house, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

### Probation Service

**Anne Main:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the ratio of staff to offenders in the Hertfordshire probation area in 2003–04 was. [16231]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** As of 31 March 2004, the Hertfordshire Probation Area had 215 employees. This number was made up of 149 operational staff and 66 support staff.

The caseload at this time was 2,254 offenders.

Taking into account operational staff alone this makes the ratio of offender to staff at 15 to 1.

As of 31 March 2004 the National Probation Service had 19,236 employees. This number was made up of 14,250 operational staff and 4,986 support staff. The total caseload at 31 March 2004 is 195,939, which makes an operational ratio of 14 to 1.

*Notes:* 1. Operational staff includes those staff with frontline daily contact with offenders. It includes Senior Probation Officers, Senior practitioners, Probation Officers, Trainee Probation Officers, Probation Service Officers, Psychologists and other operational staff who do not fit within one of the aforementioned staff groups.

2. The period since 1998 has seen significant changes in the way in which the services of the NPS have been delivered. In particular, the use of accredited programmes has seen a number of low/medium risk offenders undergoing an intervention as part of a group rather than on an individual basis as has occurred in the past. The information given on the number of offenders does not identify level of risk or supervision received and consequently, the ratio of Offenders: Operational Staff should be indicative only and not used as a definitive measure of workload.

**Mr. Llwyd:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the merits of introducing contestability into the provision of probation services. [14173]

**Paul Goggins:** Lord Carter's review "Managing Offenders, Reducing Crime", published in January 2004, noted that while contestability had proved a strong stimulus to improvement in the Prison Service, there had been minimal contestability in frontline provision of probation services, and recommended action to introduce greater contestability. I accept that analysis, and have asked my officials to develop by this autumn proposals to test the market for probation services.

**Jeremy Corbyn:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the recruitment strategy is for the probation service in London and the South East for the next financial year. [5641]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** The National Probation Service has in place a recruitment strategy with staff recruitment targets for the service as a whole for the financial year 2006–07 and beyond. These are established by the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) finance directorate and relate to the forward business plans of NOMS and the National Probation Directorate (NPD). For 2006–07 they are as follows: This national strategy will impact on the individual local recruitment strategies of the London Probation Area and the areas in the South East of England through the allocation of resources for staffing as part of the annual budget setting process. This budget setting process has yet to impact upon the areas, but for planning purposes each area is working with their own local planning assumptions and targets. It is, however, difficult at this early stage in the budgeting process to be precise about the detail of local recruitment strategies, and some areas are awaiting further funding information before finalising their plans.

| | National | London and SE combined |
|---|---|---|
| Trainee probation officers (TPOs) | 500 | 140 |
| Probation service officers (PSOs) | 300 | 90 |
| Probation officers (POs) | 750 | 220 |

## Proceeds of Crime

**Mr. Sheerman:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how much money seized as a result of the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 was invested in local police forces in each year of its operation; and if he will make a statement. [16288]

**Paul Goggins:** A total of £13 million of recovered criminal assets was returned to the police under the asset recovery incentivisation scheme which came into operation in 2004–05. The amount of money each police force received under the scheme is set out in the table.

| Police force | Police force share of £13 million (£) |
|---|---|
| Metropolitan Police Service | 4,027,855.00 |
| National Crime Squad | 1,819,909.00 |
| Lancashire Constabulary | 570,517.00 |
| Greater Manchester Police | 526,360.00 |
| Merseyside Police | 443,335.00 |
| Cambridgeshire Constabulary | 410,828.00 |
| Derbyshire Constabulary | 387,207.00 |
| West Yorkshire Police | 345,293.00 |
| City of London Police | 337,011.00 |
| West Midlands Police | 312,977.00 |
| Avon and Somerset Constabulary | 298,726.00 |
| Kent Police | 293,697.00 |
| Police Service of Northern Ireland | 269,639.00 |
| Nottinghamshire Police | 203,722.00 |
| South Yorkshire Police | 202,726.00 |
| Devon and Cornwall Constabulary | 180,291.00 |
| Cumbria Constabulary | 171,340.00 |
| Northamptonshire Police | 162,082.00 |
| Dorset Police | 160,098.00 |
| Sussex Police | 152,749.00 |
| West Mercia Constabulary | 152,335.00 |
| Norfolk Constabulary | 138,984.00 |
| Northumbria Police | 138,645.00 |
| Leicestershire Constabulary | 135,893.00 |
| Thames Valley Police | 114,413.00 |
| Surrey Police | 98,910.00 |
| Cheshire Constabulary | 82,542.00 |
| Wiltshire Constabulary | 73,550.00 |
| Durham Constabulary | 72,764.00 |
| Gwent Police | 67,471.00 |
| Hertfordshire Constabulary | 67,117.00 |
| Suffolk Constabulary | 65,648.00 |
| South Wales Police | 61,055.00 |
| Gloucestershire Constabulary | 59,514.00 |
| Hampshire Constabulary | 50,876.00 |
| Lincolnshire Police | 46,931.00 |
| British Transport Police | 42,886.00 |
| Staffordshire Police | 39,690.00 |
| Humberside Police | 38,966.00 |
| Cleveland Police | 35,089.00 |
| North Yorkshire Police | 31,258.00 |
| Dyfed-Powys Police | 30,645.00 |
| Essex Police | 29,387.00 |
| Bedfordshire Police | 23,598.00 |
| North Wales Police | 16,729.00 |
| Warwickshire Police | 8,742.00 |
| Total available for incentive payments | 13,000,000.00 |

**Mr. Sheerman:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how much money has been seized as a result of the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 *(a)* in total and *(b)* from drug-related cases in (i) Huddersfield, (ii) Yorkshire and (iii) England. [16286]

**Paul Goggins:** Information is not available in the form requested. The total value of assets recovered under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 and earlier legislation in England, Wales and Northern Ireland was £54.5 million in 2003–04 and £84.4 million in 2004–05. The total value of confiscation orders obtained by police forces in Yorkshire and in England under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 and earlier legislation is set out in the table.

In addition, the total value of cash seized by police forces in Yorkshire and in England under the 2002 Act and subsequently forfeited by Order of the Courts is as also set out in the table.

Information on the value of confiscation orders and cash forfeiture orders obtained by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs is not available by region.

*Total value of confiscation orders obtained by police forces in Yorkshire and in England*

| Area | Year | Value |
|---|---|---|
| West Yorkshire | 2003–04 | 2,851,709 |
| | 2004–05 | 1,051,635 |
| North Yorkshire | 2003–04 | — |
| | 2004–05 | 192,741 |
| South Yorkshire | 2003–04 | 784,579 |
| | 2004–05 | 927,932 |
| England | 2003–04 | 37,196,546 |

*Total value of cash seized by police forces in Yorkshire and in England and subsequently forfeited by Order of the Courts*

| Area | Year | Value |
|---|---|---|
| West Yorkshire | 2003–04 | 22,455 |
| | 2004–05 | 140,708 |
| North Yorkshire | 2003–04 | — |
| | 2004–05 | 12,340 |
| South Yorkshire | 2003–04 | — |
| | 2004–05 | 264,595 |
| England | 2003–04 | 2,875,330 |
| | 2004–05 | 7,501,798 |

## Programme of Action

**Helen Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what progress has been made towards the implementation of the Government's Programme of Action in response to the Insurance Cover Working Group report on Research into Insurance Cover for the voluntary and community sector in England; how many times the Insurance Cover Working Group has met since the publication of the Programme of Action; and what plans the group has for further meetings. [16214]

**Paul Goggins:** The Insurance Cover Working Group (ICWG) published a paper entitled Programme of Action on 16 July 2004 and has met twice since then to monitor progress (in October 2004 and April 2005).

Following the publication of the Programme of Action, the ICWG noted that work has continued across Government and elsewhere to address many of the points it highlighted. The Department of Work and Pensions has completed its work of the employers' compulsory liability insurance; the Office of Fair Trading has published a second review into liability insurance; and the Department of Constitutional Affairs has set up a ministerial steering group with a civil service action group to address the so-called "compensation culture", following the work of the better regulation task force.

To complement these initiatives, the Home Office has commissioned Volunteering England to lead on an integrated programme of work to address issues to do with risk and insurance in the volunteering sector. This is a 12-month programme of work funded through the ChangeUp programme. The objectives are to enhance and disseminate good practice and to contribute to wider debates on risk and insurance. Detailed recommendations are expected in early 2006 following research and consultation with stakeholders.

The final meeting of the ICWG is scheduled for September 2005, after which it will be disbanded as the work of the group is subsumed into the programme of work being undertaken by Volunteering England.

### Project Iris

**Mr. Wallace:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what the recognition failure rate is of scans carried out in the pilot project Project Iris; [11849]

(2) what the reliability levels are of the scanning unit deployed in the 10 locations where Project Iris is being piloted. [11850]

**Mr. McNulty:** The IRIS operational pilot went live in two locations at Heathrow Terminal two and Terminal four on 20 June 2005. The technology is based on taking a photograph of the iris pattern, which is the most personally distinct feature on the human body (even identical twins have different iris patterns), and converting it to a digital code.

The prime contractor for IRIS, SAGEM SA part of the SAFRAN group, are contractually obliged to meet the following biometric rates:

Failure to Enrol rate (FTR)—must be less than 2 per cent.

False Reject Rate (FRR)—must be less than 2 per cent.

False Accept Rate (FAR)—must be less than 0.001 per cent.

No biometric is 100 per cent. foolproof and biometrics do not have set error rates. The likelihood of errors is determined by the whole system and measures put in place throughout the whole process. Iris recognition has been chosen as the biometric for the IRIS scheme because it outperforms all other biometrics in terms of security, speed and accuracy. We are working with our supplier to ensure that all system error rates will be negligible and will not affect the integrity of the immigration control.

The pilot will be evaluated prior to commencing roll-out to eight other airport terminals from October 2005. Iris recognition is a method of securely recognising someone by the pattern of their iris.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many special constables are employed in *(a)* England and Wales and *(b)* Essex, broken down by police division; what estimate he has made of the future employment levels of special constables; and if he will make a statement. [14140]

**Paul Goggins:** As at 31 March 2005, there were 11,918 special constables in England and Wales and 363 in Essex. The National Policing Plan 2005–08 has a target of achieving up to 14,000 special constables by 2006–07.

The number of specials by basic command units and central services is expected to be available in autumn 2005.

### Public Housing (Vandalism)

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will estimate the cost of damage caused by vandalism to public housing in each local authority area in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* the Metropolitan police area of London in each of the past five years. [14276]

**Paul Goggins:** The information requested is not collected centrally. Statistics are collected on recorded offences of criminal damage to a dwelling but it is not possible to identify those which are public housing nor is it possible to estimate the amount of damage caused.

### Public Protection Panels

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offenders who are the subject of multi-agency public protection panel arrangements have been reconvicted since 2001; and what the principal offences concerned were. [4794]

**Fiona Mactaggart** *[holding answer 16 June 2005]:* The information is not available in the form requested except at disproportionate cost. Statistical information on Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) can be found in annual reports available in the House of Commons Library and on the National Probation Service website at the following address:

http://www.probation.homeoffice.gov.uk/output/page30.asp.

### Race Crime

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps he is taking to deal with race crime. [7933]

**Paul Goggins:** In recent years the Government have strengthened the criminal penalties for offences such as incitement to racial hatred and for racially or religiously aggravated assault and criminal damage. As part of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 the Government created new racially-aggravated offences which make available to the courts higher maximum penalties where there is evidence of racial hostility surrounding the offence. The offences include assaults, criminal damage and harassment.

In July 2003 the Crown Prosecution Service set out in a Policy Statement a commitment to prosecute racist and religious crime fairly, firmly and robustly. This sends a clear message to perpetrators that they will not get away with threatening, violent or abusive behaviour towards members of racial or religious groups.

Earlier this year the Association of Chief Police Officers and the Home Office published a Hate Crime Manual, "Hate Crime: Delivering a Quality Service." The manual provides good practice guidance on identifying and combating hate crime.

Additionally, in 2002 the Home Office issued guidance to crime reduction partnerships on tackling racist antisocial behaviour. This included a Racist Crime and Harassment Toolkit.

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what advice his Department is giving to police authorities on dealing with race crime. [13560]

**Hazel Blears:** No guidance has been provided to police authorities since the Code of Practice on Reporting and Recording racist incidents in April 2000. An evaluation of the impact of the code will be available in late summer.

## Race Hatred

**Mr. Nicholas Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what monitoring his Department carries out of incidents involving criminal damage, threats and assaults which may contain an element of race hatred on the part of perpetrator; and what assessment he has made of the trends indicated. [14970]

**Paul Goggins:** The Home Office collects statistical information from a number of sources.

Offences recorded by the police in England and Wales. Figures are available for the following offences which include a racial element:

Racially or religiously aggravated less serious wounding;

Racially or religiously aggravated harassment;

Racially or religiously aggravated common assault;

Racially or religiously aggravated criminal damage to a dwelling;

Racially or religiously aggravated criminal damage to a building other than a dwelling;

Racially or religiously aggravated criminal damage to a vehicle;

Racially or religiously aggravated other criminal damage.

However, it is not possible to separately identify which offences are racial or which are of a religious nature.

Statistics for 1995 to 2004–05 are published in Table 2.04 of "Crime in England and Wales 2004–05", a copy of which is available in the Library. The table also contains figures for percentage changes between 2003–04 and 2004–05.

The British Crime Survey (BCS) includes information in relation to racially motivated victimisation incidents. Latest findings, based on the 2003–04 BCS, are in chapter three of statistics on race and the criminal justice system 2004; previous data are contained in Home Office Findings 237, July 2004 (for 2002–03) and Home Office Research Study 223, October 2001 (trends up to 2000).

The survey provides estimates of the number of racially-motivated incidents for all BCS crime for the total population of England and Wales and by ethnic group. It does not provide these estimates by crime type.

Additionally, the BCS provides a measure of relative risk of crime among different ethnic groups for vandalism and BCS violent crime, but it is not possible to assess to what extent incidents may have been motivated by racial hatred.

The Home Office court proceedings database currently holds data for 2003 on prosecutions, convictions and sentences for racially or religiously aggravated offences of assault, harassment and criminal damage. Data for 2004 will be available in the autumn.

## Rec. 61 Form

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people have been stopped and issued with a Rec. 61 form in each local authority, broken down by ethnicity. [15017]

**Andy Burnham** *[holding answer 22 July 2005]:* The requested information is not collected centrally.

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people have been stopped and issued with a Rec. 61 form in each London police unit since its inception, broken down by *(a)* ethnicity and *(b)* police station.[15356]

**Andy Burnham:** The requested information is not collected centrally.

**Susan Kramer:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people have been stopped and issued with Rec.61 forms by Richmond and Kingston police, broken down by *(a)* ethnicity and *(b)* police station; and if he will make a statement. [15881]

**Andy Burnham:** The requested information is not collected centrally.

## Safety Belts

**Mr. Ames:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females aged 16 years were (i) charged and (ii) convicted in England and Wales of offences under sections (A) 14(3), (B) 15(2) and (C) 15(4) of the Road Traffic 1988 in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [15353]

**Paul Goggins:** Information from the Home Office court proceedings database on the number of defendants aged 16 years prosecuted for driving/riding a motor vehicle without a seatbelt and driving/riding a motor vehicle containing a child not wearing a seatbelt, by sex, 1999–2003 is contained in the table.

Statistics for 2004 will be available in the autumn.

*Persons aged 16 prosecuted and convicted at all courts for seat belt offences under sections 14(3), 15(2) and 15(4) of the Road Traffic Act 1988, 1999–2003: England and Wales*

*Defendants*

| | 1999 | | 2000 | | 2001 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Prosecuted | Guilty | Prosecuted | Guilty | Prosecuted | Guilty |
| Males | 9 | 5 | 6 | 5 | 7 | 3 |
| Females | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 10 | 6 | 7 | 6 | 7 | 3 |

| | 2002 | | 2003 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Prosecuted | Guilty | Prosecuted | Guilty |
| Males | 6 | 3 | 7 | 5 |
| Females | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Total | 8 | 4 | 8 | 5 |

*Note:*

These figures are on the principal offence basis

### Schengen Acquis

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if he will make a statement on the application of the Schengen terms to Romania and Bulgaria. [15921]

**Andy Burnham:** The arrangements for the application of the Schengen Acquis to Bulgaria and Romania are set out in the Protocol to the Accession Treaty. Parts of the acquis will apply to these states from the date of accession (the relevant provisions are listed in Annex II to the Protocol). The remaining parts, in particular the provision providing for the crossing of internal borders without checks on persons, will only apply after a Schengen evaluation has been carried out and the Council is satisfied that the conditions for the application of all parts of the acquis have been met.

### Schengen Information System II

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State forthe Home Department, if he will make a statement on UK participation in Schengen Information System II. [16066]

**Andy Burnham:** The draft legal instruments on the establishment and operation on the second generation Schengen Information System are currently under negotiation at EU working parties. These instruments constitute a development to the Schengen Acquis and UK participation will be in accordance with the Protocols annexed to the Amsterdam Treaty on the position of the United Kingdom and Ireland and the Protocol incorporating the Schengen Acquis.

### Security Services (Foreign Languages)

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many Urdu-speaking special branch officers there are; how many there were on 10 September 2001; and how many Urdu speakers there are in MI5. [15054]

**Paul Goggins:** The information requested is not collected centrally.

### Sex Offender Treatment (Wolvercote)

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps he is taking to provide residential sex offender treatment programmes in the community following the closure of the Wolvercote clinic; and if he will make a statement. [4993]

**Mr. Charles Clarke:** In September 2004, the National Probation Service launched its Sex Offender strategy. As part of the Strategy's objective to develop a range of accommodation options for sex offenders commensurate with risk and need, the National Probation Directorate undertook to develop specialised residential sex offender treatment facilities for sex offenders who require longer treatment programmes and more intensive supervision to reduce their risk. The National Probation Directorate is now seeking to identify suitable locations for such specialised treatment centres.

### Sexual Offences Act

**Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will produce an easy-read guide to the Sexual Offences Act 2003 for people with learning disabilities; and if he will make a statement. [12928]

**Paul Goggins:** We have been working with Respond, Mencap, the Down's Syndrome Association and the National Forum for People with Learning Difficulties to produce appropriate resources in order to help people with learning disabilities to understand the Sexual Offences Act 2003. It is hoped that the guidance will be available in the autumn.

### Sickness Absence

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many days the Department has lost due to sickness in the past five years for which figures are available. [11464]

**Mr. Charles Clarke:** The annual report "Analysis of Sickness Absence in the Civil Service" published by the Cabinet Office in November 2004 contains reported sickness absence data for the calendar year 2003 for the Department and its agencies. Table A of the report gives details of both the average working days absence per staff year and the number of staff years on which that calculation is based on. Reports for earlier years are available on the Cabinet Office website.

The Department is committed to managing sick absence effectively and to putting in place the recommendations of the "Managing Sickness Absence in the Public Sector" report.

*Home Department—sickness analysis*

| | *Workdays lost to sickness* | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005 (estimated)* |
| *Centrally managed Home Office*[1] | | | | | |
| IND | — | 127,440 | 117,270 | 124,589 | [2]154,963 |
| non-IND | — | 32,917 | 31,946 | 31,043 | 22,525 |
| UK Passport Service | 32,350.5 | 35,282 | 34,165 | 32,336 | 33,603 |
| Forensic Science Service[3] | [4]— | 10,093 | 23,190 | 9,087 | 25,823 |
| Public Sector Prisons[5] | 592,173 | 614,150 | 668,337 | 628,623 | 616,367 |

[1] Reports run for previous 12 months from November 2002, June 2003 and April 2004.
[2] 2005 figures for Core, from PayFact estimated on 11 month basis.
[3] Reports in 2002 and 2004 are based on five months; 2003 is based on full calendar year. 2005 is at end of fiscal year.
[4] No data available.
[5] Reports based on financial years, using 225 working days and the average staff in post for year.

The Home Office is fully committed to implementing the recommendations of the joint DWP/Cabinet Office report on managing attendance in the public sector and the Group HR Board approved an action plan at its meeting in July to reduce sickness absence across the whole Department.

### Sir Roy Meadows

**Dr. Gibson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the implications of the decisions of the General Medical Council relating to Sir Roy Meadows for the process of accrediting expert witnesses. [14108]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** I am aware of the recent concerns raised with regard to the quality of expert witnesses. I have therefore instituted a consultation exercise on how best to implement a quality regulation system within the forensic science market. The decision of the GMC and the issue of accreditation with appropriate regulatory bodies will be considered as part of that process.

### Stop and Search Procedures

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will place in the Library a copy of the revised guidelines on the stop and search procedure. [13744]

**Hazel Blears:** Arrangements will be made to place the Stop and Search Manual published on 31 March 2005 in the Libraries of both Houses.

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the *(a)* percentage and *(b)* numerical charge in (i) stops and (ii) stops and searches has been in each police force, broken down by ethnicity since 7 July; and if he will make a statement. [13369]

**Hazel Blears** *[holding answer 20 July 2005]:* The information requested is not available. Information on stops and searches is published for financial years. The latest available ethnic breakdown of this data, for 2003–04, was published in February 2005 in "Statistics on Race and the Criminal Justice System 2004' which is available on the Home Office website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/section951.html

along with previous years' equivalent publications.

### Terrorism Act

**Mr. Love:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what *(a)* legal and *(b)* administrative action has been taken against (i) individuals and (ii) organisations proscribed under the Terrorism Act 2000 in each year since its implementation; and if he will make a statement. [16108]

**Mr. Charles Clarke:** Two individuals were convicted in 2002 in England and Wales under Section 11(1) of the Terrorism Act (membership of a proscribed organisation). They were each sentenced to 2½ years' imprisonment.

A total of 30 administrative actions have been taken by Her Majesty's Treasury against groups proscribed under the Terrorism Act 2000. In all cases this has involved freezing the funds, financial assets, and economic resources of proscribed groups. The authority of Her Majesty's Treasury to freeze assets is derived from the Terrorism (United Nations Measures) Order 2001 (SI 3365/2001) (which implemented UNSCR 1373 in UK law) and the al-Qaeda and Taliban (United Nations Measures) Order 2002 ((SI 111/2002). The yearly breakdown is as follows.

| | *Total number of actions* |
|---|---|
| 2001 | 28 |
| 2002 | 1 |
| 2003 | 1 |

### Terrorism Risk Insurance

**Alan Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the implications for the United Kingdom of the conclusions of the recent report from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) on Terrorism Risk Insurance in OECD Countries, published on 5 July. [14935]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** I have been asked to reply.

The report reviews the coverage of terrorism risks by insurance in OECD countries. The Government will consider it with interest. The conclusions of the report are not binding. As the report notes, the UK has a number of schemes relevant to the coverage of terrorism risk insurance, notably the Criminal Injuries

Compensation Schemes for personal injuries and the Pool Re scheme for damage to commercial property by terrorism.

### Terrorist Attacks (London)

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his Department will be carrying out a review of London's response to the terrorist attacks of 7 July; and if he will make a statement. [15566]

**Mr. Charles Clarke:** The Government will be reviewing lessons learnt, but would reiterate what the Prime Minister stated in the House on 11 July 2005, the current focus must be on the ongoing police operation and we would not want anything to distract from that at this stage.

**Mr. Fabian Hamilton:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the representations that he has received from Muslim community leaders in Leeds regarding their concerns over the recent London suicide bombers. [14690]

**Paul Goggins:** Following the events of 7 July, my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary welcomes the statement of condolence, condemnation and reassurance of support made by the Muslim community leaders in Leeds.

The Home Secretary has had meetings with Muslim community leaders on several occasions since 7 July and is committed to continuing work with faith communities.

### Terrorist Training Camps

**Mr. Fabian Hamilton:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will take steps to ensure that UK citizens are prevented from travelling to terrorist training camps abroad. [14711]

**Mr. Charles Clarke:** The forthcoming Terrorism Bill will contain a new offence of providing and receiving training in the use of hazardous substances and in other methods or techniques for terrorist purpose.

### Tetra

**Mr. Crabb:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) on what date there will be full Tetra network coverage for the emergency services in Pembrokeshire; [11603]

(2) how many Tetra masts are located in Pembrokeshire; [11604]

(3) how many further Tetra masts are required to achieve full network coverage for the emergency services in Pembrokeshire. [11605]

**Paul Goggins:** Airwave is already available to Dyfed-Powys Police. There are 15 masts in Pembrokeshire. The number and citing of masts is the responsibility of O2 Airwave. The network is substantially in place but small changes can be expected as O2 respond to the evolving requirements of current and future users of Airwaves.

### Traffic Offences

**Mr. Ames:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females aged (i) 17 to 24, (ii) 25 to 30, (iii) 31 to 35, (iv) 36 to 40 and (v) over 40 years have been (A) charged with and (B) convicted of (1) failing to comply with a road sign, (2) offences under section (x) 14(3), *(y)* 15(2) and *(z)* 15(4) of the Road Traffic Act 1988, (3) failing to provide a breath specimen for analysis, (4) failing to stop for a police constable and (5) disobeying a police constable stopping traffic in (aa) Essex Police and (bb) Southend Police in each year since 1990. [14139]

**Hazel Blears:** The available information taken from the Home Office Court Proceedings Database for Essex Police force area and South East Essex petty sessional area, 1990 to 2003 is given in the tables, which have been placed in the Library.

Data for 2004 will be available in the autumn.

**Mr. Ames:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females committed offences in England and Wales under sections (i) 14(3), (ii) 15(2) and (iii) 15(4) of the Road Traffic Act 1988 in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [14142]

**Paul Goggins:** Information from the Home Office Court Proceedings database on the number of defendants prosecuted for driving/riding in a motor vehicle without a seatbelt and for driving a motor vehicle with a child not wearing a seatbelt, for the years 1999–2003, is contained in the table. Statistics for 2004 will be available in the autumn.

*Persons prosecuted and convicted at all courts for seat belt offences under sections 14(3), 15(2) and 15(4) of the Road Traffic Act 1988, 1999–2003*

*Defendants*

| *England and Wales* | *Prosecuted* | *Guilty Prosecuted* |
|---|---|---|
| *1999* | | |
| Males | 1,810 | 1,478 |
| Females | 251 | 213 |
| Total | 2,061 | 1,691 |
| *2000* | | |
| Males | 1,419 | 1,138 |
| Females | 198 | 163 |
| Total | 1,617 | 1,301 |
| *2001* | | |
| Males | 1,244 | 1,006 |
| Females | 159 | 138 |
| Total | 1,403 | 1,144 |
| *2002* | | |
| Males | 1,096 | 864 |
| Females | 163 | 136 |
| Total | 1,259 | 1,000 |
| *2003* | | |
| Males | 1,126 | 856 |
| Females | 133 | 115 |
| Total | 1,259 | 971 |

*Note:*
These figures are on the principal offence basis.

### Trials

**Sir Nicholas Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans the Department has to extend trials without jury, as set out in part 7 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003, to other types of trial. [1901]

**Fiona Mactaggart** *[holding answer 7 June 2005]:* The Attorney-General announced in Parliament on 21 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 35WS that the Government intend to seek parliamentary approval in the autumn for the implementation in January 2006 of section 43 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003, which makes provision for certain serious fraud trials to be conducted without a jury. The Government have no plans to make provision for Crown court trials in England and Wales to take place without a jury beyond that which already exists in part 7 of the 2003 Act.

**Mr. Rob Wilson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans he has to abolish jury trials in fraud cases. [1907]

**Fiona Mactaggart** *[holding answer 7 June 2005]:* The Attorney-General announced on 21 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 35WS, the Government's decision that section 43 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003, whereby certain serious fraud trials may take place without a jury, should be implemented in January 2006, and that orders for the necessary affirmative resolutions will be laid in both Houses in the autumn. Section 43 makes provision for the judge in a serious or complex fraud case to order, on application by the prosecution, and with the approval of the Lord Chief Justice, that the trial should be conducted without a jury where he is satisfied that its length or complexity is likely to make the trial so burdensome upon the jury that the interests of justice require it.

**Stephen Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he plans to extend the possibility of conducting trials without jury, as set out in part 7 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003, to other types of trial. [1909]

**Fiona Mactaggart** *[holding answer 7 June 2005]:* The Attorney-General announced in Parliament on 21 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 35WS, that the Government intended to seek parliamentary approval in the autumn for the implementation in January 2006 of section 43 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003, which makes provision for certain serious fraud trials to be conducted without a jury. The Government have no plans to make provision for Crown court trials in England and Wales to take place without a jury beyond that which already exists in part 7 of the 2003 Act.

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans he has for judge-alone trials in fraud cases. [2812]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** The Attorney-General announced on 21 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 35WS, the Government's decision that section 43 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003, whereby certain serious fraud trials may take place without a jury, should be implemented in January 2006, and that orders for the necessary affirmative resolutions will be laid in both Houses in the autumn. Section 43 makes provision for the judge in a serious or complex fraud case to order, on application by the prosecution, and with the approval of the Lord Chief Justice, that the trial should be conducted without a jury where he is satisfied that its length or complexity is likely to make the trial so burdensome upon the jury that the interests of justice require it.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans he has to extend the possibility of conducting trials without jury, as set out in part 7 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003, to other types of trial. [5912]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** The Attorney-General announced in Parliament on 21 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 35WS, that the Government intended to seek parliamentary approval in the autumn for the implementation in January 2006 of section 43 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003, which makes provision for certain serious fraud trials to be conducted without a jury. The Government have no plans to make provision for Crown court trials in England and Wales to take place without a jury beyond that which already exists in part 7 of the 2003 Act.

### UKPS Biometric Trials

**Mr. Wallace:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the results were of the UKPS biometric trials that commenced in April 2004 and was completed in December 2004. [14629]

**Andy Burnham:** The full report of the UKPS biometric trial was published and made available on the UKPS website at www.passport.gov.uk and also at www.identitycards.gov.uk on 25 May 2005.

The biometric trial's goal was to test the processes and record customer experiences and attitudes during the recording and verification of facial, iris and fingerprint biometrics.

The majority of participants felt biometrics would help with passport security, preventing identity fraud, preventing illegal immigration and are not an infringement on their civil liberties.

### Under-age Drinking/Alcohol Sales

**Mr. David Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many convictions for the offence of supplying alcohol to a person under the age of 18 were secured in the area of the North Wales Police Force in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [12772]

**Hazel Blears:** The numbers of defendants found guilty at all courts in North Wales for selling etc., intoxicating liquor to persons under 18 for consumption on the premises' (including "wholesaler selling intoxicating liquor to a person under 18") were no defendants in 2000, one defendant in 2002 and five defendants in 2003.

Statistics for 2004 will be available in the autumn.

The penalty notice for disorder (PND) scheme provides for persons who commit specified penalty offences to be issued with a fixed penalty notice instead of being prosecuted. The offence of selling alcohol to persons aged under 18 was added to the PND scheme on one November 2004 for use on bar or off license staff, licensees will be prosecuted to enable action to be taken to revoke their licenses.

In North Wales, one penalty notice was issued for this offence in 2004 and provisional data for 2005 shows that four were issued to the end of May.

Additional powers are being put forward in the Violent Crime Reduction Bill that was introduced on 8 June 2005 to give partners additional tools to help them tackle alcohol misuse. The Bill enables local authorities and the police to create Alcohol Disorder Zones for targeted action; introduces a new Drinking Banning Order and on-the-spot 48 hour exclusions to target those who are or who represent a public order risk; and a power for the police to impose 48-hour bans on pubs and clubs persistently selling to underage drinkers.

**Mr. Clegg:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prosecutions have taken place for under-age drinking in Sheffield, Hallam in each year since 1990. [13778]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** As such there is no specific offence of under-age drinking because the offence is covered under a number of offences on the Home Office Court Proceedings Database.

Information on these offences is provided in the table, which gives the number of defendants aged 10 to 17 years who were proceeded against in the Sheffield magistrates courts, for selected offences related to alcohol.

Statistics for 2004 will be available in the autumn.

The penalty notice for disorder scheme was rolled out to all police forces in England and Wales during 2004. The scheme provides for a range of minor offences to be dealt with by the issue of a fixed penalty notice. The offences include ones, which relate to under age drinking, being drunk and disorderly and being drunk in a highway or public place. Data on these offences are collected centrally at police force level only and therefore data related to Sheffield is unavailable.

*Number of defendants aged under 18 proceeded against at Sheffield magistrates courts for offences related to underage drinking 1990–2003*[1]

| *Offence description* | *Principal statute* | *1990* | *1991* | *1992* | *1993* | *1994* | *1995* | *1996* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Being found drunk in a highway or other public place, whether a building or not, or on licensed premises | Licensing Act 1872 S.12 | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | 2 |
| Drunk in, or when entering, a designated sports event | Sporting Events (Control of Alcohol etc) Act 1985 S.2(2) | 2 | 4 | 4 | — | 2 | — | — |
| Being guilty while drunk of disorderly behaviour | Criminal Justice Act 1967 S.91 | 53 | 22 | 5 | 5 | 2 | 6 | 12 |
| | Licensing Act 1 964 S.169C(1)and E(1)as added by Licensing (Young Persons) Act 2000 S.1; Licensing | | | | | | | |
| Person under 18 buying or attempting to buy or consuming intoxicating liquor in licensed premises | (Occasional Permissions) Act 1 983 S.3 Schedule Para.4(2) | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| | Total | 55 | 26 | 9 | 5 | 5 | | 14 |

| *Offence description* | *Principal statute* | *1997* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Being found drunk in a highway or other public place, whether a building or not, or on licensed premises | Licensing Act 1872 S.12 | — | — | 3 | — | 1 | — | — |
| Drunk in, or when entering, a designated sports event | Sporting Events (Control of Alcohol etc) Act 1985 S.2(2) | 1 | 1 | — | — | 1 | — | — |
| Being guilty while drunk of disorderly behaviour | Criminal Justice Act 1967 S.91 | 15 | 20 | 26 | 24 | 16 | 31 | 36 |
| | Licensing Act 1 964 S. 169C(1)and E(1)as added by Licensing (Young Persons) Act 2000 S.1; Licensing | | | | | | | |
| Person under 18 buying or attempting to buy or consuming intoxicating liquor in licensed premises | (Occasional Permissions) Act 1 983 S.3 Schedule Para.4(2) | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| | Total | 16 | 21 | 29 | 24 | 18 | 31 | 36 |

[1] These data are on a principal offence basis.

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prosecutions there have been for under-age drinking in each police authority in each of the last 10 years. [14740]

**Andy Burnham:** There is no specific offence of under-age drinking. The table, which has been placed in the Library, gives the number of defendants aged 10 to 17 years who were proceeded against at magistrates courts, for selected offences related to alcohol, for the years 1993–2003, broken down by police force area.

Statistics for 2004 will be available in the autumn.

### Vehicle Recovery (North Wales)

**Ian Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) if he will list the garages and scrap merchants contracted to recover vehicles from road traffic accidents in the North Wales police area in the last 12 months; [13224]

(2) how many vehicles were recovered from road traffic accidents by commercial garages and scrap merchants in the North Wales police area in the last three years for which figures are available. [13223]

**Paul Goggins:** The information requested is not collected centrally.

### Vehicle Registration/Taxation

**Mark Tami:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* prosecutions and *(b)* convictions relating to the non-payment of road tax there have been in each police authority in England and Wales in each of the last five years. [9229]

**Andy Burnham:** Available information taken from the Home Office Court Proceedings Database from 1999 to 2003 (latest available) is given in the table.

2004 data will be available early in 2006.

*Proceedings at magistrates courts and total findings of guilt at all courts for the vehicle offence of failing to pay appropriate duty[1], by police force area, England and Wales*

*Number of offences*

| | *1999* | | *2000* | | *2001* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Police force area* | *Total proceedings* | *Findings of guilt* | *Total proceedings* | *Findings of guilt* | *Total proceedings* | *Findings of guilt* |
| Avon and Somerset | 7,676 | 6,442 | 6,786 | 5,635 | 5,893 | 4,850 |
| Bedfordshire | 1,488 | 1,248 | 1,166 | 988 | 846 | 708 |
| Cambridgeshire | 23 | 8 | 13 | 10 | 48 | 44 |
| Cheshire | 1,211 | 1,055 | 3,534 | 3,176 | 4,078 | 3,619 |
| Cleveland | 2,265 | 1,710 | 2,319 | 1,799 | 1,990 | 1,599 |
| Cumbria | 784 | 688 | 915 | 773 | 78 | 65 |
| Derbyshire | 1,242 | 979 | 1,090 | 832 | 980 | 774 |
| Devon and Cornwall | 6,162 | 5,010 | 5,923 | 4,901 | 5,540 | 4,653 |
| Dorset | 2,591 | 2,191 | 2,948 | 2,485 | 3,376 | 2,855 |
| Durham | 728 | 563 | 336 | 261 | 162 | 125 |
| Essex | 10,784 | 9,992 | 9,703 | 8,162 | 6,439 | 5,584 |
| Gloucestershire | 1,660 | 1,391 | 1,627 | 1,324 | 1,794 | 1,541 |
| Greater Manchester | 5,502 | 4,868 | 6,917 | 5,959 | 5,087 | 4,444 |
| Hampshire | 7,513 | 6,088 | 7,813 | 6,247 | 7,921 | 6,380 |
| Hertfordshire | 5,068 | 4,209 | 5,142 | 4,150 | 4,935 | 4,052 |
| Humberside | 4,333 | 3,626 | 4,838 | 3,984 | 4,532 | 3,801 |
| Kent | 189 | 134 | 43 | 17 | 2,250 | 1,935 |
| Lancashire | 5,146 | 4,170 | 5,890 | 5,013 | 7,215 | 6,151 |
| Leicestershire | 5,460 | 4,616 | 5,802 | 4,759 | 5,487 | 4,639 |
| Lincolnshire | 2,661 | 2,397 | 2,162 | 1,905 | 2,078 | 1,833 |
| London, City of | 632 | 496 | 344 | 311 | 389 | 368 |
| Merseyside | 2,762 | 2,277 | 4,656 | 3,865 | 5,573 | 4,692 |
| Met Police | 16,375 | 14,910 | 15,408 | 14,052 | 15,603 | 14,267 |
| Norfolk | 903 | 864 | 875 | 786 | 1,937 | 1,676 |
| Northamptonshire | 3,908 | 3,316 | 4,824 | 4,061 | 4,408 | 3,808 |
| Northumbria | 3,619 | 3,065 | 4,559 | 3,839 | 4,245 | 3,587 |
| North Yorkshire | 1,076 | 854 | 924 | 735 | 950 | 749 |
| Nottinghamshire | 4,965 | 4,188 | 4,558 | 3,818 | 4,001 | 3,299 |
| South Yorkshire | 981 | 773 | 954 | 752 | 1,249 | 1,019 |
| Staffordshire | 571 | 482 | 409 | 348 | 146 | 115 |
| Suffolk | 2,923 | 2,532 | 3,593 | 3,026 | 2,912 | 2,391 |
| Surrey | 1,478 | 1,254 | 2,197 | 1,889 | 2,269 | 1,929 |
| Sussex | 5,330 | 4,416 | 7,114 | 5,831 | 6,794 | 5,454 |
| Thames Valley | 1,239 | 985 | 2,811 | 2,306 | 2,456 | 1,999 |
| Warwickshire | 1,002 | 892 | 942 | 817 | 872 | 740 |
| West Mercia | 2,944 | 2,543 | 3,419 | 2,905 | 3,122 | 2,738 |
| West Midlands | 7,432 | 6,039 | 6,607 | 5,367 | 5,035 | 4,139 |
| West Yorkshire | 5,685 | 4,627 | 6,246 | 4,927 | 5,662 | 4,550 |
| Wiltshire | 2,330 | 1,985 | 2,146 | 1,800 | 2,292 | 1,924 |
| England | 138,641 | 117,883 | 147,553 | 123,815 | 140,644 | 119,096 |

*Proceedings at magistrates courts and total findings of guilt at all courts for the vehicle offence of failing to pay appropriate duty[1], by police force area, England and Wales*

*Number of offences*

| Police force area | 1999 Total proceedings | 1999 Findings of guilt | 2000 Total proceedings | 2000 Findings of guilt | 2001 Total proceedings | 2001 Findings of guilt |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Dyfed Powys | 2,289 | 2,014 | 2,067 | 1,777 | 1,841 | 1,603 |
| Gwent | 1,985 | 1,740 | 2,783 | 2,425 | 3,456 | 3,123 |
| North Wales | 1,359 | 1,140 | 1,613 | 1,329 | 1,941 | 1,589 |
| South Wales | 4,550 | 3,880 | 4,155 | 3,430 | 4,383 | 3,772 |
| Wales | 10,183 | 8,774 | 10,618 | 8,961 | 11,621 | 10,087 |
| England and Wales | 148,824 | 126,657 | 158,171 | 132,776 | 152,265 | 129,183 |

*Number of offences*

| Police force area | 2002 Total proceedings | 2002 Findings of guilt | 2003 Total proceedings | 2003 Findings of guilt |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Avon and Somerset | 7,963 | 6,554 | 7,027 | 5,868 |
| Bedfordshire | 1,308 | 1,103 | 2,149 | 1,791 |
| Cambridgeshire | 13 | 3 | 22 | 12 |
| Cheshire | 3,782 | 3,321 | 4,826 | 4,368 |
| Cleveland | 1,585 | 1,348 | 2,432 | 2,387 |
| Cumbria | 10 | 6 | 1,085 | 913 |
| Derbyshire | 1,131 | 927 | 3,870 | 3,250 |
| Devon and Cornwall | 8,827 | 7,498 | 9,826 | 8,414 |
| Dorset | 3,058 | 2,557 | 3,601 | 3,090 |
| Durham | 47 | 17 | 11 | 4 |
| Essex | 7,091 | 6,129 | 6,080 | 5,371 |
| Gloucestershire | 1,667 | 1,461 | 2,230 | 1,926 |
| Greater Manchester | 4,570 | 4,125 | 8,756 | 7,749 |
| Hampshire | 8,768 | 7,029 | 7,714 | 6,350 |
| Hertfordshire | 3,559 | 2,923 | 4,643 | 3,771 |
| Humberside | 4,649 | 3,940 | 5,410 | 4,610 |
| Kent | 4,503 | 3,865 | 5,411 | 4,607 |
| Lancashire | 5,351 | 4,748 | 6,414 | 5,645 |
| Leicestershire | 5,881 | 4,949 | 5,671 | 4,691 |
| Lincolnshire | 2,303 | 2,049 | 2,501 | 2,171 |
| London, City of | 476 | 442 | 408 | 376 |
| Merseyside | 4,864 | 4,091 | 8,252 | 6,824 |
| Met Police | 14,649 | 13,420 | 26,813 | 24,765 |
| Norfolk | 2,059 | 1,829 | 3,118 | 2,771 |
| Northamptonshire | 4,880 | 4,169 | 4,462 | 3,817 |
| Northumbria | 3,618 | 3,034 | 3,183 | 2,599 |
| North Yorkshire | 714 | 568 | 846 | 680 |
| Nottinghamshire | 4,265 | 3,528 | 3,920 | 3,198 |
| South Yorkshire | 1,336 | 1,045 | 3,771 | 3,196 |
| Staffordshire | 81 | 56 | 75 | 43 |
| Suffolk | 2,911 | 2,381 | 2,993 | 2,442 |
| Surrey | 2,612 | 2,265 | 2,240 | 1,923 |
| Sussex | 6,803 | 5,660 | 7,733 | 6,363 |
| Thames Valley | 1,894 | 1,533 | 3,409 | 2,817 |
| Warwickshire | 798 | 694 | 983 | 873 |
| West Mercia | 3,099 | 2,646 | 3,061 | 2,677 |
| West Midlands | 5,528 | 4,606 | 14,040 | 11,472 |
| West Yorkshire | 5,151 | 4,143 | 8,547 | 7,101 |
| Wiltshire | 2,281 | 1,915 | 2,425 | 2,049 |
| England | 144,085 | 122,577 | 189,958 | 162,974 |

*Number of offences*

| Police force area | 2002 Total proceedings | 2002 Findings of guilt | 2003 Total proceedings | 2003 Findings of guilt |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Dyfed Powys | 1,925 | 1,715 | 1,784 | 1,568 |
| Gwent | 4,330 | 3,866 | 4,184 | 3,738 |
| North Wales | 2,781 | 2,298 | 3,188 | 2,711 |
| South Wales | 4,776 | 4,142 | 6,362 | 5,590 |
| Wales | 13,812 | 12,021 | 15,518 | 13,607 |
| England and Wales | 157,897 | 134,598 | 205,476 | 176,581 |

[1] Offence under the Vehicle Excise and Registration Act 1994 s. 29 (1)-(3).

*Note:*

The statistics of court proceedings are based on returns made by the police to the Home Office's Data Collection Group. Although these include offences where there has been no police involvement such as those prosecutions instigated by Government Departments (in this case the DVLA) and private organisations and individuals, the reporting of these types of offences is known to be incomplete. Moreover, it is thought that for some police force areas, the reporting of court proceedings, in particular those relating to motoring offences and to TV licence evasion, may also be less than complete; the extent of under-reporting may vary from year to year and this could be responsible in part for the annual variations.

### Victims

**Mr. Djanogly:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many government-funded victim support schemes are operating, broken down by *(a)* location and *(b)* type of scheme. [12700]

**Fiona Mactaggart** *[holding answer 18 July 2005]:* Victim Support is the Government's principal provider of support services to victims and witnesses of crime. The Office for Criminal Justice Reform (OCJR) provides them with grant in aid funding. This funding has nearly trebled from £11.7 million at the start of the financial year 1997–98 to £30 million in 2005–06.

OCJR's funding of Victim Support enables them to provide services to those affected by crime across the whole of England and Wales. Victim Support have an area-based structure, which is broadly similar to the Criminal Justice Areas.

Victim Support provide:

(i) support services, planned on an area basis, to victims of crime (including arson, burglary, crimes against children and young people, domestic violence, hate crimes, murder or manslaughter, racist crimes, rape and sexual assault, robbery, violent crime), their relatives and friends on the basis of referrals from police forces, self referral and referral from other sources;

(ii) support services, planned on an area basis, to prosecution and defence witnesses, their families and friends in the Crown court and magistrates courts; and

(iii) a centrally-based telephone helpline offering support to victims, witnesses, their families and friends.

**Mrs. Gillan:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will place in the Library a copy of the Witness and Victim Experience Survey circulated to local criminal justice boards. [11953]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** A copy of the questionnaire for the Witness and Victim Experience Survey will be placed in the Library. The first results for the Witness and Victim Experience Survey will be published in spring 2006 and copies of this report will also be available in the Library.

### Violent Crime Reduction Bill

**Mr. Crabb:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he will publish the Regulatory Impact Assessment for the Violent Crime Reduction Bill. [13505]

**Hazel Blears** *[holding answer 19 July 2005]:* An overarching Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) for the Violent Crime Reduction Bill was published upon introduction on 8 June. The 13 more detailed individual RIAs, produced in relation to individual measures within the Bill, are currently available on the Home Office website.

### Voluntary Work

Mr. Hood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will estimate how many people undertook voluntary work in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* Scotland in each year between 1997 and 2005; and if she will make a statement. [15485]

**Paul Goggins:** Volunteering is a devolved issue. The Secretary of State for the Home Department has responsibility in England. The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland has responsibility in Northern Ireland. The Scottish Executive and the National Assembly Government have responsibility in Scotland and Wales respectively.

Consequentially there are no centrally collected statistics on the levels of volunteering in the UK as a whole. The 2003 Home Office Citizenship Survey (Home Office Research Study 289) showed that in 2003 around 17.9 million (or 42 per cent.) of people in England and Wales undertook formal volunteering at least once in the 12 months preceding the survey (through groups, clubs, organisations). This was up from 16.3 million (or 39 per cent.) in 2001, the first year of the survey.

### Volunteering

**Mr. Andrew Turner:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost was to public funds, including lottery funding, in the last five years of *(a)* Volunteering England, *(b)* the Institute of Volunteering Research, *(c)* Future Builders, *(d)* ChangeUp, *(e)* the Active Community Unit, *(f)* Community Service Volunteers, *(g)* the Experience Corps, *(h)* the Youth Action Network, *(i)* Millennium Volunteers and *(j)* Corporate Challenge; what targets or outcomes have been set as

a condition of funding in each case; and what information he has collected on their progress in meeting those targets. [8501]

**Mr. Charles Clarke** *[holding answer 30 June 2005]*: The information is as follows.

*(a) Volunteering England (includes funding to the Institute of Volunteering Research)*

*Home Office*

*Funding*

Volunteering England was formed in April 2004 and received £5.9 million from the Home Office in 2004–05.

*Targets and progress*

This funding relates to a number of Volunteering England projects and each of these contribute to Volunteering England's strategic growth and support the organisations development of a national infrastructure to support volunteering. Volunteering England is still a relatively new organisation but early indications are that the organisation is performing well.

*Department for Health*

*Funding*

Volunteering England has received £10.8 million from the Department of Health under the Departments Section 64 and Opportunities for Volunteering grant rounds.

In the case of Section 64 this funding has been allocated to six projects volunteering projects run by Volunteering England.

In the case of Opportunities for Volunteering, Volunteering England act as national agent for the Department for Health, allocating funding to local projects subject to suitable business cases being made.

*Targets and progress*

There are a number of targets associated to this funding, specific details of each of these targets, for each year of funding are unavailable without expending disproportionate effort.

Department of Health officials state that the performance of Volunteering England has been good and that they continue to have good relationships with the organisation.

*(c) Futurebuilders*

*Funding*

The Futurebuilders initiative began in 2003. Latest figures (30 April 2005) show that to date investments have been made totalling 24 million. The Home Office is Futurebuilders sole funder.

*Targets and progress*

Futurebuilders has a target to invest in up to 250 schemes, with a minimum of 225, operating in or across the five public service delivery areas of health and social care, crime, community cohesion, education and learning and support for children and young people. Latest figures (30 April 2005) show that 51 organisations have been funded.

*(d) ChangeUp*

*Funding*

The ChangeUp programme began in 2003 and 10 million was spent on the programme between 2003–04 and 2004–05. The Home Office is ChangeUp's sole funder.

*Targets and progress*

ChangeUp investment is focused on achieving the high level outcomes of the ChangeUp framework:

a highly skilled workforce, performance improvement, more effective use of ICT, strengthened governance, improved volunteer support and more diverse and effective income generation within the voluntary and community sector (VCS)

support for frontline organisations which is available nationwide, structured for maximum efficiency, offering excellent provision which is accessible to all while reflecting and promoting diversity, and is sustainable funded

Partnerships of VCS organisations have been successfully developed at local, regional and national level to implement ChangeUp and investment is beginning to be made at all these levels in line with achieving the objectives. It is too early for a full evaluation of this activity.

*(e) The Active Community Unit*

*Funding*

Between 2000–01 and 2004–05 £336 million has been spent by the Home Office Active Community Unit. It is important to note that this figure includes funding to Volunteering England, the Institute of Volunteering Research, Futurebuilders, ChangeUp, Community Service Volunteers, the Experience Corps and the Youth Action Network. It should also be noted that the Active Community Unit is now part of the wider Home Office Active Communities Directorate, which also includes the Charities Unit and the Volunteering and Charitable Giving Unit.

*Targets and progress: SR2002 PSA8*

The Active Communities Directorate is responsible for the Government's Public Service Agreement target, agreed as part of Spending Review 2002, to increase voluntary and community sector activity, including increasing community participation, by 5 per cent. by 2006. Achievement of this PSA target is dependent on the measurement of two activities: (i) community participation and (ii) voluntary and community sector activity.

"Community participation" is measured by the Home Office Citizenship Survey and is defined as involvement in civic participation, informal or formal volunteering at least once a month in the last 12 months.

The 5 per cent. PSA target would require an increase of 0.9 million people on the 2001 baseline figure of 18.8 million by 2006. The Home Office Citizenship Survey 2003 shows that between 2001 and 2003, the percentage of people in England who had participated at least once a month in one or more of the three core activities increased from 48 per cent. to 51 per cent. In

numerical terms, this represents an increase of more than 1.5 million, well in excess of the 0.9 million target for 2006.

"Voluntary and community sector activity", specifically the contribution of the voluntary and community sector to the delivery of public services, is measured by the State of the Sector Panel Survey. The Panel consists of more than 5000 members that together reflect the diversity of the voluntary and community sector in England.

Baseline information was collected for financial year 2002–03 and progress towards the PSA target will be measured between this year and 2005/06 by the Voluntary and Community Sector Activity Index. The survey for the baseline year has been completed and revised data will be available in April 2005. The survey for 2003–04 is currently in the field and data will be available in late autumn 2005.

*Targets and progress: SR2004 PSA6*

The Active Communities Directorate is also responsible for the Government's Public Service Agreement target, agreed as part of Spending Review 2004, to increase voluntary and community engagement, especially amongst those at risk of social exclusion. The target has two elements: (i) increasing voluntary activity by individuals at risk of social exclusion and (ii) increasing the capacity and contribution of the voluntary and community sector to deliver more public services.

"Voluntary activity by individuals at risk of social exclusion" is measured by the Home Office Citizenship Survey and is defined as involvement in informal or formal volunteering at least once a month in the last 12 months by people with no qualifications, people from black and minority ethnic communities and people with disabilities or limiting long-term illnesses.

'The capacity and contribution of the voluntary and community sector to deliver more public services' is measured in the same way that "voluntary and community sector activity" is for SR2002 PSA8.

*(f) Community Service Volunteers*

*Home Office*

*Funding*

Community Service Volunteers (CSV) has received £5.74 million from the Home Office between 2000–01 to 2004–05.

*Targets and progress*

This funding relates to a number of CSV projects each of which contribute to CSV's strategic work as one of the UK's largest and oldest volunteering organisations. Targets for these projects vary from year to year and are formally agreed with CSV via the submission of workplans and budgets. Specific details of each of these targets for each year are unavailable without expending disproportionate effort. To date CSV's progress has been good.

*Department for Health*

*Funding*

CSV has received £1.7 million from the Department of Health under the Departments Section 64 and Opportunities for Volunteering grant rounds.

*Targets and progress*

In the case of Section 64 this funding is for three projects run by CSV.

In the case of Opportunity for Volunteers CSV act as national agents for the Department of Health allocating funding to local projects subject to suitable business cases being made.

Targets and outcomes for this funding are set on a yearly basis, specific details of each of these targets is unavailable without expending disproportionate effort.

Department of Health officials state that the performance of CSV has been good and that they continue to have good relationships with the organisation.

*Department for Education and Skills*

*Funding*

CSV has received £2.06 million from the Department for Education and Skills. This funding has been directed at CSV's management of the neighbourhood support fund and funding to develop a range of resource materials to support the teaching of citizenship education.

*Targets and progress*

Targets and outcomes for this funding are set on a yearly basis, specific details of each of these targets is unavailable without expending disproportionate effort.

*National Lottery*

*Funding*

CSV has received £5.1 million from lottery funds.

*Targets and progress*

These funds have been allocated to 40 CSV projects with a range of targets. Details of targets and progress for each of these projects are unavailable without disproportionate effort.

*(g) Experience Corps*

*Funding*

The Experience Corps was established as a company limited by guarantee, funded by but separate from the Home Office in 2001. The Home Office provided approximately £20 million (£5.5 million/£7.2 million/ £7.2 million) between 2001–02 to 2003–04.

*Targets and progress*

The organisations key target was to recruit 250,000 new volunteers in the three years of their funding. As at December 2003 the organisation stated that they had recruited over 153,000 volunteers, an evaluation in March 2003 revealed concerns surrounding the Experience Corps volunteer recruitment figures, specifically how many of these volunteers became actively engaged in volunteering activities.

*(h) Youth Action Network Funding*

*Funding*

Youth Action Network received £100, 000 in 2004–05.

*Targets and progress*

Targets associated with this funding were:

To promote and develop the youth action approach to volunteering and facilitate the promotion of volunteering to wider audiences of young people

To provide policy level representation for local, regional and national youth volunteering—to Government, the voluntary and statutory sector and other bodies with a stake in the development of young people and participation

To promote and disseminate good practice relating to youth volunteering and improve the quality of youth volunteering

Youth Action Network has been very active in its awareness raising activities and has been involved in or led a number of initiatives to promote volunteering to a wider audience of young people. The organisation has been particularly active in increasing Youth Action Network's influence and representation within Government and statutory bodies and has developed a good practice library that can be accessed by partners via their website.

*National Lottery*

*Funding*

Youth Action Network has received £282,901 from lottery funds.

*Targets and progress*

This funding is for the production of a research project on young people and social inclusion, defining what factors contribute to successful youth engagement.

This project began in December 2004, it is therefore too early to assess progress.

*Department for Education and Skills*

*Funding*

Youth Action Network has been funded under the National Voluntary Youth Organisation Grant scheme and between 2002–03 to 2004–05 received £139,427.

Youth Action also received funding under the Transforming Youth Work Development fund, between 2002–03 to 2003–04 the organisation received £22, 240.

*Targets and progress*

Targets and outcomes for this funding are set on a yearly basis, specific details of each of these targets is unavailable without expending disproportionate effort.

*(i) Millennium Volunteers*

*Funding*

Between 2000–01 and 2004–05 Millennium Volunteers has received £72.66 million. The Department for Education and Skills is Millennium Volunteers sole funder. This amount includes funding from DfES to CSV (£7.21 million) to deliver Millennium Volunteers projects. It also includes funding to the Institute of Volunteering Research (£170,000) to evaluate Millennium Volunteers.

*Targets and progress*

The published target for the programme was 100,000 young volunteers by December 2003. The target was achieved six months earlier than planned and it is expected that 200,000 young people will have volunteered under Millennium Volunteers by July 2005.

*(j) Corporate Challenge*

To date no public money has been spent on supporting the Corporate Challenge.

**Mr. Andrew Turner:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost to public funds of the Experience Corps has been to date; what targets were set for it in return for Government funding; and how it has performed against those targets. [8711]

**Paul Goggins** *[holding answer 4 July 2005]:* The Experience Corps (TEC) was established in 2001 and received approximately £20 million from the Home Office between 2001–02 and 2003–04 as part of a £300 million injection of funding into the voluntary sector under the Government's Active Community Initiative.

TEC's key target was to recruit 250,000 new volunteers over the age of 50. As at December 2003 TEC reported that it had recruited over 153,000 volunteers although an evaluation earlier that year raised concerns about the organisation's recruitment figures.

TEC currently has over 493,000 opportunities and 230,000 members, including 60,000 from ethnic minority communities. Its team of dedicated "animators" covers every region of England and has formed relationships with over 1,000 organisations across the country.

**Wales (Better Governance)**

**Peter Law:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how he intends to implement Paragraph 3.12 of the White Paper, "Better Governance for Wales" (Cm 6582), in respect of any bill he introduces in the current Session of Parliament. [14947]

**Andy Burnham:** The Home Office is in discussion with the Welsh Assembly Government on the issues relating to paragraph 3.12 of the White Paper "Better Governance for Wales".

**Water Savings**

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, at which non-office sites on the Department's estate he has identified opportunities for significant water savings. [16190]

**Andy Burnham:** Prisons and laboratories have been identified as the non-office sites on the Department's estate which have an opportunity for significant water savings. The Prison Service has set "good practice" and "typical" benchmarks for establishments with and without laundries. Based on these, water targets are set for each prison. 40 establishments currently exceed the "typical" benchmark and therefore offer opportunities for significant water savings. Performance is monitored and governors are required to report any increase in consumption greater than 2.5 per cent. on a 12 month moving average and establishments are asked for a

report stating the reasons for the increase and what they have done to rectify the situation. Individual targets have been set for laboratories based on Watermark benchmarking data and they are required to monitor and report usage on an annual basis.

### Wheel Clamping

**Mr. Spellar:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress has been made by the Security Industry Authority in regulating and licensing operations in the wheel clamping industry. [15161]

**Paul Goggins:** From 3 May it became illegal to work as a vehicle immobiliser (wheel-clamper) on private land without a Security Industry Authority licence. As of 20 July the number of licenses that have been granted are 637, the number of applications that have been accepted are 868, the number registered on the Qualifications Database are 1,361 and the number of applications refused are 74.

### Worker Registration Scheme

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many migrants have applied under the Worker Registration Scheme; and of those how many applications were *(a)* successful and *(b)* unsuccessful; and if he will make a statement. [14721]

**Mr. McNulty:** The latest management information from the Worker Registration Scheme for the period 1 May 2004 to 31 March 2005 was published on the 26 May 2005. The total number of applicants to the scheme during this period was 176,095. A breakdown of the decisions for these applicants is contained in the table. The next set of figures, incorporating the second quarter of 2005 (April to June 2005), and accompanying statement will be published in late August 2005.

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| Approved | 165,620 |
| Refused | 1,540 |
| Exempt | 760 |
| Withdrawn | 7,490 |
| Total | 176,095 |

### Young Crime Victims

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the most common forms of crime committed against young people of school age were in *(a)* Southend constituency, *(b)* Essex, *(c)* Greater London and *(d)* England and Wales in the last five years for which figures are available. [10513]

**Hazel Blears:** Statistics on crimes against young people of school age are not collected centrally. Valuable information about youth victimisation is provided by the MORI Youth Survey, an annual self report survey conducted for the Youth Justice Board. The survey covers a sample of young people across England and Wales, aged 11 to 16 years, and includes information about both offending and victimisation.

The 2004 survey shows that 49 per cent. of young people in mainstream schools say that they have been the victim of an offence, compared with 46 per cent. in 2003. The figure reported in 2002 was 61 per cent. The data on victimisation are not broken down by area or region.

The 2004 survey shows that the most common offences against young people of compulsory secondary school age were: being threatened (26 per cent. of the sample); being bullied (23 per cent. of the sample); and having something other than a mobile phone stolen from them (15 per cent. of the sample).

### Young Offenders

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps he is taking to improve rehabilitation and education amongst young offenders to prevent re-offending; and if he will make a statement. [13730]

**Paul Goggins:** In recognition of the low level of attainment in relation to literacy and numeracy skills amongst young people who offend, the Youth Justice Board has a target to ensure that at least 90 percent. of young offenders are in suitable full-time education, training or employment during and at the end of sentence by March 2006, and that good resettlement plans covering accommodation are in place for young people leaving secure facilities.

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many secure unit places for juvenile offenders there are in London. [15359]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** The Youth Justice Board contracts for the use of 18 places for young male offenders at Orchard Lodge secure children's home, which is managed by London borough of Southwark.

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether the National Offender Management Information System will systematically collect *(a)* data on individual prisoners' children under the age of 18 years, including their age and *(b)* the care arrangements for each child. [15365]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** Information on the children of offenders will be recorded as key data items on the system. Care arrangements for each child can be recorded if required.

## HEALTH

### Abortions

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will estimate based on statistics for maternal deaths, admissions to hospitals following septic abortion, prosecutions for procuring illegal abortion and the number of illegal abortion cases known to the police in each year since 1975. [13639]

**Caroline Flint:** The number of prosecutions for procuring illegal abortion is shown in the table. The other information requested is not held centrally.

*Number of offenders proceeded against at all courts for "procuring illegal abortion"[1] in England and Wales—1975 to 2003*

| | Proceeded against |
|---|---|
| 1975 | 1 |
| 1976 | 3 |
| 1977 | 5 |
| 1978 | 3 |
| 1979 | 1 |
| 1980 | 3 |
| 1981 | — |
| 1982 | — |
| 1983 | 1 |
| 1984 | 3 |
| 1985 | 2 |
| 1986 | 1 |
| 1987 | 2 |
| 1988 | 6 |
| 1989 | 5 |
| 1990 | 1 |
| 1991 | 2 |
| 1992 | 1 |
| 1993 | 2 |
| 1994 | 7 |
| 1995 | 2 |
| 1996 | 2 |
| 1997 | 3 |
| 1998 | 4 |
| 1999 | 1 |
| 2000 | 1 |
| 2001 | 1 |
| 2002 | 3 |
| 2003 | 3 |

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

*Source:*

RDS—Office for Criminal Justice Reform. Ref: IOS 273-05

**Mr. Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many abortions were performed on patients *(a)* under 16 years, *(b)* 16 to 19 years and *(c)* aged 20 years and over in Wellingborough constituency in each year since 1997. [14772]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The available information for abortions performed in England and Wales is contained in the annual Office for National Statistics (ONS) publication, "Abortion Statistics, series AB", and the Department of Health publications, "Statistical Bulletin 2003/23, Statistical Bulletin 2004/14 and Statistical Bulletin 2005/11". Data for 1991 onwards can be found on the Department's website at:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/PublicationsAndStatistics/Statistics/StatisticalWorkAreas/StatisticalPublicHealth/fs/en

Copies of these publications are available in the Library.

### Acute Cerebral/Acute Coronary Events

**Dr. Gibson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the incidence of *(a)* acute cerebral events and *(b)* acute coronary events has been in each of the last five years; [14923]

(2) what the average age of people suffering from *(a)* stroke and *(b)* coronary episode has been in each of the last five years. [14931]

**Mr. Byrne:** The information requested is shown in the table.

*All diagnosis count of episodes, mean and median age for selected diagnoses[1], national health service hospitals, England, 1997–98 to 2003–04*

| | All diagnosis count of episodes | | Mean age | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Stroke | Coronary | Stroke | Coronary |
| 1999–2000 | 161,062 | 499,841 | 73.7 | 69.5 |
| 2000–01 | 162,293 | 537,780 | 73.9 | 69.8 |
| 2001–02 | 167,952 | 552,586 | 74.0 | 70.2 |
| 2002–03 | 179,427 | 597,607 | 74.1 | 70.6 |
| 2003–04 | 178,020 | 608,023 | 74.2 | 71.0 |

[1] Selected diagnoses:

*(a)* "Cerebral event" would probably fall under the categories listed here under "stroke".

Stroke:

160.0 Subarachnoid haemorrhage from carotid siphon and bifurcation
160.1 Subarachnoid haemorrhage from middle cerebral artery
160.2 Subarachnoid haemorrhage from anterior communicating artery
160.3 Subarachnoid haemorrhage from posterior communicating artery
160.4 Subarachnoid haemorrhage from basilar artery
160.5 Subarachnoid haemorrhage from vertebral artery
160.6 Subarachnoid haemorrhage from other intracranial arteries
160.7 Subarachnoid haemorrhage from intracranial artery, unspecified
160.8 Other Subarachnoid haemorrhage
160.9 Subarachnoid haemorrhage, unspecified
161.0 Intracerebral haemorrhage in hemisphere, subcortical
161.1 Intracerebral haemorrhage in hemisphere, cortical
161.2 Intracerebral haemorrhage in hemisphere, unspecified
161.3 Intracerebral haemorrhage in brain stem
161.4 Intracerebral haemorrhage in cerebellum
161.5 Intracerebral haemorrhage, intraventricular
161.6 Intracerebral haemorrhage, multiple localized
161.8 Other intracerebral haemorrhage
161.9 Intracerebral haemorrhage, unspecified
162.0 Subdural haemorrhage (acute) (nontraumatic)
162.1 Nontraumatic extradural haemorrhage
162.9 Intracranial haemorrhage (nontraumatic), unspecified
163.0 Cerebral infarction due to thrombosis of precerebral arteries
163.1 Cerebral infarction due to embolism of precerebral arteries
163.2 Cerebral infarction due to unspecified occlusion or stenosis of precerebral arteries
163.3 Cerebral infarction due to thrombosis of cerebral arteries
163.4 Cerebral infarction due to embolism of cerebral arteries
163.5 Cerebral infarction due to unspecified occlusion or stenosis of cerebral arteries
163.6 Cerebral infarction due to cerebral venous thrombosis, nonpyogenic
163.8 Other cerebral infarction
163.9 Cerebral infarction, unspecified
164.X Stroke, not specified as haemorrhage or infarction

*(b)* As "coronary event" could possibly refer to either myocardial infarction or angina, both have been included, and the codes for cardiac arrest have also been added.

120.0 Unstable angina
120.1 Angina pectoris with documented spasm
120.8 Other forms of angina pectoris
120.9 Angina pectoris, unspecified
121.0 Acute transmural myocardial infarction of anterior wall
121.1 Acute transmural myocardial infarction of inferior wall
121.2 Acute transmural myocardial infarction of other sites
121.3 Acute transmural myocardial infarction of unspecified site
121.4 Acute subendocardial myocardial infarction
121.9 Acute myocardial infarction, unspecified
122.0 Subsequent myocardial infarction of anterior wall
122.1 Subsequent myocardial infarction of inferior wall
122.8 Subsequent myocardial infarction of other sites
122.9 Subsequent myocardial infarction of unspecified site
146.0 Cardiac arrest with successful resuscitation
146.1 Sudden cardiac death, so described
146.9 Cardiac arrest, unspecified

*Notes:*
1. All diagnoses count of episodes—these figures represent a count of all finished consultant episodes (FCEs) where the diagnosis was mentioned in any of the 14 (seven prior to 2002–03) diagnosis fields in a hospital episode statistics (HES) record.
2. The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 14 (seven prior to 2002–03) diagnosis fields in the HES data set and provides the main reason why the patient was in hospital.
3. As well as the primary diagnosis, there are up to 13 (six prior to 2002–03) secondary diagnosis fields in HES that show other diagnoses relevant to the episode of care.
4. A FCE is defined as a period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. Please note that the figures do not represent the number of patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the year.
5. Figures are grossed for both coverage and missing/invalid clinical data, except for 2003–04, which are not yet adjusted for shortfalls.
*Source:*
HES, Health and Social Care Information Centre.

### Adoption (Romania)

**Mr. Peter Robinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many children have been adopted from Romania in the last 10 years involving home study assessments in the UK. [14531]

**Beverley Hughes:** I have been asked to reply.

This information is not available centrally. The following table shows the number of applications to adopt from Romania, including a home study assessment, processed since 1994 by the Department of Health and since June 2003 by the Department for Education and Skills:

| | *Number of applications* |
|---|---|
| 1994 | 14 |
| 1995 | 9 |
| 1996 | 10 |
| 1997 | 5 |
| 1998 | 17 |
| 1999 | 18 |
| 2000 | 24 |
| 2001 | 5 |
| 2002 | 3 |
| 2003 | 1 |
| 2004 | 0 |
| 2005 | 1 |

### Adverse Drug Reactions (Older People)

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 4 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 201W, on adverse drug reactions (older people), what the equivalent figures were in 1997. [12691]

**Jane Kennedy:** I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave on 20 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 1885–86W.

### Alcohol-related Conditions

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people have been treated by accident and emergency departments in Milton Keynes General Hospital for alcohol-related conditions and injuries in the last 12 months. [14243]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The information requested is not available centrally.

**Anne Main:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people under the age of 30 years in the area corresponding most closely to St. Albans *(a)* are subject to alcohol treatment orders, *(b)* being treated for alcohol-related illnesses and *(c)* have been convicted of alcohol-related offences in the last 12 months; and what the equivalent figures have been in each year since 1997. [13412]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Information as to the number of people under the age of 30 years in the area corresponding most closely to St. Albans is not collected centrally.

The number of people being treated for alcohol-related illnesses are only available by health authority. The table shows the number of finished hospital episodes, which is the only data available, for people under or over 18 in the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Strategic Health Authority (SHA) area, which includes residents of St. Albans, who have been treated for alcohol-related diseases. The figures for those convicted of alcohol-related offences is not held by the Department.

*Counts of finished admission episodes for selected alcohol related diseases[1] by SHA of residence and age grouping—national health service hospitals, England 1996–97 to 2003–04*

| | *Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire SHA* | |
|---|---|---|
| | *Under 18* | *Over 18* |
| 1996–97 | 139 | 526 |
| 1997–98 | 159 | 677 |
| 1998–99 | 148 | 712 |
| 1999–2000 | 158 | 734 |
| 2000–01 | 122 | 629 |
| 2001–02 | 176 | 687 |
| 2002–03 | 148 | 707 |
| 2003–04 | 133 | 815 |

[1] Alcohol related diseases defined as following ICD-10 codes recorded in primary diagnosis
F10—Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol.
K70—Alcoholic liver disease.
T51—Toxic effect of alcohol.
*Notes:*
1. "alcohol related" is not a clearly defined condition and that there may be some differences in codes used in different cases.
2. The figures do not relate to the number of people diagnosed with specified conditions, but the number of admitted care episodes in NHS hospitals where the codes were the primary diagnosis.
*Source:*
Hospital episode statistics, Health and Social Care information Centre.

### Alimta/Pemetrexed

**Mr. Nicholas Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) in which areas of England Alimta/Pemetrexed is available on the NHS to treat mesothelioma; [13984]

(2) what advice she has received from the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence relating to the prescribing of Alimta/Pemetrexed as a treatment for mesothelioma patients; [13985]

(3) what advice she has received from the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence concerning the most effective treatments for mesothelioma; [13986]

(4) what guidelines her Department has issued concerning the most effective treatments for mesothelioma; [13987]

(5) what research her Department is funding into medical interventions in the treatment of mesothelioma; and what amount of that research is directed at palliative care. [13992]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** In 2003, the Department set up the lung cancer and mesothelioma advisory group (LCMAG) to work closely with the voluntary sector and patient and professional groups in order to support the development and delivery of high quality services for lung cancer patients.

In 2004, a mesothelioma sub-group was set up to advise LCMAG specifically on the requirements for a good clinical service for mesothelioma, and on priorities for research. The work of this sub-group is still progressing.

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) has not produced guidance on the most effective treatments for mesothelioma, but is appraising the use of pemetrexed disodium for the treatment of mesothelioma. The appraisal is expected to be issued in October 2006.

It is possible for all national health service doctors to currently prescribe pemetrexed disodium for patients if the primary care trust (PCT) or NHS trust agrees to supply it at NHS expense and the doctor retains clinical responsibility for the patient while prescribing pemetrexed disodium. It has been made clear that trusts should not refuse to fund a drug on the grounds that guidance is not available when the product is licensed. In those circumstances, they are expected to make their own assessment of available evidence before deciding how and if to fund the drug locally.

The national cancer research network, established and funded by the Department, is currently providing NHS infrastructure support for five mesothelioma studies. These are:

A trial of chemotherapy for patients with malignant pleural mesothelioma.

A population based case-control study of mesothelioma and lung cancer in relation to occupation in British men and women under the age of 60.

A pilot study to determine the feasibility and acceptability of performing a randomised trial comparing extra-pleural pneumonectomy (EPP) against no EPP surgery within the context of trimodality therapy (chemotherapy, surgery, post-operative radiotherapy).

A prospective randomised controlled trial of video-assisted thoracoscopic cytoreductive pleurectomy compared to talc pleurodesis in patients with suspected or proven malignant mesothelioma.

A palliative care centred study examining whether nebulised furosemide improves severe breathlessness in patients with lung cancer, including mesothelioma.

Over 75 per cent. of the Department's total expenditure on health research is devolved to and managed by NHS organisations. Details of individual projects, including a number concerned with the treatment and care of people with mesothelioma, can be found on the national research register at www.dh.gov.uk/research.

### Alzheimer's Disease

**Mr. Burns:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what meetings she had during May and June about the prescription of drug treatments to people with Alzheimer's disease. [11325]

**Jane Kennedy:** Ministers and officials meet on a regular basis to discuss the development of services for those with dementia. I had an introductory meeting with the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence on 9 June, at which work on the clinical and cost-effectiveness of treatments for Alzheimer's disease were discussed.

**Mr. Burns:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many people with Alzheimer's disease were prescribed anticholinesterase inhibitors in *(a)* 2000, *(b)* 2001, *(c)* 2002, *(d)* 2003 and *(e)* 2004; [11327]

(2) what the cost to the NHS was of drug treatments for people with Alzheimer's disease in *(a)* 2000, *(b)* 2001, *(c)* 2002, *(d)* 2003 and *(e)* 2004. [11329]

**Mr. Byrne:** Information is not available in the form requested. The Department does not hold data on the number of people who receive medication. The following table shows the total number of prescription items for dementia drugs as defined in section 4.11 of the British National Formulary, that were dispensed in the community in England from 2000 to 2004. Also shown are the annual net ingredient cost of these drugs.

| | *Items (thousand)* | *Net ingredient cost (£ million)* |
|---|---|---|
| 2001 | 122.1 | 11.0 |
| 2002 | 231.3 | 20.6 |
| 2003 | 358.2 | 31.3 |
| 2004 | 501.6 | 42.8 |

*Source:*
Prescription cost analysis database.

**Mr. Burns:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of which other EU states do not fund the provision of drugs for people with Alzheimer's disease. [11330]

**Jane Kennedy:** No such assessment has been undertaken.

### Ambulance Services

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many ambulances are available in each primary care trust area in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* the Metropolitan Police area of London; and how many were available in (i) 1995, (ii) 1996, (iii) 1997, (iv) 1998, (v) 2000, (vi) 2002 and (vii) 2004. [14269]

**Jane Kennedy:** The information requested is not collected centrally.

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if she will make a statement on the pay scales for ambulance crews; [12242]

(2) if she will make a statement on the wage structure for ambulance crews in *(a)* England and *(b)* Lancashire; [12428]

(3) what the recommended pay is for each type of ambulance personnel; [12429]

(4) how many pay structures are in place for ambulance crews in England. [12430]

**Mr. Byrne:** All ambulance staff in the country are now covered by the new "Agenda for Change" pay system. "Agenda for Change" replaces existing Whitley Council arrangements for ambulance staff and is open to ambulance staff on local contracts who wish to transfer to the new terms and conditions. All national health service organisations are working to implement the new system by September 2005.

Under the new system, pay is determined through application of the NHS job evaluation scheme, which is a structured method of comparing job weight in order to allocate jobs within the pay structure. It covers the diverse range of demands present in NHS posts such as the knowledge, responsibility, skills and effort required for the job, rather than their historic job title or occupational group.

In order to assist the NHS with the job evaluation process, a number of common NHS jobs have been evaluated nationally and a process agreed by which local jobs can be matched to them where appropriate. These include a number of ambulance service jobs.

It is anticipated that under the new pay system most front line ambulance staff will receive significant increases in take-home pay from the combination of the new pay bands and system of unsocial hours payments being introduced alongside them.

A copy of the complete "Agenda for Change" terms and conditions of service handbook, which sets out the new pay structure and additional terms, is available in the Library.

**Mr. Clegg:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average response time to an emergency call to the Ambulance Service was in Sheffield, Hallam in each year since 1997. [13779]

**Mr. Byrne:** This information is not collected centrally in the format requested. Data on response times for South Yorkshire Ambulance Service National Health Service Trust, which covers the Sheffield area, is shown in the tables.

Further information can be found in the statistical bulletin, "Ambulance services, England: 2004–05", which is available in the Library and on the Department's website at www.dh.gov.uk/assetRoot/04/11/36/041167.pdf.

*South Yorkshire*

| | *Percentage of category A calls responded to within eight minutes* |
|---|---|
| 1997–98 | [1]n/a |
| 1998–99 | [1]n/a |
| 1999–2000 | [1]n/a |
| 2000–01 | 58.8 |
| 2001–02 | 77.2 |
| 2002–03 | 75.3 |
| 2003–04 | 71.8 |
| 2004–05 | 72.5 |

| | *Percentage of category A calls responded to within 14 to 19 minutes* |
|---|---|
| 1997–98 | [1]n/a |
| 1998–99 | [1]n/a |
| 1999–2000 | [1]n/a |
| 2000–01 | 93.2 |
| 2001–02 | 97.4 |
| 2002–03 | 97.9 |
| 2003–04 | 94.1 |
| 2004–05 | 95.3 |

| | *Percentage of Category B and C calls responded to within 14 to 19 minutes* |
|---|---|
| 1997–98 | [1]n/a |
| 1998–99 | [1]n/a |
| 1999–2000 | [1]n/a |
| 2000–01 | 93.0 |
| 2001–02 | 95.4 |
| 2002–03 | 92.2 |
| 2003–04 | 81.0 |
| 2004–05 | [2]88.3 |

| | *Percentage of urgent journeys with arrival time not more than 15 minutes late* |
|---|---|
| 1997–98 | 93.8 |
| 1998–99 | 81.7 |
| 1999–2000 | 79.3 |
| 2000–01 | 80.5 |
| 2001–02 | 79.2 |
| 2002–03 | 69.5 |
| 2003–04 | 67.1 |
| 2004–05 | 78.6 |

[1] Call prioritisation introduced April 2000.

[2] Data for category B calls for the period October 2004 to March 2005.

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what additional resources she plans to provide from central budgets to support the implementation of Taking Healthcare to the Patient, Transforming NHS Ambulance Services, published on 30 June, broken down by major cost area. [12593]

**Mr. Byrne:** It is for primary care trusts, with the support of strategic health authorities, to determine local funding priorities. The Department will support the national health service in driving efficiency gains through national procurements, outsourcing of appropriate support services, and reductions in the number of ambulance trusts and consequent savings in back-room costs. These efficiency gains will increase the resources available for front-line services. Where appropriate, work will be done at a national level to support the implementation of the review's recommendations.

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when *(a)* she and *(b)* officials from her Department last met representatives of Lancashire Ambulance Trust. [12939]

**Mr. Byrne:** My right hon. Friend, the then Secretary of State for Health (John Reid) met with Lancashire Ambulance Service Trust approximately three years ago. However, information relating to meetings with Departmental officials is not centrally available.

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether ambulance trusts send 999 response times to her Department. [12940]

**Mr. Byrne:** The statistical information submitted by ambulance trusts to the Department is set out in an annual statistical bulletin, "Ambulance services, England: 2004–05", which is available in the Library and on the Department's website at www.dh.gov.uk/assetRoot/04/11/36/79/04113679.pdf. The information collected and published includes the number of 999 calls resulting in a response within eight minutes and the number resulting in a response within 14 minutes for urban services or 19 minutes for rural services.

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what her policy is on answering parliamentary questions on Lancashire Ambulance Trust; [12941]

(2) what information she collects on the performance of Lancashire Ambulance Trust. [13609]

**Mr. Byrne:** The Department collects information about the Lancashire Ambulance Service National Health Service Trust and all other ambulance services on an annual basis via the KA34 return form. This information is published in an annual statistical bulletin, which is available in the Library and on the Department's website at www.dh.gov.uk/assetRoot/04/11/36/79/04113679.pdf.

The only change made since November 2003 to the data collected is that, from 1 October 2004, information about category B and C emergency calls is collected separately. Prior to this date, category B and C calls were grouped together.

In general, responses to questions from hon. and right hon. Members will include information which has been formally collected and centrally validated by the Department. Some replies will on occasions include information which will not be centrally held by the Department, but has already been put in the public domain by the NHS organisation concerned. However, where questions request information which is not collected by the Department, the hon. or right hon. Member will be directed to the relevant organisation concerned where this information will be more readily available, in line with our policy of "Shifting the balance of power" to the local NHS.

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how often she meets chairs and chief executives of ambulance trusts; and whether response times are discussed at such meetings. [12942]

**Mr. Byrne:** My right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Health and her ministerial team aim to visit as many national health service trusts as possible. They also meet chairs and chief executives on other occasions. Topics of discussion will depend on the purpose of the meeting or visit.

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average annual salary for chairs of ambulance trusts is. [13015]

**Mr. Byrne:** The majority of chairs of ambulance trusts receive remuneration of £17,164 per annum, although the chairs of the two largest ambulance trusts receive £19,454 per annum.

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* highest and *(b)* lowest salary for a chief executive of an ambulance trust is; and what other expenses and benefits are typically received. [13016]

**Mr. Byrne:** Information about the remuneration of chief executives of national health service organisations or other very senior managers is not collected centrally.

As publicly accountable organisations, however, information on levels of remuneration and benefits of the senior management team is published in organisations' annual reports.

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will list the Lancashire Ambulance Trust board members; and in which town or village each lives. [13017]

**Mr. Byrne:** The board members of Lancashire Ambulance Trust are:

Mr. D. Hill—Staveley, Kendal, Cumbria

Mr. P .Cooney—Garstang, Preston, Lancashire

Mr. S. Watt—Garstang, Preston, Lancashire

Mr. A. Jude—Lytham, Lancashire

Mr. D. Laird—Lancaster, Lancashire

Mrs. R. R. Winterbottom—Caton, Lancashire

Mr. M. F. Desai—Preston, Lancashire

Mr. E .P. Fletcher—Blackburn, Lancashire

Ms J. Kennedy—Galgate, Lancashire

Mr. E. G .Pope—Lathom, Lancashire

The trust has one vacancy for a non-executive director, which is currently being recruited.

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what service level agreements are in place between Lancashire Ambulance Trust and Lancashire teaching hospital; [13018]

(2) if she will make a statement on patient involvement in the Lancashire Ambulance Trust. [13582]

**Mr. Byrne:** This information is not available centrally and can be obtained from the Lancashire Ambulance Service National Health Service Trust.

**Steve Webb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 22 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 1092W, on ambulances (equipment), if she will place a copy of the British Standards Institute list in the Library; what monitoring is undertaken by her Department to ensure that all ambulances carry at least the equipment on the list. [13674]

**Mr. Byrne:** A copy of the British Standards Institute list will be placed in the Library. The Department does not monitor the equipment carried by ambulance vehicles. The Department expects ambulances to be appropriately equipped to deliver care to the patients they see, in accordance with national clinical guidelines. It is for each ambulance trust to determine how this is done.

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment she has made of manning levels of ambulance staff in Lancashire; what

requirements there are for Lancashire Ambulance Trust to collect response time data; and at what level this should be collated; [14604]

(2) if she will make a statement on *(a)* response times and *(b)* staff morale in Lancashire Ambulance Trust. [14620]

**Mr. Byrne:** This information is not available centrally and can be obtained from the Lancashire Ambulance Service National Health Service Trust. However, information about NHS ambulance services, including the Lancashire Ambulance Service NHS Trust, is collected on an annual basis and published in an annual statistical bulletin, "Ambulance Services, England: 2004–05". This is available in the Library and on the Department's website at www.dh.gov.uk/assetRoot/04/11/36/79/04113679.pdf.

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she next expects to meet Lancashire ambulance trust. [14619]

**Mr. Byrne:** My right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Health, has no meetings scheduled with Lancashire ambulance service national health service trust at this present time.

### Antidepressants

**Dr. Naysmith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many prescription items of *(a)* benzodiazepine drugs and *(b)* antidepressants were dispensed in England in 2004. [11899]

**Jane Kennedy:** In 2004, the number of prescription items dispensed in the community in England were 29.0 million for antidepressants and 11.9 million for benzodiazepines. More detailed information is available on the Department's website at www.dh.gov.uk/PublicationsAndStatistics/Publications/PublicationsStatistics/PublicationsStatisticsArticle/fs/en?CONTENT_ID=4107504&chk=nsvFEO

### Antimicrobial Resistance

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to her answer of 7 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 524W, on antibiotics, what the *(a)* work programme and *(b)* sub-groups of the Specialist Advisory Committee on Antimicrobial Resistance are; and what the (i) budgets and (ii) timetables are for each. [7223]

**Caroline Flint:** The specialist advisory committee on antimicrobial resistance (SACAR) provides scientific advice to the Government on its antimicrobial resistance strategy. This strategy aims to minimise the morbidity and mortality due to antimicrobial resistant infection, and maintain the effectiveness of antimicrobial agents in the treatment and prevention of microbial infections in man and animals by surveillance, prudent antimicrobial use and good infection control practices.

Currently, SACAR has six sub-groups and their main interests are shown in the table. Their work plans are kept under review so that they can take account of significant new issues.

| *Sub-group* | *Main interest* |
|---|---|
| Surveillance | Options for national surveillance including proposals for community meticillin resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA)—autumn 2005 |
| Paediatrics | Prescribing trends and influence on complications—report due 2006 |
| Human prescribing | Analysis of prescribing data and support for prescribes, for example, conference for hospital clinical pharmacists—July 2005—and national template for antimicrobial prescribing policies |
| Public education | National education campaigns—next proposal due autumn 2005 |
| Professional education | Development and co-ordination of new teaching materials and curricula |
| Healthcare associated infection | Short-term group to produce advice on roles and responsibilities of infection control teams by end 2005 |

SACAR and its sub-groups do not have set budgets.

### Aspartame

**Mr. Roger Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if she will reassess the safety of aspartame for consumption by children and adults; and if she will make a statement; [14345]

(2) what recent discussions she has had with the European Food Safety Authority on aspartame; and if she will make a statement. [14346]

**Caroline Flint:** The Food Standards Agency has discussed recently published results, from the European Ramazzini Foundation, on the safety of aspartame with the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA). EFSA has requested the full study report from the Ramazzini Foundation and intends to undertake an urgent assessment of the study to establish whether there are any implications for human health. The FSA will study their views very carefully and consider what, if any, action may be required. The safety of aspartame was most recently assessed by the European Commission's scientific committee on food in 2002.

**Mr. Roger Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations the Department received from the sweetener industry and how many meetings the Department held with representatives from the sweetener industry prior to the introduction of aspartame in England; and if she will make a statement. [14347]

**Caroline Flint:** I am advised by the Food Standards Agency that aspartame has been approved for use in the United Kingdom since 1982 and harmonised conditions of use for the sweetener were adopted in all European Union member states in 1995. The Department does

not hold records of any representations received from the sweetener industry, or meetings held with representatives of the sweetener industry, prior to the introduction of aspartame in the UK in 1982.

### Asthma

**Ian Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of research into the effectiveness of buteyko breathing techniques in the treatment of asthma. [12980]

**Mr. Byrne:** None. The Department funds research to support policy and to provide the evidence needed to underpin quality improvement and service development in the national health service. In the six years from 1997–98 to 2003–04, the Department's national research programmes spent £9 million on projects related to asthma.

Over 75 per cent. of the Department's total expenditure on health research is devolved to and managed by NHS organisations. From this funding, the NHS reported spending £29.1 million in support of respiratory diseases in 2003–04.

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what records her Department keeps of the number of patients with asthma caused by smoking. [14202]

**Caroline Flint:** Records of the number of patients with asthma caused by smoking are not held centrally. In the health survey for England 2001, survey participants were asked about asthma and what brought on their attacks. Of those with doctor-diagnosed asthma and who had an attack within the last five years; 22.3 per cent. of men and 21.8 per cent. of women replied that cigarette smoke—theirs or others—brought on an attack of asthma.

About 2.6 per cent. of the adult population aged 16 and over have doctor diagnosed asthma and have had an attack within the last five years. This corresponds to a population figure of 1,000,000. This is an age-standardised estimate.

Of these with doctor-diagnosed asthma: about 80,000 men and 140,000 women are estimated to have had an attack of asthma brought about by cigarette smoke. These are age-standardised estimates.

### Audiology Services

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 29 June 2005 to the hon. Member for Gordon (Malcolm Bruce), *Official Report*, column 1597W, on audiology services, when data returns on waiting times for digital hearing aids must be first submitted; who is responsible for their submission; how these returns will be assessed; when the first information on waiting times for digital hearing aids are expected to be published; and if she will make a statement. [12806]

**Mr. Byrne:** To support the18-week target, the Department is currently piloting data collections for a number of, but not all, diagnostic tests including pure tone audiometry. Subject to successful piloting, we intend to roll out these collections to the wider NHS later this year.

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what action the Government are taking to obtain reference costs for the provision of digital hearing aids on the NHS; when she expects these to be developed into a national tariff; when the provision of digital hearing aids will be included in payment by results; and if she will make a statement. [12807]

**Mr. Byrne:** The provision of digital hearing aids is currently excluded from annual reference costs collection; thus the costs of the entire digital hearing aids service, is excluded from the reference costs in 2005. This is the result of their accounting treatment as capitalised grouped assets.

As long as the purchase of digital hearing aids in bulk by national health service bodies is deemed to be a capital transaction, they will remain outside the reference costs collections.

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many students are expected to graduate from the new audiology degree courses in 2007–08; what the attrition rate from these courses has been; what impact she expects these developments to have on the availability of trained staff to fit digital hearing aids; and if she will make a statement. [12808]

**Mr. Byrne:** The information requested is not collected centrally.

The BSc (Hons) in audiology has been developed by the Department, in partnership with the Royal National Institute for the Deaf and the audiology professional bodies. This will help to increase the number of audiologists nationally and reduce waiting times for fittings of digital hearing aids.

### Baby Units (Essex)

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will list the hospitals in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* the Metropolitan police area of London which have a specially equipped baby unit; and if she will make a statement. [14799]

**Jane Kennedy:** The Department does not collect information on the hospitals which have specially equipped baby units. The Department collects information at a trust level which shows those trusts which have neonatal intensive care cots. The Department also holds information on trusts which have beds in intensive care neonates or other general and acute neonatal and children's wards, which may include special care baby unit cots.

The following trusts have neonatal intensive care cots.

*Essex Strategic Health Authority (SHA)*

Southend Hospital National Health Service Trust
Basildon and Thurrock University Hospitals NHS Trust
Mid Essex Hospital Services NHS Trust
The Princess Alexandra Hospital NHS Trust

*North West London SHA*

The Hillingdon Hospital NHS Trust
West Middlesex University NHS Trust
St. Mary's NHS Trust
Chelsea and Westminster Healthcare NHS Trust

Hammersmith Hospitals NHS Trust
North West London Hospitals NHS Trust

*North Central London SHA*

Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust
North Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust
The Whittington Hospital NHS Trust
Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Trust
University College London Hospitals NHS Trust
Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust

*North East London SHA*

Barking, Havering and Redbridge Hospitals NHS Trust
Barts and the London NHS Trust
Homerton University Hospital NHS Trust

*South East London SHA*

Queen Elizabeth Hospital NHS Trust
Bromley Hospitals NHS Trust
Queen Mary's Sidcup NHS Trust
Guy's and St. Thomas' NHS Trust
The Lewisham Hospital NHS Trust
King's College Hospital NHS Trust

*South West London SHA*

Kingston Hospital NHS Trust
Mayday Healthcare NHS Trust
St. George's Healthcare NHS Trust
Epsom and St. Helier NHS Trust

The following trusts have beds in intensive care neonates or other general and acute neonatal and children wards which may include special care baby unit cots.

*Essex SHA*

Basildon and Thurrock University Hospitals NHS Trust
Essex Rivers Healthcare NHS Trust
Mid Essex Hospital Services NHS Trust
Southend Hospital NHS Trust
The Princess Alexandra Hospital NHS Trust
Homerton University Hospital NHS Trust

*North Central London SHA*

Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust
Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Trust
Moorfields Eye Hospital NHS Trust
North Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust
Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust
Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Trust
The Whittington Hospital NHS Trust
University College London Hospitals NHS Trust

*North East London SHA*

Barking, Havering and Redbridge Hospitals NHS Trust
Barts and the London NHS Trust
Newham Healthcare NHS Trust
Newham PCT
Whipps Cross University Hospital NHS Trust

*North West London SHA*

Chelsea and Westminster Healthcare NHS Trust
Ealing Hospital NHS Trust
Hammersmith Hospitals NHS Trust
North West London Hospitals NHS Trust
Royal Brompton and Harefield NHS Trust
St. Mary's NHS Trust
The Hillingdon Hospital NHS Trust
West Middlesex University NHS Trust

*South East London SHA*

Bromley Hospitals NHS Trust
Guy's and St. Thomas' NHS Trust
King's College Hospital NHS Trust
Queen Elizabeth Hospital NHS Trust
Queen Mary's Sidcup NHS Trust
The Lewisham Hospital NHS Trust

*South West London SHA*

Epsom and St. Helier NHS Trust
Kingston Hospital NHS Trust
Mayday Healthcare NHS Trust
St. George's Healthcare NHS Trust
The Royal Marsden NHS Trust

### Bedford Hospital NHS Trust

**Mrs. Dorries:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 14 July 2005, *Official Report*, columns 1184–85W, on Bedford hospital NHS trust (1) what financial outcome she expects following the discussions; [14763]

(2) what appropriate action she expects will take place following the discussions; [14764]

(3) what has been discussed between her officials and the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire strategic health authority; and if she will make minutes and records of these discussions publicly available; [14765]

(4) whether discussions are ongoing between her officials and the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire strategic health authority; [14766]

(5) what budget changes will take place following the discussions. [14767]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Discussions are ongoing between Departmental officials and the strategic health authority and until these have concluded, it would be inappropriate to comment on any possible outcome.

**Mrs. Dorries:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 14 July 2005, *Official Report*, columns 1184–1185W, on Bedford Hospital NHS Trust, what measures the Government are putting in place to combat violent incidents against NHS staff. [14768]

**Jane Kennedy:** In April 2003, the national health service security management service (NHS SMS) was created and assumed policy and operational responsibility for the management of security in the national health service, including work to tackle violence against NHS staff. In November 2003 the NHS SMS introduced a comprehensive range of measures to tackle incidences of violence against NHS staff, both proactively and reactively. These included:

New concise, consistent legally-based definitions for staff to report physical and non-physical assaults.

A new, streamlined national reporting system for reporting and recording of physical assaults, which has the capacity to track cases from report to conclusion, allowing for intervention where necessary.

A requirement for health bodies to nominate a security management director, a member of the executive board, to bear overall responsibility for security management work with particular responsibilities on tackling violence; representation for security management work at the executive board level is to ensure that responsibilities are taken seriously at the highest level.

The creation of the NHS SMS legal protection unit to provide health bodies with cost effective advice on a wide range of sanctions that can be pursued, and to work with the police and the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) to increase the rate of prosecutions.

From April 2004, the largest-ever training programme in the United Kingdom for frontline NHS staff and professionals, designed to equip staff with the necessary skills to be able to identify and de-escalate potentially violent situations from occurring in the first place; from returns made by health bodies for the last financial year, 2004–05, it is estimated that around 85,000 frontline staff have received training in the new national syllabus.

Training for the new role of local security management specialist (LSMS) began in June 2004, with the first set accredited in October 2004. LSMSs will have specialist professional skills and expertise to investigate incidents of assaults in support of the police and the CPS to ensure that sanctions are applied against alleged offenders, where appropriate. The NHS SMS plans to have a trained and accredited LSMS in place in each health body by summer 2006.

### Beta Interferon (MS)

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what discussions she has had and what reports she has received about the suitability of Beta Interferon for sufferers of multiple sclerosis; [11801]

(2) how many individuals were *(a)* awaiting and *(b)* receiving treatment with Beta Interferon for multiple sclerosis, broken down by health authority on the lastest date for which figures are available. [11803]

**Jane Kennedy:** The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) has undertaken a detailed appraisal of the clinical and cost effectiveness of Beta Interferon and glatiramer acetate treatments. Their guidance can be found at on the NICE website at www.nice.org.uk. However, a risk-sharing scheme was established on the recommendation of NICE to ensure the cost effective provision of these treatments on the national health service.

We do not collect information on the number of individuals either awaiting or receiving treatment.

### Bill Sponsorship

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what bills were sponsored by her Department in each session since 1979. [10584]

**Jane Kennedy:** The information requested is a matter of public record.

### Birth Rate

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will take steps to increase the birth rate in the UK. [10860]

**Caroline Flint:** Decisions about whether or not to have children are for individuals, not Government.

### Blood Donors (Essex)

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people have given blood in Essex in each financial year since 2002–03. [14136]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The numbers of blood donors in Essex are shown in the table.

*Essex—active donor-base and collections*

| | *Active donors*[1] | *Collections* |
|---|---|---|
| 2002–03 | 191,462 | 289,972 |
| 2003–04 | 177,589 | 277,644 |
| 2004–05 | 165,751 | 253,353 |

[1] At mid-year point.

*Source:*
National Blood Service, market research and analysis team.

### Breast Screening

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what measures are in place to ensure that women aged 50 to 70 years do not lose their place in the three-year cycle for NHS breast screening when changing general practitioner. [13588]

**Ms Rosie Winterton** *[holding answer 19 July 2005]:* General practitioners are recommended to check the screening status of new female patients and if needed refer them to the national health service breast screening programme.

Primary care trust databases are regularly checked to identify women who may have missed a screening round. In addition, women can, when changing GP, self-refer to the local breast screening unit.

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans she has to make use of the internet to encourage women aged 50 to 70 to accept an invitation to attend an NHS breast screening. [13794]

**Ms Rosie Winterton** *[holding answer 20 July 2005]:* The Department already uses the internet to ensure that women can make an informed choice on whether or not to be screened for breast cancer. The national health service cancer screening programme issued a regional communications pack to all local breast and cervical screening programmes in autumn 2004. The packs include advice on raising the awareness of screening, including posters, with clear links to the cancer screening programme website at www.cancerscreening.nhs.uk.

All women now receive a national information leaflet on breast screening when they are invited. The leaflet gives details of the cancer screening programme website, together with that of NHS Direct Online.

### Brook Advisory Service

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much her Department gave to Brook Advisory Service in each of the last five years; and for what purpose. [12727]

**Caroline Flint:** For information on funding granted to Brook Advisory Service in the last five years, I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave him on Tuesday 19 July 2005, *Official Report*, columns 1654–56W.

The Department has provided funding for Brook to enable it to develop and be an advocate for sexual health services for young people; to support the Brook network in England to deliver such services; to encourage policy and advocacy work, involving young people; to influence the national debate regarding young people and sexual health; and to develop models of innovative practice, including ones designed to reach excluded and vulnerable young people.

### Cancer Research

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what involvement her Department has in the allocation of funds to organisations and individuals involved in cancer research. [13799]

**Jane Kennedy** *[holding answer 20 July 2005]:* The Department funds research to support policy and the delivery of effective practice in the national health service. The Department also provides NHS support funding for research commissioned by the research councils and charities that takes place in the NHS.

In April 2001 the Department established the national cancer research network (NCRN). The NCRN integrates research with cancer care. It has had a significant impact on the quality, speed and co-ordination of clinical cancer research. It has helped to ensure that patients from all parts of the country can benefit sooner from new developments in cancer care. The NCRN has more than doubled the number of patients involved in cancer research.

The Department works closely with its cancer research funding partners through the National Cancer Research Institute (NCRI). The NCRI brings together, for the first time, the major funders of research, including Government, the voluntary sector and industry, together with cancer patient representatives, to ensure a national strategic approach to identifying and supporting cancer research. The Department has been a major contributor of funds to NCRI initiatives to date.

### Cancer Services

**Steve Webb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what resource funding will be made available by her Department in 2005–06 to support the running of new and replacement equipment to improve diagnosis and treatment of cancer, as referred to on page 53 of the Departmental Report 2005, paragraph 4.8. [13692]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Revenue allocations totalling £148 billion were made to primary care trusts (PCTs) to cover the period 2003–04 to 2005–06. It is for PCTs to determine how to use the funding allocated to them to commission services to meet the healthcare needs of their local population.

Of that total, £42 million was made available in 2004–05 and 2005–06 to support additional equipment. However, this funding was not separately identified or ring-fenced.

### Cancer Treatment

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting time was for cancer patients to receive treatment in hospitals in the last year for which figures are available; and what the Government's target is. [11216]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Average waiting times for the treatment of cancer patients are not collected. Cancer waiting times treatment standards of one month from urgent general practitioner referral to first cancer treatment were introduced for cases of testicular cancer, children's cancers and acute leukaemia in 2001.

Further standards of maximum waits of 31 days from diagnosis to first cancer treatment and 62 days from urgent referral with suspected cancer to first cancer treatment were introduced for patients with breast cancer in 2001 and 2002 respectively. These 31 and 62 day standards will be in place for all cancer patients from December 2005. Performance against the current cancer waiting times targets is shown in the table and is published quarterly on the Department's website. Performance data showing progress towards the 2005 targets is also available on the Department's website at:

http://www.performance.doh.gov.uk/cancerwaits/.

| *Tumour type* | *Standard* | *Performance 2004–05 percentages* |
|---|---|---|
| Testicular cancer | 31 days from urgent referral to treatment | 88.6 |
| Children's cancers | | 93.5 |
| Acute leukaemia | | 86.2 |
| Breast cancer | 31 days from diagnosis to treatment | 97.7 |
| Breast cancer | 62 days from urgent referral to treatment | 96.9 |

### Cardiac Rehabilitation

**Mr. Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how long on average patients requiring cardiac rehabilitation waited to be referred to each NHS hospital trust in England in the latest year for which figures are available. [14757]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The Department does not collect this data centrally.

### Care Homes

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many care homes in *(a)* England, *(b)* each region and *(c)* each local authority with social care responsibilities have (i) met and (ii) not met the national minimum standard requirement for NVQ level 2. [9080]

**Mr. Byrne:** The national minimum standards for care homes for older people and care homes for adults (18–65) state that the qualification for national vocational qualification level two should be completed by 2005. I understand from the chair of the Commission for Social Care Inspection that care homes have been given until 31 December 2005 to meet the standard.

**Mr. Steen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps she plans to take to implement the recommendations of the Office of Fair Trading report on care homes. [13885]

**Mr. Byrne:** The Office of Fair Trading published a report on care homes for older people on 18 May 2005. The report made a number of recommendations to the Government, which the Government is currently considering.

### Child Health Services

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether she has published "You're Welcome", a resource to make NHS services easier to use for children, as stated in the document, Every child matters: change for children in health services, published on 15 December 2004; and when dissemination seminars on the resource will begin. [12631]

**Mr. Byrne:** The Department has made significant progress with the "You're Welcome" standards. We are now in discussions with the Royal colleges about the standards and will be consulting more widely over summer and early autumn. We anticipate that the standards will be ready for publication by the end of the year. The training seminars will commence following publication.

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many consultants in paediatric medicine there have been in each year since 1997, broken down by medical discipline. [12632]

**Mr. Byrne:** The information requested is shown in the table.

*Hospital, public health medicine and community health services (HCHS): consultants within all medical paediatric specialties England*[1]

*Numbers (headcount)*

| | *Paediatric surgery* | *Paediatric cardiology* | *Paediatrics* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1997 | 74 | 16 | 1,211 |
| 1998 | 86 | 17 | 1,282 |
| 1999 | 98 | 18 | 1,337 |
| 2000 | 104 | 23 | 1,420 |
| 2001 | 114 | 29 | 1,478 |
| 2002 | 105 | 64 | 1,631 |
| 2003 | 100 | 69 | 1,738 |
| 2004 | 108 | 63 | 1,839 |
| December 2004 | 105 | 65 | 1,862 |

[1] All data as at 30 September, except where stated for 31 December 2004.

*Source:*

NHS Health and Social Care Information Centre medical and dental workforce census.

### Childhood Cancer

**Dr. Gibson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the Draper report on childhood cancer in relation to high voltage power lines; what steps she proposes to take in response to the report; what plans she has to commission further research into the subject; what discussions on the implications of the report she *(a)* has had and *(b)* plans to have with (i) ministerial colleagues, with particular reference to the Secretaries of State for Education and Skills and for Trade and Industry and the Deputy Prime Minister, (ii) relevant charities, (iii) patient groups, (iv) clinicians, (v) Ofgem, (vi) the National Grid and (vii) the electricity supply industry; and if she will make a statement. [13000]

**Caroline Flint:** The Health Protection Agency's (HPA) radiation protection division has a statutory responsibility to advise on health risks from exposure to electromagnetic fields (EMF). The HPA comprehensively reviewed the relevant science in 2004 and recommended not only the adoption of new guidelines on EMF exposure but also that the Government "consider the need for further precautionary measures" in relation to power frequency (ELF) electromagnetic fields. The HPA provided a considered response to the recent publication by Dr Draper, placing it in the context of the current knowledge of such issues. It noted that the majority of raised magnetic fields are due to variations in the electricity supply and distribution system, the presence of substations and equipment in the home rather than proximity to power lines. The HPA's response is available on its web site at

www.hpa.org.uk/hpa/news/articles/press releases/2005/050603 childhood cancer voltage.htm.

The Draper study, which was funded directly by the Department, is also being considered by the stakeholder advisor/group ELF electromagnetic fields (SAGE), which was set up in response to the HPA advice published in 2004. SAGE has been constituted in order to make practical recommendations for precautionary measures in respect of EMF exposure—available at www.rkpartnership.co.uk/sage. Information about SAGE's membership can be found on the web site. It includes charities, clinicians, the electricity industry, market regulators, specialists and public concern groups as well as officials from Government Departments.

In addition to funding its own research programme, the Department and the Health and Safety Executive support the World Health Organization's (WHO) electromagnetic fields project. The HPA undertakes EMF research and is a WHO collaborating institution. The WHO is due to review the health risks from power frequency fields later this year.

### Children's Hospices

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the oral answer of 14 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 146, on children's hospices, on what date she plans to publish guidance informing primary care trusts of their responsibilities with regard to children's hospices and children's palliative care. [12528]

**Mr. Byrne:** This autumn, we will publish a good practice guide on the effective commissioning of palliative care services for children and young people that will promote choice. The guide is for primary care trusts and their commissioning partners. We will follow up publication with a series of events to bring trusts and their local authority and hospice partners together.

### Chiropody

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment she has made of chiropody services in Essex. [14137]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The Department has not made an assessment of chiropody services in Essex. It is the responsibility of primary care trusts to plan, manage

and deliver local health services, including chiropody, and to ensure that these meet the needs of their local population.

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans she has to undertake a review of NHS chiropody services; and if she will make a statement. [13591]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answer 19 July 2005]:* There are no plans to undertake a review of national health service chiropody services.

Access to chiropody is a matter for primary care trusts, which have responsibility for implementing the national standards, as identified in the national service frameworks.

Chiropody is one of the multidisciplinary services that should be considered in the implementation of national standards.

### Christie Hospital, Manchester

**Tony Lloyd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement on the future of Christie Hospital, Manchester. [14821]

**Mr. Byrne:** There is a strong future for the Christie Hospital, as part of the network delivering cancer services across Greater Manchester and beyond.

### Clostridium Difficile

**Mr. Lidington:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if she will make a statement on her policy for the typing of clostridium difficile 027; [8755]

(2) what the date was of the first typing of clostridium difficile 027 made by the Anaerobic Reference Laboratory from a sample taken in an English hospital; [8760]

(3) pursuant to the answer of 27 June 2005, *Official Report*, columns 1344–45W, on clostridium difficile, on what date the Anaerobe Reference Laboratory in Cardiff started to test samples for clostridium difficile 027 in respect of each hospital; [8878]

(4) what the average time taken by the Anaerobic Reference Laboratory in Cardiff to analyse and type samples of clostridium difficile was in the most recent period for which figures are available; [8958]

(5) how many samples of clostridium difficile the Anaerobic Reference Laboratory in Cardiff is able to type in an average week. [8959]

**Jane Kennedy** *[holding answer 4 July 2005]:* The Anaerobe Reference Laboratory can routinely type approximately 30 isolates per week, but this could be increased if required.

The Anaerobe Reference Laboratory has provided a typing service to hospitals in England for over 10 years. It first typed clostridium difficile 027 in January 1999 from a routine referral. However, it was not until June 2004 that this type was identified as a high toxin producer. The mandatory surveillance programme for clostridium difficile, in place since 2004, has been typing clostridium difficile to provide information on the prevalence of clostridium difficile types.

Recent audits of referred batches for analysis to the Anaerobe Reference Library reveal a turnaround time of seven working days.

**Mr. Lidington:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of clostridium difficile 027 have been confirmed at each of the hospitals where this strain has been reported. [11436]

**Jane Kennedy** *[holding answer 12 July 2005]:* A total of 106 isolates of clostridium difficile 027 have been detected by the Anaerobe Reference Library between January 1999 and Friday 15 July 2005. Most of them have come from cases of diarrhoea associated with clostridium difficile, some have come from the environment, and for some, no information was supplied.

The isolates have come from 15 locations in England and 72 of the 106 isolates (68 per cent.) are associated with three outbreaks—at Stoke Mandeville, Exeter and Romford. Seven isolates (6 per cent.) are associated with the survey of North East region (four locations). The remaining 27 (25 per cent.) have come from eight locations. These include isolates obtained from patients and typed for clinical reasons, or as research projects, and environmental samples.

It should not be assumed that a hospital where a case of clostridium difficile 027 has been identified has a major problem or outbreak of clostridium difficile 027.

**Mr. Lidington:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 27 June 2005, *Official Report*, columns 1344–45W, on clostridium difficile, how many *(a)* cases of clostridium difficile and *(b)* deaths due to clostridium difficile there were in each of the hospitals listed in each year from 2000. [11625]

**Jane Kennedy** *[holding answer 12 July 2005]:* Data on cases of clostridium difficile associated diarrhoea by hospital from 2000 is not available. However, data by trust is being collected under the mandatory surveillance scheme and the first year's data will be published in August.

In the Tenth Revision of the International Classification of Diseases (ICD-10), deaths involving enterocolitis due to C. difficile can all be identified from the code A04.7. Enterocolitis is the commonest illness caused by C. difficile infection. For causes other than enterocolitis that are also known to be associated with C. difficile, it is not possible to identify from ICD codes alone the number of deaths where C. difficile actually contributed to the death. For this reason, the only routinely available mortality statistics on C. difficile are those where it was associated with enterocolitis. The Office for National Statistics is working with the Health Protection Agency on a special study to identify the total number of deaths where C. difficile was mentioned on the death certificate. Until this study has been completed, the number of deaths in particular hospitals will not be available centrally.

### Cognitive Behavioural Therapy

**Chris Bryant:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* average annual cost and *(b)* average cost per patient to the NHS for cognitive behavioural therapy has been over the last five years. [13428]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** This information is not held centrally by the Department.

### Commission for Patient and Public Involvement

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the Commission for Patient and Public Involvement in Health cost *(a)* to set up and *(b)* in each year of operation. [11056]

**Ms Rosie Winterton** *[holding answer 11 July 2005]:* In 2002–03, £3.25 million was spent on the start-up of the Commission for Patient and Public Involvement in Health (CPPIH). The table shows CPPIH's funding for each year it has been operational.

| | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| 2003–04 | 30.192 |
| 2004–05 | 33.313 |
| 2005–06 | 31.681 |

### Commission for Social Care Inspection

**Mr. Burns:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the reasons were for the decision to replace the National Care Standards Commission with the Commission for Social Care Inspection. [14453]

**Mr. Byrne:** The Commission for Social Care Inspection was established in place of the National Care Standards Commission and the Social Services Inspectorate to create a single social care inspectorate, providing service users with clear assurances about the safety, quality and efficiency of the services they receive; to remove overlaps between the organisations regulating social care; to strengthen and clarify the oversight of key social care services; and to assure taxpayers that public funds are being used effectively.

**Mr. Burns:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost was of the replacement of the National Care Standards Commission by the Commission for Social Care Inspection. [14454]

**Mr. Byrne:** The cost was in the region of £7.5 million over the three year period from 2002–03 to 2004–05.

**Mr. Burns:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the expenditure of the *(a)* National Care Standards Commission and *(b)* Commission for Social Care Inspection have been in each year of their operation; and what the estimated figures for (i) 2005–06 and (ii) 2006–07 are for the Commission for Social Care Inspection. [14455]

**Mr. Byrne:** The National Care Standards Commission (NCSC) became fully operational on 1 April 2002 and the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) on 1 April 2004. The expenditure from April 2002 is shown in the table.

| | *Organisation* | *Expenditure (£ million)* |
|---|---|---|
| 2002–03 | NCSC | [1]119.4 |
| 2003–04 | NCSC | [2]158.9 |
| 2004–05 | CSCI | [3]157.8 |
| 2005–06 | CSCI | [4]157.8 |
| 2006–07 | CSCI | [5]— |

[1] Including £9.9 million capital charge.
[2] Including £14.5 million capital charge.
[3] Including £11.3 million capital charge.
[4] Including £10.0 million capital charge.
[5] No estimate is currently available.

**Mr. Burns:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the full-time equivalent staff employed by the *(a)* National Care Standards Commission and *(b)* Commission for Social Care Inspection were in each year of their operation; and what the estimated figures are for (i) 2005–06 and (ii) 2006–07. [14460]

**Mr. Byrne:** The National Care Standards Commission (NCSC) became fully operational on 1 April 2002 and the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) on 1 April 2004. The number of staff employed by these organisations is shown in the table.

*Staffing*[1]

| | *Organisation* | *Number* |
|---|---|---|
| 2002–03 | NCSC | 2,225 |
| 2003–04 | NCSC | 2,586 |
| 2004–05 | CSCI | 2,548 |
| 2005–06 | CSCI | [2]2,634 |

[1] Average number of whole-time equivalents.
[2] This is an estimate, based on the assumption that CSCI will recruit to full capacity.

No estimate of staffing is currently available for 2006–07.

### Community Pharmacies

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many community pharmacies in the Southend West constituency have *(a)* closed and *(b)* opened in each year since 2001–02. [14133]

**Jane Kennedy:** Information on the number of community pharmacies by constituency is not centrally collected. However, information prior to 2002 is available by health authority (HA) and from 2002 by primary care trust (PCT). Southend West constituency is currently served by Southend on Sea PCT and previously sat within the South Essex HA.

In 2001–02, South Essex HA had a total of 141 community pharmacies. The HA comprised of the following areas:

Billericay
Brentwood
Wickford
Southend on Sea
Thurrock
Basildon
Castlepoint
Rochford

In 2002–03 Southend on Sea PCT had a total of 36 community pharmacies. In 2003–04 the number remained at 36. Therefore, there were no new pharmacies opened and no pharmacy closures during this period.

### Contaminated Blood Products (Ex-gratia Payments)

**Michael Connarty:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will estimate the cost of making payments to the families of people with haemophilia who have died of hepatitis C. [11282]

**Caroline Flint:** It is not possible to provide an estimate on the cost of extending the hepatitis C ex-gratia payment scheme to the families of people infected with hepatitis C through national health service blood products and who have since died.

### Counterfeit Medicines

**Dr. Murrison:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the implications of delays in adjudicating on acceptability of parallel-traded products by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency for the extent of the distribution of counterfeit and improperly packaged drugs in England. [13327]

**Jane Kennedy:** There have been only two cases of counterfeit medicines in England in ten years and there is no evidence to suggest that either of these involved parallel-traded products. The licensing time for parallel imported medicines has reduced significantly over the last two years. However, the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency is not aware of any evidence that the licensing time for parallel imports is associated with the marketing of either counterfeit medicines or improperly packaged medicines.

**Dr. Murrison:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans she has to speed up the assessment of parallel-traded products referred by manufacturers to the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency. [13328]

**Jane Kennedy:** All referrals relating to parallel imports, including those from industry, are logged on receipt and reviewed by a senior member of staff. On further investigation, if remedial action is required by the parallel importer, a time scale for implementation is agreed; this depends upon the urgency of the action.

The individual or organisation making the referral is advised of the outcome in due course.

### Dacorum PCT

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* children and *(b)* adults in the area covered by Dacorum Primary Care Trust suffer from (i) tooth decay and (ii) gum disease; and if she will make a statement. [10700]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The data available for Dacorum Primary Care Trust (PCT) relates to dental decay in five-year-olds sampled in 2003–04. This is shown in the table.

| | *Dacorum PCT* | *England* |
|---|---|---|
| Decayed teeth | 1.12 | 1.24 |
| Decayed, missing and filled teeth | 1.52 | 1.49 |
| Percentage with decay experience | 33 | 38.7 |

At a national level, the latest decennial child dental health survey (2003) shows that dental decay in eight, 12 and 15-year-old children has decreased since 1983 to its lowest recorded level. 12-year-old children in England now have the best oral health of that age group in Europe.

Data broken down by PCT on either gum disease or tooth decay in adults is not available centrally.

### Defect and Failure Reporting System

**Steve Webb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many reported defects there were on the defect and failure reporting system, as referred to on page 96 of the departmental report 2005, in the latest year for which figures are available; and if she will make a statement. [13724]

**Jane Kennedy:** Between 1 January and 31 December 2004, there were 58 reported non medical, estate-related defects held on the Department's defect and failure reporting system relating to health care providers in England.

The Department remains committed to promoting and ensuring patient safety throughout the national health service. It is vital that the NHS and the Department work closely together to ensure that all defects and failures are reported and investigated quickly and that any appropriate safety alerts are issued and promptly actioned.

### Delayed Discharge

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment she has made of delayed discharge in hospitals located in the Essex health authority. [14318]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The numbers of delayed discharges as per the SitReps (situation reports) data for June 2005 are shown in the table.

| *Organisation* | *Number of patients occupying an acute bed whose transfer of care is delayed* |
|---|---|
| Essex Strategic Health Authority | 277 |
| Southend Hospitals National Health Service Trust | 75 |
| Basildon and Thurrock General Hospitals NHS Trust | 97 |
| Essex Rivers Healthcare NHS Trust | 9 |
| Mid Essex Hospital Services NHS Trust | 37 |

### Dentistry

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps her Department is taking to *(a)* recruit and *(b)* retain dentists who register new NHS patients in the constituency of Westmorland and Lonsdale; and if she will make a statement. [4007]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The provisions of the Health and Social Care (Community Health and Standards) Act 2003 will lead to the major changes needed to achieve the most radical reform of dentistry since 1948. This will result in a more locally focussed service for individuals. Among the major changes which will improve access is a new contract for dentists, which will take effect from 1 April 2006.

The new contract, which is based on personal dental service (PDS) pilots, will encourage a more preventive and health promotion focus. There is also a programme to recruit the equivalent of 1,000 dentists by the end of October 2005, leading to some two million individuals being able to access treatment.

Morecambe Bay Primary Care Trust (PCT), which includes the Westmorland and Lonsdale constituency, has been working towards converting as many practices locally to PDS. As at 31 May 2005, there were 61 dental practices in the PCT area of which 21, or 34 per cent., had open PDS contracts. Similarly, as at 31 May 2005, the PCT was providing personal dental services to 44,675 patients. The figure for 31 May 2004 was 4,226.

The PCT has received over £316,000 in dental access funding, which has been used to support local practices to improve their premises and to expand. It is anticipated that this initiative will result in an additional 6,000 dental places.

In addition to the PCTs efforts to increase the PDS contracts locally, it has been active in the Department's international recruitment campaign. As a result, three dentists have recently been recruited from Poland and have joined practices in the South Lakes and Barrow areas of the PCT. A dentist has also been recruited from Portugal to work in the local area. The principal dentist in Barrow has also agreed to the Barrow practice accepting patients from across the whole Morecambe Bay area. These extra recruits are expected to provide a further 5,000 dental places over the next 12 months. The PCT is also targeting dentists who live in the area but who are not known to be working in more local dental practices.

Morecambe Bay PCT is also supporting a range of training opportunities as part of a longer-term approach to increasing numbers of clinicians working locally. This includes placements for dental students and dental therapists. During the past year, 50 final year dental students from the Liverpool dental school spent four weeks working in Morecambe Bay. Additionally, eight dental therapists have started a two-and-a-half-year course at Lancaster and a further eight are due to start in September 2005.

**Steve Webb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of people who called NHS Direct about access to NHS dentistry were advised of dentists with whom they could register within locally agreed standards in the last period for which figures are available. [8087]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** In March 2005, 99 per cent. of telephone calls to NHS Direct concerning dentistry, where complete data was supplied, were advised of dentists within locally agreed standards who could provide them with national health service treatment.

**Steve Webb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations she has received on access to orthodontic treatment on the NHS; and if she will make a statement. [8091]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** This information is not collected in the format requested. The Department regularly receives a number of representations on the topic of dentistry. This is not further categorised by speciality.

From 1 April 2006, national health service orthodontic care, in general dental practice, will be provided under either general dental services contracts or personal dental services agreements. Commissioning these services locally will lead to resources targeted on those who will benefit most; improved quality of outcomes and reduced treatment times; reduced waiting times for assessment and treatment and greater efficiency in the consultant-led orthodontic services.

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will list the *(a)* grants and *(b)* loans made to NHS dental clinics in each of the last five years, broken down by NHS trust; whether conditions regarding continuing to practise with the NHS were attached to each; and if she will make a statement. [8924]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** In 2001, the Department made £35 million available via the dental care development fund (DCDF) to expand local national health service dental capacity. The Department does not hold details of which dental practices received funds from the DCDF. Strategic health authorities imposed conditions on the grant: that the additional capacity was maintained, usually for three years; and that the practices in receipt of funds contributed approximately 50 per cent. of the total value of the grant.

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what remuneration General Dental Services (GDS) dentists will receive for following the recent guidance issued by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence on patient recall; and what remuneration dentists receive under the existing GDS contract in relation to the recall of patients at six-monthly intervals. [9309]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The guidance, issued in October 2004, from the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) on patient recall states that patients should have dental examinations at clinically appropriate periods normally between three and 24 months.

Under the current general dental service (CDS) dentists are paid an item of service fee for each treatment. These are set out in the Statement of Dental Remuneration, copies of which are available in the Library. Dentists should already be recalling their patients at clinically appropriate intervals. There has never been an expectation under the GDS that patients should be re-called for examinations at six-monthly periods, although a dentist will not normally be allowed to claim for more than one examination undertaken within any six-month period. Following the NICE guidance, dentists are now able to claim for more frequent examinations for those few patients where it is clinically necessary.

**Geraldine Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps she is taking to improve NHS dentistry in Morecambe and Lunesdale constituency. [10280]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Morecambe Bay Primary Care Trust (PCT) received £316,600 in additional funding to improve access in 2004–05. The PCT is working to increase access through measures including international recruitment, identification of capacity in current premises and the provision of emergency out-of-hours services. The PCT has been involved in recruiting overseas dentists to the area and, over the last year, has recruited one dentist from Portugal and three from Poland.

The PCT expects that 17,000 additional places will be provided for patients through these measures.

As at 31 May 2005, there are 61 dental practices within the PCT area. There are 17 practices converted to personal dental service (PDS) contracts, which means that 28 per cent, of practices have been secured to provide national health service dentistry. This equates to 45,000 registered patients. It is anticipated that over the course of the next five years, 5,000 extra registration places will be available to patients through PDS practices alone.

**Anne Main:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps her Department has taken to retain NHS-contracted dentists. [10846]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The most radical reform of national health service dentistry since 1948 is under way with Government and the NHS working hard to develop a modernised, high quality primary dental service. This reform programme is specifically designed to retain dentists within the NHS, by the development of a new contract for dentists to be introduced from 1 April 2006, based on personal dental services (PDS) pilots that encourage a more preventative and oral health promotion focus. This and the other dental reforms have been supported by an unprecedented level of Government investment, which is set to increase by over 19 per cent. over two years—2005–06 over 2003–04—resulting in an extra spend of over £250 million a year in primary care dentistry. Specific funding initiatives have included:

£50 million distributed to primary care trusts (PCTs) in 2004–05 for practice improvements to enhance access, quality and choice for patients.

£9 million to support the work of the NHS dentistry support team with the hardest pressed PCTs.

£30 million to ensure that dentistry information technology is integrated with the NHS-wide systems being developed through the national programme for IT.

£80 million capital investment over four years to support the increase of 25 per cent. in dental school undergraduate places from October 2005.

The number of primary care dentists has increased from 16,700 in 1997 to 20,192 at the end of May 2005. They are working from some 9,000 practice addresses. Included in the 20,192 total are over 6,000 dentists who are now providing PDS in over 2,200 practice addresses. There are 210 practices, in 26 sites, which are field-testing a variety of approaches to improve the quality of patient care and dentists' working lives. Overall, dentists provided 32 million courses of NHS treatment, including 2.8 million in the PDS, in 2004–05, compared with 24.6 million in 1996–97.

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health which organisations have been asked to submit a full business case for establishing a new dental school; when these business cases will be evaluated; by whom; and on what date she expects a new dental school to become operational. [12629]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** A joint implementation group (JIG) made up of representatives of the Higher Education Funding Council for England, the Department and the national health service is managing the expansion of dental training. In May, the joint implementation group invited expressions of interest in taking additional training places from all higher education institutions and short-listed the responses in June. The successful applicants have been invited to submit a full business case by 28 September. The applications included proposals for new dental schools and the expansion of existing schools. It would not be appropriate to publish further information about the applications at this stage. The joint implementation group expects to reach its conclusions around the end of the year, when the location of the additional training places will be published.

**Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans she has for a new dental school in the North West; and if she will make a statement. [13062]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The Government are funding 170 additional training places for dental students. A joint implementation group, made up of representatives of the Higher Education Funding Council for England, the Department and the national health service, is managing the expansion of dental training. The joint implementation group expects to reach its conclusions around the end of the year, when the location of the additional training places will be published.

**Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of the population was registered with an NHS dentist in *(a)* England and *(b)* Gloucestershire in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available. [13174]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Information on the percentage of the population registered with a national health service dentist in England and in Gloucestershire, where available, is shown in the table.

The March data provided in the table for the years 1997–2005 is consistent with my response of 20 July 2005 to the hon. Member for Northavon (Steve Webb), *Official Report*, column 1897W, which also gave registration rates.

*Estimated percentages of total population who are registered with general dental service (GDS) or personal dental service (PDS) dentists as at September 1995 and 1996 and March 1997 to 2005*

*Percentages*

| | *1995* | *1996* | *1997* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| England | 56 | 55 | 53 | 52 | 49 | 49 |
| *of which:* | | | | | | |
| Gloucestershire Family Health Services Authority | 47 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Gloucestershire Health Authority | n/a | 44 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| South Gloucestershire Primary Care Trust | n/a | n/a | 59 | 59 | 55 | 55 |
| West Gloucestershire Primary Care Trust | n/a | n/a | 36 | 34 | 31 | 31 |

*Percentage*

| | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| England | 49 | 49 | 49 | 48 | 48 |
| *of which:* | | | | | |
| Gloucestershire Family Health Services Authority | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Gloucestershire Health Authority | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| South Gloucestershire Primary Care Trust | 52 | 53 | 53 | 56 | 57 |
| West Gloucestershire Primary Care Trust | 30 | 30 | 29 | 25 | 25 |

n/a—not applicable

*Notes:*

1. Registration rates (i.e. the percentage of the population registered with a dentist) have been estimated by including registrations in the area of the dentist according to the postcode of the dental surgery (not the patient's address). So the registration rates for some areas may be affected by some patients receiving dental treatment in a different area from the one in which they live.
2. The registration rates use population estimates for the primary care trust (PCT) areas for the nearest year for which data are available. Figures for 1997–2000 have been calculated from 2001 population data. Figures for 2004 and 2005 have been calculated from 2003 population data as this is the most up to date available.
3. The number of registrations are based on a snapshot of the registration database taken at the end of March each year (September for 1995 and 1996) and subsequent retrospective notifications of changes to registrations have not been included.
4. Some double counting may occur in the totals when a patient has been newly registered with a dentist in PCT A, but not yet de-registered from a dentist in PCT B.
5. The changes in the registration period from two years to 15 months under the General Dental Services from 1 September 1996 affected the registration number from December 1997 onwards, so the 1997 figures are not comparable with later figures.
6. Most PDS schemes that have registrations have a re-registration period in excess of fifteen months, so the figures for PDS scheme; are generally higher than they would have been for the same attendance pattern under GDS.
7. Some PDS schemes do not have any registrations, e.g. dental access centres and their patients will not therefore be included in these figures.
8. There are a small number of unallocated registrations.

*Source:*

Dental Practice Board.

**Mr. Wills:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she has made of the average income, after operating expenses, of dentists working only for the NHS in *(a)* 2000, *(b)* 2001, *(c)* 2002, *(d)* 2003 and *(e)* 2004. [13298]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Information on private working of national health service dentists is not routinely available. The average annual payments between 2000–01 and 2003–04 to general dental service (GDS) dentists with a reasonable commitment to the GDS are shown in the table.

*Average annual GDS payments and estimated expenses for dentists with a reasonable GDS commitment[1], 2000–01 to 2003–04*

£

| | *2000–01* | *2001–02* | *2002–03* | *2003–04* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Gross income | 129,100 | 133,900 | 140,000 | 150,000 |
| Expenses | 69,900 | 73,400 | 76,700 | 83,300 |
| Net income | 59,200 | 60,500 | 63,300 | 66,700 |

[1] Dentists with a reasonable commitment are defined as dentists earning at least £57,300 in fees for treatments and patient capitation in 2003–04, £55,600 in 2002–03, £53,700 in 2001–02 and £51,600 in 2000–01.

*Source:*

Department of Health analysis of Dental Practice Board payments and Inland Revenue data.

The payment figures cover both fees for treatments and patient capitation as well as other payments such as seniority payments and commitment payments and payments for maternity and sickness.

**Mr. Fallon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much is being spent on NHS dentistry in West Kent in 2005–06; how many NHS dentists are registered as practising in the Sevenoaks constituency; and if she will make a statement. [13515]

**Ms Rosie Winterton** *[holding answer 20 July 2005]:* The main element of primary care dentistry is currently the demand led general dental service (GDS), where expenditure is not predetermined by specific local allocations or budgets. Expenditure on the GDS in West Kent in 2005–06 will be dependent upon the activity levels of individual national health service dentists and the numbers and types of treatment required by NHS patients. Under the Government's dental reform programme, full local commissioning of dental services by primary care trusts (PCTs) and a new dental contract to replace the present item-of-service payment system will commence in April 2006.

Funding levels for community and hospital dental services are already determined at local level, to be met from PCTs' individual unified budget allocations, but details of such budget plans are not collected centrally.

As at 31 March 2005, there were 43 NHS dentists in Sevenoaks parliamentary constituency. This information was provided by the Dental Practice Board and relates to dentists whose practice address postcode is within the constituency boundary.

In 2004–05, the Department allocated £1.53 million to the Kent and Medway Strategic Health Authority (SHA) to improve access, choice and quality in NHS dentistry. Out of this sum, South West Kent PCT received £128,147. I am advised by Kent and Medway SHA that South West Kent PCT has developed a dental action plan, setting out actions to improve access to dentistry locally and that two personal dental service practices went live in April 2005. I am also advised that the PCT has secured the potential for 5,750 additional registrations through the dental action plan to date.

**Steve Webb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she has made of the cost of a course of treatment at *(a)* a dental access centre and *(b)* a general dental services dentist. [13701]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Information on the cost of a course of treatment at a dental access centre is not collected centrally.

The average cost of an adult course of treatment with a general dental services dentist for the financial year 2004–05 was £38.55. This figure excludes continuing care, capitation entry and transition payments.

**Steve Webb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if her Department will collect whole-time equivalent figures for NHS dentists based on how much time they spend treating NHS patients; and if she will make a statement. [13726]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** From next April, primary care trusts (PCTs) will be able to monitor this information under the new contractual arrangements. At present, the majority of high street dentists are independent contractors and can choose the amount of time they wish to make available for national health service patients on a flexible basis. The Department already collects this information in relation to the salaried dental service provided by PCTs.

**Steve Webb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were registered with an NHS dentist in each year since 1998 in *(a)* England, *(b)* each strategic health authority and *(c)* each primary care trust. [13727]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Information showing the numbers of people who were registered with a national health service dentist in each year since 1998 in England, by strategic health authority and primary care trust, has been placed in the Library.

**Joan Walley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made with plans for an outreach dental school for Stoke-on-Trent. [13752]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The Government are funding 170 additional training places for dental students. A joint implementation group, made up of representatives of the Higher Education Funding Council for England, the Department and the national health service is managing the expansion of dental training. In May, the joint implementation group invited expressions of interest in taking additional training places from all higher education institutions and short-listed the responses in June. The successful applicants have been invited to submit a full business case by 28 September. The applications included proposals for new dental schools and the expansion of existing schools, including outreach schemes. The joint implementation group expects to reaches its conclusions around the end of the year, when the location of the additional training places will be published.

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people in the Milton Keynes area she estimates are unable to register with an NHS dentist. [14090]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The information requested is not collected centrally.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many dental practices in the Southend West constituency have *(a)* closed and *(b)* opened in each year since 2000. [14132]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** During the period January 2000 to July 2005, two surgeries have closed. The first closed on 31 March 2001, due to the retirement of a single-handed dentist. The second closed on 17 October 2003.

One new surgery opened on 15 September 2003. This is a practice with only general dental services (CDS) contracts. Southend-on-Sea primary care trust allocated additional access money to this practice, which was used to provide equipment. Three dentists were recruited from Ireland and the condition attached to the allocation of funds was for the practice to register 6,000 patients over a period of 15 months, which the practice has achieved.

Of the eight practices that have remained operational throughout the period, one has moved totally from CDS to personal dental services (PDS) and another has both CDS and PDS contracts.

**Mr. Steen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health further to her Minister's letter of 7 July to hon. Members about NHS dental care, what estimate she has made of the cost of training 117 Polish dentists; what conditions are attached to their contracts; and if she will make a statement. [14375]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The total value of the contract to recruit 230 dentists from Poland is £3.8 million, which includes an eight-week training programme for each dentist. The cost of recruiting the remaining 117 dentists is £2.36 million. The dentists recruited are employed on standard employment contracts, in line with United Kingdom employment law.

**Mr. Streeter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the dental workforce shortfall on the South West peninsula; and what the shortfall is in each other area bidding for dental training facilities. [14566]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The Department has not made an assessment of the dental workforce on the South West Peninsula. The bids for dental training facilities are being considered by a joint implementation group, made up of representatives of the Higher Education

Funding Council for England, the Department and the national health service. It would not be appropriate to publish details of the bids at this stage.

The joint implementation group expects to reach its conclusions around the end of the year, when the location of the additional training places will be published. The Department's dental support team has been working closely with the South West Peninsula Strategic Health Authority on dentistry issues and 18 international dentists have been recruited as a result of the Department's international recruitment initiative. Another 18 international dentists have been recruited by the primary care trusts across Devon and Cornwall.

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many practising dentists are taking NHS patients in each constituency. [14744]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The information requested, giving figures as at 31 March 2005, has been placed in the Library.

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average retention rate of NHS dentists within the NHS was in each of the past 10 years. [14745]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Average retention rate data is not readily available. The table shows the percentages of all dentists with contracts at 31 December each year who have left during that year. However, these figures include dentists who leave for a variety of reasons, including retirement and career breaks/maternity leave.

| | *Percentage* |
|---|---|
| 1997 | 5.5 |
| 1998 | 5.5 |
| 1999 | 6.0 |
| 2000 | 6.6 |
| 2001 | 6.6 |
| 2002 | 6.9 |
| 2003 | 6.4 |
| 2004 | 5.3 |

**Mr. Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the ratio of NHS dentists to population was in *(a)* Wellingborough constituency, *(b)* Northamptonshire and *(c)* England in the last year for which figures are available. [14759]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The information requested is shown in the table.

*Number of national health service dentists and rate per 10,000 population as at 31 March 2005*

| | *Number of dentists* | *Ratio of dentists per 10,000 population* |
|---|---|---|
| Wellingborough constituency | 39 | [1] |
| Northamptonshire county | 224 | 3.5 |
| Daventry and South Northamptonshire primary care trust (POT) | 22 | 2.1 |
| Northamptonshire Heartlands PCT | 100 | 3.6 |
| Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland strategic health authority | 549 | 3.6 |
| England | 20,088 | 4.0 |

[1] population data is not available at parliamentary constituency area.

*Notes:*

1. The figures are based on the numbers of dentists with open general dental service (GDS) or personal dental service (PDS) contracts.
2. Dentists include principals, assistants and trainees.
3. Prison contracts have been excluded.
4. The figures provide a snapshot of the number of individual dentists with an open contract at 31 March 2005 and includes modifications up to 5 July 2005.
5. The areas have been defined using practice postcodes within the specified area.
6. Areas have been defined using the Office of National Statistics all fields postcode directory—November 2004.
7. A dentist with a GDS or PDS contract may provide as little or as much NHS treatment as he or she chooses or has agreed with the PCT.
8. The Dental Practice Board has no information concerning the amount of time dedicated to NHS work by individual dentists.

*Source:*

Dental Practice Board

**Mr. Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS dentists there were in Wellingborough constituency in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2004; and how many of these dentists (i) admitted new adult patients to their list and (ii) treated NHS patients between the ages of 18 and 65 years. [14762]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** There were 34 national health service dentists in Wellingborough constituency on 31 March 1997, compared to 37 on 31 March 2004. An analysis of dental practices taking on new patients in May 2004 found that 12 out of 41 dental practices in Northamptonshire Heartlands Primary Care Trust accepted new adult patients. Comparable data for 1997 are not available centrally.

In 1997, all 34 dentists who had an open contract in the Wellingborough constituency area were paid for at least one adult item-of-service claim form during the year ending 31 March 1997. In 2004, 34 out of 37 dentists with an open contract were paid for at least one adult item-of-service claim form during the year ending 31 March 2004.

**Mr. Ames:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether all six and seven-year-olds have access to dental services, including fissure sealing, in all primary care trust areas; and if she will make a statement. [14802]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Children are exempt from dental charges and, notwithstanding the problems the Department is addressing with access to national health service dentistry, their parents/carers are generally able to register them with a NHS dentist. It is for individual general dental practitioners to decide if fissure sealing is appropriate, having regard to the oral health needs of their patients.

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the total cost to the NHS of uncollected dental patient charges in each year since 1997–98. [14976]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Uncollected dental charges are a matter for individual dentists, who are and will remain responsible for the collection of national health service dental charges. Regulation 12 of the draft National Health Service (Dental Charges) Regulations 2006, published for consultation on 7 July 2005, provides for a

reduction in the remuneration of the dentist by the amount of the charge payable under the 2006 Regulations (paragraph 4.39 of the consultation document).

Information is not collected centrally on the amount of uncollected dental charges.

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the likelihood of private dentists pricing their services at rates which would enable them to undercut a banded system of NHS dental patient charges. [14977]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Very few dentists work on a purely private basis. Most provide a mixture of national health service and private services. Under the proposed banded system of dental charges, patients are entitled to a range of dental treatments within any charge band. For example, a patient requiring an examination, x-ray, scale and polish and oral hygiene advice would pay a single band one charge. If a patient also required fillings they would pay a single band two charge, which would include the cost of the band one treatments.

Private dentists may, of course, choose to reduce their prices to the new level of NHS charge, in which case the patient would be able to choose whether they had NHS or private treatment. If, in these circumstances, the dentist provided the treatment privately, they would still be required to provide an agreed number of NHS courses of treatment, weighted to reflect complexity.

Dentists will continue to be required by their contract to provide NHS patients with any necessary treatment under the NHS.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS registered dentists there have been in the Essex Health Authority area in each year since 2001. [14322]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The numbers of national health service dentists within the Essex Strategic Health Authority area as at 31 March of each year are shown in the table.

*NHS dentists*

| | Number |
|---|---|
| 2001 | 585 |
| 2002 | 568 |
| 2003 | 561 |
| 2004 | 589 |
| 2005 | 621 |

*Notes:*

1. Figures give the numbers of individual dentists with open general dental service (GDS) or personal dental service (PDS) contracts as at 31 March for each year. The dentists include principals, assistants and trainees.
2. The postcode of the dental practice was used to allocate dentists to specific geographic areas.
3. Parliamentary constituency areas have been defined using the Office for National Statistics all fields postcode directory—November 2004.

*Source:*

Dental Practice Board.

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many dentists accepted new NHS patients in London in each of the last five years. [8333]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The information requested is not collected centrally but I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave on 1 March 2005, *Official Report*, column 1078W.

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to her letter dated 7 July 2005 to hon. Members about changes to NHS dental care and treatment, what changes she expects in Portsmouth within *(a)* 12 months and *(b)* three years; and if she will make a statement. [12414]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The proposed changes to national health service dentistry, as announced on 7 July 2005, would create a new system for the residents of Portsmouth, as for the rest of the country, which would reduce the maximum cost of NHS dental treatment by more than half while maintaining the existing exemptions for children under 18, new mothers and those on income related benefits. These exemptions cover 25 per cent. of all adult treatments provided by the NHS. They would move from 400 individual charges to three price bands, thereby creating a simpler pricing structure and ensure that patients know how much they are being charged and what treatment they will receive for their money on the NHS.

In Portsmouth, primary care trusts (PCTs) are already working to make the best use of our initiatives such as the personal dental services (PDS) initiative. For example, within Portsmouth city teaching PCT, four practices have moved over to a PDS contract since December 2004. These four practices have secured access to NHS dentistry for 30,645 patients, which is an increase of 6,557 patients.

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the written statement of 7 July 2005, *Official Report*, columns 15–17WS, on NHS dentistry reforms, how many dentists have yet to switch to the Personal Dental Service Contract; and what estimate her Department has made of the number likely not to proceed to the General Dental Services Contract. [12694]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Over 6,000 dentists—30 per cent. of all dentists—are already operating under pilot personal dental service arrangements.

While dentists are independent contractors, they are expected to be attracted by the new contractual arrangements for national health service work from 1 April 2006.

## Departmental Briefing

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will arrange a Tuesday morning briefing by Ministers and senior officials introducing the work of the Department to new hon. Members. [11027]

**Jane Kennedy:** I refer the hon. Member to the reply given by my right hon. Friend, the Leader of the House (Mr. Heon), on 18 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 1281W.

### Departmental Change Programme

**Steve Webb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will publish the Equality Impact Assessment on the restructuring elements of the Departmental Change Programme, as referred to on page 37 of her Department's Annual Report. [13700]

**Jane Kennedy:** Copies have been placed in the Library.

### Departmental Expenditure

**Mr. Kemp:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the expenditure by her Department was on *(a)* hospital services, *(b)* doctors' surgeries and *(c)* dental services in each year since 1997 in Houghton and Washington East constituency. [13129]

**Mr. Byrne:** The information is not held centrally in the format requested. Primary care trusts (PCTs) are responsible for securing health services to meet the needs of their local population. In the current financial year, Sunderland Teaching PCT is receiving a resource allocation of £347.6 million. This will increase to £449 million in 2007–08.

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 13 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 1145W, on research and development, whether she plans to increase her Department's total expenditure on research and development as a proportion of total net Department of Health spending to 1.5 per cent. [14210]

**Jane Kennedy:** The Government's objective is to increase overall levels of research and development in the economy to 2.5 per cent, of gross domestic product by 2014. The scale of the Department's research and development programme, and plans for real terms growth in expenditure, are described in chapter 8 of the Government's science and innovation investment framework, which was published in July 2004. The framework document is available in the Library, and can be found on Her Majesty's Treasury's website at www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/spending_review/spending_sr04/associated_documents/spending_sr04_science.cfm.

### Departmental Purchasing

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will list the companies from which her Department has purchased goods and services of a total value above £1 million in each of the last three years; and how much was spent in respect of each company. [11727]

**Jane Kennedy:** Information on recipients of departmental payments of over £1 million, for the years 2002–03, 2003–04 and 2004–05 has been placed in the Library. This information includes amounts paid to bodies for grants and funding.

The value of payments to individual suppliers has been banded to protect commercial confidentiality.

### Departmental Surveys

**Mr. Weir:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* subject matter and *(b)* dates were of opinion survey research undertaken by the Department and its agencies in the last 12 months; if she will place copies of the results of each survey in the Library; which companies were used in conducting the research; and how much each was paid. [14817]

**Jane Kennedy:** This information can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Diabetes

**Simon Hughes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of people with diabetes were screened for retinopathy on the NHS in each of the last five years in each primary care trust in England. [14647]

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what percentage of people identified as having diabetes in England were offered screening for the early detection of diabetic retinopathy in each year since 2002–03. [14978]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The information requested for the years 2003–04 and 2004–05 has been placed in the Library. Figures for previous years are not held centrally.

**Simon Hughes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding has been made available by her Department to ensure that primary care trusts in *(a)* England, *(b)* Greater London and *(c)* Southwark meet the diabetic retinopathy screening target of 80 per cent. by March 2006 and 100 per cent. by December 2007. [14648]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The diabetes national service framework (NSF) delivery strategy announced that capital funds would be available to support the purchase of digital cameras and related equipment for diabetic retinopathy screening to support implementation of the planning and performance framework target. The specified information on funding is not available in the format requested. However, for England, capital funding of £27 million is available for the three years to March 2006. £14.6 million capital has been made available to strategic health authorities (SHAs) to distribute locally (£5 million in 2003–04 and £9.6 million in 2004–05) and £12.4 million will be available in 2005–06. Allocations to London SHAs are shown in the table.

£

| | *2003–04* | *2004–05* | *2005–06* |
|---|---|---|---|
| North Central London SHA | 187,000 | 339,000 | 464,000 |
| North East London SHA | 190,000 | 364,000 | 470,000 |
| North West London SHA | 212,000 | 406,000 | 525,000 |
| South East London SHA | 190,000 | 365,000 | 471,000 |
| South West London SHA | 126,000 | 242,000 | 312,000 |

In terms of revenue, the diabetes NSF has been fully costed and funding to deliver the national and locally-determined targets has been included in primary care trust initial resource limits.

### Diagnostic Scans

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 5 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 342W, on Alliance Medical Ltd, what the referral route are. [11833]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answer 12 July 2005]:* This information is not collected centrally.

### Disabled Children (Day Care)

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations she has received regarding the provision of day care for disabled children in East Sussex since 1997. [15013]

**Beverley Hughes:** I have been asked to reply.

The Department's correspondence handling system currently only holds electronic records dating back to January 2003, in line with our records and retention schedule which has been agreed with the national archive. Since then the department has received and responded to 1,921 official correspondence cases relating to East Sussex, of which 21 referred to Special Educational Needs policy and/or disabled children and young people. Further information can only be provided at disproportionate cost.

The Department has consulted nationally on the recent Government 10 year childcare strategy *"Choice for Parents, the best start for children"* which was launched in December 2004. The strategy gives local authorities a strong steer on the inclusion of disabled children to ensure that they plan and provide services that are accessible to all. The strategy guidance also requires them to consult the parents of disabled children and the voluntary sector when developing childcare services to ensure that provision fully meets local needs.

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funding has been made available for the provision of day care for disabled children in East Sussex since 1997. [15014]

**Beverley Hughes:** I have been asked to reply.

Since the National Childcare Strategy commenced, funding of some £15,136,765 has been allocated to East Sussex between 1999 and 2006 to create, sustain and support all early years and childcare provision, including daycare for disabled children. This allocation includes funding of £603,637 for children with special needs. Until April 2005 this funding was ringfenced within the General Sure Start Grant.

### Doctors

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement on the impact of changes introduced under "Modernising Medical Careers" on the availability of doctors' training posts. [12634]

**Mr. Byrne:** Under "Modernising Medical Careers", new foundation programmes will be introduced from August this year. There has been no impact on the number of foundation year 1, pre-registration house officer places available, which continue to rise as the number of medical graduates in the United Kingdom rises. We remain committed to providing enough training places to deliver the high quality services patients need and expect.

### Doctors/Dentists (Remuneration)

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps she has taken to address recommendation 2.65 in the Review Body on Doctors' and Dentists' remuneration, Cmd 6463, published in February, on the provision of additional funding for primary care trusts to meet increased costs arising from the impact on community hospitals of the new General Medical Services contract. [7457]

**Mr. Byrne:** Earlier this year, the Department accepted recommendations made by the NHS Confederation in its report, "Pay and Terms and Conditions for Non-Consultant Career Grade Doctors and Doctors Working in Community Hospitals", that local commissioners should determine the most appropriate model for contracting for services in community hospitals, and should negotiate the level of remuneration locally. The action necessary to respond to the review body's recommendation will be decided once more information is available.

### Domiciliary Care

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to her answer of 11 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 721W, on domiciliary care, how many of those agencies registered were registered with conditions attached; and what the most common conditions were. [12244]

**Mr. Byrne:** The conditions for registration of a domiciliary care agency are set out in The Commission for Social Care Inspection (Fees and Frequency of Inspections) Regulations 2004 and the Domiciliary Care Agencies Regulations 2002.

In addition, section 12 *(b)* of the Care Standards Act 2000 states that an application for registration must give any other information which the registration authority reasonably requires the applicant to give.

I understand from the Chair of the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) that this information is not currently held centrally. However, CSCI's area offices have access to this information locally.

### Drug Treatment Rehabilitation (Devon/Cornwall)

**Mr. Streeter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps her Department is taking to ensure that there are adequate places available for patients needing *(a)* residential and *(b)* in-patient specialist drug treatment rehabilitation in Devon and Cornwall; [14574]

(2) what estimate she has made of how many additional *(a)* residential and *(b)* inpatient specialist drug treatment rehabilitation places are needed to meet demand in Devon and Cornwall. [14576]

**Caroline Flint:** The Department has not made a formal assessment of the number of additional residential and in-patient specialist places needed to meet demand in Devon and Cornwall. However, the National Treatment Agency (NTA) has recently undertaken a national

needs assessment for tier four services—residential rehabilitation and in-patient treatment—and a summary of the report was published in June 2004.

It is the responsibility of primary care trusts, working with local drug action teams, to ensure that the provision of drug rehabilitation services meets the needs of the local community.

Following the NTA's national needs assessment, local needs assessments templates are currently being developed by the NTA, with the final local needs assessments being completed in 2006.

I understand that drug and alcohol action teams in the South West Peninsula have formed a partnership to take forward work on the local needs assessment for in-patient services. A working group has been established to plan the next steps and develop locally existing services.

In 2005–06, the Department will be making available, through the pooled drug treatment budget allocations, £2,635,000 for Devon and £2,388,000 for Cornwall. These are increases of 12.10 per cent. and 18.09 per cent. respectively.

**Mr. Streeter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting time is for patients wanting to gain access to *(a)* residential and *(b)* in-patient specialist drug treatment in Devon and Cornwall. [14575]

**Caroline Flint:** Information on waiting times for drug rehabilitation places is published by the National Treatment Agency on a quarterly basis. In March 2005, the average waiting times for residential rehabilitation and in-patient treatment in Devon and Cornwall were as shown in the table.

*Weeks*

| *Drug and alcohol action team (DAAT)* | *Waiting time for in-patient treatment* | *Waiting time for residential rehabilitation* |
|---|---|---|
| Devon | 3.4 | [1]n/a |
| Cornwall | [2]n/a | 2.5 |
| Torbay | 16.5 | 3.0 |
| Plymouth | 7.0 | 1.0 |

n/a = not available.

[1] The report of not available for Devon residential rehabilitation is due to the fact that no placements were made in quarter four of 2004–05 with Devon DAAT.

[2] In-patient treatment in Cornwall is reported as not available because there is no patient provision in Cornwall. All clients are referred out-of-county.

**Mr. Streeter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* residential and *(b)* in-patient specialist drug treatment rehabilitation places are available in Devon and Cornwall. [14577]

**Caroline Flint:** Information on the number of residential and in-patient specialist drug treatment rehabilitation places is as follows.

The National Treatment Agency's (NTA) online directory of residential services shows 195 beds in nine residential services in Devon, including Plymouth and Torbay. The 195 beds for rehabilitation services that are quoted refer to beds within the national health service, private or voluntary sectors. It is important to note that if a service chooses not to register with the NTA online directory, their beds will not be included in this figure. The directory does not show services listed in the directory based in Cornwall. The NTA regional team is working with Cornwall Drug Action Team to improve drug and alcohol action teams' reporting on residential rehabilitation services.

The NTA advises that the number of in-patient specialist drug treatment rehabilitation places in Devon and Cornwall are as follows:

Devon has four designated substance misuse beds in Exeter and two beds in Barnstaple.

Torbay has two beds, one of which is dedicated.

Plymouth has four dedicated substance misuse beds.

Cornwall has no dedicated in-patient beds for substance misuse and all in-patient provision for drug misuse is provided out-of-county.

## DVT

**Mr. Ian Austin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she has made of the number of patients who suffered deep vein thrombosis (DVT) as a result of being fitted with a plaster cast in each of the last five years; and what discussion she has had with the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence on advice about DVT for people fitted with plaster casts. [12622]

**Jane Kennedy:** No estimate has been made of the number of patients who suffered deep vein thrombosis as result of being fitted with a plaster cast in each of the last five years.

A National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) clinical guideline on the prevention of venous thromboembolism in patients undergoing orthopaedic surgery and other high risk surgical procedures is due to be published by May 2007.

I refer my hon. Friend to the Government's response to the Health Committee Report on the Prevention of Venous Thromboembolism in Hospitalised Patients. Copies are available in the Library.

## E111 Form

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will require airlines flying to EU countries to notify their customers of the changes to the E111 form through *(a)* their websites and *(b)* other means; and if she will make a statement. [10189]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** A partnership company has been employed to work with a number of key stakeholders, including airlines, to promote the changes to the E111. Promotional material has been sent to all stakeholders, which they are able to use to inform customers of the changes. Further work is being done with key stakeholders to help them inform their customers of the changes to the E111.

**Mr. Wallace:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health which health conditions and treatments are covered by the E111 scheme. [14590]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** EHIs cover all treatment which becomes medically necessary during a temporary visit to another European Union member state or Switzerland. Treatments are provided on the same basis as to host states' own insured persons.

**Mr. Wallace:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding her Department has received under the E111 scheme since 1995, broken down by *(a)* year and *(b)* country. [14595]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The table shows, in resource terms, the estimated costs of treatment provided by the national health service to persons insured in other european economic area (EEA) member states under the terms of Regulations (EEC) 1408/71 and 574/72, and which the United Kingdom has reclaimed from the states concerned. These are claims made under Article 93 of Regulation 574/72. This includes treatment provided to temporary visitors with form E111, which constitutes the majority of the costs shown.

*Estimated actual costs claims against other EEA member states*

£000[1]

| | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Austria | 212 | 242 | 247 | 210 | 284 |
| Belgium | 959 | 884 | 1,336 | 2,160 | 1,919 |
| Denmark | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Finland | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| France | 1,981 | 2,173 | 2,063 | 2,348 | 2,648 |
| Germany | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Greece | 264 | 230 | 247 | 239 | 243 |
| Iceland | 59 | 31 | 10 | 8 | 9 |
| Ireland | 3,995 | 4,154 | 4,338 | 6,036 | 6,268 |
| Italy | 403 | 814 | 794 | 2,674 | 933 |
| Liechtenstein | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Luxembourg | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Netherlands | 471 | 542 | 694 | 600 | 647 |
| Norway | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Portugal | 115 | 123 | 0 | 137 | 55 |
| Spain | 979 | 922 | 880 | 1,013 | 998 |
| Sweden | 676 | 928 | 602 | 615 | 530 |

[1] Claims against United Kingdom are made in national currency and converted into sterling by using the quarterly mean exchange rates published by the European Commission.

[2] Waiver—means that the UK and the other member state concerned have each agreed to bear the costs of treatment of each other's insured people.

*Notes:*

1. Figures are based on latest available information and used for resource accounting and budgeting purpose.

2. Figures are in thousands and rounded to the nearest thousand.

**Mr. Wallace:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding her Department has paid under the E111 scheme to overseas governments since 1995, broken down by year and country. [14597]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The table shows, in resource terms, the estimated cost of treatment provided to United Kingdom residents by other european economic area (EEA) member states under the terms of Regulations (EEC) 1408/71 and 574/72. Actual treatment costs under Article 93 of Regulation 574/72 apply both to medically necessary care (E111) and to patients referred specifically for treatment (E112) as well as to some other categories of persons covered. Member states are not required to distinguish by specific E forms in making cost reimbursement claims, but the majority of the costs shown in the table relate to the E111 scheme.

*Estimated actual costs claims against the UK from EEA member states*

£000[1]

| | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Austria | 1,117 | 1,173 | 1,104 | 983 | 1,119 |
| Belgium | 809 | 819 | 1,141 | 1,821 | 1,621 |
| Denmark | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Finland | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| France | 12,856 | 9,995 | 10,972 | 12,120 | 15,581 |
| Germany | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 674 |
| Greece | 81 | 128 | 159 | 75 | 63 |
| Iceland | 23 | 56 | 73 | 35 | 41 |
| Ireland | 4,988 | 5,672 | 5,822 | 5,441 | 3,357 |
| Italy | 758 | 1,382 | 1,233 | 2,928 | 1,911 |
| Liechtenstein | n/a | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Luxembourg | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Netherlands | 1,020 | 1,461 | 1,626 | 1,629 | 1,637 |
| Norway | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Portugal | 1 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 1 |
| Spain | 4,424 | 5,343 | 5,524 | 5,709 | 7,478 |
| Sweden | 401 | 265 | 332 | 427 | 643 |

[1] Claims against the UK are made in national currency and converted in to sterling by using the quarterly mean exchange rates published by the European Commission.

[2] Waiver—means that the UK and the other member state concerned have each agreed to bear the costs of treatment each other's insured people.

*Notes:*

1. Figures are based on latest available information and used for resource accounting and budgeting purpose.

2. Figures are in thousands and rounded to the nearest thousand.

**Mr. Wallace:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much each NHS trust has spent on treating overseas nationals under the E111 scheme in each year since 1995. [14600]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The information requested is not available.

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate her Department has made of the number of British citizens who possess E111 forms issued after 19 August 2004; and if she will make a statement. [13886]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Between 19 August 2004 and 30 June 2005, approximately 10.3 million E111s were issued to United Kingdom residents.

## Electroconvulsive Therapy

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 28 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 1503W, on electroconvulsive therapy, when her Department will repeat its survey of electroconvulsive therapy. [14644]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** There are no plans to conduct a further survey on electroconvulsive therapy. In future, information on the use of electroconvulsive therapy will be available from the mental health minimum dataset.

## End-of-life Issues

**Mr. Ames:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to her reply of 14 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 1188W, on end-of-life decision making, if she will list the stakeholders who have made representations to her Department on end-of-life issues during each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [14797]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The Department has received an estimated 870 letters and emails from the public and organisations over the last five years on end-of-life issues, expressing a wide range of views and opinions.

### Equality and Diversity

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for [illegible] equality and diversity in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [14664]

**Jane Kennedy:** The Department is fully committed to the equality and diversity agenda and has policies and processes in place to ensure that there is no unfair discrimination on any grounds. The equality and human rights group, formerly the equality strategy group, was established in 2002 to develop policy and support and promote equality and diversity within the Department and the national health service. It had a central programme budget of £1.3 million in 2002–03, £1.1 million in 2003–04 and £1.12 million in 2004–05. A major focus of the group's work is to support action that builds equality and diversity into the design and delivery of all health and social care programmes and into the capacity of the health and social care workforce to provide individually appropriate services. The promotion of equality and diversity has therefore become an integral component within many wider policy initiatives, such that it is not possible to disaggregate spending.

### EU Health Ministers Meeting

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the total cost of the informal meeting of EU Health Ministers in Watford in October was. [9650]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** A final cost cannot be given at present as the event takes place on 20 and 21 October this year and planning is not yet complete.

### European Health Insurance Card Scheme

**Mr. Wallace:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what reciprocal financial arrangements her Department and her overseas counterparts will be putting in place under the European health insurance card scheme. [14630]

**Jane Kennedy:** The European health insurance card (EHIC) scheme, like the E111 arrangements which it will replace, has its origins in Regulations 1408/71 and 574/72, which provide that member states shall pay each other for treatments given to each other's insured persons. Regulation 574 specifies how this shall be done, but member states may bilaterally agree to other mutually acceptable methods of payment. These arrangements already apply in respect of E111 and will also apply to the EHIC.

### EU Services Directive

**Mr. Davidson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the likely effect of the EU Directive on Services in the Internal Market on UK regulation of privately-owned care homes where they are owned by an entity based in another EU member state. [9559]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Negotiations on the draft directive on services in the internal market are at an early stage. Until the text is finalised, it is difficult to assess its precise effects on particular sectors.

A number of general impact assessments are available. The Department for Trade and Industry (DTI) has performed a partial regulatory impact assessment for the proposal, which indicates that the general benefits are likely to be substantial. This is available on the DTI website at:

www.dti.gov.uk/ccp/topics2/pdf2/servicesria.pdf.

An independent consultancy, Copenhagen Economics, has also assessed the general economic impact of the directive. It predicted that the services directive would add £25 billion to the European Union economy, create an extra 600,000 jobs, boost EU gross domestic product by 0.6 percent. and lead to an increase in real wages of 0.4 percent. Copies of both documents are available in the Library.

In addition to these general impact assessments, the Department has held informal consultations and taken the views of relevant parties concerning the possible impact of the services directive on social care providers. No economic analysis has been carried out to date.

**Mr. Davidson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the impact of the EU Directive on Services in the Internal Market on the national health service. [9560]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Negotiations on the draft Directive on Services in the Internal Market are at an early stage. Until the text is finalised, it is difficult to assess its precise effects on particular sectors.

A number of general impact assessments are available. The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) has performed a partial regulatory impact assessment for the proposal, which indicates that the general benefits are likely to be substantial. This is available on the DTI website at:

www.dti.gov.uk/ccp/topics2/pdf2/servicesria.pdf.

An independent consultancy, Copenhagen Economics, has also assessed the general economic impact of the Directive. It predicted that the Services Directive would add £25 billion to the European Union economy, create an extra 600,000 jobs, boost EU gross domestic product by 0.6 percent., and lead to an increase in real wages of 0.4 percent. Copies of both documents are available in the Library.

In addition to these general impact assessments, the Department has held informal consultations and taken the views of relevant parties concerning the possible impact of the Services Directive on the national health service. No economic analysis has been carried out to date. The United Kingdom position is to seek an exclusion for publicly-funded healthcare from the scope of the Directive, plus a derogation for all healthcare from the country-of-origin principle and the deletion of Article 23 on the assumption of healthcare costs.

### Fair Trade

**Steve Webb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS trusts purchase fair trade products; and if she will make a statement. [13770]

**Jane Kennedy:** The Department does not hold centrally information on which national health service trusts are using fair trade products and individual trusts may be purchasing products locally.

However, the NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency (PASA) is committed to purchasing fairly-traded food and beverages. A fairly-traded policy has been published, with a number of products available on [illegible] be looking to expand the range of products available.

Ethically traded products are not just from the fair trade brand; they are also obtained from supplies who have their own procedures for sourcing this type of product, for example, the Tea Sourcing Partnership.

### Folic Acid

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she expects to receive the report from the Scientific Advisory Committee on nutrition regarding the fortification of foods with folic acid as a preventative measure in respect of neural tube defects. [14211]

**Caroline Flint:** I expect to see the Scientific Advisory Committee on nutrition's report on folate and health later this year.

### Food Supplements

**Dr. Iddon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assistance she proposes to provide to the UK food supplements industry following the recent ruling of the European Court of Justice on the Food Supplements Directive; if she will make representations for the reopening of the text of the directive; and how she intends to take forward the commitments given to the meeting of hon. Members organised by the hon. Member for Bolton South East on 6 July. [13835]

**Caroline Flint:** In May 2005, the Food Standards Agency (FSA) provided additional resource to assist the industry in producing dossiers to ensure that as many substances could continue to be used in food supplements after 1 August. The FSA has forwarded all dossiers received from industry to the European Commission and has given derogation to all substances submitted in dossiers, including dossiers where only very basic information has been provided.

The validity of the Food Supplements Directive was upheld by the European Court of Justice (ECJ). Following the ECJ judgement, I have spoken with the European Commission regarding the potential for further derogation to be provided by the directive and will discuss this again when the Commission has considered the judgment in detail.

**Mr. Burns:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance she has issued on the application of the Food Supplements Directive to *(a)* synthetically-produced nutrients and *(b)* naturally-occurring nutrients; and if she will make a statement. [13933]

**Caroline Flint** *[holding answer 21 July 2005]:* The Food Standards Agency (FSA) has published general guidance on the Food Supplements Directive. This is available on the FSA web site at http://www.food.gov.uk/foodindustry/vitmin/

The FSA has not yet published any specific guidance on the application of the food supplements directive regarding synthetically produced nutrients and naturally occurring nutrients. The FSA has advised me that both forms of nutrients fall within the scope of the directive. The guidance will be updated following the final judgment from the European Court of Justice on 12 July to clarify any areas of uncertainty arising from the judgment, and in discussion with the European Commission.

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether she expects nutrients contained in food supplements which are not listed in the annexes of the Food Supplements Directive to be banned on 31 December 2009; [14979]

(2) what assessment she has made of the number of nutrient ingredients in food supplements on sale which have not had a dossier on their safety submitted to the Food Standards Agency and which are not included on positive lists in the annexes to the Food Supplements Directive; [14980]

(3) what recent discussions she has had with the European Commission on the setting of maximum dosage levels for food supplements under the Food Supplements Directive; and when restrictions on maximum dosage levels will come into force; [14981]

(4) what support she has provided to industry and small businesses to enable them to supply the evidence necessary to ensure that their products remain on the market after the Food Supplements Directive comes into force on 1 August. [14982]

**Caroline Flint:** The European Commission Food Supplements Directive contains lists of vitamins and minerals permitted for use in food supplements. For those not listed in the annexes of the Directive, dossiers of safety information need to be submitted for assessment by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA). If EFSA is unable to issue a positive opinion on the safety of the substance in question, then these will not be permitted in food supplements. EFSA has until 2009 to complete its assessment of dossiers.

The Food Standards Agency (FSA) has received over 500 dossiers and the industry has confirmed that this includes the majority of substances used in food supplements. Discussions between the FSA and the industry have not identified further ingredients which will not be covered by the dossiers.

The directive includes provisions for setting maximum permitted levels of vitamins and minerals in due course. The European Commission has yet to bring forward proposals on this and until it does so there are no restrictions on levels used in food supplements. I spoke with the European Commission on this matter on 12 July.

The FSA has provided £20,000 to the food supplements industry to pay an independent consultant employed by the industry to collate the information necessary for submitting dossiers. This funding was matched by the industry.

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps the Government are taking to ensure that the EU food supplements directive does not impact

negatively on people *(a)* who use minerals and vitamins in connection with sport and *(b)* who use minerals and vitamins as a way of tackling chronic fatigue syndrome; and if she will make a statement. [13751]

**Caroline Flint:** The Food Standards Agency (FSA) has granted derogation to all substances that have been supported by a dossier. These dossiers have been forwarded to the Commission and will be assessed for safety by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA). The FSA has allowed basic information to be submitted in dossiers in order to maximise the number of substances which remain available for use in products pending advice from EFSA. This has resulted in the submission of over 500 dossiers and the trade manufacturers associations have confirmed that the list of substances for which derogation has been given include the majority of substances used by the supplements industry. This should therefore include those vitamins and minerals that may be used by some people in connection with sport and chronic fatigue syndrome.

## Foster Care

**Mr. Peter Robinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much money a foster family in London has received for each child fostered in each of the last five years. [14652]

**Beverley Hughes:** I have been asked to reply.

The National Minimum Standards require that each foster carer receives an allowance and agreed expenses to cover the full cost of caring for each child placed with him or her. Local authorities determine their own payment systems and information about the payments which they make to foster carers is not collected centrally. However, we are working with key stakeholders—including local authorities—to develop proposals for a national minimum allowance for foster carers in order to improve the consistency and transparency of payments.

## Foundation Trusts

**Helen Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the total cost is of the diagnostic programmes to prepare NHS trusts for authorisation as foundation trusts being run in the *(a)* Cheshire and Merseyside and *(b)* Birmingham and the Black Country strategic health authorities; [10131]

(2) what payments have been made to McKinsey and Company for their involvement in the diagnostic programme to prepare NHS trusts for authorisation as foundation trusts; [10132]

(3) what the estimated cost is of the diagnostic programme to prepare NHS trusts for foundation status when it is rolled out to the whole NHS; [10133]

(4) how many companies were invited to bid for a role in the diagnostic programme to prepare NHS trusts for foundation status; and which companies submitted bids. [10134]

**Mr. Byrne:** The Department has asked Monitor, the statutory name of which is the Independent Regulator of National Health Service Foundation Trusts, to:

Develop analysis tools to assist strategic health authorities (SHAs) and acute trusts to identify issues that need to be addressed in order that trusts may apply for foundation trust status.

Conduct pilot schemes for these analysis tools in Cheshire and Merseyside and Birmingham and the Black Country SHAs, with the support of external consultants.

The cost of this additional work, which will contribute to improved financial management in the NHS, is £1.5 million and the Department has provided funding to Monitor for this amount. I am informed by the chairman of Monitor that the funding has been allocated to McKinsey and Company as part of an extension to an existing contract awarded under an European Union-compliant procurement exercise.

Rollout of the diagnostic programme across the NHS will be subject to an evaluation of the pilots. In the event of a national roll out, the Department will consider the levels of support for acute trusts required from NHS organisations and external consultants. Any new contracts to support the national roll out of this programme will adhere to procurement procedures, which are fully compliant with tendering procedures set out by the Office of Government Commerce.

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health in what circumstances, and under what criteria, one foundation trust can take over another. [14047]

**Mr. Byrne:** The Health and Social Care (Community Health and Standards) Act 2003 establishes a bespoke insolvency and dissolution regime for national health service foundation trusts (NHSFTs), which is based on insolvency rules for companies but with specific modifications applied to safeguard staff and assets required to deliver essential NHS services.

The Act gives Monitor, the statutory name of which is the Independent Regulator of NHS foundation trusts, powers of intervention if a NHSFT is significantly breaching, or has significantly breached its terms of authorisation or any enactment. In most cases, intervention should avert the failure of an NHSFT for financial reasons. However if an NHSFT does fail financially and Monitor considers that the essential NHS services of the NHSFT are at risk, then it may recommend that the NHSFT is dissolved.

The Secretary of State is able to dissolve a NHSFT in certain specified circumstances, based on a judgement by Monitor that further exercise of its statutory powers will not secure the provision of the essential NHS services that the body is required to provide under its terms of authorisation. Under such circumstances, the Secretary of State would have the power to transfer the assets, rights and liabilities of the NHSFT to another health service body, which may include another NHSFT, or to herself. It is our intention to lay secondary legislation detailing the failure regime later this year. Section 27 of the Act also sets out the circumstances under which an NHSFT might merge with another.

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many members each foundation trust had at the last count. [14048]

**Mr. Byrne:** This is a matter for Monitor, the statutory name of which is the Independent Regulator of national health service foundation trusts (NHSFTs). The chairman of Monitor has provided the following table, which shows the membership statistics for each of the 32 existing NHSFTs at 31 March 2005.

*Individual memberships of NHSFTs*

| NHSFT | Total membership |
|---|---|
| *Authorised 1 April 2004* | |
| Basildon and Thurrock University Hospitals | 10,062 |
| Bradford Teaching Hospitals | 3,485 |
| Countess of Chester Hospital | 3,611 |
| Doncaster and Bassetlaw Hospitals | 7,378 |
| Homerton University Hospital | 4,544 |
| Moorfields Eye Hospital | 11,436 |
| Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals | 8,685 |
| Royal Devon and Exeter | 15,184 |
| Stockport | 11,535 |
| The Royal Marsden | 2,397 |
| *Authorised 1 July 2004* | |
| Cambridge University Hospitals | 22,397 |
| City Hospitals Sunderland | 6,973 |
| Derby Hospitals | 9,647 |
| Gloucestershire Hospitals | 15,203 |
| Guy's and St. Thomas' | 13,490 |
| Papworth Hospital | 8,156 |
| Queen Victoria Hospital | 12,838 |
| Sheffield Teaching Hospitals | 6,505 |
| University College London Hospitals | 8,592 |
| University Hospital Birmingham | 96,406 |
| *Authorised 1 January 2005* | |
| Barnsley Hospital | 12,508 |
| Chesterfield Royal Hospital | 9,799 |
| Gateshead Health | 9,121 |
| Harrogate and District | 10,478 |
| South Tyneside | 4,526 |
| *Authorised 1 April 2005* | |
| Frimley Park Hospital | 5,841 |
| Heart of England | 48,141 |
| Lancashire Teaching Hospitals | 9,394 |
| Liverpool Women's | 10,074 |
| The Royal National Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases | 4,535 |
| The Royal Bournemouth and Christchurch Hospitals | 13,302 |
| *Authorised 1 June 2005* | |
| The Rotherham | 5,373 |
| Total | 421,616 |

## Fraud

**Steve Webb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much fraud within the NHS in England has been detected in each of the last eight years; if she will estimate the outstanding amount of fraud within the NHS, broken down by *(a)* strategic health authority and *(b)* type of fraud; and if she will make a statement. [13693]

**Jane Kennedy:** The information is not available in the form requested.

The National Health Service Counter Fraud Service and Security Management Service (CFSMS) was established in 1998 and has policy and operational responsibility for countering fraud and corruption within the NHS.

The amount of fraud detected and stopped in each year since 1998 is shown in the table. These figures indicate the increased effort that has taken place to identify and stop fraud, allowing more resources to be spent on patient care and services.

*Value of fraud and unlawful action identified and stopped*

£

| | Amount | Running total |
|---|---|---|
| 1998–99 | 39,612 | 39,612 |
| 1999–2000 | 2,679,222 | 2,718,834 |
| 2000–01 | 4,097,625 | 6,816,459 |
| 2001–02 | 11,656,954 | 18,473,413 |
| 2002–03 | 39,917,591 | 58,391,004 |
| 2003–04 | 37,548,468 | 95,939,472 |
| 2004–05 | 79,401,696 | 175,341,168 |

The CFSMS carries out risk measurement exercises to estimate the scale of losses to fraud in different areas of spending in the NHS accurately. The analysis of each exercise is to a precision level of better than plus or minus 1 per cent.

An estimate of the outstanding amount of fraud in all areas of NHS spending is not yet available. Details of measurement exercises carried out to date and of all other counter fraud work between 1999 and 2005 are shown in the CFSMS performance statistics, published on 13 July. These show an overall financial benefit of counter fraud work to the NHS of £675 million, against a budgetary investment of £52 million. Copies have been placed in the Library.

## Free Fruit

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost of the free fruit for schools scheme was in each year of its operation. [13733]

**Caroline Flint:** The lottery provided £16 million towards the original pilots of the national school fruit scheme between 2000 and 2002. Lottery funding also provided £42 million to support scaling-up of the original pilots across five Government regions between 2002 and 2004.

The Department spent £0.75 million in 2001–02 and £0.3 million in 2002–03 on administering and evaluating the national school fruit scheme pilots.

The national rollout, to all local education authority infant, primary and special schools across England, of the scheme was completed at the end of 2004. In the year 2004–05, the Department spent £28.5 million on the scheme.

From April 2005, the Department has fully funded the school fruit and vegetable scheme and has committed £43.5 million to fund it in 2005–06.

## GM Crops

**Robert Key:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will list the published and peer-reviewed scientific studies on the safety of GM *(a)* food and *(b)* crops that have been evaluated by (i) her Department and (ii) other Government bodies; and whether each concluded that

(A) there are no harmful effects and (B) there is evidence of actual or potential harm from consumption of GM crops and foods. [14076]

**Caroline Flint:** The list of studies requested by the hon. Member is not available centrally. The safety of genetically modified (GM) crops and derived materials intended for food use is evaluated on a case by case basis and involves the scrutiny of a range of data relevant to each genetically modified organism (GMO). Information on evaluations conducted in the United Kingdom is available via the websites of the relevant expert advisory committees, the Advisory Committee on Novel Food and Processes and the Advisory Committee on Releases to the Environment. GM crops and derived products are only authorised if they are shown not to present a risk to the consumer, to animals and, where a viable GMO is concerned, to the environment.

## General Practitioners

**Mr. Wills:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she has made of the average income, after operating expenses, of general practitioners working only for the NHS in *(a)* 2000, *(b)* 2001, *(c)* 2002, *(d)* 2003 and *(e)* 2004. [13299]

**Mr. Byrne:** The information requested is shown in the table.

| | *Amount (£)* |
|---|---|
| 2000–01 | 54,219 |
| 2001–02 | 56,510 |
| 2002–03 | 61,618 |
| 2003–04 | 67,040 |

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many general practitioners there were in the Essex Health Authority area in *(a)* 2002–03, *(b)* 2003–04 and *(c)* 2004–05. [14319]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The numbers of general practitioners in the Essex Strategic Health Authority (SHA) area for the years specified are shown in the table.

*General medical practitioners (excluding retainers and registrars)[1] for Essex SHA, 2002–04*

| *Q03* | *Essex SHA* | *Number (headcount)* |
|---|---|---|
| | 2002 | 803 |
| | 2003 | 866 |
| | 2004 | 915 |
| | December 2004 | 932 |

[1] General medical practitioners (excluding retainers and registrars) includes contracted GPs, general medical service (GMS) others and personal medical service (PMS) others. Prior to September 2004, this group included GMS unrestricted principals, PMS contracted GPs, PMS salaried GPs, restricted principals, assistants, GP registrars, salaried doctors (Para 52 SFA), PMS other, flexible career scheme GPs and GP returners.

*Note:*

Data as at 30 September 2002–04 and 31 December 2004.

*Source:*

NHS Health and Social Care Information Centre GMS and PMS statistics.

**Steve Webb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to her answer of 28 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 1504W, on GP appointments, what the total number of patients was in May. [13673]

**Mr. Byrne:** The survey in May covered practices serving 52,739,334 patients.

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people *(a)* requested and *(b)* received an appointment to see a GP within 48 hours in the Welwyn Hatfield Primary Care Trust in the last period for which figures are available. [13831]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The information requested is not collected centrally. The Department commissions a monthly survey by the national health service of the availability of appointments at each practice within each primary care trust. It does not, however, collect information on the total number of appointments which are available or their take-up by patients.

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people *(a)* requested and *(b)* received an appointment to see a general practitioner within 48 hours in the Milton Keynes Primary Care Trust in the last period for which figures are available. [14242]

**Caroline Flint:** The information requested is not collected centrally. The Department commissions a monthly survey by the national health service of the availability of appointments at each practice within each primary care trust. It does not, however, collect information on the total number of appointments which are available or their take-up by patients.

**Dr. Stoate:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many full-time equivalent GPs are working in the Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley Primary Care Trust area. [14774]

**Caroline Flint:** The number of full-time equivalent general practitioners working in the Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley Primary Care Trust area is shown in the table.

*General medical practitioners (excluding retainers and registrars)[1] for Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley PCT, as at 31 December 2004*

*Estimated full time equivalents*

| | *PCT* | *General medical practitioners (excluding retainers and registrars)[1]* |
|---|---|---|
| 5CM | Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley | 110 |

[1] General medical practitioners (excluding retainers and registrars) includes contracted GPs, general medical service (GMS) others and personal medical service (PMS) others.

*Notes:*

1. Full time equivalent (fte) data have been estimated using the results from the 1992–93 GMP work load survey.
2. For 1994–2003, contracted GPs, full time = 1.00 fte; three quarter time = 0.69 fte; job share = 0.65 fte; half time = 0.60 fte. For other GP types, full time = 1.00 fte; part time = 0.6 fte.
3. For 2004, all GPs, full time = 1.0 fte; part time = 0.6 fte and therefore may not be fully comparable with previous years.

*Source:*

National Health Service Health and Social Care Information Centre GMS and PMS statistics.

**Mr. Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients in the Wellingborough constituency have not been able to register directly with a doctor's surgery and have had to register centrally since 1997. [14107]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Data on the number of patients unable to register with a general practice is not collected or held centrally by the Department. However, since April 2005 the Department has collected monthly information on the numbers of patients assigned by primary care trusts (PCTs) to practices. This shows that, to date, no patients have been assigned by Northamptonshire Heartlands PCT.

## Head Injuries (Essex)

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people with head injuries resulting from *(a)* cycling, *(b)* skateboarding and *(c)* rollerblading accidents have been admitted to each hospital in Essex in the last year for which figures are available. [14283]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The table shows the number of admitted care episodes for head injuries in Essex in 2003–04, which were as a result of cycling. The Department does not collect information on the numbers of admitted care episodes for head injuries resulting from skateboarding and rollerblading accidents.

*Counts of finished admission episodes. Primary diagnosis "Injuries to the Head" (ICD-10= S00-S09 ) and cause code "Pedal Cyclist Injured in Transport Accident" (ICD-10= V10-V19). Strategic health authority of treatment—Essex. National health service hospitals, England 2003–04*

| | | *Finished admission episodes* |
|---|---|---|
| RAJ | Southend Hospital NHS Trust | 9 |
| ROD | Basildon and Thurrock University Hospitals NHS Trust | 18 |
| RDE | Essex Rivers Healthcare NHS Trust | 13 |
| RQ8 | Mid Essex Hospitals NHS Trust | 21 |
| RQW | The Princess Alexandra Hospital NHS Trust | 7 |

*Notes:*

1. A finished admission episode is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. Please note that admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.
2. The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 14 (seven prior to 2002–03) diagnosis fields in the hospital episode statistics (HES) data set and provides the main reason why the patient was in hospital.
3. The cause code is a supplementary code that indicates the nature of any external cause of injury, poisoning or other adverse effects.
4. Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data is ungrossed).

*Source:*

HES, Health and Social Care Information Centre.

## Health Bodies (Funding)

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the budget of *(a)* the Pharmaceutical Pricing Agency and *(b)* the Health Protection Agency (i) were in each of the last two financial years and (ii) is in the 2005–06 financial year in (A) cash and (B) real terms. [11808]

**Jane Kennedy** *[holding answer 14 July 2005]:* The information requested is shown in the table.

*£ million*

| | *Prescription Pricing Authority* | *Health Protection Agency* |
|---|---|---|
| *2003–04 actual* | | |
| Cash terms | 67.100 | 104.671 |
| Real terms | 70.215 | 109.529 |
| *2004–05 outturn* | | |
| Cash terms | 74.800 | 125.265 |
| Real terms | 76.671 | 128.398 |
| *2005–06 budget* | | |
| Cash terms | 72.800 | 143.440 |
| Real terms | 72.800 | 143.440 |

*Note:*

Annual budget figures are total operating costs (revenue and capital). Real terms figures have been derived using the gross domestic product deflator, with 2005–06 as the base year.

## Health Care

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 13 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 1135W, on health care (Merton), what issues are under consideration; and what the timetable is. [14004]

**Jane Kennedy:** The grounds on which the London borough of Merton's overview and scrutiny committee has referred decisions taken by local national health service bodies to the Secretary of State are set out in its letter of 21 March 2005. This letter has been placed in the Library. The matter is still being considered and a decision will be taken as soon as possible.

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 6 July 2005, reference 7222, on health care acquired infections, if she will set out for *(a)* England, *(b)* each region, *(c)* each strategic health authority and *(d)* each NHS trust the occurrences of (i) glycopeptie resistent enterococci, (ii) orthopaedic surgical site infections and (iii) serious untoward incidents for each quarter since mandatory reporting commenced. [11550]

**Jane Kennedy** *[holding answer 18 July 2005]:* Although the data requested is not currently available, information from the mandatory surveillance system will be available later this year. This data is likely to be published annually and the format has yet to be agreed. The expected publication dates are August for glycopeptide resistant enterococci and autumn for orthopaedic surgical site infections. The Health Protection Agency is currently analysing data on serious untoward incidents associated with infection.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she has made of demand over the next five years for *(a)* in-patient and *(b)* respite and day care provision for palliative care; and if she will make a statement. [14326]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Primary care trusts are responsible within the national health service for commissioning and funding services for their resident population, including palliative care, having taken account of local needs and priorities. The National Council for Palliative Care (NCPC), supported by the

cancer action team and the Department, has published "Population-Based Needs Assessment for Palliative Care: A Manual for Cancer Networks". Networks can use the manual to assess the need for core component specialist palliative care services, including in-patient care, community care, day care and hospital support.

The NCPC is presently revising the manual to cover patients with conditions other than cancer. This will enable commissioners to gain a greater appreciation of the palliative care needs of their resident population.

### Health Foods

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information a food manufacturer will need to provide on health claims to gain authorisation under the proposed EU regulation on nutrition and health claims made on foods (2003/0165 COM); who will decide whether a health claim is approved; whether it will be possible to appeal if claims are not approved; and if she will make a statement. [13671]

**Caroline Flint:** The proposed Regulation is intended to protect consumers from misleading claims and facilitate the free movement of foods within the European Union. It will require health claims to be substantiated.

Under the proposal, a health claim based on generally accepted scientific data would not need to go through the full authorisation process. Instead, member states will have one year to submit to the European Commission a list of health claims, accompanied by references to relevant scientific justification. The Food Standards Agency (FSA) will contact organisations and other interested parties about the process of drawing up a list of such claims. On receipt of the national lists, the Commission will consult the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) before drawing up a Community list of permitted claims. This is to be subject to a vote in the Commission's Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health.

Health claims which cannot be supported by generally accepted scientific data and all disease risk reduction claims will require specific authorisation. The user of such a claim will be required to submit a range of information, as outlined in the proposed Regulation, which will be assessed by EFSA. The proposed Regulation also requires EFSA to produce detailed guidance to assist applicants. This is expected to cover the type and quantity of information applicants will be required to produce. EFSA will have six months to review this information and to provide an opinion on the acceptability of the claim. The proposed Regulation provides for the EFSA opinion to be published and for comments to be made to the Commission by the applicant within 30 days.

Within three months of receiving the opinion, the Commission will submit a draft decision to be adopted after a vote in the Standing Committee.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what definition under the proposed EU regulation on nutrition and health claims made on foods (2003/0165 COM) her Department will use in relation to *(a)* generally accepted scientific data and *(b)* the average consumer; whether those definitions have been agreed at EU level; whether any part of the negotiations has taken place without these definitions; and if she will make a statement. [13672]

**Caroline Flint:** The Food Standards Agency intends to consult with the European Commission, member states and other interested parties on the interpretation of the terms "generally accepted scientific data" and "the average consumer" in the context of this proposal. There are currently no agreed definitions for these terms and a consistent approach is needed.

The proposed Regulation gives a brief explanation of the concept of the average consumer. It points out that there is not a statistical test and national courts and authorities will have to exercise their own faculty of judgment, having regard to the case law of the European Court of Justice as necessary.

### Health Trainers

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many health trainers have been appointed; what training they receive; what the estimated annual cost of a health trainer is; what management structure will be developed to oversee health trainers; and if she will make a statement. [13655]

**Bob Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health, (1) what consultation was undertaken with *(a)* healthcare professionals, *(b)* commercial organisations and *(c)* patient organisations on the provision of health trainers prior to developing job descriptions for such trainers; [13542]

(2) what specific training will be given to trainers to enable them to develop the necessary skills for dealing with complex health issues and their underlying psychological factors; and if she will make a statement. [13581]

**Caroline Flint:** I refer the hon. Members to the written ministerial statement I made on 20 July 2005, *Official Report*, columns 92–94WS. A wide range of organisations, including those representing healthcare professionals, commercial organisations and patient organisations participated in the consultation for the White Paper, "Choosing Health", which announced the policy to introduce health trainers.

### Healthy Eating

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what action the Government *(a)* are taking and *(b)* plans to take in each of the next five years to encourage people to increase their fruit and vegetable consumption; [12735]

(2) what action the Government *(a)* are taking and *(b)* plan to take in each of the next five years to increase awareness of the health benefits of fruit and vegetables in preventing cancer. [13638]

**Caroline Flint:** The Government encourages the increased consumption and awareness of the importance of eating more fruit and vegetables through a number of initiatives and programmes. These include the five-a-day programme, which combines a range of community, advertising and media initiatives, and the school fruit and vegetable scheme, which provides nearly two million children aged four to six with a free

piece of fruit or vegetable every school day. In November 2005, we expect to start phase one of the healthy start scheme, which will also encourage fruit and vegetable consumption among pre-school age children.

"Choosing a Better Diet: a food and health action plan", published on 9 March 2005, set out the Government's strategy to improve people's health through improved diet and nutrition. The strategy includes actions to increase fruit and vegetable consumption and awareness of the health benefits of eating more fruit and vegetables. A copy is available in the Library and on the Department's website at www.dh.gov.uk/assetRoot/04/10/57/13/04105713.pdf.

### Hepatitis B

**Dr. Gibson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether her Department has adopted the World Health Organisation 1992 recommendation that all countries adopt a universal vaccination for hepatitis B; [13321]

(2) what plans she has for changing the hepatitis B vaccination regime. [13322]

**Caroline Flint:** The Department has not implemented the World Health Organisation recommendation about universal immunisation against hepatitis B. The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation is currently reviewing the United Kingdom's hepatitis B immunisation programme to assess whether it needs to be altered.

**Dr. Gibson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if her Department will issue warnings about the possible risks of contracting hepatitis B associated with international travel. [13323]

**Caroline Flint:** Health advice for travellers abroad, including about hepatitis B, is provided on the Department's website at http://www.dh.gov.uk/PolicyAndGuidance/HealthAdviceForTravellers/GeneralHealthAdvice/Diseases/DiseasesArticle/fs/en?CONTENT_ID=4080299&chk=7pc2C2.

We have also produced a booklet, "Health advice for travellers", which is available free of charge from post office outlets and provides advice about hepatitis B in the context of international travel. Further details about the booklet is available on the Department's website at http://www.dh.gov.uk/PolicyAndGuidance/HealthAdviceForTravellers/fs/en.

In addition, the Department has funded the national travel health network and centre (NaTHNaC), which provides up to date advice for health professionals and travellers. This includes advice about hepatitis B, which is available from the NaTHNaC website at http://www.nathnac.org/travel/factsheets/hep_b_vaccine.htm.

### Hepatitis C

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what measures she is taking to encourage patients with hepatitis C to complete their self-administered courses of treatment to achieve viral clearance. [10955]

**Caroline Flint:** The Department's hepatitis C awareness campaign provides advice and information about hepatitis C, including its treatment. The campaign includes patient leaflets, a national health service hepatitis C awareness website, a freephone hepatitis C information line and regional hepatitis C awareness events.

We are also providing grant funding to voluntary sector organisations that provide information, advice and support to individuals with hepatitis C.

The care of individual patients is a matter for their clinician and health care team.

**Mr. Love:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps she is taking to improve the convenience and comfort of administration of treatment for hepatitis C. [11858]

**Caroline Flint:** In line with "Shifting the Balance of Power", most national health service funding is now passed on to NHS organisations so that they can make decisions about provision of local services.

The configuration of services for providing treatment for hepatitis C, including any outreach services, is therefore a matter for local determination. Treatment usually consists of a weekly injection and daily tablets and many patients can be taught to self-inject.

**Mr. Burns:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of future levels of hepatitis C infection if rates of identification and treatment of the disease remain unchanged. [13204]

**Caroline Flint** *[holding answer 20 July 2005]:* The Department has funded the Health Protection Agency, working with the Medical Research Council's biostatistics unit at Cambridge, to provide estimates of future levels of hepatitis C infection and of hepatitis C-related liver disease.

The results of this on-going study will be submitted soon to a peer-reviewed journal for publication.

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to her answer of 20 June, *Official Report*, column 794W, on hepatitis C, how the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence recommendation that people with mild disease should remain under observation is being implemented for those individuals who have not received an initial diagnosis. [13969]

**Caroline Flint:** National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidelines on chronic hepatitis C infection can only apply to those who have been diagnosed.

The Department's hepatitis C awareness campaign aims to increase the number of patients being diagnosed so that they can be referred for specialist assessment.

### Herbal Medicinal Products

**Dr. Iddon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) when Ministers of her Department next expect to meet representatives of herbal product manufacturers to discuss the costs associated with the implementation of the Traditional Herbal Medicinal Products Directive; [13026]

(2) what assessment she has made of the impact on business of the way that the Traditional Herbal Medicinal Products Directive is being interpreted and implemented. [13029]

**Jane Kennedy:** Our current assessment of the impact on business of the European Directive on Traditional Herbal Medicinal Products is set out in the updated partial regulatory impact assessment included with the public consultation document MLX 325. The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has given the industry extensive help in preparing for the Directive, for example, via early website guidance, workshops, individual company meetings and dialogue with the herbal manufacturing industry's herbal forum. The MHRA has also advised the herbal forum on the possibilities for industry to make a reasoned case to the relevant European scientific committee, the Herbal Medicinal Products Committee, if it sees a need for further elaboration or adjustment of the European guidelines on herbal medicinal products.

**David Tredinnick:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the implications for consumer safety of the potential for growth in internet and mail order sales of herbal products. [13125]

**Jane Kennedy:** In most cases, it is not currently possible for consumers to tell which herbal medicines are made to acceptable standards of safety, quality and patient information, irrespective of the means by which they are sold. While unlicensed herbal medicines purchased over the internet and by mail order may be of variable standards, many of the unsafe unlicensed medicines found on the United Kingdom market by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency have been sold or supplied in clinics or other retail outlets. Following the European Directive on Traditional Herbal Medicinal Products, the introduction of a registration scheme for traditional herbal medicines, alongside licensed herbal medicines, should progressively allow consumers to make an informed choice from a wider range of herbal medicines made to assured standards.

**David Tredinnick:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if she will base the product release specification of compound herbal products under the Traditional Herbal Medicinal Products Directive upon thin layer chromatography linked to standard patterns; and if she will meet with industry representatives to discuss this matter; [13126]

(2) what assessment she has made of whether the guidelines on quality and stability for herbal medicinal products are appropriate for multi-component traditional herbal products. [13127]

**Jane Kennedy:** European guidelines concerning the quality and stability of herbal medicinal products have been in place since 1988. These guidelines were updated and amended in agreement between member states and the industry from 1998 to 2001 and the final version came into operation in January 2002.

Many herbal medicinal products contain a number of active substances and the guidelines recognise that in such cases it may not be possible to measure the individual active substances. It is for the applicant to establish suitable methodologies for control of their product and to present these in the application dossier.

In the case of products to be registered under the Directive on Traditional Herbal Medicinal Products, we anticipate that many will be multi-component and that ensuring reproducibility of the products will be challenging.

### Hip Replacements

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women who had a hip replacement operation required a further operation due to the failure of the first hip replacement in each of the last 10 years; [12730]

(2) how many hip replacement operations were unsuccessful in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available; and how many people were permanently disabled as a result of the failure of the operation in each year; [12731]

(3) how many hip replacement operations have resulted in the patient becoming disabled in the last 10 years; and if she will make a statement. [12732]

**Mr. Byrne:** This information is not collected centrally in the form requested. Figures are available for the number of hip revisions undertaken over the past five years on the national clinical health and outcomes knowledge base website at http://www.nchod.nhs.uk. These figures do not differentiate between those operations which were necessary due to an unsuccessful hip replacement operation and those revisions required for other medical reasons.

### Hospice Funding

**Mr. Fallon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much public funding was made available to *(a)* Hospice in the Weald and *(b)* Demelza House Children's hospice in 2004–05; and how much will be made available in 2005–06. [14233]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The Department does not routinely collect the data requested on national health service funding for adult hospices such as Hospice in the Weald and children's hospices such as Demelza House.

### Hospital Appointments (Non-attendance)

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many non-attendances there were for *(a)* in-patient appointments and *(b)* out-patient appointments in (i) Essex and (ii) the Metropolitan Police area of London in each of the last three years, broken down by primary care trust. [14282]

**Jane Kennedy:** The information requested is not collected centrally.

### Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what consultations take place before appointments are made to the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority; and if she will make a statement; [14270]

(2) what the criteria are by which members of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority are appointed; [14271]

(3) what the duration is of the membership of each member of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority. [14272]

**Caroline Flint:** Candidates seeking appointment as members of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA) are expected to be able to demonstrate that they will be able to discharge their duties in accordance with the seven principles of public life: selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership. Additionally, they will be expected to have expertise in an area that the HFEA needs in order to fully discharge its duties. The particular expertise sought at any given time will depend largely on that provided by existing members and that lost by outgoing members. It may be, for example, expertise in financial management, or assisted reproduction law, or patient involvement or embryology, depending on the circumstances.

The chair of the HFEA consults the Department on the expertise needed in new members. References are sought for all candidates to be interviewed for appointment. Ministers also seek the views of their colleagues in the devolved administrations before making an appointment.

Paragraph 5(2) of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 1990 states that a person shall not be appointed as a member of the HFEA for more than three years at a time. In accordance with the code of practice of the Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments, members are permitted to serve a second three year term if their performance has been satisfactory and their area of expertise is still needed on the HFEA board. Members may serve on the board for a maximum of ten years, but to be appointed for a third term they must enter an open competition for appointment on the same basis as new candidates. A list of current members and their duration of appointment is shown in the table.

From this year, appointments to the HFEA will be made by the NHS Appointments Commission.

*HFEA members—July 2005*

| *Name* | *Expertise* | *Date of first appointment* | *Date current appointment ends* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Ms Suzi Leather (Chair) | Regulation | 6 March 2002 | 31 March 2008 |
| Prof. Tom Baldwin (Deputy Chair) | Philosophy | 26 February 2001 | 6 November 2006 |
| Ms Sara Nathan | Media | 7 November 1998 | 6 November 2005 |
| Ms Sharmila Nebhrajani | Management, accountant and media | 7 November 1998 | 6 November 2005 |
| Ms Clare Brown | Patient | 2 December 2002 | 1 December 2005 |
| Prof. Neva Haites | Clinical genetics | 2 December 2002 | 1 December 2005 |
| Prof. Emily Jackson | Health Care and Law | 1 June 2003 | 30 November 2005 |
| Dr Maybeth Jamieson | Embryology | 2 December 2002 | 1 December 2005 |
| Mr Walter Merricks | Finance and patient | 2 December 2002 | 1 December 2005 |
| Prof. David Barlow | Clinical | 10 December 1997 | 6 November 2006 |
| Mr Ivor Brecker | Management and Dentistry | 10 May 2001 | 6 November 2006 |
| Prof. Iain Cameron | Clinical | 26 February 2001 | 6 November 2006 |
| Bishop Richard Harries | Bishop of Oxford | 6 November 2003 | 6 November 2006 |
| Ms Jennifer Hunt | Counsellor | 6 November 2003 | 6 November 2006 |
| Sir Simon Jenkins | Media | 10 May 2001 | 6 November 2006 |
| Prof. Christopher Barratt | Andrologist | 15 January 2002 | 6 November 2007 |
| Mr Hossam Abdalla | Clinical | 1 October 2004 | 30 November 2007 |
| Baroness Helene Hayman | Human tissue regulation | 1 April 2005 | 31 March 2008 |

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will list the publications produced by the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority since its inception. [14273]

**Caroline Flint:** The Department does not hold a list of publications by the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA). A list of all available publications can be found on the HFEA's website at www.hfea.gov.uk.

### Independent Sector Treatment Centres

**Mr. Frank Field:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what proportion of *(a)* doctors and *(b)* nurses were employed by the NHS (i) six to 12 months, (ii) 13 to 18 months and (iii) 19 to 24 months prior to being employed by independent sector treatment centres with contracts with the NHS. [13218]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answer 18 July 2005]:* The information requested is not centrally available.

### Influenza Pandemic Plan

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she will publish an updated version of the Influenza Pandemic Plan. [14971]

**Caroline Flint:** The United Kingdom influenza pandemic contingency plan was published in March 2005 and is currently being updated in light of comments received. The revised plan will be published in the autumn.

### Intensive Care Treatment

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many nurses on average in *(a)* Southend, *(b)* Essex and *(c)* the Metropolitan police area of London, staffed an intensive care bed for (i) adults, (ii) children and (iii) new born or premature babies in the latest period for which figures are available. [14800]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The information requested is not collected centrally.

### IVF Treatment

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 4 July 2005, *Official Report*, columns 221–22W, on IVF treatment, which primary care trusts have not implemented the advice to offer a minimum of one cycle of IVF by April to those who meet the clinical criteria. [12426]

**Caroline Flint:** The Department does not collect information centrally on the number of "in vitro fertilisation" (IVF) treatments provided by each primary care trust. The primary responsibility for the implementation of National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) guidelines rests with the national health service at local level and compliance with NICE guidance by NHS organisations will be considered by the Healthcare Commission during its review and assessment processes.

### Kettering General Hospital (Cancelled Operations)

**Mr. Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many operations were cancelled at Kettering General Hospital NHS Trust within *(a)* seven days and *(b)* 24 hours of the appointment time in each year since 1997. [14756]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The information is not available in the format requested. However, information relating to the number of cancellations either on, or after the day that the patient was due to be admitted is shown in the table.

*Cancelled operations for non-clinical reasons—Kettering General Hospital National Health Service Trust*

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 1997–98[1] | n/a |
| 2001–02 | 371 |
| 2002–03 | 478 |
| 2003–04 | 494 |
| 2004–05 | 454 |

[1] Data was collected by health authority only prior to 2001–02. Trust level data was collected from 2001–02 onwards.

*Notes:*

1. A last minute cancellation is one that occurs on the day the patient was due to arrive, after they have arrived in hospital or on the day of their operation. For example, a patient is to be admitted to hospital on a Monday for an operation scheduled for the following day (Tuesday). If the hospital cancels his/her operation for non-clinical reasons on the Monday, then this would count as a last minute cancellation. This includes patients who have not actually arrived in hospital and have been telephoned at home prior to their arrival.
2. An operation which is rescheduled to a time within 24 hours of the original scheduled operation should be recorded as a postponement and not as a cancellation. The QMCO collection does not record the number of postponements.
3. Some common non-clinical reasons for cancellations by the hospital include: ward beds unavailable; surgeon unavailable; emergency case needing theatre; theatre list over-ran; equipment failure; admin error; anaesthetist unavailable; theatre staff unavailable; and critical care bed unavailable.

*Source:*

Department of Health dataset QMNG/QMCO.

### Kidney Dialysis

**Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations she has received about the provision of kidney dialysis in South London. [12835]

**Jane Kennedy:** I have received no such representations.

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients have used the kidney dialysis unit in Chorley since it opened. [13583]

**Mr. Byrne:** This is a matter for the Chair of the Lancashire Teaching Hospitals National Health Service Foundation Trust. I have written to the chairman, Mr. Dennis Benson, informing him of my hon. Friend's inquiry.

### Lancashire Health Expenditure

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much of total health service expenditure in Lancashire in each of the last 10 years was spent directly on *(a)* healthcare, *(b)* administration and *(c)* prescriptions; [13735]

(2) what the budget for Government funded healthcare was in Lancashire in each of the last 10 years. [13741]

**Mr. Byrne:** The information requested is shown in the table.

The figures are shown for the periods 1996–97 to 2003–04; the earliest and latest available. It is not possible to provide expenditure figures for the county of Lancashire as this does not correspond to any specific strategic health authority (SHA). They are taken from the audited summarisation schedules or accounts of the relevant primary care trusts (PCTs) and health authorities (HAs) within the current Cumbria and Lancashire SHA area.

Data shown is "prescribing costs' which is the total cost relating to prescribing by general practitioners within the PCT area, from the unified budget.

*Expenditure by Cumbria and Lancashire SHA and by PCTs and HAs within the current Cumbria and Lancashire SHA area*

*£000*

| | *1996–97* | *1997–98* | *1998–99* | *1999–2000* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total expenditure | 1,210,576 | 1,181,556 | 1,309,216 | 1,567,565 |
| Healthcare | 1,184,587 | 1,157,113 | 1,238,595 | 1,433,482 |
| Administration | 23,053 | 24,367 | 28,289 | 51,162 |
| Prescriptions | 88,943 | 99,793 | 98,004 | 214,750 |

| | *2000–01* | *2001–02* | *2002–03* | *2003–04* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total expenditure | 1,717,872 | 1,961,985 | 2,337,249 | 2,421,861 |
| Healthcare | 1,494,013 | 1,489,118 | 1,674,350 | 1,876,654 |
| Administration | 38,492 | 66,582 | n/a | 122,268 |
| Prescriptions | 231,275 | 254,314 | 284,882 | 309,631 |

*Notes:*

1. 'Healthcare" is the total commissioning of primary and secondary healthcare accounted for by the HAs and PCTs.

2. 'Administration" includes an analysis of the costs of administrative staff and certain managers in the relevant PCTs and HAs. Figures for 2002–03 are not available.

3. 'Prescriptions' is the total cost relating to prescribing within the areas accounted for by the HAs and PCTs.

4. Expenditure is taken from audited HA summarisation forms and PCT summarisation schedules, which are prepared on a resource basis and therefore differ from cash allocations in the year. The figures have not been adjusted for inflation.

5. Figures for 1996–97 to 2001–02 have been prepared using gross expenditure figures. Figures for 2002–03 and 2003–04 have been adjusted to eliminate expenditure which would be double counted where an authority acts as a lead in commissioning healthcare or other services.

*Sources:*

1. Audited accounts of HAs, 1996–97 to 1998–99.

2. Audited summarisation forms of HAs, 1999–2000 to 2001–02.

3. Audited summarisation schedules of PCTs, 2000–01 to 2003–04.

4. Audited summarisation forms of Cumbria and Lancashire SHA, 2002–03 and 2003–04.

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the financial surplus or deficit recorded by each primary care trust in Lancashire was for 2004–05; [13736]

(2) what the financial surplus or deficit recorded by each NHS trust in Lancashire was for 2004–05. [13737]

**Mr. Byrne:** This information is not yet available.

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the funding per capita was for each primary care trust in Lancashire for 2004–05. [13738]

**Mr. Byrne:** The information requested is shown in the table.

| *Primary care trust* | *Per capita funding 2004–05 (£000)* |
|---|---|
| Burnley, Pendle and Rossendale | 1,089 |
| Chorley and South Ribble | 894 |
| Fylde | 1,018 |
| Hyndburn and Ribble Valley | 1,017 |
| Morecambe Bay | 1,030 |
| Preston | 1,141 |
| West Lancashire | 991 |
| Wyre | 1,024 |

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much money was spent on prescriptions by each primary care trust in Lancashire in each year since 1997. [13739]

**Mr. Byrne:** The information is not available in the requested format. However, data for 2000–01 to 2003–04 are shown in the table. Primary care trusts (PCTs) were not in existence prior to 2000–01 and 2003–04 is the latest year for which figures are available.

Figures are taken from the audited summarisation schedules (accounts) of the relevant PCTs. Relevant PCTs are taken as being those within the current Cumbria and Lancashire Strategic Health Authority (SHA) area.

Data shown is "prescribing costs", which is the total cost relating to prescribing by general practitioners within the PCT area, from the unified budget.

*Expenditure by PCTs in the Cumbria and Lancashire SHA area on prescribing costs*

£000

| *PCT* | *2000–01* | *2001–02* | *2002–03* | *2003–04* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Blackburn with Darwen PCT | 8,574 | 18,969 | 21,105 | 22,899 |
| Blackpool PCT | n/a | n/a | 24,452 | 26,307 |
| Burnley, Pendle and Rossendale PCT | n/a | n/a | 36,504 | 39,754 |
| Carlisle and District PCT | n/a | 13,842 | 16,088 | 17,917 |
| Chorley and South Ribble PCT | n/a | 24,169 | 27,925 | 30,675 |
| Eden Valley PCT | n/a | 8,049 | 9,400 | 10,277 |
| Fylde PCT | n/a | n/a | 11,796 | 12,651 |
| Hyndburn and Ribble Valley PCT | n/a | n/a | 16,637 | 18,015 |
| Morecambe Bay PCT | n/a | 40,896 | 45,551 | 48,946 |
| Preston PCT | n/a | n/a | 19,705 | 21,879 |
| West Cumbria PCT | n/a | 17,708 | 20,298 | 22,424 |
| West Lancashire PCT | n/a | 12,834 | 14,120 | 15,545 |
| Wyre PCT | n/a | n/a | 21,301 | 22,342 |

*Notes:*

1. 'Prescribing costs' is the total cost relating to prescribing by GPs within the area accounted for by the PCT.

2. 'n/a' indicates that a PCT was not in existence in that year.

*Sources:*

Audited summarisation schedules of the above PCTs 2000–01 to 2003–04.

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the waiting list figures were for cancer care in Lancashire in each of the last 10 years. [13740]

**Mr. Byrne:** The information requested is shown in the following tables.

*Number of patients with an urgent referral for suspected cancer received from general practitioner within 24 hours, by waiting time from referral to out-patients appointment, for hospitals in Cumbria and Lancashire strategic health authority (all cancers)*

*Number waiting 14 days or less*

| *Reporting period* | | *RMR Blackpool Victoria hospital NHS trust* | *RML Blackpool, Wyre and Fylde community health services NHS trust* | *RXL Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre hospitals NHS trust* | *REU Burnley healthcare NHS trust* | *RMB Blackburn, Hyndburn and Ribble Valley health care NHS trust* | *RXR East Lancashire hospitals NHS trust* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2001–02 | Q1 | 457 | 165 | n/a | 220 | 235 | n/a |
| 2001–02 | Q2 | 740 | 177 | n/a | 207 | 217 | n/a |
| 2001–02 | Q3 | 689 | 158 | n/a | 252 | 223 | n/a |
| 2001–02 | Q4 | 803 | 149 | n/a | 262 | 229 | n/a |
| 2002–03 | Q1 | n/a | n/a | 1046 | 333 | 216 | n/a |
| 2002–03 | Q2 | n/a | n/a | 1082 | 300 | 244 | n/a |

*Number of patients with an urgent referral for suspected cancer received from general practitioner within 24 hours, by waiting time from referral to out-patients appointment, for hospitals in Cumbria and Lancashire strategic health authority (all cancers)*

*Number waiting 14 days or less*

| Reporting period | | RMR Blackpool Victoria hospital NHS trust | RML Blackpool, Wyre and Fylde community health services NHS trust | RXL Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre hospitals NHS trust | REU Burnley healthcare NHS trust | RMB Blackburn, Hyndburn and Ribble Valley health care NHS trust | RXR East Lancashire hospitals NHS trust |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2002–03 | Q3 | n/a | n/a | 1154 | 344 | 260 | n/a |
| 2002–03 | Q4 | n/a | n/a | 1084 | 317 | 246 | n/a |
| 2003–04 | Q1 | n/a | n/a | 1187 | n/a | n/a | 587 |
| 2003–04 | Q2 | n/a | n/a | 1267 | n/a | n/a | 628 |
| 2003–04 | Q3 | n/a | n/a | 1217 | n/a | n/a | 688 |
| 2003–04 | Q4 | n/a | n/a | 460 | n/a | n/a | 672 |
| 2004–05 | Q1 | n/a | n/a | 1158 | n/a | n/a | 682 |
| 2004–05 | Q2 | n/a | n/a | 1174 | n/a | n/a | 690 |
| 2004–05 | Q3 | n/a | n/a | 1173 | n/a | n/a | 53 |
| 2004–05 | Q4 | n/a | n/a | 1163 | n/a | n/a | 677 |

*Number waiting 14 days or less*

| Reporting period | | RTX Morecambe Bay Hospitals NHS Trust | RNL North Cumbria acute hospitals NHS trust | RMF Preston acute hospitals NHS trust | FDD Chorley and South Ribble NHS trust | RXN Lancashire teaching hospitals NHS trust |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2001–02 | Q1 | 465 | 467 | 204 | 336 | n/a |
| 2001–02 | Q2 | 487 | 492 | 231 | 325 | n/a |
| 2001–02 | Q3 | 533 | 594 | 252 | 428 | n/a |
| 2001–02 | Q4 | 517 | 511 | 291 | 406 | n/a |
| 2002–03 | Q1 | 599 | 674 | 312 | 435 | n/a |
| 2002–03 | Q2 | 657 | 734 | n/a | n/a | 822 |
| 2002–03 | Q3 | 655 | 757 | n/a | n/a | 822 |
| 2002–03 | Q4 | 635 | 722 | n/a | n/a | 783 |
| 2003–04 | Q1 | 724 | 831 | n/a | n/a | 843 |
| 2003–04 | Q2 | 738 | 946 | n/a | n/a | 887 |
| 2003–04 | Q3 | 781 | 991 | n/a | n/a | 990 |
| 2003–04 | Q4 | 773 | 1016 | n/a | n/a | 987 |
| 2004–05 | Q1 | 855 | 866 | n/a | n/a | 1092 |
| 2004–05 | Q2 | 882 | 988 | n/a | n/a | 1034 |
| 2004–05 | Q3 | 942 | 1099 | n/a | n/a | 1016 |
| 2004–05 | Q4 | 836 | 934 | n/a | n/a | 916 |

*Number of patients with an urgent referral for suspected cancer received from general practitioner within 24 hours, by waiting time from referral to out-patients appointment, for hospitals in Cumbria and Lancashire Strategic health authority (all cancers)*

*Number waiting more than 14 days*

| Reporting period | | RMR Blackpool Victoria hospital NHS trust | RML Blackpool, Wyre and Fylde community health services NHS trust | RXL Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre hospitals NHS trust | REU Burnley healthcare NHS trust | RMB Blackburn, Hyndburn and Ribble Valley health care NHS trust | RXR East Lancashire hospitals NHS trust |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2001–02 | Q1 | 0 | 0 | n/a | 0 | 0 | n/a |
| 2001–02 | Q2 | 2 | 0 | n/a | 0 | 1 | n/a |
| 2001–02 | Q3 | 0 | 0 | n/a | 0 | 0 | n/a |
| 2001–02 | Q4 | 0 | 0 | n/a | 1 | 4 | n/a |
| 2002–03 | Q1 | n/a | n/a | 0 | 5 | 3 | n/a |
| 2002–03 | Q2 | n/a | n/a | 0 | 0 | 3 | n/a |
| 2002–03 | Q3 | n/a | n/a | 1 | 1 | 5 | n/a |
| 2002–03 | Q4 | n/a | n/a | 0 | 1 | 10 | n/a |
| 2003–04 | Q1 | n/a | n/a | 0 | n/a | n/a | 1 |
| 2003–04 | Q2 | n/a | n/a | 0 | n/a | n/a | 0 |
| 2003–04 | Q3 | n/a | n/a | 0 | n/a | n/a | 1 |
| 2003–04 | Q4 | n/a | n/a | 0 | n/a | n/a | 0 |
| 2004–05 | Q1 | n/a | n/a | 1 | n/a | n/a | 0 |
| 2004–05 | Q2 | n/a | n/a | 0 | n/a | n/a | 0 |
| 2004–05 | Q3 | n/a | n/a | 0 | n/a | n/a | 1 |
| 2004–05 | Q4 | n/a | n/a | 0 | n/a | n/a | 1 |

*Number waiting more than 14 days*

| Reporting period | | RTX Morecambe Bay Hospitals NHS Trust | RNL North Cumbria acute hospitals NHS trust | RMF Preston acute hospitals NHS trust | FDD Chorley and South Ribble NHS trust | RXN Lancashire teaching hospitals NHS trust |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2001–02 | Q1 | 62 | 53 | 0 | 0 | n/a |
| 2001–02 | Q2 | 70 | 85 | 0 | 0 | n/a |
| 2001–02 | Q3 | 35 | 106 | 0 | 0 | n/a |
| 2001–02 | Q4 | 14 | 138 | 0 | 0 | n/a |
| 2002–03 | Q1 | 8 | 137 | 0 | 0 | n/a |
| 2002–03 | Q2 | 2 | 123 | n/a | n/a | 0 |
| 2002–03 | Q3 | 0 | 112 | n/a | n/a | 0 |
| 2002–03 | Q4 | 1 | 167 | n/a | n/a | 0 |
| 2003–04 | Q1 | 0 | 178 | n/a | n/a | 0 |
| 2003–04 | Q2 | 0 | 30 | n/a | n/a | 0 |
| 2003–04 | Q3 | 0 | 2 | n/a | n/a | 0 |
| 2003–04 | Q4 | 0 | 2 | n/a | n/a | 0 |
| 2004–05 | Q1 | 0 | 0 | n/a | n/a | 0 |
| 2004–05 | Q2 | 0 | 2 | n/a | n/a | 0 |
| 2004–05 | Q3 | 1 | 2 | n/a | n/a | 0 |
| 2004–05 | Q4 | 0 | 4 | n/a | n/a | 0 |

*Number of patients with an urgent referral for suspected cancer received from general practitioner within 24 hours, by waiting time from referral to out-patients appointment, for hospitals in Cumbria and Lancashire Strategic health authority (all cancers)*

*Percentage*

*Percentage waiting 14 days or less*

| Reporting period | | RMR Blackpool Victoria hospital NHS trust | RML Blackpool, Wyre and Fylde community health services NHS trust | RXL Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre hospitals NHS trust | REU Burnley healthcare NHS trust | RMB Blackburn, Hyndburn and Ribble Valley health care NHS trust | RXR East Lancashire hospitals NHS trust |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2001–02 | Q1 | 100 | 100 | n/a | 100 | 100 | n/a |
| 2001–02 | Q2 | 100 | 100 | n/a | 100 | 100 | n/a |
| 2001–02 | Q3 | 100 | 100 | n/a | 100 | 100 | n/a |
| 2001–02 | Q4 | 100 | 100 | n/a | 100 | 98 | n/a |
| 2002–03 | Q1 | n/a | n/a | 100 | 99 | 99 | n/a |
| 2002–03 | Q2 | n/a | n/a | 100 | 100 | 99 | n/a |
| 2002–03 | Q3 | n/a | n/a | 100 | 100 | 98 | n/a |
| 2002–03 | Q4 | n/a | n/a | 100 | 100 | 96 | n/a |
| 2003–04 | Q1 | n/a | n/a | 100 | n/a | n/a | 100 |
| 2003–04 | Q2 | n/a | n/a | 100 | n/a | n/a | 100 |
| 2003–04 | Q3 | n/a | n/a | 100 | n/a | n/a | 100 |
| 2003–04 | Q4 | n/a | n/a | 100 | n/a | n/a | 100 |
| 2004–05 | Q1 | n/a | n/a | 100 | n/a | n/a | 100 |
| 2004–05 | Q2 | n/a | n/a | 100 | n/a | n/a | 100 |
| 2004–05 | Q3 | n/a | n/a | 100 | n/a | n/a | 98 |
| 2004–05 | Q4 | n/a | n/a | 100 | n/a | n/a | 100 |

*Percentage*

*Percentage waiting 14 days or less*

| Reporting period | | RTX Morecambe Bay Hospitals NHS Trust | RNL North Cumbria acute hospitals NHS trust | RMF Preston acute hospitals NHS trust | FDD Chorley and South Ribble NHS trust | RXN Lancashire teaching hospitals NHS trust |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2001–02 | Q1 | 88 | 90 | 100 | 100 | n/a |
| 2001–02 | Q2 | 87 | 85 | 100 | 100 | n/a |
| 2001–02 | Q3 | 94 | 85 | 100 | 100 | n/a |
| 2001–02 | Q4 | 97 | 79 | 100 | 100 | n/a |
| 2002–03 | Q1 | 99 | 83 | 100 | 100 | n/a |
| 2002–03 | Q2 | 100 | 86 | n/a | n/a | 100 |
| 2002–03 | Q3 | 100 | 87 | n/a | n/a | 100 |
| 2002–03 | Q4 | 100 | 81 | n/a | n/a | 100 |
| 2003–04 | Q1 | 100 | 82 | n/a | n/a | 100 |
| 2003–04 | Q2 | 100 | 97 | n/a | n/a | 100 |
| 2003–04 | Q3 | 100 | 100 | n/a | n/a | 100 |
| 2003–04 | Q4 | 100 | 100 | n/a | n/a | 100 |
| 2004–05 | Q1 | 100 | 100 | n/a | n/a | 100 |

Percentage

| | | Percentage waiting 14 days or less | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Reporting period | | RTX Morecambe Bay Hospitals NHS Trust | RNL North Cumbria acute hospitals NHS trust | RMF Preston acute hospitals NHS trust | FDD Chorley and South Ribble NHS trust | RXN Lancashire teaching hospitals NHS trust |
| 2004–05 | Q2 | 100 | 100 | n/a | n/a | 100 |
| 2004–05 | Q3 | 100 | 100 | n/a | n/a | 100 |
| 2004–05 | Q4 | 100 | 100 | n/a | n/a | 100 |

*Notes*
1. RXL Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre hospitals NHS trust formed 2002–03 by merger of RMR Blackpool Victoria hospital NHS Trust and RL Blackpool, Wyre and Fylde community health services NHS trust.
2. RXR East Lancashire hospitals NHS trust formed 2003–04 by merger of REU Burnley healthcare NHS trust and RMB Blackburn, Hyndburn and Ribble Valley Health Care NHS trust.
3. RXN Lancashire teaching hospitals NHS trust formed 2002–03 (effective 1 August 2002) by merger of RMF Preston acute hospitals NHS trust and RJU Chorley and South Ribble NHS trust.
*Source*:
CWT-Db, Department of Health

### Lancashire Teaching Hospital Trust

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement on the operation of Lancashire Teaching Hospital Trust, with particular reference to *(a)* its Foundation Trust status and *(b)* the periods for election for the board membership. [14603]

**Mr. Byrne:** This is a matter for the chair of the Lancashire Teaching Hospitals National Health Service Foundation Trust. I have written to Mr. Dennis Benson informing him of my hon. Friend's inquiry.

### Lung Cancer

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she has made of the change in need for lung cancer operations resulting from the implementation of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidance on lung cancer, with specific reference to the provision of positron emission tomography scanners. [14987]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** These data are not currently collected by the Department. However, the PLUS clinical trials have indicated that positron emission tomography (PET) scanning can prevent patients undergoing unnecessary surgery for one out of five patients with suspected non-small-cell lung cancer

The Department has commissioned the National Cancer Research Institute to undertake research on the impact of PET scanning.

The draft national framework for the development of PET services also strongly recommends, in paragraph 7.3, that service providers should undertake audits of the impact on clinical management and outcomes for their patients.

### Management Consultants

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what her Department's total spending on management consultants has been in each of the last three years. [13130]

**Jane Kennedy:** Expenditure by the Department on external consultants in each of the last three years, is shown in the table.

| Financial year | Expenditure (£ million) |
|---|---|
| 2002–03 | 7.266 |
| 2003–04 | 10.031 |
| 2004–05 | 12.8 |

It is not possible to disaggregate charges for management consultants from the overall cost of consultancy services.

### Medical Students

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what representations she has received from educational institutions outside the UK wishing to offer courses for UK students to study medicine; and if she will make a statement; [13257]

(2) what assessment she has made of the merits of supporting UK medical students to train in universities outside the UK; and if she will make a statement. [13300]

**Mr. Byrne:** Two overseas educational institutions, St. George's Medical school, Grenada and St. Michael's school of Medicine, St Helena, have made representations since 2003, together with an unrelated approach this year from an individual on behalf of an unnamed European university.

The United Kingdom plans and funds the future numbers of its medical graduates very carefully. It is not our policy to meet planned numbers through the funding of places in institutions outside the UK. It is, of course, open to such institutions to offer places to UK citizens who might on graduation seek to work in the UK.

### Mental Health

**Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health to how many individuals and organisations the report "Securing Better Mental Health for Older Adults" has been sent; and what resources have been allocated to publicising it. [12926]

**Mr. Byrne:** "Securing Better Mental Health for Older Adults" is not available in hard copy. The report is available on the Department's website at www.dh.gov.uk/assetRoot/04/11/50/80/04115080.Ddf

**Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what methodology was used to calculate figures quoted in the report Securing Better Mental Health for Older Adults stating that *(a)* 40 percent. of GP attendees, *(b)* 50 percent. of general hospital patients and *(c)* 60 percent. of care home residents are older adults with mental health problems. [12930]

**Mr. Byrne:** The figures were provided by the Department's senior clinical adviser on older people's mental health services. While no one figure will be exact, as different studies show slightly different results, the figures of 40, 50 and 60 percent., mentioned are rounded figures representative of the appropriate literature available.

**Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funding has been allocated to support the work of the programme board for older adult mental health services *(a)* to promote social inclusion and *(b)* to support the Government's vision for social care as set out in the Securing Better Mental Health for Older Adults report. [12931]

**Mr. Byrne:** Decisions on how much funding should be used for the provision of mental health services rest with local service commissioners and providers, who will take into account of local priorities and the particular needs of their resident population. The work associated with taking forward the Department's new vision of mental health services for older people will help with this decision-making.

**Ms Abbott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how the findings of the "Count Me In" survey will be used to reduce ethnic inequality in mental health services; and how progress will be measured. [13261]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The "Count Me In" census of all mental health inpatients was undertaken successfully on 31 March. It included questions on patients' ethnicity and faith, the sort of care they were receiving and how they had come into contact with mental health services. The results of this census are still being analysed. They will provide a clearer picture than has been available previously of the type and magnitude of inequalities in services for black and minority ethnic (BME) patients. The results will help us to identify priorities for our BME mental health programme aimed at reducing such inequalities.

The Healthcare Commission will repeat and extend the census in 2006 and future years, allowing the 2005 data to serve as a baseline for measuring progress. A report on the 2005 census will be published this autumn.

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement on the provision of mental health services in Lancashire for *(a)* young people and *(b)* adults. [13584]

**Mr. Byrne:** Lancashire Care National Health Service Trust provides mental health services in Lancashire to adults aged 16 to 65 and older adults over the age of 65. Child and adolescent mental health services are provided by a range of primary care trusts and acute trusts across the Cumbria and Lancashire strategic health authority area.

## Milton Keynes General Hospital

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much target-tied funding the Milton Keynes General Hospital maternity ward has received from its primary care trust over each of the last five years; [14348]

(2) how much funding the Milton Keynes General Hospital maternity ward has received in each of the past five years. [14349]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The information requested is not collected centrally.

## MRI Scans

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information is held centrally about waiting lists for diagnostic scanning services. [13194]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answer 18 July 2005]:* The Department does not currently collect data on diagnostic waiting lists centrally, but will be revising data collections to support the 18 week waiting time target that include activity levels and waiting times for a number of diagnostic tests.

## MRSA

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when the pilot for an enhanced surveillance system for MRSA *(a)* was commissioned and *(b)* commenced; and when she expects it will (i) conclude and (ii) be evaluated. [10162]

**Jane Kennedy:** Piloting of the enhanced surveillance system for meticillin resistant "Staphylococcus aureus" was commissioned in March 2005 and started in 21 acute national health service trusts in England on 1 May 2005.

Although the pilot will conclude in September, the evaluation is on-going.

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were diagnosed with MRSA in Milton Keynes between 2001 and 2005. [10776]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Meticillin resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) creates a range of conditions, including simple carriage with no ill effects, minor skin infections and serious infections such as pneumonia or blood stream infections (bacteraemia). Mandatory surveillance only covers blood stream infections and the data shown in the table has been extracted from the Department's mandatory MRSA bacteraemia surveillance scheme annual data for 2001 to 2005. This is a available on the Department's website at:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/assetRoot/04/11/40/15/04114015.pdf.

*Milton Keynes General Hospital National Health Service Trust*

| | *Number of MRSA bacteraemia reports* |
|---|---|
| 2001–02 | 9 |
| 2002–03 | 13 |
| 2003–04 | 7 |
| 2004–05 | 11 |

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many cases of MRSA have been recorded in hospitals in Hornsey and Wood Green in each of the last five years, broken down by age of patient; [13742]

(2) how many cases of hospital acquired infections have been recorded in hospitals in Hornsey and Wood Green in each of the last five years; broken down by age of patient. [13749]

**Jane Kennedy:** The information requested is not collected centrally.

### Multiple Chemical Sensitivity

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement on the care available to those with multiple chemical sensitivity. [14973]

**Mr. Byrne:** The national health service provides a range of services for those people suffering from multiple chemical sensitivity based on an individual assessment of need. This includes, for those with complex cases requiring special facilities for the investigation and management of their condition, six specialist centres run by allergists.

### Multiple Sclerosis

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent discussions her Department has had with *(a)* the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence and *(b)* potential manufacturers, on the possible general use of Aimspro for multiple sclerosis sufferers. [9282]

**Jane Kennedy:** The Department has had no discussions with the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence on the possible general use of Aimspro.

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has held a number of discussions with the owners of the product and their nominated, unlicensed, manufacturer.

The MHRA has carried out regulatory inspections to determine applications for manufacturing licences submitted by the nominated manufacturer in respect of two facilities. The applications were refused, because of critical and major deficiencies concerning good manufacturing practice.

The MHRA has advised the nominated manufacturer on the corrective action needed to enable the licences to be granted. The MHRA also continues to provide advice to the product's owners on alternative manufacturing arrangements, including the use of existing licensed manufacturers.

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many multiple sclerosis sufferers *(a)* have undertaken and *(b)* are undertaking Aimspro treatment. [9284]

**Jane Kennedy:** 12 patients entered an authorised clinical trial at an Oxford hospital, although one of these dropped out before completion. A number of patients were recruited into an authorised clinical trial at a London hospital, but the trial was halted with only one patient completed.

A number of patients have received Aimspro as an unlicensed medicinal product, without any authorised clinical trial, on the responsibility of the prescribing doctors. Information obtained by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency indicates that at least 250 persons with multiple sclerosis have been treated with the product.

The Department has no information on the number of patients who are currently undertaking or completing a course of treatment with Aimspro.

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she expects a decision to be made on the suitability of Aimspro for the treatment of MS. [9285]

**Jane Kennedy:** In order for Aimspro to be granted a marketing authorisation, the applicant must undertake authorised clinical trials and tests designed to demonstrate the safety, quality and efficacy of the product and submit the resulting data to the appropriate regulatory authority for professional assessment.

To date, no application for a marketing authorisation for Aimspro has been received by either the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency or the European Medicines Agency.

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research she has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the effectiveness of Aimspro for multiple sclerosis sufferers; and if she will make a statement. [9287]

**Jane Kennedy:** None. It is for the applicant for a marketing authorisation, and/or manufacturer where appropriate, to demonstrate the quality, safety and efficacy of a new medicinal product.

### Myeloma

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funding has been provided from her Department's research and development directorate for research into myeloma in each financial year since 1997–98. [12625]

**Jane Kennedy:** Over 75 per cent. of the Department's total expenditure on health research is devolved to and managed by national health service organisations. The national health service spend from this funding in support of cancer research is shown in the following table.

*£ million*

| | *Amount*[1] |
|---|---|
| 1997–98 | n/a |
| 1998–99 | 63 |
| 1999–2000 | 64 |
| 2000–01 | 73 |
| 2001–02 | 104 |
| 2002–03 | 103 |
| 2003–04 | 113 |

n/a = Not available.

[1] Estimated expenditure from 1998–99 to 2000–01 and actual reported expenditure from 2001–02 onwards.

Details of individual NHS projects, including those concerned with myeloma, can be found on the national research register at www.dh.gov.uk/research. Project level expenditure data for the period in question are not held centrally.

The NHS Plan announced that the Department would provide an additional £20 million a year to establish a national cancer research network. The national cancer research network established as a result is currently providing NHS support for two myeloma trials.

The Department funds research to support policy and to provide the evidence needed to underpin quality improvement and service development in the NHS through its national research programmes. The health technology assessment programme has, since 1997–98, funded two projects on myeloma at a total cost of £131,000.

Site-specific research expenditure figures understate the position to the extent that they exclude the research applicable to all cancers and the research that although classified as undertaken in one site has implications for another.

### National Health Service University

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what factors underlay the decision on whether to apply Transfer of Undertakings Protection of Employment principles to staff affected by the break up of the National Health Service University; [13867]

(2) how many NHS staff have been transferred from the National Health Service University to the new institute; [13868]

(3) for what reason the word learning has been removed from the list of functions of the new institute replacing the NHS University; and what factors underlay the decision regarding whether there should be consultation with the unions before that list of functions was finalised. [13869]

**Jane Kennedy:** Transfer of Undertakings Protection of Employment (TUPE) or TUPE-like (under Cabinet Office guidelines) principles were applied to those situations in which discreet undertakings are transferring to other organisations. This is in line with best practice on the application of TUPE. Approximately 30 NHSU staff are transferring to other organisations with transferring NHSU programmes. It is planned that the NHS Institute for Innovation and Improvement will be the residual body for the NHSU and that around 100 NHSU staff will therefore transfer to the institute to finalise the closure of NHSU or while they continue to seek alternative employment opportunities pending the end of their redundancy notice period. Staff in this group have been served notice of redundancy, and if alternative employment is not obtained, will be made redundant on 30 September 2005.

In order to promote innovation and best practice in the delivery of services, the institute will have regard to the training and development of national health service staff, as set out in the establishment order. This activity will include pooling knowledge about how staff learn best and applying this to the learning gaps identified by the institute's priority programmes. The institute will employ a director to lead this work and will help local organisations build capacity in this area. The provision of learning opportunities for NHS staff, to which the Government remain committed, is the responsibility of other organisations both within and outside the NHS.

The unions were represented on the advisory board, which oversaw the development of the policy and plans for the institute, and were closely involved in the process of deciding where TUPE should apply. It was not considered necessary to consult the unions directly on the wording of the statutory functions. The establishment order which includes the statutory functions was approved by Parliament.

### National Service Framework for Older People

**Jonathan Shaw:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the national service framework for older people remains a 10-year programme; and if she will make a statement. [14687]

**Mr. Byrne:** The key themes and principles of the national service framework (NSF) for older people remain extant. It was always envisaged that such a significant and far-reaching programme of action would take 10 years to realise fully.

The action milestone dates set out in the NSF have now been passed. In addition, new policy initiatives pertinent to the development of older people's service have been and are being developed. Further, since "Shifting the Balance of Power", local health and social care organisations now have greater flexibility in commissioning and providing services. In recognition of these changes since the launch of the NSF in 2001, Ian Philp, national director responsible for older people's services at the Department, will, in the autumn, present a "Next steps" document, suggesting how the significant momentum that has been generated since the launch of the NSF can be maintained.

### National Service Framework for Long-term Neurological Conditions

**Mr. Boswell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what progress has been made by the Long-term Conditions Care Group Workforce Team in identifying the workforce required to implement the National Service Framework for long-term neurological conditions; and what steps are being taken to *(a)* train and *(b)* recruit the necessary workforce; [12480]

(2) what estimate she has made of the number of consultant neurologists necessary to meet the requirements of the National Service Framework for long-term neurological conditions. [12481]

**Mr. Byrne:** Between September 1997 and December 2004, the number of neurology consultants working in the national health service has increased by 175, or 63 per cent. Implementation of the national service framework will require additional specialist skills and the development of new roles. The skill-mix required in each locality is a matter for local determination and planning.

The long term conditions care group workforce team, hosted by "Skills for Health", has identified a range of workforce issues and is working with the Department and other stakeholders to support local planning and develop solutions for local implementation.

### Neonatal Intensive Care

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many special care baby units were open for the whole of each year since 2000; [13659]

(2) what estimate she has made of the *(a)* number of nurses required and *(b)* cost of providing two nurses per special care baby intensive care cot. [13660]

**Mr. Byrne:** The information requested on the number of special care baby units open for the whole of each year since 2000 and the cost of providing two nurses per special care baby intensive care cot is not collected centrally.

It is for local neonatal networks and hospital trusts to determine the number of neonatal intensive care cots required and to ensure there are appropriate nursing levels within their neonatal units. The nurse to infant ratio is not constant, but relative to the criticality of the infants on the unit.

**Tony Baldry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent reports she has evaluated on special care for sick babies; and if she will make a statement; [13043]

(2) how many neonatal intensive care units have one-to-one nursing; [13044]

(3) how many neonatal intensive care units have been closed to new admissions in the last six months; [13045]

(4) how many premature babies were transferred away from their local hospital in order to find an intensive care cot in the last 12 months. [13048]

**Mr. Byrne:** The Department established a review group to examine neonatal services, including special care for sick babies, in 2001. The report of the group was issued for public consultation in April 2003. It suggests a structured, collaborative approach to caring for newborn babies and proposes that hospitals work closely together in formal, managed networks to provide the safest and most effective service for mothers and babies. Responses to the consultation exercise were overwhelmingly supportive.

Specialist commissioners for neonatal intensive care have been working with the national health service locally to facilitate progress with implementing this initiative. We welcome the recent review of progress by the national perinatal epidemiology unit, commissioned by BLISS, which gives clear indications as to where more can be achieved.

Additional funding has been made available to support the implementation of the report, including £20 million for capital expenditure in 2003–04. The additional money for running costs has risen from £12 million in 2003–04 to £20 million in 2005–06 and has been allocated to primary care trusts on a recurrent basis.

The information requested on the number of neonatal intensive care units with a level of one to one nursing is not collected centrally. It is for local hospital trusts to ensure that there are appropriate nursing levels within neonatal units. The nurse to infant ratio is not constant, but relative to the criticality of the infants on the unit.

The information requested on the number of neonatal units closed to new admissions and the number of premature babies transferred away from their local hospital in order to find an intensive care cot is not collected centrally.

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 17 March 2005, *Official Report*, column 435W, on neonatal care, what steps she is taking to ensure the additional revenue funding for 2005–06 is being used specifically to improve neonatal intensive care services. [14795]

**Mr. Byrne:** It is for local national health service primary care trusts (PCTs) to decide how the additional revenue funding can best be used to improve neonatal intensive care services. PCTs are working with neonatal specialist commissioners and strategic health authorities to develop neonatal services appropriate to the needs of their population. The Department is supporting this process through regular engagement with the neonatal commissioners.

### New Forest Primary Care Trust

**Dr. Julian Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will investigate the reasons for the deficit incurred by New Forest primary care trust. [14021]

**Caroline Flint** *[holding answer 21 July 2005]:* Primary care trusts (PCTs) are expected to plan for and achieve financial balance every year. Funds have been allocated directly to PCTs to give them the freedom and flexibility to deliver on key targets and achieve financial balance.

The Department expects strategic health authorities to deliver overall financial balance for their local health communities.

### New Medications (Safety Testing)

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make it her policy to end the requirement that new medications are safety tested on animals before they are given to humans. [10193]

**Jane Kennedy:** Regulatory and scientific requirements on the testing strategies for new medicinal products have been established at European and international levels. The "Note for Guidance on Non-clinical Safety Studies for the Conduct of human Clinical Trials for Pharmaceuticals (CPMP/ICH/286/95)" provides guidance as to what safety tests are required before a medicinal product enters the different stages of a clinical trial program. These safety tests in animals are needed to establish the safety and toxicological profile of a medicinal product before it is used in man. As a result of these tests, a large number of potential medicinal products never make it to use in man because their toxicological profile is unacceptable. These tests serve an essential role in the development of medicines. Therefore, we will not make it our policy to end the requirement for safety testing in animals.

## NHS (European Contractors)

**Mr. Davidson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will list contractors based in other EU member states that are providing services to the NHS. [9558]

**Jane Kennedy:** The Department does not hold centrally a record of individual contracts providing the nationality of all suppliers to the national health service. Such detailed information could obtained only at disproportionate cost.

## NHS Consultants

**Mr. Kidney:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance her Department gives to NHS trusts on the use of locum staff to fill temporarily vacant consultant posts; and what limits there are on the duration of such arrangements. [12947]

**Mr. Byrne:** "The Good Practice Guidance on the NHS (Appointment of Consultants) Regulations" includes reference to locum appointments, emphasising the existing limits on the employment of locum consultants and affirming the role of the Royal Colleges in advising extensions of employment. The initial appointment should be for a period not exceeding six months and any extension for a maximum of six months subject to a satisfactory review by the trust and to consultation with the relevant college.

## NHS Counselling Services

**Chris Bryant:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the NHS has spent on counselling services in each year since 1975. [13415]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** This information is not held centrally by the Department.

## NHS Deficit

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what her Department forecast year-end deficit for the NHS as a whole for the financial year 2004–05 is, as described on page 41 of the National Audit Office report Financial Management in the NHS. [12607]

**Mr. Byrne:** In the last four years, up to and including 2003–04, the national health service has achieved overall financial balance. We are currently anticipating a deficit of around £140 million in 2004–05, across around 600 NHS organisations. This represents only around 0.2 per cent, of available resources.

The anticipated financial position is based upon provisional figures. Audited information in respect of the 2004–05 financial position of all strategic health authorities, primary care trusts and NHS trusts will be published in their individual annual accounts and will be available centrally in autumn 2005.

## NHS Direct

**Julia Goldsworthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what evaluation her Department has undertaken of NHS Direct. [6291]

**Mr. Byrne:** Two evaluations have been made regarding NHS Direct. They are available at www.shef.ac.uk/scharr/mcru/reports.htm and www.healthcarecommission.org.uk/Homepage/fs/en.

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether she expects the call capacity of NHS Direct to reach 16 million calls per year by 2006, as set out in the Department's strategy document Developing NHS Direct, published in April 2003. [7479]

**Mr. Byrne:** The strategy document, "Developing NHS Direct", predicted that NHS Direct could be in the position to handle 16 million calls by December 2006. This was based on the assumption that NHS Direct might handle 100 per cent. of general practitioner out-of-hours calls by that stage. Primary care trusts now have the choice as to whether they commission NHS Direct to handle GP out-of-hours services or use local providers. On this basis, it is currently forecast that NHS Direct will be handling fewer calls in 2006.

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people have been employed in NHS Direct in each year since 1997–98, broken down by type of occupation. [7503]

**Mr. Byrne:** Prior to April 2004, NHS Direct services were provided by 22 local national health service trusts. Total figures on the overall number of staff employed were not collected centrally.

The overall number of staff has been collected by the NHS Direct special health authority since April 2004. This shows that the latest establishment for NHS Direct in 2005–06 is 2,961 FTE, which equates to a total headcount of 4,052. The breakdown of these staff, based on the total headcount is shown in the table.

| *Type of staff* | *Number* | *Percentage* |
|---|---|---|
| Nurse advisors | 1,199 | 40.5 |
| Call handlers | 799 | 27.0 |
| Health information advisors | 175 | 5.9 |
| Administrative and clerical | 788 | 26.6 |

## NHS Logistics

**Jonathan Shaw:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether NHS Logistics has been invited to submit a bid to continue to supply consumables to the NHS and to expand the market; and whether NHS Logistics submitted such a bid. [9672]

**Jane Kennedy:** NHS Logistics was not invited to submit a bid to continue to supply consumables to the NHS and to expand the market.

However, it should be noted that no organisation was invited to submit a bid to continue to supply consumables to the NHS and to expand the market.

Interested bidders had to respond to the advertisement that was placed in the *Official Journal* of the European Union in August 2004.

No such bid has been received from NHS Logisitcs.

**Mr. Mike Hall:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health which *(a)* NHS trusts and *(b)* primary care trusts were consulted about the market testing of NHS Logistics; and if she will publish the responses. [11170]

**Jane Kennedy:** The Department recognises how important it is to consult with the people who use the national health service supply chain; the trusts. They have been and continue to be consulted about the market testing.

Two different consultation groups have been established, membership of which is drawn from the acute trusts as it is they who primarily use the services provided by NHS Logistics.

A customer reference group was set up in November 2004. This group consisted of procurement leads from the trusts listed in the response.

The customer reference group allows the commercial directorate to give updates on the process, and allows procurement leads to ask questions. The nature of the debate is by necessity very general. However, members were solicited for their views on the current service and these findings have helped to inform the market testing process.

It was decided that a smaller group had to be established which could be party to more commercially sensitive information. This group, the supply chain and procurement panel (SCPP), first met in April 2005. Membership was drawn from major supply confederations and the new collaborative procurement hubs. All of these organisations are also part of the customer reference group.

Both groups continue to meet, but the level of engagement is much deeper with the SCPP.

Consultation with the SCPP is commercial in confidence. As such, feedback cannot be published. However, we are able to publish any minutes from consultation meetings with the customer reference group. This includes a summary of views expressed during the one-on-one interviews about the current supply chain services.

Please note that primary care trusts (PCTs) are represented through the collaborative procurement hubs to which they belong and who also take part in the consultation process.

A list of the trusts involved in the consultation is shown as follows.

Greater Manchester Collaborative Procurement Hub[1]

Shropshire and Staffordshire Collaborative Procurement Hub[2]

Healthcare Purchasing Consortium Collaborative Procurement Hub[3]

South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust

Central Manchester and Manchester Children's Universities Hospitals NHS Trust

East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust

Royal Brompton and Harefield NHS Trust

The Newcastle Upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Trust

Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust

Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust

Dudley Group of Hospitals NHS Trust

Scarborough and North East Yorkshire Health Care NHS Trust

Sheffield Care Trust

University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust

University Hospital Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust

Derby Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

Queen's Medical Centre Nottingham University Hospital NHS Trust

Plymouth Hospitals NHS Trust

Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

Poole Hospitals NHS Trust

Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital NHS Trust

Southend Hospital NHS Trust

East Midlands NHS Procurement Project

King's College Hospital NHS Trust

Hertfordshire Partnership NHS Trust

Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust

Royal Berkshire and Battle Hospitals NHS Trust

Royal Liverpool and Broadgreen University Hospitals NHS Trust

[1,2,3] Refer to following tables for member trusts of these procurement hubs.

*Greater Manchester Collaborative Procurement Hub member trusts*

Ashton, Leigh and Wigan PCT

Bolton Hospitals NHS Trust

Bolton PCT

Bury PCT

Central Manchester and Manchester Children's University Hospitals NHS Trust

Central Manchester PCT

Christie Hospital NHS Trust

Greater Manchester Ambulance Service NHS Trust

Heywood and Middleton PCT

Manchester Mental Health and Social Care Trust

North Manchester PCT

Oldham PCT

Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust

Pennine Care NHS Trust

Rochdale PCT

Salford PCT

Salford Royal Hospitals NHS Trust

South Manchester PCT

South Manchester University Hospitals NHS Trust

Stockport NHS Foundation Trust

Stockport PCT

Tameside and Glossop Acute Services NHS Trust

Tameside and Glossop PCT

Trafford Healthcare NHS Trust

Trafford North PCT

Trafford South PCT

Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Trust

Greater Manchester Strategic Health Authority

*Shropshire and Staffordshire Collaborative Procurement Hub member trusts*

Burntwood, Lichfield and Tamworth PCT

Burton Hospitals NHS Trust

Cannock Chase PCT
East Staffordshire PCT
Mid Staffordshire General Hospitals NHS Trust
Newcastle-under-Lyme PCT
North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare NHS Trust
North Stoke PCT
Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Trust
Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust (The)
Shropshire County PCT
South Staffordshire Healthcare NHS Trust
South Stoke PCT
South Western Staffordshire PCT
Staffordshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust
Staffordshire Moorlands PCT
Telford and Wrekin PCT
University Hospital of North Staffordshire NHS Trust
Shropshire and Staffordshire Strategic Health Authority

*Healthcare Purchasing Consortium Collaborative Procurement Hub member trusts*

Coventry and Warwickshire Ambulance NHS Trust
Coventry teaching PCT
George Eliot Hospital NHS Trust
Hereford and Worcester Ambulance Service NHS Trust
Hereford Hospitals NHS Trust
Herefordshire PCT
North Warwickshire NHS Trust
North Warwickshire PCT
Redditch and Bromsgrove PCT
Rugby PCT
South Warwickshire General Hospitals NHS Trust
South Warwickshire PCT
South Worcestershire PCT
University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust
Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust
Worcestershire Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust
Wyre Forest PCT

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions she had with the management of NHS Logistics on the market-testing of the NHS Logistics Authority; whether the management of NHS Logistics would be able to bid for the contract; and if she will make a statement. [13590]

**Jane Kennedy** *[holding answer 19 July 2005]:* The management of NHS Logistics has been closely involved throughout the market testing of the potential outsourcing of the national health service consumables supply chain, currently managed by NHS Logistics and the NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency.

NHS Logistics was not invited to submit a bid to continue to supply consumables to the NHS and to expand the market.

However, it should be noted that no organisation—or group of individuals—was invited to submit a bid to continue to supply consumables to the NHS and to expand the market.

Interested parties had the opportunity to respond to the advertisement that was placed in the *Official Journal of the European Union* in August 2004.

Any individual or group of individuals from the organisation could have done so.

## NHS Professionals

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of NHS trusts received a service from NHS Professionals in each year since it was set up; what the *(a)* budgeted and *(b)* actual expenditure was in each case; and what the (i) number and (ii) duration of placements were. [13234]

**Mr. Byrne:** The NHS Professionals special health authority was set up in April 2004. As at April 2005, it provided services to 43 percent., or 102 of the 236 national health service trusts in England. Budgeted and actual costs in each case are not held centrally. During the period 1 April 2004 to 31 March 2005, NHS Professionals filled a total of 1,843,803 nursing shifts and locum placements. The duration of individual placements can vary significantly.

## NHS Staff Assaults

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* doctors, *(b)* nurses, *(c)* consultants and *(d)* auxiliary staff have been victims of violence in the Milton Keynes NHS Trust over the last 10 years. [12921]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The incidence of violence against staff at Milton Keynes General National Health Service Trust is not available in the format requested or for the past ten years.

The figures shown in the table are from the violence, accidents and harassment (VAH) survey for 2000–01, 2001–02 and 2002–03. They are blanket figures for Milton Keynes General NHS Trust and cannot be broken down into staff groups. The VAH survey is no longer collected. The figures shown are the latest available.

*VAH survey in the NHS—reported violent incidents against NHS staff in the Milton Keynes General Hospital NHS Trust*

| | | *Number* |
|---|---|---|
| RD8 | Milton Keynes General Hospital NHS Trust | |
| | 2000–01 | 60 |
| | 2001–02 | 61 |
| | 2002–03 | 41 |

*Note:*
Figures are for the period 1 April to 31 March 2005 for each specified year.
*Source:*
VAH survey in the NHS.

## NHS Staff Recruitment

**Dr. Kumar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* doctors and *(b)* nurses have been recruited to work in Teesside since (i) 1997 and (ii) 2001. [12551]

**Mr. Byrne:** Information is not collected centrally on the number of staff recruited.

The following table shows the numbers of staff in post in September 1997, September 2001 and September 2004 for organisations in the Teesside area.

*Hospital, public health medicine and community health services (HCHS) staff, general medical practitioners (excluding retainers), nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff and GP practice nurses. All doctors and nurses by organisation.*

*England—numbers (headcount)*

*1997*

| | | | | *Of which:* | | *Of which:* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | *All doctors* | *HCHS doctors*[1] | *General medical practitioners (excluding retainers)*[2] | *Nurses* | *Nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff* | *GP practice nurses* |
| Q10 | County Durham and Tees Valley | 2,015 | 1,366 | 649 | 7,732 | 7,328 | 404 |
| | *Of which:* | | | | | | |
| | Teesside | — | 900 | — | — | 4,440 | — |
| | *Of which:* | | | | | | |
| | Tees HA | — | — | 312 | — | — | — |
| 4FC32 | Hartlepool PCG | [3]— | — | — | — | — | — |
| 4XA29 | Langbaurgh PCG | [3]— | — | — | — | — | — |
| 4DD23 | Middlesbrough and Eston PCG | [3]— | — | — | — | — | — |
| 4QP36 | Stockton PCG | [3]— | — | — | — | — | — |
| 4EE45 | Easington PCG | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 4KQ91 | Sedgefield PCG | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 5D9 | Hartlepool PCT | [3]— | 0 | [3]— | [3]— | 0 | [3]— |
| 5E1 | North Tees PCT | [3]— | 0 | [3]— | [3]— | 0 | [3]— |
| 5KD | Easington PCT | [3]— | 0 | [3]— | [3]— | 0 | [3]— |
| 5KE | Sedgefield PCT | [3]— | 0 | [3]— | [3]— | 0 | [3]— |
| 5KM | Middlesbrough PCT | [3]— | 0 | [3]— | [3]— | 0 | [3]— |
| 5KN | Langbaurgh PCT | [3]— | 0 | [3]— | [3]— | 0 | [3]— |
| RCA | Northallerton Health Services NHS Trust | [3]— | 106 | [3]— | [3]— | 502 | [3]— |
| RCH | North Tees Health NHS Trust | [3]— | 166 | [3]— | [3]— | 951 | [3]— |
| RCJ | South Tees Acute Hospitals NHS Trust | [3]— | 420 | [3]— | [3]— | 1,575 | [3]— |
| RE4 | South Tees Community and Mental Health NHS Trust | [3]— | 82 | [3]— | [3]— | 702 | [3]— |
| RRY | Hartlepool and East Durham NHS Trust | [3]— | 126 | [3]— | [3]— | 710 | [3]— |
| RTR | South Tees Hospitals NHS Trust | [3]— | 0 | [3]— | [3]— | 0 | [3]— |
| RVW | North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Trust | [3]— | 0 | [3]— | [3]— | 0 | [3]— |
| RVX | Tees and North East Yorkshire NHS Trust | [3]— | 0 | [3]— | [3]— | 0 | [3]— |

*England—numbers (headcount)*

*1998*

| | | | | *Of which:* | | *Of which:* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | *All doctors* | *HCHS doctors*[1] | *General medical practitioners (excluding retainers)*[2] | *Nurses* | *Nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff* | *GP practice nurses* |
| Q10 | County Durham and Tees Valley | 2,062 | 1,412 | 650 | 8,050 | 7,592 | 458 |
| | *Of which:* | | | | | | |
| | Teesside | — | 937 | — | — | 4,729 | — |
| | *Of which:* | | | | | | |
| | Tees HA | — | — | 308 | — | — | — |
| 4FC32 | Hartlepool PCG | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 4XA29 | Langbaurgh PCG | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 4DD23 | Middlesbrough and Eston PCG | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 4QP36 | Stockton PCG | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 4EE45 | Easington PCG | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 4KQ91 | Sedgefield PCG | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 5D9 | Hartlepool PCT | [3]— | 0 | [3]— | [3]— | 0 | [3]— |
| 5E1 | North Tees PCT | [3]— | 0 | [3]— | [3]— | 0 | [3]— |
| 5KD | Easington PCT | [3]— | 0 | [3]— | [3]— | 0 | [3]— |
| 5KE | Sedgefield PCT | [3]— | 0 | [3]— | [3]— | 0 | [3]— |
| 5KM | Middlesbrough PCT | [3]— | 0 | [3]— | [3]— | 0 | [3]— |
| 5KN | Langbaurgh PCT | [3]— | 0 | [3]— | [3]— | 0 | [3]— |
| RCA | Northallerton Health Services NHS Trust | [3]— | 110 | [3]— | [3]— | 535 | [3]— |
| RCH | North Tees Health NHS Trust | [3]— | 170 | [3]— | [3]— | 1,014 | [3]— |
| RCJ | South Tees Acute Hospitals NHS Trust | [3]— | 442 | [3]— | [3]— | 1,599 | [3]— |
| RE4 | South Tees Community and Mental Health NHS Trust | [3]— | 76 | [3]— | [3]— | 830 | [3]— |
| RRY | Hartlepool and East Durham NHS Trust | [3]— | 139 | [3]— | [3]— | 751 | [3]— |
| RTR | South Tees Hospitals NHS Trust | [3]— | 0 | [3]— | [3]— | 0 | [3]— |
| RVW | North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Trust | [3]— | 0 | [3]— | [3]— | 0 | [3]— |
| RVX | Tees and North East Yorkshire NHS Trust | [3]— | 0 | [3]— | [3]— | 0 | [3]— |

England—numbers (headcount)

1999

| | | All doctors | HCHS doctors[1] | Of which: General medical practitioners (excluding retainers)[2] | Nurses | Of which: Nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff | GP practice nurses |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Q10 | County Durham and Tees Valley | 2,116 | 1,460 | 656 | 8,224 | 7,789 | 455 |
| | *Of which:* | | | | | | |
| | Teesside | — | 965 | — | — | 4,765 | — |
| | *Of which:* | | | | | | |
| | Tees HA | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 4FC32 | Hartlepool PCG | — | — | 48 | — | — | — |
| 4XA29 | Langbaurgh PCG | — | — | 61 | — | — | — |
| 4DD23 | Middlesbrough and Eston PCG | — | — | 105 | — | — | — |
| 4QP36 | Stockton PCG | — | — | 98 | — | — | — |
| 4EE45 | Easington PCG | — | — | 48 | — | — | — |
| 4KQ91 | Sedgefield PCG | — | — | 55 | — | — | — |
| 5D9 | Hartlepool PCT | [3]— | 0 | [3]— | [3]— | 0 | [3]— |
| 5E1 | North Tees PCT | [3]— | 0 | [3]— | [3]— | 0 | [3]— |
| 5KD | Easington PCT | [3]— | 0 | [3]— | [3]— | 0 | [3]— |
| 5KE | Sedgefield PCT | [3]— | 0 | [3]— | [3]— | 0 | [3]— |
| 5KM | Middlesbrough PCT | [3]— | 0 | [3]— | [3]— | 0 | [3]— |
| 5KN | Langbaurgh PCT | [3]— | 0 | [3]— | [3]— | 0 | [3]— |
| RCA | Northallerton Health Services NHS Trust | [3]— | 111 | [3]— | [3]— | 553 | [3]— |
| RCH | North Tees Health NHS Trust | [3]— | 0 | [3]— | [3]— | 0 | [3]— |
| RCJ | South Tees Acute Hospitals NHS Trust | [3]— | 459 | [3]— | [3]— | 1,602 | [3]— |
| RE4 | South Tees Community and Mental Health NHS Trust | [3]— | 0 | [3]— | [3]— | 0 | [3]— |
| RRY | Hartlepool and East Durham NHS Trust | [3]— | 0 | [3]— | [3]— | 0 | [3]— |
| RTR | South Tees Hospitals NHS Trust | [3]— | 0 | [3]— | [3]— | 0 | [3]— |
| RVW | North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Trust | [3]— | 284 | [3]— | [3]— | 1,497 | [3]— |
| RVX | Tees and North East Yorkshire NHS Trust | [3]— | 111 | [3]— | [3]— | 1,113 | [3]— |

England—numbers (headcount)

2000

| | | All doctors | HCHS doctors[1] | Of which: General medical practitioners (excluding retainers)[2] | Nurses | Of which: Nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff | GP practice nurses |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Q10 | County Durham and Tees Valley | 2,162 | 1,501 | 661 | 8,458 | 8,027 | 431 |
| | *Of which:* | | | | | | |
| | Teesside | — | 975 | — | — | 4,850 | — |
| | *Of which:* | | | | | | |
| | Tees HA | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 4FC32 | Hartlepool PCG | — | — | 48 | — | — | — |
| 4XA29 | Langbaurgh PCG | — | — | 60 | — | — | — |
| 4DD23 | Middlesbrough and Eston PCG | — | — | 109 | — | — | — |
| 4QP36 | Stockton PCG | — | — | 97 | — | — | — |
| 4EE45 | Easington PCG | — | — | 50 | — | — | — |
| 4KQ91 | Sedgefield PCG | — | — | 53 | — | — | — |
| 5D9 | Hartlepool PCT | [3]— | 0 | [3]— | [3]— | 0 | [3]— |
| 5E1 | North Tees PCT | [3]— | 0 | [3]— | [3]— | 0 | [3]— |
| 5KD | Easington PCT | [3]— | 0 | [3]— | [3]— | 0 | [3]— |
| 5KE | Sedgefield PCT | [3]— | 0 | [3]— | [3]— | 0 | [3]— |
| 5KM | Middlesbrough PCT | [3]— | 0 | [3]— | [3]— | 0 | [3]— |
| 5KN | Langbaurgh PCT | [3]— | 0 | [3]— | [3]— | 0 | [3]— |
| RCA | Northallerton Health Services NHS Trust | [3]— | 114 | [3]— | [3]— | 579 | [3]— |
| RCH | North Tees Health NHS Trust | [3]— | 0 | [3]— | [3]— | 0 | [3]— |
| RCJ | South Tees Acute Hospitals NHS Trust | [3]— | 453 | [3]— | [3]— | 1,619 | [3]— |
| RE4 | South Tees Community and Mental Health NHS Trust | [3]— | 0 | [3]— | [3]— | 0 | [3]— |
| RRY | Hartlepool and East Durham NHS Trust | [3]— | 0 | [3]— | [3]— | 0 | [3]— |
| RTR | South Tees Hospitals NHS Trust | [3]— | 0 | [3]— | [3]— | 0 | [3]— |
| RVW | North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Trust | [3]— | 280 | [3]— | [3]— | 1,525 | [3]— |
| RVX | Tees and North East Yorkshire NHS Trust | [3]— | 128 | [3]— | [3]— | 1,127 | [3]— |

England—numbers (headcount)

2001

| | | All doctors | HCHS doctors[1] | Of which: General medical practitioners (excluding retainers)[2] | Nurses | Of which: Nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff | GP practice nurses |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Q10 | County Durham and Tees Valley | 2,228 | 1,532 | 696 | 8,600 | 8,129 | 471 |
| | *Of which:* | | | | | | |
| | Teesside | — | 1,026 | — | — | 5,030 | — |
| | *Of which:* | | | | | | |
| | Tees HA | — | — | — | — | — | — |

*England—numbers (headcount)*

| | | 2001 | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | *Of which:* | | *Of which:* | |
| | | *All doctors* | *HCHS doctors*[1] | *General medical practitioners (excluding retainers)*[2] | *Nurses* | *Nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff* | *GP practice nurses* |
| 4FC32 | Hartlepool PCG | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 4XA29 | Langbaurgh PCG | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 4DD23 | Middlesbrough and Eston PCG | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 4QP36 | Stockton PCG | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 4EE45 | Easington PCG | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 4KQ91 | Sedgefield PCG | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 5D9 | Hartlepool PCT | [3]— | 0 | [3]— | [3]— | 82 | [3]— |
| 5E1 | North Tees PCT | [3]— | 0 | [3]— | [3]— | 138 | [3]— |
| 5KD | Easington PCT | [3]— | 0 | [3]— | [3]— | 0 | [3]— |
| 5KE | Sedgefield PCT | [3]— | 0 | [3]— | [3]— | 0 | [3]— |
| 5KM | Middlesbrough PCT | [3]— | 0 | [3]— | [3]— | 0 | [3]— |
| 5KN | Langbaurgh PCT | [3]— | 0 | [3]— | [3]— | 0 | [3]— |
| RCA | Northallerton Health Services NHS Trust | [3]— | 127 | [3]— | [3]— | 604 | [3]— |
| RCH | North Tees Health NHS Trust | [3]— | 0 | [3]— | [3]— | 0 | [3]— |
| RCJ | South Tees Acute Hospitals NHS Trust | [3]— | 479 | [3]— | [3]— | 1,658 | [3]— |
| RE4 | South Tees Community and Mental Health NHS Trust | [3]— | 0 | [3]— | [3]— | 0 | [3]— |
| RRY | Hartlepool and East Durham NHS Trust | [3]— | 0 | [3]— | [3]— | 0 | [3]— |
| RTR | South Tees Hospitals NHS Trust | [3]— | 0 | [3]— | [3]— | 0 | [3]— |
| RVW | North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Trust | [3]— | 282 | [3]— | [3]— | 1,348 | [3]— |
| RVX | Tees and North East Yorkshire NHS Trust | [3]— | 138 | [3]— | [3]— | 1,200 | [3]— |

*England—numbers (headcount)*

| | | 2002 | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | *Of which:* | | *Of which:* | |
| | | *All doctors* | *HCHS doctors*[1] | *General medical practitioners (excluding retainers)*[2] | *Nurses* | *Nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff* | *GP practice nurses* |
| Q10 | County Durham and Tees Valley | 2,252 | 1,551 | 701 | 8,647 | 8,141 | 506 |
| | *Of which:* | | | | | | |
| | Teesside | 1,474 | 1,028 | 446 | 5,492 | 5,154 | 338 |
| | *Of which:* | | | | | | |
| | Tees HA | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 4FC32 | Hartlepool PCG | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 4XA29 | Langbaurgh PCG | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 4DD23 | Middlesbrough and Eston PCG | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 4QP36 | Stockton PCG | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 4EE45 | Easington PCG | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 4KQ91 | Sedgefield PCG | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 5D9 | Hartlepool PCT | 52 | 0 | 52 | 143 | 99 | 44 |
| 5E1 | North Tees PCT | 126 | 25 | 101 | 314 | 226 | 88 |
| 5KD | Easington PCT | 54 | 0 | 54 | 153 | 108 | 45 |
| 5KE | Sedgefield PCT | 59 | 0 | 59 | 149 | 113 | 36 |
| 5KM | Middlesbrough PCT | 133 | 14 | 119 | 318 | 229 | 89 |
| 5KN | Langbaurgh PCT | 62 | 1 | 61 | 220 | 184 | 36 |
| RCA | Northallerton Health Services NHS Trust | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| RCH | North Tees Health NHS Trust | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| RCJ | South Tees Acute Hospitals NHS Trust | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| RE4 | South Tees Community and Mental Health NHS Trust | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| RRY | Hartlepool and East Durham NHS Trust | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| RTR | South Tees Hospitals NHS Trust | 596 | 596 | 0 | 2,127 | 2,127 | 0 |
| RVW | North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Trust | 306 | 306 | 0 | 1,214 | 1,214 | 0 |
| RVX | Tees and North East Yorkshire NHS Trust | 86 | 86 | 0 | 854 | 854 | 0 |

*England—numbers (headcount)*

| | | 2003 | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | *Of which:* | | *Of which:* | |
| | | *All doctors* | *HCHS doctors*[1] | *General medical practitioners (excluding retainers)*[2] | *Nurses* | *Nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff* | *GP practice nurses* |
| Q10 | County Durham and Tees Valley | 2,329 | 1,571 | 758 | 9,084 | 8,536 | 548 |
| | *Of which:* | | | | | | |
| | Teesside | 1,542 | 1,063 | 479 | 5,799 | 5,435 | 364 |
| | *Of which:* | | | | | | |
| | Tees HA | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 4FC32 | Hartlepool PCG | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 4XA29 | Langbaurgh PCG | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 4DD23 | Middlesbrough and Eston PCG | — | — | — | — | — | — |

*England—numbers (headcount)*

| | | 2003 | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | *All doctors* | *HCHS doctors*[1] | *Of which: General medical practitioners (excluding retainers)*[2] | *Nurses* | *Of which: Nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff* | *GP practice nurses* |
| 4QP36 | Stockton PCG | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 4EE45 | Easington PCG | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 4KQ91 | Sedgefield PCG | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 5D9 | Hartlepool PCT | 58 | 0 | 58 | 170 | 126 | 44 |
| 5E1 | North Tees PCT | 141 | 24 | 117 | 307 | 204 | 103 |
| 5KD | Easington PCT | 57 | 1 | 56 | 184 | 136 | 48 |
| 5KE | Sedgefield PCT | 61 | 0 | 61 | 170 | 127 | 43 |
| 5KM | Middlesbrough PCT | 136 | 14 | 122 | 335 | 252 | 83 |
| 5KN | Langbaurgh PCT | 66 | 1 | 65 | 218 | 175 | 43 |
| RCA | Northallerton Health Services NHS Trust | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| RCH | North Tees Health NHS Trust | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| RCJ | South Tees Acute Hospitals NHS Trust | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| RE4 | South Tees Community and Mental Health NHS Trust | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| RRY | Hartlepool and East Durham NHS Trust | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| RTR | South Tees Hospitals NHS Trust | 624 | 624 | 0 | 2,296 | 2,296 | 0 |
| RVW | North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Trust | 318 | 318 | 0 | 1,237 | 1,237 | 0 |
| RVX | Tees and North East Yorkshire NHS Trust | 81 | 81 | 0 | 882 | 882 | 0 |

*England—numbers (headcount)*

| | | 2004 | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | *All doctors* | *HCHS doctors*[1] | *Of which: General medical practitioners (excluding retainers)*[2] | *Nurses* | *Of which: Nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff* | *GP practice nurses* |
| Q10 | County Durham and Tees Valley | 2,523 | 1,731 | 792 | 9,280 | 8,727 | 553 |
| | *Of which:* | | | | | | |
| | Teesside | 1,636 | 1,146 | 490 | 5,950 | 5,573 | 377 |
| | *Of which:* | | | | | | |
| | Tees HA | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 4FC32 | Hartlepool PCG | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 4XA29 | Langbaurgh PCG | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 4DD23 | Middlesbrough and Eston PCG | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 4QP36 | Stockton PCG | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 4EE45 | Easington PCG | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 4KQ91 | Sedgefield PCG | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 5D9 | Hartlepool PCT | 55 | 0 | 55 | 180 | 133 | 47 |
| 5E1 | North Tees PCT | 140 | 23 | 117 | 307 | 208 | 99 |
| 5KD | Easington PCT | 56 | 0 | 56 | 216 | 166 | 50 |
| 5KE | Sedgefield PCT | 70 | 0 | 70 | 177 | 137 | 40 |
| 5KM | Middlesbrough PCT | 132 | 8 | 124 | 348 | 252 | 96 |
| 5KN | Langbaurgh PCT | 68 | 0 | 68 | 236 | 191 | 45 |
| RCA | Northallerton Health Services NHS Trust | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| RCH | North Tees Health NHS Trust | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| RCJ | South Tees Acute Hospitals NHS Trust | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| RE4 | South Tees Community and Mental Health NHS Trust | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| RRY | Hartlepool and East Durham NHS Trust | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| RTR | South Tees Hospitals NHS Trust | 653 | 653 | 0 | 2,334 | 2,334 | 0 |
| RVW | North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Trust | 372 | 372 | 0 | 1,226 | 1,226 | 0 |
| RVX | Tees and North East Yorkshire NHS Trust | 90 | 90 | 0 | 926 | 926 | 0 |

[1] Excludes hospital medical hospital practitioners and hospital medical clinical assistants, most of whom are GPs working part time in hospitals.

[2] General medical practitioners (excluding retainers) includes contracted GPs, QMS others, PMS others and GP registrars. Prior to September 2004, this group included QMS unrestricted principals, PMS contracted GPs, GP registrars, PMS salaried GPs, restricted principals, assistants, salaried doctors (Para 52 SFA), PMS other, flexible career scheme GPs and GP returners.

[3] Not available.

*Note:*

Data as at 30 September each year except GP and practice nurse data as at 1 October 1997–99.

*Sources:*

NHS Health and Social Care Information Centre General and Personal Medical Services Statistics

NHS Health and Social Care Information Centre Medical and Dental Workforce Statistics

NHS Health and Social Care Information Centre Non-Medical Workforce Census

## NHS Trusts (Final Accounts)

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cumulative breakeven position as reported in the final accounts of national health service trusts was in each of the last five years for each NHS organisation in London. [8008]

**Jane Kennedy:** The latest year for which audited data on the financial position of national health service organisations is available is 2003–04. The financial position for all NHS organisations in London for the last five years is shown in the table.

*Cumulative break-even position—NHS trusts in London 1999–2000 to 2003–04*

£000

| *NHS trust name* | *1999–2000* | *2000–01* | *2001–02* | *2002–03* | *2003–04* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Barking, Havering and Redbridge Hosp NHS Trust | 0 | 0 | 6 | 11 | 15 |
| Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust[1] | -1,017 | -8,449 | -13,021 | -15,166 | -19,564 |
| Barnet, Enfield and Haringey MH NHS Trust | 0 | 0 | 4 | -682 | -1,606 |
| Barts and The London NHS Trust | -11,329 | -1,180 | -1,142 | -1,118 | -1,075 |
| Bromley Hospitals NHS Trust | 1,098 | 3,113 | 3,731 | 4,238 | 4,238 |
| Camden and Islington Mental Health Social Care NHS Trust | 0 | 0 | 41 | 70 | 1,953 |
| Central and North West London MH NHS Trust | 5,249 | 5,284 | 5,299 | 5,306 | 5,322 |
| Chelsea and Westminster Healthcare NHS Trust | -1,515 | -1,230 | -829 | 1,611 | -269 |
| Ealing Hospital NHS Trust | -528 | -481 | -383 | -566 | -559 |
| East London and The City MH NHS Trust | 0 | 67 | 118 | 166 | 203 |
| Epsom and St. Helier NHS Trust | -271 | -271 | -225 | -2,418 | -2,324 |
| Great Ormond Street Hospital NHS Trust | 1,162 | 1,195 | 1,205 | 2,327 | 2,328 |
| Guy's and St. Thomas' NHS Trust | 3,738 | 4,296 | 4,487 | 4,611 | 4,705 |
| Hammersmith Hospitals NHS Trust | -919 | -785 | -666 | -584 | -565 |
| Homerton University Hospital NHS Trust | 666 | 699 | 740 | 772 | 774 |
| King's College Hospital NHS Trust | -1,450 | -1,425 | -1,249 | -1,214 | -1,032 |
| Kingston Hospital NHS Trust | -84 | -75 | -62 | -27 | -22 |
| London Ambulance Service NHS Trust | -587 | -486 | -440 | -346 | -257 |
| Mayday Healthcare NHS Trust | -162 | -162 | -158 | -154 | -317 |
| Moorfields Eye Hospital NHS Trust | 752 | 772 | 773 | 773 | 773 |
| Newham Healthcare NHS Trust | -3,269 | 248 | 259 | 259 | 279 |
| North East London Mental Health NHS Trust | 0 | 0 | 7 | 91 | 182 |
| North Middlesex University Hosp NHS Trust | -6,471 | -265 | -265 | -265 | -1,254 |
| North West London Hospitals NHS Trust | 1,243 | 1,264 | 1,281 | 1,297 | -1,802 |
| Oxleas NHS Trust | 810 | 815 | 817 | 854 | 865 |
| Queen Elizabeth Hospital NHS Trust | -6,591 | -8,174 | -7,886 | -673 | 244 |
| Queen Mary's Sidcup NHS Trust | -19 | -14 | 9 | -1,945 | -1,904 |
| Royal Brompton and Harefield NHS Trust | 347 | 495 | 26 | 46 | 52 |
| Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust | -8,205 | -6,339 | -1,123 | -1,970 | -2,931 |
| South London and Maudsley NHS Trust | -439 | -417 | -417 | -416 | -378 |
| St. George's Healthcare NHS Trust | -6,183 | -6,183 | -5,570 | -1,290 | -1,940 |
| St. Mary's NHS Trust | -13,753 | -852 | -850 | -848 | -1,351 |
| SW London and St. George's Mental Health NHS Trust | 103 | 178 | 202 | 275 | 287 |
| Tavistock and Portman NHS Trust | 53 | 54 | 54 | 54 | 54 |
| The Hillingdon Hospital NHS Trust | -400 | -397 | -375 | -355 | -1,318 |
| The Lewisham Hospital NHS Trust | 839 | 842 | 846 | 851 | 859 |
| The Royal Marsden Hospital NHS Trust | 1,174 | 1,951 | 2,000 | 2,068 | 2,104 |
| The Royal Nat Orthopaedic Hosp NHS Trust | 13 | 24 | 24 | 24 | 24 |
| University College London Hosp NHS Trust | -8,068 | -8,065 | -1,303 | -1,256 | 8,138 |
| West London Mental Health NHS Trust | 0 | 0 | 3 | 6 | -1,363 |
| West Middlesex University NHS Trust | -491 | -313 | -310 | -1,089 | -952 |
| Whipps Cross University Hosp NHS Trust | 0 | 0 | 51 | 53 | 56 |
| Whittington Hospital NHS Trust | 882 | 882 | 890 | -98 | -3,498 |

[1] In the case of Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust, auditors agreed an amendment to their 2003–04 final accounts, which meant that the trust was not in breach of its breakeven duty.

*Source:*

Audited summarisation accounts for 2003–04.

## NICE

**Mr. Havard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of *(a)* pharmaceuticals and *(b)* medical devices were included in the appraisal programme of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence in (i) 2003, (ii) 2004 and (iii) 2005. [12988]

**Jane Kennedy:** Since January 2003, the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) has published 38 items of technical appraisal guidance, of which 25 have been for pharmaceuticals and six for devices. A further four have been for procedures, two for diagnosis and one for health promotion. The table shows a yearly breakdown of these figures. More detailed information on specific items of appraisal guidance is available on the NICE website at www.nice.org.uk.

*NICE—Technology appraisal evidence— issued January 2003 to July 2005*

| | Pharmaceutical | Device | Procedure | Diagnostics | Health promotion | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2003 | 11 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 19 |
| 2004 | 11 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 13 |
| 2005 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| Total | 25 | 6 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 38 |

**Mr. Havard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will take steps to increase the rate at which topics are selected for the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence work programmes. [12993]

**Jane Kennedy:** The process of selecting topics for the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence is reviewed from time to time and we are currently considering the scope for further improvements.

## Non-Emergency Operations

**Steve Webb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will list the NHS trusts in England which treat NHS patients for *(a)* knee replacement surgery, *(b)* cataract surgery, *(c)* hernia repair and *(d)* hip replacement surgery. [13694]

**Mr. Byrne:** The information requested has been placed in the Library.

## Northwick Park Hospital

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many consultants are contributing to maternity care in the labour wards at Northwick Park Hospital; and what the consultant to delivery ratio is at *(a)* Northwick Park Hospital and *(b)* other NHS hospitals handling over 4,000 deliveries a year, with particular reference to out-of-hours cover. [14869]

**Jane Kennedy:** Maternity care is provided by consultants who specialise in both obstetrics, which is the branch of medicine dealing with childbirth, and gynaecology, the branch of medicine dealing with women's health. Information on the amount of time a consultant contributes solely to maternity care in the labour wards at Northwick Park Hospital is not recorded centrally.

However, the ratio of deliveries per consultant specialising in obstetrics and gynaecology at Northwick Park Hospital and other national health service hospitals handling over 4,000 deliveries a year is shown in the table.

However, the statistics available are unable to make reference to out of hours cover.

*Hospital, Public Health Medicine and Community Health Services (HCHS): Consultants within the obstetrics and gynaecology specialty by trust with 4,000 or more registered deliveries*[1]

*England at 31 December 2004* — *Number (headcount) and ratio*

| | | Obstetrics and gynaecology consultants | Amount of deliveries registered[1] | Delivery to consultant ratio |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| England | | 1,431 | 575,896 | 402 |
| *Of which:* | | | | |
| Addenbrookes NHS Trust | RGT | 12 | 4,750 | 396 |
| Barking, Havering and Redbridge Hospitals NHS Trust | RF4 | 17 | 4,081 | 240 |
| Birmingham Heartlands and Solihull NHS Trust | RR1 | 13 | 6,637 | 511 |
| Birmingham Women's Healthcare NHS Trust | RLU | 16 | 6,424 | 402 |
| Bolton Hospitals NHS Trust | RMC | 5 | 4,148 | 830 |
| Bradford Hospitals NHS Trust | RAE | 10 | 5,324 | 532 |
| Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust | RXH | 11 | 5,224 | 475 |
| Central Manchester and Manchester Children's University Hospitals NHS Trust | RW3 | 14 | 4,412 | 315 |
| Chelsea and Westminster Healthcare NHS Trust | RQM | 19 | 4,608 | 243 |
| East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust | RWH | 8 | 5,086 | 636 |
| East Kent Hospitals NHS Trust | RVV | 18 | 6,161 | 342 |
| Epsom and St. Helier NHS Trust | RVR | 13 | 4,463 | 343 |
| Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Trust | RTE | 12 | 5,561 | 463 |
| Guys and St. Thomas's NHS Trust | RJ1 | 20 | 5,717 | 286 |
| Hammersmith Hospitals NHS Trust | RQN | 23 | 5,243 | 228 |
| Heatherwood and Wexham Park Hospitals NHS Trust | RD7 | 7 | 4,409 | 630 |
| Hoeverton Hospital NHS Trust | RQX | 8 | 4,500 | 563 |
| Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust | RWA | 13 | 4,916 | 378 |
| King's Healthcare NHS Trust | RJZ | 15 | 4,132 | 275 |
| Kingston Hospital NHS Trust | RAX | 8 | 4,791 | 599 |
| Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust | RR8 | 22 | 8,193 | 372 |
| Liverpool Obstetrics and Gynaecology Services NHS Trust | REP | 25 | 6,456 | 258 |
| Luton and Dunstable Hospital NHS Trust | RC9 | 8 | 4,296 | 537 |
| Mayday Health Care NHS Trust | RJ6 | 7 | 4,253 | 608 |
| Medway NHS Trust | RPA | 8 | 4,207 | 526 |
| Newcastle Upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Trust | RTD | 20 | 4,809 | 240 |
| Newham Healthcare NHS Trust | RNH | 8 | 4,367 | 546 |
| Norfolk and Norwich Health Care NHS Trust | RM1 | 9 | 4,830 | 537 |
| North Bristol NHS Trust | RVJ | 8 | 4,800 | 600 |
| North Staffordshire Hospital Centre NHS Trust | RJE | 11 | 5,001 | 455 |

*Hospital, Public Health Medicine and Community Health Services (HCHS): Consultants within the obstetrics and gynaecology specialty by trust with 4,000 or more registered deliveries*[1]

*England at 31 December 2004*

*Number (headcount) and ratio*

| | | Obstetrics and gynaecology consultants | Amount of deliveries registered[1] | Delivery to consultant ratio |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| North West London Hospitals NHS Trust | RV8 | 16 | 4,743 | 296 |
| Nottingham City Hospital NHS Trust | RCS | 9 | 5,592 | 621 |
| Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals NHS Trust | RTH | 23 | 6,013 | 261 |
| Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust | RW6 | 17 | 9,284 | 546 |
| Plymouth Hospitals NHS Trust | RK9 | 11 | 4,081 | 371 |
| Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust | RHU | 11 | 5,304 | 482 |
| Royal Berkshire and Battle Hospitals NHS Trust | RHW | 9 | 4,861 | 540 |
| Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust | RHQ | 22 | 6,180 | 281 |
| Shrewsbury and Telford Hospitals NHS Trust | RXW | 9 | 4,064 | 452 |
| Southampton University Hospitals NHS Trust | RHM | 13 | 4,702 | 362 |
| Southern Derbyshire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust | RTG | 13 | 4,399 | 338 |
| St Mary's Hospital NHS Trust | RJ5 | 11 | 4,156 | 378 |
| The United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust | RWD | 12 | 4,937 | 411 |
| United Bristol Healthcare NHS Trust | RA7 | 16 | 4,660 | 291 |
| University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust | RKB | 12 | 4,065 | 339 |
| University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust | RWE | 24 | 5,264 | 219 |
| West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust | RWG | 9 | 4,829 | 537 |
| Whipps Cross University Hospital NHS Trust | RGC | 7 | 4,171 | 596 |
| Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust | RWP | 10 | 5,364 | 536 |

[1] Figures for deliveries registered are taken from the Department of Health maternity hospital episode statistics 2003–04 bulletin.

*Source:*
NHS Health and Social Care Information Centre medical and dental workforce census.
Department of Health Maternity hospital episode statistics.

## Nursing

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of state-registered nurse training is allocated to dealing with psychiatric illnesses. [14284]

**Mr. Byrne:** The Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) sets the standards for registration as a qualified nurse. The education standards set by the NMC are at a broad level of principle and are used by the education institutions to inform their curriculum development. The NMC is responsible for validating the programmes that the education institutions provide.

There are four branches of pre-registration nurse training; adult, children, learning disability and mental health nursing. During the mental health nursing branch, students will gain experience in acute psychiatry, the care of those with severe or enduring mental illness, the care of the elderly mentally ill and supporting people to live in the community.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many nursing vacancies there are in the Essex Health Authority area; [14316]

(2) how many nurses are employed in each of the hospitals located in Essex Health Authority. [14317]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The information requested is shown in the table.

*Department of Health Vacancies Survey: Vacancies in Essex Strategic Health Authority (SHA) area for qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff, three month vacancy rates, numbers and staff in post*

| | | March 2004 Three month vacancy rate | | September 2004 Staff in post | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Percentage | Number | Full-time equivalent | Headcount |
| Essex SHA | Q03 | 3.3 | 230 | 7,168 | 8,926 |
| Basildon and Thurrock General Hospitals National Health Service Trust | ROD | 2.1 | 16 | 863 | 1,138 |
| Basildon Primary Care Trust (PCT) | 5GR | 1.1 | 1 | 93 | 122 |
| Billericay, Brentwood and Wickford PCT | 5GP | 0.0 | [2]— | 97 | 118 |
| Castle Point and Rochford PCT | 5JP | 2.5 | 3 | 124 | 152 |
| Chelmsford PCT | 5JN | 6.3 | 6 | 81 | 108 |
| Colchester PCT | 5GM | 3.2 | 8 | 251 | 293 |
| Epping Forest PCT | 5AJ | 3.4 | 3 | 110 | 140 |
| Essex Ambulance Service NHS Trust | RB4 | 0.0 | [2]— | 1 | 1 |
| Essex Rivers Healthcare NHS Trust | RDE | 0.8 | 7 | 894 | 1,092 |
| Essex SHA | Q03 | [1]— | [2]— | 9 | 10 |
| Harlow PCT | 5DC | 8.6 | 8 | 91 | 115 |
| Maldon and South Chelmsford PCT | 5GL | 11.3 | 12 | 99 | 142 |
| Mid Essex Hospital Services NHS Trust | RQ8 | 0.0 | [2]— | 1,083 | 1,454 |
| North Essex Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust | RRD | 4.5 | 30 | 671 | 746 |
| Princess Alexandra Hospital NHS Trust | RQW | 14.3 | 96 | 610 | 739 |
| South Essex Partnership NHS Trust | RWN | 3.8 | 19 | 550 | 641 |
| Southend Hospital NHS Trust | RAJ | 0.5 | 5 | 943 | 1,119 |
| Southend on Sea PCT | 5AK | 1.7 | 2 | 140 | 193 |

*Department of Health Vacancies Survey: Vacancies in Essex Strategic Health Authority (SHA) area for qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff, three month vacancy rates, numbers and staff in post*

| | | March 2004 Three month vacancy rate | | September 2004 Staff in post | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Percentage | Number | Full-time equivalent | Headcount |
| Tendring PCT | 5AH | 4.4 | 7 | 146 | 196 |
| Thurrock PCT | 5GQ | 2.7 | 3 | 124 | 145 |
| Uttlesford PCT | 5GN | 6.0 | 4 | 61 | 83 |
| Witham Braintree and Halstead Care Trust | TAG | 0.0 | [2] — | 127 | 179 |

[1] Figures where sum of staff in post (as at 30 September 2004) and vacancies (as at 31 March 2005) is less than 10.
[2] Zero.

*Three month vacancy notes:*
1. Three month vacancy information is as at 31 March each year.
2. Three month vacancies are vacancies which trusts are actively trying to fill, which had lasted for three months or more (full-time equivalents).
3. Three month vacancy rates are three month vacancies expressed as a percentage of three month vacancies plus staff in post.
4. Percentages are rounded to one decimal place.

*General notes:*
1. Vacancy and staff in post numbers are rounded to the nearest whole number.
2. Calculating the vacancy rates using the above data may not equal the actual vacancy rates.
3. Due to rounding, totals may not equal the sum of component parts.

*Sources:*
Health & Social Care Information Centre vacancies survey, March 2004.
Health & Social Care Information Centre non-medical workforce census, September 2004.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions she has had during each of the last 18 months with the Royal College of Nursing about *(a)* abortion and *(b)* euthanasia issues; if she will place in the Library a note of each such meeting; and if she will make a statement. [14286]

**Caroline Flint:** No such discussions have taken place.

## Obesity

**Dr. Naysmith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what advice and assistance is made available to encourage general practitioners to take advantage through practice based commissioning of *(a)* slimming on referral and *(b)* other evidence based schemes. [11897]

**Mr. Byrne:** No specific advice has been issued to general practitioners on referral issues in the context of practice based commissioning. However, practice based commissioning does provide the opportunity for GPs to take more responsibility for the commissioning of evidence based services for patients.

In addition, the White Paper, "Choosing Health", made a commitment to assess the role the independent sector, including validated programmes such as slimming on referral, can play in providing effective behaviour change programmes.

**Bob Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement on progress with obesity initiatives in the Implementation Programme of the White Paper on Public Health with particular reference to *(a)* the Weight Loss Guide, *(b)* Obesity Care Pathway and the Obesity Tool Kit, *(c)* the Directory of Training Resources, *(d)* National Partnership for Obesity, *(e)* Obesity Programme Board, *(f)* the development of a job description and management structure for health trainers and *(g)* the work of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence in assessing weight loss options. [13543]

**Caroline Flint:** Progress on the programmes listed are as follows:

Publication of the weight loss guide is expected in the autumn.

Both the obesity care pathway and the obesity toolkit are expected to be completed by the end of the year.

The directory for training resources was posted on the Dieticians in Obesity Management UK (DOMUK) website at www.domuk.org on 25 May. There will be a link to the directory from the Department's website.

Arrangements are in hand for the first meeting of the obesity programme board by the autumn. One of its first tasks will be to reach agreements on the setting up of the national partnership for obesity.

From September, early adopter sites will begin to trial a draft set of core competencies and job descriptions for health trainers.

The work of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence in assessing weight loss options is on schedule for early 2007, preceded by two consultations next year.

**Bob Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the total number of points available for assessing practice remuneration under the general practitioners contract is; how many points relate directly to the assessment, treatment or prevention of overweightness or obesity; and for what specific purposes these are awarded; [13544]

(2) if she will increase the number of points available under the general practitioners contract for actions directly related to tackling overweightness and obesity by reference to success in reducing obesity rather than measuring the scale of the problem; and if she will make a statement. [13587]

**Caroline Flint:** There are 1050 points available in the quality and outcomes framework, of which three points are available for the percentage of patients with diabetes

whose notes record body mass index in the previous 15 months. A review of the quality and outcomes framework is currently being undertaken led by NHS Employers. As part of that, the Department has submitted proposals for new indicators on obesity, which are being considered by an expert panel as part of the agreed review process.

**Mr. Ames:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research she has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on whether pregnant women who are obese during the first trimester of pregnancy have an increased likelihood of having a baby with cleft lip or palate; and if she will make a statement. [13636]

**Caroline Flint:** None.

### Older People (Financial Support)

**Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funding will be provided for increasing the proportion of older people being supported to live in their own home by one per cent. annually in 2007 and 2008; and what form that support will take. [12927]

**Mr. Byrne:** One of the Department's public service agreement targets states that, by March 2008, the number of people supported intensively to live independently at home, as a proportion of all those supported intensively at home or in residential care, should increase to 34 percent., increasing the proportion of older people being supported to live in their own home by one per cent, annually in 2007 and 2008.

The Spending Review 2004 settlement, announced by my right hon. Friend, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, will provide sufficient resources to meet this target. Spending on adult social services is set to rise from £10.7 billion in 2004 to £12.5 billion in 2007–08. It is for local authorities to decide how best to deploy their resources to meet their targets.

### Oral Cancer

**Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of oral cancer were first diagnosed by a dentist in each of the past five years. [11877]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Some 2,000 new cases of oral cancer are registered each year as a result of referrals from general dental practitioners and general medical practitioners.

### Osteoporosis Care/Services

**Mr. Boswell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many primary care trusts had established an integrated falls and osteoporosis service by 1 April as set out in Standard Six of the National Service Framework for Older People. [12568]

**Mr. Byrne:** At the end of March 2004, 88 per cent. of primary care trusts indicated that they had met the milestone. The Department is working with strategic health authorities to ensure that those who have not complied do so as soon as possible.

**Jonathan Shaw:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps her Department is taking to improve osteoporosis services in primary care. [14686]

**Mr. Byrne:** The national service framework for older people clearly states that, following a fall, general practitioners should take responsibility for assessing risk of osteoporosis and identifying those who need prevention or treatment and then make a referral to an appropriate specialist service.

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) recently issued an appraisal of drugs used in the secondary prevention of osteoporotic fractures in post-menopausal women. NICE is also appraising drugs used in the primary prevention of osteoporotic fragility fractures in postmenopausal women, due to be published in September 2005. A clinical guideline on the assessment of fracture risk and the prevention of osteoporotic fractures in individuals at high risk is being produced and is due for publication in February 2006. The NICE appraisals and guideline mentioned apply to all national health service organisations, including primary care trusts.

**Jonathan Shaw:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps are being taken to ensure that primary care trusts continue to work towards meeting the milestones relating to osteoporosis outlined in standard six of the national framework for older people. [14688]

**Mr. Byrne:** Since April 2004, the Department has been monitoring progress towards the milestone in the national service framework for older people, requiring all localities to have an integrated falls service in place by April 2005. This includes the risk assessment, prevention and treatment of osteoporosis.

Around 95 per cent. of primary care trusts (PCTs) have told us that they have now met the milestone. The Department continues to have discussions with the strategic health authorities representing those PCTs that have not yet met the target, to ensure that they do so as soon as possible.

### Out-of-hours Care

**Dr. Stoate:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the total cost to Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley Primary Care Trust of providing out-of-hours care to patients was *(a)* in the last financial quarter and *(b)* has been since April 2004. [14775]

**Caroline Flint:** The information requested is not collected centrally. We expect primary care trusts (PCTs) to fund out-of-hours services through their general funding allocations. In 2004–05, Dartford Gravesham and Swanley PCT received £214.2 million and in 2005–06, it received £233.3 million.

### Overseas Doctors

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what response she has made to the British Association of Physicians of Indian Origin on its recommendations on visas for overseas doctors; and if she will make a statement. [12935]

**Mr. Byrne:** The British Association of Physicians of Indian Origin has raised concerns about immigration rules relating to doctors who are seeking employment in the United Kingdom. The Department is discussing these views with the Home Office.

### Overseas Nationals (NHS Treatment)

**Mr. Wallace:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many overseas nationals without private health insurance have received NHS treatment each year since 1995; [14601]

(2) how much her Department has recovered from tourists from overseas who have received NHS treatment in each year since 1995; [14627]

(3) how much each NHS trust has spent on treating overseas nationals not covered by the E111 scheme in each year since 1995. [14638]

**Jane Kennedy:** The Government have never required the national health service to provide statistics on the number or nationality of overseas visitors treated under the provisions of the NHS (Charges to Overseas Visitors) Regulations 1989, as amended, or on the costs of treatment. It is therefore not possible to provide the information requested.

**Mr. Wallace:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research she has commissioned into health tourism in the NHS. [14628]

**Jane Kennedy:** The Department conducted an internal review of the operation of the national health service hospital charging arrangements for overseas visitors prior to consulting on amendments to the NHS (Charges to Overseas Visitors) Regulations 1989 during the autumn of 2003. A further small internal review of implementation of the changes to the regulations subsequently introduced was conducted during the late spring and summer of 2004. No specific external research was commissioned as part of either of these exercises.

**Mr. Wallace:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health in what circumstances the NHS refuses to treat tourists from overseas who are uninsured. [14645]

**Jane Kennedy:** No one in need of immediately necessary care will ever be refused treatment. However, under the provisions of the National Health Service (Charges to Overseas Visitors) Regulations 1989, as amended, overseas visitors may be required to pay for any national health service hospital treatment provided, if they are not covered by any of the exemptions from charges also set out in the regulations.

NHS trusts are required to establish whether a patient is a chargeable overseas visitor and if so to make and recover a charge for any NHS hospital treatment provided. Where treatment is not urgent, trusts are encouraged to obtain a deposit equal to the estimated cost of treatment before treatment begins. Immediately necessary treatment must be provided without delay, with charging issues resolved later.

### Palliative Care

**Mr. Ancram:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance she *(a)* has issued and *(b)* plans to issue to primary care trusts on providing palliative care services; and if she will make a statement. [14650]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The Government recognises the importance of providing effective and efficient palliative and specialist palliative care services. That is why we commissioned the National Institute of Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) to produce guidance on supportive and palliative care. This was published on 24 March 2004. The 34 cancer networks in England are now developing action plans to ensure that this is implemented, which will be monitored by strategic health authorities. In addition, further guidance on the development of specialist palliative care services was provided when the £50 million central budget for specialist palliative care was established in 2003–04.

For children's hospices, we are currently developing a guide on commissioning children's and young people's palliative care services, which will be published shortly.

### Parliamentary Questions

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she will answer question reference 6661 tabled by the hon. Member for Sutton and Cheam. [14596]

**Mr. Byrne:** I refer to the hon. Member to the reply I gave on Wednesday 13 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 1143W.

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she will reply to question reference 6656 tabled by the hon. Member for Sutton and Cheam. [14635]

**Jane Kennedy:** I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave on Wednesday 20 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 1886W.

### Patient and Public Involvement in Health

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the functions will be of the proposed centre for excellence in patient and public involvement in health. [11884]

**Ms Rosie Winterton** *[holding answer 12 July 2005]:* It is intended that the resource centre for patient and public involvement (PPI) will be a repository of PPI related knowledge. The centre will seek out existing and ongoing PPI best practice and innovation and communicate it widely through exemplars, advice, guidance and information; identify gaps in learning and skills and support initiatives to address them and offer signposting, linkages and networks to promote good PPI practice.

### Patient Care (Private Companies)

**Steve Webb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 30 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 1765W, on patient care (private companies), if she will place a copy of the quality requirements in the Library. [13675]

**Mr. Byrne:** The quality requirements for delivery of out-of-hours care are available on the Department's website at http://www.dh.gov.uk/assetRoot/04/09/12/15/04091215.pdf.

### PCT Funding

**Mr. Michael Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) pursuant to the answer to question reference 4622, how much extra funding is allocated to each primary care trust for *(a)* age related needs, *(b)* additional needs and *(c)* unavoidable difference in the cost of providing services; [11147]

(2) pursuant to the answer to question reference 4622, what data sources are used to determine the extra weighting given for unavoidable difference in the cost of providing services. [11148]

**Mr. Byrne:** The weighted capitation formula does not separately allocate extra funding to each primary care trust (PCT) for the age-related needs, additional needs and unavoidable costs adjustments.

An explanation of the data sources used to determine the extra weighting given for unavoidable difference in the cost of providing services is given in the technical document titled, "Resource Allocation: Weighted Capitation Formula—Fifth Edition", which is available on the Department's website at: http://www.dh.gov.uk/PublicationsAndStatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidanceArticle/fs/en?CONTENT_ID=4112065&chk=MqnOJW.

A list of the PCT indices for the age-related needs, additional needs and unavoidable costs adjustments is contained in the 2006–07 and 2007–08 PCT initial revenue resource limits exposition book, which is available on the Department's website at: http://www.dh.gov.uk/PolicyAndGuidance/OrganisationPolicy/FinanceAndPlanning/Allocations/AllocationsArticle/fs/en?CONTENT_ID=4104471&chk=kDkAyL.

### Pharmacy Closures

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what criteria are used to assess the case for closure of a pharmacy on the grounds that the pharmacist is deemed no longer fit to practise; [11574]

(2) what grounds for appeal are available to a pharmacist suspended under the new legislation regarding fitness to practise. [11575]

**Jane Kennedy:** A pharmacy contractor can be removed from a national health service pharmaceutical list under section 49F of the National Health Service Act 1977 ("the 1977 Act") if he/she is unfit to practise on grounds of efficiency, fraud or suitability. Removal from the list prevents a contractor providing NHS pharmaceutical services. This does not automatically result in closure of the pharmacy, since the contractor is able to continue to trade privately. However, many pharmacies rely on their NHS business to be commercially viable.

The criteria used to assess such cases are set out in the National Health Service (Pharmaceutical Services) Regulations 2005 (SI 2005/641 as amended) ("the Pharmaceutical Services Regulations"), at regulation 46. Decisions on removal from the list are the responsibility of the relevant primary care trust (PCT). Such decisions can be appealed under section 49M of the 1977 Act to the Family Health Services Appeal Authority (FHSAA), an independent tribunal established under Section 49S and Schedule 9A of the NHS Act 1977 as amended. Guidance for PCTs on these procedures is available on the Department's website.

Where a PCT suspends a pharmacy contractor under section 49I of the 1977 Act, he/she is entitled to have the matter reviewed in accordance with section 49L of that Act.

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain may also remove a pharmacist from the professional register on grounds of misconduct or poor performance, for example, where the pharmacist has been convicted of criminal offences or for breaches of the Pharmacy Act, the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 or the Medicines Act 1968. If removed, a pharmacist must cease to practise.

### Physiotherapists

**Stephen Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many physiotherapists were employed by the NHS in 2004–05 in a *(a)* junior capacity and *(b)* senior capacity; [14473]

(2) what steps she plans to take to increase the number of junior physiotherapy posts in hospitals in England; and if she will make a statement. [14474]

**Mr. Byrne:** Information collected by the Department does not break down physiotherapists by grade. The latest available figures show that, as at September 2004, there were 19,139 physiotherapists employed in the national health service.

The Department is working closely with the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy, the NHS workforce review team and NHS organisations to help junior physiotherapists to find first posts of employment. As a result of this collaborative work, there is an action plan in place to ensure local managers have access to a range of strategies across recruitment, commissioning and skill mix. It is the responsibility of local NHS employers and strategic health authorities to ensure there are sufficient numbers of physiotherapists to meet service needs.

### Policy Costings

**Dr. Cable:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what costings of *(a)* Liberal Democrat and *(b)* Conservative party policies her Department has (i) undertaken, (ii) co-ordinated in the previous 12 months and (iii) advised upon in the previous 12 months. [7003]

**Jane Kennedy:** I refer the hon. Member to Her Majesty's Treasury's website at www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/about/information/foi_disclosures/foi_disclosures index.cfm.

### Post-operative Care

**Peter Luff:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she has made of the average cost of providing rehabilitation and care for a post-operative patient in *(a)* an acute hospital and *(b)* a community hospital. [11283]

**Mr. Byrne:** Currently, no data is available that separately identifies the average cost of providing post-operative care. These costs are included in a composite cost for a procedure or treatment. The case-mix of patients treated in acute and community hospitals is likely to differ.

### Prescribed Medicines (Costs)

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she has made of *(a)* the proportion of prescribed medicines that were not taken by patients and *(b)* the resultant cost to the NHS in the most recent year for which figures are available. [14972]

**Jane Kennedy:** The Department does not hold the information requested.

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much money was spent on prescriptions by each primary care trust in each of the last five years. [14742]

**Jane Kennedy:** The information requested has been placed in the Library.

### Primary Care Trusts

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans she has to re-organise primary care trust funding in Milton Keynes. [12912]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The latest round of revenue allocations to primary care trusts (PCTs) for 2006–07 and 2007–08 was announced on 2 February 2005. Milton Keynes PCT will receive £247.0 million in 2006–07 and £277.9 million in 2007–08. These allocations represent a cash increase of £55.6 million, or 25 per cent, over the two years.

It is for PCTs, in partnership with strategic health authorities and other local stakeholders, to determine how best to use their funds to meet national and local priorities for improving health, tackling health inequalities and modernising services.

**Jim Dowd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the ability of primary care trusts to find a reasonable balance between funding expenditure on primary care and acute services in their respective areas. [10450]

**Mr. Byrne:** No such assessments have been made. It is for primary care trusts to assess and make decisions about investment locally within the context of the Government's national priorities for the national health service.

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the budgetary positions of primary care trusts in 2005. [12230]

**Mr. Byrne:** We agree financial plans with primary care trusts (PCTs) each year, after assessing the reasonableness of their assumptions for future income and expenditure.

PCTs are expected to plan to live within their revenue resource, capital resource and cash limits each and every year. The financial plans for 2005–06 are being finalised.

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what advice her Department provides to primary care trusts facing large financial deficits with regard to their compliance with waiting list targets; [12231]

(2) whether the statutory duty placed upon primary care trusts to maintain balanced budgets overrides the requirement placed upon them to achieve waiting list targets. [12233]

**Mr. Byrne:** National health service organisations are expected to plan for and achieve financial balance each and every year. It is the responsibility of the strategic health authorities (SHAs) to deliver both overall financial balance for their local health communities and to ensure each and every body achieves financial balance. However, there is a degree of flexibility in how this is managed at a local level. In circumstances where a surplus or underspend cannot be generated in the following year, the SHAs can agree to a recovery plan which phases the recovery of deficits over a number of years.

Waiting times matter to patients and it is possible to meet the waiting time targets and achieve financial balance. Successful organisations are doing this and have been for some time.

### Prostate Cancer

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what action she is taking to promote awareness of the symptoms of prostate cancer; and if she will make a statement. [14801]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Thanks to the work of the prostate cancer advisory group (PCAG) we now have, for the first time, a definitive set of key messages for the general public about the prostate, including prostate cancer. This will give men the information they need to be aware of the prostate, but in such a way as to not cause unnecessary anxiety.

A pilot communications programme using the key messages has been developed by the public awareness working group of PCAG and is expected to start in February 2006.

For health professionals, in April 2000, we published referral guidelines for suspected cancer, to help general practitioners identify those patients who are most likely to have cancer and who therefore require urgent assessment by a specialist. The guidelines included a section on prostate cancer. The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) reviewed this guidance and published an update version in June 2005.

The prostate cancer risk management programme has produced a booklet, "The PSA test and prostate cancer: Information for primary care". This booklet provides GPs with an easy reference source on prostate cancer, from risk factors to treatment. The booklet was produced after consultation with GPs, primary care cancer leads and an expert advisory group.

In September 2002, NICE published guidance on urological cancers, including prostate cancer. This guidance covers all aspects of cancer care for urological cancer patients and is aimed at helping all of those involved in planning, commissioning, organising and providing cancer services to ensure high quality services.

We have also provided funding for the following organisations to increase public awareness of prostate cancer:

In 2004, we provided £30,000 to the Men's Health Forum to help fund its publication, the "Men and Cancer" manual.

We have provided £135,000 to the Prostate Cancer Charity to increase available information about prostate cancer.

We are providing £105,000 to the Prostate Cancer Charity to improve awareness of the risks and symptoms of prostate cancer in African and Afro-Caribbean men in Britain.

We are working with the voluntary sector to develop a national prostate cancer website and have provided £100,000 of funding. It is expected that the website will be launched in autumn 2005.

### Psychiatrists

**Chris Bryant:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people are training to be psychiatrists. [13425]

**Mr. Byrne:** As at 31 March 2004, there were 1,144 doctors holding training numbers in the psychiatric specialties. In addition, as at 30 September 2004 there were 2,426 senior house officers and 10 house officers working within the psychiatry group. However, many of these doctors were not planning to take up psychiatry as a career but, rather, were intending to apply the basic-level experience gained in psychiatry to other spheres of medicine, for example, primary care.

**Chris Bryant:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many consultant psychiatrists there are per head of the population; and how many there were in 1997. [13427]

**Mr. Byrne:** The information requested is shown in the table.

*Hospital, public health medicine and community health services: staff numbers and numbers per 100,000 population—England*

| | *30 September 1997* | | *31 December 2004* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Numbers* | *Per 1,000 population* | *Numbers* | *Per 1,000 population* |
| Psychiatry group | 2,447 | 5.0 | 3,638 | 7.3 |
| *of which:* | | | | |
| Child and adolescent psychiatry | 445 | 0.9 | 575 | 1.1 |
| Forensic psychiatry | 123 | 0.3 | 233 | 0.5 |
| General psychiatry | 1,365 | 2.8 | 1,994 | 4.0 |
| Learning disabilities | 161 | 0.3 | 208 | 0.4 |
| Old age psychiatry | 244 | 0.5 | 516 | 1.0 |
| Psychotherapy | 109 | 0.2 | 112 | 0.2 |

*Source:*
National Health Service Health and Social Care Information Centre medical and dental workforce census.

### Rehabilitation Services

**Steve Webb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps she is taking to meet the challenges set out in the 58th World Health Assembly resolution on disability, including prevention, management and rehabilitation in relation to rehabilitation services for disabled people in England. [14204]

**Mr. Byrne:** The resolution is in line with Government policy to ensure equal opportunities and improve life chances for disabled people.

The Department is taking forward a number of initiatives to address the challenges of rehabilitation. Ongoing work on patient management and rehabilitation includes the recently published national service framework for long-term conditions. In addition, the Department is involved in work on prevention through the development of practical policies in the Public Health White Paper, "Choosing Health". In particular, the Department is currently undertaking a project to assess provision of rehabilitation services within the national health service and social care, what gaps exist and how services might be improved.

We are also working with the Department for Work and Pensions to take forward recommendations from the strategy unit report, "Improving the Life Chances of Disabled People", including setting up an office for disability issues.

### Repeat Prescriptions

**Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether a limit is placed on the number of pills that can be dispensed with a repeat prescription. [12949]

**Jane Kennedy:** There is no such limit. Prescriptions are based on clinical need and the professional judgment of the prescriber.

### Research and Development

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement on the Department's research and development goals and priorities. [11591]

**Jane Kennedy** *[holding answer 13 July 2005]:* The scope of the Department's research and development programme and its current priorities, are described in chapter 8 of the Government's science and innovation investment framework, published in July 2004. The framework document is available in the Library and can be found on the Treasury internet site at www.hm-treasury.gov.uk.

The Department will consult publicly on proposals for a new national health research strategy later in the summer.

### Right to Life

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to her reply of 14 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 1200W, on right to life, whether the Government's commitment to the NHS offering equal access for all includes the right to life; and if she will make a statement. [14798]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The Human Rights Act came into force on 2 October 2000 and incorporates into United Kingdom law certain rights and freedoms set out in the European Convention on Human Rights. This includes the right to life.

### Scanning (Middlesbrough)

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many members of staff are employed to provide diagnostic scanning services by Alliance Medical on the site in Middlesbrough. [13493]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answer 19 July 2005]:* The information requested is not centrally available. Staffing of the mobile scanning units is a matter for Alliance Medical Ltd.

### Seaside Incidents

**Steve Webb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many admissions there were to NHS trusts due to incidents at the seaside in each year since 1997, broken down by NHS trust. [13725]

**Mr. Byrne:** The information requested is not centrally available.

### Selective Serotonin Inhibitors

**Chris Bryant:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much *(a)* fluoxetine, *(b)* sertraline, *(c)* Escitalopram oxalate, *(d)* Citaopram, Fluvoxamine, *(e)* Maleate and *(f)* Paroxetine costs per patient; and what the budget for selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors is in 2005–06. [13429]

**Jane Kennedy:** The information is not available in the form requested. The Department does not hold data on the number of people who receive medication and cannot attribute a cost per patient for a particular drug. The Department does not set budgets for primary care trust (PCT) expenditure on selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors and PCT expenditure for 2005–06 is unknown.

**Mr. Walker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research she has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated into the side effects of selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors; and if she will make a statement. [7482]

**Jane Kennedy:** I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave him on Monday 4 July 2005, *Official Report*, columns. 227–28W.

### Severe Neck Trauma

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many beds in Milton Keynes general hospital are available for patients with severe neck trauma; and whether beds are reserved for local patients. [12920]

**Ms. Rosie Winterton:** Data is only available on the total number of beds at Milton Keynes General National Health Service Trust, not by this speciality. Beds are not reserved for local patients; all patients are accommodated if the hospital trust has capacity due to clinical need. Patients who require specific neurological deficit specialist care and patients with fractured spines who require surgery would be transferred to Stoke Mandeville hospital, which is part of the Buckinghamshire Hospitals NHS Trust. Stable fractures would remain with Milton Keynes General NHS Trust.

### Sickness Absences

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many days the Department has lost due to sickness in the past five years for which figures are available. [11465]

**Jane Kennedy:** The data on sickness within the Department is contained in the annual report, "Analysis of Sickness Absence in the Civil Service", published by the Cabinet Office. Table A of the report gives details of both the average working days absence per staff year and the number of staff years on which that calculation is based. The most recent, for calendar year 2003, was announced by my right hon. Friend, the then Minister for the Cabinet Office (Ruth Kelly) in a written ministerial statement on 1 November 2004, *Official Report*, column 1WS. Copies were placed in the Libraries. Reports for 1999, 2000, 2001 and 2002 are available on the Cabinet Office website at:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/management_information/conditions_of_service/caje/publications/index.asp#sickness

We remain committed to managing sick absence effectively and to putting in place the recommendations of the recently published "Managing Sick Absence in the Public Sector".

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 9 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 633W, on nurses, what information she holds on the causes of the pain that accounted for 40 per cent. of sickness absence in the national health service. [6027]

**Mr. Byrne:** The Department does not hold information on the causes of the pain that accounted for 40 per cent. of sickness absence in the national health service. The figure is derived from information collected by and reported to the Health and Safety Executive.

The "Back in Work" campaign is, however, informed by a number of partner organisations, including the Health and Safety Executive and staff representative bodies, which recognise that manual handling is a cause of sickness absence in the NHS. As part of the campaign, guidance is provided on risk assessments, mechanical aids and safer lifting and handling techniques through continuous staff training and monitoring.

### Smallpox Vaccines

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the size is of the stockpile of vaccines for smallpox held by the UK Government; what her estimate is of the optimum number of vaccines required to respond to alert level four of the smallpox vaccination plan; what the shelf life is of the vaccines she has stockpiled; what procedures she has in place to replenish the stockpile of vaccines after their expiry; and if she will make a statement. [12604]

**Caroline Flint:** The United Kingdom Government have sufficient smallpox vaccine to mount a mass vaccination campaign of the whole population. The optimum number of vaccines needs to be sufficient to vaccinate all those in the population for whom vaccination is not contra-indicated and we have sufficient vaccine for this.

There are three different vaccines with shelf-life dependent upon the date of manufacture. Upon expiry of shelf-life, these vaccines are subject to a programme of testing and have been found to meet standards of potency and stability and remain suitable for use beyond their stated shelf-life. There are no plans to replace existing vaccine stocks subject to them meeting current standards of use.

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps she is taking to ensure that local bodies' smallpox plans adhere to the national framework laid out in the operational planning framework for smallpox mass vaccination published on 24 June. [12605]

**Caroline Flint:** Progress on local health contingency planning for a range of potential threats is monitored through the performance management arrangements for national health service organisations.

In addition, each health authority has been questioned separately about its preparedness to deal with smallpox as part of the Government's audit of contingency planning arrangements and a further audit is proposed later this year.

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many trained vaccinators able to administer the smallpox vaccination there are in the UK; and what the minimum number of trained vaccinators required to respond to alert level four of the smallpox vaccination plan is. [12606]

**Caroline Flint:** The Department's contingency planning for smallpox includes the setting up of regional smallpox response teams who have been vaccinated against smallpox.

Corresponding arrangements are being made for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. This cohort of health care workers would be the first responders in investigating any suspected or confirmed cases of smallpox and therefore need to be protected against the threat of disease.

To date, we have vaccinated 276 health care workers.

For mass vaccination, our plans include arrangements for rapid training of suitable and sufficient personnel by those already trained and vaccinated to undertake mass vaccination in each area within five days of the decision to implement mass vaccination.

## Social Care

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 7 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 587W, on social care, what the *(a)* remit and *(b)* timescale is for establishment of the joint delivery team working on individual budgets. [13192]

**Mr. Byrne:** Work on individual budgets is being led by the Department of Health and the Department of Work and Pensions, supported by other Government departments, such as the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and the Department for Education and Skills.

At a strategic level this work is being led by a cross-government ministerial team, led by my hon. Friend, the Minister for Disability in the Department for Work and Pensions (Mrs. McGuire) and me. This team is responsible for steering the work and ensuring that key stakeholders, including the people who may use services, are integral to the design of the individual budget pilots. This team has already met on several occasions.

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the number of people with care needs who would wish to take-up *(a)* a direct payment and *(b)* individual budgets. [13537]

**Mr. Byrne:** Individual budgets are one of the central proposals set out in Independence, Well-being and Choice, the Department's Adult Social Care Green Paper, published in March 2005. The Department has conducted an extensive consultation exercise on the ideas in the Green Paper and this will continue until 28 July 2005. Piloting individual budgets was also recommended in the Government's recent report, "Improving the Life Chances of Disabled People".

Anecdotally preliminary findings suggest very strong support for the individual budget approach.

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the applicability of the Human Rights Act to care settings provided by non-statutory agencies. [13538]

**Mr. Byrne:** The Human Rights Act applies to public authorities. It provides that public authorities are required not to act incompatibly with the European Convention on Human Rights.

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made in developing appropriate data sets for the assessment of care needs and the measurement of care outcomes. [13539]

**Mr. Byrne:** The Health and Social Care Information Centre is currently developing national standard datasets to support the monitoring of cancer, diabetes, child health, mental health, maternity, renal, older people's and coronary heart disease services. Each of the dataset products will support the information requirements of their respective national service frameworks, and are subject to the national approval mechanisms of the national health service.

The following datasets have been approved by the Information Standards Board:

National cancer dataset—a core dataset which contains generic patient and treatment information. Site-specific appendices for lung, colorectal, breast, head and neck, urological, gynaecological, upper gastro-intestinal tract, brain, sarcoma and skin cancers have been approved, in addition to the cancer registration dataset.

Diabetes continuing care dataset—which brings together into one dataset the combined monitoring data requirements of the national diabetes audit, the diabetes chapter of the new general medical services quality and outcomes framework, the "DiabetesE" performance management tool and the diabetes indicators for the better metrics performance indicator project.

Mental health minimum dataset—to support clinicians and managers through the provision of information about individual cases, including packages of care and outcome assessment.

Coronary heart disease dataset—A core dataset for acute myocardial infarction for monitoring standards of care.

Datasets under development or awaiting Information Standards Board approval are:

Datasets to support older people's services—single assessment process, falls, continence, stroke, dementia and depression.

Datasets to support other site-specific cancer services—haematological, surgical voice restoration, thyroid, primary care, children's cancer services and palliative care.

Diabetes retinopathy screening, diabetes footcare and paediatric datasets.

Maternity services dataset.

Child health services dataset.

Renal services dataset.

### South Tees Hospital Trust

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the financial position of the South Tees hospital trust. [14041]

**Mr. Byrne:** The South Tees hospitals national health service trust savings plan for 2005–06 was made public at a board meeting on 7 June 2005. It is targeted to achieve a reduction in expenditure of £19.8 million.

### Stroke/Coronary Heart Disease

**Dr. Gibson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many people at high risk of stroke following a transient ischaemic attack or minor stroke had a major stroke while awaiting initial assessment, investigation and treatment for their condition in 2004–05; [14926]

(2) what the average waiting time was for a patient, from initial presentation with a transient ischaemic attack or minor stroke, to consultation with a stroke specialist and subsequent investigation in the period for which figures are available; [14927]

(3) how many NHS trusts offer a daily urgent assessment clinic for patients at high risk of stroke. [14928]

**Mr. Byrne:** The Department does not collect this data centrally.

**Dr. Gibson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she has made of the total economic costs to the UK of long-term disability as a result of stroke in 2004–05. [14932]

**Mr. Byrne:** No such estimate has been made.

**Dr. Gibson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what plans her Department has to set targets for the effective management of *(a)* stroke and *(b)* coronary heart disease; [14924]

(2) what action her Department will be taking in light of the evidence showing that stroke is overtaking coronary heart disease as the UK's most common acute vascular event. [14925]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The Department recognised the importance of developing better stroke services by including specific milestones, targets and actions in the national service framework (NSF) for older people, launched in March 2001.

The NSF for coronary heart disease (CHD), published in March 2000, sets the agenda for the modernisation of CHD services over a 10 year period. The NSF sets 12 standards for improved prevention, diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation and goals to secure fair access to high quality services.

Following the Government's decision to devolve most central funding to local primary care trusts (PCTs) and strategic health authorities, the balance of power has further shifted by moving away from a central target-based focus, to allow PCTs to devise local strategies to meet the specific needs and demands in their own area. The Healthcare Commission produces an annual star ratings report of performance for national health service trusts in England to assess progress against existing targets and to promote improvement in the quality of health care. Its recently published 2004–05 report included an indicator on stroke.

With the considerable improvements that have been made in cardiac care, coupled with an ageing population, stroke is expected to form a greater contribution to the vascular disease burden in the future. In recognition of this, the Department has convened an expert advisory vascular programme board to oversee work on stroke and co-ordinate work across the common elements of vascular diseases—CHD, stroke, diabetes and renal.

### Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research her Department is sponsoring into transmissible spongiform encephalopathies. [13972]

**Jane Kennedy:** The Department funds research into transmissible spongiform encephalopies as part of a wider Government programme of publicly-funded research. Project details can be found on the Medical Research Council's website at http://www.mrc.ac.uk/index/current-research/current-tse_portfolio_search.htm

### Two Shires Ambulance NHS Trust

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the Two Shires ambulance NHS trust met its performance target for responding to category A calls in *(a)* 2001–02, *(b)* 2002–03 and *(c)* 2003–04. [14135]

**Caroline Flint:** The Two Shires ambulance national health service trust did not meet its performance target for category A (that is, immediate life-threatening calls with ambulance services required to respond to 75 per cent. of such cases within eight minutes) response time in 2001–02, but exceeded it for each consecutive year to date, as shown in the table.

*Category A calls responded within eight minutes for Two Shires ambulance NHS trust*

| | *Percentage* |
|---|---|
| 2001–02 | 73.9 |
| 2002–03 | 76.0 |
| 2003–04 | 76.6 |

### United Brain Tumour Campaign

**Peter Law:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will take steps to provide support for the United Brain Tumour Campaign. [14109]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) is developing an "Improving Outcomes" guidance for brain tumours. This guidance will recommend the optimal forms of treatment and care for patients with brain tumours in the national health service and is expected to be published in June 2006.

The scope of the guidance covers the issues raised by the United Brain Tumour Campaign, such as the need for a multi-disciplinary approach to treatment, the need for consistent, jargon-free information and the need for support for patients with brain tumours, their families and their carers.

### Unsuccessful Operations

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what arrangements are in place to compensate those who have incurred pain and suffering through unsuccessful operations; and if she will make a statement. [14651]

**Jane Kennedy:** Compensation for pain and suffering following unsuccessful operations is available where clinical negligence is proved to have occurred. However, the fact that an operation has been unsuccessful does not imply that the healthcare professionals concerned have failed in their duty of care towards the patient. Patients are advised pre-operatively of the possible consequences of operations and sign a consent form to say that they have been alerted to potential risks during and following surgery.

Claims for clinical negligence incurred by national health service bodies are managed by the NHS Litigation Authority, which is a special health authority set up by the Secretary of State for Health. The authority administers the current clinical negligence scheme for trusts, set up under Section 21 of the National Health Service and Community Care Act 1990. For a claim to be successful, the claimant must show that he/she is owed a duty of care, that the duty was breached and that the breach caused or contributed materially to the injury for which he/she is claiming compensation.

### Velcade

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she expects the drug Velcade to be available for prescription in England. [12669]

**Jane Kennedy:** Velcade is available on national health service prescription.

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make Velcade available on prescription for the treatment of myeloma. [13139]

**Jane Kennedy:** Velcade is available on national health service prescription for the treatment of multiple myeloma.

**Mr. McGovern:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she expects the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence to complete its assessment of Velcade. [13450]

**Jane Kennedy:** An early referral of Velcade to the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) was made on 20 July. NICE will carry out an appraisal at the earliest opportunity.

### Violence against Staff

**Steve Webb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 27 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 1385W, on violence against staff, what targets were set on reducing incidents of violence towards NHS staff prior to the Security Management Service research; and what progress has been made on meeting those targets. [13676]

**Jane Kennedy:** "Working Together: Securing a Quality Workforce for the NHS", published in 1999, required national health service trusts to set targets for reducing incidents of violence and aggression by 20 per cent. by 2001 and 30 per cent. by 2003. The targets were subsequently incorporated into the "Improving Working Lives" standard, launched in October 2000, which all acute, mental health and ambulance trusts were required to put into practice by April 2003. By March 2002, 20 per cent. of trusts had achieved the 20 per cent. reduction target.

In April 2003, the NHS Security Management Service (SMS) was created and assumed policy and operational responsibility for the management of security in the NHS, including the problem of violence. In November 2003, the SMS introduced a comprehensive range of proactive and reactive measures to tackle violence against NHS staff. The SMS has begun a programme of work to identify the nature, scale and extent of violence against NHS staff. Following the introduction of this new programme, NHS trusts have not been required to report on the 30 per cent. target set under previous programmes.

**Steve Webb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many adverse incidents were recorded in the NHS in England by the National Reporting and Learning System in the latest year for which information is available; and if she will make a statement. [13691]

**Jane Kennedy:** The National Patient Safety Agency (NPSA) published its first analysis of reported patient safety incidents on 21 July 2005. Copies are available in the Library. "Building a memory: preventing harm, reducing risks and improving patient safety—The first report of the National Reporting and Learning System and the Patient Safety Observatory", shows that, up to 31 March 2005, 85,342 patient safety incidents were reported, affecting 86,142 patients. The majority of incidents, 68 per cent., resulted in no harm to patients.

It is important that this information is set in the context of the overall delivery of health care. The vast majority of national health service care is safe and

effective, with over a million patients successfully treated every day. However, we are working to create a culture where staff feel that they can report patient safety incidents, so that we can learn from these and respond accordingly.

This issue is not unique to the NHS and these levels of mistakes are equally likely to occur in healthcare systems across the world. A key part of our European Union Presidency will be the driving forward of action to improve patient safety and care.

## Waiting Times

**Steve Webb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what targets her Department has set for *(a)* waiting times for patients requiring an initial out-patient appointment with an eye specialist and *(b)* waiting times for second and subsequent out-patient appointments. [13698]

**Mr. Byrne:** The maximum target waiting time for a first out-patient appointment with a consultant following general practitioner referral for any specialty is currently 17 weeks. By the end of 2005, this maximum will fall to 13 weeks.

By 2008, no patient will have to wait more than 18 weeks from GP referral to start of treatment. This will cover all the stages that lead up to treatment, including any second and subsequent out-patient appointments.

**Mr. Graham Stuart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were awaiting hospital admittance in the East Riding of Yorkshire at the last available count. [13791]

**Mr. Byrne:** The information requested is shown in the following table.

*In-patient waiting times in the East Riding of Yorkshire —May 2005*

| *Strategic health authority code* | *Code* | *Organisation* | *Total waiting* | *Number waiting over six months* | *Number waiting over nine months* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | England | 814,361 | 49,604 | 17 |
| Q11 | 5E3 | East Yorkshire primary care trust (PCT) | 2591 | 199 | 0 |
| Q11 | 5E4 | Yorkshire Wolds and Coast PCT | 2686 | 187 | 0 |
| Q11 | 5E5 | Eastern Hull PCT | 1995 | 237 | 0 |
| Q11 | 5E6 | West Hull PCT | 2572 | 297 | 1 |

*Source:*
Monthly monitoring (commissioner based).

**Mr. Graham Stuart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many delayed discharges there were in acute hospitals serving the East Riding of Yorkshire in the last 12 months; and how many acute hospital bed nights these represented. [13792]

**Mr. Byrne:** The information is not available in the format requested. The latest information shows that, on a snapshot day in the week ending 3 April 2005, there were four delayed discharges in the East Yorkshire local authority area.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients in the Essex health authority area referred urgently with suspected breast cancer have waited more than two weeks for an out-patient appointment in each reporting period since January 2002. [14134]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The information requested is shown in the table.

*Number of patients with an urgent referral for suspected breast cancer waiting more than two weeks from referral to out-patients appointment—national health service hospitals in the Essex strategic health authority area*

| *Reporting period* | | *RDE Essex Rivers Healthcare NHS Trust* | *RQ8 Mid Essex Hospitals NHS Trust* | *RAJ Southend Hospital NHS Trust* | *RQ6 The Princess Alexandra Hospital NHS Trust* | *RDD Basildon and Thurrock University Hospitals NHS Trust* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2001–02 | Q4 | 2 | 1 | 27 | 0 | 0 | 30 |
| 2002–03 | Q1 | 5 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 7 |
| 2002–03 | Q2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 2002–03 | Q3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2002–03 | Q4 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| 2003–04 | Q1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| 2003–04 | Q2 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| 2003–04 | Q3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2003–04 | Q4 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| 2004–05 | Q1 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| 2004–05 | Q2 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| 2004–05 | Q3 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 10 |
| 2004–05 | Q4 | 2 | 13 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 15 |

*Source:*
CWT-Db, Department of Health.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients in the Essex Health Authority area have waited more than *(a)* three months, *(b)* sixmonths, *(c)* nine months, *(d)* 12 months, *(e)* 15 months, *(f)* 18 months and *(g)* 24 months for (i) heart operations, (ii) cancer treatment and (iii) hip replacements in each year since 2001–02. [14321]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The information requested is shown in the tables.

*Counts of finished in-year admission episodes, Main operative procedure heart operations (OPCS-4 = K01-K71), Strategic health authority (SHA) of residence—Essex: National health service hospitals, England 2001–02 to 2003–04*

| | Finished in-year admission episodes | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Waiting time grouping* | *2001–02* | *2002–03* | *2003–04* |
| Up to 3 months | 2,362 | 2,607 | 2,712 |
| More than 3 up to 6 months | 788 | 1,371 | 1,333 |
| More than 6 up to 9 months | 506 | 584 | 1,186 |
| More than 9 up to 12 months | 384 | 461 | 360 |
| More than 12 up to 18 months | 148 | 74 | 25 |
| More than 18 up to 24 months | 5 | 8 | 6 |
| More than 24 months | — | 1 | 2 |
| Not known | 54 | 139 | 117 |
| Total finished in-year admission episodes | 4,247 | 5,245 | 5,741 |

*Counts of finished in-year admission episodes, Primary diagnosis—cancer (ICD-10 = C00-D48), SHA of residence—Essex, NHS hospitals, England 2001–02 to 2003–04*

| | Finished in-year admission episodes | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Waiting time grouping* | *2001–02* | *2002–03* | *2003–04* |
| Up to 3 months | 15,369 | 15,598 | 14,039 |
| More than 3 up to 6 months | 1,741 | 2,044 | 1,347 |
| More than 6 up to 9 months | 420 | 645 | 482 |
| More than 9 up to 12 months | 250 | 367 | 267 |
| More than 12 up to 18 months | 277 | 231 | 89 |
| More than 18 up to 24 months | 38 | 22 | 15 |
| More than 24 months | 19 | 12 | 8 |
| Not known | 4,803 | 4,011 | 4,292 |
| Total finished in-year admission episodes | 22,917 | 22,930 | 20,539 |

*Counts of finished in-year admission episodes. Main operative procedure—hip replacement (OPCS-4 = W37-W39), SHA of residence—Essex, NHS hospitals, England 2001–02 to 2003–04*

| | Finished in-year admission episodes | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Waiting time grouping* | *2001–02* | *2002–03* | *2003–04* |
| Up to 3 months | 266 | 243 | 284 |
| More than 3 up to 6 months | 263 | 276 | 236 |
| More than 6 up to 9 months | 200 | 270 | 329 |
| More than 9 up to 12 months | 201 | 338 | 470 |
| More than 12 up to 18 months | 331 | 310 | 145 |
| More than 18 up to 24 months | 43 | 18 | 26 |
| More than 24 months | 18 | 21 | 23 |
| Not known | 6 | 26 | 6 |
| Total finished in-year admission episodes | 1,328 | 1,502 | 1,519 |

*Notes:*

1. A finished in-year admission is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider, excluding admissions beginning before 1 April at the start of the datayear. Please note that admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.
2. The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 14 (seven prior to 2002–03) diagnosis fields in the hospital episode statistics (HES) data set and provides the main reason why the patient was in hospital.
3. The main operation is the first recorded operation in the HES data set and is usually the most resource intensive procedure performed during the episode. It is appropriate to use main operation when looking at admission details, e.g. time waited, but the figures for "all operations count of episodes" give a more complete count of episodes with an operation.
4. Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data—(i.e. the data is un-grossed).
5. Time waited statistics from HES are not the same as the published waiting list statistics. HES provides counts and time waited for all patients admitted to hospital within a given period, whereas the published waiting list statistics count those waiting for treatment on a specific date and how long they have been on the waiting list. Also, HES calculates the time waited as the difference between the admission and decision to admit dates. Unlike published waiting list statistics, this is not adjusted for self-deferrals or periods of medical/social suspension.

*Source:*

HES, Health and Social Care Information Centre.

## Ward/Bed Closures

**Frank Dobson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if she will list current proposals for ward closures and bed closures at NHS hospitals, including foundation hospitals, known to her Department; [11695]

(2) what assessment she has made of whether any proposals for ward or bed closures in NHS hospitals are the result of patients being treated under NHS contracts at private hospitals. [11696]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answer 12 July 2005]:* Decisions on whether to close wards or beds are a matter for determination by local national health service organisations. The Department does not routinely collect this information and as such no assessment can be made of the reasons for any such closures locally.

For the first wave of independent sector procurement, additional activity over and above growth in the NHS was secured using the independent sector. In addition, some activity was transferred to the independent sector to free up capacity in NHS facilities. These decisions, and decisions on where to site independent sector treatment centres, were taken in full consultation with strategic health authorities.

# Written Answers to Questions

*The following answers were received between Tuesday 6 September and Wednesday 5 October 2005*

## DEFENCE

### Armed Forces Compensation Scheme

**Mr. Heath:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a copy of the guidance relating to the application of the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme. [14025]

**Mr. Touhig** *[holding answer 21 July 2005]:* The Joint Service Publication 765 "The Armed Forces Compensation Scheme for Injury, Illness and Death due to Service (AFCS)" issued on 6 April 2005 will be placed in the Library. This document provides guidance on the AFCS, offering further explanation of the rules of the scheme as set out in Statutory Instrument 439 of 2005, including providing examples of how the rules are applied and how benefits are calculated. JSP 765 can also be found on the internet at www.mod.uk/issues/pensions and select heading "JSP 765 The Armed Forces Compensation Scheme for Injury, Illness or death due to Service".

A Veterans Agency operational guide supporting the full IT-lead decision-making process which is due to be introduced later this year is currently being produced and will also be provided when complete by December 2005.

### Cadets

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the strength of the *(a)* sea cadets, *(b)* air cadets and *(c)* army cadets in (i) Lancashire and (ii) Chorley is. [13009]

**Mr. Touhig:** The information requested is shown in the table:

| *Cadets* | *Lancashire (excluding Chorley)* | *Chorley* |
|---|---|---|
| Sea | 425 | 34 |
| Air | 1,424 | 41 |
| Army | 1,600 | 40 |

There are no members of the Combined Cadet Force in Chorley.

### Iraq

**Mr. Salmond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what *(a)* financial assistance, *(b)* technical assistance and *(c)* personnel his Department is contributing to the clearing of mines in Iraq. [14988]

**Mr. Ingram:** The United Kingdom Joint Explosive Ordnance Disposal Group provides mentoring for the Iraqi Army 70 Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Company, which, when it reaches full operational capability, will have the ability to conduct large scale mine clearing operations.

UK Royal Engineers based in southern Iraq clear mines when necessary for operational purposes. The UK plays a much greater role in dealing with the large scale problem of abandoned unexploded ordnance in southern Iraq. To date more than 880,000 items of unexploded ordnance have been recovered or destroyed by UK forces in MND(SE).

**Mr. Peter Robinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many medals have been awarded to soldiers who have served or are serving in Iraq, broken down by medal designation. [14517]

**Mr. Touhig:** As at 26 August 2005, the following medals had been issued to military personnel who have served or are serving in Iraq.

| *Award* | *Number awarded/issued* |
|---|---|
| Iraq Medal | [1]72,000 |
| Victoria Cross | 1 |
| George Cross | 1 |
| Distinguished Service Order | 12 |
| Conspicuous Gallantry Cross | 8 |
| Distinguished Service Cross | 1 |
| Military Cross | 45 |
| Distinguished Flying Cross | 11 |
| Bar to Distinguished Flying Cross | 2 |
| Air Force Cross | 2 |
| Queens Gallantry Medal | 14 |
| George Medal | 1 |

[1] This figure is based on the statistics for the total applications assessed, minus 2–3 per cent. which is the estimated percentage for those applications rejected as not meeting the eligibility criteria.

### Media Relations

**Mr. Salmond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much the Department has spent on external media relations in each month of the last year. [14678]

**Mr. Touhig:** Ministry of Defence expenditure on external assistance, of which consultants or companies employed to manage media relations is part, is available in the Libraries of both Houses for the years 1995–96 to 2003–04. Although this is broken down by various categories, the MOD does not centrally record expenditure on external media consultants. This information could be supplied only at disproportionate cost.

## Military Clothing

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the *(a)* inks, *(b)* dyes, *(c)* bleach and *(d)* chemicals used in the printing of camouflage under the cut and sew contract have been tested for reaction on skin. [5154]

**Mr. Ingram:** There is no requirement in our fabric specifications for these tests to be carried out. The camouflage items supplied by our contractor to date have met the required specification.

## Military Explosive

**Mr. Ancram:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list for each of those countries in which UK armed forces are deployed how much military explosive was unaccounted for in *(a)* 2002, *(b)* 2003, *(c)* 2004 and *(d)* 2005. [13272]

**Mr. Ingram:** The Ministry of Defence does not have any recorded losses of military explosive from overseas deployments in the period 2002–05.

## Regiments

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which regiments are based in each region. [12467]

**Mr. Touhig:** I have assumed that my hon. Friend is referring to the locations of the Regimental Headquarters (RHQ) of major Regular Army Units, which can be found in the following tables. Major units are defined as those regional and deployable units with over 320 personnel and do not include Regular Army training establishments.

*Royal Armoured Corps*

| *Regiment/Corp* | *RHQ Location* |
|---|---|
| Household Cavalry (The Life Guards) | South East |
| 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards | Wales |
| The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards (Carabiniers and Greys) | Scotland |
| The Royal Dragoon Guards | Yorkshire and the Humber |
| The Queen's Royal Hussars (The Queens Own and Royal Irish) | London |
| 9th/12th Lancers (Prince of Wales's) | East Midlands |
| The Kings Royal Hussars | North West |
| The Light Dragoons | North East |
| The Queen's Royal Lancers | East Midlands |
| The 2nd Royal Tank Regiment | South West |

*Infantry*

| *Regiment/Corp* | *RHQ Location* |
|---|---|
| 1st Battalion The Grenadier Guards | London |
| 1st Battalion The Coldstream Guards | London |
| 1st Battalion The Scots Guards | London |
| 1st Battalion The Irish Guards | London |
| 1st Battalion The Welsh Guards | London |
| 1 Battalion The Royal Scots (The Royal Regiment) | Scotland |
| 1 Battalion The Royal Highland Fusiliers (Princess Margaret's Own Glasgow and Ayrshire Regiment) | Scotland |
| 1st Battalion The Kings Own Scottish Borderers | North East |
| 1st Battalion The Black Watch (The Highland Regiment) | Scotland |
| 1st Battalion The Highlanders (Seaforth, Gordons and Camerons) | Scotland |
| 1st Battalion The Argyle & Sutherland Highlanders (Princess Louise's) | Scotland |
| 1st Battalion The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment (Queen's and Royal Hampshires) | South East |
| 2nd Battalion The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment (Queen's and Royal Hampshires) | |
| 1st Battalion The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers | London |
| 2nd Battalion The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers | |
| 1st Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment | East of England |
| 2nd Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment | |
| 1st Battalion The Kings Own Royal Border Regiment | North West |
| 1st Battalion The Kings Regiment | North West |
| 1st Battalion The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire | Yorkshire and the Humber |
| 1st Battalion The Green Howards (Alexandra, Princess of Wales's Own Yorkshire Regiment) | Yorkshire and the Humber |
| 1st Battalion The Queens Lancashire Regiment | North West |
| 1st Battalion The Duke of Wellington's Regiment (West Riding) | Yorkshire and the Humber |
| 1st Battalion The Royal Irish Regiment | Northern Ireland |
| 1st Battalion The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment | South West |
| 1st Battalion The Cheshire Regiment | North West |
| 1st Battalion The Royal Welch Fusiliers | Wales |
| 1st Battalion The Royal Regiment of Wales (24th/4 1st Foot) | Wales |
| 1st Battalion The Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment | South West |
| 1st Battalion The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment (29th/45th Foot) | West Midlands |
| 1st Battalion The Staffordshire Regiment (The Prince of Wales's) | West Midlands |
| 1st Battalion The Light Infantry | South East |
| 2nd Battalion The Light Infantry | |
| 1st Battalion The Royal Green Jackets | |
| 2nd Battalion The Royal Green Jackets | |
| 1st Battalion The Parachute Regiment | East of England |
| 2nd Battalion The Parachute Regiment | |
| 3rd Battalion The Parachute Regiment | |
| 1st Battalion The Royal Gurkha Rifles | South West |
| 2nd Battalion The Royal Gurkha Rifles | |

*Royal Regiment of Artillery*

| Regiment/Corp | RHQ Location |
|---|---|
| 1 Regiment Royal Horse Artillery<br>3rd Regiment Royal Horse Artillery<br>4th Regiment Royal Artillery<br>5th Regiment Royal Artillery<br>7th (Parachute) Regiment Royal Horse Artillery<br>12th Regiment Royal Artillery<br>16th Regiment Royal Artillery<br>19th Regiment Royal Artillery<br>26th Regiment Royal Artillery<br>29th Commando Regiment Royal Artillery<br>32nd Regiment Royal Artillery<br>39th Regiment Royal Artillery<br>40th Regiment Royal Artillery<br>47th Regiment Royal Artillery | London |

*Royal Engineers*

| Regiment/Corp | RHQ Location |
|---|---|
| 21 Engineer Regiment<br>22 Engineer Regiment<br>23 Engineer Regiment<br>25 Engineer Regiment<br>26 Engineer Regiment<br>28 Engineer Regiment<br>32 Engineer Regiment<br>33 Engineer Regiment (Explosive Ordnance Disposal)<br>35 Engineer Regiment<br>36 Engineer Regiment<br>38 Engineer Regiment<br>39 Engineer Regiment<br>42 Engineer Regiment (Geographic)<br>170 (Infrastructure Support) Engineer Group | South East |

*Army Air Corps*

| Regiment/Corp | RHQ Location |
|---|---|
| 1 Regiment Army Air Corps<br>3 Regiment Army Air Corps<br>4 Regiment Army Air Corps<br>5 Regiment Army Air Corps<br>9 Regiment Army Air Corps | South East |

*Royal Logistics Corps*

| Regiment/Corp | RHQ Location |
|---|---|
| 1 Logistic Support Regiment Royal Logistics Corps<br>2 Logistic Support Regiment Royal Logistics Corps<br>3 Close Support Regiment Royal Logistics Corps<br>4 Logistic Support Regiment Royal Logistics Corps<br>6 Supply Regiment Royal Logistics Corps<br>7 Transport Regiment Royal Logistics Corps<br>8 Transport Regiment Royal Logistics Corps<br>9 Supply Regiment Royal Logistics Corps<br>10 Transport Regiment Royal Logistics Corps<br>11 (Explosive Ordnance Disposal) Regiment Royal Logistics Corps<br>13 Air Assault Regiment Royal Logistics Corps<br>17 Port & Maritime Regiment Royal Logistics Corps<br>23 Pioneer Regiment Royal Logistics Corps<br>24 Regiment Royal Logistics Corps<br>27 Transport Regiment Royal Logistics Corps<br>29 Regiment Royal Logistics Corps | South East |

*Royal Military Police*

| Regiment/Corp | RHQ Location |
|---|---|
| 1 Regiment Royal Military Police<br>3 Regiment Royal Military Police<br>4 Regiment Royal Military Police<br>5 Regiment Royal Military Police | South East |

*Royal Signals*

| Regiment/Corp | RHQ Location |
|---|---|
| 1 (UK) Armoured Division Signal Regiment<br>2 Signal Regiment<br>3 (UK) Division Signal Regiment<br>7 Signal Regiment<br>10 Signal Regiment<br>14 Signal Regiment (Electronic Warfare)<br>16 Signal Regiment<br>21 Signal Regiment (Air Support) | South West |

*Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers*

| Regiment/Corp | RHQ Location |
|---|---|
| 1st Battalion Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers<br>2nd Battalion Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers<br>3rd Battalion Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers<br>4th Battalion Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers<br>5th Battalion Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers<br>6th Battalion Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers<br>7th Battalion Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers | South East |

*Army Medical Services*

| Regiment/Corp | RHQ Location for Royal Army Medical Corps (RAMC), Queen Alexandra's Royal Auxiliary Nursing Corps (QUARANC), Royal Army Dental Corps (RADC) |
|---|---|
| 1 Close Support Medical Regiment<br>3 Close Support Medical Regiment<br>4 General Support Medical Regiment<br>5 General Support Medical Regiment<br>16 Close Support Medical Regiment<br>22 Field Hospital<br>33 Field Hospital<br>34 Field Hospital | South East |

*Intelligence Corps*

| Regiment/Corp | RHQ Location |
|---|---|
| 1 Military Intelligence Battalion<br>2 Military Intelligence Battalion<br>4 Military Intelligence Battalion | East of England |

## CABINET OFFICE

### IT Projects

**Mr. Meacher:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what computerisation or IT failures have occurred in projects managed by the Cabinet Office in each year since 1997; what the contracted cost of the project was in each case; and what estimate he has made of the direct and indirect costs of failure in each case. [14369]

**Mr. Hutton:** There are two cases of information technology (IT) failures in projects managed by the former Office of the e-Envoy within the Cabinet Office, since 1997.

The first project, which was terminated in 2000, was the contract with IT supplier Compaq for provision of consultancy services and IT asset purchases, for the development of the Government Gateway. The contracted cost was £6.7 million, under an Instruction to Proceed notices which would have led to a multi year contract.

The direct cost of termination was £5.6 million, which was payment for assets relating to work completed. There were no indirect costs for the termination. The cost of the replacement, including the £5.6 million, was within the original budget.

The second IT failure was with the data centre and hosting management service to be provided by ITNET whose contract was terminated in 2004. The original contract value was £84 million. A total of £5 million was paid up to the point of termination of the contract.

## EDUCATION AND SKILLS

### Apprenticeships

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the total spending by the Learning and Skills Council was on the promotion of apprenticeships in each of the last 10 years. [14839]

**Phil Hope:** The Learning and Skills Council has been responsible for promoting apprenticeships since it came into existence in April 2001. The council's chief executive Mr. Mark Haysom will write to the hon. Member with the information he requires and a copy will be placed in the Library of the House. Before April 2001 promotion of apprenticeships was the responsibility of the Department and the Training and Enterprise Councils. It is not possible to estimate the total amount spent on promotional activities in this period.

### Correspondence

**Mr. MacNeil:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what her Department's policy is for dealing with and responding to correspondence received in *(a)* Welsh, *(b)* Scots Gaelic and *(c)* Irish Gaelic. [14693]

**Bill Rammell:** My Department operates a Welsh Language Act Scheme in accordance with section 21(3) of the Welsh Language Act 1993. Under this scheme if someone writes to us in Welsh we will issue any reply in Welsh. If someone writes to us in either—Scots Gaelic or Irish Gaelic we will endeavour to issue any reply in the same language but are under no statutory obligation to do so. Our target time for replying will be the same as for replying to letters written in English.

### Dentistry

**Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many learning and skills councils have rationalised the number of training providers for the training of dental nurses; how many no longer include practising dentists as training providers; and if she will make a statement. [13184]

**Bill Rammell:** My Department and the Learning and Skills Council are working together to ensure that colleges and providers deliver high quality provision which meets the needs of learners and employers. The Learning and Skills Council is responsible for the planning and funding of post-16 learning outside Higher Education. Mark Haysom, the council's chief executive, will write to my hon. Friend with the information requested for the training of dental nurses. A copy of his reply will be placed in the Library.

### Departmental Funding

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much was allocated to the Department for each year since 1975. [11520]

**Jacqui Smith:** From 1975 to 1997, allocations made in the Public Expenditure Survey were reported in the Autumn Statements with detailed breakdowns in the Expenditure Plans White Papers. Since 1997, allocations made in the Spending Review rounds are reported in Spending Review White Papers.

### Education Maintenance Allowance

**Dan Norris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many students aged 16 to 18 years are in receipt of education maintenance allowance in each institution in *(a)* North East Somerset, *(b)* South Gloucestershire and *(c)* Wansdyke. [12514]

**Beverley Hughes:** This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council, who operate education maintenance allowances for the DfES and hold the information about take-up of the scheme. Mark Haysom, the council's chief executive, will write to the hon. Friend with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the Library.

*Letter from Rob Wye to Dan Norris dated: 25 July 2005:*

I am writing on Mark Haysom's behalf due to him currently being on annual leave, in response to your recent Parliamentary Question in which you asked the Secretary of State for Education and Skills "how many students aged 16 to 18 years are in receipt of education maintenance allowance in each institution in *(a)* North East Somerset, *(b)* South Gloucestershire and *(c)* Wansdyke."

Information on the number of young people who have applied, enrolled and received EMA is available at Local Education Authority level, but not at constituency level. Attached is a breakdown by school/college of 16, 17, 18 and 19 year old students who have received EMA during the academic year 2004/2005 in the Local Education Authorities of Gloucestershire, Somerset, Bath and North East Somerset, City of Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire. If a young person attended and received payment from more than one institute then they will be counted more than once in this report.

During the Academic year 2004/2005 EMA was available to all 16 years olds across England who met the eligibility criteria and also to those 17, 18 and 19 years olds who reside in former EMA pilot areas (and meet eligibility criteria).

Although there were no pilot areas in Gloucestershire, West of England and Somerset Local Learning and Skills Council (LSC) areas the attached data shows some 17 and 18 years olds having received EMA payments. This is because either the young person travels across area borders to attend school/college (assessment is based upon residence of young person) or they have moved residence from a non-pilot area during the academic year.

I hope this information is helpful and addresses your question. If you would like further details please contact Chris Bradley at the LSC National Office on 0114 207 4512 or christopher.bradley@lsc.gov.uk

*Take-up in Gloucestershire, west of England and Somerset LLSCs*

| *School/college* | *LLSC* | *LEA* | *Age 16* | *Age 17* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sir Thomas Rich's School | Gloucestershire | Gloucestershire | 30 | 0 |
| High School for Girls | Gloucestershire | Gloucestershire | 30 | 0 |
| Beaufort Community School | Gloucestershire | Gloucestershire | 60 | 0 |
| Cleeve School | Gloucestershire | Gloucestershire | 44 | 0 |
| Archway School | Gloucestershire | Gloucestershire | 36 | 0 |
| Vale of Berkeley College | Gloucestershire | Gloucestershire | 5 | 0 |
| Brockworth School | Gloucestershire | Gloucestershire | 29 | 0 |
| Farmor's School | Gloucestershire | Gloucestershire | 23 | 0 |
| St. Peter's RC High School and Sixth Form Centre | Gloucestershire | Gloucestershire | 86 | 0 |
| Ribston Hall High School | Gloucestershire | Gloucestershire | 37 | 0 |
| Marling School | Gloucestershire | Gloucestershire | 32 | 0 |
| Stroud High School | Gloucestershire | Gloucestershire | 42 | 0 |
| Pates Grammar School | Gloucestershire | Gloucestershire | 26 | 0 |
| The Crypt School | Gloucestershire | Gloucestershire | 25 | 0 |
| Tewkesbury School | Gloucestershire | Gloucestershire | 60 | 0 |
| Katharine Lady Berkeley's School | Gloucestershire | Gloucestershire | 35 | 0 |
| Rednock School | Gloucestershire | Gloucestershire | 42 | 0 |
| Balcarras School | Gloucestershire | Gloucestershire | 40 | 0 |
| Churchdown School | Gloucestershire | Gloucestershire | 31 | 0 |
| The Cotswold School | Gloucestershire | Gloucestershire | 37 | 0 |
| Newent Community School | Gloucestershire | Gloucestershire | 48 | 0 |
| Chosen Hill School | Gloucestershire | Gloucestershire | 32 | 0 |
| Central Technology College | Gloucestershire | Gloucestershire | 10 | 0 |
| Chipping Campden School | Gloucestershire | Gloucestershire | 42 | 1 |
| Wyedean School | Gloucestershire | Gloucestershire | 55 | 0 |
| Cheltenham Bournside School and Sixth Form Centre | Gloucestershire | Gloucestershire | 84 | 0 |
| Cheltenham Kingsmead | Gloucestershire | Gloucestershire | 17 | 0 |
| Sir William Romneys School | Gloucestershire | Gloucestershire | 18 | 0 |
| The Kings School | Gloucestershire | Gloucestershire | 1 | 0 |
| Rendcomb College | Gloucestershire | Gloucestershire | 2 | 0 |
| Wycliffe College | Gloucestershire | Gloucestershire | 6 | 0 |
| Westonbirt School | Gloucestershire | Gloucestershire | 1 | 0 |
| Wynstones School | Gloucestershire | Gloucestershire | 7 | 0 |
| St. Edwards School | Gloucestershire | Gloucestershire | 3 | 0 |
| Cheltenham College | Gloucestershire | Gloucestershire | 5 | 0 |
| Dean Close School | Gloucestershire | Gloucestershire | 5 | 0 |
| The Cheltenham Ladies College | Gloucestershire | Gloucestershire | 8 | 0 |
| Cotswold Chine Home School | Gloucestershire | Gloucestershire | 1 | 0 |
| The Acorn School | Gloucestershire | Gloucestershire | 3 | 0 |
| St. Rose's Special School | Gloucestershire | Gloucestershire | 3 | 0 |
| Bettridge School | Gloucestershire | Gloucestershire | 1 | 0 |
| The Shrubberies School | Gloucestershire | Gloucestershire | 1 | 0 |
| Alderman Knight School | Gloucestershire | Gloucestershire | 1 | 0 |
| School of the Lion | Gloucestershire | Gloucestershire | 1 | 0 |
| Gloucestershire College of Arts and Technology | Gloucestershire | Gloucestershire | 423 | 0 |
| Royal Forest of Dean College | Gloucestershire | Gloucestershire | 225 | 0 |
| Stroud College | Gloucestershire | Gloucestershire | 104 | 0 |
| Cirencester Tertiary College | Gloucestershire | Gloucestershire | 239 | 0 |
| Hartpury College | Gloucestershire | Gloucestershire | 164 | 4 |
| University of Gloucestershire | Gloucestershire | Gloucestershire | 0 | 0 |
| Eastbrook Education Trust | Gloucestershire | Gloucestershire | 5 | 0 |
| Ruskin Mill FE College | Gloucestershire | Gloucestershire | 5 | 0 |
| William Morris House | Gloucestershire | Gloucestershire | 0 | 0 |
| Waldorf College | Gloucestershire | Gloucestershire | 2 | 0 |
| National Star College | Gloucestershire | Gloucestershire | 13 | 2 |
| Althea House | Gloucestershire | Gloucestershire | 2 | 0 |
| Frome Community College | Somerset | Somerset | 79 | 0 |
| Holyrood Community School | Somerset | Somerset | 43 | 0 |
| The West Somerset Community College | Somerset | Somerset | 100 | 0 |
| The King Alfred School | Somerset | Somerset | 42 | 0 |
| Preston School | Somerset | Somerset | 0 | 0 |
| The Blue School | Somerset | Somerset | 44 | 0 |
| Wadham School | Somerset | Somerset | 30 | 0 |
| The Kings of Wessex Community School | Somerset | Somerset | 47 | 0 |
| Sexeys School | Somerset | Somerset | 43 | 1 |
| Bruton School for Girls | Somerset | Somerset | 6 | 0 |
| King's School | Somerset | Somerset | 3 | 0 |
| Downside School | Somerset | Somerset | 4 | 0 |
| Millfield School | Somerset | Somerset | 17 | 0 |
| King s College | Somerset | Somerset | 3 | 0 |
| Queens College | Somerset | Somerset | 7 | 0 |
| Taunton School | Somerset | Somerset | 10 | 0 |
| Wells Cathedral School | Somerset | Somerset | 9 | 2 |

*Take-up in Gloucestershire, west of England and Somerset LLSCs*

| *School/college* | *LLSC* | *LEA* | *Age 16* | *Age 17* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Edington and Shapwick School | Somerset | Somerset | 2 | 1 |
| Wellington School | Somerset | Somerset | 16 | 0 |
| Elmwood School | Somerset | Somerset | 0 | 0 |
| Penrose School | Somerset | Somerset | 3 | 0 |
| School | Somerset | Somerset | 3 | 0 |
| Fiveways Special School | Somerset | Somerset | 1 | 0 |
| Bridgwater College | Somerset | Somerset | 564 | 2 |
| Somerset College of Arts and Technology | Somerset | Somerset | 310 | 1 |
| Yeovil College | Somerset | Somerset | 272 | 0 |
| Strode College | Somerset | Somerset | 327 | 0 |
| Richard Huish College, Taunton | Somerset | Somerset | 263 | 1 |
| Heritor Mead Independent School | Somerset | Somerset | 0 | 0 |
| Quantock Education Trust | Somerset | Somerset | 0 | 0 |
| Shepton Mallet Tuition School | Somerset | Somerset | 0 | 0 |
| Musgrove Park Hospital Education | Somerset | Somerset | 0 | 0 |
| Orchard Lodge Educational Unit | Somerset | Somerset | 0 | 0 |
| Yeovil Connexxions Centre | Somerset | Somerset | 0 | 0 |
| Yeovil District Hospital Education | Somerset | Somerset | 0 | 0 |
| Taunton Tuition Base | Somerset | Somerset | 0 | 0 |
| Bridgwater Tuition Group | Somerset | Somerset | 0 | 0 |
| Lufton Manor College | Somerset | Somerset | 3 | 0 |
| Hayesfield School Technology College | West of England | Bath and North East Somerset | 33 | 0 |
| Culverhay School | West of England | Bath and North East Somerset | 17 | 0 |
| Norton Hill School | West of England | Bath and North East Somerset | 40 | 0 |
| Writhlington School | West of England | Bath and North East Somerset | 26 | 0 |
| Ralph Allen School | West of England | Bath and North East Somerset | 22 | 0 |
| Chew Valley School | West of England | Bath and North East Somerset | 34 | 0 |
| Somervale School | West of England | Bath and North East Somerset | 19 | 0 |
| Wellsway School | West of England | Bath and North East Somerset | 25 | 0 |
| Beechen Cliff School | West of England | Bath and North East Somerset | 37 | 0 |
| Oldfield School | West of England | Bath and North East Somerset | 12 | 0 |
| Kingswood School | West of England | Bath and North East Somerset | 13 | 0 |
| Prior Park College | West of England | Bath and North East Somerset | 5 | 0 |
| Royal High School, Bath | West of England | Bath and North East Somerset | 14 | 1 |
| Monkton Combe School | West of England | Bath and North East Somerset | 5 | 0 |
| King Edwards School | West of England | Bath and North East Somerset | 12 | 0 |
| Summerfield School | West of England | Bath and North East Somerset | 0 | 0 |
| Lime Grove Special School | West of England | Bath and North East Somerset | 2 | 0 |
| Fosse Way School | West of England | Bath and North East Somerset | 2 | 0 |
| City of Bath College | West of England | Bath and North East Somerset | 256 | 1 |
| Norton Radstock College | West of England | Bath and North East Somerset | 124 | 0 |
| Norland Nursery Training College | West of England | Bath and North East Somerset | 0 | 0 |
| The Meriton Education and Support for Young Parents | West of England | City of Bristol | 10 | 0 |
| Ashton Park School | West of England | City of Bristol | 56 | 0 |
| Brislington School and Sixth Form Centre | West of England | City of Bristol | 38 | 0 |
| Speedwell Technology College | West of England | City of Bristol | 15 | 0 |
| Cotham School | West of England | City of Bristol | 52 | 0 |
| St. Mary Redcliffe and Temple School | West of England | City of Bristol | 59 | 1 |
| Clifton College | West of England | City of Bristol | 6 | 0 |
| Clifton High School | West of England | City of Bristol | 5 | 0 |
| Colston's Collegiate School | West of England | City of Bristol | 11 | 0 |
| Colstons Girls' School | West of England | City of Bristol | 11 | 0 |
| Bristol Cathedral School | West of England | City of Bristol | 10 | 0 |
| Bristol Grammar School | West of England | City of Bristol | 21 | 0 |
| Queen Elizabeth's Hospital | West of England | City of Bristol | 6 | 1 |
| The Red Maids School | West of England | City of Bristol | 5 | 0 |
| Redland High School | West of England | City of Bristol | 12 | 0 |
| Kingsweston School | West of England | City of Bristol | 5 | 0 |
| The Florence Brown Community School | West of England | City of Bristol | 1 | 0 |
| New Fosseway School | West of England | City of Bristol | 3 | 0 |
| St. Brendans Sixth Form College | West of England | City of Bristol | 224 | 0 |
| City of Bristol College | West of England | City of Bristol | 819 | 0 |
| The City Academy Bristol | West of England | City of Bristol | 47 | 0 |
| BR103 Bridge Year 11 | West of England | City of Bristol | 0 | 0 |
| Fulford Centre | West of England | City of Bristol | 0 | 0 |
| Prospect Education Trust | West of England | City of Bristol | 0 | 0 |
| The Park | West of England | City of Bristol | 16 | 0 |
| Nailsea School | West of England | North Somerset | 37 | 0 |
| Churchill Community School | West of England | North Somerset | 50 | 0 |
| Worle School | West of England | North Somerset | 1 | 0 |
| St Katherine's School | West of England | North Somerset | 40 | 0 |
| Sidcot School | West of England | North Somerset | 7 | 1 |
| Ravenswood School | West of England | North Somerset | 1 | 0 |

*Take-up in Gloucestershire, west of England and Somerset LLSCs*

| *School/college* | *LLSC* | *LEA* | *Age 16* | *Age 17* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Bay tree School | West of England | North Somerset | 0 | 0 |
| Weston College | West of England | North Somerset | 439 | 1 |
| Gordano School | West of England | North Somerset | 43 | 0 |
| Backwell School | West of England | North Somerset | 49 | 0 |
| Clevedon Community School | West of England | North Somerset | 32 | 0 |
| Kingsfield School | West of England | South Gloucestershire | 31 | 0 |
| Filton High School | West of England | South Gloucestershire | 25 | 0 |
| Patchway High School | West of England | South Gloucestershire | 24 | 0 |
| The Castle School | West of England | South Gloucestershire | 44 | 0 |
| The Ridings High School | West of England | South Gloucestershire | 45 | 0 |
| King Edmund Community School | West of England | South Gloucestershire | 20 | 0 |
| Sir Bernard Lovell School | West of England | South Gloucestershire | 30 | 0 |
| Hanham High School | West of England | South Gloucestershire | 31 | 0 |
| Brimsham Green School | West of England | South Gloucestershire | 24 | 0 |
| Mangotsfield School | West of England | South Gloucestershire | 23 | 0 |
| Downend Comprehensive School | West of England | South Gloucestershire | 26 | 0 |
| The Grange School and Sports College | West of England | South Gloucestershire | 20 | 0 |
| Chipping Sodbury School | West of England | South Gloucestershire | 24 | 0 |
| Marlwood School | West of England | South Gloucestershire | 32 | 0 |
| John Cabot City Technology College | West of England | South Gloucestershire | 42 | 0 |
| Filton College | West of England | South Gloucestershire | 442 | 1 |
| The Inspire Trust | West of England | South Gloucestershire | 1 | 0 |
| Total | | | 8,251 | 22 |

| *School/college* | *LLSC* | *LEA* | *Age 18* | *Age 19* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sir Thomas Rich's School | Gloucestershire | Gloucestershire | 0 | 0 | 30 |
| High School for Girls | Gloucestershire | Gloucestershire | 0 | 0 | 30 |
| Beaufort Community School | Gloucestershire | Gloucestershire | 0 | 0 | 60 |
| Cleeve School | Gloucestershire | Gloucestershire | 0 | 0 | 44 |
| Archway School | Gloucestershire | Gloucestershire | 0 | 0 | 36 |
| Vale of Berkeley College | Gloucestershire | Gloucestershire | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| Brockworth School | Gloucestershire | Gloucestershire | 0 | 0 | 29 |
| Farmor's School | Gloucestershire | Gloucestershire | 0 | 0 | 23 |
| St. Peter's RC High School and Sixth Form Centre | Gloucestershire | Gloucestershire | 0 | 0 | 87 |
| Ribston Hall High School | Gloucestershire | Gloucestershire | 0 | 0 | 37 |
| Marling School | Gloucestershire | Gloucestershire | 0 | 0 | 32 |
| Stroud High School | Gloucestershire | Gloucestershire | 0 | 0 | 42 |
| Pates Grammar School | Gloucestershire | Gloucestershire | 0 | 0 | 26 |
| The Crypt School | Gloucestershire | Gloucestershire | 0 | 0 | 25 |
| Tewkesbury School | Gloucestershire | Gloucestershire | 0 | 0 | 60 |
| Katharine Lady Berkeley's School | Gloucestershire | Gloucestershire | 0 | 0 | 35 |
| Rednock School | Gloucestershire | Gloucestershire | 0 | 0 | 42 |
| Balcarras School | Gloucestershire | Gloucestershire | 0 | 0 | 40 |
| Churchdown School | Gloucestershire | Gloucestershire | 0 | 0 | 31 |
| The Cotswold School | Gloucestershire | Gloucestershire | 0 | 0 | 37 |
| Newent Community School | Gloucestershire | Gloucestershire | 0 | 0 | 48 |
| Chosen Hill School | Gloucestershire | Gloucestershire | 0 | 0 | 32 |
| Central Technology College | Gloucestershire | Gloucestershire | 0 | 0 | 10 |
| Chipping Campden School | Gloucestershire | Gloucestershire | 0 | 0 | 43 |
| Wyedean School | Gloucestershire | Gloucestershire | 0 | 0 | 55 |
| Cheltenham Bournside School and Sixth Form Centre | Gloucestershire | Gloucestershire | 0 | 0 | 84 |
| Cheltenham Kingsmead | Gloucestershire | Gloucestershire | 0 | 0 | 17 |
| Sir William Romneys School | Gloucestershire | Gloucestershire | 0 | 0 | 18 |
| The Kings School | Gloucestershire | Gloucestershire | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Rendcomb College | Gloucestershire | Gloucestershire | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Wycliffe College | Gloucestershire | Gloucestershire | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| Westonbirt School | Gloucestershire | Gloucestershire | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Wynstones School | Gloucestershire | Gloucestershire | 0 | 0 | 7 |
| St. Edwards School | Gloucestershire | Gloucestershire | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| Cheltenham College | Gloucestershire | Gloucestershire | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| Dean Close School | Gloucestershire | Gloucestershire | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| The Cheltenham Ladies College | Gloucestershire | Gloucestershire | 0 | 0 | 8 |
| Cotswold Chine Home School | Gloucestershire | Gloucestershire | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| The Acorn School | Gloucestershire | Gloucestershire | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| St. Rose's Special School | Gloucestershire | Gloucestershire | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| Bettridge School | Gloucestershire | Gloucestershire | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| The Shrubberies School | Gloucestershire | Gloucestershire | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Alderman Knight School | Gloucestershire | Gloucestershire | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| School of the Lion | Gloucestershire | Gloucestershire | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Gloucestershire College of Arts and Technology | Gloucestershire | Gloucestershire | 0 | 0 | 423 |
| Royal Forest of Dean College | Gloucestershire | Gloucestershire | 0 | 0 | 225 |
| Stroud College | Gloucestershire | Gloucestershire | 0 | 0 | 104 |
| Cirencester Tertiary College | Gloucestershire | Gloucestershire | 0 | 0 | 239 |
| Hartpury College | Gloucestershire | Gloucestershire | 2 | 0 | 170 |
| University of Gloucestershire | Gloucestershire | Gloucestershire | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Eastbrook Education Trust | Gloucestershire | Gloucestershire | 0 | 0 | 5 |

| School/college | LLSC | LEA | Age 18 | Age 19 | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ruskin Mill FE College | Gloucestershire | Gloucestershire | 2 | 0 | 7 |
| William Morris House | Gloucestershire | Gloucestershire | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Waldorf College | Gloucestershire | Gloucestershire | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| National Star College | Gloucestershire | Gloucestershire | 1 | 0 | 16 |
| Althea House | Gloucestershire | Gloucestershire | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Frome Community College | Somerset | Somerset | 0 | 0 | 79 |
| Holyrood Community School | Somerset | Somerset | 0 | 0 | 43 |
| The West Somerset Community College | Somerset | Somerset | 0 | 0 | 100 |
| The King Alfred School | Somerset | Somerset | 0 | 0 | 42 |
| Preston School | Somerset | Somerset | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| The Blue School | Somerset | Somerset | 0 | 0 | 44 |
| Wadham School | Somerset | Somerset | 0 | 0 | 30 |
| The Kings of Wessex Community School | Somerset | Somerset | 0 | 0 | 47 |
| Sexeys School | Somerset | Somerset | 0 | 0 | 44 |
| Bruton School for Girls | Somerset | Somerset | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| King's School | Somerset | Somerset | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| Downside School | Somerset | Somerset | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| Millfield School | Somerset | Somerset | 0 | 0 | 17 |
| King s College | Somerset | Somerset | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| Queens College | Somerset | Somerset | 0 | 0 | 7 |
| Taunton School | Somerset | Somerset | 0 | 0 | 10 |
| Wells Cathedral School | Somerset | Somerset | 0 | 0 | 11 |
| Edington and Shapwick School | Somerset | Somerset | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| Wellington School | Somerset | Somerset | 0 | 0 | 16 |
| Elmwood School | Somerset | Somerset | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Penrose School | Somerset | Somerset | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| School | Somerset | Somerset | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| Fiveways Special School | Somerset | Somerset | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Bridgwater College | Somerset | Somerset | 0 | 0 | 566 |
| Somerset College of Arts and Technology | Somerset | Somerset | 0 | 0 | 311 |
| Yeovil College | Somerset | Somerset | 0 | 0 | 272 |
| Strode College | Somerset | Somerset | 0 | 0 | 327 |
| Richard Huish College, Taunton | Somerset | Somerset | 0 | 0 | 264 |
| Perlton Mead Independent School | Somerset | Somerset | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Quantock Education Trust | Somerset | Somerset | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Shepton Mallet Tuition School | Somerset | Somerset | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Musgrove Park Hospital Education | Somerset | Somerset | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Orchard Lodge Educational Unit | Somerset | Somerset | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Yeovil Connexxions Centre | Somerset | Somerset | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Yeovil District Hospital Education | Somerset | Somerset | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Taunton Tuition Base | Somerset | Somerset | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Bridgwater Tuition Group | Somerset | Somerset | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Lufton Manor College | Somerset | Somerset | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| Hayesfield School Technology College | West of England | Bath and North East Somerset | 0 | 0 | 33 |
| Culverhay School | West of England | Bath and North East Somerset | 0 | 0 | 17 |
| Norton Hill School | West of England | Bath and North East Somerset | 0 | 0 | 40 |
| Writhlington School | West of England | Bath and North East Somerset | 0 | 0 | 26 |
| Ralph Allen School | West of England | Bath and North East Somerset | 0 | 0 | 22 |
| Chew Valley School | West of England | Bath and North East Somerset | 0 | 0 | 34 |
| Somervale School | West of England | Bath and North East Somerset | 0 | 0 | 19 |
| Wellsway School | West of England | Bath and North East Somerset | 0 | 0 | 25 |
| Beechen Cliff School | West of England | Bath and North East Somerset | 0 | 0 | 37 |
| Oldfield School | West of England | Bath and North East Somerset | 0 | 0 | 42 |
| Kingswood School | West of England | Bath and North East Somerset | 0 | 0 | 13 |
| Prior Park College | West of England | Bath and North East Somerset | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| Royal High School, Bath | West of England | Bath and North East Somerset | 0 | 0 | 15 |
| Monkton Combe School | West of England | Bath and North East Somerset | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| King Edwards School | West of England | Bath and North East Somerset | 0 | 0 | 12 |
| Summerfield School | West of England | Bath and North East Somerset | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Lime Grove Special School | West of England | Bath and North East Somerset | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Fosse Way School | West of England | Bath and North East Somerset | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| City of Bath College | West of England | Bath and North East Somerset | 0 | 0 | 257 |
| Norton Radstock College | West of England | Bath and North East Somerset | 0 | 0 | 174 |
| Norland Nursery Training College | West of England | Bath and North East Somerset | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| The Meriton Education and Support for Young Parents | West of England | City of Bristol | 0 | 0 | 10 |
| Ashton Park School | West of England | City of Bristol | 0 | 0 | 56 |
| Brislington School and Sixth Form Centre | West of England | City of Bristol | 0 | 0 | 38 |
| Speedwell Technology College | West of England | City of Bristol | 0 | 0 | 15 |
| Cotham School | West of England | City of Bristol | 0 | 0 | 52 |
| St Mary Redcliffe and Temple School | West of England | City of Bristol | 0 | 0 | 60 |
| Clifton College | West of England | City of Bristol | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| Clifton High School | West of England | City of Bristol | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| Colston's Collegiate School | West of England | City of Bristol | 0 | 0 | 11 |
| Colstons Girls' School | West of England | City of Bristol | 0 | 0 | 11 |
| Bristol Cathedral School | West of England | City of Bristol | 0 | 0 | 10 |
| Bristol Grammar School | West of England | City of Bristol | 0 | 0 | 21 |
| Queen Elizabeth's Hospital | West of England | City of Bristol | 0 | 0 | 7 |
| The Red Maids School | West of England | City of Bristol | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| Redland High School | West of England | City of Bristol | 0 | 0 | 12 |
| Kingsweston School | West of England | City of Bristol | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| The Florence Brown Community School | West of England | City of Bristol | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| New Fosseway School | West of England | City of Bristol | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| St. Brendans Sixth Form College | West of England | City of Bristol | 0 | 0 | 224 |

| School/college | LLSC | LEA | Age 18 | Age 19 | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| City of Bristol College | West of England | City of Bristol | 1 | 0 | 820 |
| The City Academy Bristol | West of England | City of Bristol | 0 | 0 | 47 |
| BR103 Bridge Year 11 | West of England | City of Bristol | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Fulford Centre | West of England | City of Bristol | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Prospect Education Trust | West of England | City of Bristol | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| The Park | West of England | City of Bristol | 0 | 0 | 16 |
| Nailsea School | West of England | North Somerset | 0 | 0 | 37 |
| Churchill Community School | West of England | North Somerset | 0 | 0 | 50 |
| Worle School | West of England | North Somerset | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| St. Katherine's School | West of England | North Somerset | 0 | 0 | 40 |
| Sidcot School | West of England | North Somerset | 0 | 0 | 8 |
| Ravenswood School | West of England | North Somerset | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Bay tree School | West of England | North Somerset | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Weston College | West of England | North Somerset | 0 | 0 | 440 |
| Gordano School | West of England | North Somerset | 0 | 0 | 43 |
| Backwell School | West of England | North Somerset | 0 | 0 | 49 |
| Clevedon Community School | West of England | North Somerset | 0 | 0 | 32 |
| Kingsfield School | West of England | South Gloucestershire | 0 | 0 | 31 |
| Filton High School | West of England | South Gloucestershire | 0 | 0 | 25 |
| Patchway High School | West of England | South Gloucestershire | 0 | 0 | 24 |
| The Castle School | West of England | South Gloucestershire | 0 | 0 | 44 |
| The Ridings High School | West of England | South Gloucestershire | 0 | 0 | 45 |
| King Edmund Community School | West of England | South Gloucestershire | 0 | 0 | 20 |
| Sir Bernard Lovell School | West of England | South Gloucestershire | 0 | 0 | 30 |
| Hanham High School | West of England | South Gloucestershire | 0 | 0 | 31 |
| Brimsham Green School | West of England | South Gloucestershire | 0 | 0 | 24 |
| Mangotsfield School | West of England | South Gloucestershire | 0 | 0 | 23 |
| Downend Comprehensive School | West of England | South Gloucestershire | 0 | 0 | 26 |
| The Grange School and Sports College | West of England | South Gloucestershire | 0 | 0 | 20 |
| Chipping Sodbury School | West of England | South Gloucestershire | 0 | 0 | 24 |
| Marlwood School | West of England | South Gloucestershire | 0 | 0 | 32 |
| John Cabot City Technology College | West of England | South Gloucestershire | 0 | 0 | 42 |
| Filton College | West of England | South Gloucestershire | 0 | 0 | 443 |
| The Inspire Trust | West of England | South Gloucestershire | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Total | | | 8 | 0 | 8,282 |

**Mr. Cameron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the cost of educational maintenance allowances has been in each year since their introduction. [10769]

**Beverley Hughes:** This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council. Mark Haysom, the council's chief executive, will write to the hon. Member with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the Library.

## Hertfordshire Schools

**Mr. Prisk:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what plans she has to increase the level of funding for *(a)* 19 years plus students and *(b)* students with disabilities in East Hertfordshire. [10924]

**Bill Rammell:** Funding for further education, including adult learners and those with disabilities, is increasing and will rise by over £1 billion in 2005–06 compared to 2002–03—a 25 per cent. cash increase in three years. Funding increases for individual colleges will depend on a number of factors including the extent to which college activities align with our key priorities. As the allocation of funding in local areas relates to the LSC's operational responsibilities I have asked the LSC's chief executive, Mark Haysom, to write to the hon. Member with the information requested. A copy of his reply will be placed in the Library.

**Mr. Prisk:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what assessment she has made of the change in numbers of places for *(a)* construction, *(b)* engineering and *(c)* catering courses offered by Hertford Regional College in 2005–06. [10925]

**Bill Rammell:** The Government have been clear about its priorities for education. Changes in the numbers of places available for individual courses in particular colleges will depend on a number of factors, including Government priorities. As decisions about the mix of provision to be funded in local areas relates to the LSC's operational responsibilities, I have asked the LSC's chief executive, Mark Haysom, to write to the hon. Member with the information requested. A copy of his reply will be placed in the Library.

## IT Projects

**Mr. Meacher:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what computerisation or IT failures have occurred in public sector projects managed by her Department in each year since 1997; what the contracted cost of the project was in each case; and what estimate she has made of the direct and indirect costs of failure or breakdown in each case. [14366]

**Bill Rammell:** I can confirm that no computerisation or IT failures have occurred in public sector projects managed by the Department for Education and Skills in the years since 1997.

## School Closures

**Mr. Carswell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many village schools have closed since January 2000. [14785]

**Jacqui Smith:** Rural village schools play an important part in maintaining the viability of the countryside. That is why we introduced a presumption against the closure of rural schools in 1998. The presumption does not

mean that no rural school should ever close, but the case for closure should be strong and the proposals clearly in the best interests of educational provision in the area.

The number of rural schools approved for closure since 2000 is shown as follows.

*Rural schools approved for closure since 2000*

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2000 | 2 |
| 2001 | 3 |
| 2002 | 5 |
| 2003 | 12 |
| 2004 | 9 |
| 2005 | 4 |

In 2003 we introduced a broader definition for rural areas which increased the proportion of schools in England classified as rural.

### Social Care

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what estimate *(a)* Skills for Care and *(b)* the Children, Young People and Families Workforce Development Council has made of the number of (i) domiciliary care workers, (ii) outreach workers, (iii) residential child workers, (iv) social care managers and (v) staff responsible for recruitment and supervision of social care staff who would be covered by future requirements for registration with the General Social Care Council. [14438]

**Mr. Byrne:** I have been asked to reply.

I refer hon. Member to the reply I gave him on 11 July 2005, *Official Report*, columns 725–26W.

### Telephone Inquiries

**Mr. MacNeil:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what facilities her Department has to deal with telephone inquiries in *(a)* Welsh, *(b)* Scots Gaelic and *(c)* Irish Gaelic. [14694]

**Bill Rammell:** My Department operates a Welsh Language Act Scheme in accordance with section 21(3) of the Welsh Language Act 1993. Where a telephone helpline forms part of a campaign that is applicable to a Welsh speaking audience, a Welsh language service is offered. We have no facilities to deal with telephone inquiries in Scots Gaelic or Irish Gaelic.

### Work Experience

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many 14 to 16-year-olds undertook work experience in *(a)* the public sector, *(b)* a small or medium sized enterprise, *(c)* a large enterprise and *(d)* a trade union in each year between 2000 and 2004. [10042]

**Jacqui Smith:** There is a 95 per cent. take up of work experience among Key Stage 4 pupils. However, the breakdown of numbers participating is the responsibility of the Learning and Skills Council (LSC). Mark Haysom, chief executive of the LSC, will write to my hon. Friend, and a copy of his reply will be placed in the Library.

## SCOTLAND

### Departmental Expenditure

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what the total spending by his Department on *(a)* staff, *(b)* accommodation and *(c)* procurement in the (i) Moray constituency and (ii) Highland Region was in the most recent year for which figures are available. [14846]

**David Cairns:** The Scotland Office occupies premises in Edinburgh and London, with a very small presence in Glasgow and does not incur any direct expenditure outwith these areas. Information on regional distribution of staff at 1 April 2004 is available in the libraries of both Houses, and also at: http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/management_information/statistical_information/statistics/contents_for_civil_service_statistics_2004_report/index.asp

Table D shows the numbers of staff by regional distribution. Figures relating to 1 April 2005 will be published next year.

**Stewart Hosie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what the total spending by his Department on *(a)* staff, *(b)* accommodation and *(c)* procurement in (i) Dundee, East constituency, (ii) Tayside and (iii) the City of Dundee was in the most recent year for which figures are available. [14876]

**Mr. Salmond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what the total spending by his Department on *(a)* staff, *(b)* accommodation and *(c)* procurement in (i) Banff and Buchan and (ii) the North East of Scotland was in the most recent year for which figures are available. [14884]

**Pete Wishart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what the total spending by his Department on *(a)* staff, *(b)* accommodation and *(c)* procurement in Perth and North Perthshire was for the most recent year for which figures are available. [14917]

**David Cairns:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave today to the hon. Member for Moray (Angus Robertson).

### Equality and Diversity

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much the Department has spent promoting equality and diversity in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [14659]

**David Cairns:** Staff of the Scotland Office are on loan from the Department for Constitutional Affairs or the Scottish Executive; both Departments continue to provide a full programme of training and development opportunities for such staff. Initiatives specific to equality and diversity include running diversity and equality events, supporting internal staff networks and providing support on corporate diversity programmes. To underpin this, diversity training is mandatory for all Scotland Office staff. Separate figures on costs are, however, not available.

### Opinion Surveys

**Mr. Weir:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what the *(a)* subject matter and *(b)* dates were of opinion survey research undertaken by the Department in the last 12 months; if he will place copies of the results of each survey in the library; which companies were used in conducting the research; and how much each was paid. [14812]

**David Cairns:** The Scotland Office has not undertaken any opinion surveys in the last 12 months.

### Proceeds of Crime

**Jim Sheridan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much *(a)* money and *(b)* property has been seized in Paisley and Renfrewshire, North as a consequence of the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002. [14150]

**David Cairns:** I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave to my hon. Friend the Member for Midlothian (Mr. Hamilton) on 7 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 591W. As I indicated, this is a devolved matter and the information requested is not broken down by constituency or local authority area. Neither is it available in terms of money or property seized except in relation to the particular individuals involved.

## DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

### Correspondence

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many letters to his Department from hon. Members in session *(a)* 2004–05 and *(b)* 2005–06 remain unanswered, broken down by those which are (i) one month old, (ii) two months old, (iii) three months old, (iv) four months old and (v) over six months old. [13860]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** As at 31 August, there are no unanswered letters from hon. Members for the 2004–05 session. For the current session 52 letters remain unanswered that are more than one month old, of which three letters are more than two months old.

The Cabinet Office, on an annual basis, publishes a report to Parliament on the performance of Departments in replying to Members/Peers correspondence. The report for 2004 was published on 6 April 2005, *Official Report*, columns 137–40WS.

### Council Tax

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister pursuant to the answer of 5 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 298W, on council tax, whether he has a personal council tax liability on his official residences at *(a)* Admiralty House and *(b)* Dorneywood. [12084]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** My right hon. Friend the Deputy Prime Minister does not have a personal council tax liability on his official residence at Admiralty House. In line with established Cabinet Office policy on official residences, council tax liability in respect of my right hon. Friend's residence at Admiralty House is paid by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister.

In relation to Dorneywood I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 5 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 298W.

### Empty/Second Homes

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what the Valuation Office Agency's most recent estimate is of the number of *(a)* empty homes and *(b)* second homes in England. [5570]

**Yvette Cooper:** The number of empty homes and second homes in England, as reported by local authorities on the CTB(1) and CTB(1)S forms submitted to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister for 2005–06, are 714,000 and 229,000 respectively. No data on second homes were received from Hart or Wandsworth; the total for second homes excludes estimates for these authorities.

### Fire Services

**Mr. Clifton-Brown:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what estimate he has made of the net cost to each fire authority of the proposed regionalisation of fire control centres; and what methodology will be used for precepting. [14608]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister recognises that there may some net additional costs to FRAs during the transition from the existing to the new arrangements and is committed to the new burdens principles whereby it will meet net additional costs to FRAs arising from the project. From the point when the last centre goes live, the new control centres are expected to achieve, on average, a steady state saving of some 30 per cent. over existing arrangements, which will result in net savings to each fire and rescue authority. However, figures are not yet available for each authority, as the FiReControl business case only exists at national level. We are working closely with fire and rescue authorities through the FiReControl Finance Working Group to give them the information they need for budgeting at local level.

### Key Worker Living Initiative

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what criteria are used to determine allocation of funding for the key worker living initiative *(a)* to individual housing associations and *(b)* to geographical areas; and how the requirement for key worker housing in an area is assessed. [12758]

**Yvette Cooper:** The programme operates in London, the east and south east of England. Housing associations in these regions were invited to bid for funds in autumn 2003 as part of the Approved Development Programme competitive process. The Housing Corporation assessed bids using criteria of association capacity, deliverability, value for money and quality of schemes.

Funding has been allocated to schemes offering best value, rather than being ring- fenced to specific areas.

Evaluation of key worker housing need at a local level generally has included consultation with relevant employers and analysis of available labour and housing market data.

## TRADE AND INDUSTRY

### Manufacturing

**Mr. Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many manufacturing jobs were lost in each county in each year since 1997. [14761]

**John Healey:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell to Mr. Peter Bone, dated 22 September 2005:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question about the number of manufacturing jobs lost in each county in each year since 1997. (14761)

While statistics of jobs lost are not available, statistics from surveys enable comparisons to be made of net changes in numbers of jobs from year to year.

I am placing in the House of Commons Library a table giving information for each year from 1997 to 2003, the latest year for which information is available.

## CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

### Correspondence

**Mr. MacNeil:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what her Department's policy is for dealing with and responding to correspondence received in *(a)* Welsh, *(b)* Scots Gaelic and *(c)* Irish Gaelic. [14703]

**Bridget Prentice:** Under the Department for Constitutional Affairs' draft Welsh Language Scheme we aim to respond in Welsh to any correspondence sent to us in Welsh within the same timescale as other correspondence.

In recognition of its operational role and its delivery of services direct to the public in Wales, Her Majesty's Court Service, an executive agency of the Department for Constitutional Affairs, has its own Welsh Language Scheme. A public consultation on the Scheme finished at the end of June and it has now been approved by the Welsh Language Board and came into effect on 19 July 2005. The text of the Scheme can be found at: http://www.hmcourts-service.gov.uk/cms/3437.htm The aim as set out in the Scheme is to respond in Welsh to correspondence sent in Welsh within the same timescale as other correspondence.

There are no similar Schemes in place for dealing with and responding to correspondence received in Scots Gaelic or Irish Gaelic.

### Disciplinary Matters

**Vera Baird:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs, if she will place in the Library the reports provided by the Coroner of Teesside to the Lord Chancellor on his performance since his severe reprimand. [15639]

**Ms Harman:** The reports referred to by my hon. and learned Friend have been provided by the Coroner for Teesside to the Lord Chancellor on a confidential basis as part of an ongoing disciplinary matter, and it is not appropriate for them to be made available in the way requested. The annual coronial statistics for 2004 will shortly be published. I will send a copy to my hon. Friend as soon as they are available.

### Electoral Administration Bill

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs when she expects her Department to complete its work on the Electoral Administration Bill in advance of its publication; and if she will make a statement. [15112]

**Ms Harman:** The Electoral Administration Bill will be introduced to Parliament as soon as parliamentary time allows.

### Judges (Sexual Offences Training)

**Vera Baird:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs, what steps are taken to ensure that in any rape appeal there will be at least one judge who has been on the serious sexual offences seminar. [15640]

**Ms Harman:** Judicial training is the responsibility of the Lord Chief Justice and is exercised through the Judicial Studies Board (JSB).

Judges of every rank who sit in crime, including the Court of Appeal, have received training on the provisions of the Sexual Offences Act 2003 as part of a programme of training on the Criminal Justice Reforms that ran between January and March 2005. This was supplemented with written material provided at the time the Act came into force.

The serious sexual offences seminar is specifically designed for judges who hear rape trials. For details of the serious sexual offences seminar I refer my hon. and learned Friend to the answer I gave on 30 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 1745W.

### Parliamentary Questions

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs pursuant to the answer of 11 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 826W, what estimate she has made of the cost of answering the question. [12671]

**Bridget Prentice:** The costs of answering the question would have been over the disproportionate costs threshold of £600.

### Telephone Inquiries

**Mr. MacNeil:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what facilities her Department has to deal with telephone inquiries in *(a)* Welsh, *(b)* Scots Gaelic and *(c)* Irish Gaelic. [14704]

**Bridget Prentice:** It is not practicable to offer a Welsh language telephone service. Under the Department's draft Welsh Language Scheme those who call and wish to speak in Welsh will be given the option of writing in Welsh and receiving an answer in the same language or continuing the conversation in English.

In recognition of its operational role and its delivery of services direct to the public in Wales, Her Majesty's Court Service, an executive agency of the Department

for Constitutional Affairs, also has a Welsh Language Scheme. A public consultation on the Scheme finished at the end of June and it has now been approved by the Welsh Language Board and came into effect on 19 July 2005. The Scheme can be found at: http://www.hmcourts-service.gov.uk/cms/3437.htm Under the terms of the Scheme, Her Majesty's Court Service will provide a Welsh telephone service to its users. This can be accessed direct by phoning any of the Service's offices in Wales or if phoning one of its offices in England the call may be transferred to the Service's Welsh Language Unit.

Neither the Department nor Her Majesty's Court Service has any facilities for dealing with telephone inquiries in Scots Gaelic or Irish Gaelic.

### Wales (Government)

**Peter Law:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how she intends to implement Paragraph 3.12 of the White Paper, "Better governance for Wales" (Cm 6582), in respect of any Bill she introduces in the current session of Parliament. [14942]

**Ms Harman:** I intend to implement the Government's policy as stated in paragraph 3.12 of the White Paper "Better governance for Wales" Cm 6582. My Department is in discussion with the Assembly Government on the issues concerned.

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Benefit Fraud

**Jim Sheridan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* Scotland had legal action taken against them for benefit fraud in 2004. [14145]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The available information is in the table.

*Benefit fraud—legal actions by DWP and local authorities in 2003–04 and 2004–05*

| | *UK* | *Scotland* |
|---|---|---|
| 2003–04 | 37,550 | 1,682 |
| 2004–05 | 42,465 | 2,309 |

*Notes:*
1. 'Legal action' is interpreted to include cautions and administrative penalties as well as prosecutions.
2. Cautions could only be issued by DWP in Scotland from January 2004.
3. For DWP, figures refer to total prosecutions undertaken specifically by the Counter Fraud Investigation Service.
4. Due to cross-border operations National Investigation Services (NIS) prosecutions cannot be broken down into the geographical area requested. Therefore the UK figures include NIS figures and the Scotland figures do not.

*Sources:*
1. Fraud Information by Sector.
2. Northern Ireland Social Security Agency.
3. Local authority subsidy returns.

### Child Support Agency

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what definition the Child Support Agency uses of the term sensitive case; how many cases the Sensitive Case Team has dealt with in each year since its establishment; how many times unauthorised access to sensitive cases has been detected; and how many checks have been made on sensitive cases. [2013]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive, Mr. Stephen Geraghty. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Stephen Geraghty to Mr. David Laws, dated 14 July 2005:*

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what definition the Child Support Agency uses of the term sensitive case; how many cases the Sensitive Case Team has dealt with in each year since its establishment; how many times unauthorised access to sensitive cases has been detected; and how many checks have been made on sensitive cases.

Within the Child Support Agency all Nationally Sensitive cases are dealt with by a team located in Falkirk. Sensitive cases are those cases that require special handling in order to restrict access to information and to protect the account from unauthorised amendments. Sensitive cases cover a wide range of circumstances including partners at risk of violence, people on witness protection, transsexuals and VIPs.

A yearly breakdown of the number of Nationally Sensitive cases is unavailable. However, there are currently 410 live cases, of which 238 are on the old scheme and 172 on the new scheme.

Since the inception of the Nationally Sensitive Case team within the Child Support Agency there have been no instances of unauthorised access to these cases detected. Information is not available as to how many checks have been carried out on Nationally Sensitive cases. However, they are all subject to 100 per cent. checking which means that every time the case is actioned it is checked to ensure the Nationally Sensitive marking is still relevant.

I hope you find this information of use.

### Correspondence

**Mr. MacNeil:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what his Department's policy is for dealing with and responding to correspondence received in *(a)* Welsh, *(b)* Scots Gaelic and *(c)* Irish Gaelic; [14738]

(2) what facilities his Department has to deal with telephone inquiries in *(a)* Welsh, *(b)* Scots Gaelic and *(c)* Irish Gaelic. [14739]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** For customers in Wales, DWP has a Welsh Language Scheme, which includes a full service for communicating in Welsh. Correspondence will be in Welsh if the customer prefers, and staff will speak to customers in Welsh if they prefer. Corporate publicity material in Wales is provided in both English and Welsh. This service is provided in compliance with the Welsh Language Act.

For Scots Gaelic speakers, if the person cannot converse in English, we would use the departmental telephone interpreting service, provided by Language Line, who can provide interpreters. Written Gaelic queries are extremely rare, but we could obtain translation from, and into, Gaelic, if the need arose. The same principle would apply to any contacts from Irish Gaelic speakers, but as responsibility for most social security, child support and pensions matters rests

with the Northern Ireland Department for Social Development, this would be most unlikely to happen in practice.

### Departmental Expenditure

**Stewart Hosie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the total spending by his Department on *(a)* staff, *(b)* accommodation and *(c)* procurement in (i) Dundee East constituency, (ii) Tayside and (iii) the City of Dundee was for the most recent year for which figures are available. [14864]

**Mr. Salmond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the total spending by his Department on *(a)* staff, *(b)* accommodation and *(c)* procurement in (i) Banff and Buchan and (ii) the North East of Scotland was for the most recent year for which figures are available. [14885]

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the total spending by his Department on *(a)* staff, *(b)* accommodation and *(c)* procurement in the (i) Moray constituency and (ii) Highland Region was for the most recent year for which figures are available. [14847]

**Pete Wishart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the total spending by his Department on *(a)* staff, *(b)* accommodation and *(c)* procurement in Perth and North Perthshire was for the most recent year for which figures are available. [14919]

**Mr. Weir:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the total spending by his Department on *(a)* staff, *(b)* accommodation and *(c)* procurement has been in (i) Angus constituency and (ii) Tayside for the most recent year for which figures are available. [14906]

**Mrs. McGuire:** Information is not held in the format requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Information on regional distribution of staff at 1 April 2004 is available in the Library of both Houses, and also at, http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/management_information/statistical_information/statistics/contents_for_civil_service_statistics_2004_report/index.asp

Table D shows the numbers of staff by regional distribution.

Figures relating to 2005 will be published next year.

### Energy Efficiency

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what targets he has for improving energy efficiency; and what steps his Department is taking to achieve these targets. [14249]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The Department for Work and Pensions has a number of targets in line with the Framework for Sustainable Development on the Government Estate. The steps taken to achieve these targets include raising staff awareness through the use of the intranet, staff magazine and poster campaigns; sharing best practice through the use of the Sustainable Development Network Group and by incorporating energy efficient spend to save measures across the Departments estate.

The progress against these targets is reported annually in the Sustainable Development Annual report, which has been published since 2001 and will be available in December 2005.

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of electricity used by buildings in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies came from renewable sources in each year since 1997. [14250]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The Department for Work and Pensions was formed in 2001. The proportion of renewable energy used by the Department and its agencies is as follows:

| | *Percentage* |
|---|---|
| 2001–02 | 25 |
| 2002–03 | 21.4 |
| 2003–04 | 46 |

Figures for 2004–05 are not yet available.

### Expert Medical Witnesses

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what audit his Department makes of the qualifications of expert medical witnesses in medical appeal tribunals; [14010]

(2) if he will issue guidelines relating to evidence given by expert medical witnesses where an individual's capacity to work is tested in a tribunal. [14011]

**Mrs. McGuire:** Expert medical witnesses are appointed as members of the Appeals Service panel by the Lord Chancellor. Their training is a matter for the President of appeal tribunals.

### Housing Benefit

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average processing times for housing benefit claims are in each *(a)* London borough, *(b)* local housing authority in the north east and *(c)* Pathfinder area, broken down by tenure sector. [10909]

**Mr. Timms** *[pursuant to the reply, 11 July 2005, Official Report, c. 679W]:* The information is in the tables.

*Average housing benefit clearance times (calendar days) in London boroughs; fourth quarter 2004–05*

| *Authority* | *All housing benefit* | *Rent rebate* | *Rent allowance* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Barking | 70.02 | 63.1 | 82.17 |
| Barnet | 35.47 | 31.24 | 37.01 |
| Bexley | 44.71 | 34.76 | 46.14 |
| Brent | 37.35 | 32.24 | 38.93 |
| Bromley | 29.62 | [1]— | 29.62 |
| Camden | 34.79 | 30.69 | 37.99 |
| City of London | 25.51 | 23.7 | 28.64 |
| Croydon | 32.85 | 17.52 | 43.52 |
| Ealing | 61.2 | 59.91 | 61.86 |
| Enfield | 39.08 | 32.91 | 41.83 |
| Greenwich | 35.22 | 31.29 | 39.39 |
| Hackney | 78.53 | 70.52 | 84.71 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— |
| Haringey | 50.34 | 38.07 | 57.31 |
| Harrow | 27.3 | 22.11 | 28.83 |

*Average housing benefit clearance times (calendar days) in London boroughs; fourth quarter 2004–05*

| Authority | All housing benefit | Rent rebate | Rent allowance |
|---|---|---|---|
| Havering | 32.55 | 29.54 | 35.64 |
| Hillingdon | 52.37 | 44.46 | 56.31 |
| Hounslow | 40.74 | 33.53 | 45.83 |
| Islington | 49.37 | 54.29 | 43.88 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 30.01 | 30.01 | 30.01 |
| Kingston upon Thames | 61.16 | 63.46 | 59.65 |
| Lambeth | 47.11 | 42.75 | 51.27 |
| Lewisham | 32.37 | 31.21 | 33.22 |
| Merton | 52.38 | 46.74 | 54.6 |
| Newham | 47.24 | 47.43 | 47.17 |
| Redbridge | 36.16 | 29.39 | 38.73 |
| Richmond upon Thames | 49.72 | 39.85 | 50.88 |
| Southwark | 39.13 | 39.13 | 39.13 |
| Sutton | 42.07 | 30.51 | 47.52 |
| Tower Hamlets | 61.63 | 62 | 61.35 |
| Waltham Forest | 36.2 | 31.17 | 37.71 |
| Wandsworth | 52.25 | 44.43 | 56.66 |
| Westminster | [1] | [1] | [1] |

*Average housing benefit clearance times (calendar days) in local authorities in the north-east GOR; fourth quarter 2004–05*

| Authority | All housing benefit | Rent rebate | Rent allowance |
|---|---|---|---|
| Alnwick | 35.93 | 25.24 | 44.07 |
| Berwick upon Tweed | 31.82 | 23.16 | 39.81 |
| Blyth Valley | 24 | 22.51 | 25.88 |
| Castle Morpeth | 23.68 | 19.52 | 26.94 |
| Chester le Street | 29.27 | 25.74 | 34.21 |
| Darlington | 31.88 | 25.41 | 34.81 |
| Derwentside | 28.39 | 25.66 | 30.83 |
| Durham | 29.17 | 25.13 | 34.66 |
| Easington | 36.01 | 35.86 | 36.16 |
| Gateshead | 66.8 | 66.8 | 66.8 |
| Hartlepool | 28.96 | 18.25 | 29.07 |
| Middlesbrough | 36.6 | 83.73 | 35.18 |
| Newcastle upon Tyne | 65.24 | 75.5 | 52.43 |
| North Tyneside | 47.83 | 47.85 | 47.8 |
| Redcar and Cleveland | 39.05 | 32.58 | 39.28 |
| Sedgefield | 31.91 | 29.34 | 35.96 |
| South Tyneside | 42.64 | 42.23 | 43.41 |
| Stockton on Tees | 39.4 | 34.3 | 44.81 |
| Sunderland | [1] | [1] | [1] |
| Teesdale | 46.94 | 52.45 | 44.43 |
| Tynedale | 21.28 | [1] | 21.28 |
| Wansbeck | 42.36 | 40.33 | 44.94 |
| Wear Valley | 21.41 | 17.87 | 24.26 |

*Average housing benefit clearance times (calendar days) in first wave local housing allowance pathfinder local authorities; fourth quarter 2004–05*

| Authority | All housing benefit | Rent rebate | Rent allowance |
|---|---|---|---|
| Blackpool | 18.48 | 13.18 | 19.45 |
| Brighton and Hove | 31.84 | 28.24 | 33.41 |
| Edinburgh | 43.79 | 33.32 | 55.14 |
| Conwy | 32.01 | 29.88 | 32.68 |
| Coventry | 53.61 | [1] | 53.61 |
| Leeds | 64.2 | 63.2 | 65.28 |
| Lewisham | 32.37 | 31.21 | 33.22 |
| North East Lincoln | 36 | 35.35 | 36.24 |
| Teignbridge | 30.39 | 21.54 | 30.61 |

*Average housing benefit clearance times (calendar days) in second wave local housing allowance local authorities; fourth quarter 2004–05*

| Authority | All housing benefit | Rent rebate | Rent allowance |
|---|---|---|---|
| Argyll and Bute | 35.51 | 30.87 | 39.31 |
| East Riding of Yorkshire | 29.46 | 22.1 | 33.78 |
| Guildford | 21.01 | 23.26 | 19.83 |
| Norwich | 17.71 | 15.78 | 19.83 |
| Pembrokeshire | 43.08 | 36.96 | 47.94 |
| Salford | [1] | [1] | [1] |
| South Norfolk | 31.2 | 15.45 | 32.62 |
| St. Helens | 34.21 | [1] | 34.21 |
| Wandsworth | 52.25 | 44.43 | 56.66 |

[1] Means not provided by the local authority. In the case of rent rebate figures only not being available, this may be because the local authority has no rent rebate cases.

*Notes:*

1. Rent rebates are made on local authority properties.

2. Rent allowance is paid on all private rented accommodation, including registered social landlords.

3. Lewisham and Wandsworth both appear twice; they are London boroughs and local housing allowance pathfinders.

4. The second wave of local housing allowance local authorities went live between April and July 2005.

*Source:*

Local authority reported data.

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the *(a)* average number of days to process new housing benefit claims and *(b)* percentage of new housing benefit claims determined within 14 days was in each local authority in Scotland in each of the last 16 quarters for which figures are available. [13957]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The available information has been placed in the Library.

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the cost was of housing benefit in council housing transferred to housing associations in each of the last two years. [14236]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The information requested is not available.

## Industrial Injuries (Hearing Loss)

**Roger Berry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many claims for industrial injuries disablement benefit have been made on the basis of hearing loss in each year since 1995; and how many were successful; [14115]

(2) what percentage of *(a)* claims for industrial injuries disablement benefit (IIDB) and *(b)* IIDB claims awarded were for hearing loss in each year since 1995. [14116]

**Margaret Hodge:** The available information is in the tables.

*Claims to Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit*[1]

| | *All prescribed diseases* | *Occupational deafness* | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | *Number* | *Number* | *Percentage of total claims* |
| 1995 | [3]21,900 | [3]4,900 | 22.1 |
| 1996 | 44,200 | 6,800 | 15.3 |
| 1997 | 60,600 | 5,800 | 9.6 |
| 1998 | 45,600 | 4,300 | 9.4 |
| 1999 | 41,300 | 4,100 | 9.9 |
| 2000 | 48,700 | 4,300 | 8.8 |
| 2001 | 39,000 | 3,900 | 10.0 |
| 2002 | 41,050 | 3,430 | 8.4 |
| 2003 | 37,435 | 3,200 | 8.5 |
| 2004 | [4]28,255 | [4]2,705 | 9.6 |

*Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit assessments where the level of disablement was above the threshold for receiving Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit*[2]

| | *All prescribed diseases*[7] | *Occupational deafness*[8] | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | *Number* | *Number* | *Percentage of total assessments* |
| 1995 | [3]2,835 | [3]585 | 20.6 |
| 1996 | 3,770 | 530 | 14.1 |
| 1997 | 5,950 | 415 | 7.0 |
| 1998 | 6,255 | 260 | 4.2 |
| 1999 | 4,265 | 315 | 7.4 |
| 2000 | 3,205 | 225 | 7.0 |
| 2001 | 3,410 | 265 | 7.8 |
| 2002 | 4,470 | 265 | 5.9 |
| 2003 | 4,790 | 335 | 7.0 |
| 2004 | [4]5,035 | 325 | 6.5 |

[1] Claims are based on a 10 per cent. sample up to 31 March 2002 and on a 100 per cent. count thereafter.

[2] Assessments are based on 100 per cent. count and rounded to the nearest 5 to ensure anonymity.

[3] Figures are for 9 months only.

[4] Figures for 2004 are provisional.

[5] The number of assessments may not relate to claims during the same period.

[6] Figures relate to Industrial Disease as data on assessments for accidents was not collected prior to April 2002.

[7] The figures for assessments for all prescribed diseases do not include cases where the level of disablement is below the threshold for receiving Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit.

[8] The figures for assessments for occupational deafness show all cases where there is a level of disablement assessed as, due to the nature of the scheme, all assessments for occupational deafness have to be at least 20 per cent. and therefore above the threshold for receiving Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit.

*Source:*
DWP Information Directorate.

**Roger Berry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the evidential basis was for setting *(a)* the lower threshold for hearing loss caused by noise at work at 50db when assessing claims and *(b)* a three-year time limit for hearing loss industrial injuries disablement benefit. [14119]

**Margaret Hodge:** The 50db threshold for benefit payment was set following the advice of experts in audiology and the Industrial Injuries Advisory Council who determined that this level of loss equated to 20 per cent. disablement in the Industrial Injuries Scheme.

The Industrial Injuries Advisory Council advised that noise-induced hearing loss is only slowly progressive. Thus a person whose claim for disablement benefit has been disallowed is unlikely to suffer deterioration in their hearing loss due to noise to the degree that they fulfil the criteria for diagnosing occupational deafness (prescribed disease (PD) A10) in less than three years.

A claim cannot be made less than three years after the previous disallowance of a claim. This is because the Industrial Injuries Advisory Council advised that noise-induced deafness is only slowly progressive. A person who fails to fulfil the diagnostic criterion of a 50dB loss is unlikely to suffer deterioration in their hearing loss due to noise to the degree that they fulfil the criteria in less than three years.

## Jobcentre Plus Vacancies

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the *(a)* inflows and *(b)* outflows of Jobcentre Plus vacancies were in each quarter since June 2004 in each area of the north-east region. [11380]

**Mr. Timms:** The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive, Lesley Strathie. She will write to the hon. Member.

*Letter from Lesley Strathie to Mr. Jim Cousins, dated 13 September 2005:*

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what the inflows and outflows of Jobcentre Plus vacancies were in each area of the North East region in each quarter since June 2004. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The available information is in the table.

*Inflows and outflows of Jobcentre Plus vacancies in the north-east region*

| | *City of Sunderland* | *Durham County* | *Gateshead and South Tyneside* | *Northumbria* | *Tees Valley* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *June 2004* | | | | | |
| Vacancies notified[1] | 2,562 | 4,006 | 2,967 | 6,667 | 5,198 |
| Jobs notified[2] | 5,556 | 8,345 | 6,984 | 12,978 | 10,290 |
| Total jobs filled[3] | 1,698 | 2,695 | 2,092 | 3,678 | 2,831 |
| *September 2004* | | | | | |
| Vacancies notified[1] | 2,689 | 4,424 | 3,477 | 7,539 | 5,878 |
| Jobs notified[2] | 6,904 | 8,818 | 9,427 | 15,096 | 12,268 |
| Jobs filled[3] | 1,728 | 2,673 | 2,266 | 3,980 | 3,259 |
| *December 2004* | | | | | |
| Vacancies notified[1] | 1,754 | 3,103 | 2,039 | 5,132 | 4,194 |
| Jobs notified[2] | 3,988 | 6,602 | 5,251 | 11,354 | 9,247 |
| Jobs filled[3] | 1,881 | 2,527 | 3,368 | 3,953 | 3,654 |

*Inflows and outflows of Jobcentre Plus vacancies in the north-east region*

| | City of Sunderland | Durham County | Gateshead and South Tyneside | Northumbria | Tees Valley |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *March 2005* | | | | | |
| Vacancies notified[1] | 1,921 | 3,602 | 2,419 | 6,080 | 4,729 |
| Jobs notified[2] | 4,361 | 7,053 | 5,005 | 12,415 | 8,864 |
| Jobs filled[3] | 1,379 | 2,313 | 1,938 | 3,468 | 1,519 |
| *June 2005* | | | | | |
| Vacancies notified[1] | 1,789 | 3,133 | 2,210 | 5,751 | 4,569 |
| Jobs notified[2] | 3,922 | 6,041 | 4,543 | 11,477 | 8,439 |
| Jobs filled[3] | 1,142 | 1,905 | 1,560 | 2,768 | 1,267 |

[1] Represents in-flow of vacancies.
[2] Represents total number of jobs notified.
[3] Represents out-flow of vacancies.
*Note:*
The disparity between the number of jobs notified and the number filled results from: employers filling jobs through other sources; employers withdrawing vacancies; insufficient evidence to demonstrate that a vacancy has been filled by a Jobcentre Plus applicant.
*Source:*
Jobcentre Plus Labour Market System

We are committed to enhancing and improving our vacancy services, and have created an e-services portfolio for employers. This enables them to advertise and manage their own vacancies, and has resulted in an increasing number of our customers applying directly to employers. These vacancies appear on our Labour Market System and are included in the figures above.

We are also developing improved partnerships with private recruitment agencies to increase the range and number of job opportunities available to our customers. This has resulted in the introduction of a 'Jobs Warehouse' which is accessible through internet services. These vacancies do not appear on the Labour Market System and consequently are not included in the figures above.

I hope this is helpful.

## New Deal

**Sir Malcolm Rifkind:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his latest estimate is of the cost per additional job created by the new deal programmes; and what assumptions are made in making that calculation. [12214]

**Margaret Hodge:** The new deal is not a job creation scheme. It is designed to help unemployed and disadvantaged people into work or training. It has already been successful in helping more than 1.3 million people into employment.

Research has been conducted on the macro-economic effect of new deal for young people (NDYP) and new deal for lone parents (NDLP). Information is not available on new deal 25 Plus, new deal for disabled or new deal for partners.

A national audit office report[1] suggested that the average annual cost per additional person of any age in employment through new deal for young people is within the range of £5,000-£8,000.

The National Institute for Economic and Social Research (NIESR) undertook a detailed macro-economic analysis of NDYP until March 2002[2]. NIESR calculated the net budgetary cost per job was £7,000 per annum (excluding the environmental task force and voluntary sector options) or £4,000 per annum when these two options are included.

NIESR calculated that by March 2000, NDYP had reduced unemployment among all age groups by 35,000. They also estimated that NDYP raised youth employment by 15,000 (excluding those on the environmental task force and voluntary sector options). Adding these two options raised this to 30,000 more young people in work due to NDYP.

Evidence on the cost effectiveness of new deal for lone parents (NDLP) comes from the cost benefit analysis of NDLP carried out by departmental economists. The findings were published in the NDLP evaluation synthesis report in June 2003[3].

The unit costs of NDLP in 2000–01 were £400 per participant. The gross cost per job was around £860 and the cost per additional job was £1,560.

A calculation of cost effectiveness takes into account the additional earnings from movements into work and the costs of running the programme in 2000–01. NDLP provided a significant net economic gain to society, with a net benefit of over £4,400 from each additional job, and a total net gain of £115 million.

The net impact on public finance was also calculated. This included the cost of in-work credits and benefits such as the working families' tax credit. NDLP in 2001–02 resulted in a net exchequer saving of £1,600 for each additional job entry; a total saving of £41.5 million.

The assumptions made in the above calculations can be found in the listed reports, which are available in the Library.

[1] New deal for young people, national audit office, February 2002.

[2] New deal for young people: Implications for employment and the public finances, NIESR, December 2000 (Ref: ESR 62).

[3] Evaluation of the new deal for lone parents: Second synthesis report of the national evaluation, research report 163, June 2003.

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people from the Great Grimsby constituency have been on the new deal in each year since its introduction; and if he will make a statement. [14371]

**Margaret Hodge:** The available information on individual starts is in the table.

| Period | Individual starts |
|---|---|
| January 1998-March 1998 | 10 |
| April to March: | |
| 1998–999 | 810 |
| 1999–2000 | 550 |
| 2000–01 | 630 |
| 2001–02 | 950 |
| 2002–03 | 1,090 |
| 2003–04 | 1,100 |
| 2004–05 | 1,320 |

*Notes:*

1. Information relates to individuals starting new deal for young people, new deal 25 plus and new deal for lone parents. Information on individuals starting other new deal programmes is not available at constituency level.
2. Figures may include individuals who have started more than one of the new deal programmes. In this situation, they would be included in the figures more than once.
3. If an individual has started a particular new deal programme more than once, they will only be included once in the figures.
4. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

*Source:*

Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate

### Pension Credit

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of pension credit guarantee element recipients in each region were previously in receipt of the minimum income guarantee. [13958]

**Mr. Timms:** The information is given in the following table.

*Guarantee credit households by Government office region, March 2005*

| Government office region | Guarantee credit households | Proportion who were converted from minimum income guarantee (percentage) |
|---|---|---|
| Scotland | 220,290 | 72.17 |
| Wales | 127,620 | 69.26 |
| North East | 119,610 | 73.61 |
| North West | 284,470 | 72.98 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 198,475 | 72.08 |
| East Midlands | 147,605 | 69.66 |
| West Midlands | 219,365 | 72.45 |
| East of England | 168,995 | 68.00 |
| London | 245,215 | 75.25 |
| South East | 211,945 | 67.60 |
| South West | 172,155 | 68.31 |
| Great Britain total | 2,115,745 | 71.28 |

*Notes:*

1. Caseloads are rounded to the nearest five.
2. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
3. Guarantee credit households include those who were receiving guarantee credit only and those who were receiving both guarantee credit and savings credit.
4. Pension credit replaced minimum income guarantee (MIG) on 6 October 2003.
5. Data from the generalised matching service 100 per cent. scans taken on 18 March 2005. All figures have been rated up to give month-end estimates.
6. Those converted from MIG are those who were MIG recipients as at 3 October 2003 and are in receipt of pension credit on 18 March 2005.

*Source:*

Information Directorate 100 per cent. sample.

### Timber

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether his Department's procurement policy includes timber used on and in the construction of departmental building projects; and if he will make a statement. [14481]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** Timber specification is included in the Department for Work and Pension's procurement policy. In September 2003 the Department issued a procurement policy guidance note, which specifically refers to the purchase of sustainably produced timber.

In addition the Department is working with its Estates partner—Land Securities Trillium—to ensure timber used in the construction of departmental building projects comes from sustainably managed sources.

All timber supplies being used within the Department are independently audited.

### Sickness Absence

**Sir Malcolm Rifkind:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many absence days in his Department related to employees suffering *(a)* stress and *(b)* other mental health problems in the year to April 2005; and what the cost was to his Department. [12212]

**Mrs. McGuire:** The Department for Work and Pensions does not collect information in the format requested. Our sick absence statistics contain figures for absences due to mental and behavioural disorders, which is the category that includes stress-related absences, both those which are work-related and those which are not.

For the 12 month period 1 June 2004 to 31 May 2005 the total number of working days available was 31,849,121. The average number of working days lost due to mental and behavioural disorders was 362,907. The salary cost to the Department was £22 million.

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### Animal Diseases (Africa)

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will support the request made to the G8 for the establishment of a panel of international experts to deal with the control of animal disease, with particular reference to Africa. [14043]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The issue of animal diseases, particularly relating to Africa, was not raised at the G8 summit.

However, Defra, along with other Government Departments (DoH, MoD, Home Office, DfiD) and international organisations (WHO, FAO, OIE, World Bank), is currently involved in an Office of Science and Technology (OST) managed Foresight project entitled 'Detection and Identification of Infectious Disease'. This project seeks to identify potential threats from infectious diseases of animals, plants and humans, across sub-Saharan Africa, China and the UK, and report on ways to help mitigate these threats. As part of

this project, the OST is currently seeking views from leading experts from the UK and overseas, particularly Africa.

### Climate Change

**Nick Harvey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will introduce a public education programme on the effects of climate change and steps which can be taken by individuals to limit these effects. [14167]

**Mr. Morley:** On 16 February this year my right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State, announced a Climate Change Communications Initiative worth £12 million, to be spilt over three years (£4 million per 2005, 2006 and 2007). The initiative aims to change attitudes within the general public at local and regional levels through communication projects. Research shows that getting attitude change is the best first step to behaviour change. Defra, working with partners (EST, CT, DTI, EA, DFT, UKCIP), NGOs and others, will begin implementing this communication initiative in 2005. A main component of the initiative is a Fund and grants from this to community and other groups will enable the establishment of local projects. This will be supported with a website, a communicators guide and local activities. The website will link with Defra's children's section which addresses climate change consistent with the main initiative.

### Correspondence

**Mr. MacNeil:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her Department's policy is for dealing with and responding to correspondence received in *(a)* Welsh, *(b)* Scots Gaelic and *(c)* Irish Gaelic. [14695]

**Jim Knight:** Correspondence received by the Department in Welsh is dealt with in accordance with Defra's Welsh Language Scheme which came into force in October 2002. This requires my Department to reply in Welsh within 15 days, the same period of time for correspondence in English. Any correspondence received in Scots or Irish Gaelic is dealt with at a local level on a case-by-case basis. This policy is under review and would be looked at again if a number of communications were received in either language.

### Departmental Expenditure

**Stewart Hosie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the total spending by her Department on *(a)* staff, *(b)* accommodation and *(c)* procurement in (i) Dundee East constituency, (ii) Tayside and (iii) the City of Dundee was for the most recent year for which figures are available. [14871]

**Jim Knight:** The Department does not employ any staff in the Dundee, East constituency or the City of Dundee. The staff employed in Tayside are not based in a Defra building. The costs of these staff, estimated on a standard cost basis, are shown in the following table, together with an estimate of accommodation overheads are based on a Regional specific percentage of the staff costs. It is not possible to isolate procurement costs by constituency.

Information on regional distribution of staff at 1 April 2004 is available in the Libraries of both Houses, and also at:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/management_information/statistical_information/statistics/contents_for_civil_service_statistics_2004_report/index.asp

Table D shows the numbers of staff by regional distribution. Figures relating to 1 April 2005 will be published next year.

*2004–05*

*£000*

| | *(i) Dundee East* | *(ii) Tayside* | *(iii) City of Dundee* |
|---|---|---|---|
| *(a)* Staff | 0 | 517 | 0 |
| *(b)* Accommodation | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| *(c)* Procurement | 0 | n/k | 0 |

### Emissions

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the level was of UK emissions in each of the six Kyoto greenhouse gases in terms of tonnes of carbon equivalent in each year since 1990; and what the main reasons were for *(a)* sudden increases and *(b)* reductions between years for each gas. [14485]

**Mr. Morley:** The following table shows UK emissions for gases, carbon dioxide ($CO_2$) methane ($CH_4$), nitrous oxide ($N_2O$), the hydrofluorocarbons (MFCs), Perfluorocarbons (PFCs) and sulphur hexafluoride ($SF_6$) in million tonnes of carbon equivalent for each year since 1990. The data are from the most recent UK greenhouse gas inventory.

| | *$CO_2$* | *$CH_4$* | *$N_2O$* | *HFCs* | *PFCs* | *$SF_6$* | *Total (emissions)* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1990 | 165.4 | 21.1 | 18.5 | 3.1 | 0.4 | 0.3 | 208.8 |
| 1991 | 167.2 | 20.9 | 18.0 | 3.2 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 210.0 |
| 1992 | 162.9 | 20.6 | 16.1 | 3.4 | 0.2 | 0.3 | 203.5 |
| 1993 | 159.0 | 19.9 | 15.1 | 3.5 | 0.1 | 0.3 | 198.0 |
| 1994 | 157.0 | 18.1 | 16.0 | 3.8 | 0.1 | 0.3 | 195.4 |
| 1995 | 154.7 | 18.0 | 15.6 | 4.2 | 0.1 | 0.4 | 192.9 |
| 1996 | 160.6 | 17.5 | 16.1 | 4.6 | 0.1 | 0.4 | 199.2 |
| 1997 | 153.9 | 16.6 | 16.6 | 5.2 | 0.1 | 0.3 | 192.9 |
| 1998 | 154.5 | 15.7 | 15.8 | 4.7 | 0.1 | 0.4 | 191.3 |
| 1999 | 151.7 | 14.7 | 12.3 | 3.0 | 0.1 | 0.4 | 182.1 |
| 2000 | 152.8 | 13.6 | 12.2 | 2.5 | 0.1 | 0.5 | 181.8 |
| 2001 | 157.4 | 12.8 | 11.6 | 2.7 | 0.1 | 0.4 | 185.0 |
| 2002 | 152.7 | 12.3 | 11.2 | 2.8 | 0.1 | 0.4 | 179.5 |
| 2003 | 156.1 | 11.1 | 11.0 | 2.9 | 0.1 | 0.4 | 181.6 |

For carbon dioxide the main increase and decreases superimposed on the background trend are associated with the temporary peaks on 1991, 1996, 2001 and 2002, and the increase between 2002 and 2003. These were associated mainly with temperature fluctuations relative to the trend in temperatures. The underlying trend in emissions is determined by the interaction between economic growth, the mix of fuels in the economy and the energy needed per unit of economic output.

The rapid decline in $CH_4$ emissions between 1993 and 1994 was mainly due to a large decrease in emissions from coal mining. $Ch_4$ emissions follow a gradual downward trend that can be attributed to the sum of reductions in emissions from energy, waste and agriculture. The underlying decrease is a result of changing waste disposal practices and a reduction in fugitive emissions from fuels. Agriculture emissions were reasonably steady until the foot and mouth outbreak of 2001 led to reduced livestock numbers and a subsequent reduction in enteric fermentation.

The large decrease in $N_2O$ emissions between 1998 and 1999 was due to the introduction of abatement technology at a plant producing adipic acid for nylon manufacture. The more gradual rise from 1993 to 1997 can be attributed to an increase in the number of cars fitted with catalytic converters and to a slight rise in emissions from agriculture. The overall downward trend in N + O emissions is due to the gradual rise in emissions from energy being offset by a larger decrease in the industrial sector and general downward trend in agricultural emissions.

HFCs slow rise was dramatically cut between 1997 and 1999 with the installation of abatement technology.

### Food (EU Border Security)

**Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions she has had with farming Ministers from other EU countries on ensuring that EU borders are secure with regard to the importation into the EU of food products; and if she will make a statement. [13199]

**Jim Knight:** My right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State, has regular opportunities to talk to her EU colleagues about a wide range of issues during the meetings of the Agriculture Council.

A comprehensive import regime exists in European Community law to ensure that food of animal origin does not pose a health risk. Products such as meat, eggs and dairy products must come from approved establishments in approved countries and must be accompanied by official health certificates. Products may only be imported into the EU via approved Border Inspection Posts where veterinary checks are carried out to make sure they comply with the import conditions set out in law.

Imported food, including food not of animal origin, must meet food safety and food standards requirements equivalent to those for UK-produced food, and can be subject to checks on the basis of risk assessment by local food authorities at UK ports and inland to ensure they comply.

Emergency safeguard measures to further restrict or control imports may be taken where there is an outbreak of disease in an exporting country, or other circumstances likely to present a serious public or animal health risk.

The importation of products of meat and dairy products by individual travellers in their personal luggage is judged to be a potential route by which animal disease could be introduced into the European Union. Following pressure by the Government, new, tighter EU rules were introduced in 2003 effectively banning personal imports of meat and dairy products (including bushmeat). The Government have increased the level of resource available to combat the illegal importation of such products.

### Food Miles

**Mr. Llwyd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she plans to take to reduce food miles. [14169]

**Jim Knight:** Defra commissioned a study to assess the validity of 'food miles' as an indicator of sustainability. This independent study by AEA Technology, was published on 15 July 2005.

The report shows that in general higher levels of vehicle activity lead to higher environmental impacts. But it is not a simple matter of so-called 'food miles'. The mode, timing, location and efficiency of food transport is important as well as the distance. Copies of the report, can be found on the Defra website at

http://statistics.defra.gov.uk/esg/reports/foodmiles/default.asp

The Government are working with the food industry to reduce the environmental and social impacts of food transportation by encouraging widespread adoption of best practice and by measuring performance. It has consulted on proposals in the draft Food Industry Sustainability Strategy, developed with stakeholders, that the sector prepare by 2006 a plan for achieving a 20 per cent. reduction in the environmental and social costs of food transport by about 2012.

### Freedom of Information Act

**Pete Wishart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many Freedom of Information Act 2000 requests have been answered by the Department; and in how many cases *(a)* information was wholly exempted, *(b)* information was partly exempted and *(c)* the requests were answered in full. [14960]

**Jim Knight:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. and learned Friend, the Minister for Constitutional Affairs on 12 September 2005, *Official Report*, column 2248W.

### Landfill (Former Foodstuffs)

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) whether it is her Department's policy to impose a complete ban on former foodstuffs being sent to landfill from 1 January 2006; [14223]

(2) if she will list the occasions when her Department gave guidance to representatives of waste management companies in connection with the disposal of former foodstuffs to landfill from 1 January 2006; [14224]

(3) when her Department first learnt that the European Commission would not impose a complete ban on former foodstuffs being sent to landfill from 1 January 2006; [14225]

(4) whether she supports the decision of the European Commission not to impose a complete ban on former foodstuffs being sent to landfill from 1 January 2006; [14226]

(5) whether her Department made *(a)* oral representations and *(b)* written representations to the European Commission not to impose a complete ban on former foodstuffs being sent to landfill from 1 January 2006. [14227]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The original intention of the Animal By-Products Regulation (EC) No. 1774/2002 was to impose a complete ban on former foodstuffs containing products of animal origin being sent to landfill from 1 January 2006. However, on 20 May this year, prior to a working group meeting in Brussels on 23 May, officials from my Department along with those in other member states received papers from the European Commission indicating a change in the Commission's approach to implementing the ban. Subsequently, at the meeting on 23 May, the Commission announced its intention to allow pre-treated former foodstuffs that member states believe do not pose a risk to animal or public health to continue to go to landfill, under the control of the EU Landfill Directive rather than the Animal By-Products Regulation. The Commission has now tabled a draft amending Regulation to bring this into effect. The draft covers former foodstuffs that are not considered safe to be fed to livestock but which can safely be disposed of to landfill or treated in an alternative system; and, those that can be fed to livestock (bread, pasta, etc) or be disposed of to landfill. The measure does not apply to raw meat and raw fish which are already banned from disposal to landfill and which must be disposed of in accordance with the Regulation i.e. by rendering, incineration, composting or treatment by biogas.

The Department did not ask the Commission to reverse the complete ban on former foodstuffs being sent to landfill. However, in the light of discussions with a variety of parties, we drew the Commission's attention to the difficulties they had with compliance, and particularly those that small retailers anticipated. We suggested to the Commission that these difficulties could be lessened if the requirements for commercial documentation and transport were brought more into line with existing environmental controls, and if alternative treatments were to be permitted providing livestock were not able to have access to the treated product. Nevertheless, we support the principle that as far as the Animal By-Products Regulation is concerned the ban on landfill should apply only to those former foodstuffs which present a risk to animal and public health. The Government is committed to reducing the UK's reliance on landfill, in order to reduce its environmental impact and because landfilling is a missed opportunity to recover value from waste. Therefore the Government will continue to adopt measures that will progressively discourage the landfilling of wastes including former foodstuffs.

The Department has given regular guidance on the disposal of former foodstuffs during the course of business to waste management companies and there is detailed guidance on the current disposal rules on the Defra website. In addition, throughout the course of this year officials have held a number of meetings with the waste management sector on the disposal of former foodstuffs. Most recently, officials met a number of waste management companies and the Environment Services Association on 13 April, the UK Renderers' Association on 10 May and 21 June, the Composting Association on 27 May and the Regulated Incinerator Operators on 21 June.

### Opinion Surveys

**Mr. Weir:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the *(a)* subject matter and *(b)* dates were of opinion survey research undertaken by the Department and its agencies in the last 12 months; if she will place copies of the results of each survey in the Library; which companies were used in conducting the research; and how much each was paid. [14811]

**Jim Knight:** Defra and its agencies have not undertaken any opinion survey research in the last 12 months.

### Telephone Inquiries

**Mr. MacNeil:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what facilities her Department has to deal with telephone inquiries in *(a)* Welsh, *(b)* Scots Gaelic and *(c)* Irish Gaelic. [14696]

**Jim Knight:** Telephone inquiries received in Welsh are dealt with in accordance with Defra's Welsh Language Scheme which came into force in October 2002. This requires operators in offices dealing with the public in Wales to answer calls bilingually and to have a system whereby calls in Welsh taken by staff who cannot speak Welsh can be transferred to a Welsh-speaker. Defra does not currently have facilities for dealing with telephone inquiries in Scots or Irish Gaelic.

### Waste Management

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many tonnes of *(a)* aluminium, *(b)* wood, *(c)* paper, *(d)* green waste, *(e)* glass, *(f)* steel and *(g)* textiles there were in the municipal waste stream in each year since 2001; and how much of each she estimates was (i) recycled, (ii) landfilled and (iii) sent to energy from waste facilities. [14229]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Information on tonnages of specific materials in the municipal waste stream are not available, other than when separately collected for recycling. However, composition analysis of household waste for the Prime Minister's Strategy Unit report "Waste not, want not", November 2002, provided proportions of individual materials in the waste stream. These proportions have been applied to annual

household waste tonnages from the Defra Municipal Waste Management Survey to produce the estimate for England is shown in the following table.

*Thousand tonnes*

| | *2001–02* | *2002–03* | *2003–04* |
|---|---|---|---|
| All cans | 664 | 672 | 662 |
| Scrap metal and white goods | 1,149 | 1,162 | 1,145 |
| Paper and card | 4,717 | 4,774 | 4,702 |
| Green waste (compost) | 5,222 | 5,285 | 5,206 |
| Glass | 1,746 | 1,767 | 1,740 |
| Wood | 1,059 | 1,072 | 1,056 |
| Textiles | 745 | 754 | 743 |

Data from the Defra Municipal Waste Management Survey show tonnages of different materials from household sources collected for recycling in England.

*Thousand tonnes*

| | *2001–02* | *2002–03* | *2003–04* |
|---|---|---|---|
| All cans | 26 | 28 | 43 |
| Scrap metal and white goods | 369 | 419 | 464 |
| Paper and card | 990 | 1,126 | 1,271 |
| Green waste (compost) | 978 | 1,189 | 1,360 |
| Glass | 431 | 470 | 568 |
| Wood | 62 | 119 | 180 |
| Textiles | 46 | 54 | 58 |
| Co-mingled | 221 | 268 | 470 |

A high proportion aluminium and steel collected for recycling are reported from the 'mixed cans' category therefore an 'all cans' total has been provided. Co-mingled category has been included, although the exact composition of co-mingled, by definition, is unknown a high proportion of paper is likely and will frequently include cans and plastic.

### Wales (Government)

**Peter Law:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how she intends to implement Paragraph 3.12 of the White Paper, "Better Governance for Wales" (Cm 6582), in respect of any bill she introduces in the current session of Parliament. [14950]

**Mr. Greg Knight:** I intend to implement the Government's policy as stated in paragraph 3.12 of the White Paper "Better Governance for Wales" Cm 6582. The Department is in discussion with the Welsh Assembly on the issues concerned.

## HEALTH

### Alcohol and Drug-related Incidents (Hospital Workers)

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many hospital workers in England have been disciplined for alcohol and drug-related incidents since 1997, broken down by *(a)* profession and *(b)* gender. [6210]

**Mr. Byrne:** The information requested is not available centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

### Alliance Medical

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment of spare capacity at the university hospital North Durham was made before Alliance Medical was awarded a contract to provide scanning services. [10383]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answer 7 July 2005]:* The additional magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) capacity commissioned nationally from Alliance Medical Limited was designed to complement existing national health service services and to quickly bring on stream additional capacity to help meet rising demand for MRI examinations and to begin to address waits for MRI services.

It is for strategic health authorities to identify where, when and for how long the mobile units will deploy and for the NHS as a whole to ensure existing NHS diagnostic capacity is used to its full potential in order to bring down waiting times and achieve the 18-week general practitioner referral to start of treatment target by 2008.

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 22 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 1091W, on Alliance Medical Ltd., whether her Department checks the qualifications of radiologists working in *(a)* Belgium, *(b)* South Africa and *(c)* Spain who assess scan results for Alliance Medical. [12199]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answer 14 July 2005]:* Staffing issues are a matter for Alliance Medical Limited. All radiologists must be on the appropriate specialist register of the General Medical Council.

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 12 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 985W, how it is possible to tell that Alliance Medical were able to provide scans at a lower cost than the direct access tariff. [13161]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answer 18 July 2005]:* Financial evaluation of the tenders for the mobile magnetic resonance imaging contract illustrated that the cost of Alliance Medical Ltd.'s scans are less than national health service costs.

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to her answer of 13 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 1124W, what systems are in place to ensure Alliance Medical do not recruit staff who have been employed in the NHS in the preceding six-month period. [13495]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answer 19 July 2005]:* An integral part of the contract for the provision of fast-track mobile magnetic resonance imaging services is the additionality rule, whereby staff who have worked for the national health service in a clinical capacity in the preceding six-month period cannot be employed by Alliance Medical Ltd.

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment of suitable sites for a diagnostic scanner were made before the contract for Alliance Medical to provide diagnostic scanning services in the NHS was signed. [13496]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answer 19 July 2005]:* A large number of sites were understood to have already existed in the national health service, from which mobile services had already been delivered. Following the award of the contract to Alliance Medical Ltd. a number of potentially suitable existing sites were identified. The Department has continued to work with strategic health authority (SHA) cluster leads to ensure that sites are specifically prepared and to provide advice on new site construction. It is, however, the responsibility of the SHAs to ensure that the sites are available.

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 13 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 1138W, on MRI scans (Durham), what consultations were carried out with local NHS trusts on utilisation rates of scanners prior to the award of the contract to Alliance Medical. [14428]

**Mr. Byrne:** A capacity planning exercise was conducted with strategic health authorities in 2004.

The additional magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) capacity commissioned nationally from Alliance Medical Ltd. was designed to complement existing national health service services and to quickly bring on stream additional capacity to help meet rising demand for MRI examinations and to begin to address waits for MRI imaging services.

Utilisation rates of NHS scanners are a matter for NHS trusts, in partnership with their local primary care trusts as service commissioners. While the independent sector has a key part to play, NHS providers of diagnostics services also need to ensure that they are using their diagnostic capacity to the full.

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment she has made of the impact of Alliance Medical providing diagnostic scanning services in the NHS on the utilisation of existing diagnostic scanning capacity within the NHS; [11885]

(2) what assessment she has made of the effect on productivity of the provision by Alliance Medical of diagnostic scanning services in the NHS. [12149]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answers 12 July 2005 and 14 July 2005]:* The number of magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scans performed on national health service patients has been increasing year on year to over 855,000 in 2003–04. This trend is expected to continue with around 58 per cent. scans taking place in the NHS and 24 per cent. more in the independent sector, for NHS patients, by 2007–08.

Overall, by 2007–08 there will be double the amount of MRI capacity compared with the position in 2003–04. This is of great benefit to NHS patients and will contribute to our commitment to achieving a maximum wait of 18-weeks from general practitioner referral to start of treatment by 2008.

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what discussions have taken place between Chester-le-Street and Durham Primary Care Trust and her Department regarding Alliance Medical; [9395]

(2) what issues were discussed at the last meeting between Chester-le-Street and Durham Primary Care Trust and her Department; [9762]

(3) what issues were raised by County Durham and Tees Valley strategic health authority during their meeting with her Department in early June; [9763]

(4) if she will list the issues discussed at the last meeting between Derwentside primary care trust and her Department. [10380]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answers 4, 5 and 7 July 2005]:* The Department's meeting with County Durham and Tees Valley strategic health authority (SHA) in early June was part of regular discussions held with representatives of SHAs about operational issues regarding the provision of independent sector mobile magnetic resonance imaging scanning services.

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) when she expects Alliance Medical's diagnostic facility at Consett to be operational; [11537]

(2) where in Consett the diagnostic scanner operated by Alliance Medical will be sited. [14423]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answer 11 July 2005]:* Site location discussions in the North Durham area are ongoing. The Department is awaiting the County Durham and North Tees Valley strategic health authority's response on an option appraisal paper.

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost to the NHS was of *(a)* providing and *(b)* operating mobile scanning units in 2004–05. [10854]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answer 11 July 2005]:* The major costs of running and providing the mobile scanning units are borne by Alliance Medical Limited. However, modest revenue costs are borne by the host national health service trust for utility bills. In addition, the Department allocated central funding to strategic health authority (SHA) clusters to upgrade the sites identified by SHAs, to ensure they were suitable for the mobile units and to allow scanning to commence.

### Arm's Length Bodies

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what costs have been incurred in *(a)* establishing and *(b)* closing arm's length bodies since 30 November 2004. [12626]

**Jane Kennedy:** The cost of establishing arm's length bodies (ALBs) since 30 November 2004 is estimated at £4.7 million. The known cost of closing ALBs since that date is £32 million.

The following ALBs have closed/merged with other organisations since 30 November 2004.

Family Health Services Appeal Authority (a special health authority).

Health Development Agency.

National Clinical Assessment Authority.

National Radiological Protection Board.

Public Health Laboratory Service.

NHS Information Authority.

NHS Modernisation Agency.

NHSU.

The following ALBs have been established since 30 November 2004:

Health and Social Care Information Centre.

Human Tissue Authority.

NHS Connecting for Health.

NHS Institute for Innovation and Improvement.

## Bed/Ward Closures

**Frank Dobson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proposals for bed and ward closures by NHS hospitals she has been informed of *(a)* formally and *(b)* informally. [12707]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answer 18 July 2005]:* It is for local national health service organisations to decide on ward or bed closures. The Government have given local authority overview and scrutiny committees the power to review and scrutinise health services from the perspective of their local populations. NHS bodies are under a duty to consult overview and scrutiny committees on any plans to make substantial variation to NHS services. Those committees have the powers to refer any proposal to the Secretary of State if they believe the plans are not in the interests of the health service. Currently there are three referrals from overview and scrutiny committees being considered by the Secretary of State.

The Department does not routinely collect centrally operational management information on proposals to close wards and beds outside of the overview and scrutiny committee process.

## Care Assistants

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what proportion of healthcare staff recruited in each of the last eight years have been care assistants; [11057]

(2) how many care assistants have been recruited into the NHS in each of the last eight years. [11058]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answers 11 July 2005]:* Data on the number of staff recruited to the national health service are not collected centrally. The table shows the net growth in NHS staff and healthcare assistants.

*Total NHS work force in England as at 30 September each year, England*

*Headcount*

| | *Total employed staff including general practitioners and practice staff* | *of which: Healthcare assistants* |
|---|---|---|
| 1998 | 1,071,562 | 184,480 |
| 1999 | 1,097,376 | 189,085 |
| 2000 | 1,117,841 | 194,000 |
| 2001 | 1,166,016 | 204,925 |
| 2002 | 1,223,824 | 210,462 |
| 2003 | 1,282,930 | 221,904 |
| 2004 | 1,331,087 | 223,526 |

*Sources:*

Health and Social Care Information Centre non-medical workforce census.

Health and Social Care Information Centre Medical and dental workforce census.

Health and Social Care Information Centre general and personal medical services statistics.

## Choose and Book System

**Steve Webb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many GP referrals have been made using the choose and book system; what the total cost of the system is to date; what the total estimated final cost of the system is; and if she will make a statement; [13695]

(2) how many e-bookings were made for GP referrals to hospital in each month since the first month when e-booking was introduced. [13696]

**Mr. Byrne:** The number of general practitioner referrals made using the choose and book system each month since the system went live, on schedule, in July 2004 is shown in the table.

| *Month* | *Number of bookings per month* | *Total bookings (cumulative)* |
|---|---|---|
| July 2004 | 6 | 6 |
| August 2004 | 1 | 7 |
| September 2004 | 2 | 9 |
| October 2004 | 7 | 16 |
| November 2004 | 23 | 39 |
| December 2004 | 32 | 71 |
| January 2005 | 40 | 111 |
| February 2005 | 60 | 181 |
| March 2005 | 158 | 339 |
| April 2005 | 313 | 652 |
| May 2005 | 375 | 1,027 |
| June 2005 | 409 | 1,436 |
| July 2005[1] | 440 | 1,876 |

[1] As of close of business 20 July.

Use of the system to date has largely been confined to a small number of 'early adopter' health communities. The national health service is now beginning to implement the service more widely, taking into account the experience gained in the early adopters. Feedback from early adopters and patients about the service is positive, and the number of patients able to book their hospital appointments electronically is increasing rapidly.

The cost to date of developing and beginning to implement the system is £28.7 million. The total committed contract cost is £65 million.

## Commission for Social Care Inspection

**Mr. Burns:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the reasons were for the decision to merge the Commission for Social Care Inspection with the Healthcare Commission; [14456]

(2) if she will publish the regulatory impact assessment or equivalent document of the decision to merge the Commission for Social Care Inspection with the Healthcare Commission; [14458]

(3) what the estimated *(a)* budget and *(b)* full-time equivalent staff of the Healthcare Commission will be once it has merged with the Commission for Social Care Inspection in 2008. [14459]

**Jane Kennedy:** The merger of the Commission for Social Care Inspection and the Healthcare Commission will support closer integration of social care and health inspection and form part of Government plans to streamline public service inspection by reducing the number of main inspectorates to four. It forms part of

the Government's wider programme to modernise and streamline the inspection of public services. We will consider its regulatory impact as part of detailed work on the shape of the new organisation.

The merger is expected to generate efficiencies and economies of scale which contribute to the delivery of savings to be attained across all of the Department's arm's length bodies (ALBs) as a result of the ALB review. Details of budgets and staffing levels of the new body will be developed as implementation planning progresses, following the wider review of regulation in social care and health now under way.

## Dentistry

**Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidelines have been provided to NHS dentists regarding the cost of dentures. [10076]

**Ms Rosie Winterton** *[pursuant to the reply, 21 July 2005, Official Report, c. 2156W]:* I regret that my previous reply was incorrect. The table indicated that the current fee paid to NHS dentists for full dentures in chrome cobalt or stainless steel was £279.60. It should have read £278.60. The table also implied that the remuneration paid to the dentist included both this fee and the patient charge. This was misleading. The remuneration paid to the dentist comprises only the NHS fee.

The correct table is as follows.

£

| *Type of denture* | *Synthetic resin* | *Chrome cobalt or stainless steel* |
|---|---|---|
| Dentists fee | 158.10 | 278.60 |

*Note:*
Patients who are liable to pay charges contribute 80 per cent. of the dentist's fees.

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS dentists were practising in *(a)* South East Cambridgeshire constituency and *(b)* England per head of population in each year since 1997. [14580]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The information requested is shown in the table. These figures cover dentists working in primary care dental services, but not hospital or community dental services.

*Number of national health service dentists and rate per 10,000 population in the specified areas as at 31 March each year*

| | *England* | *South East Cambridgeshire constituency* | *South Cambridgeshire Primary Care Trust (PCT)* |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Number of dentists* | | | |
| 2005 | 20,088 | 37 | 30 |
| 2004 | 19,294 | 34 | 27 |
| 2003 | 18,962 | 31 | 25 |
| 2002 | 18,724 | 27 | 27 |
| 2001 | 18,373 | 26 | 26 |
| 2000 | 18,003 | 25 | 26 |
| 1999 | 17,471 | 25 | 29 |
| 1998 | 16,925 | 20 | 21 |
| 1997 | 16,462 | 20 | 22 |

*Number of national health service dentists and rate per 10,000 population in the specified areas as at 31 March each year*

| | *England* | *South East Cambridgeshire constituency* | *South Cambridgeshire Primary Care Trust (PCT)* |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Ratio of dentists per 10,000 population* | | | |
| 2005 | 4.0 | — | 2.2 |
| 2004 | 3.9 | — | 2.0 |
| 2003 | 3.8 | — | 1.9 |
| 2002 | 3.8 | — | 2.0 |
| 2001 | 3.7 | — | 2.0 |
| 2000 | 3.7 | — | 2.0 |
| 1999 | 3.6 | — | 2.2 |
| 1998 | 3.5 | — | 1.6 |
| 1997 | 3.4 | — | 1.7 |

*Notes:*
1. Population data are not available at parliamentary constituency area.
2. The figures are based on the numbers of dentists with open general dental services (GDS) or personal dental services (PDS) contracts as at 31 March each year.
3. Dentists include principals, assistants and trainees.
4. Prison contracts have been excluded.
5. Dentists are counted within specified areas based on the postcode of their dental practice. Areas have been defined using the Office for National Statistics all fields postcode directory—November 2004.
6. Population data for the PCT in 1997–2000 have been calculated on 2001 population data as population data at PCT area are not available for these years. All data for 2004 and 2005 have been calculated on 2003 population data as these are the most up to date available.
7. The figures take into account any notifications received up to 5 July 2005.

*Source:*
Dental Practice Board.

## IT Projects

**Mr. Meacher:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what computerisation or IT failures have occurred in public sector projects managed by her Department in each year since 1997; what the contracted cost of the project was in each case; and what estimate she has made of the direct and indirect costs of failure or breakdown in each case. [14365]

**Mr. Byrne:** None. Responsibility for management of national health service and social services projects lies with individual statutory authorities. Exceptionally, since November 2002, delivery and support for implementation of the national programme for information technology (NPfIT) in the NHS has been carried out within the Department and since 1 April 2005 by the NHS "Connecting for Health" agency. The NPfIT continues to make outstanding progress, with unprecedented achievement in the procurement and deployment of technology across the NHS.

## Diagnostic and Treatment Services

**Mr. Francois:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the expected opening date is of the diagnostic and treatment centre at Fossets Farm, Southend; and if she will make a statement. [9318]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answer 6 July 2005]:* The Department announced on 17 August that the national health service will not be proceeding with the creation of

an independent sector treatment centre (ISTC) in Southend, deciding instead to continue to provide clinical services through its existing facilities.

This decision is not a reflection on the ability of ACCL or the independent sector to meet the needs of the NHS and the Department.

The preferred bidder, ACCL, has worked with all NHS parties in good faith throughout with a view to providing a high quality facility.

The activity required by the local health community to meet its waiting time targets and provide choice for patients, will be delivered through the next phase of independent sector procurement, which is currently going through the procurement process. All monies set aside for the scheme will be spent on patient care.

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what work her Department has carried out to assess the existing capacity to carry out diagnostic scans in the NHS. [14420]

**Mr. Byrne:** The Department conducted a capacity planning exercise with strategic health authorities in 2004, which demonstrated that more diagnostic services were required, in order to meet waiting times targets for hospital treatment. Capacity plans showed the following:

Between 2004–05 and 2007–08, magnetic resonance imaging activity needs to increase by more than 100 per cent.

Between 2004–05 and 2007–08, computed tomography activity needs to increase by 33 per cent.

Between 2004–05 and 2007–08, non-obstetric ultrasound activity needs to increase by 28 per cent.

Endoscopy activity rates need to rise by up to 60 per cent. by 2008.

We have invested heavily in existing national health service diagnostic capacity and will continue to do so. However, NHS providers cannot deliver such large increases in activity alone. The independent sector has an important role to play, which is why we are proceeding with a procurement of £1 billion diagnostics services from the independent sector over five years from 2006–07. The NHS and the independent sector together will deliver an unprecedented expansion in diagnostic services for NHS patients.

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement on progress with her Department's plans to procure extra capacity in diagnostics from the independent sector. [14975]

**Mr. Byrne:** The procurement of additional diagnostic capacity from the independent sector is progressing well. The *Official Journal of the European Union* (OJEU) notice formally initiating the procurement was published on 26 March 2005 and the pre-qualification questionnaire has since been distributed to the organisations that expressed an interest.

### Digestive Conditions

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps she is taking to raise awareness among *(a)* health professionals and *(b)* the public of the symptoms of digestive conditions and diseases. [9288]

**Mr. Byrne:** Addressing the training needs of health professionals is the responsibility of the appropriate regulatory bodies. They set standards for the pre-registration training of doctors, nurses and other healthcare professionals, approve the education institutions that provide the training and determine the curricula.

Post-registration training needs for national health service staff are decided against local NHS priorities, through appraisal processes and training needs analyses informed by local delivery plans and the needs of the service. Local authorities and health service providers decide how best to provide services to meet the needs of the individuals.

The NHS Plan promotes and supports self care as one of the five key service elements of a patient-centred NHS—preventive care, self care, primary care, hospital care and intermediate care. This is about promoting the involvement of patients and the public in their own treatment and care by providing appropriate facilities, for example, through information, education, training, equipment and peer support and by partnership with health and social care professionals where necessary. Patients have access to NHS Direct and NHS Direct Online, which includes a health encyclopaedia and frequently asked questions on issues such as digestive conditions.

### Doctors (Hospital Shifts)

**Charles Hendry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the minimum level is of medical practice experience that the most senior non-accident and emergency doctor on a weekend hospital shift must have; and if she will make a statement. [11331]

**Mr. Byrne:** All doctors must be appropriately qualified for the work they do. It is a professional duty of the individual doctor to work within the limits of their clinical competence and it is the duty of their national health service employer to provide a safe service to patients and to all the necessary support and supervision to staff whether at weekends or at any other time.

### E111 Form

**Mr. Wallace:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many EU nationals have received NHS treatment under the E111 scheme in each year since 1995, broken down by country. [14598]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** This information is not collected centrally. Payments from other member states to the United Kingdom for such treatments are generally based on average UK treatment costs.

### Elder Abuse

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions she has had with *(a)* the Commission for Social Care Inspection and *(b)* other stakeholders on recommendation 7 in the Health Committee's report on elder abuse, published on 20 April 2004, in relation

to the reporting of adverse incidents in situations where vulnerable adults are in receipt of domiciliary care services; what steps she is taking to ensure that medication systems within care homes and domiciliary care reflect good practice; and if she will make a statement on other steps she is taking to tackle elder abuse. [9278]

**Mr. Byrne:** The Department has held discussions with the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) and other stakeholders on recommendation 7 in the Health Committee's report on elder abuse. The outcome from this work will be fed into the review of the National Minimum Standards announced by the Government in October 2004.

### Emergency Response Services

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many calls to NHS Direct have resulted in an emergency response in each year since 1999; and what proportion of the total number of calls this represents in each year. [10034]

**Mr. Byrne:** An emergency response is deemed as a referral to 999 or an accident and emergency (A&E) department. The number of calls referred to 999 and A&E for years 2003, 2004 and 2005 are shown in the table. Data prior to 2003 can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

| *Call referred to* | *Number of calls* | *As a percentage of total calls* |
|---|---|---|
| *2003* | | |
| 999 | 210,371 | 5.78 |
| A&E | 420,359 | 11.55 |
| *2004* | | |
| 999 | 236,309 | 5.92 |
| A&E | 400,065 | 10.02 |
| *2005* | | |
| 999 | 120,705 | 5.45 |
| A&E | 189,551 | 8.56 |

### Engagements

**Dr. Gibson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will list the *(a)* individuals other than Government officials and *(b)* organisations with which she has held meetings since 7 May; and on what date each meeting took place. [9217]

**Jane Kennedy:** My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State, and the Department's Ministers meet many individuals and organisations and attend many functions relating to Government business and as part of the process of policy development.

### Finished Consultant Episodes

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many finished consultant episodes for ICD10 primary diagnosis G47.3 there were in each year since 2002–03; and if she will make a statement. [10177]

**Mr. Byrne:** The information requested is shown in the following table.

*Count of finished consultant episodes (FCEs) where the primary diagnosis is sleep apnoea—ICD10 Code = G47.3. National health service hospitals England, data years: 2002–03 to 2003–04*

| *Data year* | *FCEs* |
|---|---|
| 2002–03 | 11,704 |
| 2003–04 | 12,162 |

*Notes:*

1. A FCE is defined as a period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. Please note that the figures do not represent the number of patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the year.
2. The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 14 (seven prior to 2002–03) diagnosis fields in the hospital episode statistics (HES) data set and provides the main reason why the patient was in hospital.
3. Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data is ungrossed).

*Source:*

HES, Health and Social Care Information Centre

### Food Safety Management Regulations

**Mr. Clegg:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps her Department is taking to enable environmental health officers at local level to enforce EU Regulation 852/2004 on food safety management systems, with particular reference to the requirement that all food producers other than primary producers must demonstrate that they have implemented a risk-based food safety management system. [12196]

**Caroline Flint** *[holding answer 14 July 2005]:* I refer the hon. Member to the published Food Standards Agency (FSA) board paper FSA 050302 of March 2005. This paper sets out the approach being adopted by the FSA to work with local authorities in assisting businesses to achieve compliance with food safety management requirements. Copies of the paper have been placed in the Library.

### Free Fruit

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much fruit was *(a)* supplied and *(b)* wasted in the Free Fruit for Schools scheme in each year for which figures are available. [13732]

**Caroline Flint:** We do not hold information centrally about the amount of fruit supplied by the school fruit scheme. We also do not hold centrally information on the amount of fruit and vegetables that is wasted. However, we do try to ensure the fruit supplied is consistent with the eligible numbers of pupils in the school and that uneaten fruit is distributed to other children in the school.

### General Practitioners

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many general practitioners there were in *(a)* South East Cambridgeshire constituency and *(b)* England per head of population in each year since 1997. [14581]

**Mr. Byrne:** The information requested is not available on a South East Cambridgeshire constituency basis. Information in respect of England and Norfolk Suffolk and Cambridgeshire Strategic Health Authority (SHA) from 1997–2004 and the Cambridgeshire primary care trusts (PCTs) from 2001 to 2004 is shown in the table.

*General medical practitioners (excluding retainers and registrars)[1] per 100,000 population for specified organisations 1997–December 2004*

*Number (headcount)*

| | | 1997 | | 1998 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | *General medical practitioners (excluding retainers and registrars)[1]* | *General medical practitioners (excluding retainers and registrars)[1] per 100,000 population* | *General medical practitioners (excluding retainers and registrars)[1]* | *General medical practitioners (excluding retainers and registrars)[1] per 100,000 population* |
| England | | 28,046 | 58 | 28,251 | 58 |
| Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire SHA | | 1,263 | 59 | 1,276 | 59 |
| 5JH | Cambridge City PCT | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| 5JK | East Cambridgeshire and Fenland PCT | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| 5GF | Huntingdonshire PCT | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| 5AF | North Peterborough PCT | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| 5JJ | South Cambridgeshire PCT | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| 5AG | South Peterborough PCT | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |

| | | 1999 | | 2000 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | *General medical practitioners (excluding retainers and registrars)[1]* | *General medical practitioners (excluding retainers and registrars)[1] per 100,000 population* | *General medical practitioners (excluding retainers and registrars)[1]* | *General medical practitioners (excluding retainers and registrars)[1] per 100,000 population* |
| England | | 28,467 | 58 | 28,593 | 58 |
| Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire SHA | | 1,283 | 59 | 1,293 | 59 |
| 5JH | Cambridge City PCT | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| 5JK | East Cambridgeshire and Fenland PCT | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| 5GF | Huntingdonshire PCT | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| 5AF | North Peterborough PCT | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| 5JJ | South Cambridgeshire PCT | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| 5AG | South Peterborough PCT | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |

| | | 2001 | | 2002 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | *General medical practitioners (excluding retainers and registrars)[1]* | *General medical practitioners (excluding retainers and registrars)[1] per 100,000 population* | *General medical practitioners (excluding retainers and registrars)[1]* | *General medical practitioners (excluding retainers and registrars)[1] per 100,000 population* |
| England | | 28,802 | 58 | 29,202 | 59 |
| Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire SHA | | 1,302 | 60 | 1,316 | 60 |
| 5JH | Cambridge City PCT | 85 | 77 | 86 | 77 |
| 5JK | East Cambridgeshire and Fenland PCT | 82 | 59 | 78 | 56 |
| 5GF | Huntingdonshire PCT | 85 | 59 | 89 | 62 |
| 5AF | North Peterborough PCT | 55 | 56 | 57 | 59 |
| 5JJ | South Cambridgeshire PCT | 60 | 46 | 63 | 48 |
| 5AG | South Peterborough PCT | 53 | 51 | 52 | 50 |

| | | 2003 | | 2004 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | *General medical practitioners (excluding retainers and registrars)[1]* | *General medical practitioners (excluding retainers and registrars)[1] per 100,000 population* | *General medical practitioners (excluding retainers and registrars)[1]* | *General medical practitioners (excluding retainers and registrars)[1] per 100,000 population* |
| England | | 30,358 | 61 | 31,523 | 63 |
| Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire SHA | | 1,396 | 63 | 1,472 | 66 |
| 5JH | Cambridge City PCT | 92 | 80 | 99 | 86 |
| 5JK | East Cambridgeshire and Fenland PCT | 81 | 56 | 85 | 59 |
| 5GF | Huntingdonshire PCT | 95 | 65 | 103 | 71 |
| 5AF | North Peterborough PCT | 60 | 62 | 61 | 63 |
| 5JJ | South Cambridgeshire PCT | 75 | 56 | 66 | 49 |
| 5AG | South Peterborough PCT | 56 | 53 | 61 | 58 |

| | | December 2004 | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | General medical practitioners (excluding retainers and registrars)[1] | General medical practitioners (excluding retainers and registrars)[1] per 100,000 population |
| England | | 31,798 | 64 |
| Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire SHA | | 1,475 | 66 |
| 5JH | Cambridge City PCT | 100 | 87 |
| 5JK | East Cambridgeshire and Fenland PCT | 86 | 59 |
| 5GF | Huntingdonshire PCT | 100 | 69 |
| 5AF | North Peterborough PCT | 61 | 63 |
| 5JJ | South Cambridgeshire PCT | 71 | 53 |
| 5AG | South Peterborough PCT | 61 | 58 |

n/a—denotes data not available.
[1] General medical practitioners (excluding retainers and registrars) includes contracted GPs, GMS others and PMS others. Prior to September 2004 this group included GMS unrestricted principals, PMS contracted GPs, PMS salaried GPs, restricted principals, assistants, salaried doctors (para. 52 SFA), PMS other, flexible career scheme GPs and GP returners.
*Note:*
Data as at 1 October 1997–99, 30 September 2000–04 and 31 December 2004.
*Source:*
NHS Health and Social Care Information Centre General and Personal Medical Services Statistics.
2001 ONS Population Census

**Mr. Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the ratio of practising NHS general practitioners to population was in *(a)* Wellingborough constituency, *(b)* Northamptonshire and *(c)* England in the last year for which figures are available. [14758]

**Mr. Byrne:** The information requested is not available on a Wellingborough constituency basis. Information in respect of England and Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland strategic health authority (SHA) and the Northampton primary care trusts (PCTs) as at December 2004 is shown in the table.

*General medical practitioners (excluding retainers and registrars)[1] per 100,000 population[2] for specified organisations, as at 31 December 2004*

*Number (headcount)*

| | | General medical practitioners (excluding retainers and registrars)[1] | General medical practitioners (excluding retainers and registrars)[1] per 100,000 population[2] |
|---|---|---|---|
| | England | 31,798 | 64 |
| SHA | Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland SHA | 894 | 57 |
| *PCTs* | | | |
| 5AC | Daventry and South Northamptonshire | 60 | 57 |
| 5LW | Northampton | 126 | 60 |
| 5LV | Northamptonshire Heartlands | 150 | 54 |

*Notes:*
[1] General medical practitioners (excluding retainers and registrars) includes contracted GPs, general medical service (CMS) others and personal medical service (PMS) others.
[2] Population data as at 2003.
*Sources:*
1. National Health Service Health and Social Care Information Centre CMS and PMS statistics.
2. 2001 ONS population census.

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will list those primary care trusts which have expressed an interest in taking part in the programme announced on 29 March to expand family doctor services in areas of limited general practitioner availability. [3361]

**Mr. Byrne:** Strategic health authorities (SHAs) were asked by the Department to communicate with primary care trusts (PCTs) and gauge any interest in being involved in the primary care plurality pathfinder programme, which was announced in a press release on 29 March 2005. The PCTs which expressed an interest in discussing the programme further are listed as follows:

*Primary care plurality pathfinder programme—PCTs which expressed an interest in discussing the programme*

Barking and Dagenham PCT
Bradford City Teaching PCT
Burnley Pendle and Rossendale PCT
Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire PCTs
City and Hackney TPCT
Cumbria and Lancashire SHA joint submission—all PCTs
Doncaster PCTs (West, Central and East)
Eastleigh and Test Valley South PCT and New Forest PCT
Fareham and Gosport PCT
Gateshead PCT
Great Yarmouth TPCT

Hartlepool PCT
Heart of Birmingham PCT
Hyndburn and Ribble Valley PCT
Kensington and Chelsea PCT
Leeds PCTs—joint submission from East Leeds, North East Leeds, and South Leeds PCTs
Medway TPCT
Middlesbrough PCT
North Hampshire PCT and Blackwater Valley and Hart PCT
North Tyneside PCT
Northamptonshire Heartlands PCT
Plymouth Teaching PCT
Sandwell PCT
South Birmingham PCT
South Sefton PCT
South Tyneside PCT
South Western Staffordshire PCT
South Yorkshire SHA—joint submission from Rotherham PCT, North Sheffield PCT, South East Sheffield PCT, Sheffield West PCT, Sheffield
South West PCT, Barnsley PCT
Southwark PCT
Thames Valley SHA—Reading PCT and Wokingham PCT

### Green/White Papers

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* Green and *(b)* White Papers her Department has produced since 1997; and if she will list these in date order. [10590]

**Jane Kennedy:** A list of all Command Papers produced by the Department from 10 May 2001 to the end of June 2005, prepared by the Office of Public Sector Information (OPSI), is available in the Library. This list by Department details the Command Paper number, title and date of publication.

It is not possible to separately identify the number of Green and White Papers. Information is not available prior to 10 May 2001 and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

A list of Command Papers from 2001 onwards is also available on the OPSI website at www.opsi.gov.uk. The list can be viewed alphabetically by Department as well as numerically.

### Health Care Inspectorates

**Mr. Burns:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many inspectorates with a remit that covers *(a)* social services and long-term care for the elderly and *(b)* health care, in whole or in part, have been in operation in each year since 1997. [14457]

**Mr. Byrne:** Until April 2002, local councils regulated independent sector care homes and health authorities regulated nursing homes. Each council regulated the care homes in its area, based on national regulations using locally developed standards. This system led to inconsistencies between different areas and some services, like domiciliary care, were not regulated at all. The Government addressed this by introducing new regulatory arrangements to ensure consistency and improve the quality of life and level of protection for vulnerable people receiving social and health care.

From April 2002 to April 2004, the National Care Standards Commission (NCSC) registered and inspected all care homes and independent hospitals in England and started to extend regulation to other social care services. The Commission for Health Improvement was responsible for assessing the performance of national health service organisations.

Since April 2004, the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) has been responsible for inspecting all registered social care and the Healthcare Commission (HC) has been responsible for inspecting all NHS organisations and independent healthcare.

In addition, the Mental Health Act Commission is responsible for keeping under review the implementation of the Mental Health Act 1983 as it relates to patients who are detained or are liable to be detained in long-term care settings.

In light of the Government's continuing commitment to lightening the burden of regulation, from 2008, there are plans to make further improvements through the merger of CSCI and the HC and to have just one inspectorate for all these services.

Like other businesses outside the health and social care sectors, providers are also subject to other regulators, such as the Health and Safety Executive and the fire service.

### Health Scheme Funding

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding has been spent on or committed to health schemes within each growth area. [13789]

**Mr. Byrne:** The most recent round of revenue allocations to primary care trusts (PCTs), covering the period 2006–07 and 2007–08, was announced in February 2005. The Department, in conjunction with the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, was able to include an adjustment for the growth area initiative in this round of allocations. The growth area adjustment informs the target position of PCTs within the growth areas. It is the PCTs' target positions that determine their fair shares of the revenue allocations. The table shows the 2006–07 and 2007–08 revenue allocations to those PCTs covered by the growth area initiative.

£000

| PCT | Allocation 2006–07 | Allocation 2007–08 |
|---|---|---|
| Ashford | 123,752 | 137,086 |
| North Hertfordshire and Stevenage | 215,870 | 237,977 |
| Royston, Buntingford and Bishops Stortford | 84,170 | 91,037 |
| South East Hertfordshire | 189,518 | 209,692 |
| Epping Forest | 131,877 | 142,642 |
| Harlow | 107,862 | 116,667 |
| Uttlesford | 73,835 | 81,090 |
| Witham, Braintree and Halstead | 150,157 | 168,321 |
| Cambridge City | 148,311 | 160,403 |
| East Cambridgeshire and Fenland | 179,174 | 203,900 |
| Huntingdonshire | 157,561 | 173,789 |
| North Peterborough | 137,445 | 153,199 |
| South Cambridgeshire | 109,152 | 118,947 |
| South Peterborough | 103,668 | 114,166 |
| Enfield | 351,514 | 384,190 |
| Haringey Teaching | 346,339 | 375,205 |
| City and Hackney Teaching | 380,906 | 416,671 |
| Redbridge | 292,512 | 317,506 |

£000

| PCT | Allocation 2006-07 | 2007-08 |
|---|---|---|
| Waltham Forest | 320,806 | 347,335 |
| Daventry and South Northamptonshire | 104,517 | 117,732 |
| Northampton | 248,117 | 277,229 |
| Northamptonshire Heartlands | 336,254 | 377,137 |
| Bedford | 174,220 | 192,096 |
| Bedfordshire Heartlands | 259,834 | 291,858 |
| Luton | 223,068 | 247,703 |
| Cherwell Vale | 133,313 | 149,384 |
| Milton Keynes | 247,043 | 277,919 |
| Vale of Aylesbury | 207,078 | 227,618 |
| Basildon | 137,269 | 153,039 |
| Billericay, Brentwood and Wickford | 154,036 | 168,212 |
| Castle Point and Rochford | 187,964 | 207,004 |
| Southend on Sea | 217,056 | 234,771 |
| Thurrock | 181,711 | 204,371 |
| Barking and Dagenham | 240,688 | 267,023 |
| Havering | 303,017 | 331,028 |
| Newham | 415,179 | 454,046 |
| Tower Hamlets | 360,074 | 395,521 |
| Bexley | 258,661 | 281,904 |
| Greenwich Teaching | 344,632 | 372,379 |
| Lewisham | 397,785 | 429,633 |
| Canterbury and Coastal | 211,688 | 231,695 |
| Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley | 273,269 | 298,896 |
| Medway | 304,301 | 340,701 |
| Swale | 116,872 | 133,446 |

### Health Service Bodies (Appointments)

**Mr. Meacher:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what appointments were made to lead bodies providing services within the national health service for which she is responsible in each year since 1997; and what their *(a)* role, *(b)* pay, *(c)* length of tenure at appointment and *(d)* previous experience within the (i) public sector and (ii) private sector was in each case. [14372]

**Mr. Byrne:** This information is not available centrally.

However, the Department produced public appointments annual reports up to 2000 and these are available in the Library. These were discontinued from 2001, when the Cabinet Office published reports on public bodies. From February 2005, an on-line public bodies database was launched. This replaces the annual public bodies publication.

Details of public appointments can be accessed at:

http://www.publicappointments.gov.uk.

### Health Service Expenditure

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much of total health service expenditure in each of the last 10 years was spent directly on *(a)* healthcare, *(b)* administration and *(c)* prescriptions, broken down by NHS trust; and if she will make a statement. [14985]

**Mr. Byrne:** Information is not collected centrally in the format requested. Expenditure on administration and prescriptions within national health service trusts is not recorded separately.

Total NHS trust expenditure is provided as a proxy for healthcare and has been placed in the Library.

Data are only available by individual trust for the period 1996–97 to 2003–04.

### Hospital Mortality Rates

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the mortality rates in patients in hospitals admitted *(a)* at the weekend and *(b)* at other times of the week. [9276]

**Mr. Byrne:** No specific assessment has been made. However, data show that deaths as a percentage of all discharges increase from around 2 per cent. on weekdays to around 3.5 per cent. on weekends. This may well be because at weekends there are significantly fewer elective admissions, which proportionately account for a lower number of deaths than emergency admissions.

### Independent Sector Treatment Centres

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the same level of training is required for doctors working in independent sector treatment centres as in NHS units. [13565]

**Mr. Byrne:** As for all doctors working in the national health service, surgeons working in independent sector treatment centres must be registered with the General Medical Council and, therefore, meet United Kingdom standards.

**Mr. Frank Field:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance her Department issues on circumstances in which *(a)* conditions and *(b)* cases should be treated at independent sector treatment centres. [14219]

**Mr. Byrne:** The Department commissioned independent sector treatment centres (ISTCs) to provide a wide range of locally identified routine elective procedures in order to reduce waiting and extend patient choice. From December this year, patients will be offered a choice of at least four providers at the point of referral from their general practitioner. Where appropriate these choices will include ISTCs.

Guidance sent to national health service chief executives on delivering choice and "Choose and Book" is available on the Department's website at http://www.dh.gov.uk/PublicationsAndStatistics/LettersAndCirculars/DearColleagueLetters/DearColleagueLetterArticle/fs/en?CONTENT_ID=4114963&chk=qG8q3P.

**Mr. Frank Field:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* doctors and *(b)* nurses employed by private diagnostic and independent sector treatment centres with contracts with the NHS have been found to have worked in the NHS during the preceding six month period. [13219]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answer 18 July 2005]:* Providers of independent sector treatment centres are contractually obliged not to employ or engage health care professionals who have been employed in a clinical capacity in the national health service within the preceding six-month period.

A process is in place by which an independent sector provider or an individual health care professional may apply for a waiver of the restriction in relation to a specified person. For further information regarding such waivers, I refer my right hon. Friend to the reply I gave my right hon. Friend the Member for Holborn and St. Pancras (Frank Dobson) *Official Report*, 21 July 2005, column 2177W.

**Mr. Frank Field:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the effects of the development and use of independent treatment centres on waiting lists. [13220]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answer 18 July 2005]:* Independent sector treatment centres are a fundamental part of our strategy to increase the amount of capacity available to treat national health service patients and have made a significant contribution to reducing waiting lists to the lowest level since records began. Over 55,000 patients have been seen to date, helping for example, waiting times for cataract surgery to fall from nine months to no more than 12 weeks.

## Junior Doctors

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what timescale she has set for extending the pilots for junior doctors training in independent sector treatment centres to all parts of the country; [12503]

(2) if she will list the locations of the pilots for junior doctors training in independent sector treatment centres. [12504]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answer 18 July 2005]:* All independent sector treatment centres (ISTCs), which are involved in transferred national health service activity, will be required to provide training. Each of these ISTCs will form pilot sites. The locations of the current sites contracted to deliver training are Burton, Nottingham, Maidstone, London, and Brighton. Burton will be the first site to deliver training. Full service commencement is scheduled for May 2006, with an interim solution planned for November 2005.

## Management Consultants

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health which five management consultancies received the highest value of contracts awarded by her Department in each of the last three years; and what the total value was of the contracts awarded to each. [12580]

**Jane Kennedy:** The information requested is not readily available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

It should also be noted that not all consultancy contracts are awarded for financial gains; many are awarded for investigating problems, providing analysis or advice, or assisting with the development of new systems, new structures or new capabilities within the organisation.

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she has made of the total expenditure saved in each of the last three years as a result of implementing recommendations by management consultancies within her Department. [13629]

**Jane Kennedy:** The information requested is not readily available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

It should also be noted that not all consultancy contracts are awarded for the purpose of saving expenditure, many are awarded for investigating problems, providing analysis or advice, or assisting with the development of new systems, new structures or new capabilities within the organisation.

## Maternity Services

**Mrs. Betty Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what new guidance on maternity services will be published by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence. [10761]

**Jane Kennedy:** Information about the work currently being undertaken by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) is available on its website at www.nice.org.uk/pdf/comp9_gynaepregnancybirth.pdf.

An outline of planned NICE guidance related to maternity services is shown in the table.

| *Title* | *Expected date of issue* |
|---|---|
| Intrapartum care: management and delivery to women in labour | February 2007 |
| Post natal care: routine post natal care of recently delivered women and their babies | July 2006 |
| Diabetes in pregnancy | February 2008 |
| Antenatal and postnatal mental health: clinical management and service guidance | February 2007 |
| Guidance for midwives, health visitors, pharmacists and other primary care services to improve the nutrition of pregnant and breastfeeding mothers and children in low income households. | Spring 2007 |

## Mental Health

**Ms Abbott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the implications of Delivering Race Equality for the training of *(a)* psychiatrists and *(b)* other mental health professionals. [13270]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** I refer my hon. Friend to the reply I gave on 18 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 1467W.

## Mesothelioma

**Mr. Nicholas Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps her Department is taking to improve mesothelioma *(a)* treatment and *(b)* prevention; and how much funding has been allocated to each in 2005–06. [14160]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** In 2003, the Department set up the lung cancer and mesothelioma advisory group (LCMAG) to work closely with the voluntary sector and patient and professional groups in order to support the development and delivery of high quality services for lung cancer patients.

In 2004, a mesothelioma subgroup was set up to advise LCMAG specifically on the requirements for a good clinical service for mesothelioma, and on priorities for research. The work of this subgroup is still progressing.

Information on the costs of preventing and treating individual tumours is not collected centrally. Latest information indicates that nearly £3.4 billion was spent by primary care trusts in the financial year 2003–04 on treating all cancers.

### Methadone

**Mr. Fabian Hamilton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the level of abuse of methadone. [6963]

**Caroline Flint:** There have been no formal assessments made on the level of abuse of methadone. However, the Department recognises the key role that effective substitute prescribing has to play in meeting our overall aim of offering high quality treatment to drug misusers. It is because of this commitment that the Department published *Drug Misuse and Dependence—Guidelines on Clinical Management (1999)*, which is widely regarded as being extremely successful in assisting prescribers in offering appropriate treatment to their patients. Part of this also tackles the issue of diversion of methadone through advice on supervised consumption.

Building on this, the National Treatment Agency (NTA), which has a remit to improve the availability and quality of drug treatment, has just completed an audit of prescribing services in England which will be available shortly. The NTA will also be undertaking series of reviews of community prescribing services with the Healthcare Commission, later in 2005. The NTA has performance management structures in place to effectively tackle those drug action teams assessed as underperforming, as far as provision of drug treatment is concerned.

One of the key measures used to assess the quality of substitute prescribing, including levels of diversion, is the number of drug related deaths associated with its use. In 2003, the latest year for which figures are available, 167 deaths associated with the use of methadone were reported. This compares with 286 in 1999, a reduction of 42 per cent.

As part of our ongoing commitment to continue to develop improved practise in substitute prescribing, the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence will, within a comprehensive package of work that it will be undertaking on drug treatment, do a specific appraisal on the clinical effectiveness of methadone in the treatment of drug misuse.

### Mifepristone/Misoprostol

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether her Department was consulted by the World Health Organisation on putting *(a)* mifepristone and *(b)* misoprostol on its list of essential medicines; and if she will make a statement. [12718]

**Jane Kennedy:** It is not standard practice for the World Health Organisation (WHO) to consult member states about the compilation of the list of essential medicines. The WHO has an expert scientific advisory committee, which provides advice on maintaining and developing its list of essential medicines. It was through this process that mifepristone and misoprostol for use in medical abortion were included on the list It is for individual countries as to whether these medicines are authorised for supply. In the United Kingdom, these products have been authorised for use (on the basis of efficacy, safety and quality) by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Authority.

### Ministerial Meetings

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many meetings she has had with groups representing *(a)* patients and consumers and *(b)* health professionals since 5 May; and how many are planned for the next three months. [6281]

**Jane Kennedy:** My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State, and the Department's Ministers meet many individuals and organisations and attend many functions relating to Government business and as part of the process of policy development.

### MRI Scans

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the oral answer of 12 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 685, on MRI scans, what the evidential basis is for her statement that University Hospital of North Durham will need to use its capacity to the full well before 2008. [14430]

**Mr. Byrne:** By 2007–08, we plan to deliver an unparalleled expansion in most diagnostic services to reduce waiting time for patients further. Most of this expansion will be delivered through increasing investment and productivity in the national health service, using the record levels of NHS funding for the next three years and making the best use of existing equipment and facilities. These plans are based on understanding and meeting local needs for diagnostic services, which have been developed through working closely with local health communities to understand their needs for extra capacity. While the independent sector has a key part to play, NHS providers of diagnostics services also need to ensure that they are using their diagnostic capacity to the full.

### Multiple Sclerosis

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* parliamentary questions have been tabled and *(b)* letters she has received from hon. Members on the use of Aimspro for the treatment of multiple sclerosis in this Parliament. [9283]

**Jane Kennedy:** In the current parliamentary session, the only questions tabled are those from the hon. Gentleman himself.

An estimated 40 letters have been received by Members in this Parliament.

## NHS (IT System Compatibility)

**Hywel Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps she is taking to ensure that IT systems in the NHS in England holding information on Welsh patients are compatible with IT systems being developed for the NHS in Wales. [14241]

**Mr. Byrne:** The definition of information technology standards and systems for the national health service in Wales is a matter for the Welsh Assembly. However, we recognise the importance of close co-operation and liaison between the four home countries to ensure alignment of their respective strategies and eventual interoperability of systems. This is achieved through dialogue at working level between officials from both Administrations. Standards for NHS IT systems in England are mandated by the NHS Information Standards Board, on which NHS Wales, along with the other home countries, is represented.

## NHS Direct

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the average monthly running costs of NHS Direct were in each year since its inception; and if she will make a statement; [2884]

(2) how many cases have been dealt with by NHS Direct; how many calls have been abandoned; how many call centres are operational; where each centre is located; what the running costs of each call centre were in each year since its inception; and if she will make a statement. [2932]

**Mr. Byrne:** NHS Direct has handled over 29 million patient episodes since the service was launched in March 1998. NHS Direct has an abandonment of calls rate of approximately 10 per cent.

22 NHS Direct sites are operational. The funding allocations for each of the 22 sites and their locations are shown in the following table.

£

| | *Revenue* | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *1998–99* | *1999–2000* | *2000–01* | *2001–02* | *2002–03* | *2003–04* |
| Anglia | — | — | 1,372,000 | 3,228,000 | 3,542,000 | 3,615,000 |
| Avon | — | — | 1,372,000 | 3,506,000 | 4,465,000 | 4,543,000 |
| Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire | — | 2,447,000 | 3,209,000 | 3,154,000 | 3,580,000 | 3,731,000 |
| East Midlands | 292,000 | 3,245,000 | 4,187,000 | 5,305,000 | 5,606,000 | 6,327,000 |
| East Yorkshire | 198,000 | 1,691,000 | 2,025,000 | 3,423,000 | 3,580,000 | 3,759,000 |
| Essex | 291,000 | 1,671,000 | 3,790,000 | 3,634,000 | 3,815,000 | 3,998,000 |
| Hampshire and Isle of Wight | 749,000 | 2,558,000 | 3,228,000 | 4,067,000 | 4,384,000 | 5,023,000 |
| Kent Surrey Sussex | — | 1,561,000 | 4,675,000 | 4,612,000 | 5,560,000 | 4,783,000 |
| Lancashire | 486,000 | 1,822,000 | 3,142,000 | 4,472,000 | 4,976,000 | 5,217,000 |
| Manchester | 330,000 | 4,700,000 | 4,665,000 | 6,079,000 | 6,137,000 | 6,018,000 |
| Midland Shires | — | — | 1,698,000 | 3,414,000 | 4,073,000 | 3,977,000 |
| N C London | — | — | 1,218,000 | 2,949,000 | 3,121,080 | 3,105,000 |
| N E London | — | — | 960,000 | 2,349,000 | 2,370,000 | 2,067,000 |
| North East | 317,000 | 3,846,000 | 4,851,000 | 4,520,000 | 4,693,000 | 4,849,000 |
| S E London | 404,000 | 1,918,000 | 2,328,000 | 3,248,000 | 3,316,000 | 3,480,000 |
| S W London | — | 2,000,000 | 2,217,000 | 2,660,000 | 2,620,000 | 2,691,000 |
| South Yorkshire and South Humber | — | 1,565,000 | 2,788,000 | 3,080,000 | 3,150,000 | 3,276,000 |
| Thames Valley and Northants | 909,000 | 1,972,000 | 3,473,000 | 3,740,000 | 4,028,000 | 4,178,000 |
| W London | 477,000 | 2,380,000 | 4,086,000 | 4,139,000 | 4,196,000 | 3,892,000 |
| West Country | 1,190,000 | 5,040,000 | 4,182,000 | 4,343,000 | 4,720,000 | 4,955,000 |
| West Midlands | 941,000 | 2,194,000 | 3,546,000 | 3,710,000 | 4,041,000 | 4,238,000 |
| West Yorkshire | 1,142,000 | 3,462,000 | 4,418,000 | 4,600,000 | 4,949,000 | 5,196,000 |

*Source:*
Department of Health.

The average monthly funding allocations to NHS Direct since its inception are shown in the following table.

*£ million*

| | *Average monthly funding allocations* |
|---|---|
| 1998–99 | 1.1 |
| 1999–2000 | 4.5 |
| 2000–01 | 7.5 |
| 2001–02 | 9.1 |
| 2002–03 | 10.3 |
| 2003–04 | 10.1 |

**Julia Goldsworthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average call-back time for NHS Direct was in each month since the service was founded. [6290]

**Mr. Byrne:** Calls requiring an emergency service are directly transferred to the ambulance service. Calls of an urgent nature are transferred to the next available nurse for clinical assessment. 97 per cent. of all urgent calls start clinical assessment with call-back from a nurse within 20 minutes, in line with the national out-of-hours quality requirements.

I understand from the chair of NHS Direct that average call-back time for all calls to NHS Direct is not available for all months since the service began. However, the average time between patients contacting NHS Direct and starting clinical assessment with a NHS Direct nurse since April 2005 is shown in the following table.

| Month | Average time to start clinical assessment in minutes |
|---|---|
| April 2005 | 30.5 |
| May 2005 | 30.7 |
| June 2005 | 29.4 |
| July 2005 | 29.2 |

**Steve Webb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many calls have been made to NHS Direct in each month since May 2004. [8682]

**Mr. Byrne:** I understand from the chair of NHS Direct that the number of calls answered by NHS Direct each month since May 2004 are as shown in the table.

| Month | Total calls answered |
|---|---|
| May 2004 | 554,454 |
| June 2004 | 497,347 |
| July 2004 | 526,320 |
| August 2004 | 530,191 |
| September 2004 | 493,979 |
| October 2004 | 536,500 |
| November 2004 | 536,052 |
| December 2004 | 615,693 |
| January 2005 | 619,178 |
| February 2005 | 519,160 |
| March 2005 | 612,743 |
| April 2005 | 558,860 |
| May 2005 | 593,367 |

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps she is taking to improve patient access to NHS Direct; what assessment she has made of the average number of calls a patient must make to be successfully connected to an NHS Direct operator; and if she will make a statement on the integration of NHS Direct with the GP out-of-hours service. [12611]

**Mr. Byrne:** NHS Direct now provides multi-media access to healthcare. I understand from the Chairman of NHS Direct that the number of calls to NHS Direct has increased from 110,000 in 1998–99 to over 29 million by 2004–05. In addition, there are now more than one million visitors each month to the online service. The NHS Direct self help guide is also available to 19 million households through the Thomson local directory. NHS Direct also provides access to healthcare through digital television and this will be extended to include cable and freeview throughout this year.

Patients speak to an NHS Direct operator as soon as they are connected to NHS Direct. However, in June 2005, 10 per cent. of calls made to NHS Direct were not connected to NHS Direct as the caller abandoned the call. There are no data available to assess the reasons for abandonment or how many patients subsequently call again.

Primary care trusts (PCTs) may choose to commission NHS Direct to provide general practice out-of hours call handling or nurse assessment. NHS Direct is currently involved in 45 out-of hours clinical integration schemes involving 99 PCTs across the country.

**Julia Goldsworthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many complaints were received regarding the service provided by NHS Direct in the last year for which figures are available, broken down by type. [14356]

**Mr. Byrne:** I understand from the chair of NHS Direct that, during the year April 2004 to March 2005, NHS Direct answered 6,584,000 calls. From these calls, NHS Direct received 1,469 complaints. Of these complaints, 1,128 were able to be resolved locally and 341 required further escalation.

Following investigation, 153 of the complaints were upheld. This represents approximately 0.002 per cent. of the total calls answered.

Information regarding the type of complaint is not centrally available.

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what performance indices are used to assess NHS Direct; and what estimate she has made of the average length of time between a person first calling NHS Direct and an operator calling them back in the most recent period for which figures are available. [14974]

**Mr. Byrne:** NHS Direct is assessed against the "National Quality Requirements in the Delivery of Out-of-Hours Services", in relation to telephone and clinical assessment, which was published by the Department in October 2004 and is available on the Department's website at:

http//www.dh.gov.uk/assetRoot/04/09/12/15/04091215.pdf

The average call back time for calls to NHS Direct over the last six months was 32 minutes from the time of receipt of the patient's call.

## NHS Estates

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reasons NHS Estates was not dissolved on 1 April, as envisaged in the Department's Implementation Framework for reconfiguring the DH arm's length bodies; and what further slippage is expected in implementing the results of the review. [16037]

**Jane Kennedy:** We are on course to achieve the main arm's length bodies (ALB) review objectives by April 2008, including a reduction in the number of ALBs from 38 to no more than 20. There have been some alterations to the timing of a small number of the major organisational changes contributing to the achievement of those objectives.

NHS Estates will now be dissolved by 30 September 2005. The extra six months will ensure a smooth transfer of certain core functions to future host organisations. The new timetable has not affected the achievement of savings.

The merger of the National Biological Standards Board (NBSB) and the Health Protection Agency (HPA) requires primary legislation. The time scale for this legislation means that the merger of NBSB and HPA will now take place by April 2008, instead of the provisional date of 1 April 2006.

The merger of the Commission for Social Care Inspection and the Healthcare Commission, announced in the last Budget speech, will take place following a wider review of regulation in health and social care. We have now decided that the Mental Health Act Commission will merge with the new body once it is created. The new body, which will also require primary legislation, will be created no later than April 2008.

It is envisaged that the Commission for Patient and Public Involvement in Health will be abolished in summer 2007, subject to legislation. The extra year will allow for a review of patient and public involvement, which will be carried out in parallel with the out-of-hospital care consultation, the subsequent White Paper and the review of primary care trusts.

The national health service Business Services Authority (BSA) will be created on schedule on 1 October 2005. The constituent bodies that will merge to form the BSA will not be dissolved until April 2006, ensuring that business continuity is not compromised.

## NHS Walk-in Centres (Essex)

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans she has to develop NHS walk-in centres in Essex. [14320]

**Mr. Byrne:** The development of national health service walk-in centres is a matter for local health communities. We are, however, keen to see more such centres and are supporting this with an investment of £50 million over the three years to 2006.

## NICE

**Mr. Havard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if she will review the process by which *(a)* strategic health authorities and *(b)* primary care trusts make decisions on funding for treatments not approved by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence; [12990]

(2) if she will commission research into how effective HSC 1990/176 has been in providing clear guidance to NHS bodies on the use of treatments not approved by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence; and if she will make a statement; [12991]

(3) what measures her Department has in place to monitor the compliance of *(a)* strategic health authorities and *(b)* primary care trusts with the requirements of HSC 1999/176 in relation to the funding of treatments not approved by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence. [12994]

**Jane Kennedy:** In 1999, the Department issued Health Service Circular (HSC) 1999/176, which asks national health service bodies to continue with local arrangements for the managed introduction of new technologies where guidance from the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) has not yet been issued. These arrangements should include an assessment of the available evidence. Compliance with HSC 1999/176 is the responsibility of strategic health authorities.

There are no plans to commission research into the effectiveness of HSC 1999/176. HSC 1990/176 does not exist.

## Nurses

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of state-registered nurse training is allocated to dealing with termination of pregnancy; whether nurses are allowed to opt out of abortion training under section 4 of the Abortion Act 1967; and if she will make a statement. [14285]

**Mr. Byrne:** It is for the education providers and their partners locally to determine the detailed learning outcomes for each programme, including the amount of time spent on different aspects of the curriculum, such as termination of pregnancy, what is required to be demonstrated in theory and/or practice and how this is assessed.

The preparation of nursing students is closely aligned to the Code of Professional Conduct and nursing students would be able to object conscientiously to participating in a termination of pregnancy. Education providers should take adequate measures to ensure that nursing students are aware of their rights and are supported in making decisions.

Students equally have a responsibility to make their supervisors aware of their objections if asked to participate in the care of a woman undergoing such treatment. They also need to be helped to understand that as registrants they will always have a duty of care to all patients irrespective of the treatment they are receiving.

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many nurses on average staffed an intensive care bed for *(a)* adults, *(b)* children and *(c)* new born or premature babies in the last period for which figures are available. [13658]

**Mr. Byrne:** The information requested is not collected centrally.

## Obesity

**Mr. Hepburn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many children were classified as obese in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* the UK in each year since 1997. [8356]

**Caroline Flint:** Figures from the Health Survey for England are shown in the table, although not exactly in the form requested. Figures for the north east are given by the north east Government office region (GOR). No figures are available for the Jarrow constituency or South Tyneside. Although figures are requested for the United Kingdom, information in respect of obesity prevalence in Scotland and Wales is the responsibility of the devolved administrations. While the institutions in Northern Ireland are dissolved, responsibility rests with Ministers in the Northern Ireland office.

*Obesity prevalence among children in the north east and in England*

| | *North east GOR* | | *England* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Boys* | *Girls* | *Boys* | *Girls* |
| *Children classed as obese as a proportion of the total sample (percentage)* | | | | |
| 1998 | | | | |
| 1999–2000 | 13.6 | 14.0 | 12.9 | 13.2 |
| 2001 | 15.5 | 9.1 | 16.0 | 14.0 |
| 2002 | 17.2 | 13.9 | 15.5 | 14.6 |
| 2003 | 21.6 | 21.3 | 16.9 | 17.1 |
| | 16.4 | 16.5 | 16.9 | 16.0 |
| *Number of children surveyed* | | | | |
| 1998 | 92 | 93 | 1,735 | 1,642 |
| 1999–2000 | 119 | 91 | 1,720 | 1,635 |
| 2001 | 140 | 118 | 1,700 | 1,748 |
| 2002 | 221 | 218 | 3,698 | 3,621 |
| 2003 | 86 | 80 | 1,417 | 1,416 |

*Notes:*
1. Aged 2–15 with a valid body mass index (BMI) measurement. UK National BMI percentile classification used to classify obesity in children.
2. Figures prior to 1998 are not available by Government office region
3. Data are age-standardised to the mid year 2003 population estimates.

*Source:*
Health Survey for England

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement on the progress being made on the new General Medical Services Contract in relation to tackling obesity. [13654]

**Mr. Byrne:** The quality and outcomes framework is currently being reviewed by all parties as part of the new general medical services contract negotiations led by NHS Employers. The Department has submitted proposals for new indicators on obesity for the expert panel's consideration as part of this process.

## Parliamentary Questions

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she will reply to Question reference 9440 tabled by the hon. Member for Sutton and Cheam. [14636]

**Mr. Byrne:** I refer the hon. Member to the reply that I gave him today.

## Patient Choice

**Mr. Wills:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she has made of the cost of offering patients a choice of hospitals by the end of 2008. [12545]

**Mr. Byrne:** The National Audit Office's report, "Patient Choice at the Point of Referral", published in January 2005, accepted our estimate of £122 million for the likely additional annual infrastructure costs and transaction costs for patient choice. The total spend on elective care in 2003–04 was £8.7 billion.

Choice will lead to increased efficiencies in both primary and secondary as described in the National Audit Office's report. In hospitals, these efficiencies should include reductions in missed appointments and cancellations, meaning clinics can be run more efficiently. The cost of these in 2003–04 was approximately £100 million for the 1.5 million missed first out-patient appointments that are most likely to be addressed by choice.

**Harry Cohen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what level of overcapacity in health services she expects to fund consequent on the patients' choice agenda; and if she will make a statement. [9349]

**Mr. Byrne:** It is the responsibility of strategic health authorities to plan and develop sufficient capacity to ensure that the public sector agreement targets are achieved.

Only activity that is undertaken will be funded by primary care trusts.

## Patients Forums

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what policy considerations underlay the decision not to allow patients forums to elect their own chairs. [11883]

**Ms Rosie Winterton** *[holding answer 12 July 2005]:* The current arrangements, which allow patient forums to elect their own chairs, will remain in place.

The Commission will continue to carry out appointments to forums and arrange staff support. The plans to give the national health service appointments commission additional responsibilities to appoint members and chairs of patient forums will not go ahead.

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what arrangements will be put in place to ensure effective patient involvement in service planning within Essex Ambulance Trust when the existing patient forum is abolished; [12909]

(2) what arrangements will be put in place after the abolition of the Essex Ambulance Service Patient and Public Involvement Forum to assist patients' representatives *(a)* to share information and *(b)* effectively to monitor ambulance services. [12910]

**Ms Rosie Winterton** *[holding answer 18 July 2005]:* With the recent announcement of plans to reconfigure primary care trusts (PCTs), the planned reconfiguration of forums around PCTs has been put on hold.

The "Your Health, Your Care, Your Say" consultation presents us with the opportunity to take a strategic look at patient and public involvement. This will ensure that future systems for patient, user and carer involvement will best fit the nature of modern health and social care delivery.

## Personal Social Services Expenditure

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the level of personal social services expenditure by each local authority in England has been in each year since 1997; and what the percentage variation against standard spending assessment is in each case. [14274]

**Mr. Byrne:** The information requested from 1998–99 to 2003–04 has been placed in the Library.

## Physiotherapy

**Jessica Morden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will take steps to ensure that the increase in the number of training places for physiotherapists is matched by funding for physiotherapy posts in the NHS. [13310]

**Mr. Byrne:** It is the responsibility of local national health service employers and strategic health authorities (SHAs) to ensure there are sufficient suitable staff in place to deliver services for patients.

The Department, in collaboration with the Chartered Society of Physiotherapists, SHAs and NHS physiotherapy managers, has developed an action plan to address current concerns over the number of junior posts available for newly qualified physiotherapists.

### Private Health Care

**Frank Dobson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will list each of the private sector providers providing services to NHS patients, giving in each case *(a)* the name of the organisation, *(b)* the location of its clinical premises, *(c)* the number of operations contracted for and *(d)* the number of operations so far carried out. [11055]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answer 11 July 2005]:* Information on independent sector providers with which the Department has contracts has been placed in the Library. Information on contracts with the independent sector agreed by local national health service commissioners is not collected centrally.

### Prostate Cancer

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will give the basis for the target published in her article in *The Guardian* newspaper on Saturday 2 July of 10 per cent. of routine elective surgery being carried out by independent sector treatment centres by 2008. [10379]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answer 7 July 2005]:* There is no target for independent sector provision or use. The figure of 10 per cent. referred to by the Secretary of State is based on the value of the announced national procurements of independent sector treatment for patients requiring elective surgery, and the forecast levels of national health service elective activity in 2008.

### Social Care

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many agencies recruiting nurses are registered with the Commission for Social Care Inspection. [13293]

**Mr. Byrne:** I understand from the chair of the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) that, as at 3 August 2005, there are 910 nursing agencies registered with CSCI.

### Social Work

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will undertake a review of social work along the lines of the review commissioned by the Scottish Executive. [9440]

**Mr. Byrne:** On 21July 2005, I announced a review of the social care work force. The review will be jointly undertaken with the Department for Education and Skills and is expected to include a review of social work as a key professional group in both the adult social care and children's services work forces.

### Special Advisers

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will list *(a)* the special advisers in her Department, *(b)* their specific areas of expertise and *(c)* the total cost of employing them in the latest year for which figures are available. [8829]

**Jane Kennedy:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 4 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 36W.

### Strokes (Early Signs)

**Dr. Gibson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what guidance is provided by her Department to *(a)* patients and *(b)* general practitioners on the early signs of stroke, with particular reference to transient ischaemic attacks; [14929]

(2) what steps her Department is taking to encourage general practitioners to refer patients for specialist assessment following transient ischaemic attacks. [14930]

**Mr. Byrne:** The Department works with a broad range of organisations and professional bodies to ensure that appropriate guidance is provided to both patients and healthcare professionals.

The national service framework (NSF) for older people states that risk factors for each patient who is at risk of a stroke or who is recovering from a stroke should be identified and advice, support and treatment provided as appropriate. Both primary and secondary prevention measures should be in line with appropriate clinical guidelines. The NSF makes it clear that patients with a suspected transient ischaemic attacks should be referred urgently to a rapid response neurovascular clinic, managed by a clinician with expertise in stroke for investigation and treatment.

### Student Nurses

**Mr. Denis Murphy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many student nurses have started training with the NHS in each of the last four years; and how many have specialised in *(a)* general nursing, *(b)* children's nursing and *(c)* mental health nursing. [14464]

**Mr. Byrne:** The information requested is shown in the table.

*Pre-registration nursing training commissions*

| | *2001–02* | *2002–03* | *2003–04* | *2004–05* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| All nursing training commissions | 20,610 | 21,523 | 22,815 | 23,377 |
| *Of which:* | | | | |
| Adult | 14,066 | 14,694 | 15,846 | 15,810 |
| Mental health | 3,577 | 3,877 | 3,866 | 4,050 |
| Learning disabilities | 795 | 832 | 865 | 844 |
| Child | 2,172 | 2,180 | 2,238 | 2,229 |

*Source:*
Strategic health authority quarterly monitoring returns.

### Treatment Centres

**Steve Webb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the Government has achieved its target of delivering 80 NHS treatment centres by 2005; and what the *(a)* construction costs, *(b)* scheduled date for start of construction, *(c)* expected completion date and *(d)* status at 31 December 2004 were of each currently identified scheme. [9378]

**Mr. Byrne:** There is no formal target of this kind, but to date, 55 treatment centres have opened, treating over 225,000 patients, and plans for further treatment centres to open this year are progressing well.

Available details for each scheme have been placed in the Library. Data on construction costs, where incurred, and projected start dates for construction are not

centrally available. Expected start dates for independent sector treatment centres have not been included, as they are subject to commercial discussions.

### Waiting Times

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 11 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 749W, on waiting times, for what reasons the agreement of local delivery plans has deviated from the timescale set out in the answer of 27 January 2005, *Official Report*, column 564W, on waiting times; when she now expects local delivery plans to be agreed; if she plans to publish the local delivery plans; and when she intends to begin publishing waiting times for diagnostic tests. [14213]

**Mr. Byrne:** The majority of local delivery plans (LDPs) have now been agreed with strategic health authorities (SHAs). The Department expects the remainder to be agreed by the end of August when outstanding matters have been resolved.

It is usual practice for SHAs and primary care trusts to publish their LDPs once agreed with the Department.

The Department is currently piloting data collections to support the 18-week general practitioner referral to start of treatment target. A decision on publication of this data will be taken later.

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health which NHS trusts are meeting the Government target of 18 weeks wait between general practitioner referral and hospital treatment. [14422]

**Mr. Byrne:** The Government's target is that, by the end of 2008, no patient will have to wait more than 18 weeks from general practitioner referral to start of hospital treatment. We do not currently collect information on the length of time from GP referral to start of treatment, so it is not yet possible to report on individual organisations' progress towards the target. We will be working with the national health service to introduce new data reporting systems to support delivery of the target set out in the Government's election manifesto.

### Ward Inspections

**Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the effect that compulsory ward inspections would have on *(a)* hygiene standards and *(b)* infection rates in hospitals. [8695]

**Jane Kennedy:** Compulsory inspections of the hospital environment are undertaken every year through the patient environment action team (PEAT) process. This includes inspection of a sample of wards, but goes beyond this to assess a wide range of public and patient areas. The PEAT process is broad and considers more than hygiene standards, but cleanliness, including specific mention of wards, is weighted in the final score in recognition of its importance to patients. In addition to this national programme, many trusts undertake regular local inspections of their wards and other clinical areas.

Standards for the patient environment have risen since PEAT began in 2000. Then, around a third of hospitals were rated poor or unacceptable. Today, 95 per cent. of national health service trusts are rated as acceptable or better.

Most scientific evidence stresses hand hygiene and sound clinical practices as being particularly important in preventing healthcare associated infections (HCAIs). It is unlikely that a more stringent environmental inspection regime alone would significantly reduce HCAI rates.

## TREASURY

### Tax Credits

**Mr. George Osborne:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will list meetings he has attended with *(a)* the Citizen's Advice Bureau and *(b)* the Parliamentary Ombudsman to discuss the tax credits system. [11453]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Ministers and officials from HM Treasury and HM Revenue and Customs regularly meet with interested parties to discuss the tax credits system. These include the Parliamentary Ombudsman and the Citizen's Advice Bureau.

**Mr. George Osborne:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the cost of printing tax credit guidance notes was in each year from 1999–2000 to 2004–05. [13711]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The information requested is not available.

**Stewart Hosie:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate for each tax credit the value of unclaimed credits, broken down by nation and region of the UK. [14858]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Work to produce final take-up rate estimates for child tax credit and working tax credit for 2003–04 is continuing and HMRC expects this analysis to be completed towards the end of 2005–06. As part of this work we are considering how best to estimate take-up by expenditure and the value of unclaimed tax credits.

### Wales White Paper

**Peter Law:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how he intends to implement Paragraph 3.12 of the White Paper, "Better governance for Wales" Cm 6582, in respect of any Bill he introduces in the current session of Parliament. [14952]

**John Healey:** I intend to implement the Government's policy as stated in paragraph 3.12 of the White Paper "Better Governance for Wales", Cm 6582, as appropriate. If the need arises, my department will discuss the issues concerned with the Assembly Government.

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### Asylum Seekers (Zimbabwe)

**Peter Bottomley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Zimbabweans have *(a)* applied for asylum in the UK and *(b)* been granted asylum in each of the past six months. [15871]

**Mr. McNulty:** Information on asylum applications, initial decision outcomes and appeal outcomes for nationals of Zimbabwe are published quarterly and annually. Copies are available from Library and on the Home Office Research Development and Statistics Directorate website at http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html.

### Correspondence

**Mr. Swayne:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he will answer the letter from the hon. Member for New Forest, West of 21 March regarding his deceased former constituent Angela Armes. [10732]

**Paul Goggins** *[holding answer 11 July 2005]:* I replied to the hon. Member on 16 August 2005.

### Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority

**Dr. Tony Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the target times are for *(a)* making awards and *(b)* settling cases by the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority; and what the most recent figures are for performance against those targets. [540]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** The Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority (CICA) has a target of issuing an initial decision on 90 per cent. of applications within 12 months of receipt, and of making awards of compensation within 28 days of receiving the claimant's formal acceptance of an offer of award.

In 2004–05, the percentage of cases where the initial decision was issued within 12 months was 70 per cent., and the percentage of awards made within the 28 day period was 99 per cent.

### Identity Cards Bill

**David Howarth:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps will be taken to protect victims of *(a)* domestic violence, *(b)* rape and *(c)* sexual abuse from identification by their attackers using the National Identity Register. [6788]

**Andy Burnham** *[holding answer 23 June 2005]:* In order to protect the security of the proposed Identity Cards Scheme we cannot comment on the specific steps that will be taken to protect the information of these victims on the National Identity Register.

Direct access to information held on the National Identity Register by anyone outside those responsible for administering the scheme will not be possible, only requests for information can be made by third parties. In the vast majority of cases, verification of information on the Register will only be possible with the person's consent. In cases where information is provided without consent, the Identity Cards Bill strictly limits the occasions when this can occur, limits it to public authorities and allows for regulations that will define how and to whom this information can be provided.

### IMPACT

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects the business case for the IMPACT programme to be *(a)* completed and *(b)* published. [16030]

**Mr. Charles Clarke:** I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to the hon. Member for South-East Cambridgeshire (Mr. Paice) on 25 July 2005, that an outline business case will be prepared in September. For commercial reasons, business cases are not released until all associated contractual activities are completed.

### London Bombings

**John Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make a statement on the inquiries into the London bombings. [14724]

**Mr. Charles Clarke:** I refer my hon. Friend to my statement to the House on 20 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 1253.

### Marketing Testing

**Mrs. Gillan:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans he has for further market testing within the Prison Service. [15627]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** Further market testing within the Prison Service will be reviewed in the light of the outcome of the performance improvement test of the three prisons on the Isle of Sheppey.

### National Offender Management Service

**Mrs. Gillan:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for what reasons exchange of secure e-mails is not possible between the Prison Service, Probation Service, the National Offender Management Service and the remainder of the Criminal Justice System; and when he expects this facility to be available. [10205]

**Fiona Mactaggart** *[holding answer 7 July 2005]:* National Offender Management Service and the Prison Service have had connection to the Government Secure Intranet (GSI) and therefore secure e-mail for some time. The National Probation Service (NPS) have recently been granted access to the GSI which will increase the number of probation offices able to send and receive secure e-mail.

All three organisations can, and do, exchange information already now, using their respective networks (GSI and GSX) as well as the secure e-mail facility.

NOMS and HMPS are members of the GSI community which is accredited to handle material up to and including "RESTRICTED". Currently the NPS is connected to the GSX which is not accredited to handle "RESTRICTED" material. This has placed some restriction on the nature and type of information which can be handled by the NPS electronically.

However, the NPS application to join the GSI community has recently been approved, meaning that the NPS will soon be able to send information up to and including "RESTRICTED". As a consequence this will mean that more information will be capable of being exchanged between the three organisations.

**Mrs. Gillan:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will list the bidders for the STEPS 2 replacement programme for the Offender Management National Infrastructure; and when the Department expects to announce the award of the contract. [10206]

**Fiona Mactaggart** *[holding answer 7 July 2005]:* The bidders that remain in the competition that was originally known as STEPS 2 (and is now known as OMNI) are Fujitsu Services Ltd. and Steria Ltd. The Department expects to announce the award of the contract before the end of September this year.

**Mrs. Gillan:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the decision was made to abandon the STEPS 2 programme; and what the cost of STEPS 2 to the Department is. [10209]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** The STEPS 2 programme has not been abandoned. The programme to procure a successor to the existing IT services provider to the probation service began in 2002. With the announcement of the formation of the National Offender Management Service, this procurement programme (at the time known as STEPS 2) was put on hold until the requirements under the new organisation had become more clearly defined. In October 2004, the programme was resumed from the point at which it was put on hold, under a new name (OMNI) to reflect the change in the requirement. There have therefore been no wasted costs.

**Mrs. Gillan:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) if he will list aspects of the National Offender Management Service that will be implemented within the existing legislative framework; [12038]

(2) what advice he has received on changes which can be implemented in the Prison Service and the Probation Service by the introduction of the National Offender Management Service without enabling legislation. [12042]

**Fiona Mactaggart** *[holding answer 14 July 2005]:* The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) formally came into being on 1 June. A wide range of activities is already under way to support its principal aim of reducing re-offending. For example, an offender management model has been developed which will provide the focus for the implementation of offender management for both community and custodial sentences. A pathfinder in the north-west region has been operational since October 2004. The first evaluation report was published on 30 June 2005, and outlines the value of the north-west's testing of the model. The information gained is being fed into the implementation plans for prison and probation areas. A national offender manager and 10 regional offender managers have also been appointed. The latter will play the main role in commissioning and will help to build partnership working locally. A performance test for prisons on the Isle of Sheppey has been announced and consideration is being given to the best organisational design to support the NOMS reforms.

The Secretary of State is currently considering advice on what more can be done within the existing framework and where legislation will be needed . [As announced in the Queen's Speech the Government will bring forward legislation to reduce re-offending by improving the management of offenders.]

### Parliamentary Questions

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he will reply to question reference 7215 tabled by the hon. Member for Sutton and Cheam. [14634]

**Hazel Blears:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 12 September 2005, *Official Report*, column 2584W.

### Prisons

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the nursing establishment is at Endwood Park prison; and how many nurses are employed there. [8409]

**Fiona Mactaggart:** The nursing establishment at HMP Eastwood Park is 37.5 posts, of which 30.5 posts are currently filled.

### Terrorist Threat

**John Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make a statement on his assessment of the level of terrorist threat facing the UK. [14723]

**Mr. Charles Clarke:** As I have previously stated, the threat from terrorism remains real and serious, and is a worldwide issue. As we have seen it is not unique to the UK.

Due to security reasons, it is Government policy not to comment on specific threat levels.

The threat level is kept under constant review based on the information available. Further information on threats can be found on the Security Service website (www.mi5.gov.uk)

## TRANSPORT

### Accident Statistics

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how many *(a)* fatal, *(b)* major and *(c)* minor accidents have occurred on each direction of the A5 between the A406 and the A407 in each of the last five years for which figures are available; [14295]

(2) how many *(a)* fatal, *(b)* major and *(c)* minor accidents occurred in each direction of the A5 between the A4003 and the A501 in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [14312]

**Dr. Ladyman:** The Mayor now has overall responsibility for road safety in London.

The accident statistics requested can be obtained from:

Chris Lines
Head of London Road Safety Unit
Transport for London
Windsor House
42–50 Victoria Street
London SW1H 0TL

## Air Traffic

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what *(a)* percentage and *(b)* numerical change there has been in night flights at Heathrow Airport in each of the last five years. [13750]

**Ms Buck:** The present night restrictions regime at Heathrow refers to both a night period, 2300–0700 hours, and a night quota period 2330–0600. In the night quota period movements by all types of aircraft, except the very quietest, are restricted by a movements limit and a noise quota, which are set for each season. At Heathrow, the movements limit for each summer season from 2000–04 was 3,250 and for winter 2001–02 to 2004–05 was 2,550. The airport operator may carry over a limited number of movements from one season to the next depending on usage from the previous season.

The number of movements that counted against the limit, and those by the quietest exempt types, and the percentage change are shown in the following table.

| *Night restrictions season*[1] | *Movements against limit* | *Exempt types* | *Percentage change in movements against limit compared with previous corresponding season* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Summer 2000 | 3,028 | 207 | — |
| Winter 2000–01 | 2,615 | 93 | — |
| Summer 2001 | 2,939 | 94 | -2.9 |
| Winter 2001–02 | 2,684 | 80 | +2.6 |
| Summer 2002 | 2,937 | 141 | +0.1 |
| Winter 2002–03 | 2,620 | 96 | -2.4 |
| Summer 2003 | 2,899 | 113 | -1.3 |
| Winter 2003–04 | 2,683 | 76 | +2.4 |
| Summer 2004 | 2,993 | 105 | +3.2 |
| Winter 2004–05 | 2,591 | 70 | -3.4 |
| Summer 2000—summer 2004 | — | — | -1.2 |
| Winter 2000–01—winter 2004–05 | — | — | -0.9 |

[1] The seasons change with the clocks.

Information on night movements given dispensations from the restrictions (i.e. additional to those detailed above) was provided on 11 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 672W.

## Consultants

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will list management consultants employed by his Department in each of the last three years. [14238]

**Derek Twigg:** The information requested for DfT(c) and each agency has been placed in the Libraries of the House.

## Correspondence

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many letters to his Department from hon. Members in session *(a)* 2004–05 and *(b)* 2005–06 remain unanswered, broken down by those which are (i) one month old, (ii) two months old, (iii) three months old, (iv) four months old and (v) over six months old. [13850]

**Ms Buck:** All letters received more than one month before the hon. Member's question have been answered. The Cabinet Office, on an annual basis, publishes a report to Parliament on the performance of Departments in replying to Members/Peers correspondence. The Report for 2004 was published on 6 April 2005, *Official Report*, columns 137–40ws.

## Coventry Arena

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make a statement about the potential development of a railway servicing the new Coventry Arena. [13206]

**Derek Twigg** *[holding answer 20 July 2005]:* The West Midlands Route Utilisation Strategy was published by the Strategic Rail Authority (SRA) on 21 July. The Strategy concluded that Coventry Arena station would present low levels of traffic for most of the week with occasional large event demands requiring train capacity far in excess of the current provision. The cost of rail provision to meet these high peaks in demand would be very high. Consequently a proposal to meet this demand had not been evaluated by the promoter and no business case for the station had been received. The SRA concluded that it was unable to support the inclusion of the station on the Coventry-Nuneaton route.

The SRA wrote to Coventry city council on 24 August 2004 identifying a number of areas of concern with the outline business case. If the council wishes to pursue the proposal, it will need to address those concerns and submit to the Department a viable and funded business case.

## Departmental Expenditure

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the total spending by his Department on *(a)* staff, *(b)* accommodation and *(c)* procurement in the (i) Moray constituency and (ii) Highland region was for the most recent year for which figures are available. [14841]

**Ms Buck:** The total spend by the Department in 2004–05 was £546,600. A detailed analysis is shown in the following table.

| *Name of agency* | *Moray* | *Highland region* |
|---|---|---|
| Maritime and Coastguard | Nil | *(a)* Staff—£88,000<br>*(b)* Accommodation—£12,000<br>*(c)* Procurement—£1,000 |
| Vehicle and Operator Services Agency[1] | | *(a)* Staff—£169,800<br>*(b)* Accommodation—£10,900<br>*(c)* Procurement—£20,700 |
| DVLA[2] | | *(a)* Staff—£183,500<br>*(b)* Accommodation—£39,300<br>*(c)* Procurement—£21,400 |

[1] VOSA's figures cover the cost of testing activity in the areas/constituencies listed. Much of VOSA's enforcement activity is mobile. The Enforcement Area Northern Scotland cannot be broken down to reflect costs of enforcement in the actual areas/constituencies concerned. The figures for this area are:

*(a)* Staff—£601,600

*(b)* Accommodation—£3,200

*(c)* Procurement—£125,900

Expenditure on costs which are financed centrally (major works, testing equipment, vehicles, electricity and workwear) are not included in VOSA's figures as they could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

[2] The Inverness DVLA Local Office includes the Moray and Highland Region in its catchment area.

Information on regional distribution of staff at 1 April 2004 is available in the Libraries of both Houses, and also at:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/management information/statistical information/statistics/contents for civil service statistics 2004 report/index.asp

Table D shows the numbers of staff by regional distribution.

Figures relating to 1 April 2005 will be published next year.

**Stewart Hosie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the total spending by his Department on *(a)* staff, *(b)* accommodation and *(c)* procurement in (i) Dundee, East constituency, (ii) Tayside and (iii) the City of Dundee was for the most recent year for which figures are available. [14873]

**Ms Buck:** The total spend by the Department in 2004–05 was £364,200. A detailed analysis is shown in the following table.

£

| *Name of agency* | *Dundee, East* | *Tayside* | *City of Dundee* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Vehicle and Operator Services Agency[1] | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| DVLA[2] | *(a)* Staff—281,900<br>*(b)* Accommodation—57,400<br>*(c)* Procurement—25,800 | | |

[1] Much of VOSA's enforcement activity is mobile. The Enforcement Area Northern Scotland cannot be broken down to reflect costs of enforcement in the actual areas/constituencies concerned. The figures for this area are:

*(a)* Staff £601,600

*(b)* Accommodation £3,200

*(c)* Procurement £125,900

Expenditure on costs which are financed centrally (major works, testing equipment, vehicles, electricity and work wear) are not included in VOSA's figures as they could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

[2] The Dundee DVLA Local Office includes Dundee, Tayside, Perth and North Perthshire in its catchment area. It is not therefore possible to provide separate costs.

Information on regional distribution of staff at 1 April 2004 is available in the Libraries of both Houses, and also at, http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/management_information/statistical_information/statistics/contents for civil service_statistics 2004_report/index.asp.

Table D shows the numbers of staff by regional distribution.

Figures relating to 1 April 2005 will be published next year.

**Mr. Salmond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the total spending by his Department on *(a)* staff, *(b)* accommodation and *(c)* procurement in (i) Banff and Buchan and (ii) the North East of Scotland was for the most recent year for which figures are available. [14880]

**Ms Buck:** The total spend by the Department in 2004–05 was £3.3 million. A detailed analysis is shown in the following table.

| *Name of Agency* | *Banff and Buchan* | *North-East Scotland* |
|---|---|---|
| Vehicle and Operator Services Agency[1] | *(a)* Staff—£256,800<br>*(b)* Accommodation—£9,800<br>*(c)* Procurement—£21,200 | Nil |
| DVLA[2] | *(a)* Staff—£304,8<br>*(b)* Accommodation—£74,3<br>*(c)* Procurement—£25,3 | |
| Maritime and Coastguard[3] | *(a)* Staff—£58,000<br>*(b)* Accommodation—£9,000<br>*(c)* Procurement—£1,000 | *(a)* Staff—£2.1 million<br>*(b)* Accommodation—£355,000<br>*(c)* Procurement—£40,000 |

[1] VOSA's figures cover the cost of testing activity in the areas/constituencies listed. Much of VOSA's enforcement activity is mobile. The Enforcement Area Northern Scotland cannot be broken down to reflect costs of enforcement in the actual areas/constituencies concerned. The figures for this area are:

*(a)* Staff—£601,600

*(b)* Accommodation—£3,200

*(c)* Procurement—£125,9000

Expenditure on costs which are financed centrally (major works, testing equipment, vehicles, electricity and workwear) are not included in VOSA's figures as they could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

[2] Banff and Buchan and the North East of Scotland are covered by the Aberdeen DVLA Local Office.

[3] The figure for the North East of Scotland is significantly higher than the others provided by MCA because this area contains a regional office, marine office and coastguard station.

Information on regional distribution of staff at 1 April 2004 is available in the Libraries of both Houses, and also at, http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/management information/statisticalinformation/statistics/contents for civil service statistics 2004 re port/index.asp

Table D shows the numbers of staff by regional distribution.

Figures relating to 1 April 2005 will be published next year.

**Pete Wishart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the total spending by his Department on *(a)* staff, *(b)* accommodation and *(c)* procurement in Perth and North Perthshire was for the most recent year for which figures are available. [14914]

**Ms Buck:** The total spend by the Department in 2004–05 was £631,3000. A detailed analysis is shown in the following table.

| *Name of Agency* | *Perth* | *North Perthshire* |
|---|---|---|
| Vehicle and Operator Services Agency[1] | *(a)* Staff—£167,400<br>*(b)* Accommodation—£11,500<br>*(c)* Procurement—£14,200 | |
| DVLA[2] | *(a)* Staff—£281,800<br>*(b)* Accommodation—£57,400<br>*(c)* Procurement £25,800 | |
| Driving Standards Agency[3] | *(a)* Staff—£39,100<br>*(b)* Accommodation—£11,100<br>*(c)* Procurement—£3,800 | |

[1] VOSA's figures cover the cost of testing activity in the areas/ constituencies listed. Much of VOSA's enforcement activity is mobile. The Enforcement Area Northern Scotland cannot be broken down to reflect costs of enforcement in the actual areas/ constituencies concerned. The figures for this area are:
*(a)* Staff—£601,600
*(b)* Accommodation—£3,200
*(c)* Procurement £125,900
Expenditure on costs which are financed centrally (major works, testing equipment, vehicles, electricity and workwear) are not included in VOSA's figures as they could only be provided at disproportionate cost.
[2] The Dundee DVLA Local Office includes Dundee, Tayside, Perth and North Perthshire in its catchment area.
[3] DSA's figures cover three offices (Perth, Perth LGV and Crieff).

Information on regional distribution of staff at 1 April 2004 is available in the Libraries of both Houses, and also at:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/management information/ statistical information/statistics/contents for civil service statistics 2004 report/index.asp

Table D shows the numbers of staff by regional distribution.

Figures relating to 1 April 2005 will be published next year.

## Driving Tests

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* passes and *(b)* failures of motor car driving tests there were in each test centre in (i) Essex and (ii) the Metropolitan Police area of London in (A) 1990, (B) 1995 and (C) each year since 1999. [14291]

**Dr. Ladyman:** Tables showing the results of practical car driving tests conducted at test centres in Essex and within the Metropolitan Police area of London from 1999 have been placed in the Libraries of the House.

The Driving Standards Agency (DSA) does not hold pass rates by driving test centres for 1990 and 1995.

## Freedom of Information

**Pete Wishart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many Freedom of Information Act 2000 requests have been answered by the Department; and in how many cases *(a)* information was wholly exempted, *(b)* information was partly exempted and *(c)* the requests were answered in full. [14955]

**Ms Buck:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. and learned Friend, the Minister of State for Constitutional Affairs on 28 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 2248W.

## Management Consultancies

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which five management consultancies received the highest value of contracts awarded by his Department in each of the last three years; and what the total value was of the contracts awarded to each. [12587]

**Ms Buck:** Details of top five external consultants and advisers used by the Department in each of the last three years are shown in the following table. Separate figures for management consultancy are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

| *Supplier* | *Value of contracts (£)* |
|---|---|
| *2002–03* | |
| Lovells | 65,000,000 |
| Hyder | 13,472,801 |
| Salomon Brothers Int. Ltd. | 12,842,062 |
| Atkins | 12,575,706 |
| Mott MacDonald | 11,128,019 |
| *2003–04* | |
| Mott MacDonald | 14,049,491 |
| Atkins | 5,704,901 |
| Citigroup Global Markets Ltd. | 5,302,184 |
| Hyder | 4,773,717 |
| Mouchel Parkman | 3,904,283 |
| *2004–05* | |
| Atos Origin IT Services UK Ltd. | 10,387,260 |
| Mott MacDonald | 8,234,813 |
| Atkins | 6,780,484 |
| PA Consulting Group | 4,829,344 |
| Parsons Brinckerhoff | 4,769,409 |

## Opinion Surveys

**Mr. Weir:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the *(a)* subject matter and *(b)* dates were of opinion survey research undertaken by the Department and its agencies in the last 12 months; if he will place copies of the results of each survey in the Library; which companies were used in conducting the research; and how much each was paid. [14810]

**Ms Buck:** A list of public opinion surveys undertaken by the Department, agencies and non-departmental bodies in 2004–05 is provided in a table, which has been placed in the Libraries of the House. The table provides details of regular quantitative surveys and surveys of a more ad hoc nature. Details concerning subject matter, costs, survey contractors and information about where findings can be obtained are provided in the table.

### Public Transport (Work Force Skills)

**Mrs. Dunwoody:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what work has been undertaken to promote the increase in skill base of the workforce in the *(a)* rail, *(b)* aviation, *(c)* maritime and *(d)* bus and coach sectors. [13246]

**Dr. Ladyman:** For rail, the rail industry is currently developing proposals for an industry-led forum to be formed, which brings together representatives across the industry to set the strategic direction of skills and act as a repository of knowledge on the skills agenda.

"The Future of Air Transport" advocated the establishment of centres of excellence in civil aircraft engineering and training at regional airports. The industry is working up a number of proposals for such facilities. In addition, the European Union has just agreed a common air traffic controller licence which harmonises training and licensing requirements and enables mutual recognition of licenses across Europe for the first time.

The Support for Maritime Training scheme (SMarT) has been running since April 1998 and provides support for the training of officers and ratings. The current budget is £9.4 million per annum.

In the bus and coach industry, as well as other parts of the passenger transport sector, a Sector Skills Council for Passenger Transport (Go Skills) has been established to assist with meeting skill requirements. The Department has announced funding of £0.75 million over the period 2005–06 to 2007–08 in support of Go Skills' work and the Bus Partnership Forum has recently established a Task and Finish Group on Recruitment and Retention. The group will consider and make recommendations on skills and training issues.

### Ragwort

**Mr. Clifton-Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will ask the Highways Agency to control ragwort on the A417 and M5 motorway. [14624]

**Dr. Ladyman:** The Highways Agency takes a proactive approach to the control of injurious weeds such as ragwort. Priority is given to the control of ragwort on highway land which is near to agricultural or grazing land. The Highways Agency is currently implementing a ragwort control programme on the A417 and the M5 motorway. Control techniques include: selective spraying of identified plants, mowing to inhibit growth prior to flowering, and pulling up and burning flowering plants prior to seeding.

### Railways

**Mr. Duncan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what percentage of his departmental budget was spent on light rail in 2004–05; and if he will make a statement. [7120]

**Mr. Darling:** Spending on light rail varies from year to year according to the progress of schemes. Since the opening of Tyne and Wear Metro in 1980, Government have contributed some £1.2 billion towards light rail schemes, including around £0.7 billion since 1997.

In 2004–05 the Department provided £36 million to directly support light rail schemes outside London. This represents 0.3 per cent. of its Departmental budget.

The Department does not directly fund light rail in London, therefore it is not possible to calculate precisely the percentage of the Departmental budget that is spent on light rail when taking London schemes into account.

Transport for London—which receives approximately 45 per cent. of its income from grant provided by the Department—spent £59 million on London light rail lines (including DLR, but excluding the tube).

Assuming 45 per cent. of the costs for light rail in London were met by Departmental funding, the overall percentage for spend on light rail in 2004–05 would be 0.5 per cent.

### Road Charging

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make a statement on what method he plans to use for road charging for lorries as part of his wider national road pricing policy; and what steps he intends to take to ensure that the method of charging takes account of the costs of the effects of lorries on *(a)* the road network and *(b)* the wider environment. [15069]

**Dr. Ladyman:** My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State announced to the House on 5 July that we will take forward work on distance-based lorry charging as part of our wider work on road pricing—to work for a single, comprehensive, cost-effective system. That work will include a detailed examination of technical options. We will ensure that the lessons learned during the Lorry Road User Charge project are taken into account as we take this work forward.

### Road Traffic Accidents/Statistics

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 13 July 2005, *Official Report*, columns 1052–56W, on road traffic accidents/statistics, if he will place in the Library equivalent information for Highways Agency road schemes not included in the tables provided. [14084]

**Dr. Ladyman:** A table has been placed in the Libraries of the House showing road traffic accidents and flows for the Highways Agency Targeted Programme of Improvement (TPI) road schemes where data is available. Information on local network management schemes managed by the Agency could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Sir Rod Eddington

**Mrs. Dunwoody:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the work programme of Sir Rod Eddington is; and what *(a)* reports and *(b)* findings he has made. [13244]

**Dr. Ladyman:** The Secretary of State and the Chancellor have invited Sir Rod Eddington to work with the Department for Transport and HMT Treasury to advise on the long-term impact of transport decisions on the UK's productivity, stability and growth. This work continues.

**Mrs. Dunwoody:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many civil servants are supporting Sir Rod Eddington for the duration of his employment; and where they are located. [13245]

**Dr. Ladyman:** Sir Rod Eddington is supported by a small team of civil servants (currently seven), located in both the Department for Transport and the Treasury.

### Speed Cameras

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will list the *(a)* number and *(b)* location of fixed speed cameras which have been installed in each month since January 2004; and what the casualty rates were *(a)* before and *(b)* after installation in each case. [14614]

**Dr. Ladyman:** The following number of fixed safety cameras were installed in England and Wales within the national safety camera programme in each month between January and December 2004. Casualty information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

*Number of fixed safety cameras installed by month in 2004*

| | |
|---|---|
| January 2004 | 13 |
| February 2004 | 24 |
| March 2004 | 50 |
| April 2004 | 36 |
| May 2004 | 5 |
| June 2004 | 13 |
| July 2004 | 7 |
| August 2004 | 17 |
| September 2004 | 12 |
| October 2004 | 19 |
| November 2004 | 13 |
| December 2004 | 8 |

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many applications for speed camera sites have been made where a final decision on whether installation will be allowed remains pending; and in which locations. [14615]

**Dr. Ladyman:** There are a total of 489 new safety camera sites proposed for 2005–06 in England and Wales. The Department has decided that we will not for the time being approve these proposed sites pending an independent analysis of the first four years of the programme and an examination of how we might further improve the deployment criteria and programme governance arrangements. We expect to make a decision this autumn. Pending this decision, mobile enforcement may be undertaken at those sites where there is an urgent need. Information on the location of these sites, broken down by fixed and mobile cameras has been placed in the Libraries of the House.

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects the review of rules regarding the location of speed cameras will be completed. [14616]

**Dr. Ladyman:** I expect that it will be completed this autumn.

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many proposals for speed cameras in Cambridgeshire have been *(a)* approved and *(b)* rejected by his Department in each year since 1997; and what their location was in each case. [14560]

**Dr. Ladyman:** The Cambridgeshire Safety Camera Partnership joined the national safety camera programme in October 2001—the Department does not hold information prior to this date. Information on the location and year of approval for all safety cameras approved for operation by the Cambridgeshire Safety Camera Partnership since then is attached. The approval process is based on published standardised criteria. We do not hold information on proposed sites that did meet the criteria but were not introduced into the programme subsequently.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much has been raised in fines from speed cameras in the county of Essex since 1999. [14292]

**Dr. Ladyman:** I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 13 June 2005 *Official Report*, column 28W which provided this information for the Essex police force area. Data by county is not available.

### Tidal Flow Schemes

**Mr. Greg Knight:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what steps he is taking to encourage local authorities to make greater use of tidal flow schemes to manage congestion; and if he will make a statement; [14164]

(2) if he will incentivise local authorities to develop tidal flow highway schemes by making grants available in appropriate cases. [14165]

**Dr. Ladyman:** Tidal flow is a traffic management technique available to local highway authorities to use where local circumstances mean it is likely to produce benefits. Authorities can implement tidal flow schemes using established traffic management practices and need no special approval from the Department.

We would expect to see tidal flow schemes accommodated within local transport plans. It would not be appropriate to single out tidal flow over other traffic management measures. It is for local highway authorities to consider the full range of traffic management options in developing their local transport plans.

### Trunk Roads (Essex/Hertfordshire)

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will list the major trunk roads in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Hertfordshire; what new trunk roads are planned in each county in each of the next 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [14296]

**Dr. Ladyman:** Trunk roads in Essex and Hertfordshire are as follows:

*(a) Essex*

M11 J4–J9

M25 Herts/Essex border to J31

A12: M25/J28 to Essex/Suffolk border

A13/A1089: A1306 Junction to Dock gate at Tilbury

A120: M11 J8 to A12 J25

A120: A12 J28 (Crown Interchange) to Harwich

*(b) Hertfordshire*

M1 J4–J10

M10: M1 J7 to St. Albans

M25: J16-Herts/Essex border

A1(M): J1–J10

A5: M1J9-Bedfordshire border

A10: M25 J25-Herts/Cambs border

No new trunk roads are planned for Essex and/or Hertfordshire.

The Government's Targeted Programme of Improvements includes the following trunk road schemes in Essex and Hertfordshire:

M1: J6a to 10 widening to dual 4 lane motorway

M25: J16–31 widening to dual 4 lane motorway

M25: J28/Brook Street Interchange.

The Highways Agency has also been asked to do further work on the following scheme in Essex and bring forward proposals to be considered for entry into the Targeted Programme of Improvements:

M11: J8–9 widening to dual 3 lane motorway.

Following the Government's announcement on 21 July 2005 on Regional Funding Allocations, decisions on the entry of the following trunk road schemes into the Targeted Programme of Improvements will be made following advice from the region on their priorities for major transport schemes:

A12: M25 to Chelmsford widening

A12: Chelmsford to Colchester widening

A120: Braintree to Marks Tey dualling.

### Vehicle Registration

**Charles Hendry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many cars are registered for use on English roads. [9528]

**Dr. Ladyman:** At the end of March 2005, there were 23,295,000 cars registered to keepers resident in England.